2020 Initiatives: Dance Company Residency

Editor’s Note: Stockton’s 2020 Initiatives led by faculty members from various disciplines featured events and programming this fall that had a college-wide impact. We will feature these ongoing initiatives periodically.

Dance Now! Miami held master classes for the community, dance students and other Stockton students, faculty and staff during a two-week residency from Oct. 27-Nov. 8. The program was supported by a three-year grant awarded to Rain Ross, assistant professor of Dance, as part of the 2020 initiatives plan.

Dance Now! Miami’s visit marked the second year of the program. Ross, who has taught with the artistic directors from Dance Now! Miami previously, said “their pedagogy fits in well with what we are doing at Stockton.”

Ross said one of the goals of the program is to introduce dance students to opportunities offered by smaller dance companies. While Dance Now! Miami choreographed a piece and selected student dancers for Stockton’s annual performance in the spring, the company also worked with students in various dance classes.

The dance residency program also connects dance to the interdisciplinary nature of Stockton’s programs. Throughout the week, Dance Now! Miami visited general studies classes to share how dance relates to different disciplines.

For example, in the Writing Reviews course taught by Emily Van Duyne, visiting assistant professor of writing, the dance company performed a short duet and later discussed how one would review the performance. The dance company also visited courses taught by Emari DiGiorgio, associate professor of Writing; Dr. Beverly Vaughn, professor of Music; Dr. Eileen Conran-Folks, director of Hammonton & Manahawkin Instructional Sites; Bill Headington, adjunct instructor; Pamela Hendrick, professor of Theatre; and Mary Kientz, assistant professor of Occupational Therapy.

The dance residency program is also designed to encourage community members to attend and appreciate live performances, Ross said. The dance company taught classes for the Stockton Center on Successful Aging, local high school students and the general public. On Nov. 8, Dance Now! Miami performed a ballet and two modern works in the Performing Arts Center.

Click here to view photos from the Dance Now! Miami residency.
Stockton, Bay-Atlantic Symphony Offer Program for AC Schools

Through a new mentorship program, organized by Dr. Christopher Di Santo, associate professor of Music, and Paul Herron, executive director of Bay-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, Stockton faculty and students will have the opportunity to share their musical expertise with students at Atlantic City’s Sovereign Avenue School and Atlantic City High School.

As part of the Music Mentorship Program, which debuted late last month, Symphony music teachers team with Stockton music students to teach middle and high school music students one-on-one or in small groups. About 30 students are anticipated to participate and will receive musical instruments, free weekly lessons and ongoing music education. The program is made possible by generous donations from the Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation and William and Virginia Gormley’s Atlantic City Friends of Music Foundation.

The program features 24 weeks of lessons during the 2014-15 academic year to include classes in basic and advanced technique on strings and woodwinds. Participating students will also have the chance to attend Bay Atlantic Symphony’s professional chamber and full orchestra music concerts, and open rehearsals and music ensembles at Stockton.

Dr. Di Santo, who will teach the woodwinds session, said the program is designed to provide access to students to discover the beauty of music and develop as musicians or “at the very least become advocates and consumers of the performing arts as adults.”

“The eventual goal of the mentorship program is to see them through Atlantic City High School,” Dr. Di Santo explained. “Hopefully, they will see music as a career and pursue their education at Stockton.”

Head Volleyball Coach Allison Walker’s Team Wins NJAC Title

Head Volleyball Coach Allison Walker led the Ospreys to their seventh consecutive New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) tournament championship on Nov. 8 in Stockton’s Sports Center.

The Ospreys met the Rowan University Profs in the NJAC title match for the second straight year. The win gave the Ospreys their 11th league crown overall and an automatic bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III tournament for the seventh year in a row.

This is Coach Walker’s eighth NJAC title in her nine years as the college’s head volleyball coach. Assistant Coaches Greg Langan and Nicole Ober ‘12 were instrumental in the team’s success during the 2014 season. With the NJAC title, the Ospreys earned the NCAA Division III bid and faced Stevenson University (Maryland) at Christopher Newport University in Virginia in the first round of the tournament on Nov. 14. Coach Walker’s Ospreys finished the season with an impressive 28-7 record.

“Allison Walker

“This was one of my most challenging yet rewarding years to date in my coaching career. This team faced so much adversity – they lost a teammate over the summer in a car accident and then had three starters suffer season-ending injuries early in the season,” Coach Walker said. “These women never once let anything hold them back from achieving their goals. With every challenge, the team rose to the occasion and never ceased to amaze me. To say that I am incredibly proud of this group of women is an understatement.”
Dr. Norma Boakes Presents Origami Research in Japan, S. Africa

Dr. Norma Boakes, associate professor of Education and a presenter during this week’s International Education Week, recently traveled abroad to share her research on the use of Origami as a tool for teaching mathematics.

