

# the collage

Spring 2012

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

## Faculty highlight



**D**r. Elaine Walls Reed teaches in the English Department and she has since the fall of 1992. During her 20-year tenure at Kutztown University, she has served in capacities

as varied as English Department Chairperson, Acting Dean of Humanities and Social Studies, and Director of both the Women's Center and the Women's Studies Program. In 2007, she received the Arthur and Isabel Wiesenberger Award for Excellence in Teaching; she is the third woman to achieve that honor in the award's 17-year history.

Hired at the instructor level to a tenure-track position teaching public relations, desktop publishing and mass communication, Dr. Reed began her Ph.D. in Mass Media and Communication at Temple University during her first spring semester on staff. "It wasn't required in my contract, and I really don't

think anyone expected me to succeed here, but I knew I was capable, so I just did it as quickly as possible," she explained.

"The variety in my career at KU has been a matter of my being willing to use my skills in whatever way best serve my department," she said. Although her primary allegiance is to the English Department's Professional Writing major—its media history and theory courses, internships and Professional Seminar, which she teaches online so that students can intern at greater distances from campus—Dr. Reed recently assumed responsibility for ENG 334 Introduction to Linguistics. She has since devoted all of her professional development to the instruction of that subject, fondly termed "the math of English" by her students.

Possessing a B.S.Ed. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, an M.A. from KU, a Ph.D. from Temple and 17 years of secondary education experience in Berks County's Governor Mifflin School District, Dr. Reed also has supervised student teachers as recently as Spring 2010.

When she had a quarter-time appointment as Director of the Women's Center and a quarter-time appointment as Director of Women's Studies, whose curricular offerings expanded during her tenure, Dr.

Reed instituted a speaker series that complemented the WST 250 Women and Leadership course and helped to secure funding to bring feminist authors and advocates to campus, including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, playwright Eve Ensler, second-wave feminists Gloria Steinem and Susan Brownmiller, CNN commentator Donna Brazile, and "The Century Project" founder and photographer Frank Cordelle.

She has been Phi Kappa Phi president three of the past four years, enabling selected KU students of superior academic ability to win fellowships in competition with a national pool.

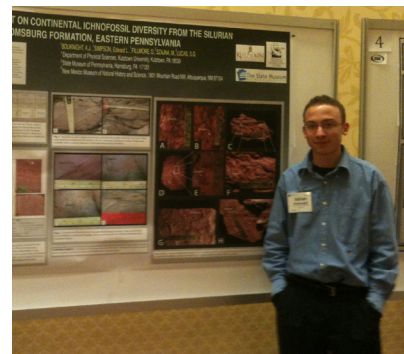
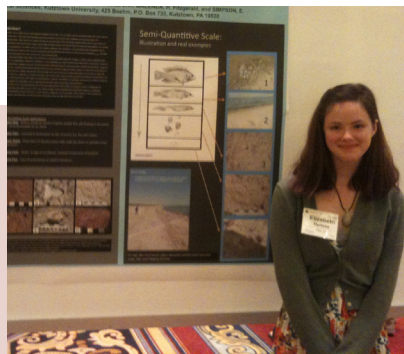
As she plans for retirement to North Carolina's Outer Banks, she finds her greatest professional satisfaction in "so many little things that we often take for granted—freshman learning communities, the beauty of our campus, student publications, the support staff, the pride we take in our students, but especially the quality and work ethic of our younger faculty and the work we have done to select and mentor them. We have so many students who could be successful anywhere, yet they come here. That means word travels about the quality of instruction they are receiving. I am proud to have been a part of it."

## Dean's Corner

At this time of year, questions abound but focus on 'What's next?' As one chapter or semester closes, another is ready to begin. The best part of this transitional time between graduation and the welcoming of new students is that 'what's next' is an unwritten page full of potential. The steps one takes are predicated on where one has been, what experiences have occurred, what beliefs one holds, what values have been internalized and what opportunities have been uncovered. Sometimes an individual ends up in a situation where the grass is the wrong shade of green and it becomes time to readjust, to refocus and to set new goals for 'what's next.' Each of us has been inspired by someone who has encouraged us to move forward. As one semester ends and the next is right around the corner, follow the advice of noted essayist and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson and "dare to live the life you have dreamed for yourself." Congratulations to the Kutztown University Class of 2012.



