Stockton Faculty, Students Travel to Colombia

Six faculty members and 20 students from Stockton University recently traveled to Bogota, Colombia, to visit universities, observe clinical sites and engage in cultural activities in the region.

Victoria Schindler, associate professor of Occupational Therapy, who has led the Stockton trip for the past two years, said the experience allows students to gain a greater understanding of their future professions by visiting two different universities and observing clinical sites tailored to their disciplines. This year’s students represented Stockton’s Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Nursing and Communication Disorders programs.

During the trip, which took place from March 11-18, the Stockton group took campus tours, made presentations and engaged in collaborative dialogue with faculty and students from Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Pathology programs at the Universidad del Rosario and Escuela Colombiana de Rehabilitacion.

The clinical experiences, which were arranged through the Universidad del Rosario, included visits to a military and a traditional hospital; a school for children from disadvantaged backgrounds; a government program for homeless individuals with addiction problems; and a private school.

The Stockton group also toured the Monserrate Church, a historic church located on top of a mountain; La Candelaria, Bogota’s downtown district; museums; a coffee plantation; and a salt mine.

Prior to the trip, the students had raised $1,200, which they donated to an orphanage. The group also distributed donated hygiene products, new and gently used clothing and toys during their site visits.

“Over the years, the trip has not only grown in quantity, but I feel as though it’s grown in depth. We have been able to package a trip through a combination of activities that gives students deep meaningful experiences that can be a significant part of their professional identity as they start their careers,” Schindler said.

The faculty members who participated on the trip also included Patricia Quinn McGinnis, professor of Physical Therapy; Monika Pawlowska, assistant professor of Communication Disorders; Margaret Gray, assistant professor of Nursing; Luis Garcia, assistant professor of Health Science; and Javier Sanchez, associate professor of Spanish.
Women’s History Month Celebrated with University-wide Events

Stockton University celebrated Women’s History Month with more than a dozen events spanning both the main campus and instructional sites.

The Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies (WGSS) program, the Office of E-Learning and the Computer Science Teachers Association - Southern New Jersey Chapter partnered to screen the documentary film, “Big Dream” in the Campus Center Theatre on March 10. After the film, First Lady Lynne Kesselman served on a panel of female professionals to discuss experiences working in STEM fields.

The Manahawkin Instructional Site partnered with AtlantiCare and the Rothman Institute to hold a Women’s Health Fair on March 11, offering Body Mass Index screenings, and information on health, wellness and osteoporosis. Adjunct Instructor Gina Maguire presented, “Creativity and Your Health,” and Adjunct Instructor Anthony Dissen presented holistic approaches to stress management.

The Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Center (WGSC) partnered with the Atlantic County Women’s Center (ACWC) to hold the Certified Osprey Advocacy Training program during spring break.

Janice Joseph, Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice, presented, “Violence Against Transgender Women: Intersectionality of Gender, Race, Class, and Gender Identity” on March 24, sponsored by WGSS. Joseph discussed how despite increased visibility, transgender individuals are the victims of violence because of gender nonconformity in society, particularly transgender women.

The Office of Student Development held a screening of the film, “Suffragette,” an historical period drama taking place during the suffrage movement in early 20th-century Britain.

Jane Bokunewicz, assistant professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management Studies, led a Start Smart workshop on March 31, sponsored by WGSS. The American Association of University Women’s Smart Start and Work Start programs are designed to empower women with the skills and confidence to successfully negotiate salary and benefits packages. Claudine Keenan, dean of the School of Education and a member of the AAUW organization, suggested hosting the Smart Start workshop.

The Office of Service-Learning and the Office of Event Services & Campus Center Operations co-sponsored a Democracy Café titled, “Women in Politics,” which focused on the discrimination faced by female political candidates.

The Office of Service-Learning also co-sponsored, “The Vagina Monologues” with the ACWC. All proceeds benefited the Women’s Center, a non-profit agency serving families in Atlantic County, and the V-Day Worldwide Campaign to raise awareness about violence against women and girls.

Kramer Hall hosted a four-part lecture series titled, “Women’s March Toward Equity.” As part of the series, Stockton Adjunct Instructor Patricia Chappine presented, “New Jersey Women in World War II” and Professor of Political Science Linda J. Wharton presented, “Winning the Vote: Postcards and Other Images from the American Woman Suffrage Movement.” Many of the pieces presented were from Wharton’s personal collection of vintage postcards.

Stockton’s Inaugural TEDx Offers 9 Presentations to Community

One hundred faculty, staff, students and local community members attended Stockton’s inaugural TEDx event on March 22, featuring nine presentations, seven of which were given by faculty and staff members.

TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks - 18 minutes or less. TEDx, an offshoot of TED talks, supports independent organizers who want to create a TED-like event in the community.

