On Sept. 17 Stockton took a historic step toward changing its official designation and name to Stockton University, to more accurately reflect Stockton’s current status.

The Board of Trustees voted to authorize President Herman Saatkamp to petition the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education to officially classify Stockton as a comprehensive university, a designation for which the college has met the requirements for the past five years.

“Stockton’s mission stresses excellence in teaching and dedication to learning, and that will continue to be the heart of the distinctive Stockton experience,” said President Saatkamp. “Stockton’s tradition of community service will also remain strong as we transition into our next phase as a pre-eminent institution of higher education.”

Comprehensive universities emphasize teaching, and offer master’s degrees in a variety of academic disciplines and professional fields, as opposed to research universities, which place more emphasis on faculty members’ research publications in refereed journals and books for promotion and tenure.

“The college already has comprehensive university status in its classifications by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, U.S. News and World Report and The Princeton Review,” said President Saatkamp.

Curtis Bashaw, chair of the Board of Trustees, said the board is pleased with the Stockton community’s support for the change. “Alumni, faculty, staff, students, and of course, we board members, are enthusiastic about taking this distinctive step in Stockton’s impressive academic evolution.”

Whether to seek a change had been the subject of research and internal discussion for nearly two years. Faculty, staff, students, prospective students and parents, alumni and over 1,400 members of the public in South Jersey were surveyed, and “town hall” discussions were held for the Stockton community.

Continued on next page
Board OKs Petition for Change to be Recognized as University

The results of the surveys, independent research and other feedback led the Pan-College Task Force on University Status, comprised of faculty, staff, students, alumni and members of the community, to recommend on Sept. 3 that the president ask the Board of Trustees to pursue the change. The Stockton Times previously reported on the taskforce’s recommendation on Sept. 4, 2014.

There are many more steps to changing a college’s name.

President Saatkamp will submit a petition for the change to Office of the Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks for review by the state Office of Academic Affairs staff, with the assistance of external consultants.

Secretary Hendricks would provide the New Jersey Presidents Council, which represents the state’s public, private, religious and community colleges and universities, with all materials related to the petition for a name change, seeking a recommendation.

After reviewing the Presidents Council recommendation, the Office of Academic Affairs staff and consultants’ findings, and all reports and recommendations related to the petition, Secretary Hendricks would make a determination.

A special web page has been designed to keep faculty, staff and the community up-to-date on the latest information regarding Stockton’s transition from a college to a university. Click here to access FAQ, the Pan-College Task Force’s report and next steps.

NPR’s Nina Totenberg is Constitution Day Keynote Speaker

Nina Totenberg, award-winning legal affairs correspondent for National Public Radio, was the keynote speaker for this year’s celebration of Constitution Day on Sept. 17.

Totenberg’s presentation, “The Supreme Court and You,” shared behind-the-scenes stories about the Court and offered her seasoned and astute perspective on the institution’s transformation over the years.

Linda J. Wharton, associate professor of Political Science, gave welcoming remarks to a full house in the Campus Center Event Room. “What a treat it is to have Nina Totenberg presenting here at Stockton, especially if you’re a Supreme Court junkie like I am,” she said.

Totenberg praised Stockton’s work to “celebrate the great, founding document we live by.”

The revered NPR reporter began by humanizing the elusive United States Supreme Court Justices. She told tales of former Chief Justice William Rehnquist measuring snow to settle an inside bet between the justices and described Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as a “savvy operator” when handling media inquiries.

Totenberg discussed how covering the institution has changed since she began reporting in 1968, contrasting civil rights cases such as Tinker v. Des Moines in 1969 with the BONG HiTS 4 JESUS (Morse v. Frederick) case in 2007, as well as Brown v. Board of Education and subsequent rulings.

Today, the Court is “awash in technology cases,” which brings dramatic realization to the transformation of society, Totenberg explained. The Court has also become more predictable and polarized, reflecting the society we live in.

“At NPR, we want the lay public to understand the institution and what it does,” Totenberg said. “People know very little about the Court or how it works. The purpose is to educate and interest listeners.”

The Constitution Day planning committee, led by Wharton, included Peter Baratta, executive assistant to the Provost; Sara Faurot, director of Alumni Relations; Daniel Fidalgo Tomé, assistant director of Service-Learning; Theresa Marinelli, professional services specialist in the Provost’s Office; Nick Sena, assistant director of Annual Giving; and Laurie Griscom, director of Events Services and Campus Center Operations.

