

the collage

Spring 2013

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

Faculty highlight



Dr. Christopher F. Sacchi

Dr. Christopher F. Sacchi, Professor of Biology, joined Kutztown University in August 1998. He obtained his Ph.D. in Biological Science with a specialization in plant ecology from Northern Arizona University; his Master's degree in Ecology came from Rutgers University, and his Bachelor's degree in Biology from Fairfield University. During his years at Kutztown, he has devoted time and energy to his passion by teaching courses including Principles of Biology, Introduction to Botany, Ecology, Plant Ecology, Environmental Biology, and Senior Seminar.

Dr. Sacchi's primary research interest in ecology involves the study of plant-animal interactions, as well as plant-pollinator interactions dealing with the traits of flowers that attract different pollinators. Over the years, Dr. Sacchi has studied the negative impact of various gall-forming insects on the reproduction of their specific host plants. Some of these plants include the shrubby willow species that grows in Arizona and a flowering dogwood in Virginia. He has also studied the effects of leaf-feeding insects on reproduction and growth of horse nettle, a native plant species related to potato and eggplant. Recent studies of plant-pollinator

interactions have included examination of flower colors, shapes, and the sugar content of nectars produced by flowers that differ in color. Dr. Sacchi is interested in learning if these traits attract different pollinating insects or hummingbirds.

Having experienced success in writing and receiving federal funding for grant proposals before coming to Kutztown, Dr. Sacchi remained committed to grant-writing focusing on enhancing educational opportunities for Kutztown science students. By collaborating with other professors, Dr. Sacchi and his biology colleagues have been awarded three grants from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Division of Undergraduate Education. These grants led to the funding of a digital imaging lab equipped with microscopes, digital cameras, and physiology equipment. These instruments are now used to design new laboratory exercises, as well as revising old ones in order to enhance learning opportunities for students.

Most recently, Dr. Sacchi, received an NSF grant providing scholarship support for students

entering the Environmental Science and Marine Science programs. This focus on finding methods to benefit students has grown to be an important synthesis of Dr. Sacchi's interest in both teaching and scholarship. He has also published a lab exercise for ecology students and served as a subject editor for *Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology* (TIEE), an online educational journal of the Ecological Society of America.

Dr. Sacchi's service to the Biology Department, the University, and the local and professional community is part of his commitment to gain new experiences and to use past experience to contribute to the greater good of the many places he considers to be home. Outside of the University, Dr. Sacchi continues to spread his passion for biology by regularly giving plant ecology tours at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and periodically teaching at a wildlife conservation camp. Whether on or off campus, Dr. Sacchi strives to gain as much knowledge about the world he lives in as possible, but more importantly, his ultimate goal is to pass that knowledge on to his students.

DEAN'S CORNER Anne E. Zayaitz, Ph.D.



Creative. Adventurous. Knowledgeable. Caring. Daring. Energetic. Thoughtful. Devoted. Passionate. Committed. Curious. Innovative. Questioning. Directed. Spontaneous. Focused. Our featured students, faculty, and alumni are that and more. These stories describe accomplishments and future plans, but the real message is that each of these individuals has found within themselves that which compels them to be successful. In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "What

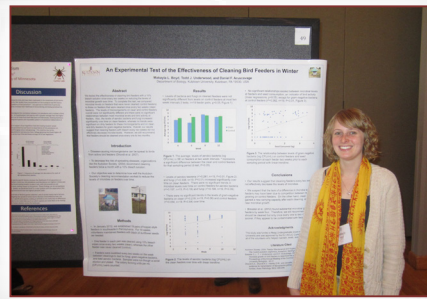
lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." It is very easy for me to boast about the accomplishments of members of our Kutztown University family—each individual brings their own gifts, talents, dreams, abilities—and together we are the community of an exciting university. Please join me and smile with KU pride as we celebrate with our May 2013 graduates and prepare to welcome the class of 2017.



Kutztown Conferences



On March 15, 2013 Kutztown hosted the **11th Annual Community Forum on Social Work**. Students and faculty gathered in the McFarland Student Union Building for presentations from Pennsylvania's Acting Secretary of Health, Michael Wolf (left) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Director, Joane Grossi (right).



