Message from Dean Kenneth Teitelbaum

There are always ups and downs, successes and failures, during an academic year, but I do think 2016-2017 has been a terrific one for the college. I hope my faculty and staff colleagues (and our students) agree! Rather than review examples of that being the case, I encourage readers to review this and previous issues of the COE Times. Of course these newsletters have focused primarily on special events, activities, accomplishments, and the like, rather than the classes and field experiences that command so much of the attention of our faculty and students and the crucial support that our staff colleagues provide to us on a daily basis. Maybe next year the newsletter should try to add a bit more about the academic experiences that are the heart and soul of what we do. And perhaps also we can hear more from our many alumni about what they are doing. (Did I say “many”? How about over 25,000 living alumni, as KU Development Director John Hults recently informed me!)

At the same time, there will continue to be challenges for the college and university. For example:

- **Academic Excellence**: How can we provide experiences, in and out of the classroom, that help our students be (become) the most knowledgeable, skilled and caring professionals possible?
- **Finances**: How can we best deal with possible budget cuts and the pressures to do more with less?
- **Enrollments**: How can we help to offset the decline of interest in the teaching profession, address issues related to student success and retention, and garner resources for programs that show the potential for substantial growth?
- **Assessment**: How can we best respond to requests for extensive data collection and analysis for national accreditations and other (e.g., state and university) reviews?
- **Partnerships**: How can we institute the most effective strategies to work closely and collaboratively with school and community partners?
- **Research**: How can we attract additional support for faculty (and students) in their scholarly pursuits?
- **Community**: How can we best foster a collegial, inclusive and vibrant college culture for all faculty, staff and students?

None of these challenges (or opportunities) is new. My only point is that the college will need to continue to address them, together, in the academic year(s) ahead, amidst what I hope are many gratifying work and learning experiences.

I cannot thank my faculty and staff colleagues enough for their support during my year as Dean of the College of Education. Of course, the college is always a work in progress, which perhaps can be said of all of us. I hope the three months ahead are as relaxing and enjoyable (and rejuvenating) as possible. I know you deserve it! Take good care.
**Congrats to Spring 2017 Graduating Graduate Students!**

The College commends each of these graduate students on their successful academic performance at KU!*

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<td>Denise Patricia Gooden</td>
<td>Cody Moyer</td>
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*To the best of our knowledge, these students are approved to participate in the Spring 2017 Commencement Ceremony. However, some may have graduation requirements still to fulfill in the weeks ahead.*
Congrats to Spring 2017 Graduating Undergraduates!

The College commends each of these undergraduate students on their successful academic performance at KU!*

*To the best of our knowledge, these students are approved to participate in the Spring 2017 Commencement Ceremony. However, some may have graduation requirements still to fulfill in the weeks ahead.

Melissa Lauren Aikey          Mackenzie Lloyd Francis          Rachael Anne Landis          Carmen Maria Rodriguez
Daniel Paul Aston            Lindsay Fries                  Brittany Erin Larkin       Emily Ann Rodriguez
Joseph Vincent Baney          Shelby Lynne Gallis           Jeffrey W. Larkin          Amanda Josephine Romano
Gwendolyn Marie Barrows       Analyse Marie Gaspich          Haley Nicole Layton        Carly Ann Roncin
Devon Sloan Beattie           Lillie Faith Geiger            Gregory S. Lerch           Kyle Richard Schueterm
Katherine Elizabeth Becker    Elizabeth Leigh Geisinger       Heather R. Luster         Alexis Margaret Schwartz
Nathaniel R. Benjamin         Abby Nicole Gifford            Maxwell Albany Lynch      Andrew James Seagreaves
Alyssa Marie Blasko           Olivia Rose Ginder             Alexandro Magana         Amy Elizabeth Sehulster
Tara Bokum                   Brittany Guerrier               Megan Catherine Maloney    Ashley Lynn Sharp
Anne Caroline Bonnefoi       Kayleb Elijah O. Hagan          Kelly Ann McGuire        Amanda Erika Shelsky
Rachel L. Borneman           Rebecca Rose Haines            Taylor Lynn McKeown       Sarah Elizabeth Shiley
Scott Brand                  Philippa Baxter Halliday         Shannon Mimi McKinney     Rachel Marie Smith
Kelly Amy Brown              Tiana Marie Hammond            Megan E. Mehalick         Lauren Rose Smith
Brianna Bush                 Celina Coral Hartman            Elizabeth Mary Mikitish    Victoria Louise Smurthwaite
Shannon Kay Butler           Kristen M. Haugh               Morgan Andrea Milione     Julia Kristine Snyder
Lauren Lisa Chiarchiaro       Lisa Marie Henderson            Lauren Ashley Miller      Rebecca Spangenberg
Julie Anne Chiodo            Amy Marie Hetherington          Samantha Jo Miller      Katherine Elizabeth Stammer
Jesse Lyn Coffey             Justin Hirthler                 Kayla Jenny Miller       Schaeffer Stark
Ciara M. Colbert             Jamie Havlinka                  Elizabeth Christina Mirth  Megan M. Stehman
Mary Ellen Conant            Karley Marie Hoff              Erica Kay Mistle         Carmelina Rose Stoltenberg
Brianna Rose Cotroneo        Alicia K. Hornberger           Connor Luke Moloney      Margaret Anne Stoms
Alyssa Taylor Coughlin       Derek A. Hueske                Joseph Luis Morales      Courtney Melissa Stone
Asia Crawford                Alexandra Faith Idy              Morgan Brooke Murray     Nicole Marie Stong
Heather Nicole Cregar        Anthony Jardel                 Charles Jesse Nace       Brittany Nicole Strosser
Olivia Devon Dettore         Katelynn Michelle Jaxheimer       Chantell Monique Nichols  Nicole Talarico
Christina Marie Diltz        Matthew Donald Keretz            Abigail Rose Olsen      Megan Elisabeth Tiwald
Danielle Rae Donato          Nicole Lynn Kinney              Emily Palermo           Sarah-Mary Elizabeth Tucker
Kaila Mae Dougher            Devon Elyse Knipe              Kaitlyn Margaret Piekarski Jordan Christopher Tuthill
Megan Dougherty              Samantha Ashley Koenig            Alexander James Pile     Rebecca Joan VanDerWerf
Andrea E. Dow                Katie Aron Koernig               Morgan Sarah Rafel       Spencer Wambold
Erifil Giorgia Drakelllis    Kayla Ann Kuczinski             Jessica Morgan Reppert    Carolyn Marie Wasser
Emily Grace Fenstemaker      Jordan Rae Kupper                Brittany Ann Rightmire  Theodore Erich Werkheiser III
Heather Marie Fisher          Sara Jean Kurtz                 Krista Jane Rizzo        Kady Elizabeth Wuagon
Kelly A. Flanagan            Holly Lois LaCapra              Amanda Lyn Roarty        Sara Beth Xakellis
                                  Amanda Lyn Roarty              Allison Chloe Young

