

# the collage

Fall 2014

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Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

## Faculty highlight



**Dr. Joleen Greenwood**

Even before Dr. Joleen Greenwood came to Kutztown University, her number one priority has been putting others first. On her journey from student to department chair, she developed a passion for helping others around her and has used knowledge from her own experiences to provide them with advice and encouragement.

Dr. Greenwood started her studies at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Though she graduated with a B.A. in both Psychology and Sociology, the latter is where her heart is. "While I enjoyed psychology as a major that complemented sociology, sociology was something that just 'clicked' for me; [it] helped me understand and appreciate my own personal experiences and [the] experiences of those from different backgrounds." She decided to further her education by earning a master's degree in sociology. While working on her thesis, she taught two sociology courses as an adjunct faculty member and found she loved working with undergraduates. She knew she wanted to teach at the university level and began applying to Ph.D. programs. In 2004, she earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University at Albany, specializing in gender and families.

After graduation, Dr. Greenwood started searching for a tenure-track position. When she joined the KU community in August 2008, she knew it was a great fit for one reason: the significant number of first-generation college students. Along with her identical twin sister, Dr. Greenwood was a first-generation college student. She understands the difficulties and challenges these students face and wanted to use her experiences to help others similar to herself. "I find it rewarding to be an additional resource for students who may not be able to rely on family members to provide them guidance about college."

Dr. Greenwood has taught a number of sociology courses here at KU and also reactivated the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society in the fall of 2010 and she has served as the chapter representative and faculty advisor.

This fall, Dr. Greenwood has assumed responsibility as Department Chair of the Anthropology and Sociology Department.

"While I will not be spending as much time in the classroom, I welcome the learning experience and look forward to working with faculty, students, and staff from a new perspective."

Dr. Greenwood's scholarly research focuses on family life, specifically divorce and family relationships. However, she is currently working on two research projects unrelated to divorce. The first is an ongoing project with roadside memorials, the result of interviews with 20 individuals who have constructed and maintained memorials for loved ones. Second is the project Dr. Greenwood is most passionate about: She is looking at the unique sibling bond between identical twins. She has completed 40 qualitative interviews with identical twins and hopes to travel to Twinsburg, Ohio next August to gather more data and to experience the Twins Days Festival.

In her free time, Dr. Greenwood enjoys outdoor activities, such as biking, hiking, and going to the gym, and spending time with her husband, Jason, and two little boys, Carter and Clifford.

## DEAN'S CORNER

—Anne E. Zayaitz, Ph.D.—



Kutztown University students, faculty, staff, and alumni understand that when we are involved in initiatives and activities where we give of our time and talents, where we can empathize and be present for those in need and where we can work to respect all individuals, we make the world a better place. One individual can make a difference and that difference often has far reaching effects. Thomas Edison wrote, "If we did all the things we are capable of doing, we'd literally astound ourselves." The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has had the opportunity to celebrate the life of one who made a difference to many—Mr. Randy Schaeffer.

Randy gave his best in the classroom to his students and to so many facets of the university. He will be remembered as a teacher's teacher, an individual who held a high standard for himself and for others, a faculty member who genuinely wanted the best for his students and who worked with them to make that happen, and a man with an incredible sense of humor. He worked through the field of education to improve the lives of many and felt it was his duty to leave the community better than he found it. Randy understood that Kutztown University is a remarkable place and was proud to be a graduate of KU. So as you celebrate being a member of the Kutztown University family, continue to do all that you are capable of doing and intentionally make a difference to others.

Two KU German majors, **Greg Haney** and **Tricia Johnson**, had the opportunity to participate in a mini-seminar from June 18 to July 1 in Tübingen, Germany to enhance their writing skills and cultural competence. Part of the program involved a writing workshop with **Dr. Lynn M. Kutch**, Associate Professor of German Studies, and Veit Müller, German author and crime fiction journalist.



In June, **Dr. Lynn M. Kutch**, Associate Professor of German Studies, traveled to Hildesheim, Germany to visit the campus of KU's newest exchange program. During the program's first year (2014-2015), four students from KU will study abroad in Hildesheim for a full year and will be joined by three German majors in the spring. In the future, according to the agreement with the university, students from Hildesheim will have the opportunity to study here at KU.



# KU

## STANDOUTS

Congratulations to KU students **Jesse Bailey**, **Zach Moran**, and **Ian Tomes** for winning the 6th annual Cumberland Valley Math Modeling Challenge. They were given a problem for which they had 24 hours to develop a model and write a two page summary of their solution before presenting their project.



