

the collage

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

Spring 2015

DEAN'S OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD



This year, Dr. Zayaitz created a new faculty award for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This award is given to a tenured or tenure-track faculty member of the college who is heavily invested in furthering the education of students at Kutztown University beyond the classroom requirements. Qualifications for this award are based on encouragement given to students to go above and beyond the “norm,” both in and out of the classroom, and the contributions this faculty member has made to student learning and research. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Christopher Sacchi as the recipient of the first annual College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s Faculty Award.

DEAN'S CORNER

David Beougher, Ph.D, Acting Dean

The end of winter and the beginning of spring is an exciting time here at Kutztown University. Amidst all of the academic activities taking place, we take the time to recognize our students for their achievements at awards ceremonies and honor society inductions. We also celebrate the great work and involvement of our faculty and staff. Shortly, another graduating class will participate in Commencement and join the ranks of alumni, beginning the next exciting chapter in their lives. It is a time of great celebration, and congratulations to all of our graduates. At the same time, preparations are already underway for our next incoming class, the Class of 2019! We will also welcome the first class of students in our new Doctorate of Social Work program, a joint degree offered by Kutztown and Millersville's Social Work Departments. More about this program can be found inside this newsletter. It is the first doctoral degree offered at Kutztown, and we are excited about the future! I hope that you enjoy this edition of *The Collage*.





During their spring break, KU geology students **Margariete Malenda** (top left), **Emily Bognor** (center top),

and **Kelsey Livingston** (standing) examined a dinosaur quarry near Moab Utah containing the remains of Utahraptors killed by quicksand. Jim Kirkland (left, on the ground), the paleontologist who discovered Utahraptor, showed the students the bone. Their examination is going to be featured in a documentary by Discovery Channel-Canada.

On March 7, undergraduate **Taryn Gehman** (upper right) and graduate students **Amanda Funk** (upper left), **Kira Apple** (below), **Michelle Lovato**, and **Lindsay Bowman** presented at Lehigh University's Literature and Social Justice Conference.



KU STANDOUTS

In March, physics major **Alex Spielman** presented his and **Dr. Sherrod's** work mapping groundwater flow in the Schuylkill Headwaters at the 18th Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems in Austin, TX.

His results are a product of receiving a Growing Green Plus Grant and will be used to determine a drainage correction plan for the region.

On Friday, April 10, **Zachary Graves** (above with DVGA president Keith Henderson) and **Kevin Pearson** represented KU's Department of Geography at the Delaware Valley Geographical Association's annual spring dinner and awards ceremony. Zachary and Kevin were chosen to be co-recipients of the DVGA Award for their outstanding academic records.



Dr. Lynn M. Kutch, associate professor of German, presented her lecture, "Thinking Outside the Frame: The Past and Present of German-language Comics," at the opening of the Duke Library exhibit, "An Illustrated Perspective: Analyzing German History Through the Graphic Novel Medium." Through a KU assessment grant, Dr. Kutch created and continues to maintain the nationally and internationally recognized German Graphic Novel website: germangraphicnovel.wordpress.com.



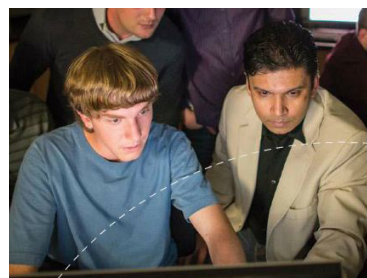
Student highlight

Q: What interested you most about your majors, and why did you originally choose them?

Mathematics and physics major Kevin Ruppert (below, in blue) chose his majors because of the encouragement he received from both high school teachers and college professors. He plans to attend graduate school after graduating in May 2016.

Q: What is the most interesting way you have applied the knowledge you've gained from KU?

A: My interest in physics began in high school under the instruction of an energetic physics department. I chose to study physics at KU because of the enthusiasm of the physics professors and students at the STEM open house. While taking math courses at KU, I became acquainted with Dr. McLoughlin, who inspired me to add a math major.



