Delta College’s

Fantastic Faculty

Volume 40, Issue 1

March 2017

Robert Moore and Lisa Lawrason, both Associate Professors of Political Science took a group of 43 students to Lansing on March 21, 2017. The students watched the House and Senate in session, sat in on committee hearings and met with area lawmakers.

Dr. David Baker, Associate Professor in Chemistry is currently serving on a Presidential Implementation Task Force for the American Chemical Society. The focus is to examine the financial and personnel resources necessary to implement the recommendations of the initial task force on which he also served. As the Coordinator of the Chemical Technology Program, he has experience working with local industry in producing graduates with core laboratory skills essential for success in the STEM workforce. The Implementation Task Force is working to articulate strategies needed to create stronger college-industry partnerships that will better serve workforce needs through two-year programs and opportunities with on the job training in STEM related fields.

Donna Giuliani, Associate Professor of Sociology, is the Executive Director of the Michigan Sociological Association. In October 2016, she took six Delta honors students to the Michigan Sociological Association annual meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Two of her students presented their research in a conference session entitled Michigan Cities After the Automobile. Alaina Galaviz presented a paper entitled, Segregation and White Flight: Explaining Separate and Unequal in the City of Saginaw and Daisy Benemann presented a paper entitled, Black and White: The Modern Racial Divide.

Jill Harrison, Associate Professor of Child Development, was accepted as an Associate Degree Accreditation peer reviewer for the National Association for Young Children. As a reviewer, Jill will work to evaluate early childhood higher education programs, determine whether or not the programs have successfully met the standards and earned recognition, and serve as an advocate for early childhood professional development.
Amy French, Assistant Professor of History, and Kate Roedel, Office Professional in the Health and Wellness Division are co-chairs of the Women's History Month committee. During the month of March they organized numerous events for Women's History Month, including: Hidden Figures book club, Women Who Dared walking tour, "See a Girl, See a Leader" where young women came to the college and recorded radio spots (see picture to the right), and two film screenings: Hammering It Out and Trapped. In addition, Laura Dull, Social Science Division Chair, and Ryan Petersen, Associate Professor of Political Science, participated in a debate titled: Who Makes Women’s History? Should Margaret Thatcher be added to the Women Who Dared walking tour?

Kimberly Klein, Associate Professor of Political Science, Lisa Lawrason, Associate Professor of Political Science, and Tom Boudrot, Assistant Professor of Political Science, as part of the Democracy Commitment at Delta College offered a Community College Civic Summit on March 24, 2017. The summit featured Verdis Robinson, National Director for the Democracy Commitment. This was an opportunity for faculty, students, and community members to gain tools to facilitate political conversations and to inspire ideas for creating increased civic awareness. The event was free to participants as a result of Delta’s 5-year membership in the Democracy Commitment.

Andrea Bair, Geology Instructor, attended the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 2016 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, Oct. 24-29 to lead a professional development workshop and present research on student perceptions of evolutionary diagrams. Andrea and colleagues led a one-day workshop: “Filling the Expectation Gap: Paleontologists as Teaching Professors—Professional Development for Paleontologists Working Outside of Research-intensive Universities.” Andrea focused on backward design strategies for course development, cognitive science principles for college instructors, and writing assessable course- and lecture-level learning goals. As an extension of the workshop, the trio collaborated on a poster presentation titled “Fielding your first course: using good planning to enhance student learning and possibly even keep your sanity”, in the Education/Outreach-focused poster session. Andrea also presented a research poster in the same session on “Teaching and learning cladograms: how cognitive science predicts “better” and “worse”