The event was sponsored by The Offices of Academic Affairs, and Development and Alumni Affairs; the Political Engagement Project; and the College Foundation. The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy donated pocket-sized Constitutions which were handed out at the event.
RHTTN Named Professional Service Organization of the Year

The Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Talent Network of Southern New Jersey (RHTTN), housed in Stockton’s Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies, was named the Professional Service Organization of the Year by the New Jersey Restaurant Association (NJRA) at the 22nd Hall of Fame Awards Reception on Sept. 8. Over the past year, the college developed a partnership with the organization through the work of the RHTTN.

Caitlyn Weiss, director of the RHTTN, and Aubri Fouts, clerk typist in Continuing Studies and program coordinator of the RHTTN, have worked diligently to develop the RHTTN into a resource for employers and job seekers alike. The Talent Network has partnered with many businesses, organizations, schools, and services to help bridge the gap between job seekers and employers.

“We are proud to receive this honor from such a reputable organization in the hospitality industry. The New Jersey Restaurant Association serves as the voice for restaurant owners and operators throughout the state and to be recognized as the Professional Service Organization of the Year after our first year is a real honor,” Weiss said.

Stockton was awarded the Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Talent Network grant in June 2013 by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. RHTTN is one of seven Talent Networks serving New Jersey. The Talent Networks represent the key sectors of the state accounting for two-thirds of private sector employment and half of all wages. To learn more about New Jersey's Talent Networks, click here.

Dr. Zwick Chosen to Participate in Biology Scholars Program

Dr. Melissa Zwick, assistant professor of Biology, was selected by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) as one of six biologists to participate in the 2014-2015 ASM-NSF Biology Scholars Program Transitions Residency. The Biology Scholars Program, a national leadership initiative which seeks to improve undergraduate biology education based on evidence of student learning, has gathered more than 260 Scholars to create and disseminate examples of scholarship in teaching in biology.

The yearlong Transitions Residency helps Scholars “transition” from conducting scholarly work in student learning to beginning the steps necessary for publication in biology and/or science education venues.

Dr. Zwick and other scholars attended the intensive From Science Education Research to Publication Institute in Washington, D.C. Scholars will receive close mentoring from the residency leadership team: Johann Krontiris-Litowitz of Youngstown State University, Marcy Kelly of Pace University, and Elisa Stone of the University of California, Berkeley.

As editors of leading biology education journals, their backgrounds are ideal for helping scholars navigate the researching and publishing process, including identifying appropriate venues for publication and developing and submitting manuscripts.

“I attended the first meeting of the ASM-NSF Biology Scholars program in Washington D.C. this July,” said Dr. Zwick. “It was a transformational experience for me as I continue my transition to a researcher in the Science of Teaching and Learning. The scholars program will continue for the rest of the year and I look forward to sharing the results of this 18-month-long residency.”
Social & Behavioral Sciences Welcomes New Faculty Members

Editor’s note: More than 50 new faculty and staff members have joined the Stockton community. We will feature these faculty and staff members in the Times as more information becomes available. Welcome!

Dr. Donovan Ceaser joins the Sociology and Anthropology Program as a visiting assistant professor. Dr. Ceaser received his Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from Louisiana State University. He earned his M.A. in Psychology from the University of Toronto and his B.A. in Music from Loyola University New Orleans. His area of interest is environmental justice. He is also a classical pianist.

Nazia Kazi is expecting her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from The Graduate Center at CUNY. She joins the Sociology and Anthropology Program with a Master’s in Social Work from Columbia University and a B.A. in Economics from Northwestern University. Studying race, ethnicity, and immigration, Kazi focuses her scholarship on Islamophilia and Islamophobia.

Dr. Sarah Maynard enters the Social Work Program with her Ph.D. in Social Welfare from The University of Albany. Dr. Maynard also holds her M.S.W. and B.A. in Social Work from The University of New Hampshire. Her scholarship focuses on student learning and assessment. In practice, Dr. Maynard was a child and family therapist and served as a program director for a sexual assault crisis center.

Richard Mulvihill returns to the Criminal Justice Program as a tenure-track instructor. Mulvihill is an alumnus of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, earning his B.A. in Criminal Justice. He also earned his M.S. in Criminal Justice from Nova Southeastern University. He has an extensive background in police and public safety administration, and has recently retired as director of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center in Camden.

Dr. Paul Palugod joins the Economics faculty as a half-time visiting assistant professor. Dr. Palugod received his Ph.D. in Economics from The University of Pittsburgh and his B.A. in Economics from San Beda College, Philippines. He has several years of teaching and professional experience, with specialization in international economics and econometrics. His management experience is in the areas of financial analysis and market research.

Dr. Eric Stein comes to the Social Work Program from a faculty position at Marywood University. Dr. Stein earned his D.S.W. and M.S.W. from The University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice. He earned his B.A in English Literature from Oberlin College. Dr. Stein is interested in the organizational context of community mental health. He has many years of practice as a psychotherapist.

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 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