Kevin Ruppert

Q: What are some of the rewarding experiences you've had as you've grown during your academic years?

A: Since September 2013, I have been involved in physics research with Dr. Das, working on computer programs to simulate classical and semi-classical scattering effects due to various potential barriers. This work will contribute to the publication of a physics paper and a future presentation at the APS Division of Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics meeting in Columbus, Ohio, in June.

Q: Has anyone in your life mentored you towards achieving your educational or career goals? What are those goals?

A: I worked on my honors capstone project under Dr. McLoughlin's guidance, studying the cardinality and ordinality of sets within set theory. It was a guided, self-motivated project of inquiry, thought, and discovery. I presented the results at the Second Annual Larry Mugridge Symposium on Undergraduate Mathematics Research on April 10. It was satisfying to present results of my thorough investigation, demonstrating a higher level of understanding of concepts in set theory.

A: My high school physics teacher, Brent Ohl, motivated me to study physics. Dr. Fernando was the first person to greet me at the STEM Open House in fall 2011. He was engaging, helpful, and spoke highly of the physics program. Under Dr. Das' guidance, I was able to explore aspects of physics beyond the scope of required physics classes. Dr. McLoughlin introduced me to the Moore Method of teaching, an inquiry-based learning method. Dr. Wong encouraged me to participate in the Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest and the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. He teaches unique problem solving strategies in order to prepare for these competitions.



Laura Kaufmann '13

Laura Kaufman graduated from Kutztown University in May 2013 Summa Cum Laude with her B.A. in Geography. She is now the Marketing Data Analyst at Klunk & Milan Advertising. In this position, she uses the skills she learned as a geography student to help collect and analyze data about the company's clients such as sales, distribution, and customer demographics. "That information is critical to understanding the client's business and developing marketing strategies that connect

with our client's potential customers."

Geography has always been fascinating to Laura because it integrates the scientific with cultural aspects of a topic, which enables her to approach a problem from a more holistic and informed perspective. "For example, to develop a single client recommendation, I might be looking at customer reviews and comments right beside a statistical model representing projected sales growth."

"In marketing, 'Where?' is just as important as 'What?'" Employees at Klunk & Milan work with their clients to promote their products and services through creative messaging including billboards, website content, and magazine articles. This content needs to be shown to the right audience, meaning those who are most likely to be potential customers. Laura uses software that displays and analyzes specific data on a map. "This provides our clients with a completely new perspective on their business. Using these skills, I've helped clients target coupon distribution to zip codes high in families with young children and identify the best U.S. city in which to grow their business."

The summer after Laura graduated from

KU, she worked in the CLAS Dean's Office analyzing student data to assist enrollment and recruitment efforts. Though at the time she wouldn't have called it marketing, she certainly would now. "Jennifer Umberger, KU's Director of Marketing, asked me to share my maps and analyses with the university's marketing agency—Klunk & Milan—during a meeting. Less than a month later, I had a job offer from the agency to implement a new data analysis and mapping service line for our clients."

In the almost two years she's worked at Klunk & Milan, Laura has developed more confidence in her skills and her ability to communicate that knowledge and data to others. "I still have a lot to learn about the tools and techniques available, and I suspect I always will."

The most memorable part of Laura's KU experience was the mentorship and encouragement she received from the faculty. "They certainly taught me a great deal academically, but they've also taken a vested interest in my personal and professional growth beyond graduation."



Alumni highlight

Alumni highlight



Casey Smith '09

Until his senior year at KU, Casey Smith majored in criminal justice. He was taking Intro to Geology and Dinosaurs as electives, and he remembered a trip he went on with his family to Utah when he was nine years old. While his family was hiking and taking in the beautiful scenery, Casey was looking at the ground, picking up rocks and asking endless questions. He wanted to take home every rock he found, but his parents gave him a limit of two. "My parents knew my obsession was growing, and if it was up to me, my brother would have been left behind as to accommodate more rock samples."

