

Pulitzer Prize -Winning Poet Stephen Dunn Speaks at Stockton Commencement

Students from 5 of the College's Schools Graduate in Morning of May 11

For Immediate Release ; with grad list attached and photos,
captions on [flickr](#)

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Galloway Township , NJ - Stephen Dunn, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in poetry and a Stockton Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing, told graduates at today's morning commencement: "What's next for you should involve taking a chance on your ability to navigate the crooked road."

"I was the first in my family to go to college and had I not gotten a basketball scholarship, that might not have happened," Dunn said. "I was one of those see ee

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“Our future depends upon building communities of respect and honor,” he continued. “Later in this ceremony, we will continue a tradition established by our students some years ago. We will join hands and sing our alma mater. This represents the Stockton spirit that was our founding principle. The joining of hands and raising them high is a symbol of our willingness to work with one another, to join together on important issues, and to resolve problems in a positive way regardless of our differences.”

“The Stockton spirit of education and values will carry you a long way,” said Dr. Kesselman. “When you leave this graduation today, do not forget the lessons learned at Stockton in building communities, in joining hands with others who may have different backgrounds and different views. You are our hope and our best future.”

The morning ceremony also featured a surp.6(ng c)-2(e)52.6(13.4(i)2.r)-5.9(p.6(ng hs2g52 TD e.5(m)-6R(v)8. t

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“Congratulations, Class of 2014. Now go climb some mountains!” Wance said.

The salutatorian was Morgan Sinclair of Chadds Ford, PA, a fellow Speech Pathology and Audiology major.

Dunn, who won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for “Different Hours,” was presented with a Doctor of Humane Letters by Dean Pappas, vice chairman of the Board of Trustees.

“Thank you, I always wanted one of these,” Dr. Dunn said.

Dr. Richard Berry, associate professor of Speech Pathology and Audiology