Anne E. Zayaitz  
Ph.D.  
Dean



Jarred Swiontek, *left*, Elizabeth Heness, *center*, and Adrian Bouknight, *right*, presented papers and posters with their faculty co-authors at the Northeastern Geological Society of America Meeting in Hartford, CT on March 18.



On April 14, the Language Resource Center and the Department of Modern Language Studies, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association, hosted the "L2 Tech Day: Communication with Communities Conference." Educators and future educators explored the use of technology in teaching language and culture.



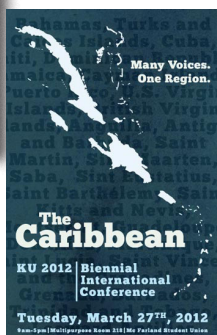
**Throughout the semester, Kutztown students and faculty had many conference opportunities at KU and beyond, in which to present their research, facilitate sessions and interact with fellow academics.**



The English Department hosted this year's English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities Undergraduate Conference on April 7. They also hosted the 8th Annual Kutztown University Composition Conference on April 25.



Keynote speaker Dr. Silvio Torres-Saillant, *above*, spoke about Caribbean identity at the Caribbean Conference, organized by the International Affairs Committee with the cooperation of members of various CLAS departments.



### OPEN FORUMS

The Social Work Department hosted the 10th Annual Social Work Community Forum: "Multi-Level Social Work in the Digital Age," on March 23.

"The Justice and Injustice in Urban America" Open Class Forum was hosted by the Criminal Justice Department on April 18.



Lynne Rudder Baker, *above*, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst spoke at the PASSHE Philosophy & Religious Studies Conference hosted by the Philosophy Department on March 30 & 31.

On April 21, the Department of History hosted the Phi Alpha Theta Pennsylvania Eastern Regional Conference.





# Interesting Internship



**CATHERINE JEBRAN '12**  
**MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK**

## Where are you interning?

I am interning at Arcadia Hospice, a private, for-profit agency in Allentown, PA.

## What do you do there?

My responsibilities are to do psychosocial assessments on patients and their families and provide companionship, support and education for them. I also work with the bereavement coordinator, archiving the files on past patients and reaching out to families in the months after their loved ones' death. In addition, I have a caseload of patients that I visit on a weekly basis to be sure that they are not in pain and that their symptoms are being managed. At the same time, I reach out to families to ensure that all

their needs are being met and to educate them about the process of dying.

## What makes your internship unique?

Most interesting to me is the interaction with the patients, especially the elderly individuals who reside in assisted living facilities or skilled nursing facilities. They have so much history and love to talk about their experiences. One gentleman, a self-proclaimed bachelor who worked in Washington D.C. as an engineer, loves to talk about his experiences in the capital and how happy he is to be alive. I can't stress enough how much of an honor it is to share these moments and experiences with people who know that they are dying. What makes my internship unique is the privilege to be part of a person's life when they are dying. It is amazing how comfortable people become when they accept their impending death. Though people fear death throughout most of their lives, dying can truly be a peaceful process when experienced through hospice.

## How does social work fit into the hospice care picture?

The social worker is the first contact with the hospice agency, so the skills and values of our profession are used when addressing families and patients who are making difficult decisions.

Social Services are the primary contact for any community resources such as medical equipment which would include hospital beds, walkers, bedside commodes etc. We also offer direct support as well as counseling and bereavement services.

## How was your college experience as a whole?

I left college when I got married and started a family. I was a stay-at-home mom for 25 years, but the plan was that I would return to get my degree when my four daughters were older. I did and I received my undergraduate degree at KU in 2009. I never expected to go for my MSW, but fell in love with social work and knew that the degree would open more doors and also help me to better serve my clients or patients.

I love the family-in-environment focus of the KU program. It fits perfectly with the person-in-environment perspective of social work and systems theory. Every person has a family, whether defined structurally or functionally and those members are the critical intersection of the individual and society. The FIE perspective strengthens the generalist practitioner's ability to view all systems and how they affect their practice. I want to work in a hospice agency and the program at KU has prepared me so well to meet that goal.



**NATHAN SMYK '12**  
**PSYCHOLOGY**

While some psychology students struggle to see their futures in the field, Nathan Smyk's vision is clear. Nathan is a Clinical Counseling track Psychology major and Anthropology minor with a strong interest in the physiological aspect of psychology.

