

# the collage

Spring 2011

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

## Faculty highlight



Advising students, especially those transferring from community colleges, is Dr. Janice Gasker's favorite job. She helps undergraduate students transition from other schools and other majors at KU to the Baccalaureate Social Work (BSW) program. As a first-generation college student herself, Dr. Gasker often visits community colleges and enjoys the opportunity to counsel students who are beginning their academic journey. She may often be heard saying "I'm telling you this because I wish someone had told me."

Dr. Gasker also enjoys introducing students to the noble profession of social work. She feels the professional BSW degree is often experienced as a "calling" more than a career decision. She felt that compelling drive toward helping others when she had nearly completed a degree

in Journalism at Moravian College. Her own passion for social work was kindled in a "Poverty and Public Policy" class. The rest of her education was funded by direct and administrative work in human services: first in group homes for people with cognitive challenges, then in school and home-based counseling services for troubled adolescents. Her BSW was completed at Cedar Crest College and her Master of Social Work degree was completed at Marywood University. While Dr. Gasker continued to practice social work, she began adjunct teaching and found a new love when helping students meet the challenges of the classroom. In order to be qualified to teach in an accredited BSW or Master of Social Work (MSW) program, she attended the University of Pennsylvania and earned her doctorate in 1995.

Her first research interests were focused on adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, beginning at a time when there was great controversy about whether the stories these adults told should be believed. Dr. Gasker's research focused on the initial disclosure of sexual abuse and how survivors could structure a life story that paved the way toward healing. This research led to two books, one of which has been used as a textbook at other colleges. She also developed an interest in researching the efficacy of teaching methods and evaluated online teaching when it was a relatively new phenomenon.

When she started work at KU in 1997, however, she was drawn toward helping at-risk students succeed at the university. Although she enjoyed teaching very much (receiving the John P. Schellenberg faculty award in 2003), she wanted her work to benefit larger groups of students.

The same concern that drove her to meet with countless BSW transfer students motivated her to make a master's degree accessible to those students. Beginning in 1999, she and Dr. John Vafeas, Chair of the Social Work Department, began the process of community needs assessment and curriculum development that led to a MSW degree being offered at KU for the first time in 2003. Much of her time since then has been devoted to achieving national accreditation for the program. Her current research has focused in part on the development of the social work practice perspective taught in the MSW program, "Family-in-Environment." She continues work in curriculum enhancement, field education development, and the coordination of student outcome assessment for both the BSW and MSW programs. Recently, her experience with program assessment led to her election to the KU General Education Assessment Committee.

Dr. Gasker continually treasures her work in the classroom. Her favorite course is "Essential Skills in Helping," a BSW elective she developed as a problem-based learning course. This course allows students to work in groups and engage in self-directed, collaborative learning. She also enjoys teaching a MSW elective, "Publishing and Presenting," that enables students to develop workshops and publish their writing in professional venues.

*In her personal life, Dr. Gasker enjoys spending time with her daughter, a Bryn Mawr College student, horseback riding, and volunteering at a horse rescue facility. She has just begun the process of training a Havanese Silk Dog, Atticus, to be a Psychiatric Service Dog.*

## Dean's Corner

What is the value of an education in liberal arts and sciences? The immeasurable worth is in the transformation of the individual as they discover new perspectives, decode patterns and relationships, and describe with detail the nuances of difference and similarity. Education provides a pathway to the future and the ability to make realities out of dreams. A broad-based education results in individuals who can think independently and can make sense of the interconnectedness within the world. The exposure to and knowledge of a broad range of subjects allows the mind to see concrete relationships and to create new possibilities. An individual with the broad-based knowledge that a liberal arts education provides learns how to think and how to learn; students realize that greater understanding leads to increased discovery.

The conclusion of any academic year is juxtaposed with the achievement of graduation and with the relief that exams are finished. The students who have completed their degree will celebrate graduation, but finishing a degree means a commencement—a beginning. As the Roman philosopher Seneca wrote, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences wishes all of the graduates of the Class of 2011 the joy of continued learning as they leave Kutztown University to discover their future.



