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Faculty and Staff Raise Nearly \$60,000 for Charitable Organizations as part of NJECC

Employees of Stockton University united again this past year to give back to the community and raised nearly \$60,000 for local, state, national and international charitable organizations as part of the 2016 New Jersey Employees Charitable Campaign (NJECC).

Members of the faculty and staff set two new university records by raising \$57,517, surpassing Stockton's goal of \$55,555, with a record 214 donors. The annual campaign provides state and local municipal employees the opportunity to contribute to more than 1,100 charities via payroll deduction.

"This year's New Jersey Employees Charitable Campaign was an outstanding success. The generosity of Stockton faculty and staff is incredibly special, not just in terms of how much we raise but also the countless organizations we choose to support, including our very own Stockton Foundation," said President Harvey Kesselman, who served as statewide co-chair for the 2016 NJECC along with Richard Hammer, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Nearly 60 state divisions and departments participated in the 2016 Employees Charitable Campaign. Statewide results will be announced in March, explained Kesselman, with this year's donation total likely exceeding the 2015 campaign, which raised more than \$650,000 for service agencies, charities and volunteer groups that work with children and the elderly, protect the environment, and support those in need.



From L-R: Tom Chester, director of Human Resources; Cindy Gove, project coordinator; Lolita Treadwell, deputy chief of staff; Carole LoBue, associate supervisor in Student Affairs; Brian Jackson, chief operating officer, Atlantic City campus; President Harvey Kesselman; Peter Baratta, chief planning officer; Nick Sena, director of engagement; and Ayisha Lee, professional services specialist.

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Collectively, the higher education sector played a significant role in the 2016 campaign, which Kesselman believes is a testament to the New Jersey institutions' "spirit of giving."

"The annual commitment Stockton and other state employees demonstrate to this important campaign is simply extraordinary," Kesselman said.

"Year after year, faculty and staff throughout the state remain committed to making a difference to the people and organizations that count on the ECC for support," he continued. "When so much is said about state budget challenges faced by institutions of higher education, it's important that we recognize and commend the fact that New Jersey public employees give back."

Manish Madan's Research Ranked #4 by SAGE Criminology



Assistant Professor of Criminology Manish Madan's research on [Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces](#) Ranked #4 in SAGE Criminology's "Top 10 Articles of 2016."

Madan's research 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 had experienced it in the past year.

Prior to the SAGE Criminology ranking, Madan was also invited to participate on an NPR radio show that addressed sexual harassment on commercial airline flights. [Read more.](#)

Ed Siecienski Publishes Book on 'The Papacy and the Orthodox'

Ed Siecienski, associate professor of Religion and Clement and Helen Pappas Professor of Byzantine Civilization and Religion, this week published his second book, "The Papacy and the Orthodox: Sources and History of a Debate," with Oxford University Press.

Siecienski spent the last three years compiling research and writing the comprehensive work, which brings together all of the biblical, patristic, and historical material behind the longstanding debate on the role of the papacy in Catholic-Orthodox relations.

He decided to write a second book after his first, "The Filioque: History of a Doctrinal Controversy," also published with Oxford University Press, was so well-received. That book dealt with the filioque (Latin for "and the son") and the long-standing debate about the use of the word in the western version of the Nicene Creed.



Ed Siecienski pictured with his latest book, "The Papacy and the Orthodox," published this week by Oxford University Press.

"After I published my first book, I thought, 'What comes next?' and I realized it had to be the papacy," Siecienski said. "The role of the pope in the church today is the biggest issue separating the world's 1.2 billion Catholics and 250 million Orthodox. The question is how much authority the pope should have, with Catholics claiming he has a universal jurisdiction while the Orthodox believe he is first among his brother bishops, but not above them."

For over 1,000 years Christians in the east and west lived together as part of the same church until they divided during the "Great Schism" of the 11th century. Yet despite their differences Catholics and Orthodox still use the same Bible, have the same sacraments, and share many of the same beliefs.

"It is unfortunate that despite being similar in so many ways the two churches remain divided over the role of the pope. What I have tried to do is to see if history offers insight into what may be possible for the future. By looking at the past, perhaps we might rediscover ways for the Bishop of Rome [the pope] to present his ministry in a way Orthodox Christians can accept," Siecienski said.

When recent popes have presented themselves as servants of unity and fellow shepherds, as opposed to authorities demanding obedience, he explained, the Orthodox, and the world in general, has been far more willing to listen.

"The hope was to create a coherent narrative and tell the history of the papacy in a clear, interesting and objective way," Siecienski said. "I try to do the same when I teach. I feel the history is what's important, and that it's irrelevant for students to know my own religious beliefs."

Siecienski said he wanted the book to be accessible even to the non-specialist, and that he hopes readers will have as much fun reading the book as he had writing it.