Congratulations to sociology student **Theresa Gassert** on her participation in the American Sociological Association's Honors Program, where she attended workshops related to becoming a professional sociologist. She and

**Dr. Albert Fu** attended ASA's annual meeting in San Francisco in August. This is the second year in a row a KU student has been selected for the program.



Senior public administration students **Alexa Korber** (right) and **Deidgre Green** (left) are two of the twelve students participating in The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program in the fall 2014 semester. As part of the 15-



week internship sponsored by PASSHE Alexa is interning at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and Deidgre is interning for the State Department of Revenue. They will both complete their own research project relating to their internship while taking a full semester worth of credits.



**Dr. Adrienne Oakley** and her Introduction to Oceanography class took a three day trip down to the Chincoteague Bay Field Station on Wallops Island Beach, VA, where they studied coastal processing, such as erosion and barrier island ecosystems.





# Student highlight



**Raisa Colón**

Ever since her birth, Raisa Colón's life has revolved around the Spanish language. Her grandparents who helped raise her are from the Dominican Republic, and, since they don't speak much English, she grew up hearing Spanish at home. She only spoke some Spanish when she declared her major after transferring to KU from community college, but her heart has always been with helping Spanish immigrants adjust to life in the United States. This passion helped her choose her minor: international affairs.

During the spring of 2014, Raisa interned at The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars in Washington D.C. at an immigration law firm. Her assignments involved translating legal documents, such as questionnaires and birth certificates, from Spanish to English. She is thankful for the experience she had from classes here at KU which helped her with translation assignments.

In a group of 400 interns with this program, over half of which were international, she alone represented KU. One of her favorite experiences was interacting with the international students and connecting with them on a cultural level, as well as through their native language.

After her internship in the spring, Raisa returned to campus for the fall semester with several exciting opportunities. In September, she attended a conference with President Vargas where she discussed being a Hispanic student at KU. She is also excited for her Independent Study regarding the syntax of the language. She

enjoys the one-on-one instruction and that will reinforce critical details she's learned about the Spanish language before she graduates in December.

Raisa has always dreamed of living in D.C., and that dream is becoming a reality for her; she has been offered a job as a paralegal at a law firm, Haynes Novick Immigration, for when she graduates this December. This job will be similar to her internship with translating documents, but will also involve more one-on-one interaction with Hispanic clients through phone calls and emails. Depending on what happens with this job, she may continue on to graduate school, or possibly even law school.

When she is not working or in class, Raisa enjoys reading, going to the gym, and spending quality time with friends and family. She has also been a part of the Latino Awareness group on campus and Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity.

*Patrick Wiltrout graduated from KU in December 2011 with a B.S. in Mathematics. He has been working as a Software Engineer for Comcast Spotlight where his primary responsibility is to develop and maintain Java Enterprise applications. He remembers his time at KU as the stepping stone that helped him get to where he is today.*



**Patrick Wiltrout**

**Q:** Where does your passion for mathematics stem from?

**A:** Bill Nye the Science Guy. I used to watch that show all the time. It really got me into math and science at an early age. I also give a ton of credit to my excellent high school calculus and physics teachers. They were great, but that was before all this no child left behind stuff. I'm sure the classes wouldn't be as interesting if I had to go through high school today with all the standardized testing and what not. Maybe I wouldn't have been interested in pursuing math at all.

**Q:** Could you expand on some meaningful experiences or moments you've had as you've taken this step in your life?

**A:** Joining the Navy was a major experience that helped shape me into the person I am today. It was probably the best choice I made. I served for 6 years aboard the USS Enterprise as a Nuclear Machinery Operator. After I got out, I worked at a power plant for a year. During that time I decided to get out of the power industry and go to school full time to get my degree in mathematics. I picked up a minor in computer science, and now I'm a software engineer.

**Q:** Reflecting back on your time at KU, how have things changed now that you are an alumnus? Is there anything that has stayed the same?

**A:** I have less time to do what I want, but have a lot more money. I still have bills, and student loans are not fun either. But all in all, I really like where life has taken me. This is the best job I have ever had, and I couldn't have gotten it without a college education.

**Q:** What is one of your favorite memories from KU?

**A:** In Probability and Statistics MATH 301, Dr. McLoughlin had me up at the board to write a homework problem I did the night before. I remember I had to draw a graph of some sort, and he asked me how I came up with my answer. I told him I used a calculator, and he jokingly hurled a textbook across the room at me. It missed, but it was hilarious. He really hates calculators. That class in general was my favorite and most memorable time at KU.

