

# the collage

Fall 2010

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

## Faculty highlight



Although Dr. Lyn McQuaid (formerly Dr. Lyn Phy), Associate Professor in the Mathematics Department, joined the Kutztown University faculty in 2001, she was not new to Kutztown. After graduating from KU with a B.S. in mathematics, she attended Lehigh University, earning both her M.S. and Ph.D. in mathematics. She recalls that during her first year there, she was questioned by her fellow students about whether she felt that her preparation from a “state school” like KU was enough to tackle graduate work at Lehigh. As it turned out, Dr. McQuaid not only passed her M.A. comprehensive exam on the first try, but also was the only student in her class to pass all

three of her Ph.D. qualifying exams on the first try. She attributes both of these successes to the quality of her undergraduate education at KU.

After receiving her Ph.D., Dr. McQuaid accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. While the school's size and mission fit with her career goals, the cold climate did not. When a job opened up at KU, she relished the opportunity to serve on the “other side of the desk” at the university that had given so much to her. Since then, Dr. McQuaid has taught a wide variety of courses ranging from introductory to graduate-level courses. Building on this breadth and depth of knowledge, she is currently writing a College Algebra textbook.

In addition, her research into women's contributions to the myriad fields of mathematics and science led her to create the Women in Mathematics course. This course, taught through both in-class and on-line formats, is the first mathematics offering to be cross-listed with the Women's Studies Program. This field of interest led to her receiving, with colleague Dr. Winnie Peterson, a grant from the Association of Women in Mathematics to host a “Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day” at KU. This 2008 event linked local high schools with KU in an effort to foster a deeper understanding of the nuances of teaching mathematics to females, to encourage female students to pursue the study of mathematics,

and to assist with the transition between all levels of mathematical study.

In addition to her teaching and research duties, Dr. McQuaid is active on many state and local committees. She is the Vice Chair of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Mathematical Association (PASSHEMA) and the Vice Chair of the Kutztown University Commission on the Status of Women. She also serves on several other university and departmental committees and has been the Co-Advisor of the Math Club for nine years.

Dr. McQuaid's multi-faceted dedication to her field was recognized in fall 2006 when she was awarded the John P. Schellenberg Faculty Award. This distinction is given to a KU faculty member who embodies those qualities most closely associated with the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching: pedagogy and curriculum innovation, learning technology innovation, and research on learning.

In her personal life, Dr. McQuaid enjoys cooking, cycling, and spending time with her family, including children Logan and Ashlyn. She also works as the Director of Music at a church in Allentown.

**KU Family:** Dr. McQuaid's father, Dr. Larry Mugridge, has been a math professor at KU since 1972 and is the second most senior faculty in the Mathematics Department.

## Dean's Corner



Anne E. Zayaitz  
Ph.D.  
Acting Dean

What is it that makes Kutztown University unique? Often we hear that it is the sense of the “Kutztown Family” where students, faculty, and staff have the opportunity for supportive and encouraging interactions that celebrate with respect the joy of each

other's lives. This issue of *The Collage* celebrates family connections at KU.

We began this semester by welcoming the class of 2014 as members of our Kutztown University family. Our celebration continued with the visit of Sarah Vowell, the author of our first-year book *Take the Cannoli*.

Our tenured faculty ranks grew this fall; a short introduction to each of these teaching scholars is included in this newsletter. We also recognize our

students who have done great things in the classroom, through internships and research, and in the community.

The challenges that our students face to complete their college education has been intensified by the economy. Thank you to all who have made donations to the KU Foundation; please know that your continued support of our college scholarships makes an enormous difference for the students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who are a part of our university family.

# Faculty highlight



**D**r. Tom Betts grew up in Williamsport, PA, earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 1985, and then went to work for Quaker State Motor Oil Corporation. After a year at Quaker State's research center in Oil City, PA, he left to manage the company's laboratory and wastewater treatment facility at its Smethport refinery. Although he achieved that high-ranking position at a young age (he was only 22 years old), something was missing in terms of job satisfaction. He decided to pursue his Ph.D. at the State University of New York at

Buffalo. Upon graduating with his doctorate in Analytical Chemistry in 1992, he joined Kutztown University as a chemistry professor in the Physical Sciences Department.

While Dr. Betts's primary teaching responsibilities include Analytical Chemistry I and II, he also teaches general chemistry, organic chemistry, and environmental chemistry labs as well as senior seminar in chemistry. He has also offered chemistry at The Reading Hospital. About nine years ago he created what has become a very popular course, Introduction to Forensic Science, for non-science majors.

