

The Stockton Times

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Stockton University Honors Veterans

Stockton University received two honors at its annual Veterans Day celebration on Nov. 10, one that recognized its services for veterans, and one from a veteran who had been the recipient of those services.

“You made me feel like I matter” said James F. Ryan, 55, of Mays Landing, a 2015 graduate of Stockton with a degree in social work who is now working with veterans.

Ryan presented a check for \$1,850, the first installment of the James F. Ryan III Military Relief Fund that will provide scholarships and a revolving grant and loan fund to help veterans with costs ranging from books to car repairs or rent if they are struggling.

Stockton was also recognized by the New Jersey Order of the Purple Heart for its level of veteran services. New Jersey Commander Joseph Belardo and Senior Vice Commander Norman Glover presented a flag, a welcome sign and Purple Heart coins to University officials.



the early 1970s were Vietnam veterans. “They helped establish the Stockton we know,” he said.

Stockton’s Director of Military and Veterans Services Jason Babin also presented plaques of appreciation to several people who have worked for and with Stockton to help veterans. They are: Student veterans advocate and VFW Memorial Post 9462 Quartermaster Robert Ford, Stockton alumna and Army National Guard member Jessica Layton, Stockton employee Jenifer Robin, and N.J. Order of the Purple Heart Commander Joseph Belardo.

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Belardo said the group is working to recognize colleges and universities, towns and counties that exemplify service to veterans and show genuine concern. Stockton is the third university to receive the designation.

“Veterans need guidance, understanding, support and a friendly environment,” Belardo said. “You meet and exceed our requirements.”

Stockton President Harvey Kesselman said many of Stockton’s founding members and students in

Joe Biden Honors William J. Hughes at Hughes Center Honors

Presenters and honorees at [Stockton's Hughes Center Honors](#) program on Nov. 9 bemoaned the lack of civility in government today and the need to restore the integrity the honorees represent.

“When Bill (Hughes) sat down with you, he listened,” former Vice President Joe Biden said in presenting the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award to U.S. Ambassador William J. Hughes at the event, which was held at the Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club. “He reached agreement and moved the process along. It is only through consensus that the United States can continue to function.”

Biden and Hughes worked together in Congress when Hughes was in the House of Representatives and Biden was in the Senate. They became friends riding the Amtrak train to Washington, D.C. together, talking about not just policy, but family.

“Those hours were precious because we got to know each other,” Biden said. “Back in our day people (in Congress) knew each other and respected each other.”

“That invisible moral fabric that holds this country up is something you’ve always known,” he told Hughes.

In accepting the award, Hughes said it was Biden’s pledge to clean up the Brandywine Creek in Delaware that inspired him to run for office to clean up the ocean. The two also worked together on many crime bills that addressed such issues as the sale of armor-piercing bullets and assault rifles.

“I view my 50 years of success as a labor of love,” Hughes said. “Thank you for the opportunity to serve my community and my country. I’ve loved every bit of it. A willingness to compromise made it possible to create good public policy.”

N.J. Senate President Steve Sweeney, presented awards to state Sen. Diane Allen and Kathy Whelan, the widow of the late Sen. Jim Whelan, who died in August. Sweeney continued the theme of civility, cited Whelan’s class, dignity and humor, and Allen’s willingness to work together even though she is a Republican and he is a Democrat.

The evenings honorees also included Stockton alumna Brigid Callahan Harrison, a professor of Political Science and Law at Montclair State University, and political commentator; U.S. Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman; and Maryam Sarhan ’17.

President Harvey Kesselman thanked Sharon Schulman, executive director of the [William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy](#) at Stockton, for her success and service to the center. She is retiring in January.

“Sharon has been a visionary for the center,” Kesselman said, citing not only the programs the center has sponsored, but the funds Schulman has raised to support those programs.



President Harvey Kesselman; Sharon Schulman, executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton; former Vice President Joe Biden; U.S. Ambassador William J. Hughes; and Edward H. Salmon, chairman of the Hughes Center Steering Committee.



Hughes Center honorees Maryam Sarhan, Sen. Diane Allen, U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, Ambassador William J. Hughes, Brigid Callahan Harrison, and (seated) Kathy Whelan, widow of the late Sen. Jim Whelan

Stockton Receives Bronze Seal from ALL IN Campus Democracy

Stockton University has received a bronze level seal from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for its efforts to increase student voting.

