SCOSA Partners with National Association for Staff Training, Now in 3rd Semester

The Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA) has developed an innovative online program to train elder care coordinators at law firms throughout the nation, a program formerly run by the University of Florida.

SCOSA Director David Burdick worked with a group of Stockton faculty, staff and advisory board members, in collaboration with a national association, the Life Care Planning Law Firms Association (LCPLFA), to create the 15-week course curriculum. The 120 firms in the association offer services in elder care law, a growing field in a nation of changing demographics.

Stockton adjunct instructor Michael Weinraub, a certified elder care attorney and member of the LCPLFA board of directors, contacted Gerontology Coordinator Christine Ferri to invite Stockton to submit an application and prospectus to replace the University of Florida as the provider of training for member firms' elder care coordinators. Dr. Ferri shared the opportunity with Burdick, who developed Stockton's successful application.

Burdick convened a team including Ferri, Weinraub, Psychology Professor Christine Gayda, gerontology adjunct Michelle Walmsley, SCOSA assistant Anita Beckwith and SCOSA advisory board member Lori Heberley to develop the curriculum. Heberley was particularly instrumental as president of a geriatric care management company.

SCOSA’s team worked closely with attorneys and elder care coordinators (ECCs) from Arizona, Florida and Tennessee to develop the final "Certificate in Elder Care" program. The course is divided into three five-week segments, beginning with basic knowledge of aging ("Gerontology 101") and the underlying holistic principles of life-care planning for law firms. It then covers skills needed to assess clients and their surroundings, ethical dilemmas, marketing and other advanced topics. Students must pass an online test at the end of each course and successfully complete other assignments in order to earn the certificate in elder care coordination (CECC).
SCOSA (continued)

The training utilizes Stockton's Blackboard Learn as its main delivery platform. Each week generally includes one or two PowerPoint 'lectures', most with voice-overs; additional readings, and podcasts from NPR and other sources. Videotapes of Tim Takacs, founder of the life-care planning law firm association and his elder care coordinator, Deb King, are included, as are two videotaped lectures from the prior program at the University of Florida. Active class discussions are provided through Blackboard's Discussion feature and have recently been augmented by weekly telephone conference calls provided by the law firm association.

Burdick notes that "in designing this program, we have constantly sought to use best-practice principles in online instruction, social work, gerontology, geriatrics care management and elder-law to insure that trainees are receiving timely and state-of-the art information that can be readily integrated into their practice. We couldn't have done this program without the excellent assistance provided by Computer Services and Continuing Studies."

Feedback from the first two groups of trainees indicates that the program is succeeding.

"This course was great. It was what I like: organized, clear cut, presented nicely, multiple media presentations. Don't change a thing!" (Anonymous survey response). Another trainee wrote: "The course enhanced my 'toolbox' of resources. It was reinforcement of my knowledge, skills and principles of practice. It has made me more mindful about doing complete assessments and of my documentation."

As the program evolves, the law firm association is investigating the feasibility of licensing Elder Care Coordinators. SCOSA hopes to gain approval from the accrediting body for professional geriatric care managers to count several modules from the Certificate in Elder Care Coordination course toward licensing Geriatric Care Managers (GCM). This could be a stepping stone toward Stockton offering a more extensive GCM curriculum in online and/or hybrid formats.

Master of Social Work Celebrates Full Accreditation

The day that Stockton reopened following Superstorm Sandy, Dr. Diane Falk, Professor of Social Work, had an exciting announcement to share with the Master of Social Work (MSW) students. Before she made mention of the news, she spoke of the opportunities for volunteers to give back to the community after our region suffered a severe blow.

Julia Mastalski, one of the students, remembers receiving the news of the MSW program’s accreditation, during a special meeting of all the MSW students, witnessing Falk, who is the MSW Director, putting the community first—illustrating the essence of social work.

Students and alumni of the MSW program, community partners, faculty and staff gathered in the Campus Center February 1 to celebrate this milestone for the MSW program. President Herman Saatkamp noted, "Our MSW program now joins 219 accredited MSW programs. We are able to serve students and the community in a way we haven't been able to before."

