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Elisa von Joeden-Forgey Meets with Pope

Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, the Dr. Marsha Raticoff Grossman Professor of Holocaust Genocide Studies at Stockton University, and her colleague, Irene Victoria Massimino, an Argentine human rights lawyer, met privately with Pope Francis at the Vatican on May 5 to discuss the situation of Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq threatened with genocide by ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).



Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, the Dr. Marsha Raticoff Grossman Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton, right, and her colleague, Irene Victoria Massimino, an Argentine human rights lawyer, met with Pope Francis.

of long-term genocide prevention. It was an indescribable honor to meet with him and to share a common concern for the people of Iraq specifically and the poor and dispossessed of the world more generally.” [Read more](#)

Von Joeden-Forgey and Massimino were in Iraq just before their meeting with the pope. They met with students in the TeenSpirit Iraq English School, which von Joeden-Forgey started after her first trip to Iraq in January 2016, and members of persecuted groups such as the Yezidi religious group.

“The pope was gracious, generous, kind and brilliant,” said von Joeden-Forgey. “He had very interesting things to say about genocide prevention and the suffering of unwanted people in today’s world. He spoke with us for about 40 minutes and is clearly committed to the work

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Stockton Holiday Card Receives Gold Hermes Creative Award

Stockton University’s [2016 Holiday Card](#) recently received a [Gold Hermes Creative Award](#) from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. The international competition recognizes creative professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of traditional and emerging media.

“The holiday greeting video was one of those unexpected joys that comes with working in University Relations & Marketing,” explained Geoffrey Pettifer, executive director of University Relations & Marketing. “We approached the project as an opportunity to document holiday memories and traditions from Stockton students, faculty, staff and administration. The result of our simple concept turned into a collective validation of what Stockton truly is - a family. I’m so happy that the project’s creative team’s efforts were rewarded!”

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Stockton Holiday Card Receives Hermes Creative Award

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The creative team included **Pettifer**; **Julie Bowen**, supervisor of Graphics Production; **Kent Green**, professional services specialist in Stockton Production Services; **Karen Quinn**, assistant supervisor of Graphics Production; **Joseph D'Agostino**, associate director of Web Communications; **Kevin Coopersmith**, professional services specialist in URM; **Amanda Martinez**, professional services specialist in Stockton Production Services; **Gregory Collins**, professional services specialist in Stockton Production Services; and **Jeffrey Topping**, professional services specialist in Stockton Production Services.

“The hardest part of this shoot was deciding what to edit out! Everyone’s responses to our questions and the conversations that grew out of those questions were endearing and heartfelt. It brought me even closer to the staff and faculty that I have grown to admire and appreciate here,” Bowen said.

“I think what made the video special was that it was so distinctively ‘Stockton.’ The diverse voices of our faculty, staff and students en masse captured both the excitement of the holiday season and the giving nature of our Stockton community,” Green said.

Donaldson, Jackson, Nelson, Reid-Merritt Honored by 101 Women Plus

Five members of the Stockton University community were honored at the 34th Annual Black Leadership and Scholarship Awards, hosted by 101 Women Plus, Inc. on May 20 at Dante Hall. The theme of the red and white semi-formal dinner was “Black Leadership in Higher Education.”

Shawn Donaldson, associate professor of Sociology, and Linda Williamson Nelson, professor emerita of Anthropology & Africana Studies, each received the Black Image Awards for exemplifying the achievements, character, values, principles and skills of black leadership.

Brian K. Jackson, chief operating officer of Stockton’s Atlantic City campus, and Patricia Reid-Merritt, Distinguished Professor of Social Work & Africana Studies, each received Community Service Awards.

Nephthaly Jean-Charles, a recent Stockton Biology graduate and aspiring geneticist who also works as a microbiologist quality assurance technician at Barry Callebaut (a chocolate company), received the Young Leader Award, which was inspired by her work and speech given at the presentation of the 100 Black Elders Oral History Project.



Shawn Donaldson, associate professor of Sociology (second from left), and Linda Williamson Nelson, professor emerita of Anthropology & Africana Studies (second from right), were presented with the Black Image Awards at the 34th Annual Black Leadership and Scholarship Awards, hosted by 101 Women Plus, Inc. on May 20 at Dante Hall.

Judah-Abijah Dorrington, president of 101 Women Plus, said the theme of this year’s award is based on the dual values of the organization: education and black leadership. “This year we wanted a program that would present to some and introduce to others, and respectfully honor a few of the outstanding and internationally acclaimed black leadership at Stockton University,” said Dorrington, whose mother founded the group. “Programs such as this are in keeping with the organizational vision set forth by our founder, Dr. Dorothie W. Dorrington, who also was on staff at Stockton University. This is also our way of welcoming the new Stockton campus in Atlantic City to join with us in furthering education and the community.”

There was also a special presentation of the 100 Black Elders Oral History Project. The project had its roots in the Atlantic City black community when Alma Irene Johnson, 74, a lifelong Atlantic City native, founded The Atlantic City African-American Experience, a non-profit corporation. She and her organization worked with Donaldson and Williamson Nelson to produce the 101 Black Elders Oral History Project. The project documents the lives of African-American seniors who were born and raised in Atlantic City or who moved there.

NBC Coffee Tour



Talon and members of the Stockton University community joined the NBC10 Morning Team at the new Super Wawa in Galloway on May 24. Special thanks to all the students and representatives from Dean of Students, Development & Alumni Affairs, President's Office, Residential Life, Student Development and University Relations & Marketing for waking up early to show your Osprey pride!

[Check out the coverage](#) and check out [Stockton's Twitter page](#) for more behind the scenes photos!

