

# the collage

Fall/Winter 2016

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter



**Dr. John Lizza**

Dr. Lizza's passion lies in philosophy, or "the love of wisdom." He is particularly interested in questions about persons and personal identity, how these concepts affect the evaluation of the moral status of the human embryo and the definition of death. He has three books published with the Johns Hopkins University Press: *Persons, Humanity, and the Definition of Death* (2006), *Defining the Beginning and End of Life: Readings on Personal Identity and Bioethics* (2009), and *Potentiality: Metaphysical and Bioethical Dimensions* (2014).

He also chaired the Committee for Philosophy and Medicine of the American Philosophical Association from 2007 to 2010, and in 2011, received the Chambliss Faculty Research Award. Since 1993, he has served as a member of the Ethics Committee of the Lehigh Valley Health Network.

After completing both his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Columbia University, Dr. Lizza met KU's own, Dr.

James Hall at a meeting of the American Philosophical Association. It is at this meeting where Hall informed Lizza of a position in the Philosophy Department at KU, which he eventually applied for and got in 1993. He considers himself, "very fortunate to have joined the team."

Philosophy is more than just a career to Dr. Lizza. His passion started at age 19, when he took a philosophy course. "Hooked, captured" is how he describes his first reaction. He admits that academic life has been good to him. "There is freedom and flexibility that comes with it." There is also room to grow and learn more. For him, that means exploring ideas with students.

Kutztown itself has been particularly rewarding for Dr. Lizza. He is very proud of being involved in a department that has developed a solid undergraduate program in philosophy, where students also get the chance for a fully-funded graduate

## Faculty highlight

education. He is also very excited about the department's new minor in bioethics and the benefits that students in diverse disciplines will receive.

Dr. Lizza loves to push his students academically. "If we don't challenge them, we'd be doing a disservice." He recalls one student who had lacked critical academic skills before coming to KU; however, after being encouraged by his professors, the young man was able to write his senior thesis with his new written and verbal communications abilities. Dr. Lizza also stresses the importance of a drive. "[A drive] distinguishes those who do well and those who don't. Humans are capable of anything, but only if they realize it."



## DEAN'S CORNER

David Beougher, Ph.D, Acting Dean

Challenging students to find and fulfill their potential seems to be a common theme in this edition of *The Collage*. As we celebrate our sesquicentennial – 150 years of providing education – I ask everyone to take a moment to reflect on what that means. Generations of teachers, scholars, and students have worked together to enable dreams far greater than those individuals could accomplish on their own. Our celebration will continue through the spring leading to the inauguration of our 12th president, Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson on April 15th. We encourage students and alumni to take advantage of those myriad opportunities and look forward to the opportunity to see you around campus. Please enjoy this fall/winter edition of *The Collage*.

# Internship

The modern world of journalism has room for young voices. KU alumna, Emily Leayman, who majored in English with a focus in Professional Writing, interned for the *Washington Examiner* in Washington D.C. this past summer. She started out at The National Journalism Center in Virginia. Every year, the Center places their elected interns in media outlets to jumpstart their careers.

Emily worked for the *Washington Examiner* as a commentary intern for their blog, *Beltway Confidential*. Emily's job consisted of combing through social media to find uncovered stories. She pitched up to three stories a day to her editor, Dan Allott. By the end of her internship, she had published fifty stories online to add to her portfolio.

One of Emily's most memorable stories covered a public address that Senator Ted Cruz made on the Iran Deal. That same day, Emily witnessed a raw debate in real time. "The crowd was huge and [there was] no security." Senator Cruz made a diplomatic decision and allowed the angry anti-war protestors in attendance to approach the podium and have their say.

During her time at KU, Emily also put her journalistic skills to use as *The Keystone's* editor. "We are like a family here. I've only known (the team) a couple of semesters, but you get to know them during conferences and layout nights." She was also a member of the Communications Honors Society, Lambda Pi Eta.

Her love of writing started a long time ago. "I used to be into creative. [But] it was hard to come up with ideas. [I like to] tell other people's stories." Learning from professionals helped Emily learn more about the business. One of her mentors was Dr. Downing, a Kutztown journalism professor.

"[Dr. Downing] is passionate about journalism. [He] always strives to improve." The previous editor of *The Keystone*, Marianella Orlando, also helped her along the way when she took on the position. "She helped me become a leader," Emily asserted.

