ARHU Receives $200,000 to Co-Produce ‘State of the Arts NJ’

The School of Arts and Humanities (ARHU) has been awarded a $200,000 state grant through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to continue co-producing the Emmy-Award-winning “State of the Arts NJ” program.

The program features New Jersey artists and arts organizations, raising their visibility throughout the state. Stockton has been a co-producer of the show with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in cooperation with PCK Media since 2011, stepping in after the demise of New Jersey Network public television.

Dean Lisa Honaker, of Stockton’s School of Arts and Humanities, and Dean Robert Gregg of the School of General Studies, work with members of the Arts Council and PCK Media on matters related to the show’s production and promotion.

“State of the Arts NJ” has featured the work of Stockton faculty including Dr. Michael Pedicin, jazz saxophonist, recording artist and associate professor of Music; Pulitzer-Prize-winning poet Dr. Stephen Dunn, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing; and sculptor Jed Morfit, associate professor of Art.

The show airs on NJTV every Sunday at 8 p.m. and Thursdays at 11:30 p.m. on High Definition Channel 261 in Atlantic County. “State of the Arts NJ” also airs locally on WHYY Channel 12 and High Definition Channel 812, every Sunday at 11 a.m. For more information on “State of the Arts NJ,” including programming and awards, click here.

SOBL Team Creates South African Tour Exhibit

Dawn Watkins, professional services specialist, and Cynthia McClure, supervisor of accounts, of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SOBL), recently created an Upper G-Wing display which highlights Economics Professor Dr. Melaku Lakew’s South African Study Tour.

Dr. Cheryl Kaus, dean of SOBL, wanted to use the area to highlight SOBL programs, Watkins explained. “Cheryl came to us with the project, and Cyndi and I brainstormed to come up with the idea for the current display."

Over the past few weeks, the duo worked together to create, “South Africa: Past and Present.”

Continued on next page
SOBL Team Creates South African Tour Exhibit

Past and Present,” which highlights three themes of Dr. Lakew’s South African experience: nature and safari; life and culture; and community engagement.

The display features photographs dating back to 1996, when Dr. Lakew began the study tour.

Viewers can take in the panoramic beauty of the Blyde River Canyon and Table Mountain, one of the natural wonders of the world, Watkins explained.

Other images capture tribe traditions and culture as well as Stockton students’ work with local communities. Photos include a giant statue of Nelson Mandela in Pretoria, South Africa; people from the Zulu and Xhosa tribes; and Ethiopian natives transporting firewood.

McClure, who processes travel from the SOBL office, stressed the tour is “not a vacation” and that the students “truly help and engage with small, local tribes.”

Dr. Lakew maintains contact with organizations in South Africa throughout the year as each cohort chooses a class project. In addition, the tour continues its partnership with the Books Without Borders program every year. Travelers are allowed to bring two suitcases with them, McClure explained. Students take one case filled with personal items and another filled with books. The 2014 class donated over 500 books to the Integrated Family Service Organization in Ethiopia, and the Grief and Loss Center in Cape Town, South Africa. Both organizations cater to orphan children and others affected by HIV/AIDS. Stockton students also donate books to children in Soweto, South Africa, who eagerly await the tour’s arrival.

“The South African communities really look forward to Melaku’s study tour trip. Teenagers started receiving books from him when they were young children, and now they bring their younger siblings along. It really impacts the community,” McClure said.

Dr. Lakew said the program serves as an agent of social change. “A society in South Africa that was divided by the evils of racial separation of apartheid gets inspiration from our happy, multiple-ethnic student groups. White and black people rarely live together as neighbors in South Africa. Literally, a black kid in South Africa may grow and create a family without touching and knowing what white people think of him. Our students go in the predominately black townships and express love and care to the children. The effort opens minds to the possibility that all people have a potential for love.”

Dr. Lakew also opens the South African Study Tour to faculty and staff as well. Some faculty members have participated in the trip, using the experience to influence their own teaching.

“I’ve been in SOBL for 14 years and Melaku has gone every year,” McClure emphasized. “And he remembers each and every student,” Watkins and McClure said simultaneously.

“The students are so passionate,” Watkins continued. “It’s a diverse group of people who come together and share so many experiences. It’s eye-opening and touching to see people give back to the community in such a large way. We started with the goal to promote our programs – it just made sense to display what Melaku has created and captured,” Watkins said.

The team hopes to alternate displays every semester in order to showcase various SOBL programs.

Dr. Maria Moyer Named Interim Director of Grants Development

Dr. Maria Moyer has been named Interim Director of the Grants Office. She will provide oversight of daily operations until the search for an executive director is successfully concluded.

Dr. Moyer was previously associate dean and director of the Academic Laboratories and Field Facilities where she served from 1992 until her retirement in 2006.
**Dr. Manish Madan and Stockton Police Recognized in India**

Dr. Manish Madan, assistant professor of Criminal Justice, recently attended the Violence Against Women and Police Reform research symposium in India. Dr. Madan also served as an integral member of the group which helped organize the event.