Continued on next the page
Stockton’s Inaugural TEDx Offers Presentations

Presenters included: Lewis Leitner, professor of Management; Elizabeth Lacey, assistant professor of Marine Science; Joel Caplan, associate professor of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University, deputy director of the Rutgers Center on Public Security, and son of Stockton Associate Professor Ron Caplan; Nazia Kazi, assistant professor of Anthropology; Lydia Fecteau, adjunct instructor; Stockton student Alexander Meyers; Daniel J. Douglas, director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy; Sarah Roman, English and Literature teacher at Raritan High School in Hazlet, N.J.; and Donnetrice C. Allison, associate professor of Communication and Africana Studies.

The event was organized by Carra Leah Hood, assistant provost for Programs and Planning and associate professor of Writing; Peter Baratta, chief planning officer; Neil Aaronson, associate professor of Physics and Stockton alumnus Mico Lucide.

Stockton Production Services recorded the conference and will upload individual presenter videos to the Stockton channel on the TEDx website. To view more photos from the event, click here.

Faculty, Students Participate in Social Work Advocacy Day

Assistant professors of Social Work Robin Hernandez-Mekonnen and Jack Lewis took 25 Stockton students to the Second Annual Social Work Advocacy Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C. for National Social Work Month in March. The daylong conference aims to build a community of social work students and early career professionals, enhance advocacy skills, and engage participants in the legislative process.

“A friendly gentleman sat down next to me and asked if we were from Stockton in New Jersey,” said Hernandez-Mekonnen. “He introduced himself as Donald Norcross [D-NJ 1st District] and invited us up to his fifth floor office. Congressman Norcross informed our group he is looking for a new staffer, and would gladly consider a soon-to-be MSW graduate.”

Hernandez-Mekonnen, Lewis and the Stockton graduate and undergraduate students also visited the offices of Donald Payne (D-NJ 10th District), Frank Pallone (D-NJ 6th District) and Barbara Lee (D-CA-13th District).

The group provided support and testimony for the Improving Access to Mental Health Act of 2015. The bill seeks to improve access to mental health care for seniors, and increase the Medicare reimbursement rate from 75 percent to 85 percent for licensed social workers, putting them closer on par with other providers, explained Hernandez-Mekonnen. Lee, a social worker and an member of the Congressional Social Work Caucus, sponsored the bill.

“Several students shared that this ‘hands-on experience’ provided them with the opportunity to view advocating for social policy issues through a very different lens than being in a classroom,” Lewis said. “Some students said this experience has inspired them to seriously consider pursuing social work careers in the policy advocacy arena.”
Space Management Committee Announces Room Change

Students, faculty and staff in the Performing Arts program will benefit from additional space as a result of a recommendation made by the Space Management Committee and approved by President Harvey Kesselman.

The School of Arts & Humanities (ARHU) requested use of room M205B, located within the dance studio in M205. Stockton Production Services is the current user of the M205B. Since the department no longer operate a TV studio in M205, it agreed to relocating the items currently stored in the space. The Performing Arts program will use the space for storage and house a refrigerator for cold packs often needed for first aid by the dancers.

“The use of this space for storage and to house a refrigerator will be very beneficial for the Performing Arts faculty and students. Additional costume storage space addresses an ongoing program need, while instant access to first-aid cold packs to treat injuries our dancers sustain in the studio is crucial to their health and safety. We appreciate the committee’s work to evaluate and approve our application for the space,” said Lisa Honaker, dean of ARHU.

The Space Management Committee meets monthly to review and make recommendations regarding requests that involve significant alterations, major re-assignments or functional changes in space owned or controlled by the University. The two-step committee recommendation process requires two forms, both due the last business day of each month. To learn more, please visit the committee’s website.

Administrative Changes Announced in Various Stockton Offices

Denise Green, professional services specialist in the President’s Office, joins the Dean of Student’s Office. Green replaces Joan Vander Ryk, who recently retired.

Theresa Marinelli, professional services specialist in the Provost’s Office, joins the Office of the President. She fills the position vacated by Green.

Kelly Oquist, professional services specialist in the Office of Budget and Planning, joins the Provost’s Office. She fills the position vacated by Marinelli.

Gail Tracy of the Office of Institutional Research, joins the Provost’s Office as a professional services specialist. She fills the position vacated by Jessica Kay. Kay was recently reassigned to the President’s Office and now serves as the data analyst & assistant to the chief planning officer.

Millie Romanelli, professional services specialist in the President’s Office, has been assigned new duties which include providing administrative support to the Office of Institutional Research.

Dan B. Cordle has been named interim director of Facilities Management & Plant Operations. Cordle, a professional engineer, has been effectively managing and engineering mechanical and electrical infrastructure-based projects for the University as part of the Department of Facilities Planning & Construction. Cordle replaces Joe Naumchik, who recently announced his retirement.

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 609-626-5521 (ext. 5521) or via email at 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 by emailing distinctive@stockton.edu.