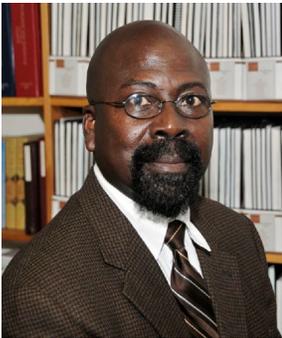


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Fall 2009

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

Faculty highlight



Dr. Barth K. Yeboah is a Professor of Social Work at Kutztown University. He holds a doctoral degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania. He received his master of social work degree from the University of Delhi, India and completed his undergraduate degree with honors from Jamia Millia Islamia School of Social Work, New Delhi.

Joining the Kutztown University Social Work Program in 1991 as an Assistant Professor, Dr. Yeboah taught Introduction to Social Welfare and Social Work, Human Behavior in the Social Environment (HBSE), Social Work Practice with Individuals, Social Work Practice with Groups and Families, and Social Administration. Currently he works with baccalaureate and masters' stu-

dents, teaching the undergraduate Senior Seminar in addition to the Integrated Seminar in Social Work and Advanced Theory to graduate students.

Dr. Yeboah has extensive practice and teaching experience in social work. Some of his work experiences include: runaway and homeless youth, international migration, immigrant families, domestic violence, social welfare, and poverty and development and social work practice in Africa.

From an international perspective, Dr. Yeboah studies how traditional systems inform contemporary social work practice. He has examined the matriarchal system of the Khasis, an ethnic group in Northeastern India, the helping systems of the Akans, an ethnic group in Ghana, and inter-generational issues of new immigrants in the Delaware Valley.

Dr. Yeboah has published and given several conference presentations on international social work especially on issues affecting African immigrants and traditional and contemporary social work practice in Africa. This summer, he delivered an invitational lecture on diversity and participated in a symposium on poverty in India. First, he presented at Northeastern Hills

University (NEHU) in Shillong, Meghalaya, India on the topic of the challenges of teaching diversity to students from a global perspective. Students and faculty from Sociology, Political Science, Philosophy, History, and English departments attended the presentation. Second, Dr. Yeboah participated in a symposium on media and poverty organized by Martin Luther Christian University, and conducted a post-symposium discussion with Master of Social Work students and faculty.

During his tenure at KU, Dr. Yeboah has served on departmental, college, and university committees. He is the team leader for the Social Work Learning Community that works with other faculty to assist first-year students in achieving academic success, maturity, and a sense of belonging in the transitory period from high school to college. He developed the social work department mentor program and serves as mentor to new faculty joining the department. He currently serves on Senate and is a member of the University Promotion Committee.

In his free time, Dr. Yeboah enjoys photography, culinary art, fishing and poetry writing.

Dean's Corner

Fall 2009 has been exciting! We welcomed the class of 2013 on Opening Day, hosted the author of the first year text *Gang Leader for a Day*, honored faculty accomplishments, acclimated 33 new tenure track faculty to our college, and celebrated those faculty achieving tenure and promotion. Our students and faculty continue to achieve successes in the classroom, in the laboratory, and in the field. The challenges that many of our students face to complete their college education have been intensified by the economy. Thank you to all who have made donations to the KU Foundation; please know that your continued support to our college scholarships makes an enormous difference for the students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



Anne E. Zayaitz,
Ph.D.
Acting Dean

New Tenure Track Faculty (more to come)



Jennifer Schlegel, Ph.D.,
Anthropology/Sociology
University of California
(Los Angeles, CA)
Hate / PA German Language



Laura Koenig, Ph.D.,
Psychology
University of Minnesota
(Minneapolis, MN)
Personality and Individual
Differences



Douglas Swartz, Ph.D., Physical
Sciences
Michigan State University
(East Lansing, MI)
Organometallic Chemistry



Ellesia Blaque, Ph.D., English
Wayne State University
(Detroit, MI)
Africana Literature before
1900, Ethnic Literature,
American Slavery, Hip Hop



Robert Portada, Ph.D., Political
Science
University of Notre Dame
(Notre Dame, IN)
Comparative Politics, Latin
American Studies, Cuba



Joseph Jedwab, D.Phil.,
Philosophy
University of Oxford
(Oxford, UK)
Metaphysics, Philosophy of
Religion



Alan Hines, M.F.A., English
Brooklyn College
(Brooklyn, NY)
Playwright/Screenwriter/
Dramaturgy



Adrienne Oakley, Ph.D.,
Physical Sciences
University of Hawaii
(Manoa, HI)
Marine Geology



Lynn Kutch, Ph.D., Modern
Languages
Rutgers University
(New Brunswick, NJ)
German Literature, Theatre
and Film



