

# the collage

Winter 2013

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

## Faculty highlight



**Dr. Patricia Norred Derr**

Sometimes the second act is better than the first. After an early career in public relations, Dr. Patricia Norred Derr returned to her first love: history. "I never thought I could have a career in history because I swore I would never be a teacher. It's ironic that I'm now teaching history to many future history teachers." Going back to school after six years writing press releases and designing promotional brochures (she earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Texas), Dr. Derr received her MA in History from the University of North Texas and PhD from the University of Missouri.

Dr. Derr specializes in American Colonial history. She's taught a variety of courses at KU since she joined the faculty as a temporary instructor in 1994. In addition to American Colonial history, she teaches History of Religion in America, African American History, Topics in American Popular Culture, and Historical Methodology, the department's research methods course. "Teaching such a wide variety of courses has allowed me to read widely in American history which has enhanced my teaching of the introductory history survey,

as well as the methods class in which students choose their own paper topics and learn how historians conduct research."

Dr. Derr grew up in Texas in a town about the size of the student population at Kutztown. "I feel a great affinity to the students we teach here. The student population of the University of Texas at the time I was a student was four times larger than my hometown, so I understand that college can be a little overwhelming." Dr. Derr believes that it is the job of faculty to broaden students' horizons, even if the students themselves sometimes resist. "I tell students that they only have a few years after they graduate to really experiment with their lives. After a while, they'll have mortgages, kids, and responsibilities. The time to follow their dreams is before all those commitments take precedence."

Dr. Derr is currently involved in two research projects. She is developing a new course on Atlantic history which looks at the history of communities on both sides of the Atlantic from

the fifteenth through the nineteenth centuries, finding connections in British, French, Dutch, Spanish, African, and Native American societies. Her other research interest grew out of her course in American popular culture. Focusing on Texas, she began by investigating prostitution and is broadening the study to look at definitions of masculinity.

Dr. Derr is an avid football fan. "I'm a native Texan—it's genetic." Even though she now lives in Pennsylvania, she continues to root for the Dallas Cowboys and the University of Texas Longhorns. "I enjoy Monday mornings in the fall because I can tease my students who are devoted Eagles fans when the Eagles have a bad week, and know that they will get back at me when the Cowboys lose. I once had a student (a KU football player) who was stunned that I knew what a safety blitz was. He listened to me a little more closely from then on." Through these unlikely associations, Dr. Derr has successfully connected with her students and plans to continue inspiring others within the field of history.

### DEAN'S CORNER Anne E. Zayaitz, PhD



Edith Lovejoy Pierce once wrote, "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity." What a legacy to have life-changing experiences to fill the pages and chapters of our own books. Education, both inside and outside the classroom, opens the doors of opportunity as we pass through. The students, faculty, and alumni featured in this edition of *The Collage* have shared their diverse stories: a study abroad experience in Chile, an internship at ESPN, research at the Naval Medical Research Center, visits to opium-producing hill tribe villages, exploring the connection between communities on both sides of the Atlantic, experiencing the life of a police officer, empowering individuals with disabilities, attending and presenting at professional conferences, pursuing graduate degrees, and winning awards for scholarship, teaching, and research. What an exciting group of experiences these articles reveal. I hope you enjoy reading all that has been written on the pages of these books of opportunity.

# Student highlight



**Katelyn Kalamon '13**

While many students' decision to go away to college may leave them with at least a minor case of homesickness, KU senior Katelyn Kalamon took that experience to a whole new level when she decided to spend a semester studying abroad in Chile. Katelyn was inspired by her lower-level Spanish courses and ended

up adopting the same passion for the language that she saw in the Modern Language Studies faculty. She fell in love with the language and during her sophomore year, made the official decision to declare a major in Spanish.

Knowing that she wanted to study abroad, Katelyn visited the Office of International Programs and customized a program that would allow her to spend an entire semester in the Spanish speaking country of Chile. While living in Chile, she was able to immerse herself in the language, challenge herself, and ended up having a once in a lifetime experience.

She lived with a native family and attended classes four days a week with students from around the world. Outside of the classroom, she was given opportunities to explore the country and expand her language skills. She hiked through the Andes Mountains, participated in Chilean culture, and was able to tour the amazing sites that Chile has to offer.

This trip has inspired her to continue traveling and after her graduation in May, she plans on moving to Argentina where she will spend a year working wherever she can and furthering her Spanish abilities.

While she admits being away from home for four months was challenging at first, Katelyn truly believes that it was all worth it. Now, back at Kutztown, she once again has to adjust to her surroundings. "I spent so much time not fully understanding people, to understanding everything. There's so much English here; it's something to get used to."

No matter what country she chooses, Katelyn's experience studying abroad has given her a greater appreciation for other cultures and languages and has prepared her for an adventurous life after graduation.

# Alumni highlight



**Dr. Nicole Crane '00**

Dr. Nicole Crane is currently a Scientist at the Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, Md. where she is establishing the Regenerative Medicine Department's Advanced Imaging Program.

After graduating from KU in 2000 with a B.S. in Chemistry, she attended graduate school at the University of Michigan. She describes her attraction to the scientific field as enjoying the constant need to learn more, as well as "the development of thinking outside the box and the endeavor of overcoming the challenges that research presents." Nicole confirms that her decision to major in Chemistry and earn her undergraduate degree at Kutztown was the

right choice for her, eventually leading her to her scientific career.

After graduate school, she accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the FBI Academy where she used Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopic imaging to non-invasively detect latent fingerprints. This experience expanded her knowledge and understanding within her field while also influencing her ultimate decision to adjust her focus from forensic research, to biomedical research.

