


Donnetrice Allison, Patricia Reid-Merritt and Beverly Vaughn traveled to Charlotte, N.C. during spring break in March to present papers at the 40th Anniversary Conference of the National Council for Black Studies. Scholars from around the world attended the event, as well as hundreds of students from across the nation.

Allison, associate professor of Communications & Africana Studies, offered insights into the new yet stereotypical role of black women on television, which she presented from her paper, “The Good, the Bad and the Messy: Olivia, Annalise, Mary Jane and Cookie, The Black Women of Prime Time.”

Reid-Merritt, Distinguished Professor of Social Work & Africana Studies, focused on pedagogical approaches and best practices when dealing with issues related to race, ethnicity and identity, which she covered in her paper, “We’re Not Black: I’m Haitian and She’s Puerto Rican: Teaching About Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education,”

Vaughn, professor of Music, captivated the audience when she presented “Ethel Waters and Beyoncé: Divas!”

The conference provided an extraordinary opportunity to meet with scholars of Africana Studies. The conference concluded with the Maat Ankh Wedjua ceremony, where seven Stockton students were inducted into the National Honor Society for Africana Studies Majors and Minors.



Christopher Carrozza, VALIC financial adviser; Johana de Jesus, Stockton certifying officer, pensions and benefits; Bart Musitano, pensions and benefits manager; Andrew Kenney, Trainer NJ Division of Pensions and Benefits; Rich Parrett, Prudential financial adviser.

The Office of Human Resources welcomed 148 local members of the Public Employees’ Retirement System and the Teachers’ Pension and Annuity when it hosted the Division of Pensions and Benefits Retirement Seminar on March 16.


About 30 Stockton employees attended the seminar, presented by Andrew Kenney, trainer with the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits. The seminar covered the entire retirement process, as well as information on pension tiers, life insurance and health benefits coverage during retirement.

Chris Carrozza, Stockton’s VALIC financial adviser, followed the Division of Pensions and Benefits seminar with a social security workshop, and Rich Parrett, Prudential representative, discussed the State Employee Deferred Compensation Plan.

This is the second Division of Pensions seminar that Stockton has hosted this academic year. The first seminar was held in September 2015 and drew about 85 attendees, half of which were members of the faculty and staff. One of the goals of the Office of Human Resources this year is to increase the number of benefits education offerings to University employees.

“We want to provide our employees with the convenience of having these programs on campus, so that we’re doing everything we can to motivate and encourage them to prepare and save for their retirement,” Pensions and Benefits Manager Bart Musitano said.

Hosting the Division of Pensions and Benefits seminar introduces other local New Jersey public employees to the Stockton campus, particularly to the Campus Center and its amenities, such as the theatre and food outlets. Staff members in Human Resources received very positive feedback from both the presenters and external participants.



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