

# the collage

Winter 2014

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

## Faculty highlight



**Dr. Sharon Lyter**

"Dedicated" is the word that best describes the relationship Dr. Sharon Lyter has with the Kutztown Social Work Department. After joining the KU faculty in 2006, this social work professor has continually proven her dedication and commitment to her field and students by teaching courses at both the bachelor's and master's levels. With a Ph.D. from Rutgers University, Master's from Temple, and a Bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University, Dr. Lyter is a positive addition to her department and the university as a whole.

After earning her doctorate, she remained at Rutgers University in an administrative position, managing field education, teaching in the graduate school, and caring for three young children. "When I was ready to seek out tenure track positions, I was fortunate to land in the Pennsylvania state system. KU is now my true academic home; I treasure my colleagues, students, and the vision provided by the leadership. This is where I am part of a cohesive team. It doesn't get much better than this in university life. And, besides—fountains! Windows! Landscaping!"

Dr. Lyter's years at Rutgers included training under a federal substance abuse education grant and collaborating with faculty on a textbook. Maintaining a clinical social work license and teaching a graduate course in psychopathology furthered her research and scholarship, and also resulted in publications and presentations. She also collaborated with a Philadelphia initiative to develop a training module on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for graduate students being recruited into careers in urban behavioral health.

Her research interests focus on behavioral health and risk management, and she continues to enjoy her service within numerous social work organizations. She is the field editor for the *Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work*, department representative to the Curriculum Committee of the College, member of the department's Search and Promotion/Evaluation/Tenure committees, Diversity Prize chair, and Social Work Community Forum chair.

Like many social workers, Dr. Lyter's interest in social justice and human rights was propelled in part by personal circumstances. "Inequality for

women was also a big influence. For example, the top two ranking students in my high school graduating class were female (myself as salutatorian); the valedictorian and I were told it would be a good idea to be fair and share the traditional valedictorian and salutatorian graduation duties with a male student. It did not occur to me then that I had any right to disagree, so it is thrilling to see genuine progress in equal rights."

When she isn't working, her favorite thing to do is spend time with her family. She and her husband met early in their careers while working at a mental health treatment program. They attended Rutgers University together and despite a commuter marriage, have continued a professional partnership as well; this includes book chapters, journal articles, and lectures in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland on behavioral health topics. Together the couple has three children and one grandchild. "Our family members are the kindest, most enjoyable, most interesting buddies—we get together whenever our busy schedules allow. We are fortunate to have a resort home in the mountains, and it is often filled with all of us and all of our dogs."

### DEAN'S CORNER Anne E. Zayaitz, PhD



*"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Henry Ford.*

Kutztown University students, faculty, and alumni have worked independently and collaboratively using their interests, passions, and talents to make a difference in the world. Students do great things whether they are majoring in anthropology, psychology, geology, biology, history, or computer science. Don't miss the feature article about four students who expanded their knowledge and applied their expertise with Geographic Information System (GIS); their projects have provided many offices on campus an opportunity to track and analyze data in an entirely new way. Our students become graduates; it is always a pleasure to have alumni reconnect to KU by coming to graduate school, touching base with a faculty member, or visiting campus. Kutztown faculty are recognized leaders within their disciplines and in the community; several recent award winners are featured in this edition. Please enjoy this edition of *The Collage* which showcases our university community, a place where students and faculty work together and thrive.



# Student highlight



**Brooke Ann Coco**

Introduction to Anthropology is a general Education class that many Kutztown students find themselves enrolling in at some point during their time at KU. For Brooke Ann Coco, however, ANT10 was more than an elective—when the semester ended, she wanted to know more. The class had inspired

her, and she soon made the decision to add a major in anthropology to her already heavy course load. An anthropology/music dual major, her accomplishments have made her stand out within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and she is currently working on making anthropology a permanent part of her life.