In addition, Dr. Betts works closely with students on a variety of undergraduate research projects. Most of the research involves fluorescence spectroscopy. With fluorescence, a sample is bombarded with a beam of light, which creates a glow; its color and intensity indicate changes occurring at the molecular level. Kutztown University students working with Dr. Betts have used fluorescence to watch epoxy cure, see proteins bind to DNA, measure protein content in "power shakes," construct sugar sensors, and determine the ability of cyclodextrins to trap

certain molecules (cyclodextrins are a family of compounds made up of sugar molecules bound together in a ring).

Another technique used frequently by Dr. Betts' research students is chromatography, which is the separation of a mixture so that its parts can be examined one at a time. His students research and apply chromatography to quantify the components that make hot peppers hot (capsaicins), detect the bitter components of hops, identify differences between authentic and imposter perfumes, and evaluate the sugar content of flower nectar.

It appears that Dr. Betts found in teaching that which was missing from his brief industrial career: the opportunity to help students enhance and alter their perspectives through education in science. Thus, he gains the sense of having played some small role in students' success.

In his down time, Dr. Betts enjoys mountain biking, juggling, and watching his children play music and sports.

**KU Family:** Dr. Tom Betts has a daughter, Kirsten Betts, who is a junior Music Education major at KU.

# Student highlight



**MILO CRIMI, '12**

**M**ilo Crimi is a junior philosophy major with minors in computer science and math. He joined the Philosophy Club his freshman year and has been the Vice President since fall 2009. The combination of his academic coursework with his club experiences has presented Milo with many opportunities to become involved in numerous academic conferences.

In the spring of 2010, Milo attended The Interdisciplinary Association for Philosophical

and Religious Studies Conference at West Chester University, where he presented his paper "Epistemic Failure." The paper, which won first place, was an "analysis and interpretation of the Gettier problem," explained Milo. Later this fall, his paper, under its new title, "On the Gettier Problem," is being published in *Jauna Sophia*, an undergraduate philosophy journal.

In 2009, Milo attended Fordham University's An International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, and also presented his own research papers at two additional conferences (The Tenth Annual Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference at Reading Area Community College and The Moravian Ancient and Medieval Conference).

At all of these conferences Milo received "good comments and feedback from faculty and students." This is part of the Philosophy Club's goal; the club's main activities include visiting conferences and taking trips to other universities, participating in workshops for student papers, and getting prominent speakers to share their knowledge with KU students and faculty. Last year, the club hosted three

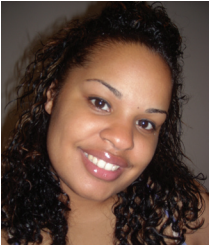
renowned philosophical scholars: Graham Priest, Robert Audi, and Andrew Payne. All of these experiences have enhanced Milo's college career.

Aside from the Philosophy Club and conferences, Milo has worked in the Philosophy Department and currently he spends his time as a philosophy tutor. "It's a lot more enjoyable than it sounds," says Milo, as he explains that tutoring is not just for students who are struggling in their classes: "Tutoring is a dialogue between students, for both people to learn more about what they're discussing."

Milo raved about the Philosophy Department, stating that "all of the professors are really, really helpful" and that there is a focus on student success because "students are valued and get more attention from their professors."

Upon graduation, Milo would like to attend graduate school to further his education in philosophy.

## Interesting Internship



### Minerva Ruiz

#### Master of Social Work '11

##### Where are you interning?

I am interning at Berks County Children and Youth Services (BCCYS).

##### What are your responsibilities?

Right now I am the only graduate-level intern at my agency, so my responsibilities differ from an undergraduate. Since I have already obtained my bachelor's degree from Alvernia University, I am a social worker. Thus, I am expected to know things that the undergraduates do not. When I started my internship this summer, I was learning from and shadowing caseworkers.

Then I was accepted into KU's Advance Standing Masters of Social Work Program. Now that I have a better understanding of the job, I work on my own and have my own clients. My responsibilities include licensing foster homes as quickly as possible, according to Pennsylvania regulations, so children taken into the agency's custody have a placement. My particular department is Kinship, so I license homes of a child's family member or someone who is involved in the child's life (such as a coach, pastor, teacher, etc.) who is willing to care for the child.

