

the collage

Fall 2012

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

Faculty highlight



Dr. Al Pisciotta joined the faculty of the Criminal Justice and Social Work Departments as an assistant professor in 1982.

He received his undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Maryland, a master's degree in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University, and continued on to get his Ph.D. in Criminology from Florida State University.

His areas of concentration in graduate school were research methods and statistics, theories of crime and delinquency, and corrections and social control. However, along the way he became fascinated in the history of crime and criminal justice: "The members of my doctoral committee actually discouraged me from doing a historical dissertation," Pisciotta remembers. "They wanted me to do a traditional

statistically-oriented study—but, I took a chance on history and it has worked quite well."

Dr. Pisciotta has written over one hundred articles, book reviews, conference papers and research reports. His articles have appeared in criminal justice, criminology and law journals, including *American Journal of Legal History*, *Criminology*, *Crime and Delinquency*, *Criminal Justice History*, *Criminal Justice Review*, *New England Journal on Criminal and Civil Confinement*, and *Research in Law Deviance and Social Control*.

He received the New York State Archives Outstanding Researcher Award (1995). In 1997, he was presented with the Outstanding Book Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences for *Benevolent Repression: Social Control and the American Reformatory-Prison Movement* (New York University Press, 1994). This book provides an analysis of the Elmira Reformatory—the most important correctional institution in the world in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century—as well as the rise of the adult reformatory movement, and diffusion of the "medical model" and "new penology." Kutztown University also awarded Dr. Pisciotta with the Chambliss Faculty Research Award in 2009.

After 19 years as program coordinator and an additional four years as chair of the Criminal Justice Department, Dr. Pisciotta stepped down in the fall of 2012. "Twenty-three years is long enough," he says. He is looking forward to seeing the direction in which the new chair, Dr. Khondaker, will take the department.

Three decades of service have provided Dr. Pisciotta with a unique perspective on Kutztown University: "When I came here, this was a small institution. We were making the difficult transition from Kutztown State College to Kutztown University. I am very proud to say that the faculty of the Department of Criminal Justice now includes nationally and internationally-known scholars. Our students are making important contributions to the field of criminal justice at the local, state and national level. Kutztown University faculty and graduates are changing the world in many areas—to be sure, the mark of a fine academic institution."

In his spare time, Dr. Pisciotta enjoys sailing and white water kayaking. He has paddled class four and five rivers across the northeastern United States and Canada. He also loves spending time with his three sons and his wife, Kathy.

Dean's Corner

Ansel Adams (1902-1984) communicated his passion for the environment and the wilderness through photography. He understood that exploration and experience were unquestionably tied together. This edition of *The Collage* features the experiences of faculty, students and alumni who have explored new areas of research, participated in internships, received tenure and promotion, and attended workshops, conferences and presentations. We celebrate their accomplishments and are delighted to share through the articles and photographs their passion and experiences. Additionally, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is pleased to welcome the new Associate Dean, Dr. David Beougher, new tenure track faculty, new staff and the class of 2016 to our Kutztown University "family."



Anne E. Zayaitz
Ph.D.
Dean

Student highlight



REBECCA VAN HORN '15

HISTORY



ART HISTORY MINOR

Some might say Rebecca Van Horn already has a long history with Kutztown, her mother

being a Kutztown University class of '82 alumna. Others would disagree—she is only a sophomore, after all. But there is no doubt that she has the potential to make history.

If you haven't caught on yet, Rebecca is a History major. It seems she was always destined to be so. From a young age, she has loved to read and visit museums. But what made her choose History as a major was her love of people. "History, to me, is a study of humans," Rebecca says. "It allows me to connect with humans just like you and me who lived hundreds of years ago. I want to preserve that." Rebecca chose to take on a minor in Art History for similar reasons. She views art as a representation of culture and the people within that culture.

As a sophomore, Rebecca is looking ahead to opportunities for experiential learning. She thinks highly of Dr. Johnson and Dr. Gambone and is grateful for the guidance she received from them in her freshman year, helping her develop goals and a plan for her college career. The respect is mutual. History Department Chair Dr. Gambone says, "Two factors made

Rebecca stand out from the start. The first was her unending curiosity about history itself. She constantly pushes topics to the next level of analysis, something that we normally see from third and fourth year students in our seminars. Secondly, Rebecca has a skill level that places her far ahead of her peers. Her ability to assimilate enormous amounts of information, analyze it, and express higher order conclusions is rare among college undergraduates."