Nathan says his fascination with psychology was sparked by the same "crazy stuff" everyone else likes, but that he stayed in the program

"for the science." He appreciates the "direct, applicable nature" of the science. "It points the scientific lens at human behavior," he explains. Applicability is key in Nathan's experience: he uses what he has learned in everything—even his job in Asset Protection at Best Buy. As the person responsible for watching the store camera feed, it is Nathan's job to monitor both customers and employees. At this station, Nathan began a behavior journal, documenting the actions of employees to examine how they affected the store's relationship with customers.

After graduation, Nathan plans to spend a year continuing the research he began for his honors project. His study revolves around the prevalence of empirical thought in the sciences and determining if evidence-based empiricism is shifting into all branches of psychological study. He is also particularly interested in the validity of psychological assessments.

Following his research experience, he will return to school, in order to earn a Ph.D. in

## Student highlight

Neuropsychology. Such a specialization will serve him well as it is important to geriatric medicine, a field growing with the number of "baby boomers" dealing with dementia.

Outside the clinic, Nathan would also like to teach. He discovered a love of teaching through tutoring opportunities at KU. Nathan's horizons were broadened by other programs at KU as well; he is a member of Psi Chi Honors Society, the Psychology Club and the Honors Club. On the Executive Board of the Honors Program for three semesters, he served as Vice President of First Year Programs.

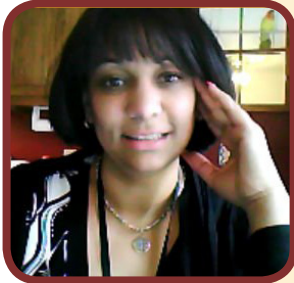
*When he is not researching neuropsychology for school, Nathan is studying it for fun, although he might take a break to play harmonica or guitar. He is also getting married in September.*

# CLAS Achievements

Junior Geography major Michelle Sayles, *right*, received the prestigious Newman Civic Fellow Award this spring. She was honored for her leadership skills and environmental activism on campus and in the community.



Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 Chambliss Student Academic Achievement Awards. Three students from CLAS were honored for their outstanding achievements in research, original writing, art and/or service. Philosophy student Milo Crimi, *first from left in front row*, and History student Samantha Miller, *third from left in front row*, received gold medals. Geology major Jarred Swiontek, *second from right in back row*, received a silver medal.



Spanish major Audrey Ricardo, *left*, was 1 of 2 people (out of 60) to pass the Bilingual Spanish/English Translation Examination hosted by Reading High School.



The Political Science Department recently celebrated their students' achievements. Michael DeTommaso, Meghan Sullivan, Jennifer Feldman and Timothy Huckleberry, *above, left to right*, were awarded academic awards. Michael and Meghan were also inducted with Caitlyn McDevitt and Amy Smith, *at right*, into Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Honor Society in Political Science and Public Administration. *Also inducted, but not pictured:* Bradley Myhre, Aissa Deh and Chrystal Shirey Ferguson.



The Criminal Justice Outstanding Alumni Award was granted to The Honorable Arenda L. Wright Allen, KU '82. Judge Allen was nominated to serve as a United States District Court Judge by President Obama. The United States Senate unanimously confirmed her nomination. She serves the Eastern District of Virginia, Fourth Circuit. At the same award ceremony, the Department of Criminal Justice named Allen Leiby and Zachary Wise the recipients of the program's outstanding student awards. *Pictured above:* Judge Allen, *left*, with Dr. Pisciotta and Dr. Zayaitz, Dean.



The Dean's Scholars Celebration recognized students' outstanding academic achievements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

*From left to right:* Lindsey Ray, Ryan Boyer, Chelsea Ray, Benjamin Spohn, Kataryna Evanowicz, Melissa Bernhard, Abby Rhone, Stephen Pearson and Melissa Jacobson. Also honored, but not pictured are: Katie Fanto, Joseph Kelmer, Cristina Hernandez, Adam Lorenz, Chelsea Bressler, Jerome Sitarik, Luis Salazar, Kathlyn Fillman, Jacqueline Heffner, Susan Holencik, Julie Mokrzycki, Erin Reinisch and Nathan Smyk.