##### What interesting experiences have you had while interning?

Over the summer, I had lots of experiences that were interesting, inspiring and sometimes very heartbreaking. It is hard to work at the BCCYS, clock out at the end of the day, and then go home and act as if everything is okay. So I decided to start a support group within my agency for all

the workers to reduce and/or prevent job-related burnout.

##### Explain what you do on a daily basis at your internship.

The interesting thing about my internship is that I never know what is going to happen, but I enjoy that because it keeps me on my toes. There are days when the agency is quiet and I am just catching up on documentation and then there are days that are so busy and crazy that I look at the clock and it is 6:30 p.m. So I never know, and that's what makes it fun.

##### Additional Comments

I love my internship, and I love what I do. I enjoy trading silly bands with the kids, but I must admit at times it can be quite challenging. I am hoping that by the time May comes I can accept a position.

## Student highlight



### JOHN BRUMBAUGH '12

John Brumbaugh, a junior history major with minors in political science and in German, had a very interesting experience this past summer when he interned at Congressman Joe Sestak's District Office in Media, PA. Some of his responsibilities included answering phone calls, responding to mail, and assisting caseworkers with constituent issues.

In order to receive this opportunity, John had a two-hour interview with the District Director, Bill Walsh. At first, the interview questions were easy, but then Walsh asked John questions about Sestak that only a politically-knowledgeable person would be able to answer. Walsh also asked John to read articles from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and summarize/highlight the main points. John said that this was also part

of his responsibilities, so it really prepared him for the position.

When talking about his experience at the District Office, John mentioned a heartwarming story that he remembered from just days before he left. One day, the District Office received a letter from the acquaintances of a Vietnam veteran, who is unemployed and on the brink of losing his home. John noted that these individuals were "asking if he was eligible for veteran's affairs, health care, or pension and if we could help him find a job." It surprised him that people would be so kind and go out of their way to help the veteran. Because his job ended before this situation was resolved, John does not know specifically what was done to assist this veteran; but, he is sure that the District Office was able to help.

Another highlight from his experience occurred during a meeting between the interns and Walsh. John remembers the advice Walsh gave him. "Due diligence. Do your homework, work hard, give it 100 percent," John said, mimicking Walsh.

"After working there, I think I could work anywhere," proclaimed John. He explained that the job was difficult, but well worth the experience.

John's interest in history and politics is evident in his KU activities as well. He is the president of the College Democrats at Kutztown University. Before becoming president, John was active in the Kutztown Area Democratic Club, which sparked his interest in reactivating the College Democrats Club at KU.

Last year, John, members of the College Democrats, and residents from the Kutztown area helped recruit Manan Trivedi and Doug Pike (both Democrats) to KU. The two candidates presented a debate to KU students, faculty, and residents of the Kutztown area because at the time they were both competing to be the democratic candidate for the 6th congressional district.

Aside from his recent activities, John continues to learn at KU. His favorite classes thus far have been his German courses in the Modern Language Studies Department (levels 2-4 and Composition I and II) and Dr. Riley's International Relations course, which offered through the Political Science Department.





Dr. Zayaitz poses with CLAS student, Shelton Caple, after he won a t-shirt during a game that was part of the Opening Day events for freshman.



Mrs. Santangelo, Dr. Peter Detterline, and Mr. Santangelo pose at the patent ceremony in the President's Board Room.

Mr. Matthew Santangelo discovered a mysterious rock on his property that Dr. Detterline, Professor of Astronomy, helped to determine was a "calendar stone." The stones were used by early man to determine the seasonal time of year and solstices/equinoxes by examining the shadow on the rock. Both men were awarded a patent for their outstanding scientific discovery.

## Exciting CLAS Renovations!

From top to bottom: a Grim Science Building lab room, a Graduate Center classroom, and the English Department Office.



Congratulations to the Kutztown Mathematics team of **Danielle Young**, **David Blisard**, and **Ashley Dougherty** (featured in the photo on the right) for taking first place in the Cumberland Valley Math Modeling Challenge. This 24-hour competition was held at Shippensburg University. In the photo on the left is the KU math team and advisors, from left to right: Dr. Pat Gorman, Pete Koufalis, Danielle Young, Ashley Dougherty, Clinton Watton, David Blisard, and Dr. Jen Gorman.

***KU Family:** Dr. Pat Gorman and Dr. Jen Gorman are married and professors in the Mathematics Department.*



## The Arthur and Isabel Wiesenger Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Allan Bäck, professor of Philosophy, won the Wiesenger Faculty Award this fall.