Anne E. Zayaitz  
Ph.D.  
Acting Dean

# Faculty highlight



**D**r. Phil Ferreira, though born in Baltimore, Maryland, spent most of his early years in southern California. After high school he moved to the Lake Tahoe area on the California/Nevada border.

As an undergraduate, Dr. Ferreira attended both the University of Nevada/Reno and Sierra Nevada College (Incline Village, NV). He was awarded his undergraduate degree in humanities from Sierra Nevada College in 1980. Dr. Ferreira then earned a master's degree in philosophy (1982) from the University of Nevada/Reno. Realizing

that a teaching career would require a doctoral degree, he moved to Canada in 1982 to attend the University of Toronto to complete a doctoral Philosophy program. Both his master's and doctorate allowed him to focus on the history of philosophy, specifically with interests concentrated in the German and British idealist traditions.

The University of Toronto had two of America's leading philosophical scholars and faculty members, the late Emil Fackenheim as well as Henry Harris, and this was one of the main reasons Dr. Ferreira wanted to attend this university. While studying for his doctorate degree, Dr. Ferreira followed in his mentors' footsteps, getting the chance to work as a graduate lecturer and a tutor. Finally, before moving to Pennsylvania to pursue his career at KU, he was a visiting assistant professor at Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnic University for three years.

Through the years, Dr. Ferreira has learned and acquired a broad range of teaching duties. He routinely teaches an "Introduction to Ethics" course and an upper-level course called "Topics

in Moral Theory." He also teaches courses on German idealism (Hegel to Kant, including Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*), "Philosophy of Art," "Existentialism," and the "Theory of Knowledge."

Dr. Ferreira's research interests focus largely on the history of modern philosophy—particularly nineteenth century British idealism. His expertise in this area has resulted in many publications and frequent presentations at English and Scottish universities.

When asked about his favorite part of teaching at Kutztown University, Dr. Ferreira said, "Students at KU are completely unassuming. They never fail to put a smile on my face when I walk into class."

*Outside of his career, Dr. Ferreira enjoys spending time with his family and pursuing his various hobbies, including jazz guitar, cycling, and skiing. (He was a founding member of Sierra Nevada College's championship ski team.) He also has collected oriental carpets for many years. Dr. Ferreira lives with his wife, Jane, and their two daughters (Beatrice and Gabriella) in Fleetwood.*

# Student highlight

## JASON BUCKLEY '11

**J**ason Buckley, a senior Environmental Science/Biology major, recently took a research trip to the Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory, the oldest fresh water research facility in America. As part of this independent study, Jason worked with Dr. Winslow, a biology professor at KU, to assess the activity patterns of a threatening fish species, the round goby, now found in Lake Erie, and the phenomenon called hypoxia, which is low oxygen.

In preparation for his study, Jason helped Dr. Winslow write a grant to fund the research project. They were awarded funding in June 2010 from the Ohio Sea Grant College Program, a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Once on-site, Jason participated in two main areas of investigation. First, he assessed the time of day that goby impact bass the most. Bass are active at dawn and dusk, but little is known about the activity patterns of goby. Understanding this would allow scientists to investigate whether goby activity has an impact on native species, for example if there was increased competition for habitat and food resources.

Then, Jason assisted Dr. Winslow with investigating hypoxia. Assessing when it appears, how long it persists, and if it impacts fish behavior was part of the process. To do

so, they placed eight buoys that contained temperature probes and dissolved oxygen sensors throughout the Western basin of Lake Erie. In addition to deploying buoys, the two scientists also collected biological samples (i.e., algae, fish, and aquatic insects) to determine if low oxygen would alter the presence and behavior of organisms.

Back at KU, Jason spent the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters analyzing the data collected from this three-month summer sampling event. Thus far, Jason has been able to conclude not only that hypoxia occurred at all eight locations, but also that it occurred more frequently than previously thought. This finding suggests that the goby might be moving to avoid periods of low oxygen. Jason continues to work with Dr. Winslow to study the diets of the goby they caught in 2010 to determine their peak period of activity.

