Concerned citizens have another forum in which to engage on today’s public policy issues with the start of “Policy Hues,” a new blog hosted by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Policy Hues will feature blog posts from Dr. Deborah M. Figart, professor of Education and Economics in the School of Education and a Contributing Policy Analyst for the Hughes Center. Figart is also director of the Stockton Center for Economic & Financial Literacy, which serves as the southern regional office of the New Jersey Coalition for Financial Education.

Dr. Figart is an internationally known scholar in the field of labor and employment issues. She has written on the subjects of equal pay, working time, emotional labor at work, minimum and living wages, job evaluation and career ladders.

With her academic background rooted in her knowledge of economics, Dr. Figart will provide commentary on other public policy issues including those affecting the workforce, financial literacy and economic development.

She is the author or editor of 18 books or monographs, including: “Women and the Economy: A Reader” (M.E. Sharpe, 2003); “Living Standards and Social Well-Being” (Routledge, 2011); and “Handbook of Research on Gender and Economic Life” (Elgar, 2013). Some of her current research is on financial exclusion in the U.S. and the student loan debt crisis.

Dr. Figart currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Novadebt, a non-profit credit counseling corporation. She recently completed terms as a member of Atlantic County Advisory Commission for women and coeditor of the “Review of Social Economy,” a peer-reviewed journal in economics.

“We are pleased to have the distinctive voice of Dr. Figart in providing commentary on contemporary policy issues,” said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center. “We encourage members of the public to read and comment on the blog posts.”

In addition to Dr. Figart’s blog posts, Policy Hues will also include columns from Carl Golden, press secretary for former New Jersey Governors Tom Kean and Christie Whitman. Golden is a senior contributing analyst with the Hughes Center.

The new blog expands the Hughes Center’s web and social media presence that includes a website, Twitter handle (@hughescenter), and Facebook.
Dr. Lisa Cox Visits White House to Discuss HIV/AIDS Policy

Dr. Lisa Cox, associate professor of Social Work and Gerontology and longstanding National Advisory Board member of the National Association of Social Worker’s (NASW-DC) Spectrum HIV/AIDS Project, visited the White House on May 6 to discuss future collaborative efforts with Douglas Brooks, director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP).

Dr. Cox and other board members met with Brooks, who was appointed by President Barack Obama earlier this year, to solidify an ongoing working relationship with ONAP. The group shared information about the Spectrum Project’s curriculum, resources, and cadre of experienced practitioners and HIV/AIDS savvy trainers.

“One of the main goals of the HIV/AIDS Spectrum Project is to provide the necessary practice skills for people working in social work, mental health, and substance abuse fields in order to enhance and promote culturally competent practice with individuals, families, and communities affected by HIV/AIDS,” Dr. Cox said.

The project’s target audience includes social workers, allied mental health care providers, and students in schools of social work. The curriculum is presented via knowledge-focused training that addresses mental health and HIV/AIDS within a strengths-based bio psychosocial-spiritual perspective.

Dr. Cox emphasized the significance of Brooks holding the director of ONAP position as a gay, African-American man living with HIV who is also a licensed clinical social worker. “It is important to have AIDS advocates, educators, and practitioners who have decades of experience in the field of HIV/AIDS be part of agenda-setting and decision-making endeavors. We hope our work with ONAP will reduce new HIV cases, improve health outcomes for HIV-positive people and eliminate HIV health disparities nationwide,” Dr. Cox said.

New Jersey Athletic Conference Awards Named for G. Larry James

The New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Board of Athletic Administrators recently voted to name two of the league’s special awards in honor of the late G. Larry James, former athletic administrator and Olympic legend at Stockton. The “G. Larry James Most Outstanding Indoor Track & Field Athlete Awards” will be presented to the league’s top women’s and men’s indoor track and field athletes at the 2014 NJAC Awards Brunch in Princeton on June 1.

James, nicknamed “The Mighty Burner,” was a longtime administrator at Stockton and an Olympic gold and silver medalist. He won a gold medal as a member of the 1968 United States Olympic 4 x 400-meter relay team, which held the oldest running world record in the sport of Track and Field. He won a silver medal for the 400-meter event at the same Olympic Games in Mexico City. James was inducted into the National Track & Field Hall of Fame in 2003 and into Stockton’s inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010.

James was the driving force behind the growth of Stockton’s athletic program during his 36 years as a coach, athletic director and dean. Through his dedication, hard work, and leadership, he steadily developed the Osprey program into one of the most highly respected programs in all of NCAA Division III, stated the NJAC organization.
**Team of Stockton Staff Rescues Baby Killdeer from Rooftop**

Steve Brown, assistant supervisor of Building Repairs, spotted four fuzzy killdeer chicks scurrying around on wobbly legs recently in a hazardous habitat—a rooftop. Killdeer are medium-sized plovers that are known for nesting in unusual and potentially dangerous locations such as parking lots, rooftops, lawns, athletic fields and golf courses.