# Alumni highlight



# GIRL SCOUTS VISIT KU

On Tuesday May 20, 2014 the students from Southeastern Middle School in Reading (sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania) arrived at Kutztown University and were greeted outside of Boehm by Avalanche. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences held a Science, Technology, and Math event just for these girls. Sessions were tailored around the topic of air, the theme of a national grant called Inspirar/Breathe. Faculty led a day of activities and workshops for the girls, teaching them about the variety of areas of science pertaining to air. The students rotated through different sessions, learning about topics ranging from Honeybee Biology to Environmental Monitoring. They had an enjoyable, exploratory taste of college, learning on their own level from college professors.



## Internship

Over the summer, Ryan Kohn, a biology major specializing in molecular/microbiology/cell biology with a minor in biochemistry, interned in the labs at MIT. Though his work in the lab did not focus on his area of concentration, immunology, he learned laboratory techniques that will assist him in approaching it from a new perspective. He also strengthened his communication skills while working with others. The positive feedback he received from peers added to his confidence that he's chosen the right field.

Ryan spent most of his internship in the lab with two team members: a graduate who had just earned their Ph.D. and a student currently earning their degree. Though most of the lab hours involved working on his own, the team would meet at the beginning of their time to discuss what they were doing, then split up to conduct their research. Ryan was responsible for investigating one of RNA's four bases that undergoes a change. Biologists at MIT wanted to see if this change caused any other modification in the cell; if it did, further experimentation would be done.

future. He worked with yeast cells because they are similar to human cells, but easier to work with, and generated fourteen yeast strains. The strains were sent out to other labs for test results which could take up to two weeks. While waiting, Ryan wrote two protocols—step by step instructions—for experiments he conducted. Ryan's research involved implementing protocols the lab wasn't familiar with, and he was responsible for writing new ones so the project could move forward once he completed his internship.

Outside the lab, Ryan was able to have one-on-one conversations with the scientists and faculty at MIT. Meals were set up by the program for the scientists and interns. Afterwards, the scientists would give a lecture on their personal research and share tips for succeeding in graduate school. Ryan also took part in several grad school practice interviews with the faculty and interacted with those on the Graduate Admissions Committee at MIT.

In addition to completing the internship, Ryan also took two classes during his time at MIT. The first was an intensive four class course on Methods in Logic, which taught him how to read and interpret scientific literature. The



**Ryan Kohn**

second class was a onetime lecture on earning a National Science Foundation Fellowship, a grant for graduate students.

Immunology hasn't always been Ryan's main interest, but it was solidified when he took the Immunology course here at KU. Ryan's inspiration stems from his sister, who passed away from a bacterial infection when he was a senior in high school. After graduating in May 2015, Ryan plans to attend graduate school and earn his Ph.D. in Immunology to fulfill his dream of running his own lab.



Ryan's research laid the basic foundation for possible medical research in the



# Faculty highlight



**Dr. Richard Courtney**

Dr. Richard Courtney of the Department of Geography grew up in Southern California where he developed a deep affinity for nature and an appreciation for the role of humans as its stewards. He fondly recalls fishing and backpacking with his father and camping with his family. His experiences in the National Parks of California led him, as a lad, to want to be a park ranger/naturalist. His dreams took a harsh blow when his Junior High School Career Counselor recommended he, “learn a trade.” Dr. Courtney attributes the counselor’s underestimation of his potential as being due to his talking in class too much. “Thank goodness I found a career where I’m actually paid to talk in class!”

High School came next. Dr. Courtney lettered in both Cross Country and Track making life-long friends along the way. Burbank High School (BHS) is also where he gained valuable skills in

the Graphic Arts. He learned offset lithography at BHS and ended up working in his shop teacher’s print shop, The Instant Print Factory, during his early college years.

Dr. Courtney’s college career began in 1981 at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). He was drawn to the breadth of the scientific courses required of the Earth Science major and the fact that the program was jointly administered by the Geography and Geology Departments. His experience with the geology faculty and students led him to declare geology as a minor.

After graduating in 1986, Dr. Courtney contemplated becoming a high school teacher like his father. Sessions preliminary to joining the education program did not inspire him, and he looked for another pursuit. Providence would cause him to cross paths with a fellow earth science graduate who had just joined the master’s program in geography. That was it—the new pursuit. During his M.A. program at CSUN, he got his first computer, an IBM clone with two floppy drives (no hard disk) and a monochrome monitor. The PC came with Lotus 1-2-3 which proved life changing. After presenting quantitative analyses and computer graphics in a population geography course, Professor James P. Allen (a noted American geographer) asked, “Have you considered going for a doctorate?” Dr. Courtney recalls thinking, “Now I have to try.”