As an avid traveler, Brooke Ann has already adapted the lifestyle of many anthropologists. Croatia, Ecuador, Italy, England, and Austria all have stamps within her passport, and she credits her love for travel as one reason why she knew that anthropology was right for her. Traveling and experiencing new cultures has been an irreplaceable aspect of her life for years, and studying anthropology has given her the opportunity to continue traveling. She will soon be attending a field school where she will travel to Belize and spend one month excavating a Mayan City. She will learn the hands-on skills that are difficult to get within the confines of a classroom.

Along with those foreign destinations, Brooke Ann has also had the opportunity to travel more locally. At the beginning of December, the American Anthropology Association hosted its

annual conference in Chicago, Illinois. She was selected as one of the first Kutztown University students to attend the conference, and traveled there to present her paper on women in percussion. She was able to meet professionals within the field of anthropology and exchange ideas. “It was great to know that I was doing the same thing that these professional anthropologists have been doing; I learned that I can call myself an anthropologist.”

Brooke Anne has taken classes at Kutztown that have analyzed the medical care of different cultures, as well as how language affects communities. Anthropology has taught her to be open-minded and accepting. It has pushed her to see the bigger picture behind a problem and strive to find long-term solutions. Through the encouragement and motivation from her professors, she has been able to take all that she has learned outside of the classroom to the next level of professionalism. “I have learned to be more sympathetic to why people do things; it has really changed my perspective on society.” She will keep these lessons in mind as she travels to Belize, and anywhere else that her goals take her.

# Alumni highlight

KU alum Steven Craig took advantage of his years spent at Kutztown playing baseball and preparing for a future as a licensed psychologist. He graduated in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and when it came time to decide what his next step would be, Kutztown University’s M.Ed. secondary school counseling program was a perfect fit. “I decided on Kutztown because I connected more with counseling and I knew the academic environment suited me well.” Years later, Steven has not given up on his dream of being a licensed psychologist, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from West Virginia University.

While taking classes for his master’s at KU, Steven found work as a graduate assistant in the Criminal Justice Department and also at First Hospital as a mental health technician. “This experience provided me with the opportunity to apply the techniques and skills I was learning in the classroom.” The combination of classroom learning and hands-on experience opened doors into the professional world and after

earning his master’s degree, Steven became certified as a secondary school counselor in Pennsylvania



**Steven Craig**

and South Carolina. From there, he interned as a school counselor at James M. Coughlin High School. That experience gave him his first glimpse into a professional counseling environment, and encouraged him to go even further. “Although I loved interning as a school counselor, I really connected with my classes in counseling psychology and psychotherapy at Kutztown, so the logical next step for me was to further my education with the end goal of becoming a licensed psychologist.”

As a licensed psychologist, Steven will be permitted to evaluate, diagnose, and treat

patients. He chose to earn this final degree at West Virginia University. He was awarded a University Provost Graduate Fellowship and has had the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Jeffrey Daniels. The duo is working on a monograph publication that will focus on preventing lethal school violence in the United States. He is also researching how improving the personal well-being of psychologists is necessary to prevent burnout in this emotionally straining career, and increase competency within the profession.

Steven will not slow down any time soon; he plans on conducting more research for the Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the FBI regarding offender motives and officer perception in ambush situations while completing his coursework, dissertation and internships. His final step on his road to becoming a licensed psychologist will be to complete a postdoctoral fellowship and take his final tests. Steven’s journey to being a licensed psychologist started in 2004 with an introductory course in psychology, and two Kutztown degrees, multiple internships and professional experiences later, his goal is in sight.





Spanish professor Dr. Nancy Zimmerman has been selected for this year's PSMLA Fellow in the SANS, Inc./NECTFL Mead Leadership Program. Dr. Zimmerman was recognized by Kutztown's Modern Languages Department for her exceptional leadership, and after an intensive application process, she was awarded this scholarship on a national level.



Gary Cordner, Department of Criminal Justice, received the Bruce Smith Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. The award recognizes a person who has made substantial contributions to the field of criminal justice.