*To the best of our knowledge, these students are approved to participate in the Spring 2017 Commencement Ceremony. However, some may have graduation requirements still to fulfill in the weeks ahead.
The following undergraduates are recipients of the Spring 2017 Dean’s Award for Academic Excellence. They have been chosen by their departments, based primarily on overall grade point average (with the number of recipients from each department proportionate to the overall number of graduates in the unit). At a reception held on May 12 evening in the Beekey Education Center, with faculty and guests present, the students will receive a certificate and a small gift in celebration of their achievement.

**Elementary Education**
- Brianna Bush
- Lindsay Fries
- Lillie Geiger
- Gregory Lerch
- Elizabeth Mikitish
- Elizabeth Mirth
- Abigail Olsen
- Rebecca Spangenberg
- Sarah-Mary Tucker
- Allison Young

**Library and Learning Technologies**
- Anne Bonnefoi
- Carolyn Wasser

**Secondary Education**
- Melissa Aikey
- Elizabeth Geisinger
- MacKenzie Francis
- Kyle Schuetrum
- Julia Snyder

**Special Education**
- Alyssa Blasko
- Heather Cregar
- Analyse Gaspich
- Katelynn Jaxheimer
- Heather Luster
- Kaitlyn Piekarski
- Carmen Maria Rodriguez
- Nicole Talarico
- Megan Tiwold
Dr. Sonia Nieto Discusses Her Life in Public Education

The College sponsored a Public Speaker Series the 2016-2017 academic year, each semester inviting a well-respected scholar to join us for a public presentation in the evening, an informal discussion the following morning, and several meals with small groups of faculty to allow for more intensive personal conversations. The Spring 2017 Public Speaker was Dr. Sonia Nieto, Professor Emerita of Language, Literacy and Culture at the School of Education, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Nieto is the author of numerous books and other publications, an active presenter at conferences and meetings throughout the country and around the globe, the recipient of a half-dozen (soon to be eight) honorary doctorates, and a Laureate of Kappa Delta Pi (2011), a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association (2011), and a member of the National Academy of Education (2015). She spoke to more than 150 people on Monday, April 17 on “Lessons from a Life in Public Education,” and held a more informal discussion on Tuesday, April 18 morning with 40-50 faculty and students. It was a great opportunity for folks in our college and from across campus to hear from someone who has devoted her professional life to questions of diversity, equity, and social justice in education.

COE Distinguished Alumni Awards

The college’s first ever Distinguished Alumni Awards were given out at a dinner on Monday, April 24. Fifty guests joined Dean Kenneth Teitelbaum and Provost Anne Zayaitz at the McFarland Student Union to honor our inaugural class of recipients. The event was equal parts informative, enjoyable, and inspiring.

Here are brief introductions of our inaugural class of COE Distinguished Alumni Award recipients:

Morell Boone received his B.S. in Library Education from KU in 1964. He later received an M.S. in Library and Information Studies and a Ph.D. in Instructional Design, Development and Evaluation from Syracuse U. After a stint in Pennridge Schools in Perkasie, PA, and work at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Syracuse U., U. of Bridgeport, and Wayne State U., he spent many years at Eastern Michigan U., eventually as Dean and Professor of the College of Technology. Along with his presentations and consultancies across the country, he has presented and helped out in Vietnam, Philippines, China, Brazil, and Scotland. Dr. Boone was introduced at the dinner by Dr. David Beougher, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at KU. (Dr. Beougher formerly worked with Dr. Boone at EMU.)

