Stockton Scholarship Benefit Gala Raises $475,000 for Students

Over 550 guests helped raise more than $475,000 at the 34th Annual Stockton College Benefit Scholarship Gala held at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club on April 26.

“You Make the Difference,” a fundraising campaign that continues through June 30, has raised over $23 million for facilities, academic programs, scholarships and other operations. Of that total, $10.1 million will be dedicated to scholarships, said President Herman Saatkamp.

Gala proceeds from the past two years have helped the Stockton College Foundation raise nearly $2.3 million for scholarships, exceeding President Saatkamp’s $2 million ‘Let’s Do More’ challenge.

President and Mrs. Saatkamp were honored by the Stockton Board of Trustees with the establishment of the Herman and Dorothy Saatkamp Endowed Scholarship. The trustees have committed $50,000 toward the scholarship, which will also receive net proceeds from the Gala, along with direct gifts and pledges.

In addition, $500,000 to be generated by Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club and Stockton Affiliated Services, Inc. (SASI) over the next five years will be directed to the scholarship.

Dr. Philip T. Ellmore, chief development officer and executive director of the Stockton College Foundation, gave welcoming remarks and thanked various departments and his staff for their hard work and dedication in helping to organize the event. He noted that students from Dr. Michael Scales’ course in event planning and catering management in Stockton’s Hospitality and Tourism Management program were among the many volunteers at the Gala.

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Stockton Seaview was honored on its 100th anniversary year. The venue will again host world-class women golfers at the ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer from May 26-June 1.

Dolce Hotels and Resorts, which operates Stockton Seaview, pledged $125,000 over the next five years to establish a new scholarship for students majoring in Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Seaview’s historic fire bell, used on the property in the early years, was restored and rung to call guests into dinner at the Gala.

Student scholarship recipients and donors were also acknowledged and applauded at the event.

“Don’t Call Me Francis,” a popular Philadelphia-South Jersey band, provided dance music after dinner and the Stockton Chamber Players performed earlier in the evening.

For more information, visit Stockton.edu/foundation.

Cheryl Robinson Speaks on Sports Marketing at Moorestown HS

Cheryl Robinson, sports marketing coordinator, recently spoke at Moorestown High School on the topic of Sports Marketing through Stockton's Visiting Professors Series. Robinson presented during two periods of the school's Entertainment Marketing classes.

Robinson, a first semester adjunct professor, spoke about her professional career working in the sports industry on the collegiate level, in high profile events, and with professional athletes and celebrities.

“After the second class ended, one of the students came up to me and stated that he narrowed down his college choices between Stockton and a Division I University,” said Robinson. “The other night I received an e-mail from him stating he will be in the class of 2018 at Stockton, and that he looks forward to taking my Sports Marketing class at the college.”

Robinson looks forward to next year's Visiting Professors Series.

Dr. Debbi Dagavarian Retires from Assistant Provost Position

Dr. Debbi Dagavarian will retire from her position as assistant provost at Stockton in June.

Dr. Dagavarian came to Stockton in 2002 as assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, and was later named assistant provost. During her time at Stockton, she served as the primary resource for faculty and students in appeals of academic policies affecting students, facilitated groups of faculty and staff to revise and develop academic policies and procedures, edited the College “Bulletin,” and directed the Academic Affairs aspects of commencement.

She also created and edited academic content on the college’s website, served on the team that developed the goStockton portal and participated in the project’s expansion. Dr. Dagavarian guided the college through its self-study process, co-writing and co-editing several major reports for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. For several years, she was responsible for Distance Education at Stockton.

Last year, Dr. Dagavarian moved to the Manahawkin Instructional Site, helping with course scheduling, academic advising, dual credit programs, and strategic planning for the site.

Throughout her tenure at Stockton, Dr. Dagavarian has continued to serve on accreditation teams for the Middle States Commission and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which served Stockton well for the college’s decennial review. She also has continued to publish and present at professional conferences.

Dr. Dagavarian plans to continue to teach at Stockton as an adjunct professor in General Studies.

“I will miss all my friends at Stockton, but will not lose touch! I look forward to learning some new jewelry-making techniques, and, of course, continuing to teach,” Dr. Dagavarian said.
John C. Smith Transfers to Position as Assistant to the Provost

John C. Smith will transfer from Student Affairs to Academic Affairs and serve as assistant to the provost beginning in July.

Smith has been employed at Stockton since 1997. Most recently, he served as director of Student Affairs Operations within the Office of the Vice President, providing oversight of operations, policy review, assessment and divisional publications. He co-chaired the “engagement” sub-committee of the 2020 Strategic Initiatives effort and has been intricately involved with Student Affairs strategic planning.

Upon his hire in 1997, Smith was named coordinator of Evening Support Services within the Office of the Dean of Students. He advanced to the role of assistant to the Dean of Students, supporting student life initiatives and programs.