During this last year of college, he found the two rocks he'd picked up in Utah so many years ago. Through his knowledge from class, he identified them as sandstone. He started identifying other rocks he'd collected, slowly unearthing his passion that had laid dormant for so long. He knew he would regret ignoring it, so, in his last semester of college, he switched his major to geology.

Casey is currently working as a geologist at Arch Coal where he develops and supervises exploration programs and coordinates drilling operations, both on the earth's surface and underground; he works with database architecture and management, lithological and reserve modeling, mine integrity, and roof control. He also plays a part in coal quality management, mine planning, and mine sequencing, and bridges the gap between government offices and Arch Coal, keeping them up to date on mining practices and progress, environmental compliance, and safety.

Casey's passion for Geology was evident before he even started his career and was strengthened through the encouragement and guidance of his professors. He remembers, during Senior Seminar, he asked his professor a difficult geology question. Instead of giving Casey the answer, he brought him to the computer lab, where they pulled up different publications, and

searched for the answer together. The professors in KU's Geology Department didn't give him the solution to every problem, but they gave him the ability to find the solution himself.

One of his favorite memories at KU was during a Friday afternoon Geology lab, when his professor gave the class a difficult problem to solve. He worked with the other students in the lab, but by the end, they didn't have their answer. Instead of going home, the students and the professor stayed to work on the question for three extra hours. "The lounge was a place where everyone could come together to help each other solve a problem, a place where no geologist would be left behind. For me, it is no longer a place, but a close circle of friends and professors I have dubbed my geology family."

The most meaningful experience for Casey in both his studies and career is not one moment, but many moments grouped together from his time at KU, from his own research, and from his career today. "My passion drove me to want to collect more data, to stay out in the field one more hour and turn over the next rock or walk up to the next rock outcrop, because I knew the next discovery might be lurking there... Those little moments and experiences have allowed me to accomplish many milestones in my career."

Faculty highlight



Dr. Angelika Antoni

Dr. Angelika Antoni was born in Korea to her father, an Army Command Sergeant Major who served in three wars, and her mother, a German citizen whom her father married after WWII. Her family settled in Missouri after her father retired from the army, and, after graduating from high school, she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in biology at Missouri State University. She then worked in industry and research labs for three years, where she developed a strong desire to conduct research of her own. She decided to go back to school for her Ph.D. in biochemistry and microbiology at the University of Montana.

Dr. Antoni's graduate research focused on DNA mutation. Through her education, she became enthralled with an unanswered question at the heart of antibody production in the immune system: In the mid-90s, it was known that antibody diversity, the ability to attack an unlimited range of invading organisms, came about through the mutation of a relatively small number of genes. But no one knew how these genes became hyper-mutated in B cells while the rest of the DNA in the B cells were left untouched. Dr. Antoni was driven to answer this question and took a postdoctoral position

for only a year when another lab published the answer they were looking for: one protein was expressed only in B cells and was attracted only to the DNA coding for antibody genes. Though Dr. Antoni was ecstatic to know the answer, she was disappointed she didn't find it herself. By this time, she was drawn toward clinical research with the potential of preventing or curing a disease; she had become so engaged in immunology that she knew she would continue to study the immune system.

After her year spent working with B cell biology, Dr. Antoni started a second postdoctoral position with another mentor from the University of Chicago. They studied autoimmune diseases and made a significant discovery in mice and continue to work collaboratively on this project. They identified a common problem in cells of the immune systems of mice in nine different strains that all developed autoimmune diseases. Their current projects attempt to identify the complete details of the program and also to look in the cells of people with autoimmune diseases to see if humans encounter the same problem. If so, there is potential the problem could be prevented from causing autoimmunity.

