

The Stockton Times

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Unite Against Hate: A Statement from President Kesselman

During the past several months, unthinkable tragedies, controversial executive orders and provocative protests have stirred the emotions of our country. Collectively, we have been forced to confront the boundaries of our freedoms: is it freedom of speech or hate speech; freedom of the press or “fake news;” peaceful assembly or domestic terrorist rallies.

In the wake of Constitution Day, I am reminded that freedom of speech and civil dialogue are among the most sacred rights in our country. Since its founding, Stockton University has always promoted civic learning and has fostered an environment that values civil debate, critical thinking and multiple points of view.

Unfortunately, under the umbrella of freedom of speech, there are some who choose to spew out words of hate and bigotry, violence and belligerence, fear and oppression, with the sole purpose of denigrating those who do not look like them, sound like them, act like them, or believe like them.

But let me be clear, Stockton strongly denounces the actions and beliefs of those behind hate propaganda, white supremacy, domestic terrorism, and other hate groups.



For those who choose to disseminate messages of hatred, bigotry and racism at Stockton, I say these words: *Not on this campus; not at our University.*

The Stockton community is unified in our loud and clear denunciation of such hate speech, and I want to personally reaffirm our commitment to providing an environment where all students, faculty, staff, alumni and the public feel welcomed and supported.

Whether our opinions differ or we share the same sentiments, at Stockton, we encourage the conversations. We appreciate the civil discourse and do not avoid uncomfortable topics or sensitive discussions simply because we don't agree. We recognize that cultivating meaningful conversations can lead to better understanding of each other and various points of view. And we welcome opportunities to engage in civil dialogue and civil debate, as we exercise our first amendment rights.

This week began with the unauthorized and illegal distribution of white supremacist flyers, but it will end with a Student Senate sponsored rally - Unite Against Hate - and this represents the very best of Stockton University. I could not be more proud of the Stockton community as we band together in solidarity, in support of our values and appreciation of our diversity. Our collective strength as a University will help us overcome those who try to divide our community.

This is the Stockton way!

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BOT Meeting News: Freshman Enrollment Increases 32 Percent



Stockton welcomed its largest freshman class ever, with 1,569 new students, a 32 percent increase from 1,190 freshmen in Fall 2016.

Dean of Enrollment Management John Iacovelli reported to the Board of Trustees on Sept. 20 that another 988 undergraduate students also transferred to Stockton, bringing the total undergraduate enrollment to 8,275, a five percent increase over the Fall 2016 enrollment of 7,854.

When graduate students are added, the total enrollment at Stockton is 9,216, the first time enrollment has exceeded 9,000.

Iacovelli said active recruiting and financial aid contributed to the freshman class increase, which is impressive considering that many colleges are struggling to meet their enrollment goals. “This is an exceptional achievement,” he said.

He said 52 percent of new freshmen said Stockton was their first choice. Major factors cited for choosing the University were the program in their intended major, financial aid, the campus visit and open house.

In other news, Deon Davis, 20, of Atlantic City, a junior at Stockton, was sworn in as the alternate student trustee on the University Board of Trustees. Read more [board meeting news](#).

Constitution Day Speaker: Congress is Key to Future of Presidency

If President Donald Trump were to exceed his Constitutional authority, Congress still has the power to challenge him, Julian E. Zelizer told a crowd of more than 450 people at the Stockton University Campus Center on Sept. 19.

Zelizer, a CNN analyst and a professor of History and Public Affairs at Princeton University, spoke at the annual Constitution Day celebration at Stockton.

“The question that comes up today is, ‘Do we face a Constitutional crisis?’” Zelizer said. “A lot of what we see today feels different from White Houses in the past.”

He said supporters see Trump as someone who gets things done. Others are concerned that the president is overstepping and crossing the line of even an “imperial presidency.”

“I think it is fair to be pretty concerned,” Zelizer said. But, he said, the key is what Congress will do about it.

“So far they have been relatively supportive, or passive,” he said. “But historically presidents need to be careful.”

Zelizer cited examples from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan and Lyndon B. Johnson to show how presidents can find their wishes and popularity undermined by Congress, even when Congress has a majority in the same party.

“Right now (Trump) is testing the loyalty of the Republican Congress,” Zelizer said. “And Congress can cause immense damage to a president.”

