Faculty and Staff Take Study Tour of WWII, Holocaust Sites

Twenty-seven people, including two Holocaust survivors, three second-generation children of Holocaust survivors and other members of the Stockton community, attended the 2013 Stockton Study Tour sponsored by The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center. The group traveled to Germany and the Netherlands from March 10-20, focusing on the history of World War II, the Third Reich and the Holocaust.

Stockton faculty and staff who led the tour include: Dr. Michael Hayse, associate professor of Historical Studies and director of the Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies; Dr. Carol Rittner, Distinguished Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Dr. Marsha Raticoff Grossman Professor of Holocaust Studies; Dr. Jan Colijn, dean of General Studies and professor of Political Science.

Also attending from the Stockton community were: President Herman J. Saatkamp Jr. and Dot Saatkamp, Mary Alice Diehl, manager of the Stockton College Bookstore; Dr. Marcia Fiedler, program coordinator and instructor, Jewish Studies; Peg Fiore, director of Major Gifts, Development, Alumni Affairs & College Foundation; Mary Hughes, manager of Accounts Payable; Dr. Shelly Meyers, assistant professor of Education; David Pinto, Stockton Bjork Library archivist; Erica Pinto, technical assistant, Office of Financial Aid; Dr. Israel Posner, executive director of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality & Tourism and Dr. Michael Rodriguez, associate professor of Political Science.

Maud Dahme of Flemington, immediate past president of New Jersey State Board of Education, was a “hidden child” during the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam. She and Fred Spiegel, of Howell, accompanied the study tour, sharing their experiences as Holocaust survivors. Spiegel survived multiple concentration camps, including Bergen-Belsen.

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"The study tour was one of the most moving and informative experiences of my life," said Dr. Posner, who was among three second-generation children of Holocaust survivors on the study tour. Leo Schoffer, an attorney, member of the Stockton College Board of Trustees and the son of Sam and the late Sara Schoffer made the journey along with Samuel Krantz, an attorney in Somers Point whose parents, Chana and Joseph Krantz, were both Holocaust survivors from Lithuania.

"Because of the dedicated and talented staff at our Holocaust Resource Center, I was able to walk in the same steps that my father did when imprisoned by Nazi Germany in the Buchenwald Concentration Camp," Dr. Posner said. "Once again we are reminded of the critical role that education plays in a civil society."

The group visited Munich, where Adolf Hitler began his rise to power; Nuremberg, where the Nazi Party held massive rallies and also the site of the post-war International Military Tribunal of Nazi leaders; the Buchenwald Concentration Camp Memorial; Berlin, the Nazi seat of power after 1933; and Amsterdam, which was Nazi-occupied.

Participants visited Jewish museums in Berlin and Munich, as well as the Topography of Terror, the Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe, and the Diversity Destroyed exhibition.

"I was particularly struck by how Germany is still struggling with the appropriate manner of remembrance and memorialization," said Dr. Michael Rodriguez, associate professor of Political Science. "That is still an unsettled, controversial and ongoing debate not just for Germans but for all who are committed to the prevention of genocide, political violence, and crimes against humanity," he said.

Photos and moving reflections from study tour participants are available on the college’s Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center website.

Dr. Claudine Keenan to Attend AASCU’s ‘Becoming a Provost Academy’

Dr. Claudine Keenan, dean of the School of Education, has been accepted into the Becoming a Provost Academy (BAPA) Class of 2013-2014, according to George L. Mehaffy, vice president for Academic Leadership and Change, American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

“Being selected to participate in the AASCU’s Becoming a Provost Academy is a significant honor for both the participant and Stockton,” said Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president of the College. “Having participated myself, I know it to be an extremely valuable experience for an academic leader who wishes to pursue a provost position in the future. I am confident that Dr. Keenan will perform at an outstanding level in the Academy,” Dr. Kesselman added.

Dr. Keenan will start the class's formal programming at the AASCU Academic Affairs national Summer Meeting in Baltimore on July 25-27. Readings, experiential activities, executive coaching and mentoring, site visits with provosts serving other state colleges and universities, a national Winter Meeting and daylong seminars round out the program’s experiences.

Offered jointly by AASCU and the American Leadership Institute (AALI), the Becoming a Provost Academy is designed to assist participants in gaining a better understanding of the broader context within which their own institutions operate and in developing perspectives beyond their current position, division and institution.