Although she graduated this past December, Emily has plans to go back to D.C. She hasn't stopped writing for the *Washington Examiner*, and still publishes a couple times a week. She's grown as a reporter and as a stronger individual in the gritty world of journalism.



**Emily Leayman**

## 2015 FACULTY RECOGNITION AND ACHIEVEMENT CEREMONY

This past November, the 2015 Faculty Recognition and Achievement Ceremony honored three CLAS faculty members. Dr. Andrew Arnold, History, and Dr. Avidan Milevsky, Psychology, each received the Chambliss Faculty Research Award. Dr. Phillip Reed, Physical Sciences, received the John P. Schellenberg Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Retired professors Dr. John Schellenberg and Dr. Carlson Chambliss were the presenters and contributors for the event.



*From left to right: Dr. Andrew Arnold, Dr. Avidan Milevsky, Dr. John Schellenberg, Dr. Phillip Reed, Dr. Carlson Chambliss and Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, KU president.*

## Alumni highlight



**Bram Wilusz**

Kutztown graduate, Bram Wilusz, majored in Psychology, Clinical/Counseling, with a Spanish minor. He currently works at Fairmont Behavioral Health in Philadelphia, while also completing his studies at La Salle. At Fairmount, he is a Psychiatric Technician and Spanish Interpreter. “How my day goes is dependent on which unit I work on,” says Wilusz. Units range anywhere from young adult to psychotic, with the patients’ ability to speak also factoring into the day’s difficulty. “Sometimes they have rapid speech, flight of ideas, or may be depressed and it’s such a strain for

them to talk that they barely whisper.” Bram’s job consists of a balance between making the rounds on patients, escorting groups to meals, and interpreting. Bram also conducts a support group for patients.

Working with people in crisis is not something for the faint-hearted. “I should take a moment to tell you of another ongoing role of mine as a Psych. Tech: verbal and physical de-escalation.” These patients are volatile in their temperament, which can sometimes lead to physical restraint.

Bram understands that his line of work requires focus and a lot of consideration, and, much like his patients, he knows what it is like to feel lost inside. “During high school, I struggled with behavioral issues, and how to find and define happiness. I know what it is like to be in pain. I also know what it is like to be out of pain.” This connection to his patients allows him to reach them on a deeper level and make them feel better.

Having such a heavy workload demands for some rest and relaxation. “In contrast to my time at KU, most [of my freetime now] is spent on activities promoting self-

care, such as going on walks with my dog, going to the sauna, seeing Philadelphia and maintaining relationships.” As a result of his steady lifestyle, he has gained a positive outlook on life. “The anxiety of, ‘will I get a job? Can I live up to expectations? What will I do with my degree?’, have all diminished. Now I think of what’s next.”

Working in the real world may be more difficult than undergraduate life, but its obstacles are fundamental to success. One of his first career challenges was working at Kids Peace in Orefield, PA. He wasn’t compensated for interpreting, but he stuck it out. “The struggles I encountered and trudged through became the foundation of my expertise.” Bram believes that putting oneself out there is the key to success. “There are jobs out there. The key is to stay current in your field and show you are working towards a goal.” In other words, post-graduate life is not about surviving, but thriving as a professional.

## Study Abroad highlight

English Department Chair and Associate Professor, Dr. Andrew Vogel, had the lucky opportunity of leading a group of eager students on a trip to London, along with History Department Chair, Dr. Andrew Arnold and KU London Program coordinator, Dr. Derek Mace, this past winter break.

Redeveloped by Dr. Mace, the KU London Program was created with the intention of allowing Kutztown’s students to get a new perspective on class subjects by traveling outside of the country and immersing themselves in different cultures.

While there, Dr. Vogel and Dr. Arnold would blend traditional classroom lessons with daily excursions to give the students a learning experience that is

only possible through studying abroad. Dr. Vogel’s class, “American Modernists in London,” traveled to locations like Oxford and the surrounding area to better understand the countryside and how it influenced Robert Frost’s poetry. Dr. Arnold’s class, “Roots of American Democracy and Industrialization,” visited the Imperial War Museum to see the effects of the Industrial Revolution first-hand. These direct experiences with London taught the students far more than any traditional classroom could.

