

# The Stockton Times

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

MARCH 9, 2017 VOLUME 6 ISSUE NO. 18

## Bittner Leads Team to ECAC Championship in First Season at Helm of Men's Basketball

Stockton University came from behind and defeated Penn State Behrend 74-72 to win the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championship in men's basketball for the first time. In his first season as Interim Head Coach, Scott Bittner led the Ospreys to win four games in five days to win the 12-team tourney and the team's first ECAC crown.



Interim Head Coach Scott Bittner (left) and Assistant Coach Bob Hutchings (right) pictured with the Stockton Men's Basketball team after winning the ECAC Championship title.

"The team showed great maturity and mental toughness," he continued. "This season was a great resemblance to life - no matter what challenges you face you have to keep getting back up and working toward a goal. That's what this team did, and that is the best part."

"I'm proud of the kids for dealing with some adversity of losing some key players to the team that we thought would be back," Bittner said. "Then, they had to deal with injuries and some setbacks on the court, but they kept showing up and working hard everyday."

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Bittner Leads Team to ECAC Championship in First Season at Helm of Men's Basketball
- Office of the Provost Announces New Vera King Farris Fellowship
- Harvey Kesselman Receives Community Leader of the Year Award
- Dean of Students Pedro Santana Receives La Unidad Latina Award
- State Appellate Court Upholds Stockton's 2016 Sale of Showboat
- Adjunct Faculty Members Receive Funding for Research Projects
- John E. Gray Named Assistant Dean of the School of Education
- Mary Hughes Named Coordinator of Business Analysis in ITS
- Steven E. Radwanski Named Director of Residential Life
- Brian M. Pluchino Named Assistant Director of Residential Life
- Alan E. Zellner Named Deputy Officer for Diversity & Equity
- Save the Dates

## Office of the Provost Announces New Vera King Farris Fellowship

The Office of the Provost announces the new [Dr. Vera King Farris Fellowship program](#), which provides funding and an environment to teach, write and network for promising scholars committed to diversity in research and curriculum in public higher education.

Fellows will receive a stipend, office space equipped with computer technology, access to Stockton University facilities and mentorship by a Stockton faculty member. Fellows will teach two courses in their area of expertise each semester and are expected to participate in a significant project such as a creative/research project, curriculum development project, community engagement project, or another comparable activity. Fellows must make at least one presentation on campus that showcases their work and agree to complete an exit interview.

The Dr. Vera King Farris Fellowship program is named after the third president of Stockton University, who served the institution for two decades. For additional information regarding the fellowship, contact Assistant Provost Carra Leah Hood at 609-652-4606 or via email at [Carra.Hood@stockton.edu](mailto:Carra.Hood@stockton.edu).

## Harvey Kesselman Receives Community Leader of the Year Award



President Harvey Kesselman received the Community Leader of the Year Award on March 8. Pictured with Kesselman are Mitchell Zitomer (left), chair of the chamber board, and Lloyd D. Levenson, for whom Stockton's [LIGHT](#) is named.

President Harvey Kesselman received the John G. Fitzpatrick Community Leader of the Year Award from the Greater Atlantic City Chamber at a ceremony held at Caesars Atlantic City on March 8.

The award recognizes outstanding leadership within the local community.

Mike Renna, president and CEO of South Jersey Industries, was also honored with the organization's Community Leader of the Year Award.

"It is an honor to be selected to receive this longstanding award from the Greater Atlantic City Chamber," Kesselman said. "I am proud to share the Community Leader Award with one of our partners in the Atlantic City Gateway Project, and I look forward to continuing to serve our community together in the future. I share this with the entire Stockton community."

## Dean of Students Pedro Santana Receives La Unidad Latina Award

Dean of Students Pedro Santana recently received the La Unidad Latina Award from the Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. at the fraternity's 35th anniversary gala, held in Battery Gardens in Battery Park, N.Y.

The award is given to "hermanos" (brothers) who have continued to embody the values of our "hermandad" (brotherhood) throughout their professional careers, the organization told Santana.

"When you love what you do, people take notice," Santana said. "Dreams are meant to be lived. Communities are meant to be nurtured, developed and empowered. Freedom should never be taken for granted. I am proud to be honored with this award."

The fraternity prides itself on its leadership role in meeting the needs of the Latino community through academic achievement, cultural awareness, community service and promotion of the Latino culture and people.



Pedro Santana received the La Unidad Latina Award from the Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. in Battery Park, N.Y.

### SAVE THE DATES

- March 25: [African-American History & Genealogy Symposium](#)
- April 4: [Kesha and the Creepies Perform at #WoodStocktonVII](#)
- April 6: [Anna Deavere Smith](#)
- April 22: [Stockton University Scholarship Benefit Gala](#)

## State Appellate Court Upholds Stockton's 2016 Sale of Showboat to Bart Blatstein

The New Jersey Appellate Court on March 9 upheld a previous Superior Court ruling that enabled Stockton to sell the Showboat property in Atlantic City to developer Bart Blatstein for \$23 million in January 2016.

The appeals court ruled that Superior Court Judge Julio Mendez was correct in allowing Stockton to void its earlier contract with developer Glenn Straub after he did not make settlement on the property. Blatstein has since reopened it as a hotel.

President Harvey Kesselman said he was "extraordinarily pleased" with the ruling, which said Straub's appeal had no merit. He thanked attorney Stephen Hankin for ably representing both Stockton and Blatstein.

