Associate Justice Sandra Day O’Connor (Ret.), the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, told nearly 3,000 people attending her presentation at Stockton on March 24 that “we have to teach civics” so young people know how to be engaged citizens.

She told stories ranging from growing up on a ranch with no telephone and no electricity, to being at the top of her class at Stanford Law and not being able to get one job interview.

Eventually she got a job at the office of the county attorney in San Mateo County, CA, but they didn't pay her at first. “Finally, they did,” she said.

Justice O’Connor said she thinks women’s rights are progressing, but “there’s no easy answer” to the problems of having a career and raising children.

She said she was glad when Ruth Bader Ginsburg was named a justice and added, “It’s very satisfying to me” to see three women on the Supreme Court now.

Justice O’Connor was the inaugural speaker for The Pappas Visiting Scholar Series at Stockton. Dean Pappas, a member of the Stockton College Board of Trustees since 2006, and his wife, Zoe, established The Pappas Visiting Scholar Series to allow Stockton students, faculty and community access to outstanding visiting scholars.

“It is important to note that the Stockton community is blessed with this extraordinary opportunity because of the generous, philanthropic support of Dean and Zoe Pappas,” President Herman Saatkamp said.

The Dean and Zoe Pappas Visiting Scholar Series Committee included President Saatkamp, Dr. Philip T. Ellmore, chief development officer, Jessica Kowal, executive assistant to the chief development officer and principal gifts coordinator, Audrey Wolfson Latourette, Distinguished Professor of Business Law, Dr. William Lubenow, professor of History, Dr. Tom Papademetriou, associate professor of History, Dr. David Roessel, professor of Greek Language and Literature, Linda J. Wharton, associate professor of Political Science, and Wendel White, Distinguished Professor of Art.
Day of Scholarship Celebrates Research, Honors Beth Olsen

For the first time in its 14-year history, Day of Scholarship spanned two days to celebrate the growing scholarly activity of faculty, staff, and students with nearly 100 presentations and poster sessions. The event also honored Beth Olsen, director of the Grants Office, for her distinguished service to the college.

Dr. Harvey Kesselman said that he was “captivated by the scope and diversity of the projects” adding that the event is “not just impressive, it’s inspiring.” He asked Beth Olsen, who retires this June, to stand up to be acknowledged for her outstanding work as a “gifted and valuable member of the Stockton community for decades.”

Chartwells staff brought out a surprise cake decorated with the Day of Scholarship logo for the celebration while photos reflecting on Olsen’s time at Stockton played on the screens in the Campus Center Event Room.

Olsen began her Stockton career in 1985 and helped to form the Grants Office in 1987, becoming its director in 2003. “There was no better person in the world at that time to help us make that journey,” said Dr. David Carr, professor of Political Science. Olsen helped to “change the culture of this institution. Beth’s reputation is quite sterling. She has that quiet selflessness,” Carr said.

Olsen’s more recent roles in Service-Learning and Campus Compact are “nothing short of superb” said Kesselman. He quoted Daniel Tomé, assistant director of Service-Learning, calling Olsen the “mother of Service-Learning.”

The Grants Office has grown in size and structure and has earned a national reputation. Olsen is “leaving the Grants Office in extraordinary shape,” said Kesselman. “Your legacy will be genuinely valued,” he told her.

Olsen came to the podium, joined by her husband Lance Olsen, to express her gratitude to the Stockton community. “I am deeply grateful and will miss you all,” she said.

To view the Day of Scholarship guide booklet for a list of projects and participants, click here.
New Partnership with ACIT Helps Stockton ‘Rock the Mainland’

The Stockton Performing Arts Center “Rocks the Mainland” this summer, presenting three concerts at The Atlantic County Institute of Technology (ACIT) auditorium in Mays Landing.

“We thought it was time for a little summer fun on the mainland and we're delighted to introduce our friends and neighbors to ACIT's beautiful venue,” said Interim Dean Lisa Honaker of Stockton’s School of Arts and Humanities.

Honaker said Stockton and ACIT are investigating the possibility of a dual enrollment program in Theatre as well as future internships.

