

the collage

Winter 2011

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

Faculty highlight



Ms. Helen Bieber was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where her family still currently resides. She is a member of the Electronic Media Department at Kutztown University; however, her career didn't start in the field.

Ms. Bieber received her bachelor's degree in Secondary Education Mathematics from Clarion State College and taught eighth and ninth grade math for five years in Annapolis, Maryland, before returning to Clarion to work on her master's

degree in Communication. After leaving Clarion the second time, she worked for a cable company in Hialeah, Florida, where she was in charge of producing local programming. While there, Ms. Bieber also worked with the *Miami Herald* newspaper researching a new system that would use interactive television.

Because she missed teaching, Ms. Bieber left the cable company in order to teach video production courses for a semester at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, and then later to teach in the Communications Media Department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She was primarily teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in video production and communication law. Ms. Bieber was also in charge of the cable television station, supervising student-produced programming for the university and community. The position at IUP was temporary; so, while seeking other employment, she applied to and was hired at Kutztown University. Ms. Bieber is now finishing her 29th year at KU.

Ms. Bieber's primary teaching responsibilities at KU have been in video field production and editing, communication law, and copyright and intellectual property. She also teaches and is

interested in audio production, script writing, studio production, and various other production-related issues. Most of Ms. Bieber's research has dealt with communication law, copyright issues, and distance education; she truly enjoys all of these, although her truest love is video production.

Ms. Bieber also taught herself HTML in order to serve as the webmaster for the Electronic Media Department's web pages. More recently, she established an alumni LinkedIn group and set up both a Facebook page and a YouTube channel so that the Electronic Media Department can increase their involvement with social media.

During her years at Kutztown, Ms. Bieber served as the Department Chair for 17 years, has served on a myriad of committees and has been extremely active in APSCUF (the faculty union) at both the local and state level. She has held the position of APSCUF state secretary since 1996 and has served on three contract negotiations teams.

In her free time, Ms. Bieber enjoys spending time with her family, reading, doing crossword puzzles, and cooking. She is looking forward to traveling to Mexico in the summer with her husband for some sun and relaxation.

Dean's Corner

A university "experience" might be defined as a noun—an event, an encounter, as increased understanding, as knowledge gained. Just as appropriately, a university "experience" might be a verb—collaborating, analyzing, endeavoring, succeeding.

Students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences understand the words written by Albert Einstein, "the value of achievement lies in the achieving." They have taken advantage of opportunities to be involved in volunteerism, to do student-faculty research, to complete internships, and to achieve their dreams. Those who are achieving have done so because they have explored new possibilities, maintained a positive attitude, been responsive, and been willing to change.

Faculty members provide unmistakable value to the university. They bring to our Kutztown undergraduate and graduate students their experiences from industry, the public sector, and other universities. Students have opportunities for countless interactions with our teaching scholars that can occur in and out of the classroom. The faculty also provides guidance and strategies for achieving post-graduation aspirations and goals.

Our alumni are those who reflect their Kutztown University experiences to others. Our CLAS alumni can be found around the globe accomplishing their goals and changing the world.



Anne E. Zayaitz
Ph.D.
Acting Dean

Faculty highlight



Dr. Daniel Spiegel, Professor of Computer Science, received his bachelor's degree in Mathematics in 1982 and his master's degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Computer Science from Ohio University. He then received his doctoral degree from Wright State University in 2002. From 1987-1989, while an instructor for Hocking Technical College, he also worked inside Ohio correctional facilities. Then, he was employed as an instructor in the Computer Science Department at Ohio University. Next, he served on the faculty of the Computer Science and Engineering Department at Wright State. During this period, he divided his time between teaching introductory and upper-level courses and undergraduate advising, along with working toward his doctorate. Subsequently, he was hired at Kutztown University, where he is currently part of the Computer Science Department.

Dr. Spiegel's responsibilities at KU encompass teaching, research, and service. He teaches courses at all levels, including courses in the Computer Science Department's graduate program, of which he is also the coordinator. His research varies from evolutionary techniques (his dissertation area), operations research, incorporation of technology into curricula, programming language issues, genetic array simulation, blob detection applied to orthotics, and user experience (an area of human-computer interaction). Dr. Spiegel has numerous publications that have stemmed from his research and collaboration with colleagues and students. He has presented at a number of conferences and is published in regional, national, and international journals.

Upon becoming coordinator of the KU Computer Science graduate program, he presided over restoration of a thesis option and has directed three completed theses in the disparate areas of lossless streaming of data, virtualization with open source software in a computer science curriculum, and development of an improved method to measure feet for orthotic devices using structured light.