Dr. Courtney spent the next four years earning a Ph.D. in Geography at The Ohio State University. Dr. Courtney counts these years as some of his most transformative. He made

great, lasting friendships; he learned to play soccer; he expanded his skills; and he learned to teach geography.

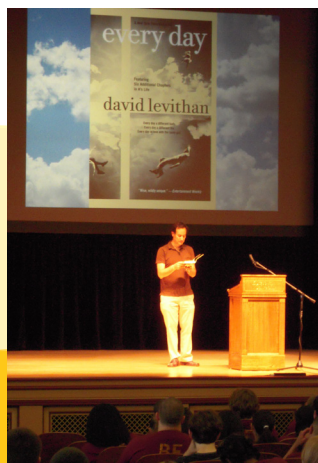
Dr. Courtney began his career at KU in 1993 as a temporary instructor, but he soon moved into a tenure track position in no small measure because he could teach Production Cartography and the proper use of the department’s Process Camera (graphic arts skills he first learned at BHS and expanded upon at CSUN). He has since taught Elements of Physical Geography, Cartography, Production Cartography, Urban Geography, and Research Methods.

In the spring of 2008, Dr. Courtney was elected Chair of the Department of Geography. Almost immediately, he was faced with the task of finding room for the entire department in the Graduate Center. He spent many hours drafting scale drawings to ensure his colleagues had adequate office and laboratory space. The configuration of the GC 100 computer lab is proof of his efforts. He counts teaching, advising, and working with students, and doing cartography for colleagues and clients as his greatest joys as a professional. Recent examples of his cartographic work appear in *Birds of the Lehigh Valley and Vicinity* 2nd ed. (by Saenger, Malt, and Crilley; Lehigh Valley Audubon Society), and *The Colonial Caribbean: Landscapes of Power in the Plantation System* (by James A. Delle; Cambridge Press).

In his spare time, Dr. Courtney enjoys making women’s jewelry. Examples may be found at: <http://faculty.kutztown.edu/courtney/Necklaces/someart.html>.

## EVERY DAY

### David Levithan Inspires Incoming Freshmen



The Sunday before the start of the fall 2014 semester, new freshmen in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences gathered to hear David Levithan speak about his latest book, *Every Day*. The students also listened as he read an excerpt from his upcoming novel, a companion to *Every Day* from the perspective of another character. He also shared some of his experiences as a young adult fiction author, giving advice to aspiring writers in the audience.

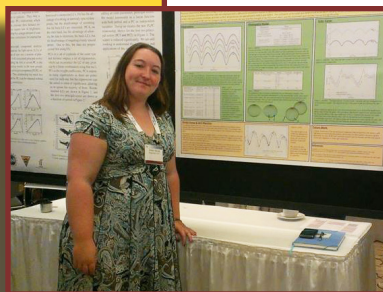




From July 8-25, **Dr. Mauricia John**, **Dr. Albert Fu**, and **Dr. Pietro Toggia** were at the University of Gondar in Gondar, Ethiopia, where they gave a combination of lectures, seminars, and classes to the students and staff there. Above, from left to right, is Dr. Toggia, Molalign Belay (Chair of the Sociology Department at the University of Gondar), Dr. John, Dr. Fu, and Kelemu Fenta, one of the staff members at the university. To the right is a photo of Dr. John's lecture on globalization.



Congratulations to **Jenae Shoup**, physics and astronomy senior, on presenting her research at the American Astronomical Society Meeting in Boston which ran from June 1-4.



Earlier this summer, a flowering dogwood was dedicated to **Dr. Frank Muzopappa** (left), former faculty member of KU who retired in 1992. He taught a variety of courses, specializing in botanical sciences and microbiology. He is pictured here with **Dr. Ronald R. Rhein** (right), former Chair of the Biology Department who retired in 2007.