Biology student Robert Conrow was presented with the 2013 Outstanding Student Entomologist Award by the Entomological Society of Pennsylvania at the society's annual meeting on Friday, October 25th. Robert gave a presentation on the research that he has been conducting with Dr. Greg Setliff on the cuckoo wasps of Pennsylvania. As an undergraduate, Robert was honored with this award which is usually reserved for graduate students.



# KU

## STANDOUTS



Educational activist, author, and business woman Hassina Sherjan shared her story, "Empowering Women in Afghanistan: Literacy and Education" to an audience of KU students, faculty, and staff on November 4th.



KU alumni Meredith Starr (left) and Katelyn Dovey (right) returned to their alma mater on February 19th for KU basketball's Dean's List recognition game and stopped to pose with Dean Zayaitz. Both women graduated from KU in 2011 with bachelor's degrees in biology.



The Honors Program announced that KU junior Ashley Crawford (left) and senior Emily Snyder (above) are the recipients of the PASSHE 2014 Summer Study Abroad Program. This program will provide students with the opportunity to explore the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia this upcoming summer.



Geology students Marlena Rock, Kelsey Mason, and Margariete Malenda traveled to Denver, Colorado to present research at the international Geological Society of America meeting. These KU undergraduates stood alongside Ph.D.s and professional geoscientists to represent Kutztown by presenting a scanning electron microscope. The three worked alongside Professor Kurt Frieauf, pictured together here.

# Alumni highlight



**Joshua Yoder**

*Joshua was named the 2014 Middle Level Teacher of the Year by the PA Council for the Social Studies.*

Since graduating from KU in 2001 with a B.A. in History and then again in 2002 with a B.S. in Secondary Education, Joshua Yoder has found a home for himself at Owen J. Roberts Middle School as a seventh grade social studies teacher. Along with being a teacher, he is also a traveler, singer, scholar, square dancer, actor, and most recently he has added 2014 Middle Level Teacher of the Year to that list.

Joshua has been teaching middle school social studies for the past twelve years, but teaching isn't the only thing that he has been doing since his graduation from Kutztown. Eager to continue with his own education, he earned his M.A. in holocaust and genocide studies from West Chester University and a M.A. in historical archaeology from The University of Leicester in the British Midlands. "This second master's was especially amazing since I was able to complete field work in the UK and work with the professors who most recently discovered the remains of Richard III."

While abroad he also had the opportunity to conduct research in Greece and Poland. His research focused on the Greek Jews of Thessaloniki, and when he was finished, he had the opportunity to present his work with The Theoretical

Archaeological Group in Southampton, UK. Closer to home, he has also presented his research on women in the Holocaust at the Geis Women's Conference at the University of Delaware.

Along with his interest in history and social studies, Joshua is also excelling in the entertainment industry. He sings, square dances, and has also booked several notable acting positions. Bank robber Willie Sutton in the second season of Travel Channel's *Mysteries at the Museum* was played by Joshua, he was an extra in the Mark Wahlberg movie *Invincible*, and he has been featured in the 2008 World Series promo shots for Fox Sports.

Currently, he is looking forward to co-presenting at the NCSS (National Conference of Social Studies) with Dr. Sanelli of Kutztown University. Twelve years ago, Dr. Sanelli served as Joshua's student teaching advisor, and today, they are working together as colleagues. He is also hoping to start a Ph.D. program in the near future. Whether he is in the classroom, researching abroad, or on the big screen, Joshua has used his two Kutztown degrees as building blocks to a successful, enriching academic career.

# Faculty highlight

Dr. Paul Ache's route to Kutztown didn't start with a dream of becoming a college professor, but instead, a B.S. in Maritime Systems Engineering with a specialization in offshore structures from Texas A&M, and an application to Naval Flight School. In 1980, Dr. Ache applied and was accepted into Naval Flight School, but after meeting his soon-to-be-wife he was faced with one of life's defining decisions. Having met at a summer camp in Vermont, the new couple returned to Ache's hometown of Houston, Texas, and in an unexpected turn of events, Ache was offered a teaching position in the same district as his soon-to-be bride. After weighing their options, they decided that the Aches would be a family of educators and Dr. Ache began his career teaching math at Deady Junior High School.

