

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



## Stockton Professor's Passion for Origami Keeps Math Learning in the Fold

**Mays Landing Resident Norma Boakes' Exhibit, Student Origami Showcase the Power of Paper in Teaching, Learning Math**

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway Twp., NJ** – Norma Boakes, an Assistant Professor of Education at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, is using the power of an ancient Japanese art form to illustrate principles of mathematics to modern day college students.

Boakes, a Mays Landing, NJ resident, is an accomplished artist in origami. Some sources date this art form's origination back to the 1600s. Origami is the practice of creating representations of objects through the artist's skillful folding of paper. The folds and crease patterns are geometric, which presents excellent teaching and learning opportunities in mathematics.

"A student who might not be math oriented can learn about different types of triangles, other shapes and mathematical patterns in a nonthreatening way through this art," Boakes said. "Origami has the added benefit of being relaxing, which can translate to less math anxiety or simply stress relief."

Stockton has two upcoming events featuring origami. Boakes' own work will be exhibited in the College Art Gallery (H-113 on the Galloway Township campus) on Thursday, April 9, 2009 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. She is expected to have more than 50 models on display and will include a live folding display which demonstrates the art in progress.

On Wednesday, April 29, 2009, the Third Annual Student Origami Showcase, presented by Boakes' class *The Art and Math of Origami* will take place. Twenty-five students will participate, with their art and live folding demonstrations will take place in the lower F-Wing Atrium near the library. There will be over 130 origami models on display including a class-created origami collection on this year's theme, "The Jersey Shore".

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Boakes' exhibit will display the variety and versatility of the art. Some highlights include:

- **Ode to the Penguin** - Boakes will display some of the many variations of this popular origami model.
- **Chinese Zodiac** – There will be a display featuring representations of all the animals of the Chinese Zodiac accompanied by information explaining the Chinese version of the astrological signs.
- **Metamorphosis** – An exhibit depicting the process of taking a two-dimensional sheet of paper and creating a realistic model of a butterfly. The display shows separate examples of each paper-folding step, providing a view of the transformation of the single sheet of paper.
- **Cat and Mouse** - What Boakes terms her most difficult model features an intricate black cat and mouse each folded from a single sheet of paper.
- **Unit Origami** - Examples of several units folded and tucked into one another to form various three-dimensional geometric shapes will be displayed.
- **Origami Toys** – This “hands-on” segment of the exhibit will show the fun and playful side of origami including models that flip, jump, turn, and spin.

Both origami events are free and open to the public.

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