

The Stockton Times

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Stockton Group Provides Clinical Services, Presents Lectures in Bogota, Colombia

Four faculty members and seven graduate students from Stockton University's School of Health Sciences recently traveled to Bogota, Colombia, to meet with faculty and students and visit clinical sites in the region as part of a partnership with the Universidad del Rosario.

From March 7-14, the Stockton group visited five clinical sites, providing assistance to the homeless, people with drug addictions, disabled children, sexual workers and older adults with various disabilities.

During the trip, the faculty and students presented a number of lectures and engaged in collaborative dialogue with their Colombian colleagues at the Universidad del Rosario.

The lectures included a presentation about occupational therapy intervention for adults with psychiatric disabilities by Dr. Victoria Schindler, associate professor of Occupational Therapy; a presentation about the Get Fit program by Dr. Mary Kientz, assistant professor of Occupational Therapy; and a presentation about yoga and its therapeutic uses by the students. Dr. Mary Lou Galantino, professor of Physical Therapy, presented "Integrative Therapies in Rehabilitation: Yoga based evidence for various populations" at the Universidad del Rosario and "Integrative Medicine in Cancer Survivorship" at the National Cancer Institute.



Dr. Mary Lou Galantino; Mary Kientz; Andrew Scafario; Dr. Victoria Schindler; Jorge Rico of Bogota, Colombia; Ann Walker; Dr. Theresa Bartolotta; Michelle Ghaul; Jennifer Scrivani; Alexandria Morales; Jennifer Mehesy; Jacqueline Stanton; and Genelle Gundersen.

Occupational Therapy and learning abroad programs were expanding, and she was inspired to create a learning abroad experience for students to travel to Colombia.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Stockton Group Provides Clinical Services, Presents Lectures in Bogota, Colombia
- Garden State Film Festival Recognizes Holocaust Resource Center
- Stockton University Begins Active Management of Campus Woods
- NAMS Hosts 'Deep Sea Shipwrecks: History Revealed' Event
- Construction Corner: Exterior Stairs, Elevator Renovations Update

"It was truly a transformational experience for all. Working side-by-side with students from a number of disciplines, our students provided clinical services to patients who live in challenging economic and social conditions. It was a rich cultural experience," said Dr. Theresa Bartolotta, dean of the School of Health Sciences, who also participated on the trip. "We were able to strengthen our relationship with the Universidad del Rosario and plan for new opportunities, including student exchange and research collaborations."

The service trip evolved as a result of a Learning Abroad grant initiated by Dr. Schindler, who had applied for the grant in 2012 after visiting Colombia with her daughter, Melissa, who was adopted from the country 25 years ago. When Dr. Schindler returned from the trip, she learned that Stockton's

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

In March 2014, Dr. Schindler and India Karavackas, director of the Office of Global Engagement, traveled to Colombia to explore the development of a learning abroad trip and student- and faculty-exchange programs with two Colombian universities, Universidad del Rosario and Escuela Colombiana de Rehabilitacion, which have various health science programs. Now there is a Memorandum of Understanding for an exchange program between Stockton University and Universidad del Rosario.

The recent trip marked the first time that graduate students from Stockton University's Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program visited Colombia. "We'll go every spring break. It's embedded in my research classes," explained Dr. Schindler, who incorporated assignments relating to Colombia in her classes last fall and this semester. "The exchange program is designed for up to 10 graduate students and is a mix of educational, clinical and cultural activities."

The group visited cultural sites, including Monserrate Church, a historic church located on top of a mountain; La Candelaria, Bogota's downtown district; museums; a coffee plantation; a salt mine and the orphanage where Dr. Schindler's daughter was adopted.

Dr. Schindler said the students gained a lot from the experience. "We use the same vocabulary and language for occupational therapy in Colombia and the United States. Yet, Colombia carries out the practice very differently because of the differences in its health care system," she said.

Dr. Schindler said the students also had a chance to see "a lot of creativity with very little resources" and a commitment of health service providers to make a difference in a country that is 40 percent impoverished. "The extent of poverty challenged the students to be able to prioritize needs while also accepting the limits of what can be accomplished," she said.

Ann Walker, assistant professor of Nursing, and MSOT students Andrew Scafario, Michelle Ghaul, Jennifer Scrivani, Aleksandria Morales, Jennifer Mehesy, Jacqueline Stanton and Genelle Gundersen also participated on the trip. Dr. Bartolotta credits the success of the inaugural trip to the support of Karavackas and her staff, as well as President Herman Saatkamp and Dr. Harvey Kesselman, provost and executive vice president.

As part of the exchange program with the Universidad del Rosario, the School of Health Sciences expects to have occupational therapy and physical therapy students from Colombia visit Stockton for nine weeks this fall.

Garden State Film Festival Recognizes Holocaust Resource Center



The Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center was honored by The Garden State Film Festival at the GSFF Awards Dinner on March 22. The center received the 2015 Broader Vision Award for Filmmaking Dedicated to the Greater Good for its work in preserving history and promoting tolerance through filmmaking.

"The award is for our three films dedicated to the goal of educating future generations about the Holocaust: *Alone No More: A Community Assists Holocaust Survivors*, *Rails of the Holocaust: A Journey to Stockton College*, and *From Despair, Hope*," said Gail Rosenthal, director of the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.

