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Basketball Court Named for Gerry Matthews



Retired basketball coach Gerry Matthews, center, shows photo of the court that now bears his name. Also pictured are Stockton mascot, Talon, Matthews' wife, JoAnne, and President Harvey Kesselman. (Photo by Dan Kimple)

The basketball court at the Sports Center was officially named "Gerry Matthews Court" on Dec. 9 in a ceremony at halftime of the Ospreys men's team's game with William Paterson University.

Matthews name is now written at the ends of the court (pictured right). President Harvey Kesselman presented Matthews, 75, and his wife, JoAnne, with a framed photo of the court.

Matthews coached the men's team for 30 seasons and had a 603-243 record. He set a New Jersey college record for wins, surpassing long-time Princeton coach Pete Carril in November, 2012. He retired in August of 2016.



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Noyes Foundation Donates Remaining Assets to Stockton

The Mr. and Mrs. Fred Winslow Noyes Foundation has donated its remaining assets to the Stockton University Foundation to support the ongoing work of The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University.

The Stockton Foundation will establish and administer a new Noyes Foundation Fund, to include transferred assets of approximately \$2.2 million in cash, securities and property, including the former museum building on Lily Lake Road, which is for sale. Proceeds of the property's sale will become part of the Noyes Fund.

[Read more](#)

Larider Ruffin Receives Rutgers Award and Haitian TV Honor

Larider Ruffin, assistant professor of Nursing, was honored at the annual Rutgers Nursing Alumni Association Scholarships & Awards Gala on Nov. 9. Ruffin was named one of two alumni honorees, earning the Rising Star Alumni Award.

The Rising Star Alumni Award is given to those who have graduated from the program within the past 10 years and continue to excel in their clinical practice, nursing education and advancement of the profession.

Ruffin serves as the Northern New Jersey Black Nurses Association's (NNJBNA) eighth president and first male president. He has been a student mentor for the School of Nursing EOF Program, a keynote speaker at the 2016 annual celebration, and he looks forward to serving on their board.

"I have been very involved in the community, and I have been a strong advocate for the Advanced Practice role in N.J., which contributed to my selection for this award," Ruffin said. "The entire celebration was a blessing. Seeing some of my former instructors that I haven't been in touch with in years was very emotional."

Ruffin also received the Nursing Diversity Award at a Haiti Premiere Classe celebration at the South Orange Performing Art Center on Nov. 4. He was among six Haitian leaders who were recognized at the event. The evening involved dinner, dancing, an art exposition, a concert performance and the award ceremony. Haiti Premiere Classe is a Northern N.J. and New York based TV station that promotes Haitian work and culture. Ruffin has been interviewed by Haiti Premiere Classe several times, often on his NNJBNA presidency. He has also partnered with them for community health fairs and nursing schools visits.



Larider Ruffin with Felesia Bowen, assistant professor of Nursing at Rutgers, recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award, and one of Ruffin's first instructors, at the Scholarship & Awards Gala.

Emari DiGiorgio Featured on NJTV's State of the Arts



Emari DiGiorgio

Emari DiGiorgio, professor of Writing, was recently featured on a [segment](#) of NJTV's State of the Arts Program. During the feature, DiGiorgio shares excerpts from her first book of poems *The Things a Body Might Become*.

As a Stockton student, DiGiorgio began writing some the works featured in her new book, but it was not until 2012, while pregnant with her daughter, that she was inspired to begin adding to and revising the collection of works.

During the time of her pregnancy, DiGiorgio states, "I felt motivated to write the poems that I had been afraid of writing—those that dealt with larger global and political issues. I wanted to become the poet and person I aspired to be, for myself and for (my daughter)."

DiGiorgio showcases much of her passion for social justice and desire to inspire change through her poetry, her teaching and her active community involvement.

As a professor, DiGiorgio enjoys watching her students grow. She teaches an interdisciplinary course titled, *Why Poetry Matters* where she trains her students to be community teachers. "While they're teaching poetry, they're also connecting with these humans from different landscapes and walks of life, and seeing the way in which poetry brings them together," she said. This semester the class worked with a local high school and the Covenant House for homeless youth in Atlantic City.

In addition to community work within her classes, each month, DiGiorgio also hosts *World Above*, an open reading series for local poets at the Noyes Arts Garage in Atlantic City. "I would love for my work as a poet, teacher, and community organizer to help people think about the other, especially those who seem most different to them," she said. "If I can help create some small shift in perspective, other things will shift too, and maybe we can have more empathy and understanding for those we feel disconnected from."

DiGiorgio will once again share the power of poetry with the world as she plans to release her second book of poems, *Girl Torpedo* in early 2018.