“The landscape surrounding higher education is changing so rapidly that I feel compelled to begin preparing for my long-term future as early as the 2013-2014 academic year,” said Dr. Keenan. “I’m honored to have been accepted into this program; the opportunity to learn from a cadre of academic leaders in the public sector is extremely valuable to me personally and professionally.”

Keenan had previously been the chief planning officer at the College and executive assistant to the provost. She was a Leadership New Jersey Fellow, 2008-2009 and is certified by the Society for College and University Planners in Steps I – III. She has also served as one of two state college representatives on a New Jersey President’s Council Task Force on articulations and as an invited education dean to the Department of Education’s Working Group on New Jersey Teacher Preparation.
Brian Jackson attends dedication of Rosa Parks Statue in D.C.

Brian K. Jackson, chief of staff in the President’s Office, attended the official dedication of the Rosa Parks statue Feb. 27 at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. at the invitation of Shirley McCauley, niece of the late civil rights activist.

Jackson, along with Ralph Hunter, president and founder of the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey in Newtonville, NJ heard President Obama and congressional leaders speak and toured the Capitol as part of the event.

“This is the first and only full-scale statue of an African American female and one of only three statues of African Americans in the building. The other two are busts of civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and abolitionist and women’s rights activist, Sojourner Truth,” Jackson said. “The location within Statuary Hall is also the most prestigious location within the building. I was deeply honored to be present for this momentous and historic occasion.”

Jackson and David Pinto of the Richard E. Bjork Library at Stockton also serve on the board of the African American Heritage Museum, which hosted a special event and exhibit in honor of Parks on Feb. 9. The museum partnered with the U.S. Postal Service to officially unveil the new Rosa Parks stamp in honor of Parks’ 100th birthday. McCauley, Parks' niece, was among 175 people who attended the event.

Dr. Joseph Trout Presents at American Physical Society Meeting

Assistant Professor of Physics Dr. Joseph Trout, along with several Stockton students, recently attended the March Meeting of the American Physical Society (APS) in Baltimore, MD March 18-22. The March Meeting of the American Physical Society was the inaugural event of the Topical Group Physics of Climate (GPC).

Dr. Trout presented a talk, “Comparing the Standard Deviation from the Average Seasonal Surface Temperature Signal for Fourteen Years of Hourly Surface Temperature Data as Recorded at Twenty-Five Stations across the United States of America.”

Dr. Trout assisted Tiffany Lutes, a computational science major, with research for her poster paper on atmospheric physics, “Using the Weather Research and Forecasting Model to Model the Atmosphere over the North Eastern United States and Investigate the Effects of Land Use on the Atmosphere.”

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The research was made possible with the help of a Research Experience for Undergraduate Grant (REU) awarded to Lutes and Dr. Trout.

Jared Bland, physics major, presented a poster paper, “Using In-class Group Exercises to Enhance Lectures and Provide Introductory Physics Students an Opportunity to Perfect Problem Solving Skills through Interactions with Fellow Students”. This poster was the result of research initiated during the Faculty Assessment attended by Dr. Trout. Several members of the Physics Club and the Society of Physics Students also attended the conference.

Dean Wagner’s Blog on Grandmother’s STEM Work Goes Viral

A blog entry about grandmothers who worked in STEM fields, written by Dean Janet Wagner, School of Business, for a professional association, has ended up on Slate’s French web site.

“That’s a picture of my grandmother, reading to me,” said Dean Wagner, who was amazed that the entry she sent to a blog called “Grandma Got STEM,” went viral and ended up in French. To view the original entry, posted March 5, search for “Dorothy.”

“This blog was started by someone in one of my professional organizations when some politician in her state said, ‘It’s hard to get support for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) funding, because your grandmother doesn’t understand STEM,’ ” Dean Wagner explained. “Not to mention it being patronizing, it also makes it sound like we just discovered STEM in the 1990s.”

Dean Wagner said her grandmother, Dorothy Weinshank Gillett, got a B.S. in Astronomy from Wellesley in 1919. She went on to set up radio networks and then did orbital calculations for Lockheed on the Mercury and Apollo space projects. Gillett’s title at Lockheed was “head computer,” so Dean Wagner said she tells people she comes by her “mathematical talent (such as it is, but I do have a Ph.D. in Operations Research from MIT) because my grandmother was a computer.”

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) 652-4950 or e-mail StocktonTimes@stockton.edu.

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