Being able to work so closely with a faculty member on this type of research is an invaluable experience that prepares Jason for his future. In fact, the research was featured in *Twine Line*, an award-winning quarterly newsletter that is distributed by the Ohio Sea Grant College Program. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists Conference (CPUB) was held in April 2011 and Jason had the opportunity to present information about his research with Dr. Winslow. He placed first in his section. Jason will also be attending the International

Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) Conference in Minnesota in June 2011. When asked to describe this research experience, he said that it was "life-altering."

Jason complements his studies at KU by being an active member of the Environmental Action Club; he was elected Co-President in the fall 2010. The club's big event is Earth Day, which is held on April 22 every year. Aside from this day, the club also plants trees, cleans up streams, hosts environmental movie nights, sponsors speakers, and takes trips. They recently went to the Natural History Museum (New York City, NY).

Upon graduation this May, Jason would like to attend graduate school to study Aquatic Biology/Limnology.



Jason Buckley on a research vessel on Lake Erie.

# Student highlight



**ANDREW VELIK, '13**

"It's important to be serious. For many of us, this is the only opportunity we have to get our bachelor's degree," Andrew Velik, a sophomore with a double major in German and Business and a minor in French, seems to be following his own advice. Although his academics come first, which is clear from his honors status and being on the Dean's List since his first semester, he is certainly taking advantage of everything Kutztown University has to offer.

Perhaps selecting KU for his college education after having lived in Kutztown since preschool seems like a negative, but Kutztown University was an easy pick for

Andrew. He enjoys the fact that people are friendly and familiar in Kutztown; but, when he arrived at Kutztown University, Andrew realized there was more to it than he had ever known. He loves the campus architecture, especially the library, where he also frequently enjoys the extensive collection of resources.

One of Andrew's favorite things about Kutztown University is the faculty, "I have had really great experiences with every faculty member I've come into contact with, and even some of the administration and staff." Andrew has always been very impressed with the willingness of the faculty to help students. Some of his favorite professors include Dr. Daneshyar, Dr. Dewey, Dr. Hanson, and Dr. Kutch.

Along with his academic success, Andrew is an active member and serves as historian for the German Studies Organization. Fulfilling his duties, he recently helped create a photo collage that portrayed different aspects of the German language and culture. Andrew is also a current member of the German National Honorary Society and, when he is able, attends the French Connection's conversation sessions. He also volunteers for National History Day, an event in which Kutztown Middle School and High School students design exhibits and write scripts for

various documentaries. The seven years of experience Andrew brings to this event is twofold: he was once a student participant and now he is a mentor.

In Andrew's free time, he enjoys working with graphic design. He sees it as something he can use to integrate his major and minor with a side interest. Tutoring German and French for the Language Resource Center is something that also keeps Andrew busy, along with his interest in vocal jazz.

In the fall of 2011, Andrew is planning a study abroad trip, for which he was awarded a scholarship from the Danzer Group, to Hochschule Reutlingen, a university located near Stuttgart, Germany. He hopes this will help him improve his German, and also get a different perspective on German business, "I am so excited to be in a new culture."

In the future, Andrew would enjoy a career in education. He also would like to attend graduate school, and maybe even have a career abroad. He believes that Kutztown has prepared him to achieve these goals. "I feel that I will get these things. If you put in the effort, you can get a lot out of KU," Andrew said.

## Interesting Internship



**Aaron Schultheis, '12**

Aaron Schultheis, a junior Computer Science major with a minor in Music, is currently interning here at KU, where he is learning about touch-screen panels that will monitor power and water consumption in every residence hall.

Aaron's internship advisor as well as Computer Science Department Chair, Mrs. Linda Day, explained the importance and significance of internships. "Internships in general give students a chance to experience real-world problems. In

Aaron's case he has had to interface with his client, Tom Green (the Director of Campus Energy Services), and possible suppliers. This kind of interfacing and communicating is something that we can only simulate for students in class projects," she said. This is also a topic that is not covered in the Computer Science curriculum, so Aaron is getting hands-on experience to which his cohorts do not have access.