Dr. Antoni joined the KU community in 2005 as a Temporary Faculty member and worked her way up to tenured Associate Professor. Her goal

is to pass on the love of learning to her students, which shows through research projects with undergraduates. She has worked with various students on seven different projects over the past year, including but not limited to the following: identification of RhoA in macrophages of lupus-prone mice, differentiation of neuroblasts to osteoblasts, and the mutagenicity of catnip oil. The experiences have been enjoyable and helped expand her own areas of research. She also enjoys interacting with faculty from many different departments on campus in forums designed to encourage and promote the learning and well-being of students.



with one of the preeminent researchers in B cell biology at the University of Chicago. They worked on the project

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

*Preparing graduates for innovation and leadership
in Social Work theory, practice, and education.*

Starting in the fall 2015 semester, Kutztown University will be offering a Doctorate of Social Work degree, the first doctoral program offered at KU. The DSW program will operate in conjunction with Millersville University; half of the classes will be taught by KU faculty and half by MU. Dr. Anne. Zayaitz, Acting Provost, describes this program as “a true milestone for us. It’s our first doctoral program and complements the bachelor of science in social work and the master of science in social work, which are very strong programs here. This is an excellent opportunity for students to pursue a doctor of social work at an affordable cost.”

This is a hybrid program geared towards working professionals already in the Social Work field—most of the classes will be taught online, allowing students to continue their careers. Some classes will require students and professors to be online at the same time while others will allow the students to complete the online work individually. So far, the program allows for 12 students, as the faculty wants to be sure they receive a quality education. The students will work their way through the three year program in a cohort. Four sessions will take place throughout the year in the fall, spring, and twice in the summer; the students will take two courses in the fall, two in the spring, and one during each summer session—a total of 6 courses per year. At the end of each session, the students will meet and interact with each other and their professors in person for a weekend of residency. Twenty-five percent of the courses will be research oriented while the other courses will focus on Social Work leadership. The Social Work Teacher-Scholar course will train students to complement their teaching skills with research and in-depth evaluation. Towards the end of the program, students will complete a Praxis, a year-long Social Work internship, in leadership or education, followed by a dissertation.

Students and professors in the Social Work Department at Kutztown are already excited about the program and what it means for everyone in this department. Currently an MSW student, Jonathan Asayag

aspires to complete the DSW program after earning his master’s. This program means a great deal to him and other Social Work students because “The DSW program at Kutztown University allows me to further enhance my concentration as a community organizer and leader. By collaborating with an esteemed group of scholars, I am able to build upon my masters level knowledge to better serve our community.” Dr. Sharon Lyter, professor in the Social Work department, agrees with Jonathan, and commented “The Department of Social Work at KU, known for its enterprising spirit, has had a solid reputation in the region for a number of years. The leadership here is invested in entrepreneurial advances. The latest example of that is a proud Kutztown/Millersville partnership in the form of a trailblazing DSW degree.”



Dr. Janice A. Gasker
Director of DSW Program

The Mission Statement of the DSW program is to “provide advanced preparation for practice and teaching. Graduates will create, implement, and evaluate Social Work interventions as well as teach.” Dr. Janice A. Gasker, the director of the program, stated, “The program helps to carry out the goals of each university, each social work program, and PASSSHE as a whole, and draws on the resources of each program, including diversity of faculty.” The program will be continuously improved after its installment in the fall, and the students of the program will play a role in that assessment.

Having a doctoral program means KU will be producing even higher quality graduates prepared to be leaders in their field. Kutztown University will soon be known, not only for highly prepared undergraduate and graduate students, but for doctoral students as well.



INTERESTING INTERNSHIPS

Emily Curley is an anthropology major with double minor in history and PA German studies. Though she didn't declare her PA German studies minor until her junior year, it means the most to her. While Emily thought she was just taking electives that both interested her and filled requirements for graduation, her advisor, Dr. Schlegel, noticed they were mostly PA German Studies courses. She suggested Emily pick it up as a minor, since she naturally gravitated towards these courses. By the time it was declared, there was only one aspect of the program she needed to complete before graduation: the internship. "Internships are always a good thing, and I'm Pennsylvania German so I had some background in the culture as well. It seemed right, and my parents were very happy about it too." Emily had taken walks around the PA German Heritage Center on campus and also volunteered there to help plant the garden last spring. She developed a passion for the center and has been there almost every day since her sophomore year of college, and, in the fall of 2014, she became their intern.