USC Bridge at Quad



Peter Straub, dean of the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics; Charles Ingram, vice president for Administration & Finance; and Lori Vermeulen, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, recently took a tour of the construction site for the Academic Quad Expansion project. They are pictured on the new Unified Science Center Bridge.

Stockton's new Academic Quad will open Spring 2018. [View the construction cams](#) and stay up-to-date on the progress.

Seaview Named in Top 100 Best Brunch Restaurants in America

The Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club's main dining room has been named by OpenTable as one of the [Top Best Brunch Restaurants in America for 2017](#).

Each year, OpenTable, the world's leading provider of online restaurant reservations, conducts an analysis of over 10 million reviews by verified diners of more than 24,000 restaurants in the country and selects the Top 100 Best in various categories. Stockton Seaview's main dining room is the only New Jersey restaurant included in the list, making it the #1 brunch destination in the Garden State, according to diners.

Darryl Greer Serves on Panel of Experts for Higher Ed Publication

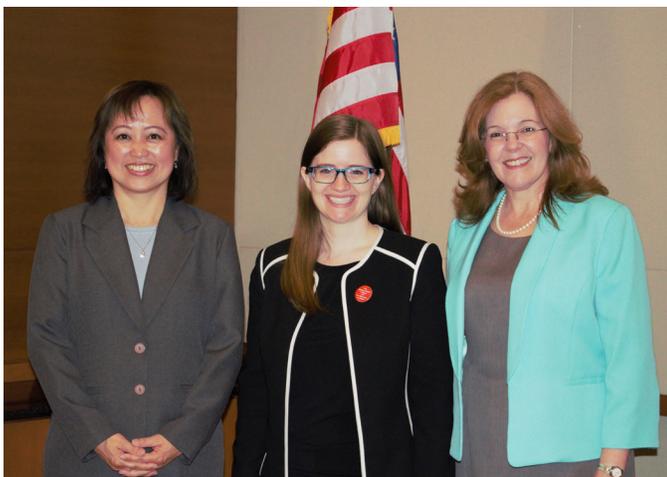
Senior Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance (HESIG) Fellow Darryl Greer recently served as a member of the panel of experts who advised on the publication, [Top Public Policy Issues For Higher Education](#), 2017-2018. The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) prepares this document every two years. This is the fourth time that Greer has been involved with the publication.

In addition to summarizing policy issues affecting higher education, the publication offers policy considerations and questions for presidents and trustees to place these issues within an institutional governance context, explained Greer.

"Two of the trends that I am especially keen on, which affect New Jersey colleges including Stockton, are changing demographics, and continuing fiscal stress on mission and affordability, driven by loss of state funding. New Jersey will experience at least a 15 percent decline in the number of high school graduates, annually, by 2030. This means that there will be heightened competition for a smaller pool of academically well-prepared students within New Jersey, and regionally, as neighboring states face a similar challenge, coupled with limited hope for more funding from the state," he said. "Fortunately, Stockton's leadership is well aware of these issues, and is positioning the University to meet these and other challenges through several strategic initiatives, including the Atlantic City Gateway Project, [which includes Stockton's new residential campus.]"

Greer said his HESIG survey research regarding college value and expected outcomes was very useful in the groups discussion of "the college value proposition," which was one of the top issues cited.

Naturalization Ceremony



The Stockton Center for Community Engagement hosted a [Naturalization Ceremony](#) for 21 new U.S. citizens on May 5 on the Galloway campus. Pictured are Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Mount Laurel Field Office Ya-Mei Chen; Assistant Professor of Sociology Jessie Finch; and Executive Director of the Stockton Center for Community Engagement Merydawilda Colón.

"It is a privilege for me to participate in this ceremony and I am very grateful to share this important day in the life of our candidates for citizenship, their families and friends. It is humbling to witness 21 people become American citizens who now will be able to fully participate in our democracy," Colón said.

March for Science



Jessie Finch, assistant professor of Sociology, Ron Hutchison; associate professor of Biology, William Santamore; visiting assistant professor of Biology, and 17 students attended the Washington D.C. March for Science on April 22. The trip was organized by Stockton Action Volunteers for the Environment (S.A.V.E.), Water Watch and the Marine Science Club.

"I am so pleased that Stockton students were able to participate in what I am certain will be a memorable time for them as well as a meaningful event for our nation. Personally, I had the best time talking to students about how scientific knowledge is a social construction - dependent on imperfect people and social systems," said Finch, who is pictured with student participants above.

Sena Named Executive Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

Nick Sena was named executive director of Development & Alumni Affairs. His new role focuses primarily on providing strategic direction and oversight of the fundraising and alumni affairs programs. Sena previously served as director of Engagement and assistant director of Annual Giving in the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs, as well as special assistant to the vice president of Administration & Finance. He graduated from Stockton in 2008 with a B.S. in Business Administration, and received a Master of Public Administration from Seton Hall University in 2011.

Arrigo Named Assistant to Executive VP and Chief of Staff

Jeannine Arrigo was named assistant to the executive vice president and chief of staff and board liaison. Arrigo served as assistant to the provost for nearly eight years under Provosts David Carr, Harvey Kesselman, Susan Davenport and Lori Vermeulen. In her new role, Arrigo serves as the primary point of contact for Davenport's office, serving as an integral part of the Office of the President. She will work closely on all matters, including meetings, retreats, projects, events and all functions related to supporting the University's Board of Trustees.

SAVE THE DATES

- May 29-June 4: [ShopRite LPGA Classic @ Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club](#)
- June 3: [G. Larry James Legacy Bike Ride to Benefit Scholarships](#)

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. 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