Carissa Pokorny-Golden,
A.B.D., English
Temple University
(Philadelphia, PA)
Composition and Secondary
Education



Phillip Reed, Ph.D., Physical
Sciences
Lehigh University
(Bethlehem, PA)
Astrophysics



Eric Landquist, Ph.D.,
Mathematics
University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign (Urbana, IL)
Number Theory and
Cryptography



Allison Roy, Ph.D., Biology
University of Georgia
(Athens, GA)
Conservation Biology



Laura Sherrod, Ph.D., Physical
Sciences
Western Michigan University
(Kalamazoo, MI)
Geophysics and Hydrology



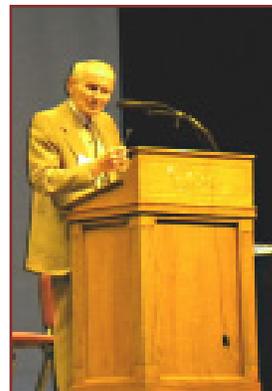
John Ronan, Ph.D., English
University of California
(Berkeley, CA)
Early American Literature

Dr. Jack Kevorkian Visits KU

As part of the Distinguished Speaker Series on Law and Justice, Dr. Jack Kevorkian spoke on Sunday, September 20, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Schaeffer Auditorium. At 81 years old, Dr. Kevorkian discussed civil rights and civil disobedience, focusing on the United States government and his career as a physician and activist. He began the lecture with information about the ninth amendment which states, "The enumeration in The Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be constructed to deny or disparage others retained by the people." He then proclaimed, "As long as the ninth is unused, we will be slaves." Dr. Kevorkian then told the audience of students, staff, faculty, and community members to get active and fight for their rights.

After presenting his opinions, he discussed his career, which involved helping patients end their lives. Dr. Kevorkian assisted 130 cases, using eight documents to determine a patient's wants and needs before agreeing to help them. For example, one document consisted of medical records which stated the patient's need. Another provided patient history, a physical that Dr. Kevorkian performed, and suggestions for any alternative treatments. Quite simply, Kevorkian insisted, this wasn't a quick way to end one's life. Rather, this was a process, and like many processes, you had to want, need, and be eligible for the procedure.

After the discussion, a Q&A was open to the floor. "What do you believe happens when we die?" was the last question of the night, asked by a student. Dr. Kevorkian's answer: "You stink."



Ronald R. Rhein Environmental Study Area

On October 19th the Kutztown University Ecoplot was dedicated as the Ronald R. Rhein Environmental Study in honor of Dr. Rhein, Professor Emeriti, Biology. The Ecoplot was established in 1976 by Dr. Rhein, and has since been used as an outdoor field laboratory for biology and environmental science classes. Dr. Rhein's passion for teaching and saving open spaces was celebrated at this event. To view this celebration visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ha-EW047AcQ>.

Student highlight



ALISON KOSER, JUNIOR
Math major, Physics major

Recently Alison Koser, a junior with a dual major in math and physics, had the experience of a lifetime.

In the summer of 2009, Alison interned at the University of Chicago in the physics department with the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. She spent

10 weeks at this full-time job which allowed her to conduct experiments alongside graduate students. Under the direction of Heinrich Jaeger, professor of physics at the University of Chicago, Alison studied granular matter (like sand). One experiment the students did involved putting granular matter into a six foot vacuum-packed tube, then they dropped it and an \$80,000 camera at the same time. By doing this, they could examine behaviors of the granular matter in slow motion (via the videotape) to find out that, according to Alison, "Sometimes it behaves like a liquid."

While in Chicago, Alison also had the opportunity to visit two prestigious laboratories: the Fermilab, the world's highest energy physics laboratory, and the National Argonne Lab. This was an eye-opening experience for Alison. She found the work too isolating, and is now considering graduate school to become a university professor. "You get to do research and teach," Alison said. When discussing the lack of females who enter the math and science fields, she also stated, "I think I can be a good

influence for young girls if I become a teacher."

Alison maintains a cumulative 4.0 GPA, and when asked if she is overwhelmed, she says, "It's a lot of work, but I enjoy what I do."

Alison is also a member of the honors program, the Society of Physics Students (SPS), and she works as a supplementary instructor for physics students.

Flying Melons

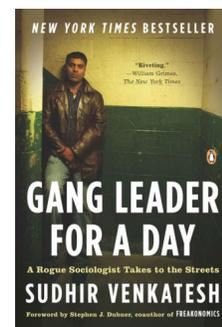
The Society of Physics Students will be holding a cantaloupe-launching contest on April 10, 2010 at 12 p.m. near KU's North Water Tower. This event is open to the public. Refreshments will be served and prizes will be distributed.