Polling Institute Survey Shows Workers Prepared, Respected



John Froomjian

Near the end of the Fall 2016 semester, Senior Research Associate John Froomjian conducted an anonymous Stockton Polling Institute (SPI) employee satisfaction poll to measure in part whether student workers shared and understood the center's priorities.

Highlights of the poll results showed 96 percent agree that training at the institute prepares the staff well to conduct polls; 87 percent agree that quality of research is the main priority; and 93 percent agree that diversity is respected at the Polling Institute, and the same percentage say they are treated with courtesy and respect. Half agreed that the rate of pay is fair.

“The results of the internal survey, of which 65 percent of the staff responded, were gratifying,” Froomjian said. “A major priority has been to stress the seriousness and importance of the research being conducted. Another is that training prepares the interviewers properly to conduct social science and qualitative research by stressing interviewing skills. The Hughes Center has taken pride in the diversity represented in the interviewer staff.”

Stockton students make up the vast majority of 100 survey interviewers conducting polls for the Polling Institute in the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, he explained, and those students feel they are gaining worthwhile experience at the Polling Institute, now in its fifth year of operation.

Since August 2012, more than 500 Stockton students have been hired in positions paying minimum wage. Because polls are conducted periodically and not constantly, students experience a light workload that does not interfere with studies.

“We have often said that the Polling Institute staff is the most diverse group of people on the Stockton campus. Every patch of the quilt that makes up the Stockton student community is represented in our crew,” Froomjian said.

Figart Gives Presidential Address at Annual Economics Conference



Deb Figart at the Allied Social Sciences Associations/American Economic Association annual conference.

Deb Figart, Distinguished Professor of Economics, recently gave the presidential address at the Allied Social Sciences Associations/American Economic Association annual conference in Chicago. The annual meeting brings together economists from around the world, and covers economics topics across various disciplines.

The conference marked the conclusion to Figart's year-long term as president of the Association for Evolutionary Economics (AFEE), an international organization of economists and other social scientists devoted to analysis of economics as evolving, socially constructed and politically governed systems. The association also publishes the *Journal of Economic Issues*.

“At the end of a presidency, every AFEE president delivers a presidential address,” Figart explained. “Mine was titled, ‘Three Short Stories of Progressive Institutional Change.’”

Figart addressed how the process of institutional change is a fundamental theme in institutional economics, and analyzed three examples of progressive institutional change.

“There are multiple avenues for forging institutional change—policies, laws, cultural norms, social movements and social practices,” she said. “The three short stories focus on: accounting for measures of housework and care work in gross domestic product (GDP); transforming legal values through adoption of federal marriage equality in the United States; and interrogating the [fresh tomatoes food supply chain](#) in order to achieve a penny a pound more in earnings for migrant field workers.”

Members of Stockton Community Participate in Campus Unity Rally



Joseph Thompson, assistant director of Student Development, participated in the Unity Rally, held on campus Feb. 6. Stockton University's Student Senate, in collaboration with more than 30 student groups, organized the Unity Rally and March to bring attention to the recent presidential immigration action.



Members of the faculty and staff marched in solidarity with students at the Unity Rally. Staff members pictured from left to right: Lauren Wilson, assistant director of Student Development; Susan Davenport, executive vice president and chief of staff; Dianne Stalling, assistant director of Student Development; and Lolita Treadwell, deputy chief of Staff.

Stockton, State Universities Establish New Jersey Big Data Alliance

SAVE THE DATES

- Feb. 18-19: [StockHack](#)
- Feb. 22: Stockton University [Board of Trustees Meeting](#)
- Feb. 27: [15th Anniversary Gala for African American Heritage Museum](#)
- March 2-3: [Matthew Sandusky Speaks](#)
- March 25: [African-American History & Genealogy Symposium](#)
- April 6: [Anna Deavere Smith](#)
- April 22: [Stockton University Scholarship Benefit Gala](#)

Stockton is one of nine New Jersey state universities to sign a Memorandum of Agreement to formally establish the New Jersey Big Data Alliance (NJBDA).

Along with Stockton, members of the NJBDA are: Rutgers University, Montclair State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Kean University, Rowan University, St. Peter's University, Stevens Institute of Technology, and the newest members of the Alliance, The College of New Jersey and New Jersey Research and Education Network ([NJEDGE.net](#)), a non-profit technology network of academic and research institutions in New Jersey.

The formation of the NJBDA was a grassroots effort by the universities and NJEDGE.net to pool resources and expertise in order to build capabilities in advanced computing and big data for New Jersey.

“Big data” refers to the massive volume of structured and unstructured data produced by the proliferation of data sources from digital devices.

Nikki Strothers and Husband Evan Welcome Baby Girl

Nikki Strothers, assistant director of Records in the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs, and her husband, Evan Strothers, recently welcomed a baby girl. Cameron Strothers was born at 3:21 p.m. on Jan. 24. She weighed in at 8 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 21 inches long. Congratulations to all!



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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*. Also, tell us what you think of the new design! 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

