

Stockton University Honors Eight Alumni for Professional Achievements

For Immediate Release; with photo attached, caption at end

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Galloway, NJ – Eight alumni were honored with Professional Achievement Awards on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2015, as part of Stockton University's Homecoming Weekend. The award is presented to alumni of Stockton in recognition of significant professional achievement in a specific field of endeavor.

This year's honorees are:

James Connelly '86, senior vice president of Operations and Owner Services for The Americas Division at Marriott International. His extensive career with Marriott covers 25 years of finance positions, including nearly five years as vice president, Finance and Accounting for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Connelly received a degree in Accounting from Stockton and a Master of Business Administration from Northeastern University. He and his wife Ann reside in Chevy Chase, Md. and have two sons, Jack and Ryan, also working in the hospitality industry.

L. Scott Larsen, MD '78, medical director of Emergency Medical Associates' Site Support Team. Dr. Larsen joined Emergency Medical Associates (EMA) in 1985 as associate director and clinical physician at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset in Somerville, NJ. EMA, headquartered in Parsippany, NJ, treats more than 1.6 million patients annually while serving more than 30 hospitals. During his career with EMA, he also worked at St. Clare's Hospital, Morristown Medical Center, eMedical Offices and Bayshore Community Hospital. Dr. Larsen received his medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark, and completed his emergency medicine residency at Overlook/Morristown, where he was chief resident. The Parkesburg, Pa. resident received a degree in Liberal Arts from Stockton.

Peter Murphy '76, taught English and creative writing at Atlantic City High School for three

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decades and continues to teach as an adjunct for the School of Arts and Humanities at Stockton. He is the founder of Murphy Writing of Stockton University which offers programs for poets, writers and teachers in the U.S. and abroad. He is the author of "Stubborn Child," a finalist for the 2006 Paterson Poetry Prize, and three poetry chapbooks, "Thorough & Efficient," "Mr. Nobody" and "Atlantic City Lives" (the latter forthcoming in 2015). He has received awards and fellowships from the New Jersey Council on the Arts; The Atlantic Center for the Arts; Yaddo; The Folger Shakespeare Library and the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. The Ventnor, NJ resident received a degree in Literature from Stockton.

Rick Ricciardi '75, '76, the owner and president of Marathon Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. with offices in Atlantic City and Swedesboro, NJ. Ricciardi is a Principal Environmental Scientist and Licensed Professional Planner by the State of New Jersey. Since his graduation, Ricciardi has been assisting Stockton in the growth and development of the Galloway campus through various engineering and environmental related projects. He also assists the Stockton Foundation with the annual Scholarship Gala and the Golf Tournament. He is actively involved with Habitat for Humanity – Atlantic County. Ricciardi resides in Voorhees Township, NJ, with his wife, Cheryl Atkinson, who is employed as an engineer with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He has three daughters, one of whom is currently enrolled at Stockton. He obtained degrees in Sociology and Environmental Studies from Stockton.

Chandra Thompson Anaya MBA '08, the Galloway Township Public Schools business administrator. Anaya is a certified public accountant and started her career as an auditor. She is president of Atlantic/Cape May Chapter of New Jersey CPAs, a member of the Wednesday Night Social Bowling League and a Member of SoPro, AC, a social professional networking organization. Anaya earned a Master of Business Administration from Stockton, a bachelor's degree from DeVry University and an associate degree from Atlantic Cape Community College. She lives in Mays Landing with her husband, Lt. Jose Anaya of the 177th Fighter Wing. They have two children.

Frank M. Gilliam Jr. '98, currently serving his second term as Councilman at Large for the City of Atlantic City. He was elected Council President in January 2015. In addition to serving as a coach and mentor to the city's youth for the past 20 years, Gilliam assists the lowest performing, at-risk students through the Connecting the Dots Tutoring and Mentoring Program. Gilliam holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in African American History from Stockton and a master's degree in Social Work from San Francisco State University.

Mary Ann Lee '98, the vice president of her family's blueberry and cranberry farm, Lee Brothers, Inc. in Chatsworth, NJ.. Lee's professional career began in 1967 as a Registered Nurse on the medical-surgical floors at Memorial Hospital in Mount Holly. She also worked three years as a substitute school nurse and duty as a staff nurse in internal medicine and family practice offices. After graduating with an associate degree from Burlington County College in 1996, she began caring for and teaching diabetes management to patients of an Ocean County Endocrinology practice as a staff nurse. She received her degree in Nursing from Stockton in 1998. In 2003, she began caring for younger patients as a triage and treatment nurse at Medford Pediatrics, now part of Advocare Pediatrics. The Chatsworth, NJ resident enjoys spending time with her six grandchildren and looks forward to spending more time with her family on the farm and at the Jersey Shore in her retirement.

Carlotta Marini '08, a fifth grade teacher at the Paul Robeson Community School in New Brunswick, NJ. Marini's work in her school district drew the attention of the NJTV program

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“Classroom Closeup,” which features innovative projects in New Jersey public schools. Last year, a special program featured Carlotta’s Zumba program for the positive impact she has had on parents, colleagues, children, her school and surrounding community of New Brunswick. She received funding from the NJEA HIPP Foundation to offer dance classes and family fitness experiences with a focus on the school’s Latino community. She has since received a continuation grant in the amount of \$10,000 to continue her popular fitness program, which now includes a nutrition education component. Carlotta’s engagement through her HIPP grant has allowed her to continue to develop as a professional. She is invited to speak at NJEA this November as a Great Ideas Forum Presenter and was recently a Donors Choose Grant Recipient. The Jackson, NJ resident received a degree in Education from Stockton.

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Photo by Nick Valinote

Caption:

Front row left to right: Mary Ann Lee `98, School of Health Sciences Professional Achievement Award recipient, Dr. L. Scott Larsen `78, School of General Studies Professional Achievement Award Recipient, Chandra Anaya `08, School of Graduate & Continuing Studies Professional Achievement Award recipient, Interim President Harvey Kesselman, '79, Peter Murphy `76, School of Arts & Humanities Professional Achievement Award recipient, Carlotta Marini `08, School of Education Professional Achievement Award recipient, Atlantic City Council President Frank Gilliam `98, School of Social & Behavioral Sciences Professional Achievement Award recipient, Rick Ricciardi `75/'76, School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics Professional Achievement Award recipient, Dean Jenny Wagner, School of Business. Back row left to right: Dean Theresa Bartolotta, School of Health Sciences, Dean Robert Gregg, School of General Studies, Dean Lew Leitner, School of Graduate & Continuing Studies, Interim Provost & Executive Vice President Susan Davenport, Dean Lisa Honaker, School of Arts & Humanities, Dean Claudine Keenan, School of Education, Dean Cheryl Kaus, School of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Interim Dean Peter Straub, School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics and James Connelly `86, School of Business Professional Achievement Award recipient.