

the collage

Winter 2012

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

Faculty highlight



Dr. Maximiliano E. Zúñiga was born in Huancarqui, Arequipa, Perú and immigrated to Rimersburg, PA, in 1967. Dr. Zúñiga completed his B.S. Ed. in Spanish at Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 1971.

He then went on to graduate school at West Virginia University, where he finished his M.A. in Spanish in 1974.

He began teaching Spanish at Clarion-Limestone Area School District in Strattanville, PA. He taught there for eleven years, discovering his love for teaching. In 1983, he began his doctoral studies at Pennsylvania State University and worked as a teaching assistant. He completed his Ph.D. with a specialization in Spanish-American narrative of the 20th century. While doing graduate work, Dr. Zúñiga also taught at Clarion University of Pennsylvania and Dickinson College.

Dr. Zúñiga joined the Kutztown University Modern Language Studies Department in 1992. He regularly teaches a variety of courses ranging from Elementary Spanish to Senior Seminar, in which he is able to lecture about his specific areas of expertise in Spanish-American narrative, including Cervantes' *Don Quijote de la Mancha*. Dr. Zúñiga is passionate about teaching this masterpiece. He enjoys seeing his students become excited and enthusiastic about the unique novel. Some of his students get quite involved in doing a critical reading of the work, analyzing aspects of the novel and preparing the required term papers. For instance, one student in his class wrote the following: "Dear Dr. Zúñiga, I wanted to write to you, as I just recently returned from Spain and bought a copy of *Don Quijote*. I am reading it for about the third time, and once again, I learn something new about life's journey. It's a treasure of a novel. I thought of you and your class, which I miss dearly . . . I wanted to let you know that because of your contagious passion for literature, I have decided to incorporate *Don Quijote* into the curriculum (at Parkland High School). I hope they learn to find as much meaning in it as I do."

Dr. Zúñiga is also an active researcher and has presented and published numerous papers at national and international conferences on narrative and poetry. He has published several articles on Spanish-

American and Spanish writers such as Ricardo Palma, Alfredo Bryce Echenique, Julio Cortázar, Mario Vargas Llosa and Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. In 2008, Dr. Zúñiga also published a book entitled *Las voces narrativas de Alfredo Bryce Echenique* (*The Narrative Voices of Alfredo Bryce Echenique*).

Dr. Zúñiga's service to the university touches almost every facet of the institution and is student-centered. He has made extensive contributions to the Modern Language Studies Department. Dr. Zúñiga has been the department's Promotion, Evaluation and Tenure Committee chairperson on several occasions. Additionally, he has been on multiple department search committees and, at the request of the department chair, he regularly serves as a mentor for tenure-track faculty. He has served as the elected representative to the Graduate Council since 1999. He is also an effective liaison to the Rohrbach Library, having fashioned an internal system of book requests that quickly identifies new or weak areas of Spanish library holdings so that appropriate purchases can be made.

During his free time Dr. Zúñiga loves reading literary works, gardening, cooking, going to the opera, and above all, spending time with his four grandchildren.

Dean's Corner

Students and faculty within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences participate in numerous "high impact" experiential learning opportunities. These include first year seminars, learning communities, writing intensive courses, collaborative projects, undergraduate research, experiential learning in the community and/or study abroad, service learning, internships and capstone projects. These opportunities are diverse and often change the perspective of the participants. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., wrote, "a mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions." Many students do internships where they use the foundational knowledge from the classroom in the workplace allowing students to gain experience, set career goals and begin to create a professional network. Undergraduate research often occurs in the laboratory or in the field; this fall several KU students had the opportunity to join a faculty member on a deep sea oceanographic research cruise while others stayed on campus and ran experiments in the lab. Students in the Honors program delve into research problems in detail through thesis projects. Out-of-classroom experiences might include attending a lecture, a cultural event or participating in a conference. Students at Kutztown University have the opportunity to interact with and be mentored by a complement of outstanding teacher-scholars. When faculty share their areas of expertise with passion, it always results in positive outcomes for students. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *The Collage* and that you are able to embrace new experiences!



Anne E. Zayaitz
Ph.D.
Dean

KU Scientists Cruise the Pacific

Dr. Adrienne Oakley (Marine Science/Geoscience) and five KU students had the opportunity to go on a six-week expedition in the Pacific to investigate the Earth's geomagnetic field from November 5 to December 17, 2011. The trip was made possible by a grant Dr. Oakley received from the National Science Foundation.

