

The Stockton Times

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Stockton to Host Republican, Democratic Primary Debates for Gubernatorial Election

Stockton University has been selected to host one Republican and one Democratic primary debate during this year's New Jersey gubernatorial election cycle.

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy applied to the state's Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) to host a gubernatorial primary debate on Stockton's main campus. The debates must occur between April 13 and May 23, according to ELEC. The gubernatorial election will take place on Nov. 7.

"Since its founding, Stockton has emphasized the importance of political education and dialogue, the role of civic activism and voters' rights and responsibilities," said President Harvey Kesselman. "Holding two primary debates here will provide residents with an exceptional opportunity to assess the candidates for themselves, which fits into the University's commitment to promoting engaged citizenship and helping democracy to thrive."

The primary debates will be held in the Campus Center Theatre and will be live-streamed on Facebook Live.

"Stockton is a public institution that is inherently dedicated to civic and political engagement, and the Hughes Center has made hosting debates part of its mission in its nine years of existence," said Sharon Schulman, executive director of the center. "Hosting the primary debates at Stockton University is a way for the people of South Jersey to hear what our future policy makers have to say. The debates will also serve as an opportunity for the candidates to reach the southern region of our state."

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Hayse, Rosenthal Lead Study Tour of WWI, WWII and the Holocaust



The Stockton group of faculty, staff, students and Holocaust survivors toured historic World War I, World War II and Holocaust sites in the Netherlands and France over spring break this year.

Stockton faculty, staff and students along with three Holocaust survivors witnessed the history of World War I and World War II in France and the Netherlands during the University's spring break this month.

Daniel Kochavi, one of the survivors, was a young boy living in Paris during the Nazi occupation of France. He peered from the balcony of his fourth-floor apartment where he would watch over the happenings of the city during World War II.

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Hayse, Rosenthal Lead Study Tour of WWI, WWII and the Holocaust

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During the study tour, Kochavi and the group of 42 Stockton faculty and students, including those who have been writing Kochavi's family biography, returned to his former apartment building in Paris, now an office building owned by a non-profit foundation that aids refugees.

As the group gathered in front of the apartment building, a man emerged from the front door, a bit startled to see the large group. He asked why they were there. Kochavi, who still speaks French, and Michael Hayse, associate professor of History and lead author of Kochavi's collective biography, explained the survivor's story.

The local man then invited Kochavi, Hayse and the group of nine students working on the memoir on a personal tour of the building. The remaining Stockton students stood below and watched as Holocaust survivor Daniel Kochavi and his son, Jonathan, waved from the fourth-story balcony above.

Sarah Albertson, program assistant in the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center (HRC), transcribed audio testimony about Kochavi's mother for the memoir, which is expected to be complete later this year. She stepped out on to the balcony with the other memoir project workers and shared the special moment with the survivor. "It was as if we had stepped back in time," she said. "It was the first time he had been in the building since he left as a young boy. It was very moving to stand there with him."

"The students have written chapters for the Kochavi family biography, so that was really special to share," Hayse said.

"When [Kochavi] came back on the bus, he was a different person. He had closure," said Gail Rosenthal, director of the HRC and one of the tour leaders.

The survivors are what make the study tour experience spectacular for both the students and the tour leaders, explained Hayse, whose own study abroad experience inspired his current involvement with Stockton's program. He began leading tours with Rosenthal in 1999, and they have always been joined by survivors. The itinerary for each tour varies, and in many ways is determined by the survivors going on the trip.

Students, tour leaders and survivors visited sites in both the Netherlands and France including the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam; the hidden village in Vierhouten, Gelderland; the Jewish cemetery in Elburg; the Utah and Omaha beaches of D-Day in Normandy; and the Shoah Memorial in Paris. The tour walked the Second Line Trench at the Battle of the Somme in Beaumont-Hamel; stood inside a German bunker at the Caen Normandy Memorial Museum; and placed flags in front of graves at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial.

"The study tour begins as a course taken during the semester, which include textbook readings and history lessons, but the trip itself brings the history of the Holocaust alive," Rosenthal said. "Every trip, something happens that we will remember for a very long time."



Holocaust survivor Daniel Kochavi and his son, Jonathan, wave from the balcony where Daniel lived in Paris during the Nazi occupation of France.

Stockton University Establishes Ombuds Office in General Counsel

Stockton University has established the Ombuds Office to function as an independent, impartial, neutral and confidential resource to enable discussion and attempt resolution of issues and concerns. The objective is to allow employees and students to participate in a fair process in a non-threatening and a confidential environment. The Ombuds Office will be part of the Office of General Counsel.

The Ombudsperson will be available to act as a mediator should individuals wish to utilize less formal means of dispute resolution. Richard Hale, a retired lawyer and former university vice president, including at Stockton, has been engaged as a part-time Ombudsperson. He can be reached by phone at ext. 4861 and via email at Richard.hale@stockton.edu.

Pilot Program Brings Vets ‘To Ithaca: A Soldier’s Journey Home’



The Stockton group of faculty, staff and veterans traveled to Ithaca, Greece in the footsteps of the legendary Greek king Odysseus as part of a pilot seminar, “To Ithaca: A Soldier’s Journey Home.”