CJ Rhoads received her B.S. in Elementary Education/Special Education from KU in 1982. She later received her M.S in Educational Psychology from Temple U. and Ed.D. in Educational Technology from Lehigh U. She was involved in the business world for many years, e.g., as founder of Computer Educational Services, Managing Director/President of Hi-TECH Educational Services, and Founder/President/CEO of HPL Consortium, Inc. She taught part-time at several different PA universities before joining Kutztown University in 2004, where she is now tenured Professor in the College of Business. She has authored and edited more than a dozen books and guides and published more scholarly journal articles, book chapters and columns in local/regional business journals and newspapers than I care to count. Dr. Rhoads was introduced at the dinner by Nancy Magee, who is President of Financial Planning Advisors in Wyomissing, PA.

George Zimmerman received his B.S. in Elementary Education/Special Education – Visually Impaired in 1973. He later received his M.A. in Orientation and Mobility from Western Michigan U. and Ph.D. in Special Education from Vanderbilt U. After several years as a teacher and university lecturer, he joined the U. of Pittsburgh in 1983 and eventually became Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Instruction and Learning. He has published widely in the special education field, received numerous grants, and provided many dozen conference presentations, workshops and consultancies across the country as well as in Canada, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and the old Soviet Union. Dr. Zimmerman was introduced at the dinner by Dr. Nicole Johnson, an assistant professor of Special Education – Visual Impairment in our College of Education.

Dr. Boone receiving his award.

Dr. CJ Roads receiving her award.

Dr. Zimmerman receiving his award.
Kutztown University’s 19th Annual Children’s Literature Conference

Kutztown University hosted the 19th Annual Children’s Literature Conference on campus on Saturday, April 1 from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The conference is a collaborative initiative involving KU faculty and staff, and local teachers and librarians, working towards providing current and future educators with the opportunity to experience the work of award-winning authors and illustrators. It strives to present attendees with new ideas on a variety of topics such as the integration of learning, exploring reading and writing through the personal experiences of students, facilitating childhood literacy through the exploration of different genres, and effective use of nonfiction reading materials across all subject areas. Those in attendance were encouraged to challenge themselves and others to be active and creative in the learning process.

The conference welcomed over 150 attendees and hosted four greats in children’s literature: Caldecott Medal winning illustrator/author Lauren Castillo spoke about her writing and illustrating process.; Caldecott Honor Book, Coretta Scott King Honor, and Ezra Jack Keats Award winning illustrator Bryan Collier spoke about his inspirations and gave a preview of his upcoming book *Knock Knock: My Dad’s Dream for Me*; Robert F. Sibert Honor Award and Orbis Pictus Honor Award winning author Deborah Hopkinson explained her research process for writing nonfiction and historical fiction; and Max and Ruby series author Rosemary Wells gave us a virtual tour of her workshop and art process. Conference participants were eager to get their books autographed in person by the four speakers. As always, we received glowing feedback from authors and attendees alike.

In addition, on the day before (March 31), elementary school students from local and regional school districts visited the university to meet the featured authors and illustrators from the conference. Free presentations were also offered to university students and Kutztown community members.

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New Ed.D. Program Accepted into Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) Consortium

In the fall of 2017, Kutztown University will initiate its first ever Education doctorate program. The College of Education is pleased to offer this opportunity for educators who wish to be life-long learners. The program is designed for the career educator, the individual who envisions their career as a lifelong practitioner-scholar in the classroom, working with children and adults to improve lives and promote social change based on a social justice framework. As a practitioner-scholar doctorate, it is intended to affect change from within—within schools and classrooms and within the teachers themselves—rather than from a top-down, administrative level.

"The program aims to empower practitioner-scholars who seek broad competence in transformational teaching and learning to address issues they face when working with children and adults. It is an exciting new chapter for KU in providing quality College of Education graduate programs to our community," said Dr. Patricia Walsh-Coates, program director.

Significantly, the new Education Doctorate (Ed. D.) in Transformational Teaching and Learning Program has been accepted for membership into the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) Consortium. This national consortium includes programs that have committed resources to work together to undertake a critical examination of the doctorate in education through dialogue, experimentation, critical feedback and evaluation. The goal is to inspire all schools of education, and to work through continued collaboration and investigation, to prepare scholarly practitioners who can meet the educational challenges of the 21st century. Kutztown U. joins three other PA universities in the CPED: U. of Pittsburgh, Temple U., and Duquesne U.
What Has the College of Education Been Up To?

Library and Learning Technologies Spring Book Review

A large crowd of librarians, students and faculty gathered on April 4 in the Alumni Memorial Auditorium in the Student Union for the Spring Book Review sponsored by the L&LT Department. The Book Review is held every fall and spring and everyone is invited to take new books as long as they promise to write book reviews for publication in the KU Book Review booklet, which serves as a wonderful resource for librarians (and library science students). The best reviews are then published in the nationally recognized Children’s Literature Comprehensive Database, which is used across the country by many librarians! One of the more than a dozen presenters was Emily Hershey, a KU graduate with an M.Ed. in Reading Specialist degree, who currently works at Wilson High School.