Toby Rosenthal, adjunct instructor in Jewish Studies; Gail Rosenthal, director of the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center; Ted Greenberg, former Stockton student and the Jersey Shore Bureau reporter for Philadelphia's NBC10.

Alone No More: A Community Assists Holocaust Survivors is an 11-minute documentary highlighting the commitment of the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center and Jewish Family Service of Atlantic and Cape May Counties for providing social, cultural, and other services for local Holocaust survivors.

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

Rails of the Holocaust: A Journey to Stockton College, explains the use of railroads by the Nazis to transport Jews and others to concentration camps. It also illustrates the shipping of railroad tracks from Bialystok, Poland to Stockton, where they form a canopy over the entrance to the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center located on the second floor of the library.

From Despair, Hope is a 28-minute documentary about three Holocaust survivors from Atlantic County who had vastly different experiences during the Holocaust.

Stockton University Begins Active Management of Campus Woods

Stockton University began active management of its more than 1,500-acre forest last week to protect and restore its Pinelands forest ecosystem from threats such as the encroaching Southern pine beetle and to cultivate a future of enhanced education, recreation and healthy habitat for wildlife.

Fire was returned to the forest system during a prescribed burn conducted by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service along Delaware Avenue last week.

Years of fire suppression resulting in dense turf on the forest floor has prevented pine seedlings from sprouting and beginning a new generation of trees, Stockton's Forest Plan explained.



Emily Dolhansky, an Environmental Science student, records the temperature during a prescribed burn along Delaware Avenue.

The University's stewardship plan is the state's first comprehensive forest management plan on public land within the Pinelands region. The Pinelands Commission approved the 10-year plan.

"The forest is a dynamic system. Fire has been suppressed in many areas and we need to try to reintroduce fire (prescribed burns) when we can. When we can't reintroduce fire or it's too dangerous to do so, thinning the forest (selective tree removal) has been shown both in the western and southern United States to be effective in helping the forest on some levels," said Dr. George Zimmermann, professor of Environmental Studies.

Stockton students are working with Dr. Zimmermann and experts from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) William J. Hughes Technical Center to capture three-dimensional imagery of the forest before and after the prescribed burn using a LiDAR laser scanner. This state-of-the-art laser technology replaces some manual measurements that would take weeks or even months to gather.

Michael Cicali, adjunct professor, who works at the FAA, teaches *Introduction to LiDAR*. Cicali is leading the FAA team who will be cooperating with Stockton faculty in a collaborative partnership set up this past year. The partnership will allow Stockton researchers to work with the FAA Technical Center and to share technology for scientific research. FAA personnel will be coming to Stockton to set up a georeferenced grid to allow efficient and more useful laser scanning of the forest. Stockton in return has been placing plots and collecting data on the Atlantic white-cedar forests on the FAA property which will soon provide the FAA with data it can use in managing some of its forest more efficiently.

The next phase of Stockton's forest management plan will focus on thinning an area between Vera King Farris Drive and the Garden State Parkway south of Morses Mill Stream that is at risk for wildfire and infestation by the Southern pine beetle, which has already infiltrated adjacent land. Thinning will remove the weakest trees to lessen forest competition for nutrients, water and sunlight. A healthier forest is less susceptible to fire and disease.

NAMS Hosts 'Deep Sea Shipwrecks: History Revealed' Event

The School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, in partnership with Stockton University's Marine Technology Society student chapter and the NJ Marine Education Association, hosted "Deep Sea Shipwrecks: History Revealed" on March 19.

Speakers included Dr. James Delgado, director of Maritime Heritage at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and Steve Nagiewicz '74, a Stockton Environmental Science graduate, who is a science teacher at Atlantic City High School and a diver.

Dr. Delgado served as the chief scientist for the first full mapping of the RMS Titanic, which was released in 2012, the 100th anniversary of the sinking.

Nagiewicz shared his experiences working with Stockton's Marine Science and Environmental Field Station to document the Robert J. Walker shipwreck. The Walker sank off the coast of Atlantic City in 1860 and was mostly forgotten until NOAA surveyed the site after Hurricane Sandy.

Nagiewicz helped to map the wreck with Steve Evert, manager of Stockton's field station and assistant director of Academic Labs; Dr. Peter Straub, professor of Biology; Dr. Mark Sullivan, associate professor of Marine Science; and students Chelsea Shields, Jamie Taylor and Walter Poff. Vince Capone, owner of Black Laser Learning, advised the sonar team and data processing. Advanced volunteer divers from the New Jersey Historical Divers Association and NOAA conducted the follow-up dives and physical measurements in August 2014.

The event was dedicated in memory of the late Dr. William Phoel, who taught marine archaeology at Stockton as an adjunct, after retiring from NOAA as a fisheries scientist at the Sandy Hook Lab.



From left to right: Dr. James Delgado of NOAA; Liesl Hotaling of the University of South Florida; Dr. Peter Straub; Steve Evert; Steve Nagiewicz '74; Dr. Mark Sullivan; Vince Capone of Black Laser Learning; and students Walter Poff; Chelsea Shields; Jamie Taylor; Kira Mabil; Sage Mitchell and Evan Lechner.

Construction Corner: Exterior Stairs, Elevator Renovations Update

The C/CC-wing elevator has reopened. The exterior stairs for J- and M-wings are scheduled to reopen for public use on March 27. Any questions can be directed to Glenn Brown at Glenn.Brown@stockton.edu or ext. 4888.

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*. Also, tell us what you think of the new design! Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 or email 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