He said an angry Congress can stifle progress on legislation, or use their own bully pulpit on TV to affect the president’s approval ratings. [Read more](#). See more photos on [Flickr](#).



Constitution Day speaker Julian E. Zelizer is pictured center with Linda Wharton (sixth from left), professor of Political Science, and students.

Nathan Long Wins First Place in Online Writing Contest

Nathan Long, associate professor of Creative Writing, recently submitted his short story, “Reception Theory,” to a UK-based online writing contest, which he had never before entered. Of 300 participants, Long won first, filling his wallet with £100.

Long recalls writing fiction stories since his high school years. Submitting his stories to around 100 different contests, he has won a few for his fiction and non-fiction works. Over the years, he has collected quite a few interesting prizes, to say the least, including \$124 in British Sterling, \$78 in Indian rupees and a Nook.

Long prides himself on often becoming a finalist, however, he has not won first place in two years; his previous win was for a story he had experienced years of difficulty with in terms of publishing. For this reason, he was surprised when “Reception Theory,” a very “young” story of his, had won.

“I felt particularly excited to know that all my stories didn’t have to age a decade before being recognized,” he said.

Long’s award-winning story was inspired by an interaction he actually witnessed. He describes it as “a playful, academic story ... It’s meant to be humorous, something I rarely try to achieve in my writing. I do like to challenge myself with each story to write something completely different.”

“Reception Theory” follows the story of “a lonely male semiotician (someone who studies language and signs) who reconnects with a female linguist. As he talks to her, he recalls their encounter years ago, at another conference, when he hit his head on a street sign and she took care of him. As they drink and talk, he comes to see the (street) sign from the past as a symbolic sign that they were meant to be together.”

In February, Long’s collection of 50 “flash fictions” will be published by Press 53. Read Long’s [“Reception Theory.”](#)

PEP Announces Voting Participation Data Among Stockton Students

The University recently received the report from the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement ([NSLVE](#)) that presents voting data among Stockton students in 2016. The report compares students’ registration and turnout rates in both the 2012 and 2016 general elections. The report highlights the following Stockton student statistics:

- Stockton’s voter registration rate increased from 74.3 percent in 2012 to 78.8 percent in 2016, up 4.5 percentage points;
- 59.9 percent of registered Stockton students voted in 2012, with 67.4 percent voting in 2016, a 7.5 percentage point increase over 2012 voter turnout;
- The overall voting rate of all students increased from 44.5 percent in 2012 to 53.1 percent in 2016, a gain of 8.6 percentage points;
- Stockton’s 53.1 percent turnout rate in 2016 is nearly 3 percent higher than all institutions (50.4 percent). In 2012, Stockton’s voting rate was 2.4 percent less than all institutions;
- 85 percent of Stockton students voted in person on Election Day 2016, a three percent increase over 2012;
- The older the student, the more likely they were to vote; and
- 67 percent of female students voted in 2016, up 15 points from 2012; 62 percent of men voted, up 14 points.



A Stockton student registers to vote on National Voter Registration Day in 2016.

“Many thanks to John Froomjian at the Hughes Center for Public Policy for combing through the report to provide these interesting highlights for us,” said Claire Abernathy, assistant professor of Political Science/American Politics and faculty co-chair of the Political Engagement Project. “Many people across campus work diligently to promote our students’ political participation, and we should all be proud of the increases we saw during last year’s election!”

The [full report](#) is accessible through the [Political Engagement Project website](#), where the community can also find events organized as part of the Election 2017 Series.

Softball Program Gift Honors Memory of Christine Ross '85

Friends and family of Stockton University alumna Christine Ross '85 signed a gift agreement on Sept. 14, establishing a Stockton University Foundation fund in her memory. The Christine "Scrapper" Ross '85 Memorial Fund will support the Stockton softball program for which Ross, who passed away in July, played four seasons.

