Stockton, AAUW Host Tech Trek STEM Camp

Sixty girls from throughout New Jersey learned about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields and met female career role models in a hands-on residential camp hosted at Stockton from July 17-23. The School of Education organized activities for the weeklong camp, which was sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Stockton University.

Studies have shown that girls initially interested in STEM fields tend not to pursue them after early adolescence. Yet there is a growing demand for jobs in those male-dominated fields, and the United States has a shortfall of qualified graduates to fill them.

“Stockton deeply values the action that AAUW has been taking to close the gender pay equity gap,” said Claudine Keenan, dean of the School of Education, one of the event’s organizers.

The students, who will be entering eighth grade in the fall, lived on campus and participated in activities such as programming apps for tablets and smart phones; conducting chemistry and biology lab experiments; exploring cybersecurity online; building circuits; maneuvering a robot over an obstacle course; and collecting samples from Lake Fred to examine under a microscope.

The camp also dedicated an entire day to the study of aviation. Twenty girls traveled to Philadelphia International Airport’s air traffic control tower while two other groups of 20 each rotated through a day of drone flights and building and launching rockets on the Galloway campus. View photos here.

“Decades of research point to the reasons that adolescent girls turn away from pursuing STEM fields, where higher paying careers show the starkest gender imbalances,” Keenan said. “The Tech Trek camp model puts that research into action, providing girls with hands-on STEM experiences, led by women in these fields, at our state-of-the-art facilities, in our naturally beautiful, residential campus environment.”

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Stockton Production Services assisted the campers with a special video to say thank you to Stockton University and those who helped make Tech Trek a success. [Click here to see the video.]

Many Stocktonians contributed to the camp’s success including: Laurie Griscom, Lindsay McGrath and Lauren Rizzo-Heiler of Event Services; Bob Heinrich, Scott Huston, Pete Gallagher, Dan Hickson, Shannon Aungst, Amanda Martinez, Kent Green, Bill Ryan, Perry Mortillite and the entire Information Technology Services crew; Melissa Krupp, Amy Ackerman, Pamela Vaughan, Karin Kallert and Krystal Vullo of the School of Education; Tara Luke, Anna Pfeiffer-Herbert, Justine Ciraolo, Gina Petruzelli, Linda Dotts, Frank Malatino and Ryan Torriero of the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics; Dawn Watkins of the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences; Gary Suhr and the Plant Management team; and Maryjane Briant, Susan Allen and Christina Butterfield of University Relations & Marketing.

“Tech Trek was made possible through generous volunteer and philanthropic contributions,” Keenan said. “Special thanks to Peg Fiore [retired] for her invaluable assistance this past year, and to Jess Kowal and Kelly Morris [of Development & Alumni Affairs] who are already helping us raise funds for the next year’s camp.”

Walter L. Tarver III Named President of Regional Career Association

Walter L. Tarver III, director of the Career Center, was recently named president of the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers (EACE), a leading organization for career services and recruitment professionals throughout the region. Tarver assumed the role as president during the EACE annual conference, which was held in Philadelphia, Pa. in June.

“I am honored to serve as president of the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers for the 2016-17 year,” Tarver said. “I have been involved with this organization at various levels for over 15 years, and having my peers recognize me in this manner is one of the highlights of my career.”

Tarver’s goals as president of the association will revolve around three key target areas: employer engagement, mentorship and research.

Under Tarver’s leadership, the association will work to combine innovative programs and services specifically catered to employers; expand upon its networking and mentorship relationships between seasoned members and newer professionals; and work to complement industry and trend data provided by the National Association of Colleges and Employers by establishing EACE as a region-specific research hub for members.

“The basic tenets of EACE are closely aligned with the Career Center’s mission to facilitate the engagement of students and alumni in the career development process,” Tarver explained. “Historically, EACE has served as the foundation for the Career Center’s employer development efforts throughout the region.”

Kristin Jacobson Teaches at Aristotle University in Greece

Kristin Jacobson, associate professor of American Literature, American Studies, and Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies, this summer taught American literature to students at Aristotle University. About 80,000 students attend the university in Thessaloniki, one of the largest universities in Greece’s public system of higher education.

“It’s important to think about American culture in a global context - that’s the heart and soul of our graduate degree in American studies,” she said. “Stockton has a commitment to global education, which is needed because our culture doesn’t exist in isolation.”