Rebecca's undergraduate plans include presenting research at the Phi Alpha Theta conference and an internship for her art history minor. After graduation, she plans to go to graduate school and pursue a Ph.D., leading to a career in museum work or in higher education.

When she is not actively working on her academics, Rebecca may be found participating in the History Club or volunteering with the Outreach Center. She is also interested in reading, art, music, museums, field hockey and motorcycle racing.

Alumni highlight



JEFFREY MINTON '10

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Jeffrey Minton first graduated from Kutztown University in May of 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and again in May of 2011 with a master's degree in the same field.

College initially started out a little rocky for Jeff. Multiple schools and a change of majors finally led him to Kutztown University. There he found the perfect fit for himself in the Computer Science program.

Interested in robotics since participating in high school competitions, Jeff helped found the Kutztown University Robotics Club. The club's goal was to help bring together students from multiple disciplines to solve problems with robotic solutions and to remove the veil of mystery that often surrounds robotics.

Jeff's love of robotics also inspired his master's thesis which dealt with combining computer vision systems and language processing to become a proof of concept of what could be a voice-controlled intelligent assistive robot. He hopes that someday a robotic wheelchair could be made that would allow those that are wheelchair bound and blind the ability to navigate any environment safely.

While completing his master's degree, Jeff worked as a graduate assistant for Dr. Rieksts of the Computer Science Department. During this time he was fortunate to be able to help prepare for a special topics class that Dr. Rieksts was teaching. Jeff's thesis research and his work with Dr. Rieksts sparked a desire in him to eventually attain a Ph.D. in Computer Science and become a college professor.

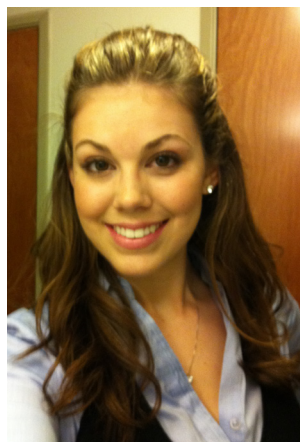
The entire faculty of the Computer Science Department proved to be what Jeff sees as one of

the greatest assets that Kutztown had to offer. He found that they exhibit great interest in getting to know their students as well as dedication to equipping students with the resources they need to find success in school and beyond.

In particular, Dr. Parson was instrumental in helping Jeff get the chance to intern at LSI (an electronics company that designs semiconductors and software that improves storage and networking in datacenters, mobile networks and client computing) after graduating. This internship led to a full-time position; he is currently working at LSI's Lehigh Valley campus as an Embedded Software Engineer. Jeff is pleased to say that he uses much of what he learned at Kutztown on a daily basis at his job. He is happy with the work he does and enjoys the problem solving that is an integral part of software engineering.

Outside of work, Jeff has recently become involved with a local "makerspace" called "Make Lehigh Valley," where he is able to share his knowledge with others and help lead children and adolescents into engineering fields.

Interesting Internship



NADIA SAAR '12

PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Nadia Saar will graduate from Kutztown University in December 2012 with a bachelor's degree in English/Professional Writing and a minor in Public Relations.

This past summer, Nadia interned with U.S. Army Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) overseas in Kaiserslautern, Germany. MWR is an organization that tends to the well-being and entertainment of military families, retirees and government civilians while stationed overseas or on a

military post stateside. Nadia was offered an internship with the marketing department to help people become more aware of the many opportunities offered through the organization.

Her decision to work with MWR was a no-brainer, "As someone who was a military brat her whole life, I wanted to help the organization that had always made growing up on post a more exciting and entertaining experience." She chose Germany, because she calls it her home, having lived there most of her life.

The MWR marketing department needed her help. With the closing of the military post in Heidelberg, Germany, the department had four people to run an ever-expanding organization. Nadia was given three major projects: a magazine to better promote the services offered by MWR, the task of writing letters for the Director of MWR and Commander Zetterstrom for the strategic plan, and a sponsorship booklet to be handed out to corporate businesses looking to become involved with MWR.

The magazine needed a whole new design including pictures, new text and a better format. For three months Nadia worked to write, edit and revise descriptions of places and services; develop new content about the area of Kaiserslautern; assist in selecting

photographs for the magazine ads and add captions to each; call establishments or research dates and times and contact information.