He later assumed the chair of the Campus Hearing Board and eventually became the first director of Student Rights and Responsibilities in 2007. The inaugural office facilitated the adjudication of conduct cases, classroom disruption matters, and those involving mental health issues.

Smith successfully collaborated with the offices of Academic Affairs, Dean of Students, Counseling and Health Services, and Campus Police. He has chaired Stockton’s Behavioral Intervention Team, a cross-disciplinary team that assesses conduct concerns. On occasion, he has provided administrative support to the Office of Residential Life, most recently as interim director of Housing Operations in the summer of 2011.

In December 2011, he became the director of Student Affairs Operations.

“It is a privilege for me to assume these new duties. I look forward to new collaborative opportunities promoting and celebrating student success at Stockton!” Smith said.

Anthropology, Africana Studies Professor Dr. Linda Nelson Retires

Dr. Linda Williamson Nelson, professor of Anthropology and Africana Studies, will retire at the end of this school year after over 30 years of commitment and service to Stockton.

Dr. Nelson joined the Stockton faculty in 1981 as an assistant professor in the Writing program. In that position, she taught writing on all levels from basic skills, to junior and senior courses. Shortly after joining the faculty, she designed and taught courses in contemporary African American literature for both the Literature program and the General Studies program.

From 1983-1987, Dr. Nelson took leave to accept a Doctoral fellowship in Anthropology at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, where she specialized in linguistic anthropology. Upon return, she continued to teach in the Writing program as she developed and taught Anthropology courses.

In retirement, Dr. Nelson plans to continue her current research on the narrative construction of agency in the life stories of women in the parish of Mandeville in Jamaica West Indies. She describes her retirement as bittersweet as she will sorely miss her many friends and colleagues at Stockton.

On April 11, the Africana Studies Program and Unified Black Student Society concluded a year of activities marking the 30th anniversary of Africana Studies at Stockton. During the celebration, the Stockton and local communities paid special tribute to Dr. Nelson, one of the program’s founding members. The accolades focused on her commitment to ethical and empathic interaction with students and colleagues alike.

Dr. Tartaro Sparks Student Engagement in Local Organizations

Dr. Christine Tartaro, professor of Criminal Justice, partnered students in her Criminal Justice Policy and Planning class with the Atlantic County Courts, the Atlantic City Single Point of Entry program, Jewish Family Services and the Stockton Police Department to analyze policies within each organization. Students spend the first three-quarters of the semester learning how to conduct a policy analysis and then work with their respective group to implement material learned in the classroom.

Dr. Tartaro directed the Atlantic County Courts group to look at the county drug court program and recommend whether the state should mandate drug court involvement or have it be optional for offenders. The Single Point of Entry group looked at

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the problem of homelessness in Atlantic City and discussed options for how to address the issue.

“The group visited Sister Jean’s Kitchen, and it really moved them,” said Dr. Tartaro. “The students e-mailed me to ask if it was okay if they brought peanut butter, jelly and bread to class so the entire class could make sandwiches to help the homeless.”

Dr. Tartaro’s student-group working with Jewish Family Services looked at the challenges of finding housing for offenders who are also mentally ill. The group working with Stockton Police explored setting up a social media policy for the police department.

“What I love about teaching this class is that I get to introduce our students to local practitioners, and they get to apply what they learned in the classroom to address real challenges in the community. A few summers ago, I received an e-mail from one of my former students who told me that so much of what he was seeing and doing in his job was similar to what we discussed in class. The projects tend to be very rewarding experiences for our students,” Dr. Tartaro said.

Dr. Mastrangelo Attends Healthy U Program’s Spring Celebration

Dr. M. Alysia Mastrangelo, associate professor of Physical Therapy, recently attended the Healthy U Program Spring celebration at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford. The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey Healthy U Initiative is designed to combat childhood obesity by instituting behavioral changes in children using a multi-pronged approach that includes nutrition education, increased physical activity and a focus on family.

Dr. Mastrangelo is the evaluator for body mass index (BMI) and fitness measures for the Healthy U program.

Healthy U is New Jersey’s largest and most comprehensive statewide initiative to address childhood obesity in the afterschool setting. The program is the result of a collaborative partnership between The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey and the New Jersey YMCA State Alliance. Healthy U reaches more than 20,000 children in 410 YMCA sites and 25 schools.

“I am always grateful that the Physical Therapy program and Stockton allow me the opportunity to participate in externally funded projects,” said Dr. Mastrangelo.

Associate Professor Dr. Shawn Donaldson Welcomes Grandson

Dr. Shawn Donaldson, associate professor of Sociology, welcomed a grandson on April 23. Robert Omar Pendergrass, nicknamed “Teddy,” arrived at 11:36 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Mom Layla and baby are doing well. Congratulations to all!

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 StocktonTimes@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