# Faculty highlight



Born and raised in Schuylkill County, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Mr. Randy Schaeffer always knew he wanted to be a teacher. Starting his education in a one-room schoolhouse, a setting fairly typical of the time and place, he marveled even then at

how one teacher could juggle teaching and handling six different grades at once, all in the same room. One-room schoolhouses eventually disappeared, and young Randy moved onto a more contemporary school building with one grade per room, but his love for learning and his desire to become a teacher never waned. As a student at Kutztown State College (KSC) in the late 1960s, he studied education and mathematics before moving onto Lehigh University for graduate studies in mathematics.

Since joining the faculty of Kutztown University in 1988, Mr. Schaeffer has taught a variety of

mathematics courses, from introductory courses for incoming freshmen to graduate courses for students pursuing master's degrees. But his real specialty turned out to be mathematics education courses for future math teachers. Early in his career, he was approached by the chair of the Mathematics Department who asked him if he would be interested in supervising mathematics student teachers, since the current supervisor would be retiring soon. As Mr. Schaeffer tells it, at the time of the request, and as a junior faculty member looking ahead to tenure, it would have been hard to decline such an offer; however, this particular request did mesh with his love of and interest in teaching.

Mr. Schaeffer has since supervised nearly 400 student teachers, most of whom who hold positions throughout the Lehigh Valley and Berks County. Indeed, there is scarcely a school in our region that doesn't boast of at least one Schaeffer-trained math teacher. He is, of course, proud of all his students, but he is particularly pleased to know that some of his students were brave enough to venture abroad, teaching in such faraway places as Russia, England, Mexico, Japan and Qatar, each bringing a little piece of KU to those corners of the world.

In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Schaeffer is

very involved with the curriculum process at KU, especially the new General Education model. He traces his strong belief in the necessity of a rich and diverse General Education program to his days at KSC. Like every other student, he was required to take an Introduction to Speech course. He enjoyed the course and the professor so much that he took her for another course, then another, and another, until he somehow found himself with a second major in Speech and Theatre. Before joining KU, he had the opportunity to put all those theatre courses to work producing and directing plays in Berks County. He truly desires that Kutztown students likewise develop interests outside their majors and hopes that a revitalized General Education program will accomplish just that.

*In his personal life, Mr. Schaeffer and Bill Bateman (KU Professor Emeritus) have amassed the world's largest private collection of memorabilia advertising Coca-Cola. They have written hundreds of articles and two books on the subject and have served as consultants to The Coca-Cola Company and numerous others. They are currently collaborating on the definitive history of Kutztown University, from its humble beginnings in 1866 to the present day.*

## Alumni highlight

Jeremiah Gwozdziwycz graduated in 2001 with bachelor's degrees in Spanish and International Business as well as a minor in French. He is currently serving on active duty in the United States Army and is stationed in Stuttgart, Germany, where he is assigned to the Africa Command. He has been on active duty for the past nine years and has had training and duty in six states and seven foreign countries.

Thus far, his favorite project has been interpreting for a combined team of US Army and Marines that conducted a three-month course to teach and train soldiers from five African countries among whom French was a common language. He interpreted not only between the US and African personnel, but also among those groups and the local German population. Jeremiah enjoyed introducing the students not only to American culture on post, but also to the culture of Germany after hours and on weekends.

Jeremiah also appreciated the opportunity to teach English as a second language in both Korea, as a volunteer, and in Ethiopia during his assignments there. Having learned languages at KU and at the Defense Language Institute in Monterrey, California, he can

appreciate what the experience is like for newcomers to English. He has also seen many ways, sometimes surprising or unexpected, that languages are beneficial in both personal and professional life—from mundane tasks, such as taking public transport, to working with NATO allies.

German is the language Jeremiah uses in daily communications with friends, neighbors and in public. While it had been a decade since Jeremiah's last German course at KU, when he first arrived in Germany two and a half years ago, he was glad to have taken it as an undergraduate. As for his French minor, not only has he been able to use French in a professional capacity, Jeremiah enjoys the travel opportunities afforded to him, with France and Belgium both a short train ride away from his current post. He also used French while on assignment in West Africa; as the tongue of former colonial power, it is the lingua franca between the various ethnic groups in the countries he has visited.

Nor has Jeremiah's degree in Spanish gone unused. He has had the opportunity to use it in Spain, both traveling for pleasure as well as on official business. From getting coffee in Cádiz

to watching a movie in Madrid, he is grateful to have the tools to enjoy all of these enriching experiences.

