Provost Update: A Culture of Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity: University Scholar Series Presents Wide Range of RSCA; Undergraduates Gain Skills with Research; Pianist Receives President's Scholar Award; Immigration and Performing Arts Connect; SJSU Enhances Distance Education in Pakistan; Study Grant Aims to Improve Resources for Vietnamese American Caregivers; Subscribe to the Academic Spotlight Blog.

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter February 2016 edition

Provost Update: A Culture of Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity

As Provost, I am always excited to learn about the amazing research, scholarship and creative activity (RSCA) our students and faculty accomplish. I also understand the dedication that is required to balance teaching, service and RSCA. From my own experience in conducting and publishing research, I know both faculty and students benefit from a campus culture that supports such endeavors.
I am committed to creating an environment that fosters this important aspect of higher education. In the last two years, we have invested $2.2 million to support university-wide workshops and college-specific programs to assist faculty in starting or continuing their RSCA agendas. Annual funding for RSCA has been built into our budget and we are finalizing a plan to ensure it remains a key priority.

My hope is that our current planning efforts will foster more stellar research like that of two faculty members honored at the Celebration of Research this month with Early Career Investigator Awards. Aaron Romanowsky, from the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Science, and Virginia San Fratello, from the Department of Design in the College of Humanities and the Arts, both exemplify the Spartan spirit of innovation. Romanowsky and his students are discovering new galaxies while San Fratello is using 3-D printing to create sustainable building materials. Both have been recognized by colleagues in their disciplines and have been successful in securing funding to further their research.

At the Celebration of Research, I was also pleased to highlight our Undergraduate Research Pairs program and see the wide range of projects students are pursuing with faculty mentors, some of which we highlight in this month’s newsletter. High-impact practices, including undergraduate research, improve student learning and support student retention, but faculty also benefit from students as research assistants. I applaud our faculty for their commitment to engaging students in their research along with attracting public and private funding to support regional, national and global collaborations.

The SJSU Research Foundation plays an essential role in sustaining our efforts. In 2014-15, the Research Foundation oversaw more than $63 million in revenues that included resources from grants and contracts with government agencies, corporations and private foundations to support more than 150 RSCA projects. See the full list of contracts and awards along with stories of faculty and student work in the San Jose State University Research Foundation 2014-15 Annual Report published this
month. I am dedicated to the continued growth of the SJSU research enterprise and the role of the SJSU Research Foundation in supporting our campus.

Sincerely,

Andy Feinstein
Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

University Scholar Series presents Wide Range of RSCA

Dr. Ivano Aiello, left, is one of three professors who will be presenting his research as part of the Spring 2016 University Scholars Series. He is seen here examining sediment samples.

The Spring 2016 University Scholars Series will feature presentations by Dr.
Marco Meniketti, a professor of archaeology in the College of Social Sciences, Dr. Ivano Aiello, a professor of geological oceanography at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, and Dr. Stemwedel, a professor of philosophy in the College of Humanities and the Arts.

Meniketti will launch the Spring 2016 University Scholar Series (USS) on Feb. 24, with a presentation from noon to 1 p.m. in MLK 225/229, with a lecture about the intersection of environmental change and the ascendancy of capitalism from the Age of Exploration through the late Industrial Revolution. Light refreshments will be served at each USS presentation; the events are free and open to the public.

Meniketti has built a robust research portfolio since he attended his first field school in Jamaica at the start of his career, when he helped excavate the sunken city of Port Royal. He has conducted field research in diverse locations, from underwater work in the Caribbean to prehistoric sites in the Great Basin of Nevada, and he actively engages students in field study through faculty-led programs.

"Archaeology is more than just digging up artifacts," Meniketti said. "It is a means of exploring our past cultures, behaviors, patterns of settlement and industry, and environment."

Read more about Meniketti online.

The series will continue on March 23, from noon to 1 p.m., in MLK 225/229, with a lecture by Aiello on his research of microfossil-rich marine sediments and the information it provides about past climate conditions.