COE Graduate Programs Open House

Sixteen prospective students attended the COE Graduate Programs Open House on April 19 evening in the Beekey Education Center. The evening started with welcome remarks from Dean Teitelbaum and informative comments by Jamie VanValkenburgh, KU Director of Graduate Admissions, about the graduate admissions process and financial aid options. The prospective students then attended breakout sessions to learn more about the specifics of our graduate (master's and doctoral) programs. Faculty who attended from our college included: Helen Hamlet (Counselor Education); Mary Ann O’Neil, Dar Schoenly and Terre Sychterz (Elementary Education); Will Jefferson (Library & Learning Technologies); Terry Stahler and Tricia Walsh Coates (Secondary Education); Cindy Stunkard (Special Education); and Kelley Kenney (Student Affairs in Higher Education program).

New Faculty Lunch

The fourth New Faculty Lunch of the year took place on Friday, April 14. (“New faculty” for these lunches was defined as those in their first, second or third years in our college.) Assistant Professors Roseanne Perkins (Library & Learning Technologies), Wendy Rogers (Special Education), Cindy Stunkard (Special Education), and Mark Wolfmeyer (Secondary Education) were joined by Dean Kenneth Teitelbaum and “senior” faculty colleagues Jo Cohen (Counselor Education) and Kathy Stanfa (Special Education) to talk about service opportunities that are available to new faculty. A very informative discussion took place that focused on departmental, college, campus and community service activities not only in terms of the expectations for reappointment, tenure and promotion, but also with regard to the positive experiences that can be enjoyed in making such contributions and networking with colleagues from other KU programs.

March and April COE Scholarship Brown Bags

The COE Scholarship Brown Bag Series continued in March and April with presentations from faculty from the Department of Library & Learning Technologies and the Department of Counselor Education.

On March 21, about a dozen faculty and students, including two faculty from across campus, joined Drs. Michelle Sims and Andrea Harmer of Library and Learning Technologies for a stimulating hour focused on integrating augmented and virtual reality into classroom activities and coding applications in the classroom for students K through 6th grade. Their presentation was entitled, “STEAM Petting Zoo: Developing the 4Cs (Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity).”

The series ended on a high note on April 20 with a very informative presentation by Assistant Professor Deborah Duenyas of the Department of Counselor Education. She spoke on “The Professional Experiences of International Counseling Graduates upon Returning to Their Home Country,” which is also the focus of her doctoral dissertation (at Kent State University). Seven faculty and students enjoyed finding out more about Deborah’s research and being able to ask questions about her interest in this topic, her research methodologies, and her findings.
What Has the College of Education Been Up To?

Honoring Dr. Garber
Following our last faculty/staff meeting of the year on Tuesday, April 11, the Beekey 121 Conference Room was dedicated in honor of former Dean Darrell Garber, who passed away in March 2016. A large crowd attended the dedication, including Darrell’s wife Mary and her two sisters. Among those providing comments were President Ken Hawkinson, Provost Anne Zayaitz, Dean Kenneth Teitelbaum, VPA Dean Bill Mowder, and Associate Vice President for Academic Finances Ken Steward. The unveiling of a plaque that has been placed outside the conference room door and an informal reception followed the comments.

Secondary Education’s Open Mic Night
On April 5 the Secondary Education Department held an Open Mic Night fundraiser to benefit our partner schools in Reading and Allentown. Attendees brought new school supplies to be donated to these partner schools. The performances included storytelling, poetry reading, singing, comedy, and beat boxing. Kirk Griffiths, a comedian, was the featured artist. All performers were outstanding in their performances and were well received by the audience. It was exciting to see the talent of KU students. The MC, student Mickel Lewis, emanated positive energy as he kept the audience entertained in between each performance, while Dr. George Sirrakos provided fun music as the DJ. Overall, the event was extremely successful, allowing the Secondary Education Department to provide 16 full bags of school supplies to our partner schools in Reading and Allentown.

COE College Advisory Board
The COE College Advisory Board held its final dinner meeting of the year on May 4 in the McFarland Student Union. Joining board members and Dean Teitelbaum for the meeting were Jeanie Burnett of the Department of Elementary Education, Andrea Harmer of the Department of Library & Learning Technologies, Adriane Golden of the Department of Secondary Education, Kathy Stanfa of the Department of Special Education, and Carissa Pokorn-Y-Golden of the Dean’s Office. One highlight of the meeting was a lengthy discussion (organized and facilitated by board co-chair Ashley Landis, who is a 7th grade social studies teacher at Lower Macungie Middle School in the East Penn School District) about the emphasis on content and pedagogy in teacher education programs such as Kutztown’s and what a correct balance or integration of the two might look like. Another highlight were comments shared by guest John Hults regarding his work as Development Officer (working partly with our college) for the KU Foundation.

Beginning Teacher Support Program
The college has initiated a pilot program this spring, entitled the Beginning Teacher Support Program. We have a cohort of 20 first or second year teachers (from 10 different school districts) joining us over three Saturday mornings for a discussion of some of the most salient issues and concerns that they might be dealing with during their first two years as a teacher.

Five College of Education faculty, along with Somer Lewis from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, have been working together to facilitate relevant discussions concerning the following topics: Building relationships, vision and goal setting, time management for beginning teachers, classroom management, building a community of support, being a teacher leader, and planning, instructional strategies, and assessment. The five KU faculty are: Deborah Johnson, Darlene Schoenly and Carol Watson from the Department of Elementary Education, Cynthia Stunkard from the Department of Special Education, and Mark Wolfmeyer from the Department of Secondary Education.
What Has the College of Education Been Up To?

