Faith and reason - two pillars in the life and work of Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos, Distinguished Professor Emeritus - came together as Stockton, in partnership with the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, dedicated the Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room on Sept. 26.

Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, who first met Dr. Constantelos in 1946 in Athens, attended the event and said Dr. Constantelos’ life combines “science and piety; faith and knowledge.” The archbishop called the new facility “a landmark achievement” and praised the learning environment at Stockton.

Dr. Constantelos was born in Spilia, Messenia, Greece and ordained a priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in 1955. He is an expert in the field of Byzantine (medieval Greek) history and a professor emeritus of History and Religious Studies.

He said when he first came to Stockton as a Mayflower faculty member in 1970, some were confused about his field. “It’s not Business, it’s Byzantine,” he joked about having had to explain.

The new facility houses 3,000 rare and important works from Professor Constantelos’ personal collection and research materials, a donation of one of the finest private libraries in New Jersey. It also features a mural by George Kordis, professor of Art at the University of Athens, Greece, and well-known painter of religious imagery in the Orthodox tradition.

The room will be open to students, faculty and the community and act as the statewide repository for the New Jersey Greek-American Oral History Project.

Throughout the course of his distinguished career, Professor Constantelos has written books, contributed to journals, participated in symposia, spoken at conferences, had articles published in multiple languages, actively represented his community in interfaith dialogues and, as one of Stockton’s first professors, helped put the institution on the map.

Continued on next page
Constantelos Hellenic Collection and Reading Room Dedicated

Continued from previous page

At the opening ceremonies, he received accolades from many of his colleagues.

Dr. Tom Papademetriou, associate professor of History and executive director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies, credited Dr. Constantelos with starting the college’s thriving Hellenic Studies, which is emblematic of Stockton’s commitment to global engagement.

Dr. David Roessel, professor of Greek Language and Literature, read a tribute to Dr. Constantelos from Dr. Fred Mench, professor emeritus of Classics, saying the two of them had felt a need for more emphasis on classical studies in South Jersey when they started – and over 40 years later the field is thriving. “Demetrios has given us a place – now it’s our job to move the world,” said Dr. Roessel, paraphrasing Archimedes, who said, in demonstrating the principle of the lever: “Give me the place to stand, and I shall move the earth.”

Dr. David Carr, professor of Political Science and Senior Fellow in the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, said of Dr. Constantelos, “One of his greatest legacies is junior faculty coming forward who will continue to teach [Hellenic Studies] long into the future.”

The Stockton Oratorio Society, led by Dr. Beverly Vaughn, and members of the choir of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Egg Harbor Township, sang both the Greek and American national anthems - earning praise from the archbishop for their proper Greek pronunciation and the beauty of the musical arrangements.

“This has been a wonderful example of the cooperation between Stockton and the community,” said Dean Lisa Honaker of the School of Arts and Humanities. “Demetrios is a link - he’s a scholar, a gentleman and a priest.”

She praised Dr. Papademetriou and project manager Tula Christopoulos, saying, “Your contributions cannot be overestimated.”

Dr. Constantelos said he was “a very lucky person as a family man, as a priest, and as a scholar.”

A matching gift challenge of $150,000, made by the Friends of Hellenic Studies and Zoe and Dean Pappas, has helped fund the project. About $244,000 has been raised toward the $300,000 goal for an endowment to maintain and expand the collection.

For more information on how to support the new space, visit www.stockton.edu/constantelos.

Stockton Hosts 76ers Preseason Training Camp in Big Blue

Stockton’s Big Blue Sports Center has been enjoying center court in sports news and social media this week. Stockton is hosting the Philadelphia 76ers training camp through Saturday, Oct. 4. The team is staying at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club.

Jon Heck, director of Athletic Operations, said the opportunity emerged through conversations between friends Scott Bittner, assistant men’s basketball coach at Stockton, and Billy Lange, 76ers player development coach.