His interest in marine sediment began when he was an undergraduate student at the University of Florence, where he learned the mountains and hills of Tuscany were once on the ocean floor. After coming to California as a doctoral student to study deep marine sediments, he completed his PhD at the University of California, Santa Cruz. As he continued his post-doctorate work, Aiello was invited to serve as a shipboard marine sedimentologist with an expedition of the International Ocean Discovery Program.

“This experience was yet another turning point in my career that extended my research to the field of oceanography, prompted me to obtain grants and write papers that eventually allowed me to obtain a position as a faculty (member) at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories at SJSU," he said.
Stemwedel, a professor and chair of the philosophy department in the College of Humanities and the Arts, who holds a PhD in chemistry and a PhD in philosophy, will present the final lecture in the series on April 20, from noon to 1 p.m., in MLK 255/257. Her research looks at the connection of the two disciplines and her lecture will explore the ethical dimensions of being a good scientist that extend beyond avoiding or responding to scientific misconduct.

“My research agenda as a philosopher is aimed at finding ways to help scientists do their job better – and to help them more successfully share a world with non-scientists, too,” she said.

Stemwedel regularly incorporates her research into her curriculum and maintains a blog that offers her an audience of working scientists and scientific trainees, from different disciplines, career stages and countries who provide two-way communication via comments.

The University Scholars Series is co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the University Library and the Spartan Bookstore.

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**Undergraduates Gain Skills with Research**
Ashleen Sandhu, an undergraduate student in the Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering's biomedical, chemical and materials engineering department, presented a research poster at the annual Celebration of Research on Feb. 10.

Madiha Shah and Ashleen Sandhu, ’16, Biomedical, Chemical and Materials Engineering, both became interested in creating a new way to deliver insulin for diabetic patients because of a family connection to the disease.

Sandhu said her mother was diagnosed with gestational diabetes during a pregnancy.

"It was really hard because some people don’t like needles," Sandhu said, noting that her father helped by administering insulin injections to her needle-averse mother.

Shah’s mother also has diabetes and she said her work at a pharmacy puts her in contact with patients who have the disease.

Through SJSU’s Center for Faculty Development Undergraduate Research Pairs program, they received a grant to support research on developing a noninvasive patch to provide a daily insulin dosage for pediatric patients. Dr. Folarin Erogbogbo is serving as their faculty mentor.
“He’s there to give us technical feedback and to help us network with the right people,” said Shah, who plans to study pharmacology after she graduates from SJSU this spring.

Sandhu wants to find employment in a research lab after graduation.

“I am gaining essential skills that will allow me to apply for work,” Sandhu said. “We are working with machines and gaining lab skills from being exposed to those machines. One of the benefits of undergraduate research is that SJSU has a lot of up-to-date equipment.”

Morgan Chang, a computer science student, partnered with Dr. Katherine Wilkinson, from biological sciences, as part of the Undergraduate Research Pairs program. They studied the impact of a high-fat diet on glucose levels in mice.

“She is easing me into research,” he said, noting that they had just completed a proposal for grant funding to study the impact of obesity on the risk of falling. “I recently decided I want to go to med school so I want to do something with neurophysiology.”

This year, 34 students received grants to work with 20 faculty mentors, including students from the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business, the Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering, the College of Science and the College of Social Sciences.

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Pianist Receives President's Scholar Award
Dr. Gwendolyn Mok is the 2015-16 President’s Scholar. She is one of four faculty award winners who will be honored at the Faculty Service Recognition Luncheon March 15.

Dr. Gwendolyn Mok, the Coordinator of Keyboard Studies in the College of Humanities and the Arts, oversees the School of Music and Dance’s Historic Keyboard Collection and is a leading expert in the music of French composer Maurice Ravel (1875-1937). She has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 President’s Scholar Award. Her latest CD, “LEGACY: The Spirit of Beethoven” was recorded on historic keyboards from the SJSU’s Ira F. Brilliant Beethoven Center and from the School of Music and Dance with support from SJSU and the Stuart Hughes Fund for a series called “The Composer’s Pianos.” Mok is one of four 2015-16 faculty award winners who will be honored at the Faculty Service Recognition Luncheon March 15, along with all the faculty who have reached service milestones. Read profiles of all four faculty award winners online and watch a video about the Historic Keyboard Collection.