While the magazine remained a work in progress, Nadia also worked closely with the Director and the Commander to write both of their letters to be featured in the magazine and strategic plan.

Nadia sharpened her skills as she was called upon to edit and look over the format of the booklet being created for future sponsors. Other duties included researching information for the launch of a new website domain.

When she was not working on these major projects, she was collaborating with Outdoor Recreation—the part of the organization which organizes the fun excursions—to better assist in the promotion of their trips. Nadia went on a trip every weekend to five different countries to explore what there is to do and report back the best way to bring it to the public. She was assigned to write features about each place she visited and take pictures and video to be posted on Facebook and YouTube. The experience of traveling enabled her to help write information ads to be posted on the website and made into flyers to interest patrons in taking the trips.

Student highlight



PETER KOUFALIS '13

PHYSICS

MATH MINOR

who know Peter Koufalis were impressed, but not necessarily surprised when they found out that was how Peter was going to pass his summer.

Peter, a senior at Kutztown University with a Physics major and a Math minor, knew the direction of his future course when he took his first physics class in high school. "Physics is so intuitive for me; it just makes sense," he says. "I don't have to go out of my way to be interested in it."

With the help and guidance of the Physics Department faculty, Peter has established areas of specialization through his coursework and research while at Kutztown. He credits Dr. Das with being especially instrumental as his advisor and faculty research partner. Peter has been involved in research projects since his sophomore year. He presented a poster in California this summer and is submitting a paper this year to *Physical Review*, one of the top physics journals in the United States.

In an effort to round out his education, Peter

applied to 15 "Research Experiences for Undergraduates" programs funded by the National Science Foundation. He accepted a research internship hosted by Duke University, spending five weeks on Duke's campus and five weeks at CERN in Switzerland.

Peter's research at CERN centered around using a particle accelerator to collide lead atoms together at high energies in an experiment known as ALICE. The process results in the creation of a new state of matter never before seen in a lab setting. This new matter, hotter than the core of the sun, is said to have existed a fraction of a microsecond after the "big bang." Scientists believe that this discovery is helping them to better understand the early conditions of the universe.

On this continent and campus, Peter is involved with the Physics Club, National Physics Honors Society and American Physical Society. He also enjoys biking, lifting, and science reading.

It is not unusual for a college student to spend his summer break working. Working in Switzerland at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), however, might be considered out of the ordinary. Yet, the people

From Theory to Practice



Meghan at the Democratic Nation Convention.

Recommended by Political Science Chair Dr. Bremer, Meghan Sullivan and Michael DeTommaso were selected to attend programs hosted by the Washington Center. Meghan participated in the Democratic National Convention: Academic Seminar, and Michael attended the Republican counterpart. Each program lasted two weeks. The first week focused on learning about the convention's role in American politics through speakers and small group discussions. The second week centered on practical application through fieldwork placements.

What aspect of the convention was most surprising or unexpected to you?

Meghan: I was pleasantly surprised with the number of opportunities the Washington Center was able to provide for us. They booked speakers that included officials such as House Representative Melvin Watt, Executive Producer of the Superbowl Halftime show and DNC Ricky Kirshner, and the first African-American mayor of Charlotte, Harvey Gantt. We were also able to take a VIP tour of the Time Warner Arena before the convention started. On an individual level apart from the program, just being around Charlotte during this time granted me the opportunity to meet many people.

During the second week of the program, I was placed with the Creative Coalition, which works with actors to advocate funding for the arts. I was able to work amongst actors such as Rose Byrne (*Bridesmaids*), Wayne Knight (*Seinfeld*), Tony Shalhoub (*Monk*) and John Leguizamo (*Carlito's Way*). While working for my fieldwork assignment, I met Huffington Post reporter Mike Smith, who gave me his CNN Grill passes for helping him with a computer.

Other interesting experiences included an encounter where a member of the Secret Service helped me with my luggage and eating dinner at the table next to Piers Morgan. I was just happy to be in Charlotte during the DNC and was not expecting so many opportunities. These extra little unexpected moments made the trip that much more memorable.

