Stockton Ranked #9 in Public Regional Universities of the North

Stockton is in the Top 10 public Regional Universities of the North, ranked at #9 by U.S. News & World Report in its 2015 edition of “America’s Best Colleges” released this week.

Stockton also was ranked overall at #41 out of 135 public and private Northern universities by U.S. News & World Report, one of the nation’s top sources of information on higher education. Stockton advanced in both categories since last year, when it was ranked at #14 in the top Regional Universities of the North and #60 overall among private, as well as public, northern regional universities.

“Stockton’s recognition as a top tier public institution for the seventh straight year is truly a remarkable achievement of which students, faculty, staff, alumni and the region can be proud,” said President Herman Saatkamp. “New Jersey’s Distinctive Public College has attracted the most students in its history this fall, to be taught by a record 310 full-time faculty members, 96 percent of whom hold the highest degrees in their fields. Our distinguished faculty offers students the personal attention and hands-on opportunities of an elite, private college, at a public price.”

Stockton is ranked with universities offering both undergraduate and master's programs in the northern region of the United States.

The annual report considers factors such as graduation and retention rates, assessment by peers, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving. Stockton's graduation and retention rates have been rising impressively, with 87 percent of the freshmen who started in 2012 returning in 2013, the most recent year for which figures are available. Eighty percent of Stockton’s recent graduates are either employed or in graduate school.

Stockton was also recognized as one of the “Best Colleges for Veterans” by U.S. News & World Report, which ranked it as #15 out of the 49 schools ranked in the Regional Universities of the North.

Stockton’s program, founded in 2008, serves over 400 veterans and service members.

“We are honored to be recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top veteran-friendly colleges in our region,” said Thomas J. O’Donnell, assistant dean of Students and interim director of Student Development & Veteran’s Affairs. “With the leadership and support of President Saatkamp, our program has provided educational support for our veteran students, which has translated into a success rate for graduation and employment.”
Stockton Community Participates in 11th Annual Day of Service

More than 500 faculty, staff and students worked on community projects in Atlantic and Cape May counties last weekend, as Stockton held its 11th Annual Fall Day of Service. Over 30 service projects took place all day on the Galloway campus and at local businesses and organizations.

A number of projects focused on the environment, including building osprey-nesting platforms, planting fall crops at the college farm and cleaning up the Atlantic County Utilities Authority Environmental Park in Egg Harbor Township, the nature trail at the Noyes Museum of Art in Galloway and sites on Stockton’s campus.

Jon Rosky, an adjunct professor in the School of Business’ Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies program, supervised six freshmen as they sawed, drilled and attached screws to four wooden osprey-nesting platforms. Two of them will replace deteriorated nest platforms in the back bay behind Ventnor and Margate, one will go along Route 30 between Absecon and Atlantic City and the fourth site is yet to be determined, Rosky said.

“This is the third year the Girl Scouts came to campus for a College-101 Experience Day,” said Diana Strelczyk of the Office of Service-Learning, which helps organize the event along with the Office of Student Development and the Division of Student Affairs. “This allows girls from environments where college is not a given to experience a day-in-the-life through teambuilding activities, a faux college class and small workshops.”

In Atlantic City, Stockton volunteers helped as children and families at Stanley Holmes Village garden apartments celebrated their Annual Back to School Cookout and Health Fair. Activities included face painting, balloon sculpting, serving food and gathering the children to enjoy fun activities, said Project Leader Dr. Merydawilda Colón, interim executive director of the Stockton Center for Community Engagement and professor of Social Work.

Also in Atlantic City, volunteers worked with the Eastern Service Workers Association to canvas the neighborhood to inform workers of their rights and benefits due to loss of work and casino closings.

“Stockton’s Day of Service recognizes the college’s commitment to a liberal arts education; educating our students to become civically engaged,” said Daniel Fidalgo Tomé, assistant director of Service-Learning. “The history of the liberal arts is that students attend a liberal arts institution not to leave with skills in one profession or field, but to be well-rounded citizens. The event reinforces the idea that participants will be able to impact and make change in their communities and the world.”

To see more photos from the Day of Service projects, visit Stockton’s Flickr site.

ELO Team Begins ePortfolio Pilot Program in Fall 2014 Courses

Dr. Carra Leah Hood, interim assistant provost for Programs and Planning; Dr. Susan Davenport, vice-provost for E-Learning; and Sonia Gonsalves, director of Academic Assessment, implemented the Essential Learning Outcomes (ELO)/ePortfolio pilot for the Fall 2014 semester. The pilot is an opportunity for faculty to integrate ELOs into courses and assignments and for students to compose ePortfolios which display their most successful learning accomplishments.

Eleven faculty members are participating in the pilot program, teaching 13 classes, including freshman seminars, First-Year Studies (FRST) courses, and other major program courses.

An ePortfolio work group was formed to select a portable, easy-to-use product that could be used to assess ELOs. This fall, the pilot will utilize two electronic portfolio platforms - Blackboard and Digication. Three professional development sessions will aid faculty in ELO implementation and assessment.

“The digital technology will allow students to organize, to display, and to reflect on their learning,” explained Dr. Hood.

