

Stockton

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Special points of interest:

Dr. Robert Nichols Receives 4th
Fulbright Award

2020 Initiatives: Stockton's All-
Organic Campus Farm

Faculty, Staff Inspire Student
Senators to Pursue Higher Edu-
cation

Lauren Rizzo-Heiler Welcomes
New Granddaughter

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"It is very fitting that he should be selected for this great honor, so that he can work with colleagues at Quaid-i-Azam University, the leading university in Islamabad."

"I have had good success at Stockton in pursuing a research agenda because of the complete support of the dean of Arts and Humanities, Dr. Robert Gregg, a fine historian himself, and of the provost's and president's offices," Dr. Nichols said Friday.

"My colleagues in the History Program, all excellent scholars, have been excellent sounding boards for ideas and proposals," Dr. Nichols said. "Beth Olsen and the Grants Office have also facilitated my earlier research, including that done during a Fulbright Research grant in 2003 that covered inter-regional research conducted in India and the United Arab Emirates. A Stockton Distinguished Faculty grant and a Research and Professional Development grant have also been essential in my work."

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural



Dr. Patrick Hossay grew up with livestock and food crops in California, but he never imagined that he'd be managing a farm on a college campus.

Over the past year, a half-acre plot of land next to Stockton's Arboretum has become an all-organic campus farm after student Stanley Baguchinsky came up with the idea to build one from scratch. Hossay's new role as farm supervisor fits with his title of associate professor of Sustainability.

Baguchinsky and students in SAVE, the oldest student-run environmental organization in the state, came to Hossay, who is their faculty advisor, because they wanted to grow crops.

"The farm was entirely a student idea," he explained.

Knowing the amount of work that a farm requires to be successful, he told them, "Show me you can manage a garden first."

The students aced his test and proved their green thumbs. "I couldn't have been more impressed," he said.

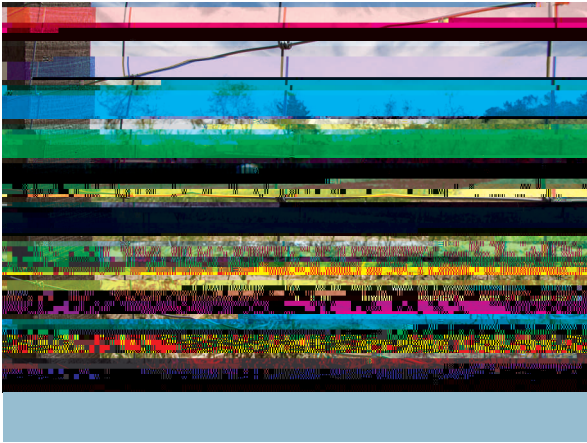
With 2020 Initiatives grant funding, the materials needed to construct fencing and irrigation for a full-fledged small farm were purchased. Students carried out all the installation and construction. "Baguchinsky wrote the initial grant for the 20-20 money and also built the barn and fence last summer," said Hossay.

"Well over 100 students have been involved in the past nine months, and there is a core group of about 15 students leading the way," Hossay said.

Dr. Linda Smith, associate professor of Biology, has brought her "Sustainability: Food and Agriculture" class to the farm and a number of volunteers came out on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service to help install barriers to keep invasive animals away from the plants. "We want the farm to be a resource for the college," said Hossay.

The biggest challenge for Hossay and the students is the lack of electricity and running water at the farm site, located just beyond the college's main entrance off Jimmie Leeds Road. "We took the opportunity to model a farm in a water-conscious way," he explained.

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Rainwater falls and hits the roof of a dugout-like structure and is channeled into a holding tank. A pump powered by a photovoltaic panel drives the water upward into a water tower. The tower then feeds a drip irrigation system. Rainwater flows through underground tubing and seeps out of holes placed at intervals to nourish the plants. Student Kelsey Brennan built the water tower as a special project with help from volunteers.

The first crop of winter greens was planted last October. Now garlic, peas, tomatoes and potatoes are growing. The seeds are planted in the greenhouse located on the main campus and then transplanted when they are big enough. Everything is grown in accordance with organic standards.

Nicolette Casselli constructed a hoop house, which is a semi-circular structure that can be enclosed to keep plants warm, as a senior project on thermal protection. The structure will enable the farm to function in the winter months. With insulation from the ground and an enclosure, plants will be protected against freezing temperatures.

A number of students work on the farm during their spare time. “The volunteers aren’t getting college credit, they just like being out on the farm. It’s peaceful, fun and interesting,” Hossay said.

Student Caitlin Clarke runs the farm and coordinates the multiple, ongoing volunteer projects.

Hossay’s fantasy is that the farm can be developed into a community supported agriculture (CSA) model, which would allow the Stockton community to buy shares of the crops at the beginning of the season and then receive fresh produce during the year. He also hopes that they will be able to share food with rescue missions and local community food banks.

“I’m really excited about the farm. It makes me feel good that there are still folks out there who are excited about agriculture. In five years, there could be barns, chickens, and few more acres of crops,” Hossay said.

Seven student senators will turn their tassels at Commencement this week. More than half will pursue advanced degrees in higher education on full-ride scholarships.

“These students have had positive experiences at Stockton and have chosen to pursue degrees in higher education because of the depth and breadth of their involvement and the leadership positions they have held,” said Dee McNeely-Greene, associate vice president for Student Affairs. The graduating senators—Stephanie Barreto, Dave Mooring, A.J. Vervoort and Melissa Lyon—are each a source of pride, she added.

Associate Dean of Students Craig Stambaugh explained that these students were connected to a number of offices through all layers of administration. Barreto, who worked closely with Jen Foreman Radwanski, associate director of Student Development, has said that she wants to emulate her, Stambaugh said.

“It’s been exciting to see them apply and then get assistantships. They



We want to know about things going on in the Stockton community. Do you have an unusual hobby? Did one of
