

Stock

Times

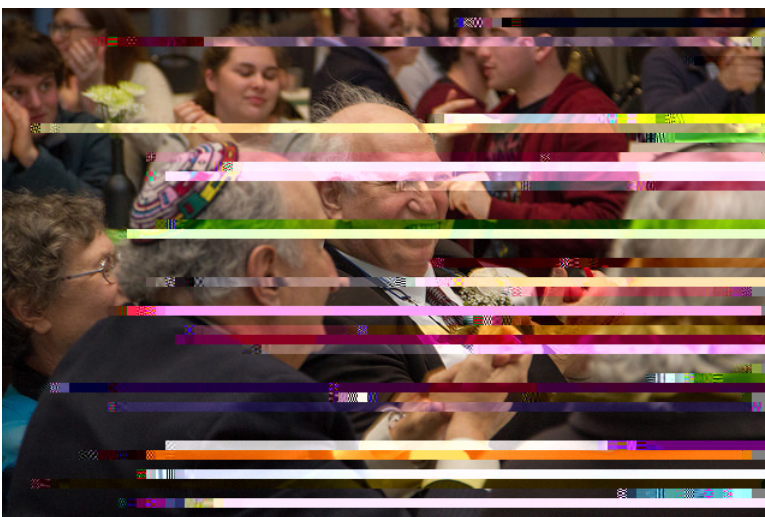
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Stockton University's Master of Social Work (MSW) degree program has been named one of the [50 Most Affordable Accredited MSW Programs in the East](#) by The Best Social Work Programs.

According to The Best Social Work Programs, an online business launched in 2012 to provide free resources to anyone interested in social work degrees and careers, "Stockton University's School of Social and Behavioral Sciences offers an affordable MSW degree program designed to equip and educate professional social workers."

"We are happy to see our program identified as one of the most affordable MSW programs in the region," said Diane Falk, director of the MSW program. "There is a growing demand for social workers nationwide, especially those who are specially prepared to work with America's increasingly diverse peoples. This year's application pool is the largest we have had, and we anticipate even more growth in future years."

- Stockton's MSW Ranked Top 50 Most Affordable Accredited Programs in the East
- Stockton Celebrates Yitzhak Sharon's 20th Leap Year Birthday
- Stockton Men's Basketball Team Win Third Consecutive NJAC Title
- Faculty, Staff Introduce Middle School Students to University Life
- Stockton Community Remembers Debra Wilkinson of Health Sciences
- Stockton Staff Members Receive Title Changes, Promotions



The Stockton community held a celebration for Yitzhak Sharon, professor of Physics, who celebrates his birthday once every four years on leap day.

Forty-four years of unique science demonstrations with blowtorches, bursting balloons and students spinning under centrifugal force has kept Professor of Physics Yitzhak Sharon young and his students on their toes and forever engaged in science.

"Teaching has kept me happy and young. Look, after 44 years of teaching, I'm just now celebrating my 20th birthday," said Sharon, who celebrates once every four years on leap day. An audience of past and present students, colleagues and friends from Stockton, members of the Jewish community, his wife, Sandy, and daughter, Dina, laughed with their dear friend as they filled the Campus Center Event Room to celebrate his 80th year of life.

Frank Malatino, a 2015 Physics graduate and current staff support member, is just one of the countless students on whom Sharon has left his mark. Malatino served as a lead teaching assistant for Sharon's "vastly famous" courses, "Atom, Man, Universe" and "Introduction to Physical Science."

“Every day I would stand in awe of him, feeling very much like the assistant to a magician that uses a practical kind of magic. We call it science. He would perform these transformations hundreds by the semester if not tens of thousands by now where he would take your common student and transform them into someone hungry for science. He’s a tireless worker,” he said.

Sharon’s area of expertise is theoretical low-energy nuclear physics, but his passion and work also extend outside the field of science. “He is the founding father of our Jewish Studies Program and our minor program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. From his one course, ‘The Holocaust,’ the minor in Holocaust Studies now is an internationally recognized program as the largest undergraduate program in Holocaust studies now offering 16 courses per semester,” said Marcia Fiedler, assistant professor of Jewish Studies.