Biology major, **Makayla Boyd**, presented her research on bird feeder hygiene at the Wilson Ornithology Conference held on March 7, 2013 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Makayla's study identified that bird feeders can cause disease transmission in many wild bird species. Her project also studied the effectiveness of specific feeder cleaning methods.



The **Criminal Justice Department** hosted a career day on March 27, 2013. All Criminal Justice majors were encouraged to attend and interact with practitioners working within the Criminal Justice system. Representatives from the state police, federal police, prosecutors, corrections staff, and non-profit agencies all spoke to the audience about opportunities within the Criminal Justice world.



Congratulations to Biology major, **Jordan Kemfort**, for earning second place for Best Platform Presentation, Organismal/Ecology/Evolution at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists (CPUB), at Clarion University, on April 20, 2013.



English major, **Troy Spier** (left), stands with his panel at the Social Research Social Justice Conference held at Muhlenberg College on April 5, 2013. He presented his paper on African American literature during the period between the slave narratives and the Harlem Renaissance.

Electronic Media Wins Big



Marissa Cockrell '08

Small but mighty are the best words to describe Kutztown University's Electronic Media Department. Half a dozen faculty members makes it one of the smallest departments on campus, but what they lack in size, they make up for in successful alumni. Kevin Martorana, KU Class of 1983, and Marissa Cockrell (Kenney), KU Class of 2008, have never met, yet they have more in common than their alma maters. Both of these Kutztown alumni have created successful careers from their KU education.

After earning undergraduate dual degrees in 2008, B.S. in Electronic Media and B.A. in English/Professional Writing, Marissa Kenney has made her mark in the world of Sports Production. In the Fall of 2008, she took her first step into the professional world by interning with NFL Films. During this time, she had the opportunity to work on shows including, "Hey Rookie," and "Hard Knocks: Dallas Cowboys." She was also on the field with the NFL Network

Kevin Martorana '83



for the 2009 Thanksgiving Day game, Eagles versus Cardinals. In 2011, she was contacted by Gamecock Productions from the University of South Carolina Athletic Department. She quickly accepted the position and has since settled into her career. Gamecock Productions covers everything that happens within the USC Athletic Department, and while some of her work days are 17 hours long, she has enjoyed the opportunity to continue doing what she loves.

Farther north and closer to home, Kevin Martorana has been running his own production company, Take One Productions, in Lancaster Pennsylvania for the past 30 years. Based in the heart of Pennsylvania, Take One Productions is a global production company and business that has taken Kevin's production services worldwide. After starting his career at the NBC affiliate WGAL-TV8, he was rapidly promoted to producer/videographer/editor of the show "PM Magazine," where he gained the knowledge and experience needed to strike out on his own. Kevin has been acknowledged as one of the "Top 100 Producers" by Film and Video Magazine. He has worked all throughout the U.S., Russia, and Europe, and has produced work for ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, HBO,

Discovery Channel, VH1, and hundreds of corporations.

Both of these alumni have one more accomplishment to add to their lengthy lists: Emmy Awards. This past year, Take One Productions took advantage of the newest Emmy Award category, "Commercial Spot." After submitting four commercials to the competition, three were nominated and one came out the winner. A humorous commercial entitled, "You'll Understand," was designed for the PA Renaissance Faire in May of 2012 and became Kevin's first claim to Emmy fame. "At the time we shot it and produced it, we thought it was funny and would catch viewers' attention, but we never guessed it would win an Emmy Award!"

Marissa and her team at Gamecock Productions were also making a name for themselves in the Emmy competition. The program, "Gamecock Confidential—Back to Basics," featured the USC men's basketball team experiencing a version of boot camp to inspire leadership within the young team. "I honestly never expected to win an Emmy when I was just 26 years old, especially with a limited budget and staff. This was the first Emmy win for myself and Gamecock Productions!" The program won in the category of "Outstanding Achievement: One Time Special."