“They spoke about the possibility of bringing the Sixers to Stockton,” Heck explained. “That brought the Sixers staff down here during the summer, and they liked the facility and the setup we would be able to offer.”

Several preparations were made in anticipation of the first day of training camp on Sept. 30. Heck said the Sixers had an additional wood court installed over one of the synthetic floor courts. Smaller arrangements, including video, athletic training and injury care, and strength training, were also made so the team could run their whole practice on the arena floor.

Heck recognized Bittner; David Amorielo, athletics coordinator; Christian Allen, fitness program coordinator; Patricia Ferri, catering director of Chartwells; Gary Suhr, assistant supervisor of Building Repairs; Richard Deman, mechanic’s helper; and the Plant Management staff for their roles in preparing the facility.

Heck said hosting the training camp has been exciting. “The 76ers staff has been great to work with in being well-prepared and therefore making it easy for us to meet their needs and expectations.”

The Sixers practices are closed to the public and media at the 76ers request. The Sports Center arena floor will be closed until Monday, Oct. 6 to accommodate practice setup and breakdown.
Rona Whitehead is Service-Learning’s New Activist-in-Residence

The Office of Service-Learning recently announced this year’s new Activist-in-Residence (AIR), Rona Whitehead. Whitehead has been an active member of the Girl Scouts for over two decades. She recently retired as a leadership specialist with the Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey.

Whitehead earned her Bachelor’s degree in Sociology from The University of Pennsylvania as a non-traditional student. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for Camden County Family Support Organization, Children’s Continuum of Care, The University of Pennsylvania’s Bread Upon the Waters Mentoring Board, and volunteers with the UPenn Alumni Volunteer Interview Team.

In her role as Stockton’s second AIR, Whitehead is working on four projects in local communities which are organized by the Stockton Center for Community Engagement. Those initiatives include The Homework Completion Program at Stanley S. Holmes Village; A Future with Hope, a STEM program; Stockton’s Campus Kitchen at Atlantic City project; and the monthly Campus Food Drive. The Service-Learning program has been busy creating a system for students to sign up for each of the above mentioned projects on the AIR website.

“As a community partner, I am here to assist students with finding a service-learning experience that will enhance their liberal arts education,” she said. “It has been my experience that offering students the opportunity to organize a project is more fulfilling to both student and community partner; it allows students to use their critical thinking skills to create a solution to an issue while engaging in the community.”

Whitehead replaces Erin O’Hanlon, coordinator of community initiatives at The Women’s Center of Atlantic County, who served as the AY 2013-2014 Activist-in-Residence.

Mini-grants for student service-learning opportunities are available through the AIR program. Whitehead can be reached via email at Rona.Whitehead@stockton.edu, or by phone at 609-652-4256. Her office is in Service-Learning’s new location in F-009.

Four Faculty, Staff Members Honored for Sustainable Gardens

Four faculty and staff members were recently recognized for their award-winning green thumbs. Jackie Wilson, of the Career Center; Russ Wilson, professional services specialist in Plant Management and Facilities Planning; Alice Gitchell, energy specialist; and Pamela Hendrick, professor of Theatre, received awards in sustainability for their backyard landscapes from The Go Green Galloway committee. Gitchell qualified for the Sustainable Landscape Certification, and the Wilsons and Hendrick qualified for the advanced Silver Certification.

They were part of the first group of participants in Galloway Township’s Sustainable Landscape Mini-Grant program which was made possible through a grant from Sustainable Jersey. In January 2013, the group began the sustainability project, open to all Galloway residential and business property owners.

“Our garden became an on-going project that we enjoy doing as a hobby. We have transformed our backyard from mainly grass to a natural habitat environment,” said Russ Wilson. “Jackie, my wife, is the vision and knows her plants. I do not know plants, but I love the creation part: stones, paths, natural fences and digging holes. She is the brain and I am the laborer.”

The program required participants to attend several workshops to identify invasive plant species and begin the process of eradication of those plants, replacing them with beneficial trees, shrubs and perennials. Property owners also had to reduce their lawn size and complete two initiatives in both Wildlife Stewardship and storm water management.

