Stockton Faculty Hold Theatre Workshop in Rhodes, Greece

A group of Stockton faculty members and students recently traveled to Rhodes, Greece to participate in a script development workshop to review an original translation of a contemporary Greek play.

The workshop, coordinated by Dr. Mark Mallet, associate professor of Theatre, and Dr. Pamela Hendrick, professor of Theatre, was designed to prepare for the Stockton Theatre Program and Hellenic Studies Program’s world premiere performance of The Courtyard of Miracles in February 2015.

Written in 1957 by Iakovos Kambanelis, The Courtyard of Miracles depicts a compelling portrayal of contemporary working-class Greek life. Kambanelis is considered one of the most prominent Greek writers of the 20th century.

“The Courtyard of Miracles is regarded as a masterpiece of contemporary Greek drama,” Dr. Mallet explained. “Kambanelis is often compared to Arthur Miller or Tennessee Williams for his use of social realism.”

During the workshop, Dr. Mallet, Dr. Hendrick, Dr. David Roessel, professor of Greek Language & Literature, and five students from Stockton’s Theatre and Literature programs collaborated with faculty and students from Princeton University while reviewing the first draft of a new translation by University of New Brunswick literary scholar Demetres P. Tryphonopoulos. They were joined by Tryphonopoulos and Martha Frintzila, who will guest direct the play at Stockton.

The group spent six to eight hours a day analyzing the new translation for style and content while Tryphonopoulos made revisions based on the group’s analysis. The intensive process included reading the text out loud and discussing its consistency and playability in terms of character and tone.

“This kind of personal experience of the culture from which the play was created and working side-by-side with the translators and Greek artists could not be replicated by simply reading about it or hearing about it second-hand; both the script that came out of the workshop and the production of it that we’ll mount in February 2015 will be more richly nuanced and organic as a result,” Dr. Mallet said.

The trip also included site visits to the Acropolis and the site of the actual Courtyard of Miracles in Athens.
Dr. Tait Chirenje Teaches, Performs Salsa Dancing at Kramer Hall

Dr. Tait Chirenje, associate professor of Environmental Studies, taught salsa dancing at Kramer Hall’s Third Thursday event last week.

Dr. Chirenje and his dance partner and friend, Betty Acetti, performed and led salsa dancing demonstrations. More than a dozen people participated in their salsa dancing instruction.

“A group of people watched and others danced; people also brought their kids for the painting activities. I even danced with about half a dozen 3- to 8-year-olds,” Dr. Chirenje said.

The Environmental Studies instructor has been dancing as a hobby for about six years. Twice a week, he hones his skills at city dance clubs.

“I perform every now and then. Currently, my favorite dances are bachata, salsa and kizomba,” said Dr. Chirenje. “I’m not an expert dancer, but I’m now at the same skill level as semi-professionals. I love dancing. It’s good exercise and even better therapy.”

Kramer Hall staff members organized the Third Thursday festivities, which included Latin-style drumming and “Fiesta Musica” painting instructions. The Noyes Museum in Hammonton also held a Salsa Showdown for the town’s event.

Dr. Michael Busler Presents Paper on Corruption at Conference

Dr. Michael Busler, associate professor of Business Studies, attended the 12th annual conference of the World Association for Sustainable Development held in Montreal, Canada from August 12-14. The theme of the conference was “West Meets East: Sharing the Past and Current Experience to Benefit the Future.”

Dr. Busler’s research interest has been the effects that corruption has had on developing and developed countries.

At the conference, a number of papers were presented about the negative effects corruption has on less developed countries.

“These effects include slowing economic growth and development; reducing payments to social welfare programs and adding to income inequality; little work has been done examining the effect corruption has on developed countries,” Dr. Busler said.

He presented his paper, “The Relationship Between Corruption and Government Involvement in Economic Activity,” which examined the effect of total tax burden, income tax rates, government spending, and regulatory policies on corruption in developed economies. In his research, he found that corruption tends to increase as tax burdens, government spending, and regulatory practices increase.

“This explains why the U.S. is now viewed as being more corrupt today than it was 10 years ago,” Dr. Busler noted.

Dr. Busler measured corruption using Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index. His paper finished as the second best paper at the conference.

The School of Arts and Humanities Returns to K-Wing Offices

The School of Arts and Humanities moved back to its K-wing offices yesterday after a two-month construction project in the area. The K-wing renovation includes nine new offices, a dean’s suite, the PAC director’s office, a workroom, conference room and file room.
Ashley Parker Named New Head Women’s Cross Country Coach

Ashley Parker is the new head women’s cross country coach/assistant track and field coach. Parker is moving up to the college level after six years coaching high school track. She was the head girls cross country coach, head girls outdoor track and field coach, and assistant indoor track and field coach at her alma mater, Pleasantville High School, from 2008-2014. During her first two years at Pleasantville, she also served as an assistant boys track and field coach.

