

# The Argo



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## Stockton Water Watch Participates in Annual Beach Sweep Hosted by Clean Ocean Action

**Roberto Nieves**  
*Argo Staff Writer*

There was a brilliantly pristine sunrise on the morning of Saturday, October 25th. The sun shone brightly upon Stockton's campus in the morning hours, almost dismissing the time of year. Upon this morning, usually full of rest and recuperation, a small group of students awoke with a purpose. Clean Ocean Action (COA), a coalition dedicated to waterway and oceanic protection, was hosting its annual beach clean-up effort in Atlantic City, and the students of Stockton Water Watch pitched in to help.

Stockton Water Watch, a student volunteer organization dedicated to serving the environment, made their way into the city to help COA and the Atlantic City Public Works Department sweep the beach and keep the sands clean. Grabbing gloves and bags, the

volunteers were placed into groups to sweep a large portion of the shore, from the water's edge to under Caesar's Pier, all the way to the Tropicana.

COA has been an advocate for creating awareness to the degraded state of water quality along the Jersey Shore. New Jersey finds itself in an incredibly active area of human activity, from the ports of the New York Harbor to the fishing fleet of the Shark River, to the maritime events of the Barnegat Bay. Through these, and many other areas of human activity, the waterways and the

ocean surrounding New Jersey have suffered tremendously. Various storms, most especially Superstorm Sandy, only agitated and worsened conditions, making entire areas littered with dangerous debris. COA is a voice to give awareness to such happenings.

Every year, COA hosts the beach sweep and actively engages communities to become involved. This has made a very positive and lasting impact on the shore. As the largest grass roots event in the state, over 100,000 volunteers have picked up over 5.19 million pieces of trash and counting.

For the sweep on October 25th, the impact was noticeable in Atlantic City. Compared to previous clean-ups, the beach was surprisingly clean. In previous years, especially in the weeks following Sandy's impact, various foreign objects

washed up on the shore, from tires to fishing boat equipment. Despite the initial cleanliness, the team did come across various objects and potentially dangerous debris. Underneath Caesar's Pier, the tide and the winds trap various objects deep within the sand, allowing for a large collection of sharp glass, recyclable aluminum cans, cardboard, and various pieces of plastic. Each volunteer had two different bags: a black one for trash and a white one for recyclables. Each group brought in near-full bags of materials by the end of the day.

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## A Call to Action

**Samantha Andujar**  
*Argo Staff Writer*

In 1934 a famous theoretical physicist and philosopher Albert Einstein once said "The brotherhood of the well-intentioned exists even though it is impossible to organize it anywhere." The hopes of battling such a profound statement is a very challenging and daunting task in itself, but what if one non-profit organization set out to do just exactly that?

The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) came to Stockton on October 29, 2014 to talk about its organization and how they use education and technical assistance

to help states to develop or strengthen their national policies for the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities. AIPR also

makes it its mission to encourage states to cooperate with prevention efforts against genocide and other mass atrocities through regional and international efforts.

To explain the positive message of this organization even further, Mike Otterman, Director of Communications for the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and Jack Mayerhofer, Coordinator of the Office and the Executive Director for African Programs came out to talk to Stockton See Page 8



# Stockton News

## A Call to Action Continued

about their job positions, the concept of AIPR, and the kinds of programs AIPR offers in the organization to combat such devastating problems that is ever present in the world we live in today.

When it comes to Mike Otterman he is obviously no stranger to the political arena of genocide and human rights. Otterman's interest in genocide started at a very young age. His Father was a holocaust survivor and has written several books on the subject. Otterman grew up hearing the stories about survival and death, all of which inspired him to learn more about these political atrocities and what else could be done to prevent them. He graduated from Boston University in Journalism and went on to study at the University of Sydney where he graduated with a masters in Peace and Conflict Studies. Otterman stated that even though Boston University was a great school, he learned more from his internships than inside the classroom. He wrote for a weekly culture newspaper called The Weekly Dig where he wrote reviews and other feature articles. However, It was his stay at the University of Sydney when the torture photos surfaced of Abu Ghraib in April 2004 and a paper for a class on culture and violence that initially drew him into the field of foreign policy. Otterman would later become a visiting scholar at the Centre of Peace and Conflict Studies in Sydney where he lectured on post 9/11 U.S foreign Policy. Otterman is also an author and news media specialist. He has published two books *Erasing Iraq: The Human Costs of Carnage* and *American Torture: From the Cold War to Abu Ghraib and Beyond*. Otterman has done a lot of work and projects on exposing the wrongs within human rights that geographically extend to the torture in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the Iraqi displacement crisis across the Middle East. Otterman has also worked with various non-profit organizations such as Jubilee Australia which actively speaks out against the injustice of "third world" debt and Catalyst. He has also put his efforts into effectively dealing with gender inequality in American workplaces. Otterman has been working with AIPR since 2013.