Students will also be able to share their skill set with potential employers through their ePortfolios, showing the value of their college education and their professional and interpersonal skills for success in the 21st century.
Dr. Christine Tartaro Volunteers at Penny Angel’s Beagle Rescue

As a professor of Criminal Justice, and director of the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, Dr. Christine Tartaro is interested in researching corrections, violence in correctional facilities, and sentencing. However, Dr. Tartaro’s interests extend beyond the criminal justice system. She is also passionate about finding homes for dogs.

For the past 12 years, Dr. Tartaro has volunteered at Penny Angel's Beagle Rescue, a non-profit that rescues homeless, neglected, and abused dogs, in Ventnor. Read more below.

How did you get involved with Penny Angel’s Beagle Rescue?

I was volunteering at a local animal shelter, and Joan Kerr, the founder and president of Penny Angel’s Beagle Rescue was there to get some dogs spayed/neutered. I grew up with beagles, so I introduced myself and offered to volunteer. PABR rescues unwanted, neglected and abused beagles, and we have helped to save over 2,000 dogs.

How often do you volunteer at the non-profit? What do you do there?

My primary responsibility is ground transport. I drive to animal shelters, airports, and other locations to pick up dogs either directly from shelters, or I meet other transport volunteers who are participating on transport runs. A transport can involve just one driver, or it can involve several drivers or airplane pilots who participate in “legs” of transports. Our primary concern is New Jersey, and we try to help people and animal shelters within our state, but we do also work with other states, such as North and South Carolina, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Louisiana, Ohio, Kentucky, New York, etc. I help to coordinate and take care of some of our transports. Most of the time, we have plenty of advance notice for when a beagle is going to need a ride. Other times, I get calls at all hours of the day or night, and I am asked to respond to emergencies that involve dogs in danger.

I also help out with fundraisers, such as the upcoming Beagle Barbecue on Sunday, Sept. 21. I tend to serve as the emcee of the events, mostly because I’m able to use my public speaking experience I gained as a faculty member to feel confident enough to take the microphone.

Besides that, I really do whatever is needed. If the rescue is short volunteers to help out at the Mays Landing PetSmart on Saturdays, I will go there and help to hold the dogs and get them adopted.

What motivates you to volunteer there?

I’ve always loved animals, and I have a big soft spot for beagles. I love being able to help animals that are in need, and it is very rewarding to know that a dog that makes its way to us will be safe and loved.

Do you have any dogs?

I currently have two beagles, both from the rescue. This past January, my sister, Jennifer Tartaro, lab assistant for the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program, and 2008 graduate of the program, and I had to say goodbye to our Danny. We adopted Danny from the rescue in 2005, and we loved him very much. In 2009, we adopted Jake, a completely blind beagle. Jake is our hero. He works part-time as a therapy dog at a local nursing home. When we lost Danny, Jake was lonely, so we adopted Gus two months ago. Gus is at least 10-years-old. He is mostly white and gray, and is missing most of his teeth, but he is just a wonderful guy. I have never met a dog more grateful to wake up every day in a loving home.

To learn more about Penny Angel’s Beagle Rescue, click here.
Stockton Community Gardeners Help Make Parking Lot Green

This summer, Stockton along with 31 other community partners volunteered time and money to transform an Atlantic City parking lot into a playground, garden, gazebo, mural and outdoor entertainment area. Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian and nearly 200 community members, sponsors and supporters recently attended a dedication ceremony for the new community area at the Hamilton Memorial United Methodist Church.

The garden was developed through the efforts of Cookie Till ’83, AtlantiCare Foundation secretary and Healthy School/Healthy Children Foundation Board subcommittee chair, and president of A Work in Progress Foundation, a non-profit corporation devoted to establishing gardens and hands-on nutritional programs in Atlantic City.

Till asked Dr. Joseph Rubenstein, professor of Anthropology and SCCE Faculty Fellow, to lend a hand with the project. With the support of the president, provost, and the Stockton Center for Community Engagement, Dr. Rubenstein was able to deploy three student community gardeners who began their work in May and will continue throughout the year. In addition to the garden at Hamilton Memorial, Dr. Rubenstein also coordinated projects at the Salvation Army and Atlantic City Day Nursery, where the students tended gardens and also taught youngsters about healthy eating and good nutrition.

“The gardeners showed a dedication to the community that demonstrated the kind of engagement that Stockton hopes to engender in all our students. This kind of work has the potential to change how students think about themselves and their future,” Dr. Rubenstein said.

Stockton’s School of Business Welcomes New Faculty Members

Editor’s note: More than 50 new faculty and staff members have joined the Stockton community. We will feature these faculty and staff members in the Times as more information becomes available. Welcome!

Dr. William Quain is an associate professor in Business Studies with a focus in Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies. Dr. Quain earned his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from The University of New Orleans, his M.S. in Hospitality Management from Florida International University and his B.S. in Hotel Administration from Cornell University. Dr. Quain worked for many years at Florida International University. His research interests include hotel and restaurant administration.

Dr. Kerrin Wolf is a visiting assistant professor of Business Studies with a focus in Public Law. Dr. Wolf received his Ph.D. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from The University of Delaware and is teaching as the Abraham L. Freedman Teaching Fellow. He recently completed his LL.M. in Legal Education from Temple University’s Beasley School of Law. He earned his J.D. from William and Mary Law School and his B.A. in History from The College of William and Mary. He has held several law positions with independent law offices. His research interests include health policy, law and public policy, criminal law, legal research, and writing.

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 coworkers 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 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