Dr. Sudhir Venkatesh Comes to KU

On Thursday, September 17, 2009, Dr. Sudhir Venkatesh visited campus to discuss his book, *Gang Leader for a Day*, a New York Times best seller.

Dr. Venkatesh received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, focusing his studies on sociology and urban black America. His experience with this research was his inspiration for *Gang Leader for a Day*, which received a Best Book Award from *The Economist* magazine. The book is currently being translated into eight languages.

Dr. Venkatesh is also Director of the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, as well as Director of the Charles H. Revson Fellowship Program.



Dean Welcomes Freshman Class of 2013

Dr. Anne E. Zayaitz, acting dean, welcomed College of Liberal Arts and Sciences freshman on Monday, August 31, 2009, one day before the start of the fall 2009 semester. The students gathered in Schaeffer Auditorium to discuss *Gang Leader for a Day* by Sudhir Venkatesh, a book they were required to read before coming to the University. Prior to their discussion, Dr. Zayaitz gave a presentation with valuable advice for freshman. "Be good at something," said Dr. Zayaitz.

"You are good at something." She encouraged the students to find a mentor, be open-minded, and work hard, stating, "Luck equals preparation plus opportunity."

Following the presentation, graduate students Katie Bowen and Andrew Thomas played a Jeopardy-style *Gang Leader for a Day* game with the freshman, asking them questions pertaining to the text. Winners of each round were rewarded \$10.00 bear bucks gift cards, which can be used at various locations on or off campus.



Faculty highlight



Dr. Curt Herr, Associate Professor of English, joined the Kutztown University English Department in 1992. He received his Ph.D. from New York City's Fordham University and wrote his dissertation on the first vampire novel written in English, *Varney the Vampire*; or, *The Feast of Blood*, a 1,200 page Victorian penny dreadful written in 1845. This literary Gothic

soap-opera was issued for a penny a chapter and sold each week on the street corners of London. Running for over two years, *Varney the Vampire* was as popular to Victorians as Bart Simpson is to Americans. Dr. Herr's critical edition of this notorious vampire novel was published in 2007 by Zittaw Press and weighs over four pounds!

Additionally, Dr. Herr has done extensive work recovering lost and overlooked Gothic and Victorian best-sellers. Researching the history of the novel, its author, and its historical and cultural contexts, Dr. Herr has written six critical editions of these once best-selling novels. His edition of Elizabeth Bonhote's 1797 feminist Gothic novel, *Bungay Castle*, was the first time it had been in print in over 200 years. Dr. Herr visited England in 2006 to speak at the remains of the tenth-century Bungay Castle about their long lost progressive author and the importance of her novel. Other editions include Mrs. Henry Wood's Victorian temperance novel *Danesbury House* (a Victorian *Valley of the Dolls*), and the 1796 Gothic thriller, *The*

Horrors of Oakendale Abbey.

Dr. Herr recently completed a sabbatical researching the Victorian writer and cultural sensation, Marie Corelli. His sabbatical resulted in two editions of her novels: the Egyptian mystery, *Ziska*, published by Valencourt books, and the Gothic thriller, *Vendetta*, published by Zittaw Press.

Currently, Dr. Herr is teaching British, Gothic, and Victorian popular fiction as well as Contemporary Gay and Lesbian Literature. In 2009, he was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award presented by APSCUF.

Future projects include speaking about Victorian vampire literature at Scotland's Stirling University in October; a full-length study on the overlooked female Victorian pop-culture writers: Marie Corelli, Mrs. Henry Wood, and Sarah Grand; and completing the 2009 New York City marathon.

For more information, visit www.curtherr.com.

Math, Science, and Technology Open House

On October 17th, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences hosted the Math, Science, and Technology Open House. The Biology, Physical Sciences, Geography, Computer Science, Mathematics, and Electronic Media departments participated. There were 257 prospective students and guests who attended this event.



Visitors speak with students from the Biology department at an information table.



Prospective students and guests attended a presentation prepared by the CLAS Acting Dean, Dr. Anne Zayaitz, and Bill Stahler from the Admissions Office.

