Special points of interest:

- Stockton Named ‘Green College’ by Princeton Review
- Dr. Hood Named Interim Asst. Provost for Academic Programs
- Yep and Shulman Map Stockton Library’s Twitter Connections
- Faculty, Staff Make Pillowcases for Children with Cancer
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Provides Help
- Faculty, Staff Show HS Students College’s Sustainable Initiatives
- National Criminal Justice Award Named for Dr. Janice Joseph
- Criminal Justice Program Hosts 70 at Victims Conference
- Campus Center’s Joseph Lizza and Family Welcome Baby Boy

Stockton is one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the U.S. and Canada, according to The Princeton Review, an education services company known for its test prep programs and college rankings, ratings, and guidebooks. Stockton is featured in the fifth annual edition of the free downloadable book, “The Princeton Review's Guide to 332 Green Colleges.”

In the guide's profile on Stockton, The Princeton Review highlights the school’s “ahead-of-its-time geothermal heating and cooling system,” which was installed to save energy for all buildings that comprised the academic complex in 1993, and notes the project’s expansion to provide up to 1,650 tons of cooling capacity to the modern campus.

In addition, the guide features Stockton’s LEED® Gold-certified Campus Center, the recently completed Permeable Parking Lot, which reduces the amount of storm water flowing from the area, and Stockton’s Coastal Research Center (CRC), which functions as a teaching, training and research facility for Stockton students.

Also highlighted is the college’s investment, in partnership with private sector developers, in solar energy, which totals 2.1 megawatts in solar arrays on campus including rooftop installations and shade canopies over parking lots.

Stockton, nestled in the Pinelands National Reserve, has a long history of being a “green” institution. The college currently protects and manages 1,500 acres of forestlands under New Jersey’s first comprehensive forest management plan on public land.

“For students seeking a formal green education, Stockton offers bachelor’s degrees in both environmental science and sustainability, and a professional science master’s in environmental science,” the report stated.
Dr. Carra Hood, associate professor of Writing, has been named Interim Assistant Provost for Academic Programs and Planning, beginning in June.

Dr. Hood explores ways to incorporate digital technologies into teaching. She has produced scholarly work related to technology and the teaching of writing on topics such as the status of the research paper in first-year writing courses, Wikipedia as a tool for writing instruction, and the use of Storify for creative writing.

At Stockton, Dr. Hood has held leadership positions on a number of college-wide committees such as the chair of the General Studies Committee and the Writing Minor coordinator. In both capacities, she has worked with colleagues to create assessment plans and to enhance the curriculum in ways that best serve students' changing needs. Her current role as director of Essential Learning Outcomes offers her the opportunity to continue that work while also creating a structure for aligning institutional goals and assessment to that of schools, programs, and courses.

“I am excited by the challenges and opportunities afforded by this position, particularly for the new ways we will be able to continue learning and working together. I very much look forward to that,” Dr. Hood said.

Dr. Carra Hood

Physics, Twitter and the Richard E. Bjork Library all have one thing in common—they’re featured on the cover and inside this month’s issue of College and Research Libraries News. The cover art is a scientific visualization of the Library’s Twitter network, which is explained in an article authored by Jewelry Yep, an adjunct instructor in the School of Health Sciences, and Dr. Jason Shulman, an assistant professor of Physics.

Yep and Shulman collaborated on a research project to better understand how the Library is connected to the Stockton and greater community and vice versa via Twitter. Libraries have historically served as information disseminators, and more recently, that mission has extended into an online social environment. “Social media is becoming an important way to interact with patrons,” said Shulman.

Each of the purple and red nodes on the cover represents a Twitter user that is connected to the Library’s Twitter account—which is the large blue node—either as a follower or as an entity that the Library follows. Connections are represented by lines.

Yep, who formerly managed the Library’s social media, wanted “to increase the impact and reach of the Library’s social media,” explained Shulman.

“We took a scientific approach” to see how we could do more said Yep. The goal was to increase Twitter followers and to analyze the impact of the efforts to expand the Library’s Twitter audience.

“It’s hard to know the impact,” said Shulman when one is limited to observing tweets and notifications.

“Information is buried within Twitter itself, and an impossible amount of account viewing would be required to trace all of the connections,” their article states.

Using free, open source software called NodeXL, data was downloaded from Twitter, an illustration was generated and valuable information was extracted. By analyzing a Twitter network, one can identify influential accounts (those with many followers) and begin to make mutually-beneficial partnerships with those influencers.

“It’s clear that the Library connects otherwise unconnected students to Twitter accounts affiliated with Stockton and other academic communities, making the Library’s Twitter account a gateway for information,” the article concluded.

As a result of their research, Yep and Shulman catapulted the Library’s Twitter following from about two dozen to five-times that number in one semester.

Shulman researches networks, which describe how entities interact with one another. His studies often focus on genetic networks with malfunctions, which he explores through modeling and experimentation. However, his in-demand data mining and analysis skills have vast applications including giving a boost to the Library’s Twitter reach. “We are entering the era of big data. Studies such as ours, in which vast quantities of data are mined for scholarly or other purposes are now feasible,” said Shulman.
Faculty, Staff Help Make Pillowcases for Children with Cancer

Dr. Megan Foti, assistant professor of Occupational Therapy, Camille Sauerwald, academic fieldwork coordinator in the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program, and students in the MSOT program, recently teamed up with ConKer Cancer, an organization which provides “fun and cheerful” handmade pillowcases to children in hospitals, to make and donate a total of 105 pillowcases for local children.

