Dr. Rosner Awarded NEH Grant to Create Game

Dr. Lisa Rosner, Distinguished Professor of History and director of the Honors Program, was recently awarded a Digital Projects for the Public grant in the amount of $99,837 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to develop a video game about the early history of smallpox vaccination.

Dr. Rosner is working with colleagues from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and with Eduweb, a developer of digital learning games, to create the educational video game The Pox Hunter as part of the project, “A 3D Strategy Game for the History of Medicine.” Dr. Laura Zucconi, associate professor of History, is on the Humanities Advisory Board for the project.

Dr. Rosner, whose research focuses on the history of vaccines and anti-vaccination movements, said this is the first time that this particular grant has been awarded.

“The goal of the grant is to create a prototype of The Pox Hunter that can be introduced at the Game Night held at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia during the Philadelphia Science Festival in April 2016,” Dr. Rosner explained. “I think it is a really exciting moment for Stockton and I’m really proud to be part of it.”

In the game, designed for upper-level high school and college students, players step into the shoes of a young physician who has arrived in 1802 Philadelphia just as a smallpox epidemic erupts.

Armed only with Edward Jenner’s new vaccination technique and a will to succeed personally and professionally, players undertake the grand challenge of stopping the disease in its tracks by persuading patients to be vaccinated.

Dr. Rosner said developing the game involves a lot of research about the social history of Philadelphia, as well as the architecture and fashions of the time period.

“We’d like to thank Deans Lisa Honaker and Robert Gregg for their support, as well as former Grants Director Beth Olsen. We’d also like to thank Dr. Saatkamp, Provost Kesselman, and the Board of Trustees for their continued support for these kinds of scholarly and creative initiatives. And finally, we’d like to thank our students for all the helpful feedback they’ve given us along the way,” Dr. Rosner said.
Stockton, Bob Ross Honored by Special Olympics New Jersey

Stockton has been honored with the 2014 Volunteer Group of the Year Award from the Special Olympics New Jersey.

The Stockton volunteer group, headed by Bob Ross, assistant director of Counseling and Health Services, was recognized for its strong advocacy of Special Olympics NJ. Activities include hosting a track and field meet in the spring, a floor hockey tournament, the 3K Jingle All the Way Run, a young athlete program, and the Unified Sports basketball and soccer programs.

Ross was cited as being instrumental in developing the Unified Sports and Young Athletes programs, partnering with the Athletics Department and Occupational Therapy students to work with the Special Olympians.

“I am truly inspired by the cooperative effort of the entire campus community and the culture of kindness demonstrated by so many of our students,” Ross said.
2020 Initiatives: Model UN International Travel Team Honored

Editor’s Note: Stockton’s 2020 Initiatives, led by faculty members from various disciplines, featured events and programming this fall, which had a college-wide impact. We will feature these ongoing initiatives periodically.

Dr. Tina Zappile, assistant professor of Political Science, and Dr. JY Zhou, international specialist in the School of Education, recently led eight students on Stockton’s Model United Nations international travel team, which was established as a 2020 Initiative for the 2014-2015 academic year. The team represented the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Holy See at the National Model United Nations (NMUN)-Europe Conference in Rome from Nov. 22-29.

The 2020 project funded six students to participate as part of the Model U.N. team. Provost Harvey Kesselman and Student Senate provided support for two additional students to serve in the delegations.

Madeline Seidenstricker, program advisor in the Office of Global Engagement, and students from the existing Model U.N. student club facilitated training sessions for the group throughout the semester.

The team addressed various issues in their committee work, including protection of journalists in armed conflict; women, peace and security in sexual violence conflict; achieving energy security in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa; and standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners. Morgan Pyle and Angelo Bechara, students in the Political Science program, represented the Holy See as Permanent Observers in the General Assembly, explained Dr. Zappile.

“The students were briefed by Msgr. Urbanczyk of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the U.N. in New York City one week prior to travel,” she said. “At the conference, they advised member states regarding the Prohibition of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Americas and Legal Status and Protection of the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) People and authored a U.N. Declaration regarding the prohibition of arms.”