Participants who went on to achieve Silver Certification had to do more pro-active invasive plant removal, add more native plants, complete additional initiatives in wildlife stewardship and storm water management, and begin to perform "sustainable landscape ambassador” duties by helping to spread the word about the importance of maintaining a sustainable property.
Development’s Kelly Brennan Presents at CASE Conference

Kelly Brennan, Annual Giving coordinator, was invited to present at “Best Practices in Development Day,” a daylong conference at St. Thomas Aquinas College in New York on Sept. 23.

During her session titled “Adapting the Annual Fund to Small Shop Priorities: Where we have been, where are we now and where are we going?” Brennan shared how Stockton’s Foundation and the Office of Development recognized a need to raise more unrestricted funds to address the college’s greatest needs. She shared how the team developed a strategic plan to address that need, as well as challenges, successes and next steps.

The conference, funded by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Venture Capital Fund, brought together professionals from the tri-state area for networking, presentations and sharing of best practices.

Camille Fumo, graduate assistant from the Office of Development also participated at the conference.

School of General Studies Welcomes New Faculty Members

**Dr. Geoffrey Gust** joins the School of General Studies as a visiting assistant professor of Writing in First Year Studies. Dr. Gust earned his Ph.D. in English from The University of York in England, after receiving his M.A. in English from Arizona State University and his B.A. in English (with a concentration in Secondary Education) from Drake University. He has over a decade of teaching experience at Arizona State University and Temple University, where he served as the “resident medievalist” for the past seven years and also taught assorted literature and writing courses. He is the author of *Constructing Chaucer*, published by Palgrave/Macmillan.

**Ben Heins** joins the First-Year Studies Program as a visiting assistant professor of Writing. Heins earned his M.F.A. in Poetry from Rosemont College and his B.A. in Professional Writing with a minor in English Literature from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. His publications include two poetry chapbooks: *Cut Me Free* and *Greatest Hits & B-Sides*. Previously, he worked in property management for five years and now uses his varied skill sets to help his first-year students enhance both their academic and real-world writing, while expanding their capacities for critical reading and thinking.

**Dr. Robert Skloot**, the Ida E. King Distinguished Visiting Scholar for the Fall 2014 semester, is Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he served as teacher, director and administrator. He earned his Ph.D. in Speech and Theatre Arts from The University of Minnesota, his M.A. in Speech and Drama from Cornell University and his A.B. in English from Union College. He served as Fulbright Professor in Israel, Austria, Chile, and The Netherlands and as Fulbright Specialist in England. He is the author and editor of many books and essays about the theatre of the Holocaust and genocide.

**Emily Van Duyne**, visiting assistant professor of Writing in the First Year Studies Program, is a graduate of the Solstice M.F.A. in Creative Writing, with a concentration in poetry. Van Duyne graduated from Emerson College with her B.F.A. in Literature and Creative Writing, and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. Her work has most recently appeared in Transtudies, Contrary, Diagram, and Mead. In 2014, her open letter about adjunct labor in American higher education was published by The Adjunct Project, and received national attention from Salon and The New Inquiry.

Correction: In an article on Sept. 25, some members of the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Center Faculty Task Force were misidentified. The Faculty Task Force included Dr. Kristin J. Jacobson, co-chair and associate professor of Literature; Laurie A. Dutton, co-chair and associate director of Counseling Services; Dr. Dee McNeely-Greene, associate vice president for Student Affairs; Dr. Margaret Lewis, professor of Biology; Dr. Maya Lewis, assistant professor of Social Work; Nathan Long, associate professor of Creative Writing; Dr. Jennifer Lyke, associate professor of Psychology; and Daniel Fidalgo Tomé, assistant director of Service-Learning.

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We want to know about things going on in the Stockton community. Do you have an unusual hobby? Did one of your coworkers 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 609-626-5521 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