Dr. Joseph Lema Receives Fulbright Award to Work in Asia

Dr. Joseph Lema, associate professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management, has earned a 2014 Fulbright Specialist US-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) initiative award to help develop tourism education programs in Thailand and Indonesia this summer.

Through the Thailand-United States Educational Foundation, Dr. Lema will collaborate with Burapha University International College during July and August and then travel to Jakarta, Indonesia to work with the partner Trisakti Institute of Tourism until the end of August.

His work will involve lecturing, developing curriculum, assessing educational and professional development needs for hospitality organizations, and advancing ASEAN regional tourism marketing research for the development of a globally competitive workforce. With increased investment by multinational corporations, higher education has an important role in developing leadership capacity that can meet the needs of an increasingly complex hospitality and tourism industry in this dynamic region of the world, Dr. Lema noted.

“I am looking forward to having the opportunity to participate in sharing experiences and knowledge that leads to more competitive approaches to hospitality and tourism, higher education and increasing mobility for students,” he said.

Since coming to Stockton in 2011, Dr. Lema has developed collaborative research with Dr. Donna Albano, associate professor of Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies, to facilitate academic advising of students as a holistic process rather than a transactional approach. He has also served on Stockton’s Advising Council. He said those experiences will inform his work with Southeast Asian educational institutions.

He contributed firsthand to a 2013 summer study abroad exchange, lecturing and mentoring students from the United States, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and China at Jeju National University in Jeju, South Korea through Stockton’s Office of International Services, Dr. Lema said.

Dr. Lema joins Dr. Mary Lou Galantino, professor of Physical Therapy, who is working on global health education and HIV research as a Fulbright specialist in South Africa starting this month.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It was founded by the late U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright in 1946 and now operates in 155 countries. Fulbrights provide funding for students, scholars, teachers, and professionals for graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools.
NAMS Recognized for Exposing Students to Careers in STEM

Dr. Dennis Weiss, Dean and Cheryl Vaughn-Jones, Assistant Dean of the School of Natural Science and Mathematics received a plaque from Courtney R. Mack, president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Theta Kappa Omega chapter of Atlantic City, at the May 7 Board of Trustees meeting. The plaque was given in recognition of NAMS’ generosity in supporting Theta Kappa Chapter’s efforts to expose minority students to careers in STEM.

Nearly 200 middle school students attended the “Imagine Greatness” STEM Expo and Emerging Young Leaders Community Youth Summit held March 8 at Stockton. The daylong event featured a keynote address by Dr. Earl Benjamin, professor of Chemistry.

Dr. Benjamin’s speech was followed by the STEM Expo which consisted of several interactive workshops conducted by area professionals in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines. Stockton faculty and staff participating included Courtney R. Mack, adjunct instructor in the School of Health Sciences, Stacey Zacharoff, director of the EOF Program, Demetrios Roubos, professional services specialist in Computer & Telecommunication Services, Dr. Aakash Taneja, associate professor of Computer Science & Information Systems, Dr. Earl Benjamin, Dr. Ellis Benjamin, assistant professor of Chemistry, Dr. Judith Vogel, associate professor of Mathematics, Dr. Tara L. Harmer-Luke, associate professor of Biology, Dianne Stalling, assistant director of Student Development, Assistant Dean Vaughn-Jones and Dean Weiss.

The workshops were held to raise awareness and interest in STEM careers. The students also participated in a hike led by the college’s student organization Water Watch. Participants toured the Unified Science Center as well. Youth scholars from Pleasantville High School, St. Augustine Preparatory School and Our Lady of Mercy Academy, and Pleasantville Mayor Jesse Tweedle discussed topics such as how to make a difference in their communities and took questions from the student audience.

This year’s STEM Expo was combined with the Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) Community Youth Summit which offered a forum to empower middle school students to make a difference in their communities. The event was free to the public and was sponsored by the Theta Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and NAMS.

Coach Val Julien, Softball Team Win ECAC Metro Championship

Head Softball Coach Val Julien led The Ospreys to their second consecutive Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Metro Tournament championship earlier this month.

Under Julien’s coaching, the team won three consecutive games on Sunday, May 11 to repeat as ECAC champions, earning Stockton Softball’s fifth ECAC title overall.

Although Stevens Institute of Technology was ranked #1 in the ECACs, Stockton, ranked #2, hosted the ECAC tournament on the same day as the college’s commencement ceremonies.

“It was really amazing to host the tournament. It allowed one of our pitchers to run back and forth from her graduation ceremony to play in the championship game. She (Michelle Pietrocola) had two separate major events in her life happening at once,” Julien said. “It was such a tremendous effort put forth by all of the athletes, program, and athletics department. We were pleased and proud to represent Stockton in the tournament.”

Val Frick and Adele Calimer, assistant softball coaches for 23 and nine years respectively, also helped lead The Ospreys to success throughout the season.
Dr. Margaret Lewis, associate professor of Biology, watched as her colleague and husband Dr. Michael Lague, also an associate professor of Biology, prepared to print a piece of human evolutionary history—not on paper, but in 3D. A number of faculty and staff passing through the hallway stepped into F-026 to watch as Lague transformed a flat model of a bone fragment displayed on his computer screen into a tangible replica with Stockton’s newest technology.

The Office of Computer Services has acquired a MakerBot Replicator 2X desktop 3D printer.