These concerts are the largest event held at the venue so far, and are part of the opening of ACIT's Performing Arts Center, Superintendent Philip Guenther said at a March 13 press conference.

Suzé DiPietro, interim director of Stockton’s PAC, said the Monday night concerts should be “an economic driver” for the area, since “800 people will be looking around for places to eat” in Mays Landing.

She said the partnership between Stockton and the Atlantic County Institute of Technology “speaks to the college’s mission of reaching out to communities and building relationships.”

Stockton Math Faculty Host Third Annual Mathematical Mayhem

Stockton Mathematics faculty members hosted the third annual Mathematical Mayhem competition last weekend. Forty-eight students from nine area high schools solved their way through a math-filled day.

The high school students came to Stockton’s campus to compete in individual and team exams designed to challenge the students and assess their current skill development.

During lunch, the competitors toured the college with members of the Stockton Math Club to experience campus life.

The experience “is meant to reduce test anxiety, increase student confidence and provide high school students with an inside view of college life,” said Dr. Chia-Lin Wu, associate professor of Mathematics and founder of the competition. The students were exposed to the challenges of math and were able to see where they stand among their peers, he added.

“The number of students and teachers who came out today shows their love and passion for math,” said Wu.

The exams were created and graded by Stockton Math faculty. Members of the Stockton Math Club proctored the exams.

Dr. Judith Vogel, associate professor of Mathematics, Dr. Chia-Lin Wu, associate professor of Mathematics, the Ocean City High School team of Ben Fischer, Matt Unsworth and Alec Helm, and Dr. Bradley Forrest, assistant professor of Mathematics.
Faculty and Staff Help Jersey Shore Science Fair Succeed

Stockton hosted the Jersey Shore Science Fair, the Delaware Valley’s largest with over 650 projects, on March 22. More than 700 students from Atlantic, Cape May, Ocean and Monmouth counties were judged by experts in various fields.

Stockton faculty, staff and students participated in judging and helped run the event in the Sports Center. Among those involved were: Dean Dennis Weiss, Steve Evert, assistant director of the Marine Science and Environmental Field Station, Dr. Pamela Cohn, assistant professor of Chemistry, Dr. Richard Colby, professor emeritus of Cell Biology, Dr. Nathaniel Hartman, assistant professor of Biology, Dr. Elizabeth Pollock, assistant professor of Chemistry, Dr. Marc Richard, associate professor of Chemistry, Dr. Adam Aguiar, assistant professor of Biology, Dr. George Zimmerman, professor of Environmental Studies, Elizabeth Zimmerman, professional services specialist, Nacote Creek Field Station, Santa Cruz, NAMS secretarial assistant, Toni Hilsin, professional services specialist, Academic Lab and Field Facilities and Christine Schairer, professional services specialist, Laboratory Operations. The Offices of Event Services, Plant Management, the Athletics and Admissions departments, Media Productions and the Print Shop all contributed to the event’s success.

Four Faculty, Staff Members Present on Service-Learning

Stockton faculty and staff members Jean Abbott, visiting assistant professor of Accounting, Dr. Thomas Grites, assistant provost, Esther Lawrence, assistant dean in the School of Business, Dr. John O’Hara, assistant professor of First Year Studies, and Dr. Laurie Shanderson, assistant dean in the School of Health Sciences, participated in a conference on Service-Learning and Active Learning Approaches: Connections to the Community, at Bergen Community College earlier this month.

O’Hara presented on “Course as Event: Collaborative Course Design” and “Significant Learning Experiences,” and Dr. Grites and Abbott discussed the “Transfer Seminar: Enabling Student Connections that Foster Student Success.”

Lawrence and Dr. Shanderson were roundtable moderators. Lawrence moderated and presented on “Enhancing and Implementing Internship Attraction Events in Collaboration with Career Services.” Dr. Shanderson moderated a discussion on “Using an Inter-Professional Clinical Fieldwork Group to Facilitate Clinical Fieldwork, Internship, and Externship Experiences.”

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 the editor at (609) 652-4593 or e-mail Stockton-Times@stockton.edu

News about distinguished students can now be found at Distinctive Stockton Students. To contribute a news item for the blog, please contact the editor at distinctive@stockton.edu