Michael: I was very surprised to see the amount of security that was at the convention center. Everywhere you looked there were police on bikes or in cars or just walking around on the street. The secret service was all over outside and inside the convention as well. There were snipers on the rooftop as well as helicopters circling the convention center looking for any suspicious activity. I also found it interesting to see the particular types of protestors present. The most prevalent were anarchists. They were yelling that the world was going to end no matter who we elect for president. One person somehow managed to get into the convention center and, during Paul Ryan's speech, started yelling about how anarchy is this country's fate. This protestor was quickly arrested and removed from the convention.

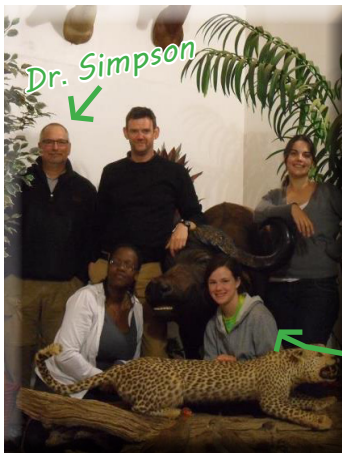
What was your favorite part of the experience?

Meghan: My favorite part of the experience was being in the convention hall during the first and second nights of speeches. I was able to see some of the most amazing DNC speeches from Michelle Obama, Julian Castro and Bill Clinton, to name a few. President Obama even stepped onto the stage at the end of Clinton's speech and everyone went crazy. The excitement and energy of the crowd was indescribable and it was a feeling I will never forget. Unfortunately, even though I had passes to see President Obama speak, they shut down the arena before I could get in because it became too crowded. I am so grateful that Kutztown University allowed me to have this amazing experience.

Michael: I was happy to be placed to work with the New Jersey Delegation. My most exciting moment was the night Governor Chris Christie gave his speech at the convention. My fieldwork supervisor sent me to the convention that night so I could see him speak. I was able to see about half of his speech, until I got a call from my supervisor saying that I needed to go to the Marriot Hotel for the fundraiser that was being held for Governor Christie immediately after his speech. When I got to the fundraiser, I found out that they needed more bodyguards to keep people from getting in without permission. I filled in as a bodyguard for about 30 minutes until Governor Christie arrived at the fundraiser. Once he arrived, I was able to go inside the fundraiser which was extremely private—expensive and exclusive; there were only about 20 people there. I was eventually able to talk to Governor Christie for a few minutes and even got a picture with him. It was a long night, but it was exciting and something I will never forget.



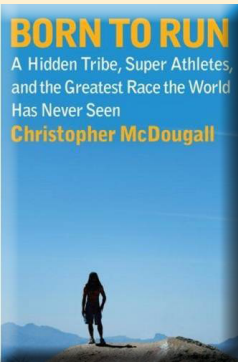
Michael with New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.



Geology professor Dr. Ed Simpson and student Elizabeth Heness went with a crew to South Africa this past summer. Their research involved looking at the different sedimentary features of a two-billion-year-old dune formation called the Makagbeng Formation. The features included signs of precipitation and early signs of single-celled life.



Christopher McDougall, journalist, runner and author of “Born to Run,” this year’s freshman text, came to campus to talk—and to run with students, faculty and staff on September 20.



the collage



Kutztown was well-represented at the 2012 regional Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards with several nominations and four wins. Current students, faculty and alumni from the Electronic Media Department mingled at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia and celebrated their success. Kevin Martorana '83, *above*, won an award for his “Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania” commercial.



On October 11, students competing in the “Amazing Language Race” scrambled from place to place around campus, looking for clues that would lead them to victory. The event was part of the “LRC Day” hosted by the Language Resource Center. The day—dedicated to helping students discover how to use technology to study foreign languages in fun and effective ways—was full of games, social activities, food and prizes.



LRC DAY 2012

September 20th

Learn about technology for language learning and academic success!

Have fun with languages and meet other students!

Learn about the LRC and our student resources.

OF 107 AND 109

9AM - 3:30PM

Why should YOU come?

Enjoy a day of games, prizes, food and cultural fun! PLUS, earn stamps in your LRC Day passport for valuable class credit!

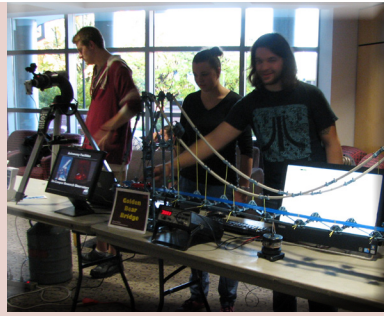
Credit will be for participating classes only. Contact your instructor to find out if you are eligible for this offer.

