Stockton Athletics celebrated a banner day on Saturday, March 1, hosting a series of monumental moments, achievements and support.

Stockton’s Men’s Basketball team won its seventh New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Championship in front of a crowd of faculty, staff, alumni, students and members of the community. Led by Head Men’s Basketball Coach and NJAC Coach of the Year Gerry Matthews, the team won 65-44 over William Paterson University, earning them an automatic bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament. To watch highlights of the NJAC Championship game, click here.

Coach Matthews and his team (23-4) will make their 14th NCAA Tournament appearance on March 7, playing against Bowdoin College (ME) at Cabrini College in Radnor, PA. Stockton reached the NCAA championship game in 2009 and advanced to the Final Four in 1987.

The brand-new Stockton’s Women’s Lacrosse team made its intercollegiate debut a success with a 16-4 victory over Notre Dame University in the program’s inaugural game. Led by Head Coach Kim Williams, the Ospreys scored six goals in the first seven minutes and continued strong through the game’s end.

On the road, the Stockton Men’s Lacrosse team, led by Head Coach Kevin Zulauf, improved their record to 2-1 with a 13-8 victory against Fairleigh Dickinson-College at Florham. When the team returned, they stayed to watch their fellow Ospreys soar to victory in the basketball NJAC finals.

Saturday evening concluded with Stockton’s indoor track teams competing in the NJAC championships at the New York Armory. Both teams placed fourth under Head Men’s Track and Field Coach Jayson Resch and Head Women’s Track and Field Coach Todd Curl. The Osprey women’s squad totaled 87.50 points while the men’s team finished with 66 points. Stockton team members qualified for the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championships in 21 events and will compete at the ECAC meet in Boston on March 7-8.
Five Stocktonians Honored in AC Weekly’s Top 40 Under 40

Nicholas Sena, Dawn Konrady, Nathan Morell, Kristin Morell and Charles C. Weeks, Jr. were honored in the Atlantic City Weekly’s 10th annual Top 40 Under 40 Awards published this week.

Sena, the leadership annual giving coordinator and a 2008 alumnus, returned to Stockton in 2013 to serve as a fundraiser in the College's Foundation. Sena is active at Stockton and in Atlantic County with Habitat for Humanity. At Stockton, he is a co-advisor for Alternative Spring Break (ASB), a program he founded in 2006 with his now wife, Kristen. ASB sends more than 30 students away during spring break to work on Habitat homes. In Atlantic County, he serves on the executive board of the local Habitat affiliate.

Konrady is the director of the Child Welfare Education Institute, which supports the ongoing transformation of the NJ public child welfare system through social work education and professional training. She is the treasurer and interpreter for Community Mediation Services and a member of the Child Placement Review Board of Atlantic County. Konrady is currently pursuing her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Management from Drexel University. She holds a MBA from Stockton, MA in Bilingual and Bicultural Studies in Spanish and Certificate of Translation from La Salle University, and BS in Spanish and Business from Susquehanna University.

Nathan Morell has been serving as the assistant director of Counseling Services at Stockton since August 2012, providing mental health counseling to Stockton students. Nathan Morell, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, received his BS degree in Social Work from Stockton in 2004 and his MSW from Fordham University in 2005. Nathan Morell also designs and executes innovative and exciting programming aimed at providing support and education to the Stockton community. Recent outreach projects include: “Making Anger Work for You”, “The Social Club”, and “Self-Care and Communication”. Nathan Morell proudly serves as the faculty advisor to the Active Minds Club, a student organization focused on eliminating mental health stigma. He also provides in-community therapy to children and families in crisis through AtlantiCare Behavioral Health.

Kristin Ryan Morell, adjunct instructor in Social and Behavioral Sciences and wife of Nathan Morell, is a licensed clinical social worker who received a BA in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2000 and MSW from the University of California at Berkeley in 2004. She has been a readjustment counselor at the Ventnor Vet Center, which is part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, since August 2010, where she provides mental health counseling to combat veterans from the Iraq, Afghanistan, Persian Gulf, Vietnam, and Korean wars. Kristin Morell specializes in working with veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma. She also provides in-home therapy to children with emotional challenges through Community Networks, Inc., and supervision to bachelor’s and master’s in social work students through ASAPP Healthcare.

Charles C. Weeks, Jr., assistant professor of Finance, received his BS degree from LaSalle University in Finance with a minor in Accounting in 2001, and his Juris Doctorate from Villanova University School of Law in 2006. Weeks is a Certified Financial Planner Practitioner and the founder and president of Barrister Wealth Management, LLC, which provides financial planning, investment and insurance services. Weeks spearheaded the effort to create the undergraduate Financial Planning Concentration and the Continuing Studies Certificate in Financial Planning at Stockton. Weeks sits on the Stockton Foundation Golf Committee, as well as the Flip Flop Fling and the Fund Development Committees for Gilda’s Club South Jersey.

For 10 years, Atlantic City Weekly has honored the region’s most dynamic young leaders including volunteers, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and those utilizing their talents to inspire others. To view the complete article on 2014’s Top 40 Under 40, click here.
The Stockton Dance Company Presents ‘A Concert of Dance’

The Stockton Dance Company presented ‘A Concert of Dance’ from Feb. 27–March 2, which featured Stockton faculty and staff as choreographers and designers.