David Roessel, professor of Greek Language and Literature; Karen Matsinger, assistant director of Counseling, and Jason Babin, assistant director of Student Rights & Responsibilities, accompanied 18 student veterans from Stockton University on a trip to Greece this month.

The group followed in the footsteps of the legendary Greek king Odysseus as part of a specialized seminar with a travel component that is uniquely relevant to the veteran experience.

“To Ithaca: A Soldier’s Journey Home,” is a groundbreaking pilot program that provides military veterans adjusting to civilian life with a portion of much-needed recovery in an uncommon learning environment. Roessel designed the course, which fits into Stockton’s Global Perspectives educational theme.

“One of the biggest challenges veterans face when leaving the military is the transition back to civilian life,” said Babin, who is an Army veteran. “By creating a course, specifically for veterans, students can feel comfortable sharing their ideas and thoughts without fear of possible judgment.”

The political climate in Turkey forced the group to alter their itinerary, skipping sites located in that country including Gallipoli, Troy and Lesbos. Instead, the tour added stops at the site of the battle of Marathon, Sparta and Olympia.

“[The boat schedule] was complicated during the winter season, so we spent an extra day on Ithaca and went through Kefalonia without being able to stop,” Roessel said. “Odysseus took 10 years to get to Ithaca, with all kinds of difficulties; we had a few minor bumps and managed the journey much more quickly.”

Despite the itinerary changes, the purpose of the trip remained the same. After visiting Ithaca, where Odysseus was king, the group visited Olympia, World War II sites in Kefalonia, an archaeological museum and the Acropolis. They also attended a series of eight seminars, using Homer’s Illiad and Homer’s Odyssey.

Over the course of the trip, Matsinger watched the veterans “change” as they learned about Greek history and culture, made new friendships and laughed together. “What was most significant to me was the change in many of the students’ general disposition ... It was almost like they came alive again,” she said. “Professor Roessel challenged them each day, both academically and psychically. [The veterans] were very proud of themselves when they could meet his [physical] challenges.”

Matsinger also noticed many of the students studied the material on Homer whenever they had a break. “The students devoured the material presented. It was an amazing trip led by an amazing man,” she said.

The Stockton course creates an opportunity for student veterans to experience their transition together and to understand that they are not alone, explained Babin. “While this course was created as a pilot program, we hope to continue to offer it every year,” he said.

View photos and read more about the veterans’ trip on their [Facebook page](#).



Stockton faculty, staff and student veterans traveled to Greece as part of a program that is uniquely relevant to the veteran experience.

Interdisciplinary Group of Stocktonians Travel to Colombia



Stockton faculty, staff and students traveled to Colombia for educational and humanitarian efforts.

Victoria Schindler, professor of Occupational Therapy, led an interdisciplinary group of 40 Stockton faculty and students to Bogotá, Colombia during spring break to provide educational and humanitarian benefits for the third consecutive year.

The group met with administrators, faculty and students of health science and Spanish language programs at Universidad del Rosario and Escuela Colombiana de Rehabilitación to continue to establish the collaborative relationship.

They also visited the Foundation for the Adoption of Abandoned Children, an orphanage in Bogotá, to deliver donations for the children in the orphanage and to learn occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and speech interventions for social and economic challenges.

Faculty members joining Schindler included: Lauren Del Rossi, assistant professor of Physical Therapy; Luis Garcia, assistant professor of Health Sciences; Tara Crowell, associate professor of Public Health; Monika Pawlowska, assistant professor of Communication Disorders; Mark Adelung, assistant professor of Nursing; Gorica Majstorovic, associate professor of Spanish; Arnaldo Cordero-Roman, associate professor of Spanish; and Lisa Honaker, dean of the School of Arts & Humanities, along with 31 students from OT, PT, Speech Disorders, Nursing, Health Sciences and Spanish.

“We learned about the historical, social, cultural and political aspects of this developing country in order to influence our practice with disadvantaged populations in the U.S.,” Crowell said. “This project was originally developed as part of a Learning Abroad grant, and is now continuing as a 2020 grant. Faculty and staff are working on future efforts to continue to build these relationships as well as a faculty and student exchange between Stockton and these institutions in Colombia.”

Service-Learning Offers Tour to Partner Sites for Faculty, Staff



Stockton faculty and staff members attend a horse rescue, one of Stockton’s numerous community partners, on Service-Learning’s “three hour tour” series to the west.

The Office of Service-Learning hosted a “three-hour tour” faculty and staff field trip on March 24 to visit community partner sites located to the west of Stockton’s main campus.

The trip, sponsored by Service-Learning, Kramer Hall and Noyes Museum of Art, was an effort to introduce faculty and staff members interested in conducting service-learning to local community partners in Egg Harbor City and Hammonton.

The outing was Service-Learning’s second trip as part of the “three-hour tour” series, covering directions east and west. Stay tuned for the next trip, featuring Stockton’s community partners to the north.

SAVE THE DATES

- April 6: [Anna Deavere Smith](#)
- April 22: [Stockton University Scholarship Benefit Gala](#)
- May 10: [Graduate Commencement](#)
- May 12: [Baccalaureate Commencement at Boardwalk Hall](#)

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 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