His service at the department and university levels is extensive. As a member of the University Academic Technology Committee (ATC), he was an author of the Academic Technology Strategic Plan; in his eight years on the committee, he served first as secretary and is now in his third term as chair. Under his direction, ATC

spearheaded the soft paper quota that has significantly reduced paper usage on campus. Usage in fall 2008 was more than three-quarters of a million sheets less than in fall 2007. He also wrote bylaws for the committee, and shepherded an updated acceptable use policy (AUP) to passage. This policy was adopted by PASSHE as a baseline AUP for all its institutions.

He also served as chair of the Honorary Degree Committee and on several APSCUF committees. In addition, Dr. Spiegel has been a member of every committee in his department, has chaired the search and PET (promotion, evaluation, and tenure) committees, and leads his department's accreditation efforts. To bolster this endeavor he has attended Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) accreditation and assessment workshops.

Among other service, he wrote the document that was adopted to split Computer Science from the Mathematics Department. Dr. Spiegel also served on the Information Technology Task Force in 2008.

Outside his official duties, Dr. Spiegel enjoys playing basketball (particularly when his son can join him), spending time with his children, riding his motorcycles, visiting the shore in summer, and traveling. He is also a youth basketball coach.

Student highlight



NEKEED UPSHAW, '12

Nekeed Upshaw is a Criminal Justice major. He is open to an array of career options, but he is currently interning at the Pottsville Adult Probation and Parole Office of Schuylkill County to gain experience in the field.

This six credit internship has "definitely been a good experience," said Nekeed. He has been placed in many different offices and learned about the various procedures that one must know in this career.

Nekeed had the opportunity to observe sex offender interviews in which the officers question the offender. He also learned about the processes in courts and jails and collected data from inmates regarding how long they have been in prison. In addition, Nekeed learned how to open and close cases using specialized computer software.

Nekeed also went in the field to check on people who were on probation. The whole experience has been "very eye-opening," he said.

Educational experiences are not just inside the classroom or completed for classroom credit, though. The Student Government Board (SGB) gives students the chance to make a difference at KU. Nekeed has been serving on the board since fall of 2009 when he was the Chair of Student Advocacy and on the University Traffic Bureau. In spring 2009, he was on the Pride and Historian Committee and the Budget and Finance Subcommittee. Currently, Nekeed is the Chair of the Dean's Liaison.

SGB participates in various community service projects, and Nekeed has volunteered at several

of them. While at KU, Nekeed has participated in Relay for Life countless times. Students form groups and run/walk for 24 hours to support finding a cure for cancer. This specifically touched Nekeed's heart after his brother died in 2008 from the disease. Finally, this semester Nekeed will volunteer at a soup kitchen.

Although Nekeed is very involved on campus, he also dedicates a lot of his time to his academic studies. In fall of 2009 Nekeed was granted the Board of Governor's Scholarship award. He also made the Dean's List that semester and every semester since.

When asked to recollect on his favorite thing about Kutztown, Nekeed said, "It's safe here and the people are nice. You always have a friend." He also commented, "Professors are really open and they go beyond to help students."

After graduating from KU, Nekeed would like to attend either law school or graduate school in order to go into a science, math, or government career.

Student highlight



SNIDER DESIR, '11

Snider Desir is a senior Biology major with a concentration in Molecular/Cell Biology and a minor in Biochemistry. Snider was born in Haiti and lived there until he was 9 years old. His older sister dropped out of school to raise Snider because his father was not around and his mother became very ill. Due to the poor medical care in Haiti, Snider's mother died from her illness.

These tragedies as well as the hope for a better life encouraged Snider to move to America where he lived with various friends and family until settling down with his older brother in North Philadelphia. In 2004 he began attending Olney High School and was enrolled in a choir class, which at first displeased him. However, he began to love singing and his choir teacher inspired and encouraged him to do great things.

Soon his older brother was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and was placed in a mental institution. For six months, Snider was living by himself. His

choir teacher found out and helped Snider obtain his legal papers in order to become an American citizen. She then adopted Snider when he was 17 years old so that he could have somewhere to call home during breaks at college. "She has now become my mother," said Snider. She encouraged him to go to college and achieve success, and so he did.

In the summer of 2010, Snider was one of 25 students selected into The Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program at Weill Cornell Medical College. This program gives undergraduate and graduate-level students internship experience in the field of medicine. The title of the research that Snider did (and will be coauthor of) is *Performed Analysis of the Pathological Outcomes and Strategies to Achieve Optimal Cancer Control during Robotic Radical Prostatectomy in Asian-Indian Men*.