New Professional Development School (PDS) Partnerships

The College of Education will participate in a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony on Thursday, May 11 morning that involves new Professional Development School (PDS) partnerships between the University and four school districts: Brandywine Heights, Kutztown, Twin Valley, and Wyomissing. These are the first college-wide PDS partnerships that have been developed at KU and we are very excited to work more closely with the four districts, with plans to expand to another district or two in the near future.

The goals of our PDS partnerships are:

1. Enhance the learning and educational opportunities of all PK-12 students;
2. Enrich KU educator preparation programs through transformative school-based learning experiences;
3. Create professional learning opportunities for district and university faculty, administration, and staff;
4. Engage in a shared commitment to reflective and innovative practices in PK-12 educational settings and KU educator preparation programs;
5. Conduct and disseminate research to inform educational policy and practice at the PK-12 and university levels; and
6. Establish opportunities for cohort participants to engage in ongoing reflection and collaboration.

KU President Ken Hawkkinson, Provost Anne Zayaitz, Dean Kenneth Teitelbaum, superintendents and school board presidents from the four school districts, and COE faculty and staff will attend the event, with a reception following the signing ceremony.

The week prior to the signing ceremony, on May 4, a PDS informational meeting was held in the Beekey building. The purpose was to share information about this new initiative, garner feedback about initial plans, and encourage participation. Seventeen KU faculty, including colleagues from Mathematics, Computer Science, Anthropology/Sociology, Art Education and Music Education, joined Dean Teitelbaum and the four superintendents (Andrew Potteiger of Brandywine Heights, George Fiore of Kutztown, Bob Pleis of Twin Valley, and Julie Vicente of Wyomissing) to view a PowerPoint presentation and discuss different aspects of these new partnerships. Among the important points shared were the reasons for initiating and formalizing these partnerships, the emphasis on collaboration and reciprocity, the evolving nature of this initiative, and possibilities for involvement by KU faculty (and students).

For more information about the PDS partnerships, contact Dr. Cindy Stunkard, PDS Coordinator, Department of Special Education, at stunkard@kutztown.edu or 610-683-4272.

College of Education on Receiving End of Largest Private Gift in University History

The Kutztown University Foundation has received a $2.4 million bequest from the estate of Joyce Kutz Wehr ’46. It is the largest gift in the history of Kutztown University.

The funds will go into the Charles A. and Joyce Kutz Wehr ’46 Endowed Scholarship, which is available to full-time KU students majoring in either elementary or secondary education who exhibit qualities of academic excellence necessary to be a successful teacher.

"This remarkable gift is the living legacy of a woman who dedicated her life to teaching," said Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkkinson, president, Kutztown University. "What she has done is to extend her ability to assist students for generations to come. This is a wonderful gesture and we are deeply grateful for her support of our students and her confidence in Kutztown University's ability to produce the highest quality educators."

Wehr died Jan. 1, 2016, at the age of 89. She was the daughter of the late John W. and Sadie Kutz who graduated from Keystone State Normal School, the predecessor to Kutztown University, in 1912 and 1920 respectively. She was the widow of Charles A. Wehr, who died June 3, 2000.

Born in Maxatawny Township, she was a 1943 graduate of Kutztown Area High School and a 1946 graduate of Kutztown State Teachers College. Wehr taught in the Allentown School District for 34 years, the last 23 years at Union Terrace School, Allentown, where she retired in 1981.

Wehr served as a member of the Kutztown University Alumni Association board when it was first formed in the 1980s. She and her husband established four different scholarships at KU to assist deserving students: the John and Sadie Kutz Scholarship established in 1987, the Calvin E. Afflerbach and Mamie H. Afflerbach Scholarship established in 1991, the Kutz-Henderson Scholarship established in 1994, and finally the Charles A. and Joyce Kutz Wehr Scholarship established in 2000. Through these scholarships and generous gifts to other funds, Joyce and Charles had already contributed more than $90,000 to the KU Foundation over a 34-year period.
Secondary Education Senior Sendoff

The Secondary Education Department held a small gathering for all of their graduating seniors on Tuesday, May 2. Twenty-nine students from all program concentrations attended. Light snacks were provided as students and professors mingled for awhile and then, at the formal sendoff, professors were given the opportunity to wish all of their students good luck in their future endeavors and to remind them that Kutztown University will always be a home for them. The sendoff also provided the opportunity for all of the graduating seniors to share a little about their student teaching experience as well as their plans for the future. Every student received a Secondary Education water bottle as a sendoff gift and a thank you for all of their hard work over the past four years. A drawing for $20 KU bookstore gift cards also took place, with five lucky graduates receiving the gift cards. It was a heartwarming gathering for professors and students alike as the Secondary Education class of 2017 parted ways one last time. Everyone from the Secondary Education department wishes the graduating seniors of 2017 best of luck in their future, and, most importantly, encourages them to keep in touch.