The first-ever ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony, held in October, recognized colleges and universities committed to increasing college student voting rates. Stockton received a bronze seal for achieving a student voting rate between 50 percent and 59 percent.

Stockton's voting rate exceeded the national level, according to a recent National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) report, which showed the voting rate of all students rose from 45 percent in 2012 to 53 percent in 2016.

Stockton's voter registration efforts are a component of the campus [American Democracy Project and Political Engagement Project](#) chaired by Assistant Professors of Political Science Claire Abernathy and Jennifer Forestal and Director of Service-Learning Daniel Tomé. Their efforts also helped Stockton earn a national American Association of State Colleges and Universities national award for Civic Learning and Community Engagement this year.

President Harvey Kesselman credited the faculty and staff for their ongoing commitment to the University's mission of developing engaged and effective citizens.

Zaneeta E. Daver, director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge stated, "Stockton is not only ensuring that a more representative population participates in our nation's democracy, but is educating students to be civic-minded. They are an example to be emulated."

The [All IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#) is a national awards program. The Challenge encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, and make democratic participation a core value on their campus. More than 300 campuses, enrolling more than 4 million students, have joined the Challenge since its launch in summer 2016.

'That Way Madness Lies' Filmmaker Visits Stockton University

The Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA) and the Lighthouse International Film Society sponsored a free screening of the documentary film, "That Way Madness Lies", and Q&A session with the filmmaker, Sandra Luckow, on Nov. 3, in the Elizabeth B. Alton Auditorium.

The evening began with opening remarks from Gina Maguire, SCOSA program assistant, Sharon Dailey, Lighthouse International Film Society volunteer, and Luckow.

"That Way Madness Lies" tells the story of a family upended by escalating mental illness, arrests, incarcerations and their quest to find mental health care. Sandra's brother, Duanne, was diagnosed with Schizophrenia at age 46. The film incorporates Duanne and Sandra's personal video diaries, allowing the viewers to see their very intimate perspectives.

Luckow, alumna of the NYU Tisch School of the Arts Film School, teaches documentary and narrative filmmaking at Yale University, Columbia University and Barnard College. Her dedication to her art, as well as to her family, shine through this film. This film's message is important to the current climate of difficulties in assisting citizens in obtaining the necessary mental health treatment.

View a preview and learn more about the film [here](#).



Sandra Luckow at the screening of "That Way Madness Lies" in the Alton Auditorium.

Lydia Fecteau's Disability, Cultures and Policy Class Hosts Cosplay

Lydia Fecteau, an adjunct instructor and co-coordinator of the Disability Studies Minor, and her service dog, Phoenix, dressed as Supergirl and Superman for an event and discussion about accessible cosplay hosted by her "Disability, Cultures and Policy" class. Cosplay, short for costume play, is when individuals dress in costume as a specific character.

"[As a class] we look at how disability is reflected in the media. We find science fiction, fantasy and comic books have a lot of disability images. Cosplay is being used as a way of bridging gaps in cultures and bringing disability into the mainstream," explained Fecteau, an adjunct instructor and co-coordinator of the Disability Studies Minor.

Cosplayers Joseph Munisteri and Nancy Amaro visited with students to share how they use cosplay to bring together the disabled community with the able-bodied community. Depression, fear and anxiety are topics they explore through character development.

Photographer David Schlaich lead a light painting activity that is accessible to individuals with visual impairments. Using flashlights and long-exposure photography, he captures images that extend visual art to those with visual disabilities.

Students attended the event in costume and shared the stories behind their costume designs.



Lydia Fecteau, an adjunct instructor and co-coordinator of the Disability Studies Minor, and students in cosplay in the Campus Center.

Stockton University's Library Welcomes New Staff

Heather Halpin-Perez joins as a special collections librarian/instructor in the Library. Perez earned an M.L.S. from the University of Maryland and a B.A. from the College of William & Mary.

Her teaching focuses are university archives, special collections and library instruction. Her research focuses include growth and accessibility of special collections, digital preservation, and South Jersey history.

She was recently and exhibit curator for the Atlantic City Historical Museum's exhibit, "The Atlantic City Experience: La Ciudad Atlántica."

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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 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