Students had an amazing time and the faculty loved seeing their pupils gaining a deeper knowledge than usual. “From a prof’s perspective, there was real energetic and engaged learning,” says Dr. Vogel.

Junior English major, Zoe Heller, was one of the several students who shared Vogel’s sentiments. “I learned so much more being in London than I would have if I was just put into

a classroom. I was able to see the difference between cultures as well as the beautiful scenery that many of the writers were inspired by,” says Heller. It was an experience that she, as well as all of the students involved, will remember for years to come.

Studying abroad is truly one of the most unique aspects of the college experience, and anybody that is given the opportunity should take advantage. “There are precious few learning experiences that are as potent as travel,” says Dr. Vogel.





## Student highlight



**Shana Rose**

For senior geography major Shana Rose, the course to graduation never did run smoothly. When she first enrolled at Kutztown, she was an Environmental Science major with a concentration in Biology. Although she enjoyed her classes, she felt that somehow she had hit a roadblock.

As she entered her sophomore year, Dr. Michael Davis's Physical Geography class helped her realize that environmental geography was the right path for her. "His enthusiasm for geography and meteorology opened my

eyes to a world of geography that I never knew existed before," Shana recalls. She went on to pursue undergraduate research with Dr. Davis, eventually presenting her project, "Temperature and Precipitation Variability Effects on Texas Agriculture" at the Association for American Geographers (AAG) conference in Chicago in April 2015. While at the conference, she also represented the Middle States Division at AAG's Geography Bowl.

Shortly after returning from Chicago, Shana traveled to Austria and Southern Germany with KU's summer program. Working with one of the program's faculty, Dr. Derek Mace, Associate Professor of Psychology, inspired Shana to add a minor in Psychology to her studies. She credits her minor with providing her "a better awareness" of diversity as well as respect for others.

Now that she has things sorted out academically, Shana's purpose is to share and apply her knowledge. At her summer job as a camp instructor at Berks Nature's (formerly Berks Conservancy) Eco-Adventure Camp,

Shana teaches sustainable agriculture to children ages Pre-K through fifth grade.

Shana enriches herself socially while serving as the Discipleship Committee Head for the "In the Light" Lutheran Campus Ministries. She is also the House Manager for the KU Presents series, which she finds extremely rewarding, as it allows her to put her skills to use, helping to make the patrons' experiences as enjoyable as possible.

With graduation just around the corner, the future is wide open for Shana. Although her plans are not yet firm, they are fueled by her passion to travel the world, perhaps doing mission work, volunteering in the Peace Corps or working as an au pair (a foreigner who assists with housework or childcare in exchange for housing). No matter how challenging the future may be, she feels prepared for it and is grateful for all she has experienced at KU.

## Internship



**Ludwig Buckley**

Ludwig Buckley, a junior Environmental Science major, interned for the Karlsruhe Institute for Technology, or KIT, in his hometown of Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Southern Germany. From KIT, he was sent to another internship in the Kapiti Plains, located in South Nairobi, Kenya, to research for the International Livestock Research Organization.

Ludwig's job at KIT was to measure nitrogen dioxide emissions from tree stems in a greenhouse. In Nairobi, he conducts the same experiment, but with livestock. "We are using a variety of methods including an automated eddy-covariance system, small ammonia capture devices, and soil-emission chambers." The elements Ludwig recorded are called greenhouse gasses. Greenhouse gasses are effected by unusual climate changes. The results Ludwig gathered help him in generating possibilities on how to improve the environment.

While the two internships are similar in nature, they are different in practice. In Nairobi, Ludwig's job is to exercise physical strength. "This was some serious manual labor using a pick axe, a panga (machete), and a wooden mallet, which was quite difficult because not only was the ground super compact, but it was also

bone dry since it is currently peak dry season in this region." In Germany, however, Ludwig learned to process information using many types of software. Regardless of the methods used, the information gathered is essential to bettering the environment.

International internships are experiences about different lifestyles, like driving on the left side of the road in Nairobi. Ludwig also got to spend his free time by observing the world's most famous animals. The takeaway from KIT was returning to his roots. "One of the best parts of the summer was also getting to spend so much time in my hometown, exploring the mountains, and making new friends who I now feel like I have known my whole life."