Now that I am back in my Boehm office on campus it is almost hard to believe that I spent six weeks on board the R/V Thomas G. Thompson in the Western Pacific with five Kutztown students. I find myself looking at maps, photos and even data to be reminded of our amazing experience, our new colleagues and friends, and all that we learned about the deepest and most remote patch of the ocean floor. I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to introduce my undergraduate students to cutting-edge oceanographic research at sea. On the cruise, I was asked if the students would come back from their research expedition as different people. I responded then that they would likely still be recognizable to family and friends and that I could not be the best judge of any changes, since I saw them happen little by little over the course of the research cruise. I hoped that they would all take something from this experience and incorporate it into their lives, and I knew that they would continue to realize how much they had learned as they returned to campus, classes and “normal” life. Back at Kutztown in the new semester, I can see these changes more clearly, often through the eyes of faculty and staff who have described my students as seeming “older,” commenting on their increased confidence and the quality of the blogs they wrote at sea. I am immensely proud of these five KU students and would sign up for 42 more days on a ship with them without a moment’s hesitation. - **Dr. Oakley**



Left to right: Danielle Moyer, Dr. Oakley, Tom Bond, Matt Sabetta, Jen Herting and Nick Mathews aboard the R/V Thomas G. Thompson.



Above, Jen Herting and Dr. Oakley working on the fantail, installing a flotation device onto the seismic streamer during deployment with a crew member and seismic technician. At right, Tom Bond, Dr. Oakley and Nick Mathews pause for a picture.



I am really appreciative for having been able to go on this research cruise. I learned so much not only about the research we were doing, but how to work with people as a team. I am so thankful that Dr. Oakley selected me to go on this cruise and I hope that I will be able to take this experience to help me with cruises in my future. - **Jen Herting**

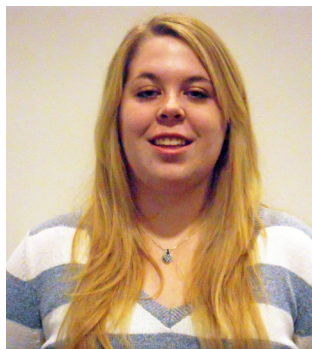
We all came a long way in furthering our understanding of many things in marine geophysical research that we learned about in past courses, and then some, while aboard the Thomas G. Thompson. Although we all stayed within our respective fields, all partook in the outstanding opportunity of cross-leveling experience and knowledge in other aspects of the research and learning about the responsibilities of the crew. The experiences gained during this expedition come second-to-none and will be kept readily at hand for whatever the future may hold! - **Tom Bond**

I often describe my time on the R/V Thomas G. Thompson as a wonderful adventure filled with ups and downs and with people that kept life interesting in such small quarters. I experienced and learned so much from this research opportunity and a part of me still wonders if it was all real. I never would have thought that I would be given the chance to do this research so early in my college career, but it gives me hope that the next adventure will be just around the corner. - **Danielle Moyer**

I had an amazing experience. Throughout the cruise, I learned from scientists and technicians who specialize in various aspects of marine geophysics. I had the opportunity to work with expensive geophysical equipment with which I may otherwise have never gotten to interact. Overall, I learned more than I ever would have in the classroom. This learning experience is leading me toward going to graduate school in the near future. All in all this was an amazing cruise; we all had great times and created memories we will never forget. - **Matt Sabetta**

As an undergraduate, I feel incredibly fortunate to have experienced a semester at sea, working hard and doing what I love with world-class scientists. I find it inspiring to know that the countless hours of teamwork of which I was a part will undoubtedly be a worthy contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge. What's more is that these passionate scientists instilled the spirit of science in me, and that is something that cannot be learned in a classroom. Now I am compelled to be a part of more oceanographic research, because I am unquestionably sure that this is what I want to do with my life. - **Nick Mathews**

Student highlight



CHELSEA WILLIAMS '12

While we often see children developing interests through their play, we do not often see them studying kinship charts during their free time. That might have been the first sign

that senior Chelsea Williams was meant to be an anthropology major. "I know it sounds cliché, but I've been interested in anthropology since I was child—I just didn't know it was called that," Chelsea says. "I wanted to learn everything I could about it."

Chelsea's love for anthropology is constantly reaffirmed in the work she does at Kutztown University. Through fascinating classes like Primate Studies and Hate Across Cultures as well as the opportunity to work closely with faculty members in independent studies, Chelsea has been able to find her areas of specialization and is applying them in her thesis for the Honors Program. Her project explores a new area of scholarship: the biological basis of hate. It deals with how individuals are wired to mentally organize people into groups and how that instinct can lead to hate.

