

# The Stockton Times

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Project Launches to Space in Mission 11

Two Stockton University students are ready to find out if the [experiment they designed](#) on Earth will work on the International Space Station.

Long-term space travel and the need for astronauts to sustain their food supply in space led students Danielle Ertz and Valkyrie Falciani with faculty mentor Tara Luke, associate professor of Biology, to develop an experiment that studies fungus as a potential force for improving agriculture in space.

The project was accepted by the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) and successfully launched at 12:31 p.m., Aug. 14, from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on the SpaceX-CRS-12. The students and Luke were in for Florida to watch the launch.



Stockton's SSEP student team and Peter Straub awaited the launch of their experiment into space at Cape Canaveral, Fla. on Aug. 14. Tara Luke and Norma Boakes were also present.

underway on Earth simultaneously as a scientific ground truth for later comparison.

Their experiment uses a mycorrhizal fungus species and flax. Flax was chosen because its seeds are edible, the plant can be used to make cloth, its extensive taproot system allows growth in limited space and it is proven to grow in space. The experiment consists of

a fluid mixing enclosure mini-lab that will hold enough water, fungi spores and flax seed to grow for four to six weeks on the International Space Station (ISS). The same experiment is

The Stockton SSEP has been selected for Mission 12. Activities will begin in September with a Mission 12 experiments proposal competition run in conjunction with GNM 2800: "Student Spaceflight Experiments Program." The experiment chosen for Mission 12 will fly to the International Space Station in Spring 2018.

## Stockton Wins AASCU Civic Learning & Community Engagement Award

Stockton University received the Civic Learning & Community Engagement Award, one of the American Association of State Colleges & Universities (AASCU) [Excellence and Innovation Awards](#).

"Innovation at America's state colleges and universities is focused on advancing the quality of the educational experience for their students and the distinction of their institutions in service to their communities," said AASCU President Muriel A. Howard. "The programs for which these universities are being honored will inspire not only their AASCU colleagues but all of higher education."

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## AASCU Civic Learning & Community Engagement Award

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The winning entries required evidence of top-level administrative support; connection with an institution's mission and strategic agenda; contribution to significant institutional improvements or programming; and grounding in research and best practices. Multiple awards were given in certain categories.

"This award honors institutions that prioritize and advance student civic learning and community engagement at regional, state and national levels," said President Harvey Kesselman. "Our application profiled a range of activities ... under the umbrella of the American Democracy Project. This work would not be possible without the commitment and contributions of our faculty, staff and students who support engagement in so many ways ... Special kudos to Daniel Fidalgo Tomé, Merydawilda Colón, and Michelle McDonald for assembling and submitting the application."

## Brian Jackson Receives Labov Bernstein Community Service Award



Jason Goldstein; Martin Klein, CEO of Seashore Gardens, and Brian K. Jackson; pictured at the organization's annual gala.

Brian K. Jackson, chief operating officer of the Atlantic City campus, received the 2017 Labov Bernstein Community Service Award at the Annual [Seashore Gardens](#) Foundation Gala, held on Aug. 10.

Jackson, a member of the Seashore Gardens Foundation Board since 2010, was presented with the award for demonstrating "exemplary leadership and service to the community and support of Seashore Gardens Living Center."

The foundation also honored Jason Goldstein, past chair of the Seashore Gardens Board of Directors, who received the 2017 Martin Klein Leadership Award.

The event was attended by more than 250 people, one of the gala's largest turnouts in history, explained Jackson, and raised a record amount of money, supporting programs and services for the residents of Seashore Gardens. Past recipients of the Labov Bernstein Award include the Sara & Sam Holocaust Resource Center (2006) and Stockton University (2009).

## Stockton Farm Takes Produce on the Road to Local Farmer's Market

Sean McBride, student, is [learning a lot about garlic this summer](#). The Stockton biology major is conducting a research study on which of some 20 types of garlic grown on the University farm had the best yield.

"They've all been harvested and we're weighing them now," said McBride, who came upon the project while meeting with his advisor, Associate Professor of Biology Ron Hutchison. "Behind him were bins of garlic," McBride said.



The farm, which began as a pilot sustainability project in 2012, is also a learning lab. All produce is certified naturally grown, and the farm operates with its own water tanks and a solar-powered drip irrigation system. "Electricity and water are our biggest challenges," said Caitlin Clarke, sustainability coordinator. "But we met the challenge."

Now more than an acre in size, the farm grows traditional vegetables like tomatoes, okra, peppers, melons, zucchini and eggplant, but also experiments with different varieties and crops such as purple peppers and ground cherries, a tiny, tangy, fruit covered in a paper husk. A new mobile greenhouse allows workers to start crops earlier and keep them going through the fall. (View [photos](#) and [video](#).)

