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Stockton Holds 11th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Symposium

“Racism is not over, brothers and sisters,” said Carmen Berkley, the keynote speaker at the 11th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium held at Stockton on Oct. 7. “In 2014, it’s built into our system,” which includes a lack of economic opportunities, unequal justice and recent court rulings making it harder for people to register to vote,” she said.

Berkley, who at 29 is national director of Civil, Human and Women’s Rights for the AFL-CIO, urged black people to unite with Latinos, gays, immigrants, women and others who are discriminated against.

Berkley also said protest marches are not enough. “Vote - participate - speak up about problems and be ready to fight back,” she said.

The Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium at Stockton celebrated the 50th anniversary of Hamer’s historic protest at the 1964 Democratic Convention in Atlantic City. The civil rights activist’s televised speech galvanized millions of viewers, who heard how African-Americans were being denied the right to vote in various states through intimidation and illegal tests and poll taxes. As a result, two Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party delegates were given the right to speak at the convention and the other members were seated as guests.

The Stockton symposium included a selection of freedom songs, led by Dr. Beverly Vaughn, professor of Music, and performed by members of Stockton’s Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Actress Mattilyn Rochester portrayed Hamer to illustrate her struggles and strength in the face of arrests and beatings.

The program included a panel discussion with Dr. Anne Pomeroy, associate professor of Philosophy and president of the Stockton American Federation of Teachers; Dr. Patricia Reid-Merritt, Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Africana Studies; and Zulima V. Farber, former New Jersey attorney general.

The event was sponsored by the Stockton Africana Studies Program and the Unified Black Students Society.

“Fannie Lou Hamer remains an inspirational role model for me,” Dr. Reid-Merritt said. “These annual tributes to her legacy continue to educate a new generation and, hopefully, will encourage young people to work for social change and social justice.”
Stockton Researchers Monitor Oysters to Restore Population

Steve Evert, manager of the Marine Science and Environmental Field Station and assistant director of academic labs; Dr. Peter Straub, professor of Biology; and Dr. Mark Sullivan, associate professor of Marine Science, recently led a joint project between Stockton’s field station and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Bureau of Shellfisheries.

This summer, the faculty- and staff-led team, which included four Marine Science students and a recent graduate, began collecting data, which monitored the Mullica River-Great Bay Estuary’s oyster population, to determine possible sites with the greatest restoration potential to enhance oyster reefs.

The Bureau of Shellfisheries awarded $9,000 to Stockton’s field station to cover the project costs and to pay student interns to collect the data.

The overall goal of the initiative is to establish a long-term program to monitor the seasonal settlement of young oysters, known as spat, in the Mullica River-Great Bay system.

The group sampled recently spawned and settled oysters at 10 designated research sites to identify areas within the system with potential to naturally collect an oyster set. Data collection continued through September.

The team also used multibeam sonar to map the seafloor, which results in bathymetric (depth) data that includes the potential for bottom classification, a process which describes the potential suitability of an existing surface for oyster settlement.

New oyster habitat can help an ecosystem by improving water quality and providing essential fish habitat and can help the economy by providing opportunities for recreational and commercial oyster harvesting. Knowing where and understanding why oysters thrive in certain conditions can help scientists determine where to spread crushed shell on the bay floor to give an oyster reef a head start.

“If funding becomes available for a restoration project, the data gathered by Stockton can be used to help guide that project,” Evert explained.

Audrey Wolfson Latourette Presents at New York University

Audrey Wolfson Latourette, Distinguished Professor of Business Law, was invited to present at New York University's Center for the Advancement of Teaching on Oct. 1.

During her presentation, Latourette shared insight from her article, “Plagiarism: Legal and Ethical Implications for the University,” which was published in the Journal of College and University Law by the Notre Dame Law School and the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

“What I hoped is that the audience would view plagiarism for what it truly is – an ethical, and not a legal offense, and discontinue inappropriately garbing the term plagiarism in the mantle of ‘criminality’ and ‘copyright,’ which only increases one’s antipathy to this offense,” she said.

One of the goals of the presentation was to enable individuals to distinguish intentional plagiarism from “ordinary negligence, or by lack of knowledge of the rules of attribution,” explained Latourette.

Faculty and staff from across New York University attended Latourette’s presentation. Disciplines ranged from NYU’s Stern School of Business and Tisch School of the Arts to Cardiology and Comprehensive Care, and Student Affairs, Alumni Relations and Events.

“Presenting before a group from such disparate fields was fascinating as it allowed me to employ examples from a variety of disciplines. For example, the scientists and physicians and dentists were primarily interested in plagiarism as applicable to grant applications,” she said. “Despite the disparate disciplines, the core of the issue remains the same: what is the proper definition of plagiarism, and what is the appropriate manner in which to treat cases of same that arise in academia.”
Dr. Sonia Gonsalves, Son Camillo Meet President, First Lady

Dr. Sonia Gonsalves, director of Academic Assessment, and her son, Camillo Gonsalves, were guests of President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at the 2014 Climate Summit event held at the United Nations in New York City on Sept. 23.

Camillo Gonsalves worked at the United Nations in New York City for five years, from 2007-2013.

In Fall 2008, Dr. Carol Rittner, Distinguished Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, visited the United Nations with her The UN, Human Rights and Genocide class and met with then-Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves.

