

The Stockton Times

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Stockton Celebrates Commencement 2017

Stockton University on May 12 held its largest Commencement ceremony ever - and its first in Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, the community where Stockton's first classes were held in 1971 and where steel is rising for a residential campus set to open in fall 2018.

"This is awesome!" said University President Harvey Kesselman, looking around as close to 10,000 cheered in the storied arena, built in 1929 and home to the world's largest pipe organ and countless major events including the Miss America Pageant, the 1964 Democratic National Convention, and the nation's first indoor football game. "As president of this extraordinary institution, I have the distinct privilege of being the first to say: Let's give it up for the Class of 2017!"

A record total of 1,556 graduates from the Schools of Arts and Humanities, Business, Education, General Studies, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Social and Behavioral Sciences earned degrees this spring, including 1,339 undergraduates on May 12 and 217 who earned advanced degrees from Stockton's 13 master's and doctoral programs in a separate ceremony May 10. [Read more about the Graduate Commencement Ceremony.](#)

[View video](#) from the May 10 and May 12 Commencement ceremonies. Photos are available on [Stockton's Flickr page](#).



Stockton University held its first Commencement ceremony in Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City on May 12.

organ, and by Paula Dollarhide, a 2003 alumna and associate director of Academic Advising, at the piano.

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State Sen. James Whelan, D-2nd, gave the keynote address on May 12 and received the Distinguished Service Award. This year's student speaker was Joachim Cendana, who received a B.A. in Liberal Studies.

Lori Vermeulen, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, introduced the graduates to receive their degrees, which were conferred by Kesselman.

This year's senior class gift is a video projection unit for the Campus Center Coffee House.

Grand Marshal Norma Boakes, associate professor of Education, headed the procession. The singing of the national anthem was led by student Danielle Quinn, who was accompanied by Beverly Vaughn, professor of Music, at the organ, and by Paula Dollarhide, a 2003 alumna and associate director of Academic Advising, at the piano.

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Stockton Celebrates Commencement 2017

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Christopher DiSanto, associate professor of Music; Beverly Vaughn, professor of Music; and Paula J. Dollarhide, associate director of Academic Advising, in front of Boardwalk Hall's pipe organ.

Joseph Sramaty '15, professional services specialist in Student Affairs, sang the alma mater, "Ospreys on Parade," Sramaty was accompanied by Dollarhide at the pipe organ and Vaughn on the piano.

More than 200 staff and more than a dozen students worked Commencement at Boardwalk Hall.

The core planning team consisted of **Craig Stambaugh**, associate dean of students; **Laurie Griscom**, director of Events Services and Campus Center Operations, **Lindsay McGrath**, assistant director of Event Services, and **John Smith**, assistant to the provost. Stambaugh created team task descriptions and coordinated staff assignments while serving as primary contact with Boardwalk Hall management.

Griscom was the processional master and "do it all" planner. McGrath coordinated logistics, setup and supplies with the Boardwalk Hall staff and external vendors. Smith was responsible for details of the ceremony.



Alex Marino, assistant to provost for Atlantic City Instructional Sites, helped to direct guests to the Commencement ceremony at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Photo credit: Brian Kowalski, senior finance counsel.

Brian Jackson, chief operating officer, Atlantic City Campus, negotiated discounts for parking, lodging and dining in the city; **Alex Marino**, assistant to provost for Atlantic City Instructional Sites, made arrangements for use of the Wave Parking Garage and the AC Jitneys, and connected Stockton to the CRDA staff responsible for boardwalk events; **Scott Huston**, director of Information Technology Services, and **Mark Jackson**, director of Production Services, coordinated audio visual details; **Mike Sullivan**, manager of Parking and Transportation Services, and **Joan Fortune**, associate director of Auxiliary Services, SASI Operations Manager, ensured that SASI shuttles ran on time; and **Julie Bowen**, supervisor of Graphics Production, and the **University Relations & Marketing** team designed the stage backdrop and banners throughout the venue and Boardwalk. The Plant team, led by **Gary Suhr**, helped to ensure everything was executed the day of the ceremony.

"Nine site visits were conducted during the planning phase. The purpose of these site visits was to understand the capabilities of the facility, familiarize staff with the venue and build relationships with the Boardwalk

Hall management team who were key to making the day successful," Stambaugh said. "As you can see, it was a true team effort by many, many folks."

Emeriti Status

Nine retiring faculty members received Emeriti Status at Commencement:

- David Carr, professor of Political Science and director of Research and Policy Analysis, William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy
- Jamie Cromartie, associate professor of Environmental Studies
- Sonia Gonsalves, professor of Psychology and director of Academic Assessment
- Bess Kathrins, professor of Physical Therapy
- Melaku Lakew, professor of Economics
- Franklin Smith, professor of Sociology
- Karen Stewart, professor of Business Studies, Marketing
- Henry van Kuiken, professor of Dance
- Marilyn Vito, associate professor of Business Studies, Accounting



Sgt. Tracy Stuart, who earned her M.A. in Instructional Technology, walks with K9 Hemi at the Master's and Doctoral Commencement on May 10.