Jacobson, the first Stockton faculty member to participate in an ongoing exchange program with Aristotle University, spent two weeks teaching undergraduate classes and meeting with graduate students and faculty. She also gave public lectures on adventure and the environment; feminist teaching methods and technology; and creative thinking and writing with a focus on the American wilderness.
Kristin Jacobson Teaches at Aristotle University in Greece

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Jacobson’s role was to begin the exchange of faculty and help to grow the program, which is intended to “find ways for our students to communicate with their students, through virtual and/or real exchanges,” she said. “Students at both institutions may work on a project together via the internet,” she added.

Tatiani Rapatzikou, an assistant professor in the Department of American Literature and Culture in the School of English at Aristotle University, will visit Stockton in October to give a public lecture and teach several classes, including a graduate American Studies class with Deborah Gussman, professor of American Literature.

In addition to teaching, Jacobson had the opportunity to learn more about the daily lives of Greek citizens enduring economic and societal upheaval.

“I saw protests and students participating in democracy, including student elections, which are taken so seriously that the university does not hold classes then, to enable everyone to vote.”

She credited Rapatzikou and David Roessel, professor of Greek Languages and Literature, with initiating the exchange program, and thanked Deans Lisa Honaker of the School of Arts & Humanities and Rob Gregg of the School of General Studies for their support. “The hospitality of Aristotle University was amazing and the faculty and students were open and welcoming,” she added.

“Greek culture is an important node in thinking about globalization and global learning,” which helps prepare Stockton students to be citizens of the world, Jacobson said.

Dean of Students Offices Launch ‘Don’t Cancel That Class’ Program

Offices under the purview of the dean of students recently launched the “Don’t Cancel That Class” program. The program offers workshops and presentations on subjects such as conflict resolution, wellness and career development. Faculty who need to be absent from class, or who are looking to supplement their courses, can request a presentation from the program. Presentations are typically 50-90 minutes in length and can be tailored to fit any schedule. Click here to see sessions currently available and to submit your request online.

Mary Lou Galantino Presents Yoga and HIV Research in Philadelphia

Mary Lou Galantino, Distinguished Professor of Physical Therapy, recently presented her research on yoga and HIV-related neuropathy at the Mütter Museum in Philadelphia for National HIV Awareness and Testing Day.

Galantino and fellow researchers David Kietrys, of Rutgers University, and yoga instructor Michelle Baldino displayed two posters on progressive resistant exercise and aerobic exercise in that population.

“It was indeed a successful day coordinated with the Public Health Department of Philadelphia,” she said. “We provided yoga classes in the afternoon and had more than 100 individuals receive free HIV testing results. It was a wonderful outreach and educational experience.”
Marine Field Station Begins Experimental Oyster Reef Project

Pictured from the left: Bob Corliss, a heavy equipment operator; Steve Bongard, a Stockton Marine Science student and staff at Parsons Seafood; Mike Joannides Jr., staff at Parsons Seafood; Dale Parsons, a fifth-generation aquaculturist; Nathan Robinson, Marine Field Station assistant; Sean Cowley, a senior Marine Science student; Helen Henderson, Atlantic Coast program manager for the American Littoral Society; Elizabeth Bick-Zimmermann, Marine Field Station assistant; Steve Evert, manager of the Marine Field Station; and Dave Ambrose, Marine Field Station assistant.

Steve Evert, manager of the Marine Field Station, and Dale Parsons, a fifth-generation clam and oyster farmer, talk before loading 200,000 oyster spat (young oysters) that were raised in these tanks onto Stockton’s research vessel, the R/V Petrel.

The Barnegat Bay Partnership awarded Stockton $52,000 in grant funding to build an experimental oyster reef with Dale Parsons and the American Littoral Society. View photos here.

Ribbon Cuttings Celebrate Ability Fair, Welcome SJCA to Kramer Hall

A ribbon cutting was held for Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation’s 2nd Annual Ability Fair, which was held at Stockton on July 20. Pictured from the left: Don Purdy, mayor of Galloway, N.J.; Beth Hoffman, vice president of Clinical Services at Bacharach; Diane Croshaw, chief operating officer and vice president of Human Resources at Bacharach; Assemblywoman DiAnne Gove (R-9); Dr. Richard Kathrins, president and CEO of Bacharach; Theresa Bartolotta and Laurie Shanderson, dean and associate dean of the School of Health Sciences; and Sen. Jim Whelan (D-2). Bob Ross, the Wellness Center, and Health Sciences were instrumental in the organization of the event.

President Harvey Kesselman cuts the ribbon to officially welcome the South Jersey Cultural Alliance (SJCA) Board of Directors and professional staff to Kramer Hall on July 19, 2016.

The SCJA brings art, culture and history organizations together in South Jersey. The alliance has a membership of more than 125 attractions, destinations and organizations including museums, theaters, dance companies, artists, orchestras, art educators and government organizations dedicated to the arts, culture and history.

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