

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of Public Relations
Pomona, NJ 08240

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to Commemorate the Constitution

Event Runs from Monday, September 17, 2007 through Tuesday, December 4, 2007 on the Galloway Twp. Campus

For Immediate Release

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GALLOWAY TWP., NJ – The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will celebrate Constitution Day on September 17, 2007.

The United States Constitution was completed and signed by the Philadelphia Convention on September 17, 1787. Although the Constitution was signed more than 200 years ago, Constitution Day officially began in 1997 with the simultaneous recitation of the Preamble Across America. Three years ago, on December 8, 2004 President George W. Bush officially established September 17th as “United States Constitution Day” when he signed House Resolution 1848.

The events centered around Constitution Day are as follows:

Monday, September 17, 2:20 P.M., F-Wing Atrium, Theatrical Reading of the U.S. Constitution, Stockton Students. Professor Pamela Hendrick will direct Stockton students in performing a reading of the Constitution.

Monday, September 17, 4:00pm-5:30pm, Alton Auditorium, Constitution Day Keynote Presentation: Religion and the Constitution: “The Supreme Court Prefers the First Commandment over the First Amendment and Shreds Our Liberties”, Professor Burton Caine, Temple University School of Law. Professor Caine, an internationally renowned scholar of law and religion, is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Americans for Religious Liberty. Professor Caine addresses issues of constitutional law throughout Europe, the Middle East and Asia. He has served on boards and committees of the American Friends Service Committee, the Greater Philadelphia Lawyers Committee for Soviet Jewry and the ACLU.

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Thursday, September 20, 2:30 pm, G-Wing Lounge, Panel Discussion: "Students' Rights & Due Process: Liberty at Risk?", Professor Robert Nichols, Chief of Police Glenn Miller, and Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities John Smith. If a student is accused of cheating or plagiarism, faces misconduct charges for a fight, or is arrested for drug possession by Campus Police, what constitutional due process protections arise in these circumstances? Procedural due process protections will be addressed in the context of how they affect students at Stockton in the Academic Honesty, Campus Hearing Board, and legal venues.

Tuesday, September 25, 4:30pm – 6:30pm, Alton Auditorium, Film Screening of *The Camden 28* – and Panel Discussion, Professor Paul Lyons. In 1971, an antiwar group in Camden, NJ plotted to break into a draft-board office and wipe out government records. This documentary film tells their story together with the criminal trial that followed when they were caught by the F.B.I.

Thursday, October 4, 2:30pm – 4:30pm, Performing Arts Center, Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Civil Rights Symposium, Civil Rights Attorney Vanita Gupta. The Fourth Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Human and Civil Rights Symposium features a keynote talk by civil rights attorney, Vanita Gupta. Just a few months after Gupta graduated from New York University School of Law, she took on a major civil rights case for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She won the case through overturning the sham drug convictions of 35 African-American residents of Tulia, Texas. This case was retold in Nate Blakeslee's book, *Tulia: Race, Cocaine, and Corruption in a Small Texas Town* and Halle Berry is set to play the role of Gupta in an upcoming film about the case.

Thursday, October 18, 6:00 pm--7:50 pm, Alton Auditorium, Film Screening of *In Sickness and In Health* - and Panel Discussion, Film Director and Producer Pilar Prassis. *In Sickness and In Health* chronicles the lives of three gay and lesbian couples who fight for the right to marry in New Jersey, including the efforts of one couple, Diane Marini and Marilyn Maneely, who deals with Marilyn's struggle with Lou Gehrig's (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) Disease. For additional information about the film, go to www.redstarproduction.com.

Saturday, November 3, 9:00 am–2:00 pm, Trip to National Constitution Center - Dash for Democracy 5K Run/Walk. A free expo entitled "Democracy Your Way" will be hosted at The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia and will include a number of non-profit organizations, community groups and political organizations offering information about how to get involved. To participate in the bus trip, e-mail: Linda.Wharton@stockton.edu. An optional 5K Walk/Run will begin at 9:00am. For more information, please go to: <http://www.dashfordemocracy.org>

Tuesday, November 6, Election Day. Be sure to cast your vote in this important election. Stockton students will work to get out the vote at Stockton. Students will help with voter registration prior to the election. Exercise your right to vote.

Tuesday, December 4, 6:30 pm, Alton Auditorium, *Bookends* –Staged Reading of the play by Michael J Feely. The House Un-American Activities Committee was an investigative committee formed in 1938 that subpoenaed actors, artists, and writers as part of an inquiry into political allegiance. *Bookends* is a play about a playwright and a director who were close childhood friends who were both subpoenaed to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. The playwright, Michael Feely, will attend the performance, discuss the play, and take questions after the staged reading.

Constitution Day events are sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Division of Student Affairs. All of these events are free and open to the public.