

Office of Public Relations
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Stockton Announces Political Engagement Events Including “Celebrating the Constitution”

Events Will Inform and Make an Impact on the Community

For Immediate Release

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GALLOWAY TWP., NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will host a number of special events and activities to celebrate the United States Constitution and to involve its students and community members in civic engagement.

“Talking about issues that involve our community members and students is a very significant charge in Stockton’s mission,” said President Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr. To that end we have developed an impressive schedule of events and activities to take place during the 2007 Spring Semester.”

Stockton’s Political Engagement Project is part of a broad civic engagement initiative designed to integrate faculty, students and community members into discussions via field trips, guest speakers, debates and other events and activities designed to encourage and support political engagement. Most events are open to the public. For more information, contact Lisa.Honaker@stockton.edu.

The following events and activities are scheduled:

Colorblind

Directed by Andrew Blum

Monday, February 5 8:00 – 9:30pm (Townsend Residential Life Center)

In *Colorblind*, 16-year-old documentarian, Andrew Blum, examines how today’s high school students cope with discrimination and intolerance, offering a historical perspective on how hate speech can escalate to genocide. The director will answer questions after the screening. This event is sponsored by the Student Affairs/Residential Life in collaboration with Academic Affairs/Africana Studies.

Spring Career and Internship Fair

Thursday, February 8 10:00am – 2:00pm (Sports Center)

This year's career and internship fair will also include community service opportunities, information about local as well as D.C.-based political internship programs, and several concurrent workshops and panels that encourage student engagement.

**Getting Organized: How to Join, Engage In and Lead Action
Thursday, February 15 (4:30 – 6:00pm G-Wing Lounge)**

Bill Hassall, long-time student leader, recent Stockton graduate and current Campus Organizer of its Water Watch organization will offer practical advice to students who want to get involved in community initiatives, but who may be unsure how to begin.

**Taking Action: How Students Can Make an Impact
Wednesday, February 21 (6:00 – 8:00pm C-134)**

Sandi Vito, Deputy Secretary of Labor for Pennsylvania, will moderate this panel discussion with guests Jordan Marks and Sheila Ballen. The panelists will engage students in conversations about how to take political action to make an impact in their communities, ranging in size from the local campus to the broader national and international landscape.

**Challenging Racial Profiling: Attacking Jim Crow on the Highway
Tuesday, February 27 (6:00 – 7:30pm Alton Auditorium)**

William H. Buckman, civil rights attorney and Stockton graduate, will discuss his successful legal challenges to racial profiling in the context of the NJ Turnpike's law enforcement. Bill is a national expert on racial profiling and has received numerous awards from civil rights and social justice organizations for his work. Stockton's Africana Studies program and The Unified Black Students Society will join the PEP project in co-sponsoring this event.

**The Prisoners Behind the Hoods: Making Pictures about Abu Ghraib:
A Talk by Philadelphia Artist Daniel Heyman
Tuesday, March 20 (2:30 – 4:20pm AS-102)**

Artist Daniel Heyman will discuss his visit to Amman, Jordan last year to participate in interviews of former detainees of Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq. Daniel went to Jordan to witness the interviews in a visual medium, in an effort to attach personal faces to the Abu Ghraib story. His goal is to give a voice to these victims in a way that is more direct and more human than what is available through newspaper or TV articles.

**Attention Shoppers! Is Wal-Mart Selling Women Short?
Wednesday, March 21 (6:00 - 8:00pm G-Wing Lounge)**

Liza Featherstone, author of *Selling Women Short: The Landmark Battle for Workers' Rights at Wal-Mart*, will focus on the sex discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart, the largest private sector employer in the U.S. today. She will discuss the ethical obligations of employers and alternative strategies (boycotts, lawsuits, etc.) for consumers, workers, and other citizens to ensure socially responsible behavior. This event, co-sponsored by PEP, is being organized by the Women's Studies Program as part of Stockton's Women's History Month events.

**In Search of an Intelligent Designer: Public School Policy and the Constitution
Thursday, April 5 (3:00 – 4:30pm TRLC)**

Mary Catherine Roper, staff attorney with the Pennsylvania ACLU, will discuss the ACLU-PA's successful challenge to a Pennsylvania (Dover Area) School District's policy that required the teaching of intelligent design in biology classes as an alternative to evolution. Ms. Roper will also address the civil liberties of public school students, including locker searches, drug-testing, suppression of controversial subjects in student newspapers, and censorship issues related to the popular social networking website, *Facebook*.

National Constitution Center Trip

Saturday, April 7

This spring trip to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA will provide participants with an opportunity to visit the birthplace of our American democracy. Please contact Professor Linda Wharton for more information at Linda.Wharton@stockton.edu or (609) 652-4716.

Social Activism as Philosophy and Conscious Political Act: Tools for How You Can Change the World

Friday, April 27 (7:00 – 9:00pm Alton Auditorium)

Dr. Eugene Provenzo's presentation will be based on a new book that he is just completing with the conservative media critic and child advocate and lawyer, Jack Thompson, titled *Social Activism 101: Tools for How You Can Change the World*. In this book, Provenzo and Thompson (seemingly political polar opposites) talk about the need to set ideological differences aside and create political and social coalitions that address what are the truly important issues facing our culture. In doing so, they ask the question of how we can achieve common ground in a diverse society, and how individual private citizens acting in the public good can take action to recapture the political, social and moral conversation in the United States.

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