The special occasion also featured speeches by faculty and staff, including President Harvey Kesselman; Interim Provost Susan Davenport; Gail Rosenthal, director of the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center; Judith Vogel and Elisa Forgey, who represented the Holocaust & Genocide Studies and the Jewish Studies programs; Peter Straub, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; and Brian Tyrell, president of the Faculty Senate.

The Stockton Oratorio Society, led by Beverly Vaughn, professor of Music, sang a rendition of “There’s No Business Like Show Business” with new lyrics, “There’s No Yitzhak Like Our Yitzhak,” written by Sharon’s wife, Sandy, and featuring a solo by Neil Aaronson, associate professor of Physics and the event emcee.

Aaronson shared that the name Yitzhak means, “he who laughs.” He also spoke of Sharon’s outstanding memory. While interviewing at Stockton, he went to lunch with Sharon, and not only did he remember the waitress who was a former student of his, he also remembered where she sat in class and could recite all of the students who sat around her. Even more surprisingly, he remembered her boyfriend, and which class he took, and where he sat as well as the students around him. Aaronson’s first thought was, “I’m out of my league.”

But he soon saw that Sharon is not a typical Stockton professor. “He is extraordinary,” he said.

See an album of photos from the event on [Flickr](#). See the video that played during the event [here](#).

Head Coach Gerry Matthews led the Stockton men’s basketball team to their third consecutive New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) championship on Feb. 27 with a win over The College of New Jersey. The title is Stockton’s fifth in the last nine years and ninth overall.


Matthews, who recently reached his 600th career win, guided the Ospreys to a 21-6 current overall record with the victory, and a 14-4 NJAC record.

With the NJAC Championship win, Matthews’ team qualified for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament for the third consecutive season. The NCAA appearance is the team’s sixth in nine years (2008, 09, 10, 14, 15 and 16) and 16th overall.



For the second consecutive year, both men’s and women’s basketball teams will appear in the NCAA Tournament. The women’s team, led by Head Coach Joe Fussner, received an at-large berth in the [women’s NCAA Division III Tournament](#).

Stockton University will host the [men’s NCAA Division III Tournament](#) in the Sports Center March 4-5. [Click here](#) for more information on Stockton’s appearance in the tournament.



Stockton faculty and staff members gave 50 seventh- and eighth-grade students from Galloway Township Schools an inside glimpse into academic life on Feb. 26.

Michael Hinman, supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment at Galloway Township Schools, has been organizing the daylong event at Stockton for the past few years as part of Galloway Township Schools' United Responsible Students Achieving (URSA) program. Hinman also serves as instructor and director of the Alternate Route To Teaching Program in Stockton's School of Education.

The URSA program is designed to give middle school students who may be first generation college candidates the opportunity to tour university campuses and make connections that will enable them to be successful as

Editor's Note: The following individuals received title changes and/or promotions, which were approved at the Stockton University Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 24.

Peter Gallagher has been named coordinator of End User Support in the Office of Computer & Telecommunication Services.

Marie Ricci has been named Executive Legal Assistant of the Office of General Counsel.

Tara Marsh has been named internship coordinator in Hospitality & Tourism Management Studies.

Joseph Gatto has been named Physics Lab professional services specialist in the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics.

Kimberly McKenna has been named senior project manager and director of Sponsored Programs in the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics.

Jonathan L. Johnson has been named director of Community Wellness & Health Education in the Wellness Center. As the new director, Johnson oversees Health Services, Health Education and Learning Access Program.

Patricia Philippi-McConville has been named coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities in the Wellness Center.

Jessica Kay has been named data analyst and assistant to the Chief Planning Officer.

Jessica Grullón has been named graduate enrollment counselor & events coordinator in the Office of Graduate Studies.

Alex Ferencz has been named Geo Spatial Analyst at the Coast Research Center and GIS program director.

Nathan Robinson has been named full-time Marine Field Station assistant (Vessels and Equipment).

Jessica Kowal has been named executive director of Development & Alumni Affairs.

Kelly Morris has been named assistant director of Annual Giving in the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs.

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 by emailing distinctive@stockton.edu.

