

Stockton Honors Late Trustee Dean C. Pappas For His Philanthropy and Service to University

Former Board Chair Curtis Bashaw Recognized for Service

For Immediate Release ; with [Bashaw photo](#)

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Galloway , N.J. - The extraordinary contributions and legacy of Dean C. Pappas, the Stockton University trustee and former board chair who lost his battle with cancer on Saturday, were recognized today by the university community at a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Pappas is remembered as an “extraordinary individual who was kind, gentle, humble and generous,” said President Harvey Kesselman. He noted that Pappas was committed to improving the lives of others, and over nearly a decade of service, used his leadership, expertise and talent to help Stockton grow into one of the top public regional universities in the northern United States.

“Dean Pappas truly loved Stockton, and he contributed both his time and financial resources to enhance the quality of life at Stockton,” Kesselman said. “Dean and his wife Zoe’s gifts to Stockton have made a significant difference in the lives of so many of our campus community members, and his legacy will live on at Stockton forever.”

The Pappases donated \$1 million to establish the Dean C. and Zoe S. Pappas Visiting Scholar Endowment Fund to bring noted scholars and thought leaders to the University for classes, workshops and public events. The inaugural speaker in 2014 was retired Associate Supreme Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

Pappas had said he underwent “a transformational experience” as an undergraduate college student at Dickinson College in 1961, when he heard the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak. He wanted students at Stockton to have similar access to outstanding visiting scholars.

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Nikita N. Cross, 35, of Galloway, N.J., was on track to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work when she was killed by shots fired at a birthday party she was attending in April. The single mother had a 3.08 GPA.

George J. Lees, 33, of Smithville, N.J., was about to obtain his Master of Science degree in Computational Science and was maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Ten students each received Board of Trustees Fellowship Awards for Distinguished Students to conduct research this summer and fall, with a total of \$6,000 in funding.

Faculty research, creative activity and professional development also received a total of \$219,173 in funding; with adjunct faculty proposals receiving \$3,300 in adjunct opportunity funds.

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