Look for us on Facebook for more details: <http://facebook.com/LRCDay2012>

| SCHEDULE | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 9:00-10:00 | Delaware University |
| 10:00-11:00 | University of Maryland |
| 11:00-12:00 | University of Virginia |
| 12:00-1:00 | University of Wisconsin |
| 1:00-2:00 | University of Michigan |
| 2:00-3:00 | University of Texas |
| 3:00-4:00 | University of California |



The Science, Math and Technology Open House held on October 20 was a great success. Prospective students had the opportunity to visit research and teaching facilities as well as talk with faculty, students and alumni their disciplines of interest.



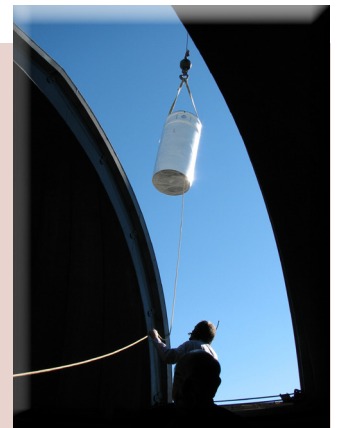
Artist Nancey Seghetti showed students how to make bones from clay at a One Million Bones workshop sponsored by Dr. Heather Thomas and her creative writing students. One Million Bones is a nationwide project combining activism and art to raise awareness of genocide in the world today.



Leonard Pitts, Jr., Pulitzer Prize winning author and commentator for The Miami Herald, visited Kutztown University on October 3 to talk with students and to speak about writing and political discourse.



This fall, the Grimm Science Building was outfitted with a new, larger, technologically-advanced telescope. This will open up the research opportunities available to students and faculty. The community, too, will benefit from this development, as there are plans to integrate the technology into the public planetarium programs.



Congratulations to Dr. Janice Gasker on being named Pennsylvania's Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. Professor and director for the bachelor of Social Work program, Dr. Gasker was honored at the organization's Annual Leadership Meeting in Valley Forge, PA this October.



Faculty highlight



Even as a child, Associate Professor of Anthropology Dr. Kim Shively was interested in learning about different cultures, so pursuing a career in cultural anthropology seemed a natural choice. Dr. Shively completed her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Brandeis University in 2002. She came to Kutztown University in 2003 as a temporary assistant professor of Anthropology after doing the “adjunct shuffle” at several colleges in New Jersey.

Besides anthropology, Dr. Shively has focused

on comparative religious studies (a B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Chicago and a master’s in World Religions from Harvard Divinity School), and so at KU she has taught courses that focus on the anthropology of religion, such as “World Religions” and “Shamans, Witches and Magic.” She also revived a course on “The Anthropology of Death and Dying,” which proved to be surprisingly popular—students say they enjoy having a chance to learn and talk about a topic that is normally taboo in our society. The course gives students the chance not only to learn about beliefs about life and death in different societies, but also to come to grips with issues that surround death and dying in our own society, such as planning for end-of-life care and preparing living wills.

Dr. Shively also teaches courses on Islam and the Middle East. She conducted fieldwork in Turkey for two years and visits the country frequently. She has visited or done research in other Middle Eastern countries—most recently in the Palestinian Territories—where one can encounter some of the nicest people (and best food) in the world. Dr. Shively wants KU students to experience the Middle East as well, and to that end, she is establishing a summer study abroad program in Turkey in which students would both learn about Turkish and

Middle Eastern history and be introduced to Turkish culture and people. If all goes according to plan, the program should be ready by the Summer 2013 semester.

Besides teaching, Dr. Shively is also deeply involved with the Women’s and Gender Studies minor, overseeing the expansion of curricular offerings. She serves on curriculum committees at the college and university level, but is especially excited about being one of a group of faculty trying to launch a new minor track focusing on Asia and the Middle East within the International Studies program. She hopes that the minor will provide students the opportunity to learn about and become involved with parts of the world that will grow in economic and political importance over the course of the twenty-first century.