Sometimes internships are required coursework in order for students to graduate from a certain major; however, the ways in which students find internships varies. Sometimes it is through their advisors, sometimes it is on message boards, and as Aaron knows, sometimes it is all about the connections you have.

"Last semester, my building director informed me of an internship opportunity specifically designed toward computer science majors," Aaron said, "I wasn't told much about it at

the time, other than that it was a 'going green' project offered through the university." He said he couldn't find much information about it on his own, so he thinks the project found him.

Aaron said it was great that the internship was on campus and relevant to his major, but he describes the best part of it in this way, "Honestly, touch-screen panels in every residence hall that monitor power and water consumption is just really freaking cool."

Currently his responsibilities include researching what hardware and software is required to complete such a project. He is also learning about the monitoring of energy, water, and steam consumption across the entire campus. On April 4, 2011, KU Energy Management discussed these plans with students living in the residence halls.

Aaron commented on the experience as a whole, stating, "It's some real exciting stuff."



Thank you to Jackie Conley and Andrew Weiss, student workers in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, for all of their hard work. Congratulations to both May 2011 graduates: Jackie was selected to be the spring commencement speaker and received the Outstanding English Major Award, while Andrew was honored with the Criminal Justice Academic Excellence and Community Service Award.



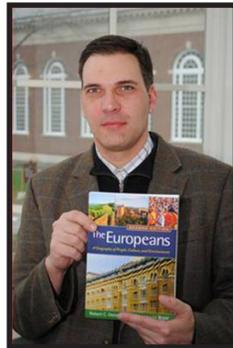
Dr. Jacob Sewall (Physical Sciences Department) published, with Dr. Mark Clementz (University of Wyoming), ground-breaking research about seawater composition during the Eocene Epoch in the latest version of *Science*. He is pictured above with Environmental Science/Geology student Elizabeth Heness.



Dr. Joseph Jedwab (Philosophy Department) and KU students presented at the PASSHE Philosophy and Religious Studies Conference in April. From left to right: Dr. Jedwab, Peter Secor, Milo Crimi, Crystal Williams, and Danielle Goodall. Milo Crimi won first place for his paper, "On Anselm and Free Logic."



Dr. Ellesia Blaue (English Department) spoke at the Multicultural Center on March 22, 2011 to a group of KU students, faculty, and staff, about the connection between gender and race issues.



Dr. Mathias Le Bossé (Geography Department) co-authored the second edition of *The Europeans: A Geography of People, Culture, and Environment*, with Dr. Robert C. Ostergren (University of Wisconsin-Madison).

Sociology majors Fritzie Manrique and Joanna Colón joined other students, faculty, and staff to participate in the *Around the Globe: A Visit to China* event.



The Criminal Justice Career Development Day featured fourteen panelists and a keynote speaker who informed students about career options in the field of human and social services.



The Dean's Scholars Celebration recognized students' outstanding academic achievements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. From left to right in the back row are: Chelsea Bressler, Alison Koser, Sara J. Steele, Helen Malenda, Ken Schlosser, Ryan Boyer, Daniel J. Zimmerman, and Stephen Pearson. In front row, seated, from left to right: Dr. Zayaitz, Acting Dean, and Dr. Slack, Interim Associate Dean. Students also recognized for their academic achievements, but not pictured are: Irelyn Akers, Leara Angello, Melissa Bernhard, Katie Fanto, Kathlyn Fillman, Melissa A. Jacobson, Tiffany Kantz, Joseph Kelmer, Joshua Kingma, Luis Salazar, Jerome Sitarik, Benjamin Spohn, Kaitlyn Strausser, and Kaitlin Tomecek.



The spring Math/Science/Technology Open House gave prospective students and their families an opportunity to talk with professors, current students, and alumni. They had a chance to discover Kutztown University's campus, including classrooms, labs, and other facilities.

