More than 500 guests gathered in support of Stockton University students on April 16 at the 36th Annual Stockton University Scholarship Benefit Gala by raising a net amount of over $275,000 for the Stockton Foundation.

President Harvey Kesselman told donors: “Students are grateful for and continue to need your support. For some, a college education would not be possible without scholarships. This year $110,000 will be awarded from just the endowment, which has been built over the years from Gala proceeds. In fact, more than $600,000 will be awarded from the Foundation to deserving students.”

Gala net proceeds go to the Stockton Benefit Gala Endowed Scholarship Fund, which last year provided over $100,000 in scholarships to more than 70 students. Since 2007 the Benefit Gala has added more than $3 million to the endowment in support of student scholarships. The Stockton University Foundation has grown tremendously in the last few years. In 2003, it had less than $3 million in assets and today has reached nearly $30 million.

“We thank our many sponsors and donors who make the Gala a success. Tonight is a celebration of their generosity,” said Philip Ellmore, chief development officer and executive director of the University Foundation. “Many students will succeed at Stockton because of the money given for this event.”

Well over 100 current and retired faculty and staff members were in attendance.

“This is the strongest faculty, staff and retiree attendance at the gala that we have had in recent memory,” Ellmore said. “On behalf of the Stockton Foundation, I would like to thank faculty, staff and retirees for their very strong support this year.”

Guests circulated and enjoyed live entertainment and special menus in each of four spaces at the Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club.

Staff from the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs were instrumental in the organization of the Gala. More than 40 faculty, staff and students volunteered their time to ensure that guests were welcomed, thanked and enjoyed the event.

Students from the “Events Management and Catering” course in Stockton’s Hospitality & Tourism Management program were among the volunteers at the Gala. To view more photos from the Gala, click here.
School of Business earns prestigious AACSB accreditation

Stockton University’s School of Business on April 18 earned accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), an international body whose accreditation has been earned by less than 5 percent of the world’s business programs.

“Accreditation by the AACSB is considered the hallmark of excellence, and we are proud that Stockton is among such select company worldwide,” President Harvey Kesselman said.

“Dean Janet Wagner and our distinguished faculty deserve to be recognized for the academic pre-eminence of the School of Business, which is one of only five institutions in the United States to have earned this accreditation in the past year.”

The School of Business, which was established as a separate school at Stockton in 2007, achieved this recognition after undergoing the rigorous accreditation process, which typically takes five to seven years, Wagner explained.

“AACSB accreditation adds prestige to our graduates’ degrees,” Wagner said. “Prospective students and their families often ask about accreditation, and graduate schools look favorably on degrees from AACSB-accredited schools.”

“This provides more global awareness of the high quality of education at Stockton, reflected in the fact that over 75 percent of School of Business courses are taught by full-time faculty members,” Wagner noted.

Members of the Stockton community celebrated and enjoyed cake during the School of Business’ celebration on April 18.

For more information about AACSB International accreditation, click here to visit the accreditation section of the website.

Manish Madan’s Research on Sexual Harassment Published

A new research study by criminologist Manish Madan, assistant professor of Criminal Justice, found that nearly three out of five women (close to 60 percent) in India have been victims of sexual harassment at least once in their lifetime, and about 40 percent have experienced it in the past year. Nearly 1,400 men and women in India’s capital city, New Delhi, were surveyed for this study using multistage cluster and quota sampling techniques.

Madan conducted the survey research in one of the top 10 densest cities in the world to examine how men and women perceive the seriousness of sexual harassment in public spaces, the likelihood of where it occurs, personal experiences and patriarchal beliefs in the society.

Madan led the study and co-authored the paper with Mahesh Nalla, a professor at the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University.

The first study from this research was published online in the International Criminal Justice Review, a peer-reviewed official journal of the international section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Science (ACJS) that publishes research on crime and justice globally. In just days, the study has been published globally by outlets such as The New York Times, Times of India, NDTV, Yahoo News, MSN and Australian News Network. As a follow up to this study, elected members of Delhi Government and the Chairperson, Delhi Commission of Women have also been interviewed by local media pertaining to the safety of women in the capital city.

To read more about the research, click here.
Stockton University Model United Nations Team Honored

Tina Zappile, assistant professor of Political Science, and Jeniffer Allen, of NAMS, recently led a group of 25 students to the annual National Model United Nations conference in New York City. The students represented Finland and Jordan and served on 13 UN committees.

The Finnish delegation of 23 students received the Distinguished Delegation Award. Students Taylor Jacoby and Angelo Bechara received recognition for Outstanding Delegates in the Security Council, and student Louis Chevere received the Outstanding Position Paper Award.

“Dan Fitzgerald [a founding Model UN student] and myself met with a senior counsellor in the UN World Tourism Organization’s New York liaison office,” Zappile said. “This opportunity was invaluable to learn more about the interconnectedness of tourism with economic development, poverty reduction and human rights as well as to discuss career opportunities in global tourism.”

