

Stockton Professor Earns Fulbright Award

Dr. Robert Nichols Wins 4th Fulbright; Will Work With University in Pakistan

For Immediate Release; with photo

Monday, May 06, 2013

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Galloway, NJ – Dr. Robert Nichols, professor of Historical Studies at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, has been awarded a Fulbright grant – his fourth - to help Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad, Pakistan develop an American studies graduate degree program.

“Dr. Nichols exemplifies the College’s commitment to global perspectives, which are one of the cornerstones of a Stockton education and a hallmark of the Stockton faculty,” said President Herman J. Saatkamp.

“We congratulate Rob on his fourth Fulbright, which just shows how distinctive he is,” President Saatkamp said.

Dr. Nichols, a Stockton professor since 2000, is a specialist in the political, social, economic and cultural histories of Pakistan, South Asia and Afghanistan. His 30-day Fulbright Specialist grant in Pakistan will run from mid-August to mid-September 2013.

“I have been invited by the Area Studies Center of Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan to meet with the faculty and students of their long-established American Studies graduate degree program to discuss American Studies as taught at Stockton, to compare American Studies courses as taught in the United States and at their Center, and to confer about curriculum development opportunities as they expand and diversify their course offerings,” Dr. Nichols said Friday.

“I have previously done research and lectured in Islamabad and around Pakistan and have specifically worked with colleagues at the Area Studies Center. These connections have led to the current grant.”

This is Nichols' second Fulbright specialist award, which are for on-site work of a shorter duration than the research fellowships. In the summer of 2011, a Fulbright Specialist grant also took him to Islamabad, Pakistan, where he did curriculum development consulting with the History Department faculty at Allama Iqbal Open University and with the American Studies faculty at Quaid-i-Azam University.

Nichols also has had two Fulbright research awards, including one in 2010 in which he spent three months in Pakistan doing historical text research and translation projects.

In 2003, Nichols spent seven months on a Fulbright Regional Research grant involving "An Indian Ocean Social History of Migration for Labor, c.1850-2000." He did research in India from January-April 2003 and the United Arab Emirates from May-July 2003.

"Dr. Nichols has been publishing extensively in the field of Indian Ocean history throughout his time at Stockton, and he has unique expertise in the histories of both Pakistan and Afghanistan," said Dean Robert Gregg of the School of Arts and Humanities. "It is very fitting that he should be selected for this great honor, so that he can work with colleagues at Quaid-i-Azam University, the leading university in Islamabad."

"I have had good success at Stockton in pursuing a research agenda because of the complete support of the Dean of Arts and Humanities, Dr. Robert Gregg, a fine historian himself, and of the Provost's and President's offices," Dr. Nichols said Friday.

"Dr. Nichols is an extraordinary member of our faculty, and I am not surprised he has received this prestigious award and recognition," said Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president of Stockton. "Having both a student and now a member of our faculty receive Fulbrights this year is substantial recognition of Stockton's growing academic reputation."

Dr. Nichols has written or edited several books, including a recent publication, the edited volume "The Frontier Crimes Regulation, A History in Documents" (Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2013; <http://www.oup.com.pk/shopexd.asp?id=2473>)

Dr. Nichols was the Fulbright Program advisor to Stockton Honors Physics student Barbara Fisher, 22, of Westville, NJ, who won the college's first student Fulbright earlier this year. Fisher, who graduates this month with a B.S. degree in Applied Physics, will be teaching English in the Czech Republic on her Fulbright grant in the 2013-14 academic year.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It founded by the late U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright in 1946 and now operates in 155 countries. Fulbrights provide funding for students, scholars, teachers, and professionals for graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools.

There are many Fulbright grants, including those for post-doctoral research, specialist grants that allow American scholars to work on foreign campuses for shorter periods, and awards for graduate students.

Other Stockton faculty members have won Fulbrights over the years, including most recently, Dr. Joseph Lema, associate professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management. Dr. Lema's Fulbright took him to the Republic of the Maldives in 2012, where he worked in cooperation with the Maldives College of Higher Education, the Ministry of Human Resources, the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture, and various stakeholders in the resort industry.

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