Parker was a distinguished and highly accomplished student-athlete at Lincoln University from 2003-2007.

She collected a total of six All-American honors in track and field while at Lincoln, highlighted by winning the 2006 national championship in the indoor 4x400 relay. That same year, Parker also was a top-three finisher in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays at the NCAA Championships. She was inducted into the Lincoln University Hall of Fame in 2012 as part of its inaugural class.

In 2007, Parker was a finalist for the NCAA Woman of the Year award, becoming the first individual from a historically black college or university to reach that status. She also earned ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America Third Team honors as a senior.

Computer Services Announces Classroom Upgrades in F-Wing

This fall, faculty teaching in the F-wing will notice upgrades in selected classrooms. During the summer, Computer Services renovated F-201, 204-7, 209-10 and 215 in order to create an innovative classroom experience, while providing instructors flexibility to move around while teaching. The project was funded by the Higher Education Equipment Leasing Fund Bond.

The permanently-installed lecterns were replaced in favor of wheeled credenzas, containing audio visual and PC equipment with DVD drives, and mobile speaking podiums. The projectors and classroom PCs both utilize HDMI connections for clearer and brighter images. In addition, the Elmo document cameras have all been replaced with digital Wolfvision units that also use HDMI for excellent clarity and impressive zoom and focus capabilities.

The credenza features a keypad to power the projector, select an input source and adjust the volume in the classroom, as well as tools for manipulating the PC mounted within from anywhere in the room. Faculty will also have the ability to stream media from their iOS devices when selecting the Apple TV input on the control keypad.

Drew Uth of Computer Services said the new upgrades allow instructors to move freely around the room, but the credenzas can also be rolled out and positioned for instructors to teach from behind.

"Without Bob Heinrich’s vision and support, this project would not have been possible," Uth said. "He has been the driving force behind our overall departmental goal of providing excellence to our faculty through technologically innovative teaching spaces and tireless support efforts."

The upgraded rooms were designed as pilots. Computer Services is interested in feedback and is available to offer tours of the new spaces and training. Please call the Help Desk at ext. 4309 to set up an appointment.
Various Departments Welcome New Faculty, Staff Members

Editor's note: More than 50 new faculty and staff members have joined the Stockton community. We will feature these faculty and staff members in the Times as more information becomes available. Welcome!

Dr. Dan Royles joins the Historical Studies program as a visiting assistant professor in U.S. History. Fresh off a year spent as an exchange lecturer in English and American History at the University of Angers in Western France, Dr. Royles received his Ph.D. in American History from Temple University and his B.A., with honors, in History from The University of California, Berkeley. His research focuses on African American social movements and the politics of race in recent American history. In addition to his dissertation, “Don’t We Die Too?: the Political Culture of African American AIDS Activism,” he has also launched the African American AIDS Activism Oral History Project to preserve the stories of African American AIDS activists and a digital archive to collect and preserve the history of black communities’ experiences with AIDS in the United States.

Jean Abbott, a Stockton alumna with a B.S. in Business Studies, will be an assistant professor in Business Studies with a focus in Accounting. Abbott is a licensed CPA with experience in accounting, finance and hospitality management and has been a long-time part-time instructor at Stockton. She expects to complete her doctoral studies in Education in 2014 from The University of Delaware and has earned her MBA from Monmouth College. Her research interests include financial literacy.

Christina Cavaliere will be an assistant professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies. Cavaliere will earn her Ph.D. in Tourism from The University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand this year. She earned her M.A. in Tourism from James Cook University in the Schools of Tropical Environmental Studies and Geography and Business, Law and Tourism. She was a post-graduate student at American University and earned her B.S. in Environmental Studies from Washington College. She has 10 years of sustainable tourism-related international project management and training program design experience with a technical background in projects involving SMEs, sustainable agriculture, climate change, agritourism, bio-cultural conservation, human geography, supply-chain management, capacity building and rural economic development.

Dr. Gerald Cohen joins Stockton as a visiting assistant professor of Computer Science and Information Systems. Dr. Cohen received his Ph.D., M.S. and B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University. He has over 30 years of industry experience as a systems engineer and information technology consultant. He has recently been an Assistant Professor in Mathematics and Computer Science at St. Joseph’s College in Brooklyn, NY. His research interests include informatics, information technology in business and technology, software and hardware development, mobile development and project management.

Dr. Keith William Diener joins Stockton as an assistant professor of Business Law. Dr. Diener recently earned his Doctor of Liberal Studies (D.L.S.) from Georgetown University. He earned his Master of Laws in International Comparative Law from George Washington University Law School, his J.D. from Georgia State University, Law School, and his B.A. in Philosophy and Religion from The University of North Carolina. He has held several law positions with independent law offices, including his own company specializing in employment, business and criminal litigation. His research interests include business law, law and ethics in project management, legal research and writing, ethics in health services management, and U.S. law.

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