Immigration and Performing Arts Connect
Dr. Matthew Spangler, center right in gray, and Dr. David Kahn, center left in white, lead participants of a 2014 summer institute, "The Immigrant Experience in California through Literature and Theatre" through a performance exercise. The pair will host the program this summer with a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

Matthew Spangler, a professor of communication studies in the College of Social Sciences, and David Kahn, a professor and chair of the Department of TV, Radio, Film and Theatre in the College of Humanities and the Arts, will be leading a summer institute for K-12 teachers and graduate students at San Jose State in July, with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

“The Immigrant Experience in California through Literature and Theatre” will bring 25 teachers and graduate students working toward a career in K-12 teaching to SJSU where they will interact with professors from a multitude of disciplines as well as artists and authors who have explored the immigrant experience in their works. The teachers will explore the written pieces through performance activities and will perform a piece of their own creation by the end of the program.

“The institute combines immigration and performance, and that’s what I do with my scholarship,” said Spangler, who wrote Staging Intercultural Ireland: New Plays and Practitioner Perspectives (co-edited with Charlotte Mclvor, Cork
University Press, 2014).

“The Immigrant Experience in California through Literature and Theatre” was offered at SJSU in 2014 through an NEH grant, with 150 teachers applying for the available slots. Guest faculty include Maxine Hong Kingston (author of The Woman Warrior) and Andrew Lam (author of Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora), playwright and SJSU alumnus Luis Valdez, ’64 English (author of Zoot Suit and founder of El Teatro Campesino), and theatre artist Ping Chong (author of East West Quartet and creator of “Undesirable Elements” performance series). The program will discuss immigration in an historical context with curriculum around emigration from Mexico, China, Afghanistan and Vietnam to California.

Other SJSU faculty members who are involved in the summer institute include Glen Gendzel, an associate professor of history, and Persis Karim, an associate professor of English.

Spangler, who studied at Trinity College in Dublin and completed a dissertation on Irish author James Joyce, said he became interested in the influence of immigration on Irish arts when there was an influx of movement into the country between 1995 to 2008.

“Ireland has a long history of emigration and it doesn’t have a national mythology around immigration like we do in America,” Spangler said. “Immigration is turning that on its head and demanding Ireland rethink its national identity.”

In addition to his scholarship, Spangler has also adapted books for the stage, including Khaled Hosseini’s Kite Runner and T.C. Boyle’s Tortilla Curtain.

“The book has to be something I really like,” Spangler said, of working on an adaptation. “When you write a play, you spend a lot of time with it. It takes about a year to write it, then I look for a theatre that wants to produce it and then there’s the rehearsal time. It can be a two-to-three-year process so it has to be a story I really feel connected to and I want to share.”

Read more about “The Immigrant Experience in California through Literature and Theatre” online.

SJSU Enhances Distance Education in Pakistan

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=43258bea9d&view=pt&q=provost%40sjsu.edu&qs=true&search=QUERY&msg=153101a177030b95&siml=153101a1... 10/15
Mark Adams, the Pakistani Distance Education Enhancement Project program director, left, poses for a photo with faculty collaborators at the wrap up for the three-year U.S. State Department grant.

While San Jose State University’s work on the Pakistani Distance Education Enhancement Project ended in January, the outcomes of the three-year U.S. State Department grant will have lasting impacts both at SJSU and for its Pakistani partner university Allama Iqbal Open University.