Rain Ross, assistant professor of Dance, choreographed the opening piece “Dezinformatsiya,” and another, “Beyond,” for the show.

“The whole process of putting the concert together starts in the summer when we find our guest artists and schedule their intensives,” said Ross. “In October, we audition the dancers and cast them in the various works. I started rehearsing ‘Dezinformatsiya’ in November.”

Henry van Kuiken, professor of Dance, brought humor to the stage with his piece titled, “The Return of the Pantomime Cat.” Van Kuiken also created most of the performers’ costumes.

Dr. Mark Mallett, associate professor of Theatre Arts, designed the lighting for the event and Venustiano Borromeo, coordinator of Technical Direction, headed the technical production.

As part of the Dance Company Residency with LehrerDance, a Stockton 2020 Initiative, Jon Lehrer, artistic and executive director of Lehrer Dance, choreographed a piece, “Murmur,” for the Stockton Dance Company in October 2013 which was performed at the spring concert.

Melissa Chisena, artistic director of Chisena Danza in Philadelphia, and Andrea Mychaels, adjunct instructor of Dance and director of the Andrea Mychaels Dance Project in Philadelphia, also choreographed pieces for the event.

The Stockton Chamber Players Perform for First Time in 17 years

The Stockton Chamber Players return to the stage this spring for the first time in 17 years, with two performances featuring musicians from Stockton and the community.

“From 1975 to 1997, the Stockton Performing Arts Program featured performances by Stockton music faculty in concerts of chamber music under the name, ‘The Stockton Chamber Players,’” said Dr. Lance Olsen, the project leader of the newly re-established program.

The re-establishment of the Stockton Chamber Players is made possible by 2020 Initiative Funding granted in Fall 2013. The two performances are set for tonight (March 6) and March 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Alton Auditorium.

“Thanks to support from the college, the Chamber Players were able to re-establish not just the group, but an entire concept,” Dr. Olsen said. “The objective is to re-establish the concept of faculty performances of music of all styles as a source of community engagement on our campus.”

Dr. Michael Pedicin, associate professor of Music, and Ed Vezinho, adjunct instructor in the School of Arts and Humanities, will perform with Dr. Olsen at tonight’s performance and Dr. Chris DiSanto, Dr. Olsen’s partner in the project and coordinator of the Classical Music Studies Program, will perform on March 18.

Dr. Marion Hussong and Husband Joe Welcome Granddaughter

Dr. Marion Hussong, professor of Literature and Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and her husband Joe, are celebrating the Feb. 1 birth of their granddaughter. Their daughter, Jenny Shepherd, a 2009 alumna, and her husband Shane, welcomed Allison Nicole Shepherd at 9:09 p.m. Baby Allison weighed in at 5 pounds, 5 ounces and was 18.75 inches long. Congratulations to all!
Dr. Laura Zucconi, associate professor of Historical Studies, was invited by Dr. Erez Ben-Yosef, lecturer in Archaeology at Tel Aviv University, to assist in his project Central Timna Valley Excavation (CTVE). The dig focuses on copper production sites in the southern Aravah Valley at the transitional period between the Late Bronze and Iron Ages (1300—800 BCE). Dr. Ben-Yosef opened excavations at Timna, Israel in 2013 and is in the second year of digging. Dr. Zucconi was asked to participate because of her publications on the history of ancient Edom and Timna.

Timna was the second largest copper production site in the ancient Near East (Wadi Feinan in Jordan was the largest.)

From Jan. 22-Feb. 5, Dr. Zucconi excavated an area known as Site 34 which is popularly called the ‘Slaves' Hill’ because of a wall and gatehouse blocking the path at the top of the hill.

“Our work is changing the traditional explanation that the hill was occupied by Egyptians using Canaanite slaves to work the mines,” said Dr. Zucconi. “We're finding that the local Canaanites controlled the copper mines and smelting production and that the wall and gate kept the elites and their ‘secret technology’ of copper smelting separate from the rest of the population.”

While digging near one of the furnaces, Dr. Zucconi found an intact tuyère, a ceramic nozzle that fits the bellows to the furnace.

“They're quite rare since ancient furnaces didn't have any doors. They would have to break the furnace to get out the copper which would also break the tuyères,” she said. “The Israel Museum in Jerusalem and the Eretz Museum in Tel Aviv only has three or four intact tuyères between the both of them, which shows how rare these can be.”

LEAD ACT Kicks Off Second Year at Program’s First Meeting

The Lead Atlantic City Tomorrow Program (LEAD ACT) kicked off its second year at the program's first meeting on “Visioning, Problem Solving, and Leadership Skill Development,” held on Feb. 26.

At this year’s inaugural meeting, Dean Lewis Leitner of Graduate and Continuing Studies facilitated discussions on “Team Building,” and “Leadership Skills, Qualities, and Identity.” Director of Continuing Studies Robert McNeill facilitated a forum on, “What is Your Vision of and for Atlantic City, Understanding the SWOT Analysis,” and “Problem Solving and Power of Listening.”

Alex Marino, assistant to the provost for Atlantic City, is leading the program’s initiative on Stockton’s behalf.

The LEAD ACT is a 10-month public policy leadership development program designed for experienced and emerging leaders committed to building a stronger community within Atlantic City. The program is executed through a partnership between the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) and Stockton. The LEAD ACT fellows meet one day per month, with its next gathering on March 26.