In her spare time, Dr. Shively enjoys traveling, reading, music and hiking. Mostly though, she spends her time outside of work involved in the various activities of her four boys, all of whom seem to have some musical talent that needs nurturing. Dr. Shively has—quite by accident—become a pro at coordinating play rehearsals, music lessons, choir practice and ballet performances. “Never a dull moment,” she says.

Alumni highlight



BECCA ECKERT '09

BIOLOGY MAJOR



CHEMISTRY MINOR

Becca graduated from Kutztown summa cum laude in May 2009 with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. While at KU, she worked for two years as a laboratory assistant for Dr. Wendy Ryan in the Biology Department, helping to set up materials for labs, and troubleshoot and calibrate equipment. This provided a great

springboard for her next adventure—graduate school at Penn State University in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. There she focused on stream ecology and spent time working as both a research and teaching assistant.

As a research assistant, Becca spent time learning to identify diatoms (aquatic algal organism with a silica shell which can be used as algal water quality indicators) and other soft algae, conducting nutrient experiments. She also had the opportunity to spend a week on a Canadian Coast Guard Vessel on frozen Lake Erie in February to sample algae under the ice. Her research has helped the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection establish total maximum daily loads for harmful nutrients in streams in PA.

Additionally, as a teaching assistant, Becca helped design a limnological methods lab course which teaches students how to use aquatic lab and field equipment, identify common aquatic organisms and conduct experiments that promote better understanding of processes occurring in streams and lakes.

In graduate school, Becca conducted research on food webs in streams. She sought to understand the influence nutrients and consumers can simultaneously have on middle links in the food web by providing artificial substrates for algal and macroinvertebrate colonization with nutrients. During the substrates time in the streams, natural interactions between organisms were also allowed to occur to facilitate a complete view of the food web.

Becca graduated in August 2012 with a M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science after completing her thesis titled, “An experimental approach to evaluate effects of nutrients and median consumers on stream trophic dynamics.”

Originally from Carbon County, Becca recently returned home and is currently applying for Ph.D. positions in stream ecology. After obtaining her Ph.D., she hopes to spread her passion for nature and biology to others through teaching at a university similar to KU.

New Tenure Track Faculty



Mauricia John, Ph.D.
Anthropology/
Sociology
Ohio State University



Christopher Habeck, Ph.D.
Biology
University of Wisconsin —
Madison



Glenn Walters, Ph.D.
Criminal Justice
Texas Tech University



Patricia Pytleski, Ph.D.
English
Lehigh University



Todd Dodson, M.F.A.
English
Northern Michigan
University



Todd Williams, Ph.D.
English
Kent State University



Doug Lea, M.A.
History
London School of
Economics and Science



Catherine Best, Ph.D.
Psychology
University of
Pittsburgh



Yasoda Sharma, Ph.D.
Social Work
University of Texas—
Arlington



Nancy Zimmerman, D.Ed.
Modern Language Studies
Pennsylvania State
University—Harrisburg

Please join us in congratulating the following faculty members for their accomplishments:

Granted Tenure

Anthony Bleach, *English*
Michael Downing, *English*
Melissa Nurczynski, *English*
Andrew Vogel, *English*
Mathias Le Bossé, *Geography*
Yun Lu, *Mathematics*
Mohammad Adeel, *Philosophy*
James Jackson, *Psychology*
Derek Mace, *Psychology*
Greg Shelley, *Psychology*
Varsha Pandaya, *Social Work*

Promotion

Associate Professor
Charlie Shim, *Computer Science*
Anthony Bleach, *English*
Michael Downing, *English*
Andrew Vogel, *English*
Mathias LeBossé, *Geography*
Yun Lu, *Mathematics*
Mohammed Adeel, *Philosophy*
Greg Shelley, *Psychology*
James Jackson, *Psychology*
Assistant Professor
Melissa Nurczynski, *English*

A Fond Farewell...

This semester we wished Dr. Dawn Slack well as she returned to full-time teaching duties after four semesters of serving as the Interim Associate Dean.

While serving in the Dean's Office, I was constantly amazed at the level of expertise and dedication to our students. While I learned so much from that great experience, I am also glad to be teaching and interacting with our MLS students again. ¡Adelante! — Dr. Slack

...and Warm Welcome



Please join us in welcoming our new Associate Dean, Dr. David Beougher, who comes to us most recently from West Point Military Academy where he was an assistant professor of History. Previously, he was chair of the Department of Military Science and Leadership at Eastern Michigan University.

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