Emily's main responsibility at the Heritage Center was to clean and organize a large donation of Pennsylvania German Pottery. "Cleaning the pottery was really interesting because no one had touched [the contents of] these boxes in 50 years. They were in giant crates, and they were kept in our kitchen. And I couldn't even carry them. It was about 50 pounds of

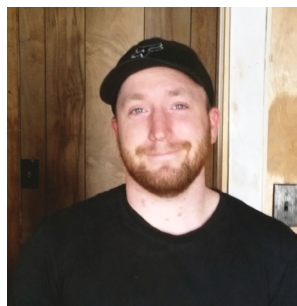
pottery—I dislocated my shoulder trying to pick up a jug." Cleaning the pottery involved more excitement for Emily than it initially let on. Since the pottery was so old and hadn't been cleaned in decades, she would occasionally find an animal skeleton during her cleaning routine.



Emily Curley

After cleaning the pottery, Emily helped place the items throughout the exhibition house at the center. She staged examples of what a traditional Pennsylvania German family table and home would look like. "There were some decorative pieces as well, the kind of thing you'd want to show off to the neighbors—the fancy stuff." She enjoyed being the creative mind behind the displays and helping visitors get a better understanding of PA German culture through that.

Emily plans to attend graduate school in the fall. She would like to get her M.A. in American History followed by her Ph.D. Once she's finished her studies, she would love to come back to KU and teach in the History Department.



Joshua Smith

When he was younger, computer science and information technology major Joshua Smith didn't know he would develop a passion for working with computers. But as he grew older, his increased interaction with technology fostered an interest he turned into a future career through an internship with IPR International in Reading, PA.

Q: Where are you interning?

A: During the 2014 school year I was hired as an intern at the Information Protection & Recovering Company International in Reading, PA. Over the summer I worked at the company's Wilmington, DE facility, and am currently interning again in their Reading office. IPR is a datacenter, offering services such as colocation—powering, maintaining, and monitoring companies equipment they put in our center—and backup solutions, such as Avamar, Doubletake, Evault, and Veeam. We also provide cloud services for clients such as virtual machines and storage.

Q: What are your responsibilities?

A: At IPR, I have several responsibilities. I am in charge of the VOIP phone system, adding new numbers and troubleshooting issues employees have with the phones. I am the head technician in Avamar backups and troubleshoot other issues for clients as they arise. And if anything needs to be done equipment-wise, such as running a cable, performing a reboot, or replacing hardware, that also falls under my job description.

Q: Why did you originally choose this area of study?

A: When I was younger, people would ask me what I wanted to do when I got older. Before I even owned my first computer, I would tell them I wanted to do something with computers. I didn't say this because I was interested in them, but because it was a safe answer, and they wouldn't press on with further questions or disapproval. As I got older, I became extremely interested in everything involving technology, and my safe answer to what I wanted to do when I got older became an obsession and my passion.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: I plan to keep moving forward in my field, learning everything that I can and taking on new and interesting tasks along the way. Short term plans: I plan on accepting a full time position at IPR after graduation, and, from there, I'll see where life decides to take me.



At the beginning of April, geology students (from left to right) **Kaitlin Lento, Holly St. Clair, Amanda Nowicki, Margariete Malenda, Alana Kopicz, Natalie Dowdy, Kyle Yarmush, Emily, Snyder, Sean Burns, and Chris Mayer** attended the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists with **Dr. Kurt Frieauf**. The students learned about gaining licenses to practice geology as professionals and made many contacts with senior professional geologists, which will help them transition from college to career after graduation.



On April 10, (left to right) **Taryn Gehman**, English major with minors in political science and professional writing, **Amber Shoap**, secondary education English major, **Ronni Bianchini**, history major with a minor in women's studies, and **Kendra O'Donnell**, English and Psychology major with a minor in Women's Studies, presented research and papers at the 12th annual Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges Social Research/Social Justice Conference at Muhlenberg College.