This award is presented annually to one faculty member who has shown exemplary teaching while at Kutztown University. Faculty members are nominated by students, alumni, faculty or staff and are chosen by a selection committee comprised of faculty emeritus and former award recipients.

From left to right: *President of KU Dr. F. Javier Cevallos, Dr. Allan Bäck, and Director of Alumni Relations Glenn Godshall.*



## A View From Abroad

Students visited Austria and Germany this summer with **Dr. Greg Hanson**, from the Modern Language Studies Department and **Dr. John Delaney**, from the History Department.

Students pose in front of the Neuschwanstein Castle (Bavaria, Germany).

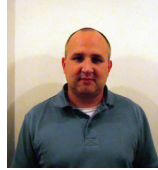
**Back row:** Andrew Robinson, Madison O'Neil, Andrea Yozwiak, Erica Franklin, Rebecca Livsey, Jonathan Garber, and Abraham Kue.

**Front row:** Jason Moosburg, Jessica Lower, and Marissa Snyder.

# New Tenure Track Faculty



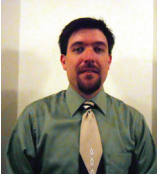
David Arndt, Ph.D., English  
University of California, Irvine  
Literary Theory and Criticism,  
Modern Fiction in French,  
English, and German



Daniel Aruscavage, Ph.D.,  
Biology  
The Ohio State University  
Food Microbiology



Colleen Clemens, Ph.D.,  
English  
Lehigh University  
Post-Colonial Studies



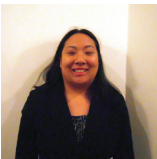
Jason Crockett, Ph.D.,  
Sociology  
University of Arizona  
Sexuality, Gender, and Social  
Movements



Albert Fu, Ph.D.,  
Sociology  
SUNY Binghamton Urban  
Studies, Cultural Studies



Tauqeer Hussain, Ph.D.,  
Computer Science  
Lahore University of  
Management Sciences  
Software Engineering



Jennifer Jacobson, Ph.D.,  
Political Science  
University of Wisconsin-  
Milwaukee Judicial Behavior,  
Administrative Law



Amanda Morris, Ph.D.,  
English  
Auburn University  
Native American and  
Indigenous Rhetorics



Staci Perlman, Ph.D.,  
Social Welfare University  
of Pennsylvania Social/  
Emotional Development of  
Young Children

## Faculty Achievements: Tenure and Promotions

Please join us in congratulating the following faculty members in their achievements:

### FACULTY ACHIEVING TENURE

- John Conahan, Social Work
- Matthew Junker, Physical Sciences
- Keith Logan, Criminal Justice
- Padraig McLoughlin, Mathematics
- John Riley, Political Science
- Cristen Rosch, Biology
- John Stanley, History
- Todd Underwood, Biology

### FACULTY ACHIEVING PROMOTIONS

#### Professor

- James Delle, Anthropology/  
Sociology
- Kurt Frieauf, Physical  
Sciences
- Patricia Kelleher, History
- Daniel Spiegel, Computer  
Science
- David Webb, Anthropology/  
Sociology

#### Associate Professor

- Lisa Frye, Computer Science
- Matthew Junker, Physical  
Sciences
- Keith Logan, Criminal Justice
- Padraig McLoughlin,  
Mathematics
- John Riley, Political Science
- John Stanley, History
- Todd Underwood, Biology

#### Assistant Professor

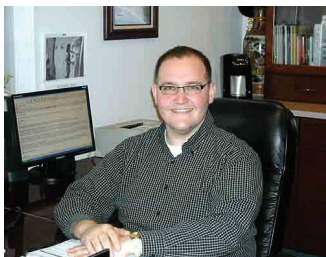
- Patrick Gorman, Mathematics
- Jonathan Kremser, Criminal  
Justice

## Dean's Scholarship Fund

The Dean's Scholarship Fund supports students who are from diverse majors within the college who demonstrate excellent academic achievement. Alumni and friends of the university who are interested in making a contribution to the CLAS Dean's Scholarship may do so online at <http://www.kutztown.edu/foundation/ways.shtml> or by contacting the KU Foundation at 610-683-1394. We could not achieve our goals without your support and commitment. Thank you for helping us continue our tradition of excellence by helping our students succeed.



# Alumni highlight



**Ryan A.  
Briesch  
'05**

In 2005, Ryan A. Briesch graduated from Kutztown University with a bachelor's degree in Spanish. He is currently serving as the Executive Director of the Literacy Council of Reading-Berks. Their mission is to "increase the level of adult literacy in Berks County."

