Staff Members Assist in Two Alternative Spring Break Projects

Staff and students from Stockton worked instead of vacationing during two “Alternative Spring Breaks” aimed at helping others. One group worked with Habitat for Humanity in Rocky Mount, N.C. The other group received Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Advocacy training on campus from Stockton’s activist-in-residence Erin O’Hanlon (also of The Women’s Center.)

Darius Edwards, complex director, Sgt. Linda Kenny, Campus Police, Joseph Lizza, assistant director, Campus Center for Operations and Programs, Shiv Patel, assistant director of Graduate Enrollment Technology, and Lisa Warnock, complex director, assisted in the Habitat for Humanity alternative.

“Alternative Spring Break allows me to fulfill two of my loves - service and working with students,” Edwards said. “As a new Stockton employee, ASB gives me an opportunity to immerse myself in the campus community and truly get to know some of Stockton’s great student leaders.”

The group stayed at the North Carolina Dortches Baptist Church where they worked on improvements to the local “ReStore,” a place for the affiliate to sell items that are donated by individuals or corporations. The revenue from the ReStore is used to fund Habitat projects.

The Stockton team also worked on constructing sheds for Habitat homeowners who

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Staff Members Assist in Alternative Spring Break Projects cont.

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do not have basements, attics, or garages. They emptied, repaired, and painted a home that was donated to the affiliate after a fire and foreclosure. Once the house is finished, it will be sold to fund additional projects. Habitat for Humanity anticipates raising over $125,000 on the project.

“Alternative Spring Break is not only a great opportunity to help a family and community in need of assistance, but also to develop connections with a group of students that you may not otherwise have made in a traditional campus setting,” said Lizza.

“It is very refreshing to see Stockton students and staff provide service to others which helps build homes, hopes, and dreams,” said Warnock. “It is amazing to know that the work our students do in Rocky Mount changes the lives of many people within a small community. I am fortunate to be part something that can transform the lives of our students and the lives of those in need at the same time.”

On campus, O’Hanlon trained staff and students to be certified volunteer crisis advocates who work directly with survivors and victims of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Crisis advocates, supervised by The Women’s Center, assist with forensic exams, medical systems, police, campus hearing boards and legal proceedings. Advocates help to ensure survivors know their rights by providing information about resources and legal options. In addition, advocates help the victim gain increased access to community resources.

Dr. Busler Builds Modular House for Son, Fiancée in One Day

Dr. Michael Busler, professor of Finance, recently built an entire house in one day. Dr. Busler has been involved with real estate development and new home building for more than 30 years. His latest construction project was a home for his son, Adam Busler, and his son's fiancée, Jennifer Gardner, in Ventnor.

Gardner, an interior designer, worked with local architect Cristina Buendicho, wife of Mathematics Professor Dr. Juan Tolosa, to design the floor plan.

Dr. Busler then had the home built to his exact specifications at Apex homes, a modular company in Pennsylvania. The modular units were delivered last Monday and stored overnight at the vacant Surf Stadium in Atlantic City.

On Tuesday, four modular units were set on a foundation that Dr. Busler had built two weeks earlier. That morning, there was only a foundation and by late Tuesday afternoon, the house was virtually complete.

“People are always amazed at how quickly the home is constructed,” Dr. Busler said. “It is now about 80 percent finished. All I have to do is hook up the utilities, install the siding, finish some interior work and then grade and landscape. They should be living in the house in about six weeks.”

Dean Keenan to Present at Middle States Higher Ed Workshops

Dean Claudine Keenan of the School of Education was asked by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) to present workshops on the topic of Assessment, Planning, and Budgeting to institutions that are required to submit follow-up reports after their most recent self-study or periodic review. A total of eight MSCHE workshop sessions are scheduled, two of which will repeat so that attendees may attend high demand sessions.

Dean Keenan's workshop will focus on aligning the institutions' processes for assessment, planning and budgeting so that they form a “closed loop.”

“The people attending the workshop are ‘on warning’ for being out of compliance with one or more of these standards,” said Dean Keenan. “My co-presenters and I have been invited to help attendees do what the plenary promises: move beyond warning.”

