10th Annual Day of Service Focuses Efforts on Atlantic City

Stockton’s 10th Annual Day of Service honored the college’s relationship with Atlantic City, bringing more than 300 volunteers to 14 community projects in the city.

In partnership with the City of Atlantic City and the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), the Day of Service brought students, faculty and staff off campus and into the city, marking the first Day of Service to focus on one municipality.

About 14 Stockton students gathered outside Boardwalk Hall Saturday morning, stopping passers-by to ask whether they were registered to vote and offering to register them if not.

Down at Maine and Atlantic avenues in the city’s Inlet section, 43 student volunteers including members of Stockton’s WaterWatch group and Anthropology Associate Professor Laurie Greene planted 2000 American Beach Grass plants. Their job was to “try to stabilize the beachhead here,” after Hurricane Sandy washed away the rocks and landscaping, Greene said.

The CRDA donated the dune grass and provided the services of a landscaper who gave the volunteers a quick lesson on how to plant it, according to Jon Bitzer of the CRDA’s Special Improvement District division, who was coordinating planting projects around the city.

Service projects on Saturday also included post-Sandy cleanup with the Atlantic City Police Athletic League, setup and operational support for the DO AC Boardwalk Art Show with the Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton College, pre-Miss America cleanup projects, gardening at the Covenant House Atlantic City Crisis Center and a barbeque cookout with senior citizens at the Shore Park Tenant Association, among others.

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The Sept. 7 Day of Service marked the beginning of Stockton’s first-ever Semester of Service, which includes two full days of service at the start of each semester and Make a Difference Day in October, Homelessness and Hunger Awareness Week in November, Read Across America Day in March and National Volunteerism Week in April.

“Having a Semester of Service allows for a number of different opportunities to give back. It’s also a reminder that there are 364 other days to serve, so if you miss one, you can catch another,” said Office of Service-Learning Program Assistant Diana Strelczyk, who organizes the college’s service events throughout the year along with Daniel Fidalgo Tome, assistant director of Service-Learning.

To view more photos from Day of Service, please visit Flickr.

Introducing New Faculty: School of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Editor’s note: Thirty-four new faculty members are joining the Stockton community this fall. Over the coming weeks, The Times will feature brief bios of our new faculty, by school. Welcome!

Dr. Elizabeth Erbaugh is coming to the Sociology and Anthropology program from a visiting position at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Dr. Erbaugh received her Ph.D. in Sociology from The University of New Mexico, her M.A. in Sociology from The University of New Mexico, her M.A. in International Peace Studies from The University of Notre Dame, and her B.A. in Philosophy, Peace and Justice Studies from Tufts University. Betsy’s interests are in the sociology of health, particularly reproductive health. She is also invested in community organizing and social movements.

Dr. Rob Foels joins the Psychology program as a social psychologist. He received both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Syracuse University, and his B.A. in Psychology from The University of Iowa. Dr. Foels holds a research scientist affiliation with The University of Connecticut, and has had a Visiting position most recently from Amherst College. Rob’s areas of interest include the social cognition and social identity, components of prejudice and group inequality. He also conducts research on pedagogy.

Dr. Robin Hernandez-Mekonnen joins the Social Work program with a Ph.D. in Social Welfare from The University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Hernandez-Mekonnen received her M.S.W. from The University of Pennsylvania and her B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from The University of Wisconsin. Her expertise is in child welfare and she has directed several projects in that area while at Penn. Using a cross systems approach, Robin has examined health disparities, foster care, and has years of experience working with Mexican immigrant families.

Dr. Manish Madan joins the Criminal Justice program from a visiting position at Texas A&M International University. He received his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University, his M.S. in Statistics from Memorial University (Canada), and both his M.Sc. in Statistics and his B.Sc. in Mathematics from The University of New Delhi (India). His research interests are in comparative research, policy, and victimization and gender.

Justin Ostrofsky is welcomed into the Psychology program as a Visiting Instructor from his doctoral program in Cognition, Brain and Behavior at CUNY. Justin is an alumnus of Stockton, earning his B.A. in Psychology. He will be teaching Statistics and Experimental Psychology. Justin’s dissertation addresses the psychological correlates of skilled drawing. Justin’s parents also work at the college. His mother, Lisa Ostrofsky, is a cashier for Chartwells in the N-Wing cafeteria, and his father, Barry Ostrofsky, is a senior building maintenance worker.