COE Faculty at AERA (American Educational Research Association) Conference

The American Educational Research Association (AERA), founded in 1916, is dedicated to improving the educational process by encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education and evaluation and by promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results. Each year, the AERA holds a national conference that attracts educators from all over the world. The 2017 AERA Annual Meeting took place on Thursday, April 27 – Monday, May 1, 2017 in San Antonio, Texas. Two of our own faculty, Dr. George Sirrakos and Dr. Mark Wolfmeyer from the Department of Secondary Education, attended the meeting and not only presented their work but also had their most recent books on display in the AERA book exhibit room.

For Dr. Sirrakos, it was his third time presenting at the AERA meetings. This year he was able to present three pieces of work and had his book signing for *Between the World and the Urban Classroom* (Sense Publishers), which sold out of all copies in the AERA book exhibit. The three papers Dr. Sirrakos presented were titled “Refraining Access to STEM for Urban Students of Color,” which was for a session that Dr. Wolfmeyer chaired (see below); “Development and Validation of the Questionnaire Assessing Connections to Science (QuACS)”; and “Exploring Reality Pedagogy Through Students’ Perceptions of the Learning Environment and Attitudes Toward Science.”

Dr. Wolfmeyer was the Chair for “(Re)Considering STEM Education for Social Justice and Sustainability,” for which he also presented a paper titled “Technology and Early Childhood Education: A Look at Disrupting Racist Frameworks.” Dr. Wolfmeyer also presented a poster titled “Continuing the Spiral: Ecofeminism, Eco-Justice, and Mathematics Education” and was a Discussant for a session titled “To Hell with Good Intentions: Illich and AERA.” His most recent book, *Math Education: A Critical Introduction* (Routledge Publishing) also sold out at the AERA book exhibit.
Brittany Larkin Receives Chambliss Student Academic Achievement Award Gold Medal

Brittany Larkin, a graduating senior in the Department of Special Education’s Visual Impairment program, was honored with Kutztown University’s prestigious Chambliss Student Academic Achievement Award Gold Medal. The award was announced at a formal ceremony in the McFarland Student Union on April 21. Brittany was nominated for this award by Dr. Nicole Johnson for her many accomplishments during her undergraduate career. These included completing a study on cortical visual impairment that she presented at the national Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) meetings in St. Louis in April 2016. She was also awarded student of the year through Penn-Del AER at the state vision conference in Harrisburg in that same month. In addition to her classroom achievements and scholarly growth, Brittany spent summers working at the Helen Diller Camp for Blind Children and was selected to be a student ambassador of the National CEC Division on visual impairments last year.

Pennsylvania School Library Association (PSLA) Conference

The Pennsylvania School Library Association (PSLA) Student Awards from Kutztown University were given to one outstanding Library Science undergraduate student and one outstanding Library Science graduate student. The recipients received their awards at the Dessert Reception at the PSLA Conference in Hershey on March 31, along with the other winners from across the state. The KU student awardees are Megan Maloney (undergraduate) and Ashley Morrison (graduate student), who were at the PSLA Conference with faculty members Andrea Harmer, Nancy Latanision, and Michelle Sims.

Students Attend NAPDS Conference

Eight students from the Special Education Department presented their original research at the National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) Conference on March 4 in Washington, D.C. Student research was supported by Drs. Nicole Johnson, Wendy Rogers, and Cynthia Stunkard. The students and their paper titles were:


Autumn Booths: “Determining the Effectiveness of Math Terms for Students with a Visual Impairment”


Alyssa Blasko: “A Season for Everyone: Practicum Placements”

Andrew Seagreaves: “Clinical Practice in an Urban V. Suburban Placement”

Heather Luster: “Lesson Plan V. Lesson Plan”

Kelly Wall (not pictured): “Inclusive Practices with Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders”
What Have Our Students Been Up To?

Student Affiliate of National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

The Kutztown University National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Student Affiliate serves pre-service teachers at Kutztown University. The student organization is led by a board of elected students and co-advised by Dr. Michele White of the Department of Elementary Education and Dr. Mark Wolfmeyer of the Department of Secondary Education. The organization meets 3-4 times each semester. The students create math-based lessons focused on specific concepts, with math activities focused on best practices and engaging future students. The organization has sponsored Family Math Nights at local elementary schools; a recent theme was promoting literature in mathematics. The topics of the books were shape recognition, graphing, place value, area and perimeter, and fractions. For each activity students took home packets containing a copy of the math activity. In addition, each student took home a children’s book pertaining to a math concept, which was purchased with money fundraised by the students.

The students also presented this year at the Eastern Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference, which was held on campus on April 22. The main focus of the presentation was integrating science and literature in the math curriculum.

Students Attend National CEC Conference

Seven students in the Visual Impairment Program (Carly Erdmann, Lindsey Thompson, Kelsey McGuire, Brittany Larkin, Abby Gifford, McKenzie Fagan, and Megan Middlebrook) attended and presented their original research at the National Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Boston on April 19-22. Students were able to attend sessions, present their research, and make connections throughout the country.

Autism Speaks Walk

Two student organizations—KU ABLE and Spread the Word—teamed up to raise awareness at the Autism Speaks Walk on April 29 in Bethlehem.

Students Attend PA State Vision Conference

Under the direction of Dr. Nicole Johnson, juniors in The Vision Trio class traveled to Harrisburg to volunteer, attend, and present at the State Vision Conference (Penn-Del AER) on April 26-28. Students were able to network with professionals in the field and learn about their future careers as teachers of the visually impaired.
What Have Our Students Been Up To?