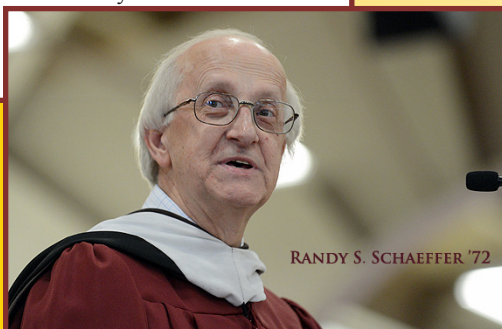
This summer, **Dr. Dale Parson** and KU student **Allison Seidel** presented their paper "Mining Student Time Management Patterns in Programming Projects" to the 2014 World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Applied Computing. Additionally, they were offered a discount on an advanced visualization tool for their project by an audience member at their presentation.



Over the summer, **Dr. David Webb** analyzed Homo sapiens foot-prints from a cave in Romania. These 400 footprints, discovered in 1965, were originally thought to be between 10,000 and 15,000 years old. But Dr. Webb and his colleagues conducted radiocarbon measurements on two bear bones found in the cave near the prints; the results indicate that these footprints must be at least 36,500 years old.



**Professor Randy Schaeffer**, Associate Professor of Mathematics, passed away in October. He dedicated much of his time and effort to the university and improving the general education system as a whole and will be deeply missed.



On September 30, the Department of Modern Language Studies presented a showcase of unique opportunities for KU students to explore cultures and languages outside the classroom. Pictured is **Dr. Mary Theis**, discussing the KU-Costa Rica study abroad program. For more information on KU-led study-abroad programs in Spain, Costa Rica, Germany, and Austria, contact the Department of Modern Language Studies.





# Interesting Internship

In the fall of 2013, Danielle Suzenski, a biology pre-med student, fell in love with the Medical Ethics course because it related to her career goal: Physician's Assistant for the elderly. She approached her professor, Dr. John Lizza, asking if he knew of an internship involving medical ethics. Since he is on the Medical Ethics Committee at Lehigh Valley Hospital Network (LVHN), he said he would look into it, and he found an internship with the Life Review Program. Usually, it's only offered to students at Muhlenberg College, but, since Dr. Lizza is on the committee, Danielle was granted the opportunity to be the first KU student to intern with this program.

The Life Review Program is ethically driven with a goal to improve the quality of life for the elderly. Danielle was assigned to a patient at Phoebe Nursing Home with whom she would visit once a week. They would have normal conversation, but, when possible, she brought up specific questions regarding his past. The results of this kind of conversation have shown to increase self-esteem and memory and decrease depression. Additionally, she had lunch in the Alzheimer's Unit at Phoebe once a week where she would interact with patients and assist the faculty in running the activities for them.

Danielle isn't sure these exercises will help her in becoming a Physician's Assistant, but she found both experiences rewarding, not for what she got out of it, but for what the patients got out of it. She gave them someone to talk to and listened their stories, which is a rare thing since most of their family members live far away.

The last part of Danielle's internship involved shadowing two physicians at the Center for Healthy Aging in Allentown. This was her favorite assignment, since it's what she wants to do after graduation. She loved how the doctors were able to spend up to 45 minutes with each patient, asking them how they were doing on a personal level. "I love that because I'm going into medicine for the patient part of it."

Extra work was required of Danielle because this internship counted towards an Independent Study. Outside of the internship, she attended the Medical Ethics Committee meetings at Lehigh Valley Hospital Network where the members would meet and discuss different ethically related issues brought to their attention; for example, if the patient's family felt their family member had been treated poorly, the committee would discuss how to solve the problem and prevent it from happening in the future.

Danielle plans to graduate in December 2014 and is currently applying to Physician Assistant programs. She enjoyed the internship experience since it allowed her to immerse herself in her passion. She knows her experiences will help with her endeavors in the field. "It will help me to take a step back and see all the sides [of a patient's situation] and think about things more critically. As a Physician Assistant, it's not [only] about lab work, test results, and research. It's about caring for patients and providing the best type of care for them. And medical ethics is a huge part of that."



**Danielle Suzenski**

## Student highlight



**Mario Schulz**

Born and raised in Germany, Mario Schulz wasn't involved in political science until he came to KU in the fall of 2011. His high school has an agreement with Kutztown to send one student to KU to study abroad for a year, and Mario was selected in 2011. He didn't choose his classes and ended up with mostly political science courses. During his studies, however, there were several international crises, such as the protests in Ukraine and the shift in Iranian negotiations. He applied what he'd learned in class to these events and found his passion. He

had such an enjoyable experience at KU that he decided to finish his studies here, declaring his major of political science with geography and public administration minors the following fall.