In August, Dr. Boakes traveled to Tokyo, Japan to present “Seven-Year Study of Origami’s Impact on Spatial Skills of College-Age Students” at the Sixth International Meeting on Origami in Science, Mathematics and Education, and “Crossing Borders with Origami” at the Japanese Origami Academic Society’s 20th Origami Tanteidan Convention.

Dr. Boakes was invited as a workshop facilitator to present “Developing Standards Aligned Resources for the Concept of Shape in Primary and Secondary Grades” at a workshop for mathematics teachers in Maseru, Lesotho in South Africa in late September.

The workshop was part of a series of in-service courses established two years ago to improve student performance in mathematics in Lesotho.

“This year was an extension of what we did previously. We worked with teachers to create a curriculum based on the methods that we learned in the past two years,” Dr. Boakes said. “In my workshop, I worked with primary and secondary teachers teaching the concept of shapes through Origami.”

While in Lesotho, Dr. Boakes had an opportunity to visit a local International School to teach a group of middle school students about the relationship between Origami and mathematics.

Faculty Present at 2014 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis

Dr. Susan Cydis, assistant professor of Education; Dr. Carra Hood, interim assistant provost for Programs and Planning and associate professor of Writing; Dr. Diane Holtzman, associate professor of Business Studies, Marketing; and Marilyn Vito, associate professor of Business Studies, Accounting, presented at the 2014 Assessment Institute at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis on Oct. 19-21. About 1,000 educators from across the country and several other countries participated in the institute.

During their presentation, titled “Essential Learning Outcomes and the Organization of Institution-Wide Assessment at a Public, Liberal Arts College,” Dr. Cydis, Dr. Hood, Dr. Holtzman and Vito discussed how Stockton is incorporating Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs) into the curriculum.

They also shared assessment data from the School of Business which has implemented ELOs across the school for its AACSB accreditation. In addition, the faculty members shared data from a study group, which integrated ELOs into individual courses to create significant learning experiences for students.

The ELO Study Group has been funded by a 2020 grant and will initiate its second year this month. Dr. Cydis was also awarded a Provost’s Faculty Opportunities Fund grant to present the session at the conference.

“This conference was a valuable opportunity to collaborate with other institutions and promote the work we are doing at Stockton,” Dr. Cydis said.
Dr. David Carr Named Director of Research & Policy Analysis

Dr. David Carr, professor of Political Science, was recently named the Director of Research & Policy Analysis for the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Dr. Carr has served in various roles at Stockton since 1992. While serving as provost, he helped to establish the Hughes Center and served as a Senior Fellow between 2011 and 2012. He has also served as a member of the Hughes Center Steering Committee since the Center’s inception.

As Senior Fellow, Dr. Carr wrote “Public Authorities in Governing New Jersey,” a policy brief published by the Hughes Center. He was recognized by the Hughes Center in 2013 with an award for his distinctive contributions.

Dr. Carr has also actively promoted civic engagement among Stockton’s students through a number of initiatives associated with the American Democracy Project. In 2009, he was recognized for his leadership in this role by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities with their William M. Plater Award for exemplary leadership in civic engagement.

“I am extremely pleased to have been selected. I look forward to working on projects that will enlighten citizens of New Jersey and assist public officials during these challenging times,” Dr. Carr said.

Dr. GT Lenard Continues Role as Freshman Seminar Coordinator

Dr. GT Lenard, associate professor of Development Writing, will continue in her role as Freshman Seminar Coordinator for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years.

Throughout her tenure at Stockton, Dr. Lenard has focused considerable energy on establishing a first-rate freshman seminar program. She has played a central role in creating the freshman reader and its associated freshman convocation program, and she has played a critical role in assuring that freshman seminars are taught by full-time faculty.

Dr. Lenard has been a mainstay in the freshmen orientation programs, and she has taught BASK 1101 and BASK 1102 as well as the Honors Freshman Seminar and general freshman seminars over the years.

“I’m thrilled to continue as coordinator; it’s a job I truly enjoy. I sincerely appreciate the confidence that Provost Kesselman, Dean Gregg, and Tom Grites have shown in me, and I hope I can continue to earn it,” Dr. Lenard said.

The Stockton Times will take a break over the Thanksgiving holiday. We will return on Thursday, Dec. 4.