Flight school and middle school may not have much in common, but after four years, Dr. Ache was convinced that he had made the right decision. In 1984, he chose to continue with his teaching career by moving his then growing family to Lockhart, Texas to teach high school math and physics. Lockhart, best known as the barbecue capital of the world, became his home for the next seven years.



Ready to take his career a step further, Dr. Ache made the decision to return to school at Texas State University to work on a Master's in Mathematics, with a minor in Physics. He graduated in 1991 and received a fellowship from Texas A&M University to work on his Ph.D. in mathematics which he completed in 1996. Prior to his graduation, he took the initiative to send out 35 applications across the country and interviewed in California, Texas, and Kutztown. After yet another difficult decision, Kutztown's benefits out-weighed its competitors and the Ache family made the move to Pennsylvania.

While at Kutztown, Dr. Ache has had the opportunity to teach various courses within the Mathematics Department including algebra, and calculus. In 2005 he became the chair of the department, adopting responsibilities on the administrative side in addition to his teaching; he has held the position ever since.

Dr. Ache's path to Kutztown involves everything from Naval Flight School to the barbecue capital of the world, but that path would not be complete without the support of his family. Together with his wife Katherine, Dr. Ache has four children, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Meredith, and Paul, along

with one grandchild. While his two brothers are still in Texas, living within 10 miles of the home they grew up in, Dr. Ache values the relationship he has with his family—along with the long journey that brought him to Kutztown.



**Dr. Paul Ache**





# Intern Team Turns Heads

**Laura Kaufmann**  
**Adam Abeles**  
**Nicole Hinsdale**  
**James Gregory**

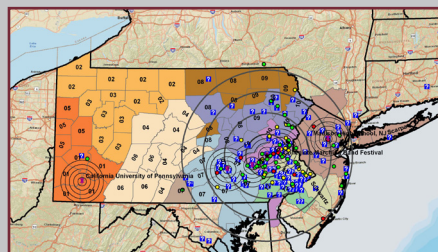
Several Kutztown students have spent the last six months of their college careers excelling at a complex method of visualizing data known as GIS, or Geographic Information System. Laura Kaufmann, Adam Abeles, Nicole Hinsdale, and James Gregory worked as a team to explore the benefits of this system that when combined with the study of geography, can be used to track, analyze, and present valuable information. As a member of the original team, James Gregory finished in August and is currently pursuing a M.A in Geography from West Chester University, but the three remaining interns continued to prove the usefulness of this technology as they worked at a professional level to benefit their university.

Team leader Laura Kaufmann graduated from KU with a B.S. in Geography in May of 2013, and was given the opportunity to expand her KU experience by leading this new GIS team. As team leader, Laura held responsibilities essential in the maintenance and organization of the team. She was responsible for managing the client data to make an anonymous work space for the rest of the group and also conducted the research related to each project. When the assignment was complete, she held meetings with the clients and helped to present the finished project via maps and charts.

Recently graduated geography student Adam Abeles has worked alongside Laura since June 2013. Adam spent his last semester at KU partnering with the CLAS Dean's office to improve marketing strategies and map the campus' water system. Adam's commitment to KU is evident in the quality of his work, and his maps have been published in the University's Academic Enrollment Plan of 2014. Adam



Left: Nicole Hinsdale, Laura Kaufmann, Adam Abeles  
 (Not pictured: James Gregory)



GIS generated map of the Kutztown Music Department

values the six months that he spent as a GIS intern as a chance to enhance his knowledge of the system, but he finds his geographical passion to be in field work. The project that he completed with the campus water system required him to leave the office and actively map the system. That experience serves as inspiration for the kind of career that he hopes to enter into after his graduation in December.