The opportunities he had while at KU, both in class and out, have provided him with a deep appreciation for and desire to learn about other cultures and peoples. Jeremiah also values the liberal arts education he obtained at Kutztown—it taught him to think analytically and critically in order to understand issues and solve problems. This past fall, he completed the coursework for a master's degree in International Relations and expects to graduate in 2012 after passing the comprehensive exams.





The Graduate Center, *above*, and the Sharadin Arts Building were lit up in blue throughout the month of April, in support of Autism Awareness.

The Physics Club hosted the 6th Annual Cantalobber Contest in April. Groups from KU and other local universities built contraptions designed to throw cantaloupes and competed to achieve the greatest distance.



At left, students of Dr. Greg Hanson's Akustische Literatur class attended a performance of Mozart's opera, *The Abduction of the Seraglio*, staged in German by the Opera Company of Philadelphia.



Anthropology Club and Forensic Anthropology students, *above*, took a field trip to the Mutter Museum, a medical museum in Philadelphia exhibiting medical and anatomical oddities.



Many students, like Sean Hayes, *above*, read their newly published poetry and fiction at the 2012 *Shoofly Literary Magazine* launch on April 19.



At the recent History Department awards ceremony, 38 students, some of whom are pictured *above*, were inducted into Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society.



Special recognition goes to Ahmed Awadallah and Meghan Sullivan, both Political Science majors, who were selected from among hundreds of students for the Diplomacy Award for their work on the General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Affairs Committee at the Harvard World Model United Nations Conference in Vancouver, BC.



# Student highlight



**JAMES FODY '12**

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

After 20 years of working in the plumbing field, James Fody switched to working in the planning stage, using AutoCAD design software, created for architectural design and engineering. Two years later, changes in the company prompted leadership to eliminate that position and offer

James his old job back. Having grown in his new job, he felt he could not go back—and that is when he decided to return to school. When Bucks County Community College did not offer what James needed, he transferred to Kutztown University as a Computer Science major on the software development track.

James chose to pursue a Computer Science degree because of his experience with AutoCAD. He realized he wanted to be able to design his own programs, and eventually, he hopes, work for AutoDesk, the maker of AutoCAD. He finds software development fascinating because it “embraces all of human thought; you have to use structure to create what you imagine.”

in the hopes of designing an iPhone app that would help a blind person navigate around a localized area. The app would have to use GPS technology, but the average GPS device is not nearly accurate enough to enable a person to get around sidewalk paths that are narrow and close together. James is exploring the feasibility of utilizing cheaper versions of the more accurate micro differential base stations, used by surveyors and cartographers. He is still in the research and testing phase, but he is hopeful that his project will result in an inexpensive option for assistance in local navigation for the blind in the form of an app.

*Upon graduating, he plans to continue his education with a master's degree and possibly a Ph.D. While software design is his main focus, James is also interested in learning more about web development and he is trying to become fluent in at least one computer language. When he is not researching, he can often be found volunteering at the Berks County Food Bank or with Habitat for Humanity.*

The day he came to Kutztown to register for classes, James saw a blind person walking around campus with a guide dog, and he thought to himself, “I wonder if there’s an app for that.” The thought stuck with him. Now for his senior seminar project, entitled “Project Eye Dog,” James is researching the possibilities

## Interesting Internship



**MARY FRINZI '12**

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND BIOLOGY MAJOR

### GEOGRAPHY MINOR

### Tell us about your transition to KU.

My transition from high school to college was very rocky. I grew up in New Jersey and the day after graduation my family and I moved to Pennsylvania. It was difficult for me and I decided to go to Montclair State University so I could stay close to my friends. However, after two years there, dorming became expensive and I missed living at home, so I decided to transfer to KU so I could commute. I am happier here, as I feel the teachers are much more personal than at my old school and I know I am getting a better education here.

### Where are you interning?

I am interning at Mylestone Equine Rescue in Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

### Why did you choose to work with equine rescue?

I started volunteering at Mylestone Equine Rescue almost a year ago, and it was life-changing for me. I really loved it and thought doing an internship there would allow me to learn a lot more about how a non-profit equine rescue runs.

### What are your responsibilities?

My days vary when I am working at Mylestone Equine Rescue. When the veterinarian comes, I shadow her so that I can learn how to care for horse injuries or other medical needs. I also get to watch the farriers when they come to put shoes on the horses or file down their hooves. In addition, I help with daily barn chores as well as office work like helping with sponsorships and mailing. Occasionally, I will go to off-farm fundraising events, which is a great opportunity to meet new people and help spread the word about the horses in need. I also assist with tours that come to the farm.