Another one of AIPR's colleagues, Jack Mayerhofer stated that he had a conventional and non conventional sense of getting into Human rights and that the idea of human rights left an abstract impression on him growing up, not knowing where this path would take him as he pursued this particular subject. Mayerhofer did not know that this was what he wanted to do till he took a class about World war II and the Holocaust at Penn State University. There it was solidified that this was something he wanted to pursue on an even grander scale outside of a classroom. Mayerhofer earned his Bachelors degree at Pennsylvania State University in French and Applied Linguistics and a Masters degree In Global Affairs From Rutgers University. Prior to working with AIPR In January 2014, Mayerhofer has worked with such organizations as Peace Is Loud, an organization that inspires action through media and live events that spotlight women leaders on the front-line of peace building worldwide, and has worked with the center for the study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights at Rutgers University. At AIPR, Mayerhofer assists with coordinating the activities to the Executive Director and provides Legal and research supports to the Africa program. So it is safe to say that Mayerhofer intends to stay in the political circles of human rights and conflict resolution as well.

The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation believes that after more than 6 decades of genocide and mass atrocities, a multi-directional approach

is needed. Through the educating of others on genocide, each program was designed by well educated experts in the field to provide the best possible training for many policy makers and with that creates vast network of individuals helping to aid in the fight against genocide and mass atrocity. AIPR since 2008 has created a multitude of programs catered to capacity building and policy development in the field of genocide and mass atrocity prevention. Two of the first programs ever launched by AIPR were The Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocidal Prevention and the Raoul Wallenberg Seminar for Advanced Holocaust Education. Both of these programs are held on actual concentration camp sites located in Auschwitz Birkenau in Oswiecim. Since its inception it has been one the leading programs dedicated to making policy makers who share a passion for the prevention of genocides and mass atrocities. The programs have since then grown, ranging from Global programs to programs located just in the United States alone, showing that no matter what part of the earth we are in, AIPR is dedicated to help as many countries as possible to promote a more worldly peaceful culture, one step at a time.

If one wants to get a career in AIPR or a similar organization Jack Mayerhofer and Mike Otterman offered the following tips.

- internships and studying abroad are definitely key in this type of work, Yes school and classes can give you the tools you need for your future career, but the value of real world experiences in other countries is not something that can not be taught.

-It can not be stressed enough how important it is to learn other languages. Learning other languages not only gives you more options in this field but can also help build personal connections with the country you are trying to help. Many countries will appreciate this as well. Outside of those four walls and a desk at our jobs, We are all people, and we all need to help each other out. Language barriers should not be a reason to not help someone who can not help themselves.

-Last but not least, have a sense of humor to go along with that polished suit and resume when you arrive at that interview. Most of us who have decided to dedicate our lives to this kind of work already know what it entails, most it is pretty sad and depressing, and unfortunately there is no getting around that. But that doesn't mean your work environment has to be as well. Creating a happy work environment is essential for everyone involved, it up to us to stick together and help each other out.

Having a career in this field can be rewarding, but the emotional aspect of it can really wear and tear us down to make us question why we chose this line of work in the first place. The answer is quite simple. We all have a desire to help people and possess the power to go above and beyond what is necessary to achieve it. It takes a special kind of person to want to do this line of work for a living. We are a relatively small group in the world that sign up for this knowing how incredibly sad and dark it can get. We know that advocating for human rights and peace among our countries doesn't exactly roll in the major dollar bills but we gain happiness from the fact that we are doing our part in saving lives. That to me is worth more than a huge paycheck. We can't take back the atrocities that were and are currently occurring, but we can help to prevent and even stop it from happening again.

## Stockton's Student EMS Team Plans for National Collegiate CPR Day

**Caroline Fanning**  
*Argo Staff Writer*

The students at Stockton have always been aware of the presence of the school's EMT service. However, what most students do not know is that the team is comprised almost entirely of students. The majority of technicians on the squad are student volunteers who are members of their hometown EMT services, where they also received training. All student EMS members are volunteers and receive no form of compensation for their duty. The volunteers feel an obligation to their fellow students and the entire Stockton community to use their abilities to provide assistance to all of those in need of help.

Sophomore Squad Sergeant Kelly Warantz has been a member of the school's squad for three semesters now, and a member of her local Marlboro Township squad for over three years. Warantz is a nursing major planning on graduating in May of 2017, and working in the AtlantiCare hospital system after college. She volunteers several hours of her time every week to the Stockton community, despite her status as a full-time student and involvement in other Stockton organizations. When asked why she still volun-



teers when she already has a loaded schedule, Kelly responded, "I genuinely care about the safety of everybody on campus, and if my skills can help, then there's no excuse as to why I shouldn't. With great power comes great responsibility."

The volunteer squad is led by a qualified Program Director, Assistant Director, and Advisory Staff, all of whom are appointed by the Stockton College Police Department. All volunteers are NJ Certified Emergency Medical Technicians, and have made it through the rigorous training program required to become certified. Stockton EMS are present at all school sporting events, as well as all other highly attended Stockton events,



along with being on call for emergencies. Stockton's EMS squad will be hosting an all-day hands-on CPR training seminar on Monday, November 10th, for National Collegiate CPR Day.