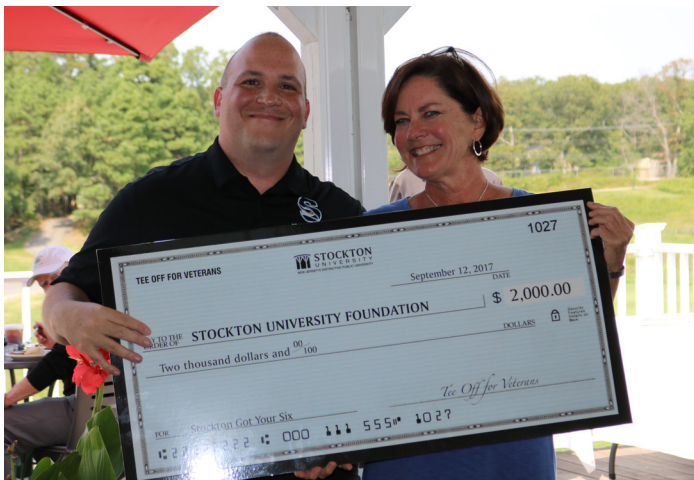
The gift agreement was signed by President Harvey Kesselman; Ross' sisters Jean Ross and Barbara Ross Kovelesky; her wife Sandrae Hidi; and her Stockton teammates Abby Roessler '86 and Maureen Getcliffe '86.

Among those in attendance were Philip Ellmore, chief development officer; Susan Davenport, executive vice president; Kevin McHugh, athletic director; Mavreen Hering, head softball coach; and Val Julien, who was an assistant coach during two of Ross' four seasons at Stockton and later served as head coach of the Ospreys for 29 years. [To donate](#), select Women's Softball and type "Christine Scrapper Ross" in the box marked "in memory of" on the donation page.



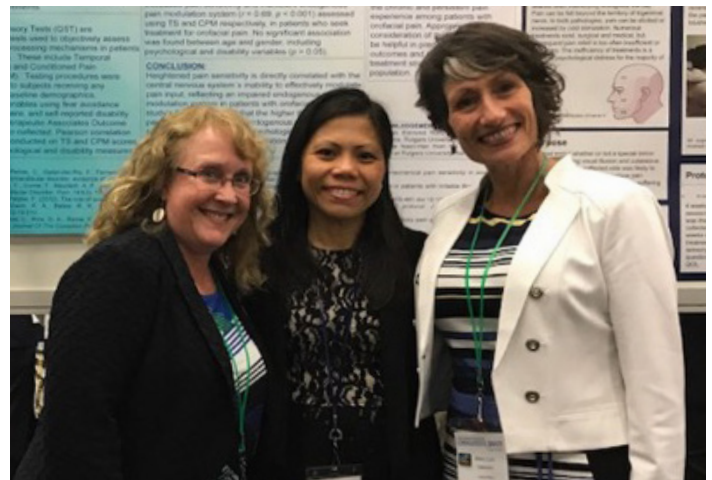
From left: Abby Roessler '86; Barbara Ross Kovelesky; Jean Ross; Sandrae Hidi; Harvey Kesselman; Maureen Getcliffe '86; Kevin McHugh; Val Julien; and Mavreen Hering at the gift agreement signing.

Tee Off for Veterans



Tee Off for Veterans representative Maureen Hickman Caporaso, a Gold Star Daughter and Veterans Advocate, presents a check for \$2,000 to Jason Babin, Stockton's director of the Office of Military & Veteran Services, at the Tee Off for Veterans Golf Tournament at McCullough's Emerald Golf Links on Sept. 12, 2017. The funds are designated for Stockton's Got Your Six program, which helps veterans integrate back into civilian life.

DPT Faculty Present in S. Africa



Patricia McGinnis, professor of Physical Therapy; Carla Enriquez, assistant professor of Physical Therapy, and Mary Lou Galantino, Distinguished Professor of Physical Therapy, presented at the World Confederation of Physical Therapy conference in Cape Town, South Africa on July 4. Enriquez's poster presentation (above), "Is There Relationship between Abnormal Pain Sensitivity and Inefficient Endogenous Pain Modulation in Patients with Orofacial Pain. A Longitudinal Study?" was highly successful. She enjoyed the "wonderful experience to represent Stockton University in the largest international conference of the Physical Therapy profession!"

SAVE THE DATES

- Sept. 26: [Stockton Golf Classic](#)
- Oct. 5-8: [University Weekend](#)
- Oct. 10: [Fannie Lou Hamer Symposium](#)
- Oct. 21: [G. Larry James Legacy 5K](#)
- View all events on [Campus Calendar](#)

Send Us Your News!

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 or perform outstanding public service? Births, weddings, graduations and the like are all good things to submit to The Stockton Times. Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 or email StocktonTimes@stockton.edu. News about distinguished students can now be found at Distinctive Stockton Students. To contribute a news item for the blog, please contact the editor at distinctive@stockton.edu