Biology major **Jennifer Cruz** and environmental science majors **Adam Cooper** (upper right) and **David Grow** (lower right) were each rewarded a Carole and Ray Neag Undergraduate Research Fund Grant. Jennifer will use the grant to continue research on tumor suppressor genes in cancer cells. Adam plans to use this grant to extract organic matter from the Bay Promontory Salt Marsh in Greenbackville, VA. David will use the grant to present his research on invasive plant species on the Appalachian trail at the national Ecological Society of America conference in August.



During a weekend in April, **Jennyfer Alfaro, Laura Bugyi, Advia Campbell, Syeda Chilliious, Andri Cruz, Brittany Czimcharo, Brielle Dickey, Sara Digiampaolo, Autumn Hermany, Dwight Hoster, Olivia Kieley, Jacklyn McClay, Sarah Moriarty, Rayne Palmer, Benjamin Reckley, Caitlin Smith, Hannah Smith, Zachary Wetz, and Christopher Wilson** accompanied **Dr. Wendy Ryan** on a field trip to Wallops Island, VA as a part of their Marine Biology class. The students collected plankton and benthic samples and brought them back to the lab for testing. In this photo, the students are seining, walking the net through the water, catching fish to identify in the lab.





SPANISH FOR MODERN BUSINESS MINOR

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is excited to announce a new minor, Spanish for Modern Business. This minor will be available for students starting fall 2015. What makes this minor different from the general Spanish minor, and from most other Spanish minors at any university in the State System, is the thematic approach and the tasks that students will complete to learn the language from department faculty members. Dr. Karen Rauch, coordinator of the program, Dr. Dawn Slack, and Dr. Carolina Moctezuma investigated other Spanish for Business minors at other universities and realized the required courses focused on traditional Spanish speaking, literature, and culture classes, with only one or two courses dedicated to business. These three professors wanted to offer a minor at Kutztown University that incorporated Spanish practice in modern business, so they created five new classes specifically for the Spanish for Modern Business minor.

Students in the program will either need to take Spanish 1 and 2 prior to starting their minor or take the online placement test and be placed in Spanish 3 or 4. The classes begin with Intermediate Spanish for Business I and II, which will prepare them for the third course, Writing in Spanish for the Professional World. Students will learn to write resumes, cover letters, and emails in Spanish, among other writing tasks. This writing course is followed by Advanced Business Practices and Cultures I and II, after which the students take two electives. The faculty strongly encourage an internship experience for one of these electives.

This minor will complement already existing majors at KU and prepare students to join the workforce in this increasingly global environment. With the U.S. Hispanic market being the 11th largest in the world and Spanish being the 3rd most commonly spoken world language, Spanish for Modern Business is a minor that can further and expand career possibilities for anyone.

If you have any questions or are interested completing the minor, contact Dr. Rauch at 610-683-4431 or rauch@kutztown.edu.



Dr. Karen Rauch
Program Coordinator



Faculty highlight



Dr. Jonathan Kremser

Dr. Jonathan Kremser's unique background provides his students with perspectives based on both his professional and academic experiences. He served as a weapons instructor in the U.S. Navy, conducting numerous classes for members of the military and the Department of Defense Police. His responsibilities took him to the Middle East, Guantánamo Bay, and Asia. He also served on two missions to Antarctica and was recognized by the Navy for his work in support of the National Science Foundation's research at McMurdo Station.

After leaving the military, he completed his criminal justice and German undergraduate degrees here at KU. He received an international scholarship from the University of Ottawa in

Canada, graduating with a master's degree in criminology. Upon returning to the United States in 2003, he joined the Department of Criminal Justice and continued his studies at Rutgers University, where he earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in criminal justice. The doctoral program at Rutgers provided him the opportunity to study with criminologists whose research had significant influence on criminological theory and policy throughout the world.

Dr. Kremser's area of research focuses on school-related offenses, security, and discipline policies; he explores the phenomena of school shootings and bullying and addresses rational approaches to enhance school safety. Other interests of his are the history of schooling from the Industrial Revolution through WWI, the use of schools as mechanisms for policing children, and the temporal and spatial analysis of victimization of schoolchildren. In addition to his publications and presentations in the area of criminology, he has presented research at the Rutgers Childhood Studies conference, as well as an international symposium in Canada that explored the role of children during WWI.