### How does your internship reflect your studies in the classroom?

I have definitely gotten to use the environmental science and biology aspects of my education during my internship. Horse care involves learning a lot about the biology of horses. I’ve learned about the different types of hay that the horses eat, too. Also, because there are 40 horses on the farm, a lot of waste is generated daily, so it is interesting to learn about the environmental laws concerning waste on farm fields and how far it needs to be from water sources to prevent contamination.

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

For me, every day is an interesting experience. Just from working there, I am growing as a person and gaining more and more confidence in handling the horses. I especially love learning about horse care when the veterinarian comes and learning about different horse diseases and how they are treated. Many of the horses at the farm are older or sick, so there is a lot to learn.

### Final Thoughts:

Interning at Mylestone Equine Rescue has been one of my most cherished experiences while in college, and I feel truly blessed for having such a wonderful opportunity.

# Interesting Internship



**JEURI GERMAN '12**  
**SOCIAL WORK**

## Tell us about your path to KU.

My close friend, now fraternity brother, attended a college fair and met a Hispanic representative of Kutztown University who shared insight about the great diversity on campus. While that was welcoming, I experienced a harsh transition into college, as I was not prepared adequately

with the personal skills of handling college responsibilities without authoritative help. But with Act 101's personal care and guidance, I was able to prioritize, manage my time better and, in turn, be successful.

## Why did you choose your major?

A friend of mine, who I met here, enrolled at Kutztown University as a Social Work major. As he explained Social Work codes and values, I realized that they were the ones by which I chose to live already. The amount of diverse opportunities for employment was ultimately what helped me make my decision.

## Where are you interning?

Friend, Inc. Community-based services, here in Kutztown, PA.

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

My responsibilities at Friend Inc. are to assess

and facilitate the needs of our Northeastern Berks County clients by brokering them to the appropriate social services which will support their well-being. Our main contribution to the community is the pantry which helps many put food on their tables.

## What interesting experiences have you had while interning?

As I practice learned strategies, tools, methods and therapies, I am supervised by a highly experienced social worker whose instruction I value. This guidance has enabled me to sharpen my skills and thoughts in a manner that will better allow me to conduct the best work to support a client. For example, the first time I experienced a client breakdown and cry in front of me, I was not equipped well enough to carry on in the most productive manner. Due to proper supervision, I was able to recognize an appropriate strategy and completed the meeting with a satisfied client.

Many Kutztown University students never discover an interest in psychology until they take a course in it to fulfill a general education requirement. Not senior Psychology major Katlin Rhyner—she knew she wanted to learn more about psychology ever since she took it as an elective in high school.

Since then, Katlin has developed and focused her interests. While running her first experiment in an Experimental Psychology class, she learned that she loved that facet of the science. She enjoys designing her own studies and carrying them out. Of the research she has conducted, her favorite revolves around study techniques and recall. Katlin and her project partner designed an experiment to see what methods were more effective in preparing for tests: passive reading, underlining, highlighting or note-taking. She is continuing the research this year, but shifting the lens to long-term retention of information.

Researchers must also be prepared to write papers, in order to present their findings to the

world. Katlin has taken steps to prepare for that reality in a couple of ways. First, she chose to minor in Professional Writing, a program in the English Department which offers courses in a variety of writing styles, including scientific writing. "It was one of the best decisions I could have made," Katlin says. She is also getting hands-on practice in the publishing aspect of the process, through her work with Dr. Robinson of the Psychology Department. She is helping him prepare a manuscript for publication.

Katlin has had the opportunity to present posters at every conference which she has attended, including last year's Association of Psychological Science Convention in Washington D.C. She was able to take advantage of that occasion because she won an undergraduate research grant from KU.

To top off her experience at KU, Katlin is also the secretary of Psi Chi, the psychology honors society. Upon graduating, Katlin plans to earn her Ph.D. and teach at the collegiate level.

## Student highlight



**KATLIN RHYNER '12**  
**PSYCHOLOGY**

*When she is not designing experiments or researching, Katlin likes to knit and is learning to play the guitar. She also works at a music store as well as a kennel.*

**The spring 2012 edition of *The Collage* was designed and written by Rebecca Kremm '12, professional writing major, under the supervision of the CLAS Dean's Office.**