

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of Public Relations
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Stockton to Honor Larry James for Four Decades of Excellence

***Longtime Dean of Athletics and Recreational Programs and Services,
Member of Track and Field Hall of Fame, was Olympic Gold and Silver
Medalist and Penn Relays "Wall of Fame" Inductee***

For Immediate Release

Friday, November 09, 2007

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Galloway Twp., NJ – G. Larry James, perhaps the most iconic personality associated with The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, will be honored by the College at a special reception to be held on Saturday, December 1, 2007.

James, 60, a gold and silver medalist and winning middle distance runner competed on what is generally regarded as the greatest track team ever assembled – the 1968 United States team at the Mexico City Olympiad. Mr. James will be recognized for his service and dedication to the College, his community and humanity over the last 40 years.

The event is expected to draw hundreds of friends, colleagues and former teammates from his undergraduate days at Villanova University as well as members from the 1968 Olympic team.

James, a resident of Smithville, shepherded the Ospreys' athletic programs from a largely non-competitive and club sport model into a perennial national power. The Stockton men's soccer team won the NCAA Division III national championship in 2001, and men's basketball, and men's and women's soccer reached the NCAA Final Four. Virtually all Stockton sports programs have been champions and contenders in the New Jersey Athletic Conference and their other respective leagues. Perhaps more importantly, Stockton athletes have accomplished these feats with graduation rates and grade point averages exceeding national averages by a wide margin.

"Larry James is an outstanding citizen of the Stockton community and the world community," College President Herman J. Saatkamp said. "His positive impact has truly been global in scope. We're proud he is one of us, and we're very excited to have the opportunity to recognize his contributions."

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The event is free and open to the public, but does require that you RSVP to gain admission. The celebration will take place in "Big Blue" also known as the Stockton College Sports Center on Saturday, December 1, 2007 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

In lieu of ticket sales, the Stockton Foundation is accepting sponsorships and donations. Proceeds from the event benefit the G. Larry James Legacy Fund. RSVP's for the event are requested by November 19. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Ms. Regina Kinney at (609) 626-3604 or e-mail Regina.Kinney@stockton.edu.

About Larry James: G. Larry James, Dean of Athletics and Recreational Programs and Services at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, is a native of Greenburgh/White Plains, NY. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Villanova University in 1970 and a Masters in Public Policy from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey in 1987. He served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves and achieved the rank of Major. He came to Stockton in 1972 as an Assistant Athletic Director.

James is credited with helping to shape the identity and positive reputation of Stockton, the newest member institution of the New Jersey System of Higher Education. He also helped to secure training camps at Stockton for the Women's United States Olympic Basketball Team in 1992, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's World Cup Soccer Team in 1994 and its Olympic Soccer Team in 1996. Additionally, he was instrumental in Stockton's facilities being used as training camps for the NBA, the Atlantic 10 Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, and the United States Under 18 National Soccer Team.

James helped to spearhead the effort culminating in the construction of Stockton's 70,000-square foot multi-purpose recreation center. The \$17 million project was completed in 2000 and provides a facility unmatched in the region. The complex includes a NCAA competitive basketball court and practice courts for basketball, volleyball, tennis and soccer. It also provides 5,000 seats for events such as concerts and the College's commencement ceremonies and houses a state-of-the-art fitness center and offices for the athletic department.

Perhaps best known as a member of the 1968 United States Olympic 4 x 400-meter relay team, which won a gold medal and held the oldest running world record in the sport of Track and Field, James was nicknamed "The Mighty Burner." He won an individual silver medal in those same Olympics in Mexico City in the 400 meters. Those achievements are highlights in a distinguished career for which James was inducted into the National Track & Field Hall of Fame in December 2003.

James still holds several records at Villanova University, where he is enshrined in the Varsity Club Hall of Fame and the Athletics Department's Sports Wall of Fame. He also has been inducted into the White Plains High School Hall of Fame and the Westchester County Sports Hall of Fame. At the Penn Relays, where his finish in the 1968 mile relay Championship of America was ranked by the *Philadelphia Daily News* as among the Top Ten moments in the 100-year history of the world's largest relay carnival, James was inducted into the Wall of Fame in 1995.

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Since his retirement as a competitor, James remains active in athletics and the Olympic movement. He is currently chair of the USA Track and Field Budget and Finance Committee and was selected to serve as Head Men's Manager at the 2004 Olympic Training Camp in Crete, Greece and the 2005 World Championships in Helsinki, Finland. James previously served as a manager for the USA Track and Field Team at the 2003 World Championships in France, the 1997 World Championships in Athens, Greece and the 1995 USA Versus Great Britain Meet. He also was on the coaching staff of the 1994 U.S. Olympic Festival. Additionally, he served as a member of the NCAA Olympic Sports Liaison Committee, NCAA Men's Committee and the United States Olympic Committee's Games Preparation and Services Committee.

Civically, James presently serves on the Board of Trustees of AtlantiCare Health Services and was recently appointed to the Board of Governors of Atlantic City Medical Center. He also has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City, the United Way of Atlantic County and New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame.

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