Over the summer, Mario had the opportunity to apply his knowledge on two research trips. In June, he went to Kenya and helped Dr. Portada with political science courses and seminars at a faculty exchange in Nairobi. Mario spent the following month in Sierra Leone with Dr. Riley, conducting research sponsored by PASSHE and the Air Force Academy. They researched security sector reform, which includes observing the countries state building, their democratization, and the international development of the area. "The general idea of the research was to investigate the length of time after a civil war and how long that window is open to engage in democratization processes." In November, Mario and Dr. Riley will travel to Rwanda to conclude their research.

Mario has also co-authored two articles, both of them currently under review. The first article, written with Dr. Lem and former student Megan Sullivan, examines questions asked by post-civil war societies regarding post-conflict justice and is being reviewed at *The Journal for Peace*

*Research*. The other article, written with Dr. Riley, pertains to the research they've done and is under review at *The Journal of International Relations and Development*.

Not only did Mario find inspiration at KU to study political science—he found encouragement from the faculty to persevere in his studies. He is grateful for being pushed to go above and beyond what was expected of him as an undergraduate, and to do "much more than just succeed here in institutional forms... to establish my goals and move towards them."

Mario started his life in Germany, uninvolved with political science, and now, three years later, he enjoys reading through news articles in his spare time. After graduating in December, he will start work at NATO in Ulm, Germany. Unfortunately, he's not allowed to reveal exactly what he'll be doing, but it will utilize what he's learned regarding political science. He enjoys saying he cannot reveal what he will be doing, "like James Bond." After completing his employment at NATO, he is determined to attend graduate school back on the east coast of the U.S., working towards teaching political science at the university level.



## Alumni highlight

**B**albina Herman has continued to work diligently towards her goals even after she graduated with her B.A. in English/professional writing from Kutztown University in the spring of 2009. Her undergraduate experience at KU prepared her for earning her M.A. in Journalism and Public Affairs from American University in Washington D.C. in July 2014 through a 13 month intensive program. This included 12 hour days and sometimes weekends.

Starting out, the program was both exciting and intimidating for Balbina. She is pursuing a career in journalism and knew she would find newsworthy stories in D.C. She was forced to quickly adapt to life in an unfamiliar city. "Not only did I have to figure out how to stand out from a group of 30 ambitious students, but I also had to make D.C. my playground for everything and anything news related... I had to take the time to teach myself how to master editing software, refine my knowledge of AP style and become an efficient one-[wo]man-band." An example of projects she would have is a

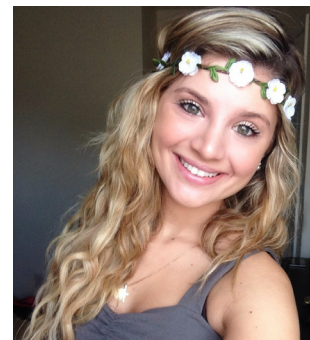
three-hour deadline to video record interviews in the city, followed by editing the footage. But these times of pushing herself through daunting assignments were some of her favorite moments.

Her graduate experience wasn't the only thing that pushed her to go above and beyond her limits; Balbina interned as an entertainment reporter at USA TODAY in the spring of 2014. She started her internship teaching herself to find contacts for entertainment stories and how to write scripts for her weekly *DailyDish* videos. "My supervisor sent me out the first week to interview celebrities like Aretha Franklin, Ice Cube, and Jennifer Hudson at the BET Honors awards and expected a story the same night by midnight." Throughout her six month internship, she learned many lessons that will help her career in the long run, such as meeting deadlines, teaching herself the ins and outs of media software, and learning to develop rapport with her interview sources.

Balbina is grateful to KU for the experience she gained during her Professional Writing Seminar. She learned that internship experience is an important element on any resume. She is also thankful for the basic foundation of writing she built while here at KU. She enjoyed her

undergraduate experience because she was able to devote time to her social life while excelling in academics and extracurricular clubs such as the Public Relations Club and Student in Free Enterprise Club.

"I also learned that things don't come easy after you graduate from college; you have to work hard and put yourself out there if you want to get where you want to be 'career wise.'" She advises graduates to take chances, even if they seem intimidating, because these challenging experiences will get you where you want to be.



**Balbina Herman**

## NEW TENURE TRACK FACULTY



**Alexander Hernandez**  
*Biological Sciences*



**Patrick Walters**  
*English*



**Mario Cardozo**  
*Geography*

The Fall 2014 edition of *The Collage* was designed and written by  
**Olive Pegler '15**, professional writing major,  
under the supervision of the CLAS Dean's Office.