Kutztown's Electronic Media Department has been turning students into successful professionals for many years. These two alumni are proof of the great accomplishments that are possible with an Electronic Media education.

Student highlight

As a KU senior and Philosophy Major, Jenn Dum isn't afraid to ask the hard questions; but more than that, she isn't afraid to answer them. While thinking is one of the basic human skills, many people underestimate the power and complexity behind the human mind. For Jenn, critical thinking comes naturally and she has used that talent to succeed both in the classroom and out.

During her four years at Kutztown, Jenn enjoyed many philosophy courses that validated her interest in the subject. Social, political, and environmental philosophy represent her favorite aspect of this broad subject. "I admire the discipline that is required to put philosophical ideas and concepts into clear language; social and political philosophies in particular deal with issues that are pertinent to a wide audience."

Critical thinking can be beneficial in more ways than answering tough questions. As Jenn claims, it is also an important skill to have when it comes



Jenn Dum '13

to everyday interactions. An example she uses are those unavoidable confrontations that come up between parents and peers. "To be able to understand the merit of different viewpoints and to be able to determine what is worth arguing about is a good skill to have."

Jenn is an active member of Kutztown's Philosophy Club, has worked as a student

assistant within the Philosophy Department, and has acted as tutor to many of her fellow students. She has learned the proper way to convey her ideas by presenting papers for both the Philosophy Club and at regional conferences. These experiences have given her a taste of what the professional philosophical world is like and promises to benefit her after graduation.

Jenn plans on advancing the skills she learned at KU by continuing her education in the Social, Political, Ethical, and Legal Philosophy Ph.D. program at Binghamton University. "My goals beyond graduate school are admittedly vague; I would like to be a valuable member of society—and I would like to figure out exactly what that means." She has learned many lessons while studying within the Kutztown Philosophy Department. "Even if the answers aren't easy to find, there is value in trying to find them." She will keep this in mind as she is handed her diploma in May.





Kutztown alumnus **Tyler Cressman** (middle) led his team of Nazareth Area High School Students to victory at the 2013 World Languages Meet. The team competed in language skills competitions that targeted listening interpretation and spoken conversation skills.



Students, faculty, and prospective students gathered in the Boehm Science Building on Saturday, April 15, 2013, for the biannual **Science, Technology, and Math Open House**. Students and their families were given the opportunity to learn more about the CLAS departments while interacting with professors and current students.

On April 10th, 2013 the **Modern Languages Department** hosted their World Language Meet where, in addition to competing, local high school students visited language and culture classes on campus to experience the life of a Kutztown MLS student.



The School Safety Forum hosted by the **Criminal Justice Department** was held March 5, 2013. The forum examined school safety in K-12 institutions and lessons learned from prior attacks. Assistant Professor Jonathan Kremser facilitated the event.



Congratulations to Political Science students, **Meghan Sullivan** and **Michael Detommaso**, co-winners of the Peters/Dixon Senior Award. The pair was presented their awards at a ceremony on April 26, 2013.



Psychology majors, **Samantha Crist** (pictured) and **Mara Wilde**, recently published a manuscript of which they are coauthors with Dr. Robert Ryan titled, "Compared To a Small, Supervised Lab Experiment, a Large, Unsupervised Web-Based Experiment On a Previously Unknown Effect Has Benefits that Outweigh Its Potential Costs."



The **Psychology Department** inducted 32 students into Psi Chi, the psychology honor society, in a ceremony held on April 19, 2013. Front: Nikki Snyder, Tara Ann Hoban, Kathryn DeMeglio, Stephanie Lewis. Back: Alyssa Muthard, Chelsea Beaver, Kristie Thudium, Sarah Newman, Michele Lewis, Rachel Lerch.

KU Alumni Living on the Edge



Meg Rudge
87'



Katie Frey
09'

Over 2,000 miles, and two time zones away from their shared alma mater, two Kutztown alumni have found their niches in the state of Arizona. Meg Rudge, class of 1987, and Katie Frey, class of 2009, may have graduated years apart, but their professional endeavors have led both of them to the Grand Canyon National Park.