Briesch began working at the Literacy Council when he was a junior in high school, serving as a tutor for various clients. Now serving as the executive director, Briesch is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Literacy Council as well as overseeing administration, finance,

fundraising, program operations, and public relations.

"My experiences at the Literacy Council have been wonderful. I am fortunate to have met many people from various cultures and backgrounds," Briesch commented. The Literacy Council serves adults whose native language is not English, but they also serve English-speaking adults who are working towards obtaining a GED or learning how to better speak and read the English language. "I admire every person who walks through our door to seek our services. It takes a lot of courage to admit that you need help, especially with tasks that so many of us take for granted," Briesch said.

During his very first tutoring experience at the Literacy Council, when he was just a junior in high school, Briesch was assigned to help a Polish woman with her pronunciation. They were working on a lesson about beaches, and at the end of the two-hour lesson, she said, "Ryan, I have

one question. This *beach*, is that the same as *son of a*?" He remembers telling her no, and then explaining the difference: "What a question on my first day as a tutor!"

Currently, on behalf of the Literacy Council, Briesch is working with the KU Modern Language Studies Department and the Yocum Institute on a project to increase literacy in Spanish and English among children waiting to participate in the "Headstart Program." "I am excited about this possibility as it allows me the opportunity to return to the Kutztown campus and work with the professors who helped me through my college career," Briesch said.

For more information about the Literacy Council of Reading-Berks, visit [www.lcrb.org](http://www.lcrb.org).

**KU Family:** Jillian Briesch, Ryan Briesch's wife, graduated from KU in 2006 earning her M.Ed. in Reading with a Reading Specialist Certificate.

## Interesting Internship

### Aaron Thompson Biochemistry, '12

#### Where did you intern?

I interned at Pinnacle Ridge Winery in Kutztown, Pa.

#### What were your responsibilities?

I learned as much as I could about viticulture and the wine making process. I interned the entire summer growing season, from the first sprouts of fruit clusters all the way to picking and fermenting juice into wine. I've learned that just as much hard work goes into wine making as fruit. I worked in the vineyard and the winery.

While working in the vineyard, I sorted shoots, dropped secondary clusters, pulled leaves, cleared vine trunks, hedged, weighed and analyzed fruit, positioned canopies, picked clusters, crushed grapes and did lots of other agriculture-related labor.

At the winery, I analyzed juice and wine, racked, added yeasts and nutrients (to begin fermentation), blended wines, filtered, bottled,

cleared, adjusted sulfites, and learned important chemical processes that go into creating a presentable (and delectable) bottle of wine.

#### What interesting experiences did you have while interning?

I learned about making and enjoying wine firsthand from one of the most popular and award-winning wine makers in the Lehigh Valley, Brad Knapp, and an incredibly knowledgeable vineyard manager, Josh Ellis. Every experience in this field is fascinating. The one that most interests me, however, is the effect that each vineyard's terrior has on the grape varieties and the taste of the wine itself (the vineyard's terrior explains the reason no one can duplicate the taste of champagne made in Champagne, France, for example). I didn't mind having a taste of the fruits of our labor, literally, from time to time either.

#### Explain what you did on a daily basis at your internship.

It depends on what the grapes or wine (or weather) dictates. No one day is like another and each endeavor brought new challenges. Since harvest began, I was mostly involved

in bottling aged wine from last season and processing fruit to make new wines, but even these differ vastly from one variety to the next.

#### Additional Comments

I find it interesting how much or how little control a wine maker has. The wine maker has the ability to manage every aspect of his or her wine, from taste, look, smell, and even the feel in the mouth. But, in the vineyard, a frost can destroy nearly all of the grapes, or a hot, dry, long summer can occur (such as this one) and produce tons of excellent fruit. I loved my internship because it allowed me to be outside and active most of the time as opposed to being stuck at a computer in a cubicle like many other interns. I was also involved in turning relatively inexpensive and common fruit (at a few dollars a pound in the grocery store) into an enjoyable and prestigious beverage (from ten dollars to a few hundred dollars a bottle). The unpredictable work from day to day make this an exciting and enjoyable internship.

**KU Family:** Josh Ellis, the Pinnacle Ridge Winery's manager, graduated from Kutztown University with the class of 2000.

The fall 2010 edition of *The Collage* was designed and written by Jacqueline M. Conley '11, professional writing major, under the supervision of The LAS Dean's Office.