The Office of Plant Management was aware of the nest and had been keeping a close eye out for the babies. When the hatchlings were found, Dennis Lepore, Health/Safety Compliance coordinator and fire official, knew just whom to contact to get the chicks to safer ground. John Rokita, principal lab technician and a resident bird expert, was called to lead the rescue.

Killdeer hatchlings can’t fly, so they were confined to the rooftop, which doesn’t offer a large enough food supply to sustain the hungry babies, explained Rokita. The chicks look like cotton balls on twigs and need plenty of insects to grow stronger, he added.

Rokita has conducted killdeer rooftop rescues on Stockton’s campus in the past, so each spring, he knows he’s on call.

Brown, Rokita, Lepore and Russell Konrady, a crew supervisor in the Carpenters Shop, carefully corralled the feathery puffballs into a cardboard box. The protective parents made lots of noise and faked broken wings, a defense mechanism they use to distract predators from their young.

The chicks were safely released and reunited with their parents. “The rescue operation went smoothly, and we had fun,” said Lepore.

**College Adds Resources to Stockton Champions of Youth Program**

A youth-mentoring program that virtually stopped the dropout rate among hundreds of participants at Atlantic City High School over the past eight years will be funded and run by the college as the Stockton Champions of Youth.

The Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City, which formerly operated the program with help from Stockton, has agreed to have the college assume financial and programming responsibility. The club has said it suffered a shortfall in funding and is working to remain open this summer with help from the community.

All but one of the students who participated in the Champions of Youth program over the past eight years completed high school and 50 percent of them are attending four-year colleges, said Director Michael Everett, who will be employed by Stockton.

The college will continue the Stockton Champions of Youth’s affiliation with the Boys and Girls Club’s Youth of the Year program. In three of the past five years, the NJ Boys and Girls Club State Youth of the Year has come from the Atlantic City club and in each case the winner was part of the Champions of Youth program. The NJ winner is chosen from among 85,000 club members statewide, and the winner receives a $22,000 scholarship.

The Stockton Champions of Youth program serves 30-40 high school students per year for a total of about 320 students since its inception, Everett said. He was a teacher and guidance counselor at Atlantic City High School for 32 years and has been running the Champions program since it began. He will now work out of Stockton’s main facility in Atlantic City, the Carnegie Center.

The Stockton Champions of Youth program will be offered at Stockton’s Atlantic City facilities and at Atlantic City High School. It provides students with mentoring and a case manager, and offers experiences and opportunities outside the classroom, including community service and career awareness.
Stockton Math Club Accepted into Pi Mu Epsilon Honor Society

The Pi Mu Epsilon Council unanimously approved Stockton Math Club’s petition for a Pi Mu Epsilon Honor Society Chapter at the college, designating the organization’s 382nd Chapter, the New Jersey Omicron Chapter.

Pi Mu Epsilon is a non-secret honor society whose purpose is the promotion and recognition of scholarly activity in the mathematical sciences among students at the academic institutions that have been chartered as Chapters of the Society, stated the organization’s website.

“It is an honor to share this with the Stockton community,” said Dr. Chia-Lin Wu, associate professor of Mathematics and Math Club advisor. “This is a reflection of the hard work of our students and faculty.”

Professor Emeritus of Business Law Robert King Retires

Robert D. King, J.D., Professor Emeritus of Business Law, is retiring after 33 academic years as a faculty member at what he called “this college on the move.”

During King’s early years on campus, it was the collegiality among faculty members from all of the various academic disciplines that he found so distinctive and appealing. Another was the close relationship between faculty and students.

“Having been educated at a large research university, I had not experienced that kind of interaction before. Both of these characteristics still exist today, and, I believe, have contributed to the college's very successful General Studies curriculum and its emphasis on interdisciplinary learning,” King said.

During his tenure, King has been involved in several academic service roles. He was selected by President Vera King Farris to be a member of her Blue Ribbon Task Force on Governor Kean's Challenge Grants in the 1980s, and was one of the founding members of the College-wide Personnel Committee (now the Faculty Review Committee) in the 1990s. In the 2000s, King chaired the Faculty Post-Tenure Assessment Committee. Most recently, King served as a member of the Curriculum Work Team for the 2011 Middle States Accreditation of the college, and coordinated this semester's effort to assess the Business Program's success in meeting its ethics learning goal.

“Two themes I try to live by are: ‘Every day is a gift; treasure each one to its fullest,’ and ‘Stand up and be counted,” King said.

The Office of External Affairs Welcomes Joe D’Agostino

Joe D’Agostino joins the Office of External Affairs as associate director of Web Communications. He holds a B.A. in Communications from Stockton (’99) and has 14 years of experience working on web development/design. He returns to Stockton after nearly 13 years at Atlantic Cape Community College. In his free time, D’Agostino participates in a kickball/dodgeball league and enjoys any physical activity that does not involve sitting in front of a screen. He likes reading and dogs.

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