It is not just Chelsea's research that propels her forward, however; her internship through KU has given her a sense of direction for her

future. Chelsea completed her internship last summer at the New Jersey State Museum in its Natural History Bureau. There she helped the registrar, who is responsible for making sure all the collections are organized. Chelsea says, "Working with the registrar was a perfect match for me, because I'm kind of obsessive and the registrar has to keep a lot of records." Chelsea helped with the cataloguing of existing exhibits and also had the opportunity to help put together a new exhibit. Interning at the museum also reinforced her interest in museum work.

After graduating this May, Chelsea plans to continue her education by getting her master's degree in museum studies. She has already applied to Rutgers University, the University of Pennsylvania and Seton Hall. Upon receiving her M.A., she hopes to begin her career in museums, but does not expect she will be done learning quite that soon: Chelsea hopes to earn a Ph.D. in anthropology.

Beyond the Classroom



CHRISTIAN COOK '11
UNDERGRADUATE INTERN

BRITNEY REDDICK '12
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Kutztown University students often complement their academic areas of study with experiential learning. Two such students are Christian Cook and Britney Reddick.

Christian graduated from KU in December 2011 with a bachelor's degree in electronic media. In his final semester, Christian interned at MTV Networks in Times Square, NYC in the Series Development and Animation Department.

As an intern, Christian did some typical office tasks, like data entry, as well as errands, like delivering tapes and equipment. More importantly, he also got the opportunity to do some more interesting, involved work. He was able to participate in development and production projects. He read potential scripts, offering synopses and log lines. Christian also participated in pitches and assisted in studio taping and other aspects of production.

"Working in New York is interesting in itself," Christian says, "but being a part of the MTV family is exciting and seeing first-hand how things are done made it a great experience." This internship combined with the knowledge he gained on Kutztown's campus has helped him to "land some gigs" and get more experience. Christian has been freelancing since graduation.



Britney Reddick also chose to add real world experience to her studies, after earning a bachelor's degree from North Carolina A&T. Currently an M.A. student in the electronic media program, Britney came to KU to further her education and pursue a graduate assistantship as a complement to her coursework.

As a graduate assistant in the Sports Information Office, Britney has a lot of work to do, both in and out of the office. When she's in the office, she might be managing emails for roster trades and game notes, writing game recaps and feature stories about student athletes or maintaining Kutztown University's athletics website (kubears.com).

Most of Britney's work, however, is done outside the office. She is expected to help set up

for games, manage game statistics and facilitate radio personnel. She also takes pictures, shoots video and game highlights, and interviews athletes and coaches after the games. "Every day is different," Britney explains, "and it's a lot of work, but it's about finding your passion. If you work where your passion is, you don't mind spending all the time there. I can honestly say I love what I do."

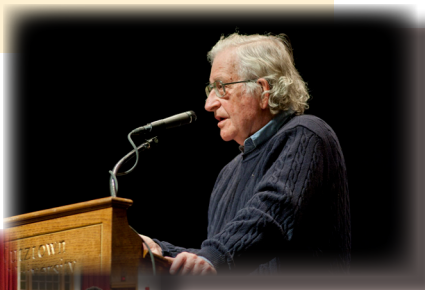
Britney's studies and assistantship at Kutztown have opened doors for her and she has jumped at the opportunities. Her former boss and KU's former Sports Information Director, Rob Knox, now working for ESPN, offered Britney an irresistible opportunity for networking and experience: the chance to help out at the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championships. Britney accepted and spent four days in Washington D.C. working with ESPN. She ran media information, went to press conferences and facilitated the media while she was there.

Britney's passion, ambition and dedication are being noticed. Last summer, Britney was chosen to receive the Langston Rogers Postgraduate Scholarship, a national scholarship worth \$5,000 that is given to one graduate student excelling in the field of sports information. Britney accepted the award at a conference in Florida, where she got to meet more ESPN people as well as several Olympians. "Kutztown has been a great stepping stone for me," Britney says. "I know that I will be prepared for the future when I graduate and I owe it to KU."



Congratulations to Dr. Randy Kaplan (Computer Science) for winning the 2011 Schellenberg Award for Excellence in Teaching. *Left to right:* Dr. Schellenberg, Dr. Kaplan and Dr. Cevallos, KU President.

There was a great turnout at the Chinese New Year Celebration organized by the Rorbach Library staff in conjunction with faculty from several CLAS departments.



World-renowned philosopher, political activist and linguist, Noam Chomsky, *above*, spoke to a capacity audience in Schaeffer Auditorium on November 21, 2011 as part of UNESCO's World Philosophy Day.



Joey Jobs read an excerpt of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* at the 2012 African American Read-In held in the Bear's Den Lounge.