At the symposium, Dr. Madan and co-author Dr. Mahesh Nalla, professor and associate director at the Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice, presented their paper titled “Women Empowerment and Domestic Violence in India: Urban/Rural Differences.”

Presentations discussed accreditation as part of the Police Reform strategies in India; developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to measure police efficiency; police performance; and professionalism.

Dr. N. Prabha Unnithan, professor of Sociology and director of the Center for the Study of Crime and Justice at Colorado State University, presented a paper on “Role of Accreditation and SOPs in Reforming American Police,” where he used an example of the Richard Stockton College Police Department’s (RSCPD) SOP on missing persons.

Dr. Unnithan praised Dr. Madan and RSCPD in front of an audience comprised of senior police officers, bureaucrats, foreign and local academics, and administrators.

“Standard Operating Procedures have always been a practice of law enforcement agencies,” Stockton Police Chief Gregory Coffin explained. “However, attaining accreditation helps to maintain transparency and professionalism in our procedures.”

The procedures are standards originally established by The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) which were re-established through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP).

Under the leadership of former Stockton Chief of Police Glenn Miller, Al Kernagis, former RSCPD accreditation manager, and the late Officer Maria Parziale were the founding participants in the CALEA accreditation process. Their work led RSCPD to the first accreditation process, explained Chief Coffin.

“We are now in our third re-accreditation, with the last one completed through the NJSACOP accreditation process,” Chief Coffin said. “This process has ensured RSCPD maintains its core IDEAL values of Integrity, Dedication, Excellence, Achievement, and Loyalty in an effective and professional manner.”

“It was a proud moment for me to see The Richard Stockton College Campus Police name and their work recognized in a different part of the world,” Dr. Madan said. “Stockton College, with its scholarship and global engagement mission, is able to place itself on an international platform through various faculty research. I am grateful to be a part of this mission.”

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**Stockton’s Richard E. Bjork Library Launches Updated Website**

Stockton’s Richard E. Bjork Library launched its new website on Aug. 18. The new website features simplified content, intuitive navigation and responsive design for compatibility with handheld devices.

A variety of new tools and forms will improve communication services, access to research resources and productivity.

Martine Honigsberg, electronic resources coordinator; David Lechner, assistant professor in the Library; and Gus Stamatopoulos, associate director for Public Services, planned the new website based on feedback obtained through focus groups with students, faculty and library staff. Honigsberg executed the plan and overall website redesign with assistance from Lou Regan, professional services specialist in Computer and Telecommunication Services.

The Library recommends that everyone review and update their Library bookmarks. Staff may contact Joe Toth, director of Library Services, or the Library directly for assistance. Faculty may contact the Library Liaison for their program.

To view the Library’s new website, click here.
Give Back to Stockton When You Shop Online at AmazonSmile

Faculty and staff can now give back to Stockton just by shopping on Amazon. The company's AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5 percent of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Stockton Foundation.

Shoppers first select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before shopping. AmazonSmile saves the user's selection, and then every eligible purchase made on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

AmazonSmile offers the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, at no cost to the consumer. The Stockton Foundation is one of nearly one million organizations partnered with AmazonSmile.

To begin shopping on AmazonSmile, visit www.smile.amazon.com.

Carnegie and Graphics’ Bowen Family Welcome Baby Girl

Diana (Bowen) Allen, professional services specialist at Carnegie Center, and her husband, Stephen, welcomed daughter Aubrey Elizabeth Allen on Aug. 13 at 8:18 a.m. Aubrey weighed in at 5 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Julie Bowen, associate supervisor in Graphics, is excited to be a first-time grandmom. Congratulations to the Bowen and Allen families!

Thomas Roth Joins the College as Stockton’s New Bursar

Thomas Roth has joined the Bursar’s Office and will serve as Stockton’s bursar. Roth has extensive experience in collegiate business and financial matters. He formerly worked as bursar at Salem Community College, director of the Business Office at Camden County College and senior accountant at Widener University. Roth also held the position of assistant controller at both the Union League of Philadelphia and the Statler Hotel at Cornell University.

Roth has a MBA from Widener University and received his B.S. in Business from Stockton in 1981.

Construction Corner: Parking, Stairwells, Elevators, and More

The Office of Facilities and Construction has been keeping busy this summer with a number of projects. Faculty and staff returning to campus this fall will notice a number of improvements and renovations, including:

- A new parking lot adjacent to the Arts & Science building. The dirt lot across from Vera King Farris Drive has been eliminated.
- Completed renovations of the Arts and Humanities Office in Lower K-wing.
- A completed HVAC and roofing project at Housing 3.

This fall, stairwells and elevators will be replaced in wings B, F, H, J, K, M. The project will be completed sequentially. There will be alternative means to move up and down the floors.

Click here to view a map of the Campus Construction master plan.

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 coworkers 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 or e-mail 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