## Adjunct Faculty Members Receive Funding for Research Projects

*The following projects were approved for funding by the Stockton University Board of Trustees on Feb. 22:*

Levi Fox, adjunct instructor in the School of General Studies, received \$750 for the A Time for Change Heritage Tour: A Walking Tour of African-American Historic Sites in Atlantic City project. The tour offered a place-based perspective on local history for students, staff, and members of the community. The two walking tours of 30 people each were in conjunction with Black History Month events in February at Stockton and help position the University as the logical place for future AC public history projects. Funding will be used for finalizing the tour route, research of each location, script writing and leading the tours.

Dona Jane Huggins, adjunct instructor in the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics, received \$750 for Art and Music Analogies: Clarifying Content for Non-Science Majors. The project highlights analogies to abstract art and music used to teach scientific concepts in the life sciences to non-science majors. The funding supports travel to visit and observe a professor at Champlain College in Vermont who is using these analogies to teach general biology.

Gina Maguire, adjunct instructor in the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences, received \$750 for Knowledge is the Key: Elder Mistreatment and Abuse in Society. The funding supports enrollment in the American Society on Aging's Elder Mistreatment: Understanding Abuse and Neglect (part 1) certificate program during the spring or summer session. Goals for attending the program include expanding the Stockton's Aging & Health course and presenting for the University's Caregiving group and the Cape Atlantic Caregiver Coalition.

Peter Murphy, founder of Murphy Writing at Stockton, received \$750 for the Professional Development Through the Association of Writing Programs Annual Conference. Murphy was invited by a publisher to read self-authored poetry chapbooks, "I Thought I was Going to be Okay" and "The Last Pub on Earth" at the Association of Writing Programs annual conference, held in Washington D.C. from Feb. 9-12.

Stephen Nagiewicz, adjunct instructor in Marine Science, received \$750 for the Archaeological Mapping of Historic Sites project. Sites to be mapped include Mullica River shipwrecks, sonar and magnetometer mapping for shipwrecks that were part of a Revolutionary War battle in 1778, Chestnut Neck in Galloway, and Rancocas Underground Railroad and potential historic waterway sites dating back to late 1670s, Mount Holly.

---

## John E. Gray Named Assistant Dean of the School of Education



John E. Gray

John E. Gray joins Stockton University as assistant dean of the School of Education.

Gray most recently served as a school administrator with Atlantic City Public Schools and brings nearly 20 years of teaching and administrative experience to Stockton. Originally from Newark, N.J., he graduated from Stockton in 1992 with a B.A. in Criminal Justice and a certification in Africana Studies. He received his M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University and his Ed.D. in Administrator Leadership for Teaching and Learning from Walden University.

He enjoys spending time with family and working in ministry as senior pastor of the Goodwill Tabernacle Baptist Church in West Philadelphia.

---

## Mary Hughes Named Coordinator of Business Analysis in ITS

Mary Hughes has been transferred to the Division of Information Technology Services (ITS) as the new coordinator of business analysis. Hughes previously served as the director of disbursement services within the Division of Administration & Finance.

In her new role, Hughes will assist in developing information technology solutions, automating business processes, implementing software applications and improving existing systems to promote efficiency for the University. She will work closely with the technical leads from around the University to define and design solutions across multiple systems. She will also coordinate training for all Banner products and implementations along with other information systems solutions.



Mary Hughes

## Steven E. Radwanski Named Director of Residential Life



Steven E. Radwanski

Steven E. Radwanski has been named director of Residential Life. Radwanski previously served as associate director of Residential Life - Operations.

In his new role, Radwanski has direct responsibility for all aspects of Stockton's Residential Life, including the future Atlantic City Residence Hall.

He has been on Stockton's campus since 2001, first as a student and later beginning as a staff member in 2005.

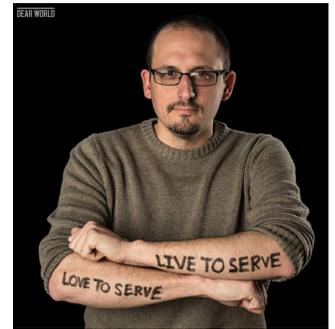
Radwanski is married to Jennifer Forman Radwanski, associate director of Event Services & New Student Programs, and is pictured with their two children, Avery, 4, and Evan, 1.

## Brian M. Pluchino Named Assistant Director of Residential Life

Brian M. Pluchino has been named assistant director of Residential Life Facilities & Student Retention. Pluchino previously served as a residential specialist.

In his new role, Pluchino will serve as a rotating on-call manager; act as a liaison between Plant Management and Residential Life for residential infrastructure maintenance; and develop and review residential student retention efforts.

Pluchino has been on Stockton's campus since 2004, first as a student and later as a staff member. "I am proud to have been here as a student first," he said.



Brian M. Pluchino

## Alan E. Zellner Named Deputy Officer for Diversity & Equity



Alan E. Zellner

Alan E. Zellner has been named deputy officer for Institutional Diversity & Equity at Stockton University. Zellner is a sensitivity and conflict resolution trainer, and most recently served as the social equity and multicultural affairs officer at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania.

In his role, Zellner will work as part of the University's affirmative action/equal opportunity and other compliance programs, including Title IX. He will be involved in institutional diversity and inclusion efforts, including engaging with online training vendors, and developing and delivering educational programs. He will conduct investigations into allegations of prohibited discrimination, and will serve as the office's alternate ethics liaison officer.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Education and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Zellner's hobbies include high school and college wrestling and Native American history and culture. He has coached wrestling at Williamstown High School, Kutztown University and Wilkes University.

### 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 609-626-5521 or email [StocktonTimes@stockton.edu](mailto: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](mailto:distinctive@stockton.edu)