“The unit will make solid, three dimensional objects out of melted MakerBot filament,” explained Robert Heinrich, director of Academic Computing and IT Support Services, who spearheaded the initiative to purchase the new equipment for a pilot program.

Heinrich and Dr. Ken Tompkins, professor emeritus of Literature, worked together to install the printer. “It took about an hour to set up…and as we were printing a small test object, NAMS faculty had somehow gotten the word of the printer’s existence. Magically, they appeared asking to see the printer and asking if they could use it,” Tompkins said.

The machine has already produced a few test items including a comb, ball, chain links, miniature alligator and a cupcake. “Three dimensional design files are translated into instructions and read by the machine. The printer heats the filament and squeezes it out through a nozzle onto a heated surface to build a solid object, layer by layer. This method is called fused filament fabrication (FFF),” Heinrich said.

For Dr. Lague, the printer will take his research to a new level. Dr. Tompkins shares what happened in a short story: “A hominid lived a million years ago. It died and was covered with silt. Its bones fossilized and were found some years ago in South Africa. One small part of its left arm was found and placed in a museum. One of our faculty - Mike Lague - scanned this bone with a 3D scanner producing a digital image. That digital file was inserted into a computer in F-026, brought into a program, rotated, sized, leveled and sent to a 3D printer. After 38 minutes an exact replica was printed.”

As Dr. Lague held the newly minted, life-like elbow bone in the palm of his hand, he said that Stockton is very likely the only college in the world to have a replica of the original 1-million-year-old specimen housed in the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History in Pretoria, South Africa.

Dr. Lague has a virtual library with a couple thousand scans of bones of living and fossil primates from numerous museums in Africa, Europe and the U.S. With the new 3D printer and the scans in his digital archive, Dr. Lague is replicating museum artifacts from around the globe, making them accessible to the Stockton community.

Dr. Tompkins has plans to model historical buildings from literature. The Schools of Arts and Humanities and Natural Sciences and Mathematics are utilizing the printer, but Heinrich says that the technology is cross disciplinary and he sees other schools getting involved. The printer has potential as both a teaching and research tool, and is waiting for new ideas.

“It’s a new technology, and (academia) is just beginning to identify applicable uses to support curriculums,” explained Heinrich. Stockton’s pilot program seeks to determine which programs can use the printer to support pedagogy, he added.

There will be a workshop on June 2 to introduce the printer to interested faculty and staff. Attendees will “learn how to operate the printer, find or create files of 3D objects and begin to envision the printer as a tool for their teaching,” said Heinrich.

Three College Departments Announce Staffing Changes

The Division of Student Affairs, the School of General Studies and Plant Management and Housing Maintenance recently announced staff changes within the college.

The Division of Student Affairs announced the following changes in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs:

Kim McCabe assumed the position of director of Student Affairs Communications. She returned to the vice president’s office after serving several years in communications capacities in the Office of External Affairs. She reports to Associate Vice President Dr. Dee McNeely-Greene.

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Tristan Stoltzfus, professional services specialist in the vice president’s office, and recent MBA recipient, will assume additional responsibilities under the direction of the associate vice president.

Megan Taylor, professional services specialist, will support the Coordinated Actions to Retain and Educate (CARE) program from her office in the vice president’s suite, under CARE Program Coordinator Tomas Itaas.

Jennifer Forman Radwanski transitions to the position of associate director of Event Services & New Student Programs from her previous position in the Office of Student Development.

The following student affairs professionals are transitioning to new roles under the supervision of Dr. Pedro Santana, dean of Students:

Stephen Davis has been named associate dean and interim director of Counseling and Health Services, and will assume the management of the Wellness Center.

Tom O’Donnell will assume the role of assistant dean and interim director of Student Development. He will continue to oversee the Office of Veteran Affairs.

Dr. Gerald Martin will transition into the position of assistant dean of Students, where he will supervise departments working with student retention, conduct, careers and assessment.

Dean Robert Gregg recently announced the following staff changes within the School of General Studies:

Dr. Carra Hood will transfer to the position of Interim Assistant Provost for Academic Programs and Planning in the Office of the Provost.

Dr. Elizabeth Pollock from the Chemistry Program will serve as the General Studies Coordinator and will continue to serve as GNM Convenor.

Dr. John O’Hara from the First Years Studies (FRST) Program will assume the role of GEN Convenor.

Donald Hudson, associate vice president of Facilities & Construction, announced the following change in Plant Management:

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Donald Hudson, associate vice president of Facilities & Construction, announced the following change in Plant Management:

Joe Naumchik will assume the role of Acting Director of Plant Management and Housing Maintenance, and will represent the contact person for the department.

Tom O’Donnell Receives AMVETS National Award for Appreciation

Tom O’Donnell, assistant dean of Students/Veterans Affairs, received the American Veterans (AMVETS) National Award for Appreciation on Armed Forces Day, May 17.

AMVETS recognized O’Donnell for “his dedication in working aggressively to ensure the success of the student veteran organization at Stockton,” the award stated. “Tom has been the driving force in working with the New Jersey Air National Guard to reach returning combat veterans and help them ease into college life. Through his tireless commitment and hard work, [Stockton] has been ranked by Military Times as 15th in the nation as a veteran friendly college.”

Dr. Mary Padden, assistant professor of Nursing, nominated O’Donnell for the award.

“It is an honor to receive this award on behalf of over 400 Stockton Veterans and our military resource team,” O’Donnell said. “Being nominated by one of our amazing faculty veteran team members gives this award a very special meaning.”

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 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