One goal of the farm is to share what they learn with the community. On Aug. 13, the farm began participating in the weekly Go Green Galloway Farmer's Market from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Galloway Township municipal complex.

## Edward Siecienski Meets Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I



Edward Siecienski, associate professor of Religion; Bartholomew I of Constantinople, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church; and Theodoros Alexopoulos, a professor in Austria and a colleague of Siecienski.

Edward Siecienski, associate professor of Religion, recently met with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople, in Istanbul, Turkey.

The meeting came about when colleague Theodoros Alexopoulos, a professor in Vienna, Austria with close ties to the Patriarch, suggested Siecienski send to Bartholomew I his latest book, “The Papacy and the Orthodox: Sources and History of a Debate.”

“Shortly thereafter I received notification from the Patriarch’s secretary that he would like to meet me,” explained Siecienski, “and that I should schedule an audience with him when it was possible. I immediately seized upon the opportunity and began making preparations for a trip to Istanbul.”

During the meeting, the Patriarch asked about Siecienski’s work and about Stockton, with which he was familiar. “He praised the work of [the late] Father Demetrios Canstantelos and remembered with fondness Tom Papademetriou and his family, who he met several years ago in Greece.”

They discussed a variety of topics, including the Patriarch reminiscing about time spent in Rome, encounters with different popes, and his work organizing the Great and Holy Council that took place in Crete in 2016, explained Siecienski.

“Following the meeting, the Patriarch invited my colleague and I to join him for vespers in the Patriarch Church of St. George, [before] we said our goodbyes,” he said.

## Chung-Fan Chang Curates, Displays Art in Mississippi Exhibition

Chung-Fan Chang, assistant professor of Art/Foundations, recently exhibited, “Yangzijang’s Land,” in the group exhibition, “The Bared Sound: A Symphony of Artists from Taiwan and Mississippi,” which opened Aug. 4 at the Arts Center of Mississippi in Jackson, Mississippi.

Chang’s art is displayed with works by 12 other artists through Aug. 30, 2017. She also curated the exhibit.

The group exhibition includes works ranging from video, audio to photography, installation and ceramics. The show marks the first contemporary art exhibition featuring both local Mississippi artists and Taiwanese artists.

Through various forms and expressions, the artists explore the biopolitics of individuals and communities in the historical context and governance in Taiwanese society.



From L-R: Artist Allen Chen, Artist Guan-Jhang Chen, Curator Yi-Hsin Nicole Lai, Artist Hsiang Ni, AVAT Pei-Jun Lai, and Curator/Artist Chung-Fan Chang.

## Reminder: Register for Parking Permit for 2017-18 Academic Year



Parking permit registration is now available online at [Stockton.edu/parking](http://Stockton.edu/parking). New permits will be required for everyone for the 2017-18 academic year. Last year’s permit may not be used. All faculty, staff and students must order a new permit; those who registered last year will be able to select information from previously populated fields. For more information, contact Michael Sullivan, manager of Parking & Transportation Services, at ext. 5534 or [Michael.Sullivan@stockton.edu](mailto:Michael.Sullivan@stockton.edu).

## Galantino Fulbright Follow-up



Mary Lou Galantino (sixth from top, left), Distinguished Professor of Physical Therapy, recently returned from a follow-up visit for [her Fulbright grant](#), which focused on a curriculum review of the Physiotherapy Program in the School of Therapeutic Sciences at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa.

## Cox Presents at NJCTS Academy



Lisa Cox (pictured center in florals), professor of Social Work, recently presented on "Career Transitions" to youth attending the New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome's Tim Howard Leadership Academy, held at Rutgers University School of Engineering.

## Welcome Student-Athletes!



Stockton student-athletes, pictured with Kevin McHugh (center), executive director of Athletics, moved in on Aug. 17 to begin preseason preparations prior to the start of the academic year. Go Ospreys! View the [season schedule](#), which begins Sept. 1.

## Stockton Athletic Training



The Athletic Training team rehabs student-athlete injuries. Deon Day, a certified athletic trainer, holds a T-shirt that new athletes will receive. He is pictured with Paul Harris, Julie Wriggins, Nadya Lorick and Susie Zennario.

## Lot 0, Arts & Sciences Building Now Open for Use

Lot 0 and the Arts & Science Building are open for occupancy. Please excuse the few minor construction details. The contractor and the Office of Facilities Planning & Construction are working to resolve final work.

### SAVE THE DATES

- Aug. 26: [Stockton Day at Steel Pier](#)
- Sept. 1-4: [Welcome Week](#)
- Sept. 9: [Day of Service](#)
- Sept. 26: [Stockton Golf Classic](#)
- Oct. 5-8: [University Weekend](#)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:distinctive@stockton.edu)

