

## Scholar and Author Dr. Arnold Rampersad Tells Stockton Graduates: Universities Embody Ideals

But Plan to Face Adversity, He Says at Two Baccalaureate Ceremonies

For Immediate Release ; photos on [flickr](#) ; graduate list  
attached ; click for link to [video](#)

Saturday, May 9, 2015

Contact:  
Maryjane Briant  
News and Media Relations Director  
Galloway Township, NJ 08205  
Maryjane.Briant@Stockton.edu  
(609) 652-4593

Galloway Township, NJ - Dr. Arnold Rampersad, a nationally known scholar, author and editor, told graduates today at Stockton University's two Baccalaureate Commencement ceremonies, "You may forget some of the facts you've had to learn in courses, but almost certainly you will never forget the ideal vision of society and of life itself that the university embodies in its most precious essence."

Dr. Rampersad, the Sara Hart Kimball Professor Emeritus in the Humanities at Stanford University, was the keynote speaker at the 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. graduations in the Sports Center on the main Galloway campus. He co-edited the, Ralph Ellison, Jackie  
thur Ashe and Hughes, drew on their lives to talk about how even these  
people were sometimes "haunted by unhappiness, frustration and even a sense of

into oblivion in his own lifetime," despite having authored books that included  
a true masterpiece of American fiction," Dr. Rampersad said. Du Bois encountered  
that he equated it with "barbarism" when he went south in 1885 to attend college in  
But despite that, Du Bois found Fisk University to be "what a college should be - 'a  
f the world and a civilization in potentiality,'" Dr. Rampersad noted.

Bois, Ellison, Hughes, as well as Ashe and Jackie Robinson, two famous athletes  
ism and serious illnesses, all "lived with adversity, but also understood what I might

-continued from page 1 -

call the permanent place of adversity in life,” Dr. Rampersad said, “but also the very privilege of adversity.

“Perhaps you don’t quite understand, much less approve of, the phrase ‘the privilege of adversity,’ Dr. Rampersad continued. “How could something be wrong and also right? The fact is that adversity, struggle, is as innate a part of the human condition as breathing or blood.... Wisdom begins, I think, with recognizing this fact and then weaving it into the fabric of our lives even as we set out, as you do today, with a justified sense of personal success.”

Dr. Rampersad noted, “Jackie Robinson took as his motto the idea that ‘a life is important only in its impact on other lives.’”

He concluded his speech by telling the graduates: “Stockton University will be to you what Fisk was for Du Bois in 1885 - ‘a microcosm of the world and a civilization in its potentiality.’ I know you will do your utmost to realize that potentiality. To do so, you will draw year after year, as life pulls you out into its peculiar infinity, on the many ways your alma mater has given you keys to

-continued from page 2 -

Acting President Kesselman concluded his welcoming remarks by telling the graduates, "The Stockton spirit of education and values will carry you a long way. When you leave this graduation today, do not forget the lessons learned at Stockton in building communities, and in joining hands. You are our hope and our best future."

Lauren Duffy, a speech pathology and audiology major from Bloomingdale, in Passaic County, addressed the graduates of the Schools of Arts and Humanities, Business, Education, General Studies and Health Sciences during the morning baccalaureate ceremony. Duffy's parents are also Stockton graduates.

"The thought of life after college might be an unsettling one, but I am telling you we are ready," Duffy told her fellow graduates. "We have been given the necessary tools for success. Stockton has provided us with a unique education. One that has included an intimate and nurturing  
|

-continued from page 3 -

Dr. Rodger Jackson, President of the Senate Faculty and Professor of Philosophy, told the graduates: "You have earned this day."

He went on say, "Ninety-three percent of the world's population does NOT have what you are about to receive," a college degree "Literally billions of people will not have the opportunity to do what you have done.

"People will increasingly look to you to make decisions and take actions," Dr. Jackson continued. "You will occupy a space in your community of authority and power."

-continued from page 4 -

- Dr. Harvey Kesselman, Acting President, “for his outstanding leadership, extraordinary record of commitment, engagement, and service over the last 35 years, and his other many significant contributions to Stockton University, the community, and the State of New Jersey.”
- Muhammad Ayub, “for his outstanding leadership and service on behalf of the City of Atlantic City, as a founding member of the Islamic Academy of South Jersey, his instrumental role since 2011 as a member of Stockton’s 2020 Strategic Planning - Global Perspectives Committee, and his other significant contributions to Stockton University, the community, and State of New Jersey.”
- Ralph E. Hunter, “for his outstanding vision and leadership as the founder and president of The African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey, his commitment to preserving and educating those on the history and contributions of African Americans in Atlantic City and Southern New Jersey, and his other significant contributions to Stockton University, the community, and State of New Jersey.”

Emeritus status was awarded to retiring faculty, by nomination of their program’s faculty in recognition of their teaching, scholarship and many contributions to the Stockton community:

- Linda Aaronson, Associate Professor of Nursing;
- Alan Arcuri, Professor of Political Science;
- Rogers Barlatt, Professor of Chemistry;
- Jack Connor, Professor of Writing;
- Alfonso Corpus, Associate Professor of Art;
- William Daly, Distinguished Professor of Political Science;
- Nancy Davis, Professor of Pathology;
- Penelope Dugan, Professor of Writing;
- Richard Hager, Associate Professor of Marine Science;
- Elaine Ingulli, Professor of Business Studies, Law;
- Lucinda Jassel, Professor of Political Science;
- William Jaynes, Professor of Social Work and African American Studies;
- Elinor Lerner, Associate Professor of Sociology;
- David Lester, Distinguished Professor of Psychology;
- Saralyn Mathis, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Information Systems;
- Lance OI292.6(en ( )Tj -0.0)-6.6( )TJ 0--2(as)-2(s)(o)10.93 0 Td [(Na2.6(enc)-1le P0d22(i)2.6(a)10.E To

-continued from page 5 -

and audience members joined hands and raised them above their heads in a symbol of unity.

The alma mater's lyrics are by Dr. Stephen Dunn, Stockton Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing and winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for poetry. The music is by Ellen Grolman, a cellist, educator and music reviewer.

The national anthem was sung by Stockton a Capella in the morning and the vocal group Highest Praise in the afternoon.

Musical selections also were performed by the Stockton Chamber Orchestra and by Dr. Beverly Vaughn, professor of Music, on piano.

David Tilton, president and chief executive officer of AtlantiCare and a nationally recognized health care executive, was the keynote speaker at Stockton's fourth spring Master's and Doctoral Commencement on May 7 in the Sports Center.

Stockton conferred degrees to graduates of 14 master's and doctoral programs this spring. Dr. Kristin Jacobson, Associate Professor of Literature, was the grand marshal at Thursday's ceremony.

Joseph M. Johnson of Galloway was the student speaker Thursday, when he received his M.S. in Computational Science. Johnson, who has served as a Residential Assistant at Stockton, is currently working on a model to predict retention in housing for the benefit of the Stockton community. He will be pursuing a doctoral degree in Biomedical Engineering in the fall at the University of Rochester.

# # #