Rodriguez to Head New Pro-Tech Program

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Beginning in fall 2017, Pro-Tech will offer programs in farm operations and manufacturing. As the program expands, so will program offerings.

RODRIGUEZ TO HEAD NEW PRO-TECH PROGRAM

Dordt’s new Pro-Tech program is moving full steam ahead with the appointment of Oscar Rodriguez to help develop the new major. Rodriguez, currently teaching at West Point Military Academy, has a wealth of experience in technical education and a passion for helping train Christians with a broad understanding of how to live their calling in careers in manufacturing and technical fields.

Rodriguez has experience and certifications in various C-STEM (Computers, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) specialties, including electronics, automation, robotics, mechatronics, energy, and advanced production and manufacturing technologies. He taught at the community college and university level and worked and consulted for a number of companies. He is also familiar with Dordt College, having studied in the engineering program for one year while his family remained in their home country of Honduras.

Now, decades of further education and work later, he is eagerly helping launch the new program.

“This is a timely opportunity for Dordt to continue making significant contributions toward the education and training of kingdom citizens,” Rodriguez says. “Advanced technologies and modern manufacturing, specifically, is an area that the church and other Christian higher-education institutions have not used as an avenue to make an impact in our current culture. With the high demand for a high-tech education, Pro-Tech will help fill that need.”

Rodriguez says Dordt’s program will provide opportunities for students to develop their God-given abilities and serve as ambassadors of Christ’s kingdom in an environment that needs highly skilled workers and people of principle. It will also provide internship opportunities, where students will put their learning into practice.

SALLY JONGSMA

MANY HATS

Oscar A. Rodriguez has had many titles over the past 20 years: Technical Support Engineer, Industrial Technology Consultant, Associate Professor of Engineering Technology, Applied Engineering Technologist, Master Instructor of Electronics, Certified Fiber Optics Instructor, Certified Advanced Manufacturing Instructor, Green Production Instructor, Certified Energy Professional Candidate, Electromechanical Technologist, Department Chair, Certified Online Instructor, Certified Robotics Instructor, and Engineering and Military IT Applications Professor.

Faculty Notes

Agriculture Professor Dr. Jeremy Hummel co-authored an article titled “Development of a multiplex PCR assay for the identification of common cutworm species (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) infesting canola in western Canada,” published in November in The Canadian Entomologist.

Art Professor David Versluis was the featured artist in the January/February 2017 edition of Arts & Cultural Strategies, printed in Chicago. Versluis’s artwork was selected for the curatorial international group exhibition titled “Layered: Tracing How Art is Made” at the Zhou B Art Center in Chicago from January to March 2017. Versluis also gave a presentation called “The Making of a little bit of cathedral in it,’ A wall sculpture commissioned by Dordt College in 2015” at the Society of Typographic Arts in Chicago in January.

Assistant Provost and English Professor Dr. Leah Zuidema co-authored a book titled Coaching Teacher-Writers: Practical Steps to Nurture Professional Writing that was published by Teachers College Press in November. Zuidema was also nominated for vice president of National Council of Teachers of English.

Biology Professors Dr. Jeff Ploegstra and Dr. Tony Jelsma, along with Biology and Chemistry Department Assistant Brittany De Ruyter, published a paper titled “Population Genetic Structure of Asclepias Tuberosa in Northwest Iowa: A Comparison Within and Between Remnant Prairies and Commercially Available Seed” in the Journal of the Iowa Academy of Sciences in July.

Education Professor David Mulder presented research he and his advisor conducted on how preservice teachers learn to integrate technology into their teaching practices at the Association for Educational Communications and Technology annual conference in Las Vegas in October.