Monday, January 21, marked the 9th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at Stockton. The MLK Day of Service has become a tradition since 2004 to kick off the spring semester for students, faculty and staff alike. The Office of Service Learning partnered with roughly 20 community organizations to provide 23 service projects located on and off campus.

The service activities reached well beyond the scope of the College. Volunteers assembled packets and forms for promotional material for the March of Dimes, which works to prevent premature births, as well as research the problems that threaten the health of babies. Books Without Borders collected books to be donated to schools in Africa.

Several service projects focused on repairing the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy. Sandy clean-up took place at the Tuckerton Seaport, where four groups hauled out debris and treated the property for mold. Clean-up efforts also took place at the JAHS Organic Farm in Egg Harbor Township, and Tighe Middle School in Margate City. The Phi Delta Kappa Food Drive collected 30 boxes of food for the Eastern Service Workers Association.

The newest service project at the MLK Day of Service was the Verizon Wireless Hopeline. Stockton volunteers and Verizon Wireless employees were on campus and collected 50 donated cellphones that will be refurbished and given to victims of domestic abuse. The phone drive was held to raise awareness of this growing danger.

Circle K made 636 hearts for Sunrise Assisted Living door hangers, 539 ribbons for Stockton’s Relay for Life, and 258 PB&J sandwiches for the Atlantic City Rescue Mission.
College Partners to Help Develop Arts District

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) and the Noyes Museum of Art of the Richard Stockton College formalized their partnership on Tuesday, December 18, 2012, in their effort to create an Arts District in Atlantic City. Stockton President Herman J. Saatkamp, CRDA Executive Director John Palmieri, and Noyes Museum of Art Executive Director Michael Cagno were in attendance along with many other board members, trustees and local dignitaries.

The CRDA and Stockton College have executed a lease for the 16,000-square-feet of arts retail space located on the first floor of The Wave parking garage along Mississippi Avenue.

The CRDA built and financed the $30 million facility, which opened in March 2012, and is financing the build out of the retail space. The Noyes Museum of Stockton will lease and manage the project which will feature a ceramics studio, gallery space and individual artist studios where local artists will be able to create their works of art and offer them for sale to the public.

For more information, please read the full story here or visit the CRDA Arts & Cultural District website.
Gene Cranmer Visits Ghana, Donates School Supplies

Each year Books Without Borders, which was founded and is advised by Professor of Economics Melaku Lakew, chooses a project that will distribute books to children in Africa. This year they are working to send educational materials for elementary-level learners to the Challenging Heights School in Winneba, Ghana.

Gene Cranmer, a professional services specialist in the Office of Computer and Telecommunication Services, first learned about Challenging Heights shortly after he began mentoring Stockton student Nana Okofoh. Cranmer began mentoring Okofoh in 2008 through Stockton’s Community of Scholars program, which is now the Stockton CARE program.

Cranmer explained, “I discovered the Challenging Heights School in Nana’s home country, which helps children rescued from slavery and other circumstances to restart their lives from scratch. Many of them have never been to school before and need to begin with the basics.”

James Kofi Annon, founder of Challenging Heights and a survivor of child trafficking, was invited by Cranmer last April to visit the College and give a lecture. Over the winter break, Cranmer and Okofah, returned the visit to Challenging Heights bringing with them donations of school supplies and clothes from the Office of Student Development and Alumni Affairs. Donations also came from employees of Marsh & McLennan Agency in Cape May, coordinated by Diane Weiss, the mother of current student Frank Weiss.

In addition, 1,500 books were packaged into 150 boxes during Day of Service to send to children at the Challenging Heights School.

Stockton to Celebrate African American Civil War Veterans

This year marks the 150th anniversary of African American soldiers legally being able to enlist in the Civil War, a result of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln. Stockton is hosting a ceremony to introduce a semester-long series of events honoring the service of these heroic veterans.

The ceremony is Tuesday, January 29, at 4:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Theater. The event includes a presentation of colors, readings of Civil War letters, songs and hymns, a performance by African American Civil War re-enactors, and a display of Civil War images.

At 5:45 p.m., the event will move from the Campus Center to the Stockton College Richard E. Bjork Library for the opening of an exhibit titled “Galloway’s Graveyard: Unearthing the History of the Boling Settlement.” The exhibit was curated by two graduate students in the Master of Arts in American Studies (MAAS) program, Kevin Konrad and Jesse Kraft, and overseen by Professor of British Literature Thomas Kinsella.

Kraft and Konrad analyzed selected documents from archived materials, such as deeds and requests from Civil War widows for pensions to tell the story of the Boling family, an African American family who settled in Port Republic before the Civil War. Members of the Boling family fought in the Civil War and are buried at the cemetery located at the intersection of Pomona and Moss Mill Roads. The documents were originally scanned and archived by Wendel White, who began researching the Boling family more than twenty years ago, and the Egg Harbor City Historical Society.

“The pivotal figure is Wendel White. When he came to Stockton, he was interested in the historical black communities that once existed. He brought attention to the Boling settlement,” Kinsella explained. “There is very little left of the Boling cemetery, and from archival evidence, my students are trying to reconstruct a better understanding of the Boling settlement.”
In Memoriam: Nancy Ashton

The Stockton Community bears a heavy heart following the sudden passing of Nancy Ashton, associate professor of psychology.

Ashton, a longtime member of the Psychology faculty and a dynamic force behind the Women’s Studies program, came to Stockton in 1977. Ashton was a dedicated educator, a mother, a role model to new faculty and to her students, and a deeply engaged citizen.

An endowed scholarship fund has been set up in her name. The scholarship will be awarded to students minoring in Women’s Studies who give evidence of a strong commitment to gender equality and social justice. To make an online donation to the fund in her memory, please visit the Foundation site and write “Nancy Ashton Scholarship” in the “Previously established Restricted Fund” field.

Our sincerest condolences go out to her daughter, Hilarie, her family and friends for their loss.

FEMA Deadline

Superstorm Sandy hit New Jersey nearly three months ago, affecting many members of the Stockton community, and still there are families and businesses in our region feeling the aftermath. The deadline for businesses and homeowners to apply for disaster assistance is January 30. For more information on FEMA assistance or to apply, visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov. You may also call to apply at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

Flu Shot Clinic

The Wellness Center is sponsoring a flu shot clinic on Wednesday, January 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The clinic, which accepts most major insurances, will offer a flu shot for $30. For more information, please contact Health Services at 609-652-4701.

Women’s Basketball Team Volunteers at Ronald McDonald House

Members of the Stockton women’s basketball team and head coach Joe Fussner purchased and cooked breakfast for the families at the Ronald McDonald house of Southern New Jersey in Camden on December 17, 2012.

The Ronald McDonald House provides lodging and meals for families of children who are receiving treatment at southern New Jersey and Philadelphia hospitals. Read the full story here.

Send Us Your News!

We want to know about things going on in the Stockton community. Do you have an unusual hobby? Did one of your co-workers win an award or perform outstanding public service? Births, weddings, graduations and the like are all good things to submit to the Stockton Times.

Contact Editor Tim Kelly at (609) 652-4950 or e-mail Stocktontimes@stockton.edu.