The Stockton teams also attended expert seminars, an opportunity fair, and the closing ceremony in the UN General Assembly Hall featuring keynote speaker Jan Eliasson, deputy secretary-general of the United Nations. This was the third year Stockton participated in the conference.

“As an undergraduate, I participated in two conferences with Model UN and they had a profound impact on me,” Allen said. “Now I help other undergrads at Stockton prepare and compete and it impacts every one of them. I know the hours of preparation and late nights they spend researching is all worth it when they leave the conference exhausted, but already talking about the next one.”

Joseph Lizza Elected to NACA Board of Directors for Two-year Term

Joseph Lizza, assistant director of Campus Center Operations & Programs, was elected to the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) Board of Directors for a two-year term. NACA is the recognized leader in higher education for providing the knowledge, ideas and resources to promote student learning through engagement in campus life.

As a NACA board member, Lizza will be responsible for the overall strategic direction, effectiveness and financial stability of the association.

“The appointment is not only great for me as one of nine elected to the board, but for Stockton’s commitment to co-curricular learning and development,” Lizza said.

Lizza’s involvement with NACA began when he was an undergraduate at Monmouth University. He most recently served two years as the association’s Mid Atlantic Program Leader/Conference Chair. He received the Mid Atlantic Outstanding Professional award in 2011 and the Mid Atlantic Outstanding New Professional in 2008.

NAMS, SCCE Host Winslow Schools for Extreme Science Experience

Sixty eighth-grade students and their teachers from Winslow Township Public Schools recently visited Stockton to participate in Extreme Science, an environmental STEM program sponsored by the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics (NAMS) and the Stockton Center for Community Engagement (SCCE).

Students joined Manuela Tripepi, assistant professor of Biology; Linda Dotts, professional services specialist; Tara Harmer Luke, associate professor of Biology; and Elizabeth Pollock, associate professor of Chemistry, at the Unified Science Center for a laboratory experience titled Extremophiles. Students also accompanied Elizabeth Lacey, assistant professor of Marine Science, and Gina Petruzelli, biology lab professional services specialist, on a field trip to Lake Fred for a look at critters and plants in the Peek at the Pinelands activity.

Continued on next page
NAMS, SCCE Host Winslow Schools for Extreme Science

“The students from Winslow Township thoroughly enjoyed their experience on campus and their teachers were impressed with the program and all that Stockton has to offer,” said Merydawilda Colón, executive director of the SCCE.

SCCE and NAMS thanked Karen Forst, an alumna with a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies, for facilitating the partnership with the school district, as well as the Stockton students who participated. They also recognized Heather Medina, assistant director of Admissions, for collaborating the effort.

“This type of outreach event invigorates our science program and the Stockton brand out in the community,” Lacey said.

L-Wing & Friends Run 5K for Sharon Schulman’s 69th Birthday

Sharon Schulman, chief University Relations & Marketing (URM) officer, set a new goal in December 2015 - to run her first 5K for her 69th birthday. On April 17, Schulman’s actual birthday, a team of over a dozen supporters joined her at the Seashore Gardens 5K in Atlantic City.

Training began after New Year’s under the guidance of Christian Allen, fitness program coordinator.

Rain, shine or snow, Schulman and teammates could be seen circling the campus on a 3.1-mile course across Lake Fred, around student housing and back. The last leg led them to the track, where Schulman warned Stockton track athletes, “Old lady coming up behind you.”

“Without ever being designed to do so, this team effort was an incredible team building model that transcended titles, ages and more,” said Schulman, who finished at 38:08, her personal best time. “On top of all that, Stockton looked wonderful out on the boards for a good charity!”

Team L & Friends included (from L-R in photo with Mayor Don Guardian): Darya Hrybava, of the Hughes Center; Susan Allen and Christina Butterfield, both of URM; Matthew Lapsley; Schulman; Melissa Sauka; Lisa Honaker, dean of ARHU; Joe D’Agostino, of URM; Kevin Coopersmith, of the Hughes Center; and Adam Coopersmith. Not pictured are Beverly Vaughn, professor of Music; Carra Hood, assistant provost for Programs and Planning and associate professor of Writing; and Gayle Gross of the Stockton University Foundation.

Shilon Anderson, executive assistant to the chief University Relations & Marketing officer, with her daughter and mom, held posters while cheering on the team. Sheryl Allen, of Graphics, cheered on her daughter, Susan, and brother, Bill, who also ran in the race. The team anticipates the May 7 Shirley Mae Run & Michael J. Walk in Atlantic City will be their next 5K.

To view more photos from the race, click here and here.

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 (ext. 5521) or via email at 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 by emailing distinctive@stockton.edu.