While in the program, Snider had the privilege of working with renowned urologist, Dr. Ashutosh K. Tewari, Director of the Prostate Cancer Institute and the LeFrak Robotic Surgery Center at Weill Cornell Medical College. Snider was witness to cutting edge technology, including "The DaVinci" which is a robotic machine that performs a prostatectomy (removal of the prostate gland) without the surgeon ever having to physically touch the patient. Snider also worked in the laboratory doing clinical research, took a cardiology class which required working in a wet anatomy laboratory with real cadavers, and did rounds with residents in the cardiac unit.

Overall, Snider had a wonderful experience and learned so much about science and medicine during the internship. "I have gained so much

knowledge about the field of medicine as well as great insight on what I need to do in order to reach my goals," Snider commented. "I left WCMC being very motivated to one day serve society as a physician."

Aside from his academic endeavors, Snider has become involved with various clubs and organizations that help him prepare for his overall goal: to someday become a doctor. Snider is currently the president of Omega Psi Phi, which is a multicultural fraternity on campus. Snider also became interested in this fraternity when he discovered that it hosts a blood drive in honor of Charles Drew, a former member of Omega Psi Phi and renowned African American physician, surgeon, and medical researcher. The fraternity also raises money for the NAACP and scholarship funds.

In addition, Snider is as a member of the Black Student Union (BSU), a campus organization that is dedicated to "working together and motivating each other," Snider said. BSU's main goal is to encourage members of the Kutztown African American community to do great things and stay focused on academic studies. Although the majority of BSU members are African American, the organization is open to any student who supports the group's goals.

Other areas in which Snider has served KU include past employment as a residential assistant, a new program facilitator, and a biology and calculus tutor.

Upon graduation, Snider would like to attend medical school to become a doctor.

Interesting Internship



Michelle Schwartz, '11
Anthropology Major

Where are you interning?

I am currently an intern at the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University.

What are your responsibilities?

My responsibilities include archival work

and miscellaneous duties, to assist in the daily operations at the Center. The Center consists of several different buildings, including the Farm House Museum, and is home to thousands of items representing Pennsylvania German folkways. The Center also hosts numerous events year-round, so there is always something new to be doing.

What interesting experiences have you had while interning?

The Farm House Museum's collections are fascinating and each day is full of interesting experiences. But, one in particular that stands out in my mind is the day that I helped to care for chickens, in anticipation of a winter storm. This may not have been part of the normal routine for an intern, but it certainly was a hands-on way of experiencing farm life.

Explain what you do on a daily basis at your internship.

I assist in archiving books and artifacts that are relevant to the Pennsylvania German Culture. Many of these items are donated to the Center; and, having them helps the Center fulfill its mission of serving as an educational and archival source for rural life. The Center is also great for people who would like to do genealogical research.

Additional Comments

The staff at the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center is wonderful and I feel honored to be a member of the team. As an Anthropology major interested in museum studies, I am gaining valuable work experience interning at the Center.



Pictured on the left are students from the German Honorary Society (Delta Phi Alpha) Induction Ceremony. Part of the mission of the Sigma Omicron Chapter at KU is to “recognize excellence in the study of German and promote the study of the German language, literature and civilization, and it endeavors to emphasize those aspects of German life and culture which are of universal value and which contribute to man’s eternal search for peace and truth.”

From left to right in the top row: Adam T. Feldon, Kirsten Arnold, and Christina Taylor.

From left to right in middle row: Rachel Livsey and Chris Larose.

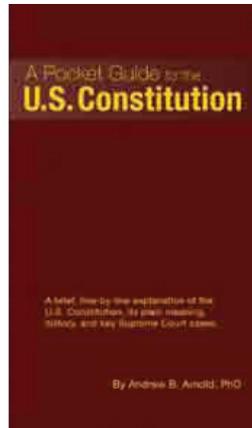
From left to right in bottom row: John Brumbaugh, Jessica Petrohoy, Maria Roman, Michelle Egitto.

Not pictured: Tyler J. Cressman and Andrew Josef Velik.



The Society of Economic Geologists (SEG) is one of the main professional geology societies that hosts an annual field trip for graduate students—with all expenses paid by the SEG. Graduate students must apply for a spot and acceptance is competitive. Students from all around the world apply for this experience. Only one undergraduate student was accepted into the program, Kutztown University Geology student Theresa Morrison. In addition, KU alumnus Anthony Moorehead was also accepted. Anthony is now in graduate school at Southern Illinois University.