Staff, Students Attend Diversity Issues in Higher Education Conference

Valerie Hayes, chief officer of the Office of Institutional Diversity & Equity; Alan Zellner, deputy officer of the Office of Institutional Diversity & Equity; Esther Lawrence, assistant dean of Business, and two Stockton students attended the 17th Annual Diversity Issues in Higher Education Conference, “Making Meaning of Today’s Cultural Climate,” at Berkeley College’s Woodland Park Campus on Nov. 17.

Stockton student senators Adjoa Cofie and Rawan Maarouf participated in a student panel during the conference. They were asked to think about their plans for the future; one thing they want to change about America or the world; whether or not higher education needs to change to produce more “active” learners; what these changes would be; and how they would define “Today’s Cultural Climate.”

“The cultural climate has implications for how successful students will be on campus, as they pursue their educational goals, as well as off campus, as they enter the workplace and live in communities that may be different from the communities in which they grew up,” Hayes explained. “Students need to understand the cultural climate and learn how to survive, navigate and thrive within it.”

Hayes recently became a member of the American Conference on Diversity (ACOD) Planning Committee so that Stockton can host the 18th Annual Diversity Issues in Higher Education Conference on Nov. 16, 2018. She has attended three ACOD conferences, all held at educational institutions in North Jersey.

“Hosting the 2018 conference will provide faculty, staff and students with an opportunity to register and participate in a low cost, one-day diversity conference. Participants will experience Stockton and South Jersey, which is invaluable. They will experience who we are as a vibrant institution, as an anchor institution in Atlantic City, and as a prominent institution in the region,” Hayes said.



L-R: Assistant Dean of Business Esther Lawrence, Chief Officer of the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity Valerie Hayes, Adjoa Cofie, Deputy Officer of the Office of Institutional Diversity & Equity Alan Zellner, and Rawan Maarouf at the 17th Annual Diversity Issues in Higher Education Conference.

Season’s Greetings: Watch the University Holiday Card

UBSS Raises Pan-African Flag



The Unified Black Students Society, or UBSS, which proposed the permanent flag display, hosted the first flag raising on Dec. 13 in the courtyard outside the Arts and Sciences building. The red, green and black Pan-African flag was raised on one of the 12 flagpoles that line the entrance. [Read more.](#)

HR Shares Annual Highlights, Welcomes News Staff to Department

The Office of Human Resources recently shared 2016-2017 highlights in a eight-page publication. The publication, produced by University Relations & Marketing, highlights the office's functions, HR initiatives and University-wide events through engaging photos and infographics. [View the Annual Highlights.](#)



This year, the Office of Human Resources welcomed three new staff members, Christy Cunningham, associate director for Training & Organizational Development; Heizel Prince, professional service specialist for Payroll; and Diane Lamezec, clerk typist.

Cunningham, who has worked at Stockton since March 2011, previously served as associate director of the Career Center. Prior to Stockton, she led the training and development initiatives for Four Seasons Philadelphia & The New York Palace. She earned a B.A. in Psychology from Salisbury University and an M.Ed. in College Student Personnel from the University of Maryland, College Park. In her new role, Cunningham assesses the training needs of University employees, helps coordinate and promote the training efforts offered to employees from across the University, and develops, implements, and administers training programs across a variety of topics including leadership development and essentials of management.



L-R: Diane Lamezec, Christy Cunningham and Heizel Prince.

Prince started working in Stockton's Office of Human Resources as a TES in June. She will receive a bachelor's degree in Historical Studies with a concentration in Holocaust & Genocide Studies from Stockton in May 2018. Prior to Stockton, she worked as a bartender at a casino in Atlantic City. In her new role, Prince confirms hours inputted by hourly workers are correct, ensures vision and bicycle reimbursements are completed and inputs direct deposits and W-4s.

Lamezec worked for the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City for 19 years at the time of their closing in October of 2016. She worked her way up from an on-call secretary to the manager of two departments, Entertainment and the Box Office at the Trump Taj Mahal. As a member of the Stockton's HR team, Lamezec helps to keep the employee database both current and accurate. In addition to data verification, she posts job actions as well as other pertinent information to employee records in Banner. Lamezec also assists visitors to OHR with many requests including faculty/staff directory changes, address changes and ID card issues.

HR, Dissen Share Helpful Tips in Weekly Healthy Holidays Series

The Office of Human Resources in partnership with Anthony Dissen, registered dietician and instructor of Health Science, have put together a six-week series focused on tips and resources on how to stay healthy during the upcoming holiday season. View past issues on the [Healthy Holidays page](#).

SAVE THE DATES

- Monday, Dec. 25-Monday, Jan. 1 - Holiday Break

View all events on [Campus Calendar](#)

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.