Ludwig wants to learn more about energy sources for a better environment. For now, he is thankful to have these amazing opportunities.

# Faculty highlight

Dr. Dale Parson believes that computers are a performance outlet. He received his undergraduate degree at Albright in 1983, and both his master's in 1986, and his Ph.D. in 1990, at Lehigh University. During his studies, he worked for Western Electric and Bell Labs in Reading and Allentown, respectively.

He has had a natural bond with technology for a long time. "It turned out I was good at it," he remembers. During his time at Albright, he pursued real world experience. "I was working full time for the second half of my bachelor's degree. I had sixty credits, and then dropped out of Albright for five years." For some people, the experience outside of the classroom can be just as important as traditional learning. "Not all students go right through. I just floated into the next stage."

He is in his eighth year at Kutztown. "I knew people here since the Eighties. I had retired--Bell Labs [went] defunct." Kutztown was the answer,

but he didn't settle down. "This is just career number three for me."

Dr. Parson specializes in computer music and parallel programming. When designing instruments, people use software for tonal properties, or how it is supposed to sound. He uses the computer as an instrument. As for parallel programming, the computer meshes images with music. "Essentially, you have two ways to translate music into graphics." First, the basic procedure is to visualize the waveforms of the sounds. Another way is to generate music off of another source, like a video game. In other words, you can start from scratch and make your own performance of sights and sounds, all from technology.

Teaching students is not a daunting concept. "It's more of a matter of the problems you work on [and how you challenge them]. I won't let students drown." Like with any field, failure will be a presence. When presenting work to students, Dr. Parson uses a technique called cognitive apprenticeship and situated learning. The object is for the teacher to fail in front of the students. With that, students can cope with the fact that even professionals make mistakes. "I improvise a lot. I will give them the opportunity to see me mess up, and

then recover from it."

One of his proudest achievements is getting students to work in the planetarium. Normally when working with graphics, there is a rectangular canvas. The planetarium is a fifty-five foot dome, and filled with possibilities. Students work with a new platform and events at the planetarium are successful.

He encourages everyone to come out to the computer music and visualization seminar on March 19th at 6 p.m. in the planetarium.

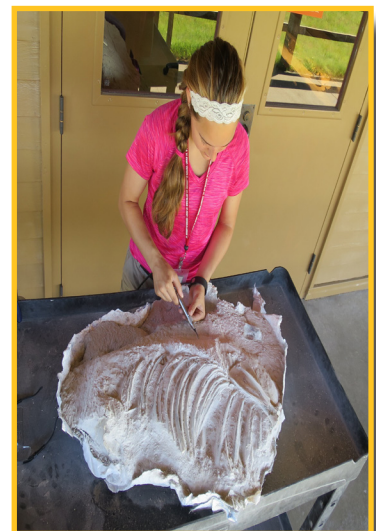


**Dr. Dale Parson**

## EMILY BOGNER: PALEONTOLOGIST

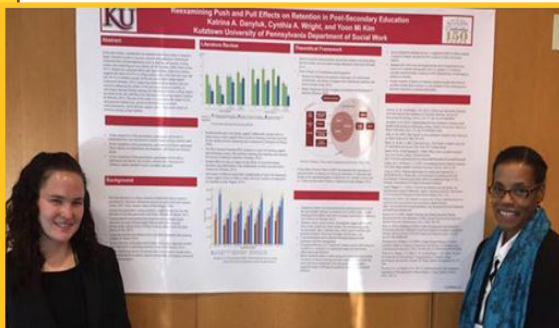
Emily Bogner, a Geology major with a minor in Biology, worked with fossils of some of the earliest mammals during her summer internship at Ash Fall State

Park in Nebraska. After months of studying, digging up extraordinary artifacts, and publishing her first ever scientific paper, she will present her research at the National Meeting of the Geological Society of America. This is her first professional presentation that is sure to give way to a wonderful career.





In October, Social Work undergraduates, Katrina Danyluk and Cynthia Wright, received an award in the Undergraduate Poster Competition at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Social Workers, held in State College, PA. Their poster, "Reexamining Push and Pull Effects on Retention in Post-Secondary Education," was the result of extensive research. They were sponsored by Kutztown University Assessment Grants Programs and Dr. Yoon Mi Kim, their research advisor from the Social Work Department.