Criminal Justice Scores! KU criminal justice major and shot putter April Doyle, *above*, led the Golden Bears with her best throw of the season at the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships. Criminal justice major and veteran Dan Lasko, *right*, competed against former NFL players in a "Wounded Warriors" game, a flag football game played as part of the Super Bowl XLVI festivities in Indianapolis which aired on ESPN.



Congratulations to Dr. Michael Gabriel (History) and Dr. John Lizza (Philosophy) for winning Chambliss Faculty Research Awards. *Above, from left to right:* President Cevallos, Dr. Chambliss and Dr. Gabriel. *Below, from left to right:* Dr. Chambliss, Dr. Lizza and President Cevallos.



Faculty highlight

Dr. Rudolph Mayrhofer was born in New York and earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1984 from Bucknell University. He earned a doctoral degree in physical chemistry at the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1992. His work focused on the coordinates used to calculate vibrational eigenfunctions and eigenvalues for small molecular systems. After this experience, he completed postdoctoral work at Emory University under Dr. Joel Bowman. The research focused on developing efficient methods to model photodetachment spectra. Upon finishing this work, he came to Kutztown University in fall of 1992 where he was hired to teach physical chemistry, which he calls “the bane of every chemistry major in the country.” Dr. Mayrhofer strives to make sure all of his classes, including physical chemistry, chemistry for non-majors and the year-long general chemistry course, are as accessible as possible and enjoyable for all involved.

While at Kutztown University, Dr. Mayrhofer's research has focused on investigating the role of the potential energy in controlling the flow of energy through a molecule. This involves calculating the energy of a molecule

at various configurations and developing a fit for a mathematical expression. Once this is accomplished, Dr. Mayrhofer utilizes either classical or quantum mechanical methods to study how energy moves through the molecule. This becomes important in understanding how to control chemical reactions. Dr. Mayrhofer has presented the results of his research at regional and national American Chemical Society meetings. He has also presented work at the Ohio State International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy.

Shortly after his arrival at KU, the university obtained funding to renovate and add additional space to the Boehm building. Dr. Mayrhofer volunteered to act as a “shepherd” for this project. He spent considerable amounts of time working with the faculty to ensure that the architects heard the needs of the various programs housed within the Physical Sciences Department. While this project was going on, Dr. Mayrhofer worked with his colleague, Dr. Betts, to seek accreditation for the B.S. Chemistry program from the American Chemical Society, the professional society for chemical sciences. It was a long and tedious process, but the program eventually achieved this national recognition. Dr. Mayrhofer has served on the University Tenure Committee,

General Education Review Committee and General Education Assessment Committee. He has also served as both interim chair and chair for the Physical Science Department. In addition, he has chaired faculty search committees and participated in the usual committees that contribute to the welfare of the department.



In his free time, when he is not thinking about physical chemistry, Dr. Mayrhofer appreciates spending quality time with his family. They often go hiking and camping in the summertime. He also spends his time working in the yard and runs when his body will let him.

Student highlight



ZACHARY GROFF '12

The aspect of philosophy that interests senior philosophy major Zachary Groff the most is the diversity of philosophical traditions, generated by hundreds of thinkers. Whether they brought about a huge development in human understanding of the world or they were more or less wrong, they all contributed to the global body of philosophical intellect. However, the characteristic of philosophical study that first attracted Zachary was the

challenging nature of what many students consider to be a complex subject.

Zachary says studying philosophy prompts a person to develop self-discipline; it teaches about making change with patience through time and repetition. In his daily life, Zachary has been able to take advantage of his self-discipline to make some behavioral changes, including dietary modification. The professors of the Philosophy Department, too, especially Dr. Allan Bäck, have helped Zachary and other students with their individual development, encouraging them to be intrinsically motivated.

These personal insights led Zachary to give papers at two conferences last year—one at the Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference held at Alvernia and another at a conference at Moravian College. Back at Kutztown, Zachary served as president of the Philosophy Club, only stepping down this year to focus on his senior projects. As president, he learned how to organize people, prepare a budget and interact professionally with contacts at other schools and organizations.

Zachary recently applied for an internship in organic farming, which he sees as meaningful and productive—qualities he has come to

appreciate during his philosophical studies.

