



Stockton College Scholarship Recipients Thank Donors at Annual Recognition Dinner

***For Immediate Release;
Photo attached; caption at end of release***

Friday, November 21, 2014

**Contact: Maryjane Briant
News and Media Relations Director
Galloway Township, NJ 08205
Maryjane.Briant@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4593**

Galloway Township, NJ - The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey hosted its largest group ever at the Annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner on Nov. 18, with over 310 donors, faculty, staff and scholarship recipients attending.

Of the 310 guests, 200 were student scholarship recipients, a testament to the progress made in increasing scholarship support for students. In 2007, the Stockton College Foundation awarded \$142,000 and this academic year, the Foundation is in the position to award over \$700,000, between need-based and merit-based scholarships, to over 325 students, Foundation Chair Richard Walker said.

Foundation awards are made possible by institutional funding and private donations to outstanding freshmen, upperclassmen, and transfer and graduate students.

"This has been a historical year for Stockton," said Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president of the college. "Through the philanthropic support of alumni, faculty, staff, friends and business and community leaders, the "You Make the Difference: The Campaign for Stockton College" generated donations and gifts of \$25,363,687!"

"The campaign was the vision of President Herman Saatkamp," said Dr. Kesselman, in his introduction of the president.

President Saatkamp said that the only job growth and salary increases in recent years have been for those with at least a bachelor's degree, and providing access to higher education is the key to America's future.

-more-

-continued from page 1-

He thanked the donors for helping to build the college endowment, which is the source of many scholarships, from just under \$3 million when he came in 2003, to close to \$28 million now.

“This community cares about our students,” he said. “In doing that, you’re caring not only about Stockton or New Jersey, but about America.”

One representative from each of Stockton’s eight academic schools delivered a speech to thank their donors and to share their stories. The student speakers were: Barbara E. Moroz, of Sicklerville representing the School of Arts and Humanities, Calla M. Aniski, of Ship Bottom, representing the School of Business, Theresa L. Dougherty, of Egg Harbor Township, representing the School of Education, Naomi C. Madden, of Barnegat, representing the School of General Studies, Kevin M. Konrad, of Howell, representing the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies, Lauren Duffy, of Bloomingdale, representing the School of Health Sciences, Jessa E. Hernandez, of Swedesboro, representing the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Abigail R. Bielecke, of West Orange, representing the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Kevin Konrad of the graduate school said he first came to Stockton because of the scholarship award he was offered as an undergraduate.

“I can assure you that I would not be here tonight, as a graduate student in the Master of Arts in American Studies program, if I never grasped the importance or significance of the scholarship awards I received as an undergraduate,” said Konrad, in thanking the donors for his American Studies Book Award and the Stockton College Foundation Scholars Award. “Indeed, just as they have done for me in the past, scholarship awards continue to motivate me to perform better as a student and to strive for academic success. I therefore view these monetary donations as something greater than a few dollars off of my tuition bill: these scholarships serve as investments in both my current education and my future accomplishments.”

Lauren Duffy of the School of Health Sciences explained the impact of scholarships on her life.

“Having much of the financial burden of college lifted from me has allowed me to focus on my academic career as well as extra-curricular activities,” she said. “I have been able to offer my time as officer for several clubs on campus and have taken a position with Stockton’s Office of Student Development. These experiences have been extremely rewarding and most beneficial to me. And, had I not received such generous scholarship support, my involvement in these activities may not have been possible for me to have even considered.

“Stockton is a rare and wonderful educational environment and your support continues the efforts of Stockton to pursue that goal for so many,” Duffy told donors.

College Foundation board member L. Gayle Gross said, “The many years we have been contributors to scholarship at Stockton have been based on our belief that education changes people’s lives. And through scholarship we express our faith in our youth to be given the opportunity to grow and learn and become contributors and innovators in this rapidly changing world. It’s wonderfully gratifying to see how diverse and how accomplished our scholarship

-more-

-continued from page 2-

students are. We are very pleased to support the college in this endeavor.”

She and her husband, Dr. Howard Gross, have established the Gross Family Environmental Scholarship Fund and she has established the Joshua Jess Cabot Memorial Scholarship and the Saute Dance Scholarship, all endowed scholarships.

Dr. Richard Maung, a graduate of Stockton and now a scholarship donor, said, “One of the best decisions I made in my life was to attend Stockton. I am thankful for the opportunities made available to me through Stockton. It is one of my personal goals to be able to give back to Stockton and the community.”

Dr. Maung earned his Master’s and Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Stockton, where he is a clinical education instructor and an adjunct professor of Physical Therapy. He is a co-founder of Achieve Physical Therapy & Fitness, an outpatient practice with offices in Vineland, Malaga, Swedesboro and Mays Landing NJ, specializing in the treatment of orthopaedic, industrial, sports injuries, and post-surgical rehabilitation.

“This is one of my favorite nights - to be able to see the faces and the smiles of the scholarship recipients,” Dr. Maung said. He and his business partner Paul Heim established the Achieve Physical Therapy & Fitness Scholarship to benefit doctorate students at Stockton College and Thomas Jefferson University, and as a means to support the future of physical therapy.

Donor-supported awards are determined by a presidential-appointed scholarship committee of faculty, administrators and representatives of the Foundation Board of Directors. Award recipients maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and are fully matriculated students.

#

Photo credit:

Photo by Nick Valinote

Photo caption:

About 200 scholarship recipients attended the Annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner Nov. 18, where they met with donors, faculty and staff at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.