Dr. Raymond “Dana” Rasch joins the Sociology and Anthropology program from an Assistant Professor position at Hawaii-Pacific University. Dr. Rasch received his Ph.D. in Sociology from The University of Miami, his M.S. in Criminal Justice from California State University, Los Angeles. and his B.A. in Business Administration from Flagler College in Florida. Dana is interested in sustainable community development. He co-founded The Las Mercedes Project, a non-profit organization in Latin America. Dana also studies the pedagogy of service-learning.
Interdepartmental Staff Partner on New Online Grants System

Since October 2012, the Grants Office staff has coordinated a Project Team from across divisions to construct an online system for Time and Effort Reporting. Federal law requires that Stockton maintain a system in which people who receive compensation from grants can document their commitment. The team spent weekly meetings over the months collaborating on the design of an automated process for grant participants.

Members of the Project Team included: Joan Joseph, professional services specialist in Academic Affairs; Andrew Fitzpatrick, professional services specialist in Fiscal Affairs; Amanda Martin, data processing programmer in the Office of Computer Services & Telecommunication; Christy Santiago, professional services specialist in Fiscal Affairs; Kelly Oquist, professional services specialist in Budget & Fiscal Planning; Pantelia Bairaktaris, assistant director of Grants Development; Jessica Maguire, Academic Affairs; Jo-Anna Inferrera, associate supervisor, HRIS, PMIS, Banner in Human Resources; Jillian Cawley, Grants; Joseph Marcello, assistant supervisor in Human Resources; and Beth Olsen, director of Grants.

“Representatives from Grants, Budget, Finance, Human Resources, Payroll and Computer Services worked together to establish the security, rules, and controls required for an efficient process,” Beth Olsen said. “Over time, each team member better understood what the others faced in their daily work lives—a gratifying outcome—and friendships formed along the way to a successful project.”

End-user training started Aug. 29 and will continue throughout the semester, as needed. More information on effort certification can be found on the Grants website.

Rose Scaffidi Receives Funding to Lead Nursing Initiative Team

Rose Scaffidi, assistant professor of Nursing, has received external grant funding through Rutgers University to be the southern NJ Team Leader of a nursing initiative. This initiative is planning the future of nursing education. Scaffidi is funded for the first phase of this work which is identifying the current state of nursing education in relationship to required competencies.

“I will be conducting a gap analysis of the present RN-BSN nursing curriculum at Stockton using the Nurse of the Future Core Competencies,” Scaffidi said.

Areas for improvement in the nursing curriculum will be identified and compared with the curriculum for an associate’s degree in nursing at Atlantic Cape Community College, Scaffidi said. “This will provide a mechanism to link curricula in a seamless progression model building on the strengths of each program,” she said.

Practice partners from various settings, such as AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center (ARMC), Bacharach, and DePaul Healthcare, will then be asked what is relevant to nursing practice in their institutions.

“The ultimate goal is to work together to establish competency based models for education that can provide a higher educated nursing workforce in New Jersey,” Scaffidi said.
Jacob Feige’s Work Featured in Campus Art Gallery Exhibition

Jacob Feige, assistant professor of Art, will be featured in the Campus Art Gallery through Nov. 15. The artwork in the main exhibition, entitled “Jacob Feige: Paintings, 2008-13,” features paintings from the last five years. With a focus on abstraction and the North American landscape, Feige establishes relationships between American regional culture, nature, and the unreliability of human perception through a series of distinct projects, according to the exhibition handout. The work in this exhibition draws from three particular bodies of work, each with its own references and concerns.

“After Dense Fog, 2008-2009” is a series of paintings that searches the American west for the utopian spirit of Buckminster Fuller and the commune builders of the 1960s. “From the Bellona Museum of Natural History, 2010-11” is a non-linear, outsider’s perspective on the natural history museum through painting, drawing, and sculpture. “Screens, 2012-13” is a project depicting southern New Jersey made specifically for this exhibition. Isolation, physical labor, and personal vulnerability characterize these figures as they relate to a rural and suburban environment still recovering from Hurricane Sandy.

Feige is also the curator of the upper gallery exhibition “Tomorrow is Never,” also running through Nov. 15. The exhibition features seven artists who explore ruins, both ancient and recent, through a range of media and approaches. The artists project their own strategies, desires, and fantasies onto the world of ruins.

Feige will host a Gallery Talk on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 2:30 p.m. The campus art gallery, located in lower L-Wing, is open Monday-Saturday noon-7:30 p.m. and Sundays noon-4 p.m.

New Health Insurance Information to come from Human Resources

Look for an e-mail announcement from Human Resources on Friday, Sept. 13 regarding new health insurances options under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Beginning in 2014, the ACA will provide an option for individuals to purchase private health insurance coverage through Health Insurance Marketplace. The Marketplace offers a convenient way to find and compare private health insurance options, and find information on a new kind of tax credit that may lower your monthly premium.

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) 652-4593 or e-mail StocktonTimes@stockton.edu.