Dean Keenan's presentation is scheduled to run twice due to high demand.
Dr. Levy’s Innovative Use of Turnitin.com Wins Recognition

Dr. Marissa Levy, associate professor of Criminal Justice, received Honorable Mention for Turnitin.com’s All Stars MVP award. Turnitin.com is a web site service which provides to educators features including originality check, online grading and peer review.

Dr. Levy uses Turnitin.com in an innovative way. “I don’t use it as a ‘gotcha’ tool to find students who are plagiarizing and report them,” she said. “I use Turnitin.com as a teaching tool. I allow students to see their reports and I teach them how to properly cite, how to avoid poor internet sources and how to use reliable ones to support their research.”

Turnitin.com’s GradeMark feature allows users to grade student papers with voice comments, written comments and bubble comments. Dr. Levy uses a combination of pre-made and customized comments for each class she teaches.

“I create a toolbox of my own comments for each class. The toolbox has commonly used, content-specific comments for each course I teach. I can drop and drag the comments into the text of the student’s paper,” Dr. Levy said. Turnitin.com also allows the educator to type directly on students’ papers.

“Every semester I've given a presentation on how I use Turnitin, how I use the GradeMark feature, how I create my toolbox, and to put comments into the toolbox. I try to help faculty with the small details about how to make it a time saver and provide students with better feedback,” Dr. Levy said.

Dennis Fotia, assistant director of E-Learning, nominated Dr. Levy for the GradeMark MVP Award. In his nomination, Fotia stated, “Since our college adopted Turnitin, Dr. Marissa Levy has championed its use. She has volunteered to present workshops on how to use it, the originality report, GradeMark, etc., for our college. Her emphasis has always been to use Turnitin as a guide for faculty and a help for students. She participated in a pilot for Grademark and emphasizes the ease and power that Grademark offers for faculty.”

To view a presentation given by Dr. Levy and Fotia on Turnitin, click here. (Dr. Levy’s part begins at 25:35.)
A/V Technician Dino Bove and Wife Welcome Daughter

Dino Bove, senior audio/visual technician, and his wife, Denise, welcomed Melanie TeriLynn on March 14 at 1:30 a.m. Melanie weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 22 inches. Dad, Mom, and Melanie are happy and healthy - Congratulations!

Dr. Kesselman Elected to Inaugural Board of Directors of ACAO

Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president, has been elected to the inaugural Board of Directors of the Association of Chief Academic Officers (ACAO).

Dr. Kesselman is one of 16 college and university officials from around the nation chosen for the board of the ACAO. He was elected March 9 in San Diego at the American Council of Education’s annual meeting.

“On a personal level, this is an honor,” said Dr. Kesselman. “More importantly, my election represents the respect that Stockton has on the national level, and the work we have done to remain at the forefront of a number of academic initiatives.”

The ACAO is the first national organization representing chief academic officers, such as provosts and vice presidents for academic affairs, from all accredited higher education institutions. The organization provides a forum for discussing important academic affairs issues, as well as an environment where CAOs can communicate with, inform and educate one another.

Alex Marino Named United Way Volunteer of the Year for 2013

Alex Marino, assistant to the provost for Atlantic City Instructional Sites, was recently named the 2013 George F. Lynn United Way Volunteer of the Year by the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and South Jersey.

Marino served as an allocations volunteer for years before stepping into his current role on the United Way Board in 2008. He has served on strategic planning, public policy, and leadership development committees, and now serves as vice chair for community investments. Prior to this role, Marino chaired the Community Advisors Council and Community Impact Team for “Mental Wellness and Reducing Substance Abuse.”

Marino has been active in the United Way’s Atlantic County Community Emerging Leaders (ACCEL) program since the young leaders group started in 2007. Marino has helped to sponsor United Way events including Day of Caring, All Wrapped Up and Celebrating The Northside, and he has provided space for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers to conduct free tax assistance.

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 co-workers 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) 652-4593 or e-mail Stockton-Times@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