Theresa can be seen in the photo above in the back row, fifth from the right. Anthony is second from the left in the front row.



Dr. Andrew Arnold, of the History Department, was recognized recently for publication of his book, *A Pocket Guide to the U.S. Constitution*.



The Kutztown University Writing Center, located in Old Main room 132, received new furniture during the fall semester for an updated look.

Pictured above are graduate students Crystal Ludwig and Greg Hafer.

Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Kelleher for Receiving the Chambliss Faculty Research Award



Dr. Patricia Kelleher, Professor of History, won the Chambliss Award this fall for her outstanding research on nineteenth century social history. “Specifically I explored the ways in which gender and class dynamics shaped the evolution of Irish-American ethnicity,” she says.

Created by Dr. Carlson R. Chambliss, a KU Professor Emeritus who taught for nearly three decades in the Physical Sciences Department, this prestigious award honors faculty members who have achieved success in research and scholarship. “When I heard that I had received the award my reaction was emotional as well as cognitive. I felt deeply honored,” said Dr. Kelleher.

Interesting Internship



Kayci Prevost, '11 Psychology Major

Where are you interning?

I am currently interning at a program called PATHS (Pre-Adolescent Treatment Home Service) through Valley Youth House.

What are your responsibilities?

As an intern, I'm responsible for keeping an eye on the clients, making sure that they are behaving properly and helping them develop life skills for when they enter society on their own.

What interesting experiences have you had while interning?

It's really great to go and cheer on our clients at their basketball games. They are so very passionate about the sport! It's just great connecting with the boys in general. Playing Uno and Monopoly with them is really a lot of fun. Teaching them how to live life on their own is so rewarding. I am so glad I got the opportunity to intern at this organization; it's truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Explain what you do on a daily basis at your internship.

It's on a very routine basis. They have snack time, recreation time, group time and, of course, dinner. Basically we interact with them by participating in their games and teaching them life lessons. In group therapy sessions, we go over a life skill that they will eventually be using. We also have special outings. The other day the staff took the clients to the pet store to see all the animals. They got so much out of it!

Additional Comments

I highly recommend anyone looking for an internship to contact Valley Youth House. They have tons of rewarding programs that are always looking for help!

KU Clubs: KU Reaches Out!

There are over 200 clubs at Kutztown University which are divided into 14 different categories, including special interest groups, Greek organizations, and various clubs that are affiliated with academics.

Anyone who has been in a club will tell you that aside from the social and academic benefits, one also learns how to become a leader, interact with new people, and explore different ways to do things. Clubs enhance a person's overall experience when heading into the world outside of college.

Many CLAS students are involved in more than one club or organization, providing them with maximum out-of-class opportunities while at KU.

One club that stands out in particular is the Philosophy Club. The club travels to conferences and other universities to read papers they have written and hear from other students/faculty/Philosophy scholars. The club also recruits speakers; last year, they hosted three renowned speakers, including Graham Priest, Robert Audi, and Andrew Payne, which provided a unique experience.

The Biology Club is also very academically involved while serving the community. During the fall 2010 semester, the club helped during move-in day, went to the Philadelphia Zoo, planted a garden in the Temple (Reading, PA) area, went to Crystal Cave, and visited a science museum in New York. This spring the club hopes to collect insects for the Biology Department's use.

The student members of the Organization for Latino Awareness (OLA) and Sigma Delta Pi (SDP, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society) find the time to be involved in several activities that promote the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Christina Martucci, a member and current officer of both clubs, states that "joining these groups was great because they opened up opportunities to do events, meet different people, and strengthen relationships with my friends and my professors. It allowed me to reach my full potential with

my college experience; and, it's great for my résumé." Most recently, the students have been organizing an "After School Spanish Program" as an outreach volunteer activity for local school-age children. Bruce Jensen, a KU Rohrbach Librarian, notes that "Our *chamaco* (child) enjoys the classes, and we see that others from pre-schoolers to middle-schoolers

come out of the room happy and excited to show off what they have learned. It's nice of the Modern Language Studies students to create these opportunities for kids to get a taste of other languages and cultures, at an age where they're so receptive and eager to have fun trying."



Students from OLA and SDP plan for the next "After School Spanish Program."

Through their endeavors with their campus clubs, KU students not only broaden their academic knowledge and gain work experience, but also apply their skills through campus activism and community volunteerism.