**Alyssa Blasko Receives Floyd W. Boyer Memorial Book Fund Graduation Award**

On Friday, April 28, Alyssa Blasko, a May 2017 graduate who is majoring in Special Education PreK-8 Dual Certification Elementary Education 4-8: Math and English, received the Floyd W. Boyer Memorial Book Fund Graduation Award. Alyssa was presented with the award primarily because of her outstanding academic achievement, though she also has an exceptional record of involvement in campus and college activities (e.g., Honors Program, Presidential Ambassadors, Performing Dance Portmanteau, Student Government, KUBoK, Kappa Delta Pi, and Council for Exceptional Children). The fund also helps to support book purchases to supplement the children’s literature collection in Rohrbach Library. Stephen Held, a family representative, was there to present Alyssa with her award.

**Service Learning in Mexico**

Dr. Mary Ann O’Neil (Elementary Education) and Professor Johanna Forte (Communication Studies), and KU students from different majors, will embark on June 18 on a 10-day service trip to the Mission Mazahua Hacienda de Tepetitlan in Mexico. The students include Katelyn Melder, Jacob Black, Joanna Redcay, Trey Hennessy, and Kimberly De La Torre. Kimberly’s sisters, Ashley and Kathy, and Bonnie Stichter and Lauren Jones, two members of Grace EC Church, will also be joining this service team.

The team will primarily work with individuals with physical disabilities who visit the hacienda for equestrian therapy, literacy activities, and a day camp. They will also work with other volunteers on other projects that benefit the indigenous Mazahuan people, an economically distressed population in the remote rural region. The projects include building ramps, repairing or replacing cisterns to gather fresh water, and helping in the greenhouses where food is grown to feed those who come to the mission or sold at market to purchase what cannot be grown. In addition to working with the villagers, there will be excursions to nearby historic towns, providing immersion into the culture. To prepare for their capstone projects, the Honor students involved will evaluate needs in this rural community, conduct research, access resources available to the non-profit organization, and develop and propose a plan to address a need. Kimberly will work with Dr. O’Neil on the literacy and cognitive experiences implemented with the children at the mission. The KU students will present at local and regional conferences next fall. This service trip will be the catalyst for further service learning projects and research on the enhancement of social and emotional competencies across various academic concentrations.

**Alpha Beta Alpha Celebrates Its 60th Birthday**

On April 23, 80 Library Science faculty, alumni and Alpha Beta Alpha (ABA) members, past and present, gathered in the Georgian Room to celebrate the 60th birthday of ABA. Alumni recounted their memories of the department and their time in the library science fraternity. There were representatives from the last six decades, with alumni from the 60s-70s topping the charts! Seniors ABA President, Rachel Smith, and Vice President, Elizabeth Kefer, were responsible for planning and running the alumni reunion/birthday event along with other members of ABA. The students did a super job and a great time was had by all!

Kutztown’s ABA Chapter is the only undergraduate chapter remaining in the US and the current ABA members are very proud of that fact. ABA is open to all Library Science majors and last year they sponsored a trip to the Washington, DC book festival, met the new Librarian of Congress, and held a successful Banned Book Week exhibit in the KU bookstore.
The Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW), a national organization aimed at empowering group workers with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to practice effective, socially just, and ethical group work in a diverse and global society, honored Dr. Lauren Moss of our Counselor Education Department with the Group Work Practice Award. This award was presented at the American Counseling Association’s conference in San Francisco on March 17. The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding practitioner in group work. Dr. Moss was selected to receive the award due to her commitment to applying group work in the school setting, her current research in the area of group work, and her forthcoming book, *A School Counselor’s Guide to Small Groups: Coordination, Leadership, & Assessment*. S. Springer., L. Moss, N. Manavizadeh, & A. Pugliese (Eds.). Alexandria, VA: Association for Specialists in Group Work.

Professor Deborah Duenyas and Dr. Lauren Moss, faculty in our Department of Counselor Education, presented an education session entitled, “Collaboration Strategies for the Professional International Counselor,” at the Chi Sigma Iota Pennsylvania Statewide Conference on April 8, held at Marywood University in Scranton, PA.

Professor Adriana Golden of the Department of Secondary Education has been accepted and will attend Montclair State University's Teacher Education and Teacher Development Doctoral program starting in the fall. She has been awarded a doctoral fellowship.

Dr. Michele White of the Department of Elementary Education and Mrs. Janice Ritchie, a 1st grade teacher at Penn-Bernville Elementary School in the Tulpehocken School District, presented their collaborative work during two sessions at the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics Regional Conference in Philadelphia. One session was on “STEM and Beyond! Beginning Steps to Meaningful Implementation,” which focused on how first grade students responded to STEM learning experiences over the course of one year as well as how the project got started. The second session was titled “A Win-Win-Win: Powerful Pre-service Experiences in Teaching Early Childhood Math,” which focused on the benefits (to the teacher, her students, and KU teacher candidates) of pre-service teachers’ early learning experiences working within a 1st grade classroom to apply math strategies learned in their KU coursework.