SJSU’s role in the PDEEP partnership included supporting instructors at the Pakistani university in developing online and hybrid classes. Many of the students who are served in the program are women who are unable to travel to a university due to familial responsibilities or cultural barriers that prevent women from seeking higher education, or other rural residents without the means to attend a university. Dean Ruth Huard, of the College of International and Extended Studies, served as the principal investigator on the grant while Mark Adams, an instructional developer with eCampus, served as the program director. Through the three years, more than a dozen SJSU faculty members from multiple disciplines supported the efforts, with some traveling to Pakistan to visit with educators.

From the main goal of expanding online and hybrid curriculum, some other projects have evolved. Minna Holopainen, an SJSU communication studies professor in the College of Social Sciences, worked with PDEEP on creating
Collaborative Online Intercultural Studies. Through COIL, SJSU students and Pakistani students interacted via teleconferences including an exchange between students enrolled in math courses.

“COIL caused stereotypes to melt away,” Adams said. “It hasn’t been a one-way benefit. We have learned so much expertise from so many faculty.”

Afshan Huma, a faculty member in educational planning policy and leadership in Pakistan, said she was interested in using technology to connect students from her university to students in the United States. While she studied abroad, she recognizes that many of the students she teaches do not have the same opportunity for such an experience. Through COIL, the students can have a connection to another culture without leaving their country.

“I believe them having an international interaction will have a positive effect,” she said.

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**Study Grant Aims to Improve Resources for Vietnamese Dementia Caregivers**

Dr. Van Ta Park shares her background as a Vietnamese refugee and the role of personal connection in improving resources for dementia caregivers.
As a refugee from Vietnam, Dr. Van Ta Park, an associate professor in the Department of Health Science and Recreation in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, has a unique understanding of the challenges that face family caregivers.

“We escaped by boat, but I was very young so I have no recollection,” Ta Park said. “My parents shared stories with me of the refugee camps and the violence...For a lot of refugees this experience follows them in their everyday lives.”

Ta Park has received a grant for $150,000 over three years from the Alzheimer’s Association to develop culturally-tailored mental health resources to support Vietnamese American dementia caregivers. San Jose has one of the largest Vietnamese populations in the nation. Among Vietnamese Americans, 68 percent are foreign born and 87.5 percent speak another language other than English at home. Prior research, including Ta Park's, have shown that Vietnamese Americans are less likely to utilize mental health services compared to the general population, which is concerning as caring for a family member with dementia is associated with higher rates of depression than in the general population.

William Fisher, the CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapter, presented Ta Park with a check for her grant on Feb. 19. He noted that grant proposals are selected through a peer evaluation process, with the top eight percent of proposals receiving funding. Ta Park was one of only two scientists to receive the Mentored New Investigator Research Grant to Promote Diversity (MNIRGD). She will be working with her mentors, Dr. Dolores Gallagher-Thompson and Dr. Gwen Yeo from Stanford University, School of Medicine, and will work closely with the Vietnamese American community.

Before receiving the Alzheimer’s Association grant, Ta Park received funding for a qualitative study from SJSU and her college that allowed her to interview mental healthcare providers who work with the Vietnamese population to understand the way they used existing services and the best way to reach clients.

“I found consistently that they recommended incorporating spirituality and the need to ask personal questions as well as allowing them to ask personal questions,” Ta Park said.
Through this input, Ta Park is developing a face-to-face, cognitive behavioral skill training program that will meet at the homes of Vietnamese caregivers in small groups, with five to six caregivers at a time. The participants will be divided into two groups: 30 people in the control group will receive existing resources from the Alzheimer’s Association website that have been translated from English into Vietnamese, and the other 30 will receive newly developed resources that have been created specifically for the program. All participants will be recruited through community organizations that serve local Vietnamese residents.

To support the research, Ta Park has recruited bilingual and bicultural Vietnamese SJSU students to be research assistants.

“'I see the language barrier,’” Trieu Vy Nguyen, '16 Health Science student. “There is a lack of resources. I want to be involved to have a positive impact on their quality of life.”

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We also encourage you to share your ideas and stories for consideration. Please email Melissa Anderson, the executive communications specialist for the provost, at melissa.anderson@sjsu.edu with any updates you would like to share.

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