The Holy See delegation received the “Outstanding Delegation” award which is reserved for the highest tier of schools. The team also received the “Best Delegates” award from peers in the General Assembly. The Nigerian delegation received the “Honorable Mention Best Delegation” award. Click here to view the list of award recipients.

Dr. Vaughn’s Class Raises Money for Music Academy in Africa

Dr. Beverly Vaughn’s class, the Music of African Americans, raised over $300 for a music scholarship, which will pay for a student to attend the Dhow Music Academy in Zanzibar, Tanzania for a full year. On Dec. 3, the class made a presentation via Skype, to representatives from the music academy.

During her sabbatical in 2010, Dr. Vaughn, professor of Music, visited African universities, including the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, where Dr. Mitchell Strumpf, director of the music academy, had worked. Strumpf gave Dr. Vaughn a tour of Dhow Music Academy. Dr. Strumpf sent Dr. Vaughn and other friends an email at the beginning of the semester, asking for help to support students. Dr. Vaughn shared the email with her students.

“They immediately embraced it and started raising funds. Now they have met their $300 goal, which will pay for a student to attend the Dhow Music Academy for a full year,” Dr. Vaughn said.

This semester, two class members held three fundraising events with their fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and the other classmates raised money among themselves.
Exterior Stair Renovation Construction to Begin Monday, Dec. 15

The exterior stairs in B, C/D and F wings will be offline for two months for renovation beginning Monday, Dec. 15. Temporary stairs will be put in place in each wing to provide access to floors during construction. Questions can be directed to Glenn Brown at Glenn.Brown@stockton.edu or ext. 4888.

Janice L. Bond Appointed to Board of Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Janice L. Bond, associate director of Stockton/Seaview Hotel and Golf Club, was appointed last week as a member of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sister of Atlantic & Cape May Counties.

Bond has been involved in the local community for several years sitting as an active member of the Board for the Community Partnership for Egg Harbor Township Schools, Inc. as Vice President.

At Stockton, Bond participates on the Gala Committee and Golf Committee.

Tara Williams of Graduate Admissions Welcomes Baby Daughter

Tara Williams, assistant director of Graduate Enrollment Management, welcomed a daughter, Audrey Grace Williams, on Nov. 14 at 10:13 a.m. Audrey weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces and measured 20 inches. Big sister Brynn Olivia is head over heels in love with her baby sister. Congratulations!

Facilities and Construction Welcomes New Staff Members

Mark Ciccotelli was named as Project Manager-Architect. Ciccotelli comes to Stockton with over 25 years of experience in managing architectural projects, which include all phases of project development in educational, governmental, industrial, commercial, and hospitality facilities. Ciccotelli’s expertise includes many facets of the planning design, construction, and development of complex projects responding to requests for proposals, presentations, contracts, programming, team building, design, contract documents, bidding, construction administration and close out for retail, restaurants, school, community/public building just to name a few. Within these roles, Ciccotelli had the responsibility of the development and management of multi-million dollar projects. He holds a B.S. degree in Architecture from Drexel University, and is a registered Architect, Land Planner and Leed Accredited Professional.

Rhianon Lepree was named as manager of Real Estate Development and Property Management. Lepree recently served as Manager of Property Management, Lease Negotiations and Compliance for New Jersey Transit. During her seven years at New Jersey Transit, she worked on various property acquisitions in order to facilitate capital projects, including the Hudson Bergen Light Rail in Bayonne, N.J., a bridge to grade separate 69th Street in North Bergen, N.J., and a transfer station in Pennsauken, N.J. Lepree’s primary responsibilities will include managing the college’s real estate leases and acquisitions in conformance with the real estate vision of the college, preparing all Requests for Qualifications and Requests for Proposals based on the strategic plans of the college for real estate and facilities and developing a full campus audit and use analysis of rooms, office and program space. She holds a B.A. degree in History and Journalism from the University of Delaware.

Kymberly Romanelli was named as program assistant and will assist Charles West, director of Facilities Planning & Construction. Romanelli attended Stockton before earning a B.S. in Business Administration from Thomas Edison State College. During her time at Stockton, she worked for the department as a student worker and TES.

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. Also, tell us what you think of the new design! Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 or 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 at distinctive@stockton.edu