Kutztown students from the Environmental Science and Biology program presented their research at the 100th Annual Ecological Society of America Conference in Baltimore. Students collaborated with professors in extensive analysis on a range of topics, from plant life cycles to animal study.



This past November, professor of philosophy and public policy, Mathias Risse (right), gave a special

lecture on the current state of immigration issues around the world titled, "On the Significance of Humanity's Collective Ownership of the Earth for Immigration" at the UNESCO World Philosophy Day presentation. He is joined by History Department Chair, Dr. John Lizza (left).

# KU STANDOUTS

Kutztown's Computer Science, MS program was awarded the 93rd spot in *The Financial Engineer Times'* top 100 graduate computer science program list. Additionally, Kutztown placed first in PASSHE ranking and fourth in the state of Pennsylvania.



This past summer, Carolyn Wasser spent a month aboard the U.S. Brig *Niagara*, a replica of Oliver Perry's warship that fought in the War of 1812. "It was an adventure that I hope to go on again. I met so many new people with similar interests."

Dr. Lynn Kutch, Associate Professor of German (right), received the award for Best Article from the American Association of Teachers of German. The award is given annually to the author of the best article that involves teaching and assimilating the German language for English speakers. In November, she was honored at the Awards Presentation during the ACTFL Annual Conference and World Languages Expo in San Diego.



# LATINO AMERICANS: 500 YEARS OF HISTORY

Kutztown University received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA) entitled “Latino Americans: 500 Years of History.”

Project Directors Christine Coleman Núñez (Modern Language Studies) and Bruce Jensen (Rohrbach Library) envision the project as the foundation for a long-standing commitment to Latino issues and diversity at Kutztown University, and a source of continued collaboration with the greater Latino community.



*From left to right: Dr. Christine Coleman Núñez; Martha Sandoval; Bridget Cambria Esq.; Jacqueline Kline, Esq.; and KU students Denise Navarro and Matthew Bello.*

Events sponsored in Fall 2015 included a screening of the first episode of the PBS series *The Latino Americans* followed by a discussion led by Dr. Louis Rodríguez (History Department); “Immigration Ethics and Politics,” a panel discussion with President of Greater Reading Immigration Project, Carol Anne Donohoe, and Partners Jacquelyn M. Kline, Esq. and Bridget Cambria, Esq. of Cambria & Kline PC; and “Consider It: Immigration Reform and Local Impact,” a presentation by a panel of immigration experts, co-sponsored with the Berks County Community Foundation.

For more information and 2016 events, please visit: <http://library.kutztown.edu/latino>

## DR. SAMPSON DAVIS, M.D. AT KU

At the beginning of the Fall 2015 semester, new freshmen got to meet and listen to the advice of Dr. Sampson Davis, M.D., author of the book, *Living and Dying in Brick City*. It was a successful start for the newcomers to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “In twenty or thirty-five years, you are going to admit that KU was a smart choice! You are in the right place. You are starting fresh!” Dr. Davis exclaimed.





# NEW TENURE -TRACK FACULTY



***Dr. Kaoutar El Mounadi***  
*Biological Sciences*



***Dr. Stephen Stoeffler***  
*Social Work*



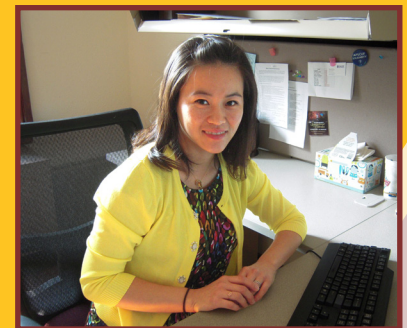
***Dr. Juliana Svistova***  
*Social Work*



***Dr. Carsten Sanders***  
*Physical Sciences*



***Dr. Justin Smoyer***  
*Physical Sciences*



***Dr. Ko-Hsin Hsu***  
*Criminal Justice*



***Dr. Ceyhun Sunsay***  
*Psychology*



***Dr. Lindsey Livingston Runell***  
*Criminal Justice*



***Dr. Robert Kilker***  
*English*

The Winter 2016 edition of *The Collage* was designed and written by Jodi Bogert '16 and Julian Ruiz '16, professional writing majors, under the supervision of the CLAS Dean's Office.