During Dr. Foti’s Practice Skills II class, volunteers from ConKer Cancer and the community taught the MSOT students how to machine sew— a skill historically taught in occupational therapy training— by creating pillowcases from fabric provided by the organization. A ConKerr Cancer representative took the pillowcases to wash and package before delivering them to local hospitals, particularly those with pediatric cancer units such as The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), St. Christopher’s, and Virtua Hospital.

“Connecting a classroom activity with a service opportunity was very meaningful to everyone involved,” said Dr. Foti. “The students plan to continue their involvement with the organization for projects for Stockton's Student Occupational Therapy Association.”

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Provides Help on Campus

The Stockton Center for Economic & Financial Literacy and the Office of Service-Learning celebrated its third year of partnership with the United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey, bringing the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to Stockton’s campus once again.

VITA is an IRS-sponsored program under which trained and certified volunteers prepare income tax returns for taxpayers with a household income below $52,000. VITA volunteers spent three days on campus: preparing income tax returns free-of-charge for Stockton students and other members of the Stockton community. This year, 68 tax returns were completed on campus.

“It is not easy to become a certified VITA volunteer,” said Jean Abbott, visiting assistant professor of Accounting and co-director of the Stockton Peer Financial Education program. “Each volunteer spends hours studying income tax rules and regulations and must pass a test that includes the preparation of several individual income tax returns.”

Faculty, Staff Show HS Students College’s Sustainable Initiatives

A group of Pleasantville High School students huddled around the glass dome that encloses Stockton’s Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage (ATES) system as Dr. Ron Hutchinson, associate professor of Biology, explained how the system chills groundwater in the winter and then stores it for usage in the summer to air condition the campus.

The juniors and seniors are modeling energy-efficient homes with their teacher, Susan Swezeny, a Stockton Environmental Science graduate, who brought them to Stockton’s campus to see real-life sustainable initiatives.

Alice Gitchell, energy specialist, talked to the students about Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, and Hutchinson led them on an April 11 tour highlighting Stockton’s geothermal and ATES projects. Two Sustainability majors from Dr. Patrick Hossay’s classes, Dylan Martello and Patrick Richardson, also led tours highlighting the campus’s solar energy projects.

“It always helps my students if they can see, smell and feel what is being discussed in class,” said Swezeny.

Laurie Griscom, director of Events Services and Campus Center Operations, and Melvin Gregory, assistant director of Admissions, introduced the students to campus life and gave them an overview of the Campus Center.

The students observed energy conservation in action, and they gained “a greater understanding of what college is all about,” said Swezeny.

To see photos from the day’s tours, click here.
National Criminal Justice Award Named for Dr. Janice Joseph

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), a national organization, has co-named one of its awards in honor of Dr. Janice Joseph, Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice. The Dorothy Bracey/Janice Joseph Minority and Women New Scholar Award will recognize outstanding academic contributions by new minority and female scholars. The first award will be given at ACJS conference in March 2015 in Orlando, Florida.

In 2010, Dr. Joseph became the 47th president of the organization. She is the first person of African ancestry and first foreign-born person to be elected to the position. Over time, she has served ACJS in several capacities. She is presently ACJS United Nations NGO representative and is the current editor of the Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice, which is sponsored by the Minorities and Women Section of ACJS. Dr. Joseph organized an ACJS panel for the United Nations Crime Congress, 2010 in Salvador, Brazil. She was elected trustee-at-large and chair of the Minorities and Women Section of ACJS (twice). She has also chaired the Affirmative Action Committee, Membership Committee, and served on numerous ACJS committees throughout her membership. She also received the Founder’s Award for her outstanding contributions to criminal justice education and to ACJS.

“I am humbled and honored by this recognition. This is one of the greatest honors of my career,” said Dr. Joseph. “ACJS has been invaluable to my professional development and growth in the field of criminal justice. I sincerely thank ACJS for this honor.”

Criminal Justice Program Hosts 70 at Victims Conference

In celebration of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (April 6-12), members of the Criminal Justice program held a one-day conference on Victims and Victim Services at Stockton on April 11.

Presenters included Dr. Janice Joseph, Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice, Dr. Amy Situ-Liu, associate professor of Criminal Justice, Kathleen Friess, human trafficking coordinator at the N.J. Division of Criminal Justice, Allison Woolbert and Deborah Duncan, of the Transgender Violence Tracking Portal, and representatives of the Atlantic County Women’s Center and the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office.

The conference attracted more than 70 people, including police officers, detectives, victim advocates, victim service providers, prosecutors, women groups, faculty, staff and students. Speakers provided current information on victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, LGBTQ victimization, and services for victims of crimes.

“Attending the conference was an eye-opening experience. To better help immigrant victims, a colleague and I have decided to develop projects on cultural sensitive training for local police offices, social workers and health professionals,” Dr. Situ-Liu said.

Campus Center’s Joseph Lizza and Family Welcome Baby Boy

Joseph Lizza, assistant director of Campus Center Operations and Programs, and wife Heather welcomed Branden Michael Lizza on April 22 at 7:31 p.m. Branden weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20.5 inches. Joseph, age 2, is excited to be a big brother! Congratulations to the Lizza family!

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) 652-4593 or e-mail 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