William Cabin, Assistant Professor of Social Work, announced a new scholarship fund that is underway for MSW students.
Just a mile from campus, tucked between two busy roadways, is a small triangle-shaped cemetery that gets lots of traffic, but not the recognition it deserves. On January 29, that changed. Students, faculty, staff, members of the community and guests from the tri-state area and beyond gathered in the Campus Center Theater to honor the African American soldiers who fought in the Civil War. They gave special recognition to the Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery by our campus.

Members of the Boling family, an African American family who settled in Port Republic before the Civil War, are buried in the cemetery at the intersection of Pomona and Moss Mill roads.

Galloway Mayor Don Purdy told those gathered around the Library entrance for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of “Galloway’s Graveyard: Unearthing the History of the Boling Settlement” to stop and remember. His mother, who placed solar lights alongside each gravesite, told Purdy that they won’t be unrecognized anymore.

The Library exhibit, which will be on display throughout Black History Month, documents the history of the Boling family. Wendel White, distinguished professor of art, began researching the settlement more than 20 years ago. When he first learned of the cemetery, White was working on a book project. “It wasn’t until I took photos at the cemetery that the book took shape,” he said. Some of the images in White’s book, Small Towns, Black Lives, are online. White was contacted through his website by a descendent of the Boling family living in Indiana. “I was able to connect with a living member of the family,” he said.

“This is only the beginning,” said Beverly Vaughn, professor of music. Next in the series is “Romance on the Battlefield with African Americans of the Civil War,” a presentation by local Civil War re-enactors and Stockton’s Unified Black Students Society and NAACP chapter. The event will take place in the Performing Arts Center, 2-4 p.m., on Thursday, February 14.
Lewis Leitner Presents at World Universities Forum

Education has historically walked a fine line between direct instruction and giving students the reins to take more control over their learning experiences. “I am Learning the Most From the Professor Who Teaches the Least,” is the title of a paper that Dr. Lewis Leitner, Dean of the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies, presented at the 2013 World Universities Forum held in Vancouver, Canada on January 10-11, 2013.

The title of his presentation was inspired by a compliment he received from a student several years ago. “It is the finest compliment I have received in over 30 years of teaching,” Leitner said.

Less lecturing translates into engaging students more with active learning techniques. Leitner supports the transition from a static teacher-centered classroom to a more active learning environment. In addition to his focus on active learning, his presentation also encouraged institutions across the globe to embrace the power, reach and productivity of digital communications and online learning.

He pointed out that the Netscape Browser introduced the world to a new frontier of information and a novel way of communication in 1995. The 18-year-olds who enter college today were born and raised in the digital age and cannot fathom a life without social media, high speed Internet and instant messaging.

“These so-called digital natives will, over time, represent a powerful consumer group who might disrupt the age-old teaching methodologies housed in bricks and mortar colleges and universities around the world,” he explained. He anticipates that students will expect and possibly demand more access to digitally-based education formats.

The World Economic Forum, an independent international organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, created The World Universities Forum in 2008 in the belief that there is an urgent need for academia to connect more directly and boldly with the large questions of our time, in much the same way that the World Economic Forum has forged a role of global intellectual leadership for politicians, business people and community leaders. This knowledge community brings together scholars, teachers and higher education administrators in an annual conference, a scholarly journal, a book series and an online community.

What’s New in the Food Court?

The Passports dining location at the Campus Center Osprey Food Court now features Chop’d and Wrap’d, which offers fresh made wraps and salads daily.

- On February 14, Denise O’Neill, Interim Director of Residential Life, and Len Farber, Director of Student Development, will be guest celebrity chefs at the N-Wing Student Restaurant.
- On Fridays in the Campus Center Food Court, fish and vegetarian options will be provided for Lent, and Thursdays celebrate Black History Month.

For more dining specials, click here.

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) 652-4950 or e-mail Stocktontimes@stockton.edu.