Student highlight



AMANDA LYNN MCCOY, SENIOR
Professional Writing major,
Pennsylvania German Studies
major

Amanda Lynn McCoy, a senior, is a dual major in Professional Writing and Pennsylvania German Studies, with a minor in history. Amanda has written for many Pennsylvania German publications. In the fall of 2007 and spring of 2008, Amanda became the Designer and

Assistant Editor of Es Elbedritsch, the Pennsylvania German Society's (PGS) academic newsletter. She had her own column, Letter from the Assistant Editor, and published articles relating to PA German history and PA German scholars. Amanda did this work as a volunteer. Then, in January 2009, Amanda designed and wrote articles for the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation. This publication was most like a journal/newsletter. The title of this publication, Forebay Post, was created by Amanda, and she is very proud of it due to its meaning in PA German culture. Only Pennsylvania barns have an overhang called a forebay that are sometimes accompanied by a post, hence the Forebay Post. This journal contains long articles from architectural and history scholars, as well as folk art.

In the 2009 summer sessions (I and II) at KU, Amanda interned at the Pennsylvania German Society, continuing her work on Es Elbedritsch. She also had an internship with the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage

Center (PGCHC), which is located on campus. While with the PGCHC, Amanda put together a media kit that was sent to news sources in order to spread the word about the center.

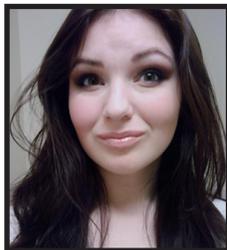
Currently, Amanda is still working at the PGCHC, and she wants everyone to know about Christmas on the Farm, an event that the PGCHC is holding on December 5, 2009 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. All of the PGCHC buildings will be open for tours, and there will be plenty of fun activities for kids and adults.

Amanda is also currently interning at Berks County Living, a local lifestyle magazine that gives her writing and photography experience. Amanda also writes freelance community focus articles for the Reading Merchandise.

For more information about the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, please call (610) 683-1589, or search Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center on facebook.

Dean's Scholarship Recipients

"I am thrilled and humbled to be a recipient of the Dean's Scholar Award. As an Honors student with a double major in Psychology and Studio Art at Kutztown, I've worked very hard



Kaitlyn Walko,
Psychology/Studio Art

would like to thank the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the donors for this generous gift."

to accomplish my educational goals. I strive to get the most out of all of my classes, and also to learn as much as I can from my professors and fellow students. To me, this scholarship is special recognition of the steps I've taken to further my education at KU. It is also encouragement for my future academic endeavors. The Dean's Scholar Award allowed me to borrow less from my financial institution to pay for my education this year. I am very grateful for this award, and

"When I first learned that I had earned a scholarship from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, I really did not



Stephen Pearson,
Biochemistry

think much of it. I was still in high school and was not thinking about college because it seemed so far away. However, now that I am a sophomore, I realize that this scholarship was only awarded to a few people. There are well over a thousand students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, so it is a great honor to get this recognition from KU. It is a sign that they expect great things from me and hopefully I will meet my potential during my time at Kutztown."

things from me and hopefully I will meet my potential during my time at Kutztown."

The Dean's Scholarship Fund supports students who are from diverse majors within the college who demonstrate excellent academic achievement. Alumni who are interested in making a contribution to the CLAS Dean's Scholarship may do so online at www.give2KU.org, or by contacting the KU Foundation at (610) 683-1394. We could not achieve our goals without your support and commitment. Thank you for helping us to continue our tradition of excellence in helping our students to succeed.

Faculty Achievements Tenure and Promotions

Please join us in congratulating the following faculty members in their achievements:

FACULTY ACHIEVING TENURE

- Dr. Jennifer Forsyth, English
- Dr. Sharon Lyter, Social Work
- Dr. Avidan Milevsky, Psychology
- Dr. Kunio Mitsuma, Mathematics
- Dr. Thomas Robinson, Psychology
- Dr. Joo Tan, Computer Science

• PROFESSOR

- Kristin Bremer, Political Science
- William Donner, Anthropology/
Sociology
- Mary Theis, Modern Language
Studies
- Heather Thomas, English
- Pietro Toggia, Criminal Justice

• ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- Jennifer Forsyth, English
- Curtis Herr, English
- Sharon Lyter, Social Work
- Avidan Milevsky, Psychology
- Amy O'Brien, English
- Joo Tan, Computer Science

• ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Jeffrey Voccola, English

KU Geology Club Adventures 2009



Pictured above, students from the KU Geology Club are standing in one of the electric shovels Montana Resources uses to load haul trucks. It takes two full scoops to load a truck, so you can imagine how big the trucks are!



Above are Kutztown University Geology Club students in Peru, January 2009.



(Pictured left) The Stillwater mine, located in southern Montana, is the only active platinum mine in the U.S. The KU Geology Club visited the one mile-deep mine to study firsthand how precious metal deposits crystallize from molten magmas.

This issue of the *Collage* was designed and written by Jacqueline M. Conley, '11, professional writing major, under the supervision of Ms. Sherry Lillington and Professor Jeffrey Voccola.