Armed with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry, Meg Rudge has spent her years since Kutztown traveling the world and working for companies that included Frito Lay and REI (Recreational Equipment Inc). What she had expected to be a yearlong stint at REI turned into a 13 year stay at a company she soon grew to love. "REI was my first opportunity to really explore my interest in the outdoors and I met many like-minded people." While her love and respect for the company is something that she still feels strongly about, she made the decision to follow her dream of international travel. In 2003, she took her first international trip and ended up spending time in Ireland. While traveling spontaneously with no real itinerary, she met her husband and eventually moved to London. She continued to travel, frequenting countries like France, Scotland, and Austria.

After moving back to the U.S., her desire to travel had not diminished. When she received a job offer from the Grand Canyon National Park that included international travel, she jumped at the opportunity. After being promoted to assistant director of Human Resources in 2007, Meg has had the opportunity to travel to 34 countries to encourage goodwill and establish a cultural exchange program. "Witnessing the acceptance of other cultures and the bonds that are formed is one of the most

rewarding parts of my job. It's hard to imagine living back in 'regular' society now. Park life is unique and not suited to everyone, but the canyon has an addictive quality. The work and the location are still fulfilling for me."

With a similar love for the outdoors, Katie Frey, B.S. in Environmental Biology with a minor in Geography, has also found a home within the National Park Service as a biological technician. Since her graduation in 2009, Katie has split her time between educating young students about the environment and participating in numerous environmental projects. In the Fall of 2009, she began a 10 month project as a member of SCA Massachusetts. During her time there, she designed environmental education lessons for grades pre-k through five and also led and was a member of several trail crews. "This was one of the best experiences of my life; I learned a lot about being a member of an intentional community." In 2010, she decided to continue teaching and became an outdoor science instructor at High Trails Outdoor Science School in Angelus Oaks, Ca. She continued to spread her love for the outdoors by taking fifth through sixth graders on hikes through the National Forest where she lived.

While she found joy inspiring her students, she soon realized that she missed the active participation aspect of biology. She began a year-long internship at the Grand Canyon National Park as an endangered-plant intern. After taking a few other seasonal positions that had her surveying and removing invasive plant species, performing pollination studies, and monitoring existing populations, she is now a seasonal biological technician at the Grand Canyon working once again with endangered plants and vegetation. "I'm not sure where my future path is going to take me; I'm very interested in sustainable agriculture, or potentially going to grad school."

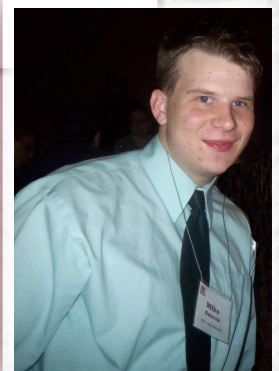
Whether life at the Grand Canyon will capture Katie with the same addictive quality it had with Meg, both of these women have proved that while nestled in the heart of Berks County, Pennsylvania, Kutztown graduates are by no means restricted to their Pennsylvania upbringings. Both women sport adventurous lives and will continue using the skills they gained from KU whether they are two miles, or 2,000 miles away from where they started.



CLAS Achievements



Electronic Media major **Michael Gdovin** was honored as National Student of the Year during the annual convention of the National Broadcasting Society, held in Washington, DC March 20-24, 2013. Michael was the third KU student to receive this award in recent years.



Senior Political Science major, **Ahmed Awadallah**, a Beacon Scholar, was accepted into the master's program at the London School of Economics.

Seven Electronic Media majors were inducted into the honor society of Alpha Epsilon Rho on March 23, 2013 during the annual convention of the National Broadcasting Society in Washington, DC. Pictured with KU chapter advisor, Dr. Joe Chuk, are **Haley Bianco**, **Devin Raventos**, **Maxwell Farrara**, **Megan Black**, **Melissa Kelly**, and **Megan Soucy**. Also inducted was **Dustin Seyler**, who was unable to attend the convention.

Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society welcomed their spring initiates in a ceremony held on April 24, 2013.