He explained to Dr. Rittner's class the ins and outs, behind the scenes negotiating, and day-to-day workings of the United Nations. He also asked the students how they engage global issues, Dr. Rittner explained.

"It was a great meeting, a meaningful learning experience for my students, and for me too," Dr. Rittner said. "It certainly helped us to understand how important global awareness is for all of us in our interconnected, interdependent world."

School of Education’s Dr. JY Zhou, Family Welcome Baby Son

Dr. JY Zhou, internationalization specialist, and her husband, Yu Hu, recently welcomed a son, Raymond Hu, on Oct. 2. Raymond weighed in at 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 21.5 inches long. Grace, age 3, is excited to be a big sister. Congratulations to Dr. Zhou and family!

Natural Sciences & Mathematics Welcomes New Faculty

Benjamin Agyare is a full-time instructor in the Physics program. Agyare is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Physics at Temple University and earned his M.S. in Physics from Miami University and his B.S. in Physics from Kwame National University of Science and Technology in Ghana.

Dr. Boris Averkiev joins the Chemistry program as a visiting assistant professor. Dr. Averkiev received his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Utah State University, his M.S. in Physical Chemistry from The University of Minnesota and his B.S. in Chemistry from The Moscow Academy of Fine Chemical Technology. He is leaving a position at the Institute for Shock Physics at Washington State University to join the Stockton faculty. Dr. Averkiev also participated in a mentorship program for aspiring chemistry teachers ("MPACT") at Washington State University.

Dr. Charleen Baker joins the Biology program as a visiting assistant professor. Dr. Baker obtained her Ph.D. in Biology from The University of Minnesota, her M.S. in Chemistry from The University of Florida, and her B.S. in Horticulture from Delaware Valley College. She held many industrial positions as a research chemist and has held adjunct positions at several universities and colleges in the New Jersey-Pennsylvania area.

Dr. Dmytro Berbasov joins the Chemistry Program as a visiting assistant professor. Dr. Berbasov earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University, his M.S. in Chemistry from The University of Oklahoma, and his B.S. in Chemistry from the National Technical University of Ukraine. Dr. Berbasov was a postdoctoral fellow at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania in 2013, and a visiting research professor in the Department of Chemistry at Drexel University.

Colleen Brust joins the Biology program as a visiting instructor. Brust holds her M.S. in Marine Biology from The College of William and Mary’s Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and her B.S. in Marine Biology from The University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. She spent many years as a research scientist at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada and as a marine biologist at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine in Aberdeen, Md.

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Natural Sciences & Mathematics Welcomes New Faculty

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David Furgione joins the Biology program as a permanent instructor. Furgione holds his M.S.T. in Biological Science from Rutgers University and his B.A. in Biology from Glassboro State College. He recently retired from the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District in which he was a science teacher from January 1984 to this past August. As science supervisor at Cedar Creek High School, it was his suggestion that led to the development of Stockton's Dual Credit Program with regional high schools.

Dr. Lisa Hurd joins the Chemistry Program as a visiting assistant professor. Dr. Hurd earned her Ph.D. in Organometallic Chemistry from Rutgers University, her M.S. in Organic Chemistry from Rutgers University, and her B.S. in Chemistry from Stockton. She was a postdoctoral researcher at Rutgers University and was an associate chemist at the Revlon Research Center in Edison, New Jersey.

Dr. Elizabeth Lacey was a visiting assistant professor of Marine Science at Stockton during the 2013-2014 academic year and is now on a tenure track line. Dr. Lacey received her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Florida International University, her M.S. in Marine Biology from Nova Southeastern University and her B.S. in Marine Biology with a Chemistry minor from The University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She is studying sea grasses in nearby coastal areas, including work in Barnegat Bay and other local water bodies which already involve Stockton students.

Dr. Robert Mishur joins the Chemistry program as a visiting assistant professor. Dr. Mishur obtained his Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from Northern Illinois University and had two postdoctoral research positions, including one at the Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He earned his B.S. in Chemistry from The University of Illinois at Urbana. He has also held adjunct positions at several San Antonio universities and colleges.

Dr. Susanne Moskalski joins the Marine Science program as an assistant professor on a tenure track. Dr. Moskalski earned her Ph.D. from The School of Marine Science and Policy at The University of Delaware, her M.S. in Geology from The University of Delaware and her B.S. in Earth Science from The Pennsylvania State University. She continued her training with two postdoctoral research positions, including one at the Université de Bretagne Occidentale/Institut Universitaire Européde la Mer in Brest, France. Her M.S. in Geology will allow her to bridge between NAMS’ Marine Science and Geology Programs.

Dr. Emma Witt joins the Environmental Science program as an assistant professor on a tenure track. Dr. Witt earned her Ph.D. in Soil Science from The University of Kentucky and went on to a postdoctoral research position at The University of Minnesota. She earned her M.S. in Soil Science from The University of Minnesota and her B.S. in Natural Resource Conservation and Management with a Science option from The University of Kentucky. She is a hydrologist who studies the response of streams and lakes to disturbance. She is excited about applying her knowledge and experience to the aquatic environments of the National Pineland Preserve in which the College is located. She is well-prepared to enter the classroom and teaching laboratory through the training she received in a Preparing Future Faculty course “Teaching in Higher Education.”

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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

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