Also having graduated in December, Nicole Hinsdale came to the team excited to experience a level of freedom and professionalism that classroom learning couldn't provide. After exploring the field of geography within the classroom, she was ready to take the next step. Her internship allowed her to further expand

her area of study and she worked on several different projects that served to benefit her own academic growth, as well as the university. She worked alongside Adam on the water system project and also helped the CLAS in a study of the geographical distribution of CLAS majors. She is currently working as a swim coach at West Chester East High School and Malvern Swimming Association, and during her free time she is applying for GIS analyst positions with the hopes of transferring the skills that she gained with her internship to a future career.

While the results of their work were usually colorful, aesthetically pleasing maps, Laura describes GIS as "not just making pretty pictures." Through the collection and arrangement of data, this team has been able to answer important university questions and suggest marketing and exposure techniques. The team is sponsored by the CLAS Dean's office, but they have worked with many other campus departments including Admissions, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the College of Education, and the Alumni Foundation. Each of these clients had a specific question that they needed answered and the interns used maps, university records, census information, and their own research to present the answers in visually helpful ways.

When asked what makes her team's work so important, Laura says, "Our work feeds into the overall story of KU. GIS is inherently useful and I know that I made the right decision in coming back to work on this team." All three of these interns have successfully completed undergraduate degrees at Kutztown and while their work in room 3 of the Graduate Center has come to an end, they have left a positive impression on their alma mater.



# Student highlight

From the road to the classroom, graduate student Kyle Wamsley hasn't had a traditional path to pursuing his master's degree. After completing his undergraduate studies in 2002, he spent the next ten years as a professional cyclist. Kyle rode in races all across the country and had a successful career as one of the sport's fastest men. After a decade of cycling, he decided that it was time to change gears for his long term career. He began a computer science master's degree from Kutztown to help him reach that goal.

As a natural problem solver, Kyle was initially attracted to the challenge of designing computer programs in order to reach a desired goal. "I enjoy problem solving and each programming application presents a unique puzzle which needs to be solved." He focuses on application development and uses codes to build computer programs that will answer specific questions.

As part of his KU experience, he was awarded a graduate assistantship within the Computer Science Department and each semester is paired

with a different professor to contribute on a different research project. These projects serve as secondary experiences to his course work and have helped him to earn valuable, outside-of-the-classroom practice: "Completing semester long projects mostly independently was a good transition between guided class work and the work place."

Along with his research and coursework, Kyle is also completing his thesis this spring and will graduate with an M.S. in computer science in May. After applying and interviewing for a position at Sungard K-12 Education, the transition from classroom to work place that he tasted with his assistantship will soon be a reality. Kyle has secured a position in application development, and after his graduation he plans on making computer science his full-time career.

Kyle credits his wife for motivating him to return to school and after a decade of being a professional athlete, the move from classroom to work place wasn't the only transition Kyle has

experienced within the last year. "Kutztown's program was an ideal transition for me from life as a professional athlete to an application developer." Cycling will always be a part of Kyle's life, but after his time at Kutztown, he is ready and prepared for life's next step.



**Kyle Wamsley**

## 2014 CHAMBLISS AWARDS

President Cevallos and Dr. Carlson Chambliss presented two KU faculty members with Chambliss Faculty Research Awards on February 24. Inaugurated in 2004, the award was a gift from Dr. Chambliss meant to recognize the very highest achievement in research and scholarship.



Associate professor of anthropology and sociology Dr. Kim Shively is an internationally recognized expert in anthropology focusing on religion, as well as gender and power—particularly in Turkey. Her research has been published in many prestigious academic journals including *Anthropological Quarterly* and the *Journal of Middle Eastern Women's Studies*.



Dr. James Delle, associate professor and chair of the Anthropology and Sociology Department, is committed to the study of Caribbean archaeology with a specific focus on the social and economic consequences of pre-emancipation slavery in Jamaica. He is internationally known for his research and has one book in print, as well as numerous published articles.

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