Kutztown University students **Linda Eteki**, **Samantha Muse**, and **Kataryna Evanowicz** each received the annual Department of Social Work Diversity Prize. The award was sponsored by the faculty, and included letters of recognition from the office of Senator Bob Casey, as presented by Carol Obando-Derstine, (Left to right: State Senator Judy Schwank, Samantha Muse, Linda Eteki and Kataryna Evanowicz.)



On April 16, 2013, Professor Todd Rober and the Commission on the Status of Minorities at Kutztown University presented Assistant Professor **Dr. Jennifer Schlegel** (left) with the Distinguished Service Award. Professor Schlegel was recognized for her "excellence in promoting cultural competence, environmental inclusion, and leadership in multiculturalism on the Kutztown University campus."

Faculty highlight

Dr. Dawn Slack

Having been brought up as a “Buckeye,” and earning three degrees from Ohio State University—B.S. in Secondary Education, M.A. in Latin American Literature and Culture, and then a Ph.D. in Latin American Literature and Culture—Dr. Dawn Slack has traded in her scarlet and gray for Kutztown’s maroon and gold. She has been teaching at Kutztown in the Department of Modern Language Studies for the past 15 years and has also served as the interim associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Slack has experienced both faculty and administrative roles within the university. When she joined the Dean’s Office in 2010, she was often questioned whether or not she missed teaching; when she returned to the classroom in 2012, the questions were reversed. She has the same answer to both questions, “Yes, indeed. There are many aspects of both positions that I miss, but there are also many new perspectives and experiences that I have gained. No two days

at KU, or in life, are ever alike and I find that energizing.”

While her field focuses on Modern Language Studies, it is diverse and encompasses a wide range of countries, cultures, time periods, and myriad forms of expressions. She has never limited herself to one focus and has also devoted time to studying Luso-Brazilian Literature and Culture and Medieval and Golden Age Spanish Literature. “There is always something new to investigate and I am passionate about examining this diversity and sharing it with others.”

Moving from the office to the classroom is not the only traveling that Dr. Slack enjoys. Partly due to her field of study and also due to her personal interests, she is an avid traveler. She takes advantage of every opportunity to see the world, whether that be for work or pleasure. She has had the chance to live and work in Mexico, Peru, Spain, and Brazil—just to name a few. “I always have my passport current and I can be packed and ready to go in minutes. Where is my favorite place? The next one!”

When her passport isn’t in use, she enjoys spending time at home, close to Kutztown. “I have fun with my friends and family, including

my dog, who rules the house!” Like her work, her interests and hobbies include a diverse group of activities: she enjoys knitting, gardening, and all aspects of traditional longbow archery. She is also involved with animal rescue. Whether her future at Kutztown will be spent in the classroom or the office, Dr. Slack looks forward to many more new experiences and the endless opportunities to share them.



Dr. Slack overlooking the valley town of Guanajuato, Mexico.

INTERESTING INTERNSHIP



Troy Croak '13

Kutztown junior, Troy Croak, has always had a love for the outdoors, but it wasn’t until his sophomore year at Kutztown that he realized that passion could translate into a career. After starting college as an Elementary Education major, Troy was inspired by an introductory course in physical geography and soon decided to transfer into the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as a Geography major. Since then, his decision has led to professional opportunities both on and off campus.

One of the most beneficial experiences Troy has had is his internship at the Delaware Water

Gap National Recreation Area. As part of the National Park Service, the Delaware Water Gap consists of 70,000 acres of conserved land where visitors are able to hike, swim, camp, and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. Since January 2013, Troy has been responsible for many park projects and has been able to enhance the skills he has gained at KU, while also gaining new ones.

One of Troy’s most recent projects was creating an atlas map for the upper section of the area. This included building a geo-database to accurately depict terrain and land features. Much of his work requires him to perform resource monitoring where he uses GPS mapping to travel the area to calculate the slope and survey the vegetation of the land. Troy will also have the chance to share his knowledge by teaching a class on trail monitoring to the park’s volunteers.