## Interesting Internship



### Caitlin Rattigan, '12

Caitlin Rattigan, a junior Psychology major and Sociology minor, is currently shadowing Dr. Elmer Cupino, a psychiatrist at the Schuylkill Medical Center in Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

In both inpatient and outpatient care, Caitlin assists Dr. Cupino in conducting initial evaluations and follow-ups with patients. In the hospital she interacts with other physicians and participates in team discussions with Dr. Cupino, his physician assistant, registered nurses (RNs), and social workers. In a team discussion, they do an overview of all of the patients' current mental and physical statuses as well as the patients' goals for potential outpatient advancements. In the outpatient programs, Caitlin and the doctor converse with the social workers and patients regarding needed adjustments to medications and how they have been adapting in their lives socially after leaving the inpatient program.

In many of her experiences with patients while interning, Caitlin says she realized how "tremendous" medication can be for a person

trying to, "live the healthy life that they deserve." She could not believe how drastically medicine has advanced over the past few decades. Also, everyday interning and meeting new patients was an "experience in itself," said Caitlin.

During a typical day, Caitlin starts in the inpatient program and is involved in the morning team discussion in the children's unit. Then, the team discusses each child's progression and/or regression that occurred during the past 24 hours, as well as their goals for an outpatient program. Caitlin next assists Dr. Cupino and the physician assistant in their rounds. During the rounds they speak with the children to see how effective their medications are working and how well they are interacting with other patients and staff.

In the adult unit, the doctor, the physician's assistant, and Caitlin also attend another team meeting with a registered nurse and social workers. Similar to the children's unit, they discuss each patient's diagnosis, medications, insurance needs, and progressions since coming to the hospital, as well as the goals for potential outpatient advancements.

Depending on the patient's compliance, a patient may need to be committed by the court to the hospital for a longer period of time in order to get the necessary treatment. In this case, Caitlin would be able to witness a hearing in order to extend the patient's stay.

By requests of other doctors, Dr. Cupino and Caitlin sometimes tend to other patients located

in the intensive care, maternity, and geriatric units.

Occasionally, the second half of her day involves one of the two outpatient centers. One day they visit Pathways. At this site they go over the status of each patient with a social worker and then individually speak with the patient and ask about his/her medications and social transitions since leaving inpatient care. After Pathways, she goes to Dr. Cupino's main office and assists him with routine checkups or initial evaluations with incoming patients, both children and adults.

Other days, the second round of outpatient care is administered at Turning Point, where they offer the services of Pathways as well as individual check-ups.

"I believe that this internship has helped me in many ways, such as recognizing how to interact with co-workers, understanding what type of clinical training is necessary for each degree, and comprehending how vast the population is within this field," Caitlin said. Not only does this firsthand experience greatly help her appreciation of this field, but her secondhand experience in class discussions with other students and their internships gives Caitlin beneficial knowledge. Caitlin remarked that, "With both of these elements, I am given more confidence for my future clinical training in graduate school and for my future as a clinical psychologist who is committed to helping people to the best of my ability."

## CLAS Students Excel



Alison Koser, a senior with double majors in Physics and Mathematics, received the prestigious Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence, which is awarded to only one student from PASSHE. Each of the fourteen PASSHE schools submits a nomination to the PASSHE chancellor. Alison was selected based on her

stellar academic performance, her research presentations and publications, involvement in extracurricular activities, faculty evaluations of her endeavors, and her essay in which she explained how KU prepared her for her future career. Her immediate plan is to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania.



The Annual Academic Achievement Awards Ceremony was held on April 20, 2011. Pictured from left to right are four of the honorees: Helen Malenda, who received a gold medal for outstanding research; Irelyn Akers, who received the copper medal for outstanding accomplishments in writing; Dr. Zayaitz, Acting Dean; Mattathias Needle, who received the silver medal for outstanding research; and Alison Koser, who received a gold medal for outstanding research. Dr. Carlson R. Chambliss, KU faculty emeritus, established the award to honor graduating seniors with exceptional achievements.

# Alumni highlight



**M**atthew West graduated from Kutztown University in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in Geography. For the past twelve years he has been employed full-time as an applied geographer. His first full-time job was with the U.S. Census Bureau. Currently, Matthew is employed as a Senior Transportation Planner for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), which is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Philadelphia region—the fifth largest metropolitan region in the United States.