Beyond graduation, Zachary plans to attend graduate school, but not right away. First, he wants to gain some hands-on working experience. There is a lot said in philosophy about the value and necessity of experience and also about perspective. That is one of the things Zachary likes about philosophy. “There’s not one perspective on anything; there’s several out there all for comparison,” he says. Zachary might get that experience and perspective by continuing to work with organic farming, but there are other avenues he is exploring that would lead him back indoors. In reading philosophical texts, Zachary has learned the discipline of close reading. He believes this would make him suited to being a consultant who helps clients comb through legal documents. After he has gotten more experience and his master’s degree, Zachary plans to work in academia, although not necessarily in teaching. He would like to write political and geographical articles for academic journals.

Outside of school, Zachary enjoys activities such as writing, music, backpacking and studying more philosophy, especially that of his favorite philosopher, Aristotle.

Alumni highlight

MATT ROBERTS '09

A Lehigh County native, Matthew Roberts graduated from Kutztown University in 2009, summa cum laude, with a degree in political science and a minor in psychology. Heading straight from the classrooms and fields of KU into the urban surroundings of Washington, D.C., Matt began his studies at the George Mason University School of Law (GMUSL), located in Arlington, VA. He is currently in his third year as a law student.

KU provided Matt with many opportunities to pursue his interest in politics, whether it was through class discussions, internships or projects. While at KU, Matt had the chance to do various personal and professional projects, working closely with several of his political science professors, including Drs. Bremer, Richardson and Riley. Kutztown also gave Matt the ability to organize a short-lived club with fellow students that met to discuss recent political events, The Forum.

One of Matt's most memorable KU experiences included traveling to Chicago with Drs. Riley and Richardson to present a paper with Dr. Riley

at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, a nationally recognized political science organization.

Through KU's internship program, Matt also had the opportunity during his junior year to get real world experience in Amtrak's Office of Government Affairs in Washington, D.C. Matt recently returned to work for the same office during a summer session at law school, having kept in touch with the people he met there.

Law school brings entirely new challenges, especially in a job market saturated with many incoming lawyers. In preparation, Matt complements his studies with numerous internships and jobs with law firms, trade and interest groups, and local governments in Northern Virginia. These rewarding experiences give Matt the opportunity to work directly in his field of choice—land use, zoning and real estate transactions. He enjoys land use and zoning work especially, because he can engage with the types of governments closest to people's everyday lives: local governments. Moreover, the combination of land use and zoning creates a mix of law, development strategy and local politics to keep him interested and always busy.

Matt also spent time working for a national housing trade group, where he provided advice to homebuilders on various zoning laws affecting their work. Additionally, he had the opportunity, through a connection with a GMUSL alumnus, to work for the Attorney

Office of Fairfax County, the largest county in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area. Balancing jobs that have immediate impacts on people and their property along with the demands of school is a challenge, but Matt hopes to bear the fruit of his hard work with job offers from the region's land use and zoning law firms.

In his spare time (whenever that is), Matt enjoys lifting weights at the local gym and relaxing with his fiancée, Jessica, a doctoral candidate at Georgetown University, and their new cat, Charlie. Matt proposed to Jessica in December 2009 and the two will be married this October. Matt plans to stay in the Northern Virginia area, with its excellent career opportunities for land use and zoning work. In making Northern Virginia his home, he hopes to get involved in his community in order to have the greatest positive impact he can.



Graduate Programs at KU

Kutztown University offers students the opportunity to receive master's degrees in over 25 programs, including English, Computer Science, Social Work and Public Administration. Most of these degrees can be earned in two years. All graduate programs are designed to accommodate students with full or part-time jobs or family responsibilities; classes are held in the evenings and summer coursework is also an option.



The Admissions Center

in the Elementary Education Department. The position made it affordable for Kearsten to return to school and gave her the opportunity to gain hands-on experience for her career in the computer science field.

Graduate assistantships at KU offer graduate students full tuition and a stipend along with the opportunity for great work experiences. Kearsten Murray, a student in the Computer Science graduate program, received an assistantship as the technology graduate assistant

In a new initiative, KU is trying to ease the way for graduate students with the Graduate Ambassador Program. Through this endeavor, current graduate students (most of whom were previously KU undergraduates) help guide potential students through the application process and serve as mentors at open houses and information sessions to offer advice and answer questions about graduate school. Prospective students can hear first-hand experiences about what the transition from undergraduate to graduate student is like.

Social Work graduate assistant Angeline Porter was asked to serve as a representative in the Graduate Ambassador Program. Angeline says, "I enjoy being able to meet other students who are in the Graduate Ambassador Program and educate potential students on the benefits of graduate school, especially at Kutztown University."

To learn more and stay up-to-date with KU Graduate Admissions, look up Kutztown University Graduate Admissions on Facebook or follow them on Twitter (@KUGradAdmission). To see a complete list of the graduate programs offered, visit the KU website.

The winter 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.