



Stockton's Dr. Mary Lou Galantino Recognized as Fulbright Specialist for HIV, Cancer Rehab

Third Member of College Community Tapped in 2013 for Global Programs

For Immediate Release; with Galantino photo attached

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Galloway, NJ – Dr. Mary Lou Galantino, professor of Physical Therapy in the School of Health Sciences at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, has been added to the roster of Fulbright specialists for her expertise in HIV-AIDS rehabilitation, cancer rehabilitation and integrative medicine.

“We are delighted that another member of Stockton’s faculty has been recognized as a Fulbright specialist,” said President Herman J. Saatkamp. “Dr. Galantino’s work with HIV and cancer rehabilitation is remarkable.”

“Dr. Galantino joins Dr. Robert Nichols, whose Fulbright award will take him to Quaid-i-Azam University in Pakistan this summer, and new graduate Barbara Fisher, who will helping teach English in the Czech Republic, in expanding the College’s global reach.”

The Fulbright roster is a list of candidates who are eligible to be matched with incoming requests from overseas academic institutions for specialists, according to the Fulbright program.

“Should someone want to develop an HIV or cancer rehabilitation program in India or South Africa, for instance, as a Fulbright specialist, institutions are able to seek my help for anywhere from two to six weeks,” Dr. Galantino explained.

She said she hasn’t been definitively matched yet, but last summer, she presented at an international HIV Rehabilitation Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa where she

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established relationships with the faculty at the University of Witwatersrand.

Discussions included additional integrative medicine components for chronic diseases to the curriculum. She also worked with faculty to collect data on an HIV research endeavor to compare differences across countries in the area of painful peripheral neuropathy syndrome in this population.

Galantino thinks the “most likely” place for her to be sent next summer as a Fulbright specialist would be South Africa, which is fighting an HIV-AIDS epidemic and a greater need for HIV community-based rehabilitation.

“Through evidence-based research, I take a holistic approach with integrative medicine, using my expertise in HIV and cancer rehabilitation. Yoga, Tai-Chi and meditation are a few of the holistic approaches in my work with graduate students, patients in the clinic and through my research,” Dr. Galantino said.

Dr. Galantino noted that Stockton’s 2020 Vision includes global initiatives.

“As an advisory board member of Stockton’s Center for Community Engagement and the Global Initiatives Team, I was hoping to impact opportunities for collaborative research, curriculum development and potential sites for our Doctor of Physical Therapy students across the globe,” she said of her motivation in seeking the Fulbright.

She added that this July, she is planning a two-week trip to volunteer her time with Stockton students to provide physical therapy in Haiti at a clinic for individuals still affected by the 2010 earthquake.

“Dr. Mary Lou Galantino has done extraordinary work throughout her career,” said Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president of the college. “This recognition is extremely well deserved, and Stockton is proud to have two members of the faculty and one student receive recognition from the Fulbright programs.”

Dr. Bess Kathrins, interim dean of the School of Health Sciences, said, “We are very excited to have our first Fulbright specialist in the School of Health Sciences. This opportunity will permit Dr. Galantino to further strengthen her commitment to rehabilitation in developing countries and broaden our students’ appreciation of international health-care needs.”

Dr. Galantino said, “I definitely wish to thank Beth Olsen and Dr. Rob Nichols who inspired me to apply as a Fulbright specialist.” “I also want to thank Dr. Harvey Kesselman for two previous provost funding grants which took me to China in 2011 and South Africa in 2012. During the trip to China, I was able to establish a working relationship with the Acupuncture Hospital in Beijing, where two Stockton

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undergraduate nursing students will have a four-week opportunity to learn about traditional Chinese Medicine this July. All these great initiatives are among the things that put Stockton 'on the map.' "

"The Fulbright would allow me to give back to countries that can advance in these areas and cultivate long-term collaborations," Dr. Galantino said.

"In the spirit of my passion for integrative medicine, I serve as the Holistic Health Coordinator for undergraduates at Stockton, work with a multidisciplinary faculty and great graduate students who advance our education and research agenda at the college," she continued.

"I have the good fortune to continue a clinical practice and serve our community," said Dr. Galantino, who is also a yoga instructor and certified wellness coach.

"I certainly have the best profession in the world," Dr. Galantino said.

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