Officials Break Ground for First Building at SARTP



Stockton President Harvey Kesselman said the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park is a collaboration “between the academy and industry,” offering Stockton and other universities opportunities in research and education.

Federal, state, county, municipal and University officials on May 15 broke ground for the first of seven buildings at the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park (SARTP) in Egg Harbor Township, N.J., a major step in diversifying the region’s economy.

The \$17.2 million, 66,000-square-foot building is being constructed in the 58-acre park, located adjacent to the FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center, the nation’s premier air transportation laboratory, and the Atlantic City International Airport.

The park will offer high-speed connectivity to FAA Tech Center laboratories, and state-of-the-art conference rooms. An FAA laboratory will occupy 7,000 square feet with an additional 47,000 square feet of rental space for laboratories and offices. [Read more.](#)

ITS Provides Best Practices for Handling Ransomware Epidemic

Editor’s Note: The Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) released the following statement earlier this week to faculty and staff, regarding the Ransomware Epidemic.

An Internet-based epidemic affecting over 200,000 systems in more than 150 countries has infected vulnerable Windows based systems, encrypting and holding user data for ransom. Although ITS employs layers of safeguards designed to protect institutional data, personal devices can fall victim to attack. In an effort to help users safeguard their personal systems, we recommend taking the following actions/precautions on your personal computers/devices.

Keep your operating systems up to date. If you run Microsoft Windows, ensure that Windows Update is functioning properly [See [Windows Update FAQ for current operating systems \(Win7/8.1/10\)](#)] Mobile device owners (Apple, Android, etc.) should also ensure that they are updated to the latest version of their operating systems. If you are running an old/un-supported operating system (specifically Windows XP/Vista), please install the [Security patch for Windows XP/Vista](#) and consider updating to an actively supported operating system.

Use a security solution like Windows Defender to protect your Windows based computer. Windows Defender is malware protection software built into Windows 8 and above. This software helps identify and remove viruses, spyware and other malicious software. Windows Defender runs in the background and notifies you when you need to take specific action. However, you can use it anytime to scan for malware if your computer isn’t working properly or if you clicked a suspicious link online or in an email message.

The best defense for mobile devices is to install all security updates and to limit the apps that are installed on your devices (please uninstall apps you no longer use). Most apps will ask the first time they want access to your contacts, calendar, email, location, etc. It’s important to pay extra attention to these requests, as they have lasting privacy implications.

Stay skeptical! Unsolicited email messages may contain threats including phishing, ransomware, viruses, and nefarious attachments. Stay skeptical of emails that use exclamatory language, direct you to follow a link to update/preserve your account, or contain an unsolicited attachment such as an invoice. In particular, attachments that use a password to decrypt their contents should be avoided/reported. Attacks against personal information are constantly evolving, be cautious when providing personal information over the phone or otherwise.

Questions can be directed to the Information Technology Services Help Desk at 609-652-4309 or helpdesk@stockton.edu.

NBC10 Coffee Talk Tour Coming to Wawa in Galloway

Attention coffee lovers and early risers!

The NBC10 morning team will be broadcasting live, from 5-7 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24 at the new Super Wawa at Route 30 and Pomona Road (on the White Horse Pike) in Galloway, and we want you to stop by and show your Osprey pride. Spread the word, and don't forget to wear your best smiles and Stockton University gear!

AmyBeth Glass, Joseph Lizza Receive Doctoral Degrees from Rowan

Congratulations to AmyBeth Glass, director of Graduate Enrollment Management, and Joseph Lizza, assistant director of Campus Center Operations & Programs, who both received a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership (Ed. D.) from Rowan University on May 10.

In her dissertation, "Education Master's Students' Perspectives On Leaving the Academy," Glass explored why education master's students depart from one institution and provides recommendations for future practice. A key finding of the study indicates that financial, personal, and dissatisfaction with course content were reasons that influenced education master's student attrition.

Glass, a first generation college student, described the Commencement ceremony as "surreal."

"I would like to express my appreciation to my second family (Stockton University) who generously shared their time and talents to ensure I received the support and resources necessary to complete this journey," she said.

In his dissertation, "A Qualitative Case Study of the Congruence between Fraternal Organizations' and Members' Values, Principles, and Standards," Lizza examined the organizational culture of fraternities, seeking to identify the congruency between nationally espoused values, principles, and standards and those in use by organizations at the local level.

Lizza described the experience as an "incredible journey of knowledge, understanding, and the strength to persevere."

"Throughout this time, I have been fortunate to have engaging faculty, and dedicated family and colleagues who have helped me achieve this goal," he said. "I am thrilled to bring the knowledge gained through coursework and my research study to my professional role at Stockton, but I am also happy to spend a bit more time with my family and friends."



Proud doctoral graduates AmyBeth Glass, director of Graduate Enrollment Management, and Joseph Lizza, assistant director of Campus Center Operations & Programs.

SAVE THE DATES

- May 29-June 4: [ShopRite LPGA Classic @ Stockton Seaview Hotel & Golf Club](#)
- June 3: [G. Larry James Legacy Bike Ride to Benefit Scholarships](#)

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