Alumni highlight



Carmen J. Bloom, '09

Carmen J. Bloom graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Honors Program at Kutztown University in May of 2009 where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in

Public Administration. She is currently a second year student at Seton Hall University School of Law in Newark, NJ, where she is pursuing a career in public interest law.

To build on her educational background and help her gain law experience, Carmen was elected to serve as a Senator in the Student Bar Association during her first year at Seton Hall Law. Over the summer, she interned at the Berks County District Attorney's Office in Reading, PA.

Carmen is also a member of the Courtroom Advocates Project (CAP) in New York City. At various points throughout the semester, she visits Brooklyn and Bronx Family Courts and assists battered women in obtaining orders of protection. She writes the petitions, prepares the victims for their court appearances, and appears alongside the victims while advocating for them in court.

Carmen is an Executive Board member of the Public Interest Network (PIN) at Seton Hall Law and assists in the execution of a public interest auction every spring. She is also the Vice President of Community Service for the St. Thomas More Society.

Another way in which Carmen is gaining professional experience is by being a mentor, coach, and constitutional law debate judge for the New Jersey Law and Education Empowerment Project (NJ LEEP). The program pairs Newark-area high school students with law students in a mentor-mentee relationship, using a constitutional law debate model to encourage the mentees to work towards personal and academic goals. Its purpose is to provide educational opportunity and support to inner-city youth.

Related to NJ LEEP, Carmen is the Deputy Director of the Urban Education Law & Policy Initiative (UELPI) at Seton Hall Law. As such, she organizes and participates in advocacy events that highlight the challenges faced by Newark students. Recently, she helped coordinate and execute the Walk for Urban Education through Newark, a book drive for Newark schools, and a college fair for NJ LEEP juniors and seniors. She also assisted in planning an Autism Awareness panel and is working on an education law panel for April 2011. In addition, she is coordinating a mentoring/urban education awareness 5K race that will take place in October 2011.

This past fall, Carmen had an externship with the Urban Revitalization Project within the Center for Social Justice. She researched and drafted documents in a mortgage foreclosure rescue fraud case. Additionally, Carmen partnered with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice to draft a petition and the supporting documents on behalf of a client seeking executive clemency from Governor Chris Christie. Carmen and another student participated in sessions throughout Newark in which they presented on tenants' rights, particularly as they pertain to foreclosed properties. She is one of the founders of the "Know Your Rights" advocacy project at Seton Hall Law.

Carmen became interested in international relations through Dr. John Riley and Dr. Kristin Bremer, both of the Political Science Department, and KU's Model United Nations Club. Because of this interest, Carmen recently participated in the Seton Hall Law Zanzibar Study Abroad program. From December 2010 through January 2011, she took classes in Human Trafficking and Piracy/Maritime Crimes in both Stonetown, Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Currently, Carmen is a legal extern in the Appellate Division of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, the largest prosecutor's office in the State of New Jersey. Over the summer of 2011, Carmen will intern in the Gangs & Organized Crime Bureau for the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General.

Based on Carmen's many interests and accomplishments, it is no surprise that she was selected as the winner of the New Jersey Women Lawyer's Association (NJWLA) Scholarship. She will be honored at the annual NJWLA Platinum Gala in March 2011.

Finally, Carmen is a local titleholder in the Miss America Organization. After graduation from Kutztown University, she placed as a Top Ten Finalist at the Miss Pennsylvania Pageant in 2009 and 2010 and she won the 2010 Miss America Academic Award. Recently, she won the title of Miss Mercer County 2011 in the Miss New Jersey Education Foundation and will compete for the title, scholarship, and job of Miss New Jersey in Ocean City in June 2011.

Certainly, whether it be evidenced through her stellar academic achievements while at KU, her drive to continue her demanding law studies, or her dedication to community activism, Carmen strives for excellence and achieves success in all that she does.

In November 2010, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences was pleased to bring to the KU campus Sarah Vowell, author of numerous books, including *Take the Cannoli*, which was the CLAS Class of 2014 Freshman text. Ms. Vowell shared her experiences as an author, actress, and voice personality with our KU students in large-audience and specialized class venues. And, in keeping with Ms. Vowell's interest in Cherokee history and her dedication to literacy, the CLAS Class of 2014 was issued a "Cherokee Challenge." The Dean's Office is proud to report that the CLAS Class of 2014 met the challenge wonderfully by donating several boxes full of class materials and books to the Cherokee Immersion School in Oklahoma!



The winter 2011 edition of *The Collage* was designed and written by Jacqueline M. Conley, '11, professional writing major, under the supervision of the CLAS Dean's Office.