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STETSON UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Science Saturday Explores Glowing Rocks and Power of Physics at Gillespie Museum

DELAND, Florida, March 21, 2019 – Experience light, motion, sound and flames during **Science Saturday’s Physics Extravaganza and Fluorescent Minerals** at the [Gillespie Museum](#) on [Stetson University’s](#) campus, Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.-noon. The free event will include a wide variety of physics activities and demonstrations for young scientists.

Beginning at the Gillespie Museum, visitors will learn about the physics behind fluorescent minerals in the museum’s **Underground World**. Afterwards, the action will move across campus to the university’s physics lab in the Sage Science Center, where Stetson’s Society of Physics Students chapter will conduct various experiments, from a demonstration of the wavelengths of sound, using a standing-wave flame tube; a Magdeburg hemisphere vacuum tug-of-war; and some of the dazzling effects of liquid nitrogen.

“Students in this honorary society enjoy bringing their knowledge and passion about their discipline to younger scientists,” said the Society of Physics Students’ advisor, Kevin Riggs, Ph.D., professor and chair of physics. “Teams will demonstrate forces from sine waves to quantum levitation, making use of everything from balloons to sophisticated lab equipment.”

Each month during the academic year, the Gillespie Museum offers informal workshops designed and taught by faculty and undergraduate students.

“The museum’s aim is to combine informal science education with lively, Saturday morning fun,” said Karen Cole, Ph.D., director of the Gillespie Museum.

Young scientists and their families are asked to begin their exploration at the Gillespie Museum. Guides will lead visitors to the activities at both sites.

The Gillespie Museum’s collection and earth science displays also will be open for self-guided tours, including the spring 2019 exhibit, **“Florida Calcite: Rare Specimens of a Common Mineral.”**

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report’s 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review’s 384 Best Colleges, 2019 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.

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Image Captions:

Stetson's Society of Physics Students and Young Scientists: Stetson's Society of Physics Students and young scientists participate in a tug-of-war with Magdeburg spheres.

Stetson's Society of Physics Students: Stetson's Society of Physics Students conduct experiments with liquid nitrogen during Science Saturday.

Image courtesies:

Stetson's Society of Physics Students and Young Scientists image: Image courtesy of the Gillespie Museum

Stetson's Society of Physics Students image: Image courtesy of the Gillespie Museum

Dr. Kevin Riggs images: Images courtesy of Stetson University