As a part of the National Park Services, Troy has also had the opportunity to be involved in national projects. One of his most memorable experiences was participating in a conference call with fellow geographers from San Francisco and Seattle as they discussed a possible future project, a national river database. This is

something Troy has become interested in and hopes to learn more about the projected plans and even assist in its creation in his future career.

Troy spent his time at Kutztown learning the necessary skills that made this internship possible. Two of his favorite subjects include anything to do with GIS navigation, and meteorology. He hopes to continue using the knowledge from these courses as he finishes his internship this spring. Troy is also the president of Kutztown’s Geographical Society. He leads the group as they perform volunteer activities and educate non-geography majors about the beauty of the world in which they live.

His internship, classes, and leadership position keep him busy; but during his free time, Troy prefers to take advantage of the landscape he studies by spending as much time as possible outside enjoying the natural environment. Some of his favorite activities include hiking, camping, and kayaking. Since his decision to change majors, Troy has gained the skills to become a successful geographer and has shown this with his work at the Delaware Water Gap. Along with those skills, he has also learned that combining a passion with a career can lead to rewarding experiences.



Student highlight



Jazmin V. Colon-Salas '13

Jazmin V. Colon-Salas has always had a love for scientific study, but knew that something was missing. After taking an introductory course in psychology, she quickly discovered that while she enjoyed the analytical aspect of the hard sciences, she also had a passion for human interaction. Defined as the scientific study of the human mind, psychology combines

both of these subjects. Jazmin soon made the switch to officially declare herself a Psychology major. She has been able to combine her love of science with her interest in social interaction and as a result, has gained important knowledge that she uses everyday.

One of the most beneficial ways that Jazmin has been able to use the skills she has learned at Kutztown has been through her day-to-day interactions. She uses her education in her current position as a residential program assistant at Threshold Rehabilitation Services. Here she works to prepare herself for the many careers that are possible with a degree in Psychology. She is able to talk to people in all walks of life and give advice and support. She interacts with individuals with intellectual disabilities and helps them to function in society. She has learned the value of always having an open mind and feels that she is able to have a positive impact in the lives of others.

Jazmin credits her academic growth and achievement for the opportunities she has had to

be involved in specific leadership organizations. During the summer of 2012, she had the privilege of being a member of the PASSHE Women's Consortium 24th Undergraduate Women's Leadership Institute. While attending, she was able to connect with women who had similar values and goals as her own and participate in interactive activities that pushed her to reach her full potential as a female leader. "Being inducted into a new group and being able to say you are a part of something has been the most rewarding experience I have had so far." She has also been a part of the Frederick Douglass Diversity Peer Educator Program, and The Art of Self Leadership: Leaders in Kutztown University.

Jazmin is currently waiting to hear back from Temple University where she has applied for graduate school and plans on continuing her Psychology education. Her future plan is to earn a Ph.D. in Psychology and become a professor in the subject. "If not that, I'm always prepared with plans B, C, and D."

ACADEMIC AWARDS



Back row: President Cevallos, Shawn Devaney, Berndard Yuhos, Peter Koufalas, Jarred Schlottman, Jordan Kemfort, Eric Sergeant, Dr. Carlson Chambliss. Front row: Wyatt Glennon, Makayla Boyd, Elizabeth Heness, Sarah Ford, Brianna Risch

Kutztown celebrated the recipients of its annual Academic Achievement Awards in a ceremony held on April 19, 2013 in the McFarland Student Union Building.

The Academic Achievement Award was established by former faculty member, Dr. Carlson Chambliss, with the intention of recognizing graduating seniors for their exceptional accomplishments. Faculty nominate students based on six areas of achievement: completed research projects, original artwork of high quality, artistic performances (music, chorus, drama, etc.) of high quality, original writing in literature or meritorious writing in other fields, noteworthy athletics, and outstanding services to the KU community.

In total, eleven students were presented with awards and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences proudly recognizes and supports the nine CLAS recipients (names bolded). The ceremony included remarks from Dr. Chambliss as well as President Cevallos and Dr. Carlos Vargas-Aburto, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

The spring 2013 edition of *The Collage* was designed and written by
Amber Himes'14, professional writing major,
under the supervision of the CLAS Dean's Office.