A project that Matthew is most proud of is the Interactive Detour Route Mapping (IDRuM)

application. He worked closely with PennDOT to update and reformat the detour route maps for all limited access highways within the southeastern Pennsylvania region. The result was the replacement of outdated paper maps with digital PDF maps. The IDRuM application compiles the PDF detour maps into a simple “point-and-click” Adobe Flash application delivered via the internet. This technique was so successful that the State of New Jersey has contracted with DVRPC to transform all existing detour maps for the state into IDRuM. For more information or to explore the application, please visit [www.idrum.us](http://www.idrum.us).

In addition to his full-time employment, Matthew began teaching Geography on a part-time basis at three area community colleges in 2002. His teaching experience includes both the traditional classroom instruction as well as designing, implementing, and teaching online courses. He has completed Geography curriculum changes for lecture and online courses, redesigned online courses, and continues to utilize current technology to advance geographic education at the college level.

Recently, Matthew was interested in serving on the Planning Commission for Lansdale Borough, but decided that his ability to think spatially would be better served as a member of Borough Council. The resulting municipal election had Matthew winning his seat with the highest number of votes for a Council seat in recent history. He took the oath of office in January 2010 and was then unanimously elected by his colleagues to serve as President of Council.

Over the years, Matthew has continued to be in contact with and supportive of the KU Geography Department. He has delivered speeches for a number of department events for students, extended internship and employment announcements, hosted externs from the Kutztown University Externship Program, and referred potential students to the program.

*Matthew and his wife, Emily (Boyle '00 BS.Ed.), met while they were enrolled at KU. They have three children, Colin (5), Ian (3), and Liam (3 months).*

# Alumni highlight

**R**enée M. Kamen is currently a Senior Planner for the Montgomery County Planning Department, located in Silver Spring, Maryland. Originally from Dauphin, Pennsylvania, Renée graduated from Kutztown University in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in Geography. After completing her undergraduate degree, Renée worked as a planner for Monroe County, Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter, Renée decided to attend graduate school at Florida Atlantic University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She graduated from FAU with a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning in May 2002, while working full-time in the urban planning field.

As an urban planner in Florida, Renée worked in both the public and private sectors with responsibilities such as comprehensive planning, transportation planning and development review (regulatory review). She was involved in projects such as the conversion of transportation impact fees from roadways to transit, utilizing Florida Department of Transportation software to calculate the number of transit riders based on land use, bus route headways, and bus stop amenities.

Another memorable project for Renée was redistricting Broward County from seven commission districts to nine districts, including the Metropolitan Planning Organization districts. Currently, Renée is managing the zoning conversion project in Montgomery County, which will convert all the hand-drawn and AutoCAD zoning into one, seamless geodatabase in order to maintain and produce all zoning information digitally. The most memorable achievement in her career, however, was becoming a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Since 2001, Renée has also been involved with American Planning Association through the Florida Chapter, serving initially as the Broward County Section Secretary, then Section President. While Secretary for the Florida Chapter, she served on multiple committees, including the student advisory and communications committees. Currently, Renée is serving as President of the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association, in Washington, D.C. In this role, she represents the diverse issues that face practicing urban planners. She also is responsible for providing the membership with quality educational opportunities that advance the field.

Kutztown University allowed Renée to be herself and find the path that suited her interests and passions: maps and cities. She did not know that she could make a career out of such topics, but the professors at Kutztown showed Renée that with a lot of concentration and a little bit of patience she could do what she always wanted and make a living.

Recently, Renée was awarded the 2010 Early Career Excellence Alumni Award from the KU Alumni Association and was extremely humbled by this honor. She finally felt she had overcome all the stress and test anxiety that she had struggled through from elementary school, to the high school SATs, and graduate school GRE. She is the proof that if one puts anxiety aside, the whole world could open up with opportunities. You just have to find your niche and run with it.

*Renée is married with two stepchildren, Danny, 12, and Patrick, 9, and a newborn daughter.*



**The spring 2011 edition of *The Collage* was designed and written by Jacqueline M. Conley '11 Professional Writing major and Diane Lillington '14 Psychology major, under the supervision of the CLAS Dean's Office.**