Dr. Anne Brawand and Dr. Nicole Johnson of the Department of Special Education presented at the National Council for Exceptional Children Conference in April. Their presentation was entitled, “Evidence-Based Interventions in Mathematics for Students with Visual Impairments and Additional Disabilities.”

Dr. George Sirrakos and Dr. Christopher Emdin (co-editors) have published their first book together, entitled *Between The World and The Urban Classroom*. This book is being published by Sense Publishers and is part of a series entitled Transgressions: Cultural Studies and Education. The book is for sale on Amazon and can be found at the following link: https://www.amazon.com/Between-World-Classroom-George-Sirrakos/dp/9463510303/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1492628170&sr=8-3&keywords=Sirrakos

Dr. George Sirrakos presented three papers at the American Educational Research Association meetings in San Antonio:

Sirrakos, G., Heffner, M., & Fraser, B. (April, 2017). Development and validation of the Questionnaire Assessing Connections to Science (QuACS).

Sirrakos, G. (April, 2017). Exploring reality pedagogy through students' perceptions of the learning environment and attitudes toward science.

Sirrakos, G. (April, 2017). Reframing access to STEM for urban students of color.
Other News and Events:

The College of Education would like to let you know what else is happening!

- After a national search, **Carissa Pokorny-Golden** will be the Associate Dean for the college, starting in mid-May. She has been serving in an interim capacity during the Spring 2017 semester. As Dean Kenneth Teitelbaum put it in a recent news article, “In her role as interim associate dean, Dr. Pokorny-Golden has proven herself to be a hardworking, collaborative, insightful and helpful member of our leadership team. She is always eager to learn more about the college, our accreditation reviews and assessments, student recruitment and retention issues and curriculum processing. We are very pleased that she will be continuing in the role. I have no doubt that she will help us to become an even stronger college than we are now.”

- **Krista Prock** of the Rohrbach Library has been appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Library & Learning Technologies, also starting in mid-May. Her term will end at the end of the fall 2017 semester. Many thanks to **Andrea Harmer** for her excellent work as chair during the last several years!

- **Tracy Keyes** has been appointed the new Chair of the Department of Elementary Education, also starting in mid-May. She will be serving a three-year term. Many thanks to **Jeanie Burnett** for her excellent work as chair during the last several years!

- **Deb Lynch** will be returning as Chair of the Department of Special Education after a year on sabbatical. She will be serving a three-year term. Many thanks to **Kathy Stanfa**, who filled in for Deb so ably during this past year!

- A new tenure-track faculty member will be joining us in the fall! **Amber Pabon** will be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Secondary Education. She earned her PhD in Urban Education from the City University of New York, her MA in English Education from Brooklyn College, and a BA in Anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has been an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh in the Department of Instruction and Learning during the last four years. Her research and teaching interests focus in particular on social justice and urban education and she has been involved in the Carnegie Project on Education Doctorate while at the University of Pittsburgh. Among Amber’s publications are: “In hindsight and now again: Black male teachers’ recollections and reflections on the suffering of Black male youth” in Race, Ethnicity & Education and “Waiting for Black Superman: A look at a problematic assumption about Black male teachers” in Urban Education. We’re very excited that Amber will be joining our college in the fall!

- If you would like to facilitate a COE Scholarship Brown Bag next year, which can be done individually or as a small group, please contact Cheryl Faust (cfaust@kutztown.edu). Let her know a tentative title of your presentation and if you have a preference for which semester you would like do it.

- **Jennfer Gehringer** of the Department of Elementary Education and **Mark Wolfmeyer** of the Department of Secondary Education announced that the first meeting of the COE’s Social Justice Special Interest Group (SJSIG) was going to take place on May 4. The group is being formed to provide opportunities to discuss research, teaching and service as it relates to social justice and education, both broadly defined. Colleagues who are interested are asked to share any one of the following with the group:

  1. A current research project that you want some advice on
  2. A research idea that you have
  3. A question about research organizations and conferences
  4. A suggestion for summer reading as a group

Also planned is the formation of a Google group during the summer to discuss readings, share work, seek input from the group, etc. The group’s mission includes supporting and holding each other accountable in our efforts to produce educational scholarship with an emphasis on social justice. During the academic year the SJSIG will sustain these efforts in research as well as discuss teaching and service as they relate to social justice.

- Four highly valued faculty members of our college are retiring before the 2017-2018 academic year starts. They have each, in their different ways, made very significant contributions to their colleagues and students and have helped to enrich the quality of our teaching, service, and research. They are:

  - **Dr. Jeanie Burnett**, Department of Elementary Education
  - **Dr. Linda McMillan**, Department of Elementary Education
  - **Dr. Mary Ann O’Neil**, Department of Elementary Education
  - **Dr. Brian Wlazelek**, Department of Counselor Education

On behalf of all of their faculty and staff colleagues, and the many students whom they taught and mentor during their years at KU, we thank them so much for the wisdom and professionalism they shared with us. And we wish them all the best as they start out on their next journeys!
Like us on Facebook
The College of Education has made increasing its social media presence a goal in the upcoming year! We have made an official Facebook page for the College of Education and we encourage our faculty and staff colleagues, students, alumni, community partners, and other “friends” of the College to “like” our page and interact with its posts.

If you would like something included on the Facebook page, please email KUCOEFB@gmail.com or fill out the survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FT55TJT.