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Stockton Begins Scholarship Campaign for Hammonton Students

Residents, business people, alumni and others interested in the future of Hammonton are helping Stockton raise $100,000 for a new scholarship fund dedicated to students who attend high school in Hammonton. Stockton recently embarked on the Distinctively Stockton Hammonton Proud Scholarship Campaign. This Foundation scholarship is designated for students who attended either Hammonton High or St. Joseph High.

The college plans to raise at least $100,000 in new gifts to create the Hammonton Scholarship Endowment. Once the initial goal is met, the endowed scholarship will provide an annual award of approximately $4,000 which will continue in perpetuity.

To display its commitment to Hammonton, and to encourage continued private support, the college would use institutional scholarship funds to match those produced by the fund to provide $8,000 a year for students. Stockton will provide these matching funds for 10 years or until such time that the fund allocation meets or exceeds $8,000.

Over time, additional gifts will continue to grow the endowment, increasing the amount of the award and strengthening the impact on the students, said Dr. Philip Ellmore, chief development officer and director of the College Foundation. For more information and to be part of the campaign, click here.

SCOSA Announces Year of Program Success

In the past year, The Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA) increased its revenue, programs and total attendance, and expanded its scope to a national audience.

SCOSA recently released its Fiscal Year 2013-14 Annual Report which outlined the program’s new partnerships and collaborations, media placement success, and research, education and service initiatives.

“Stockton has an abundance of gerontological expertise among its faculty and staff that is unrivaled in much of higher education. Our interdisciplinary and collaborative ethos and belief in community engagement set the tone for the kind of organization that SCOSA has become during its first seven years,” said Dr. David Burdick, SCOSA director.

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SCOSA Announces Year of Program Success in Annual Report

“As can be seen in this year’s report, we work with students and faculty from across the college, and with a variety of community organizations.”

Dr. Burdick and the SCOSA team formed eight new partnerships and expanded more than 10 others. Four externally funded programs generated nearly $30,000 in gross annual revenue in addition to about $17,500 from SCOSA’s Successful Aging Festival on May 13.

Various supporters and donors offered additional funding for SCOSA programming. More than 1,400 older adults and professionals attended 116 programs offered in 11 locations throughout Atlantic and Ocean counties.

The SCOSA team continued to work with local senior centers and communities to expand its network in Ocean, Cape May and Cumberland counties, with 564 new contacts: 454 older adults and 110 professionals.

The report highlights the involvement of faculty fellows and researchers from several schools across the college, including Arts & Humanities, Health Sciences, Business and Social & Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Lisa Cox, associate professor of Social Work and SCOSA Research Chair; Dr. Jessica Fleck, associate professor of Psychology; and Dr. Debra Busacco, assistant professor of Health Sciences, served as the FY2014 SCOSA research scholars. Descriptions of their research can be found in the Annual Report on pages 14 and 15.

In addition to scholarly lectures, SCOSA collaborated with Stockton’s Continuing Studies program, the Health Center at Galloway, Right at Home and Brandywine Assisted Living to provide professional development opportunities for professionals, paraprofessionals and other caregivers.

During the past academic year, program members, fellows and collaborators also represented SCOSA in about 27 publications and presentations related to aging and gerontology.

Fulfilling its mission, the center focused on engaging students in all aspects of its programming, including community outreach, scholarly lectures and faculty-student research.

“Most of SCOSA’s success this year and since our inception is due to persistence, resilience, hard work, and teamwork among our part-time staff, consultant, volunteer chairs, research fellows and scholars, and other volunteers, with support from Stockton’s administration,” Dr. Burdick said.

Click here to read the full report.

SCCE Offers Computer Access to Job Seekers in the Community

Stockton is providing potential job seekers who lack up-to-date technological tools with access to computers at the college’s facilities in Atlantic City, Hammonton, Manahawkin and the college’s main campus in Galloway Township through Aug. 28.

“Stockton’s Center for Community Engagement (SCCE) is aware that many employees may be entering the job market for the first time in many years and may not have up-to-date tools,” said Dr. Merydawilda Colon, interim executive director of the center.

Community resources such as local libraries and One-Stop Career Centers provided by the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development have limited numbers of computers, so the college is prepared to help, Dr. Colon explained.

SCCE has partnered with the Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Talent Network of South Jersey at Stockton and coordinated with the Carnegie Center in Atlantic City, Stockton’s main campus in Galloway, Kramer Hall in Hammonton, and the Manahawkin Instructional Site to allow any recently laid off workers as well as others concerned about their future employment to use computers for writing résumés and completing job applications.

Community members will need to have computer skills to take advantage of this first-come, first-served access at the various locations.

For dates, times and location information, click here.
Dr. Mary Lou Galantino Returns from Fulbright Specialist Program

Dr. Mary Lou Galantino, professor of Physical Therapy, recently returned from her Fulbright Specialist Program in South Africa where she provided consultation for a full curriculum review of the Physiotherapy Program in the School of Therapeutic Sciences at the University of Witwatersrand (Wits).