To complement his scholarly work, Dr. Kremser actively maintains many professional certifications in the areas of school safety, crime prevention, and security management. He is a certified school lockdown strategies trainer and a bullying prevention trainer. He is also certified by the National Association of School Resource Officers in Active School Shooter Response and

has trained with school resource officers from the Fargo, North Dakota Police, Allentown Police, and several other departments.

During his tenure as a member of the Department of Criminal Justice, Dr. Kremser has developed a close relationship with many agencies in the field of criminal justice in several states, which provides his students with opportunities for internships as well as employment after graduation. He keeps in touch with former students who are now professionals in the field, and several have volunteered to return to KU to speak to current students in the major.

Dr. Kremser has always viewed KU as a campus of dedicated scholars who are committed to the success of their students. "I witness this on a daily basis, and I know from my own experience that the mentoring role of professors is so crucial to the students' success, both academically and in their future careers."

Outside of Kutztown, Dr. Kremser serves the Commonwealth as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Juvenile Justice Diversion Committee in Harrisburg. The PCCD is a state agency that focuses on research and initiates and supports evidence-based criminal justice programs. His work in the area of juvenile diversion helps provide criminal justice professionals and school administrators across Pennsylvania with alternative ways to address the needs of young, non-violent offenders while protecting the community.

Student highlight



Torri Ghaner

Torri Ghaner was home schooled until third grade; she was shy and quiet, and it took the patience and kindness of her teacher to bring her out of her shell. Through this, she was given motivation to take chances and excel and was continuously motivated by successive teachers in both high school and college. Torri

recognized the positive influence that patient and understanding teachers made in her life, and she decided she wants to return the favor to other students in the future.

Torri started at Kutztown University undeclared but followed the track for art education. She worked on her portfolio and took the basic art courses. But as the semester went on, she noticed she spent more time reading her books than she did drawing or designing. "As I was going through that major, I realized I enjoyed the academic side of things more, the English side of things, which, in my mind, is art for words. So I decided to go the English route."

After completing most of her courses, Torri feels there are two separate parts to her education, but together, they give her the practical skills she needs to operate in both professional and personal life. Torri has used these skills to better communicate with those around her and to be empathetic with others. "The English part certainly upped my communication skills, as far as communicating effectively at work or with my peers. The education part taught me to remember everybody has a different set of skills.

Everybody has a different way of approaching things. Everybody has their own story. And that can really affect how they work with others, so you need to be calm and patient with them."

Torri is somewhat of a nontraditional student. She joined the military when she was 18, started her freshman year at KU when she was 20, and then deployed for a year. She initially never thought she would join the army, but she has been in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard for a little over six years and has enjoyed every moment and values every lesson learned. She is thankful for the countless number of KU professors who have been supportive of her decisions and have helped her readjust to classes after returning.

Torri plans on graduating this December, and, aside from completing 20 years with the National Guard and traveling all over the world, she doesn't have any concrete plans. She is contemplating applying to the Fulbright program to teach English, possibly in Sri Lanka or India.



THE CHAMBLISS STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2015



From left to right starting at the top: Steven Sultzbach, (next row) Jay Winkleman, Samantha Costello, Katelyn Ciccozzi, Ziad Haddad, (next row) Arjun Arora, Thomas Bond, Rebecca Van Horn, Nicholas Stover, and Letecia Garcia. Not pictured: Brandon Martinez

GOLD

Katelyn Ciccozzi and Ziad Haddad

SILVER

Arjun Arora, Samantha Costello, Letecia Garcia, and Nicholas Stover

COPPER

*Thomas Bond, Kelsey Livingston, Brandon Martinez, Steven Sultzbach,
Rebecca Van Horn, and Jay Winkleman*

The Spring 2015 edition of *The Collage* was designed and written by
Olive Pegler '15, professional writing major,
under the supervision of the CLAS Dean's Office.