The Fulbright grant fostered an opportunity for Dr. Galantino to share her background in program development and assessment, as well as her research expertise in HIV and cancer rehabilitation management.

“I was an integral part of curriculum revamping and was able to engage in a dialogue regarding the advancement to the Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) with various stakeholders throughout South Africa,” Dr. Galantino said. “The DPT conversation was fostered in several venues including Zambia, Wits and Stellenbosch University, however advancing to the entry-level DPT would require careful consideration in the context of South African health care. Therefore, the focus was on the undergraduate BSc curriculum for this Fulbright round.”

As part of the curriculum review, Dr. Galantino and her team participated in several workshops to discuss goals, examine evidence-based documents and conduct curriculum mapping in order to align with national accreditation standards. Special emphasis was placed on evidence-based teaching and e-learning strategies to create greater student reflection and engagement.

The team also explored the challenges facing health care professionals, including the need to acquire cultural competence and the need to service population-based chronic disease in South Africa. They addressed these challenges by discussing the adoption of competency-based curricula, instructional technology and building networks with education institutions worldwide.

Dr. Galantino had the opportunity to present her research and explore HIV research in the area of designed population studies and strategies for treatment of various HIV rehabilitation interventions. She visited Dr. Jill Hannas-Hancock, senior researcher for the Health Economics HIV and AIDS Research Division in South Africa and her team. The group agreed to work on a collaborative research plan for population-based HIV LIVE study with the Garden State Infectious Diseases Clinic in New Jersey.

“This six-week immersion in an academic culture provided a keen sense of serving as the need arose,” said Dr. Galantino, who looks forward to future collaborations with her colleagues at Wits. “Emerging as a consultant in various areas of master’s student proposals, assistance in future lectures in the pain management program and one of the staff’s Ph.D. research proposal was an organic process. It was a rich opportunity to serve where needed.”

To learn more about the Fulbright Specialist Program, click here.

Dr. Christopher Di Santo Performs Mozart at Borgata’s Music Box

Dr. Christopher Di Santo, associate professor of Music, performed in the All Mozart Symphony No. 39 Clarinet Concerto at the Borgata Music Box Theater on Aug. 3.

He was the featured soloist for Mozart’s “Clarinet Concerto in A major, K.622” and played in the orchestra for the “Symphony No. 39 in E-flat major, K.543” under the direction of Jed Gaylin, music director for the Bay-Atlantic Symphony and Stockton’s artist-in-residence.

“These two works are sublime genius: a favorite wind concerto and one of Mozart’s most famous symphonies,” said Gaylin.

Dr. Di Santo has been Principal Clarinetist in the Bay-Atlantic Symphony, Stockton’s symphony-in-residence, since 1991.

The performance was the Bay-Atlantic Symphony’s second of three concerts in the Borgata Summer Concert Series. The symphony began the partnership with Borgata in order to bring classical music to the southern New Jersey shore.
Dr. Michael Rodriguez Attends National Endowment Seminar

Dr. Michael Rodriguez, associate professor of Political Science, was selected to attend the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Teachers’ Westward Expansion and the Constitution in the Early American Republic. The two-week institute was held in Oklahoma from June 16-27.

Dr. Rodriguez joined 24 college and university teachers from various disciplines to explore the social, cultural, and political dimensions of American westward expansion. The institute’s curriculum included readings of historic documents and book passages, and lectures by participating historians, who shared insight on how to engage these topics in a classroom setting.

In addition, participants had the opportunity to explore archives and exhibits at the Western History Collections at the University of Oklahoma and Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, OK.

Topics included the American Revolution, interpretations of the Constitution during the westward expansion, constitutional issues, such as the treatment of Native Americans and slavery, and the Mexican-American War.

“I was very much intrigued by the theme of the institute, particularly how the Constitution facilitated westward expansion,” said Dr. Rodriguez, who teaches American politics, religion and politics, and race and politics. “It also opened up a line of intellectual inquiry for me, namely whether the ideas of empire and westward expansion are compatible with American pragmatism.”

Dr. Rodriguez, who learned about the institute from the Grants Office, said he gained a greater understanding of historical accounts involving race relations and politics during Early America, and plans to share what he learned in his courses this year. He plans to use some of the readings in his senior seminar in the spring and revamp his POLS 2245 Race and Politics course. In the past, the course has focused on public policy, but now he will incorporate the intersection of race and empire.

“As a non-historian, I thought the institute was a tremendously valuable experience,” Dr. Rodriguez said. “In political science, we don’t deal enough with historical documents. It was helpful to study the idea of empire from the perspective of a different discipline.”

The National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute was jointly sponsored by the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage and the Department of History at the University of Oklahoma. To learn more about National Endowment for the Humanities education programs, [click here](#).

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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