After her time at the FBI Academy, she began working for the National Institute of Health and aided with several research projects. It was during this time that she was inspired to become a mentor and is now responsible for students of various educational levels ranging from high school to post-baccalaureate students. "In fact, I enjoyed interacting with students so much that after two years of fellowship at the NIH I applied for faculty positions at several colleges and universities, but was not able to accept any of the offers made to me."

In 2007, she began her research at the Naval Medical Research Center and has since been involved in multiple projects. She has worked

alongside clinicians to build models predicting critical ischemia and wound healing in human clinical trials, and in 2010, she received funding for two grant submissions on which she serves as an associate investigator. Her research focuses on development and utilization of spectroscopic techniques to improve understanding of the wound healing process, particularly in traumatic acute wounds, as well as identifying and quantifying transplant-associated ischemia and reperfusion injury.

**"I enjoyed the constant need to learn."**

Her short term career goals include continued development of the Advanced Surgical Imaging program at NMRC, as well as completing

the research outlined in the funded grants. She is currently working to expand her project and increase the number of collaborators at both military and civilian medical treatment centers. She also aspires to obtain funding as a principal investigator as an associate professor at USUHS.

Along with her extensive experience as a researcher, Nicole has more than fifteen publications, as well as two patents. Her time spent at KU sparked a desire and passion for biomedical studies which has developed into a successful career.

# Beyond the Classroom



**Joquoia Kennedy '13**

**J**oquoia Kennedy, a Coatesville, Pa. native and Criminal Justice senior, is not afraid to get her hands dirty when it comes to preparing for her future in law enforcement. Her recent internship at the Coatesville Police Station gave her the opportunity to do hands on work in a career field of her interest and has helped to shape her goals as a soon-to-be Kutztown graduate.

Interning between 30 and 40 hours a week, Joquoia was able to experience the life of a

police officer. Her job responsibilities gave her the opportunity to work alongside professionals, had her donning a regulation bulletproof vest, and climbing into a squad car to accompany officers on patrol. Through these experiences she saw her hometown through new eyes and she gained valuable, practical knowledge of the field.

During the times that she wasn't out patrolling, she was either in the station writing reports, or in court accompanying officers. She was able to appreciate all aspects of the job. While some of this work became tedious, it was an important part of her overall experience.

Fortunately for her, she never got to test out the durability of that bulletproof vest, but she did learn what it takes to be a Coatesville police officer, especially during her night shifts when she worked 6 P.M. to 6 A.M. It was during one of these shifts that Joquoia came across a group of teenagers gambling in the streets. It is part of the responsibilities of a Coatesville police officer to interact with the neighborhood's youth and enforce curfew. She was given a taste of how difficult this can be when the group immediately scattered into the streets before she or her working officer could even open the squad car door.

This encounter reinforced her decision to direct her law enforcement goals to focus on juveniles, and has left her with multiple options as far as careers after her graduation in May. Her ultimate goal has always been the same; she wants to help people. The experiences with the gambling teenagers, along with criminal justice courses focusing on juveniles, have inspired her to work toward a career in a juvenile delinquent center. "I want to change the world one juvenile at a time."

Joquoia is currently waiting for a response from Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she hopes to attend graduate school and continue her education in criminology. Being two classes away from graduation, she's planning on enjoying every last day until she leaves Kutztown, but with the experience she has gained from her internship, she can be sure that when she is handed her diploma, she will be prepared to face whatever comes on the other side of that stage.

## Alumni highlight



**Kathleen Willner '96**

**K**athleen Connell Willner, BSN, MSN, first graduated from Kutztown University in May 1996 with a bachelor's degree in Nursing and again in December 2009 with a Master's degree in Nursing with a concentration in education.

Kathy's love of nursing began as a teenage volunteer at the local hospital where she had the opportunity to deliver mail, run errands, and refill water carafes for patients. Fast forward to high school graduation and receipt of a partial tuition scholarship to St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing where she graduated in 1982. Within

the first two years of becoming a Registered Nurse, she began taking liberal arts and sciences courses offered by Kutztown at locations around the Lehigh Valley.

Although the road to baccalaureate graduation was over a decade long and included getting married, having a first child, and changing positions, the nursing program at Kutztown provided an opportunity to work full-time, raise a family, and attend classes part-time. Throughout her studies, Kathy found the faculty in the Nursing Department to be supportive of the needs of adult learners, especially those who were returning to school after many years away from classroom life.

In January 2007, Kathy was contacted by a former colleague who was also an instructor in the Nursing program at Kutztown University. They discussed the Master's program that began in March of that year. Taking two courses per semester allowed Kathy to be eligible for the first Nursing Master's degree graduation in December 2009. Interestingly enough, this first class consisted of only two graduates, both of whom were St. Luke's nurses. Kathy credits three members of the Kutztown nursing faculty, Drs. Mary Ann Dailey, Rosemary Fliszar, and Marilyn Meder not only for their dedication and contributions to the profession of nursing, but also for their commitment to advancing nursing

education and support of the students in the Kutztown master's program.

Kathy has spent the entire 30 plus years of her career as a registered nurse (RN) at St. Luke's University Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa. Her career path includes medical surgical nursing, specifically the care of surgical and cancer patients. She worked as a critical care nurse for several years caring for patients in intensive care units. Kathy also has extensive experience as a hospital supervisor and nurse staff development educator; she was appointed Director of Educational Services in 2002.

For the past ten years, she has been actively involved in developing and implementing diverse continuing education programs for St. Luke's nursing staff. In her role in nursing staff development/nursing education, Kathy combined her passion for professional nursing and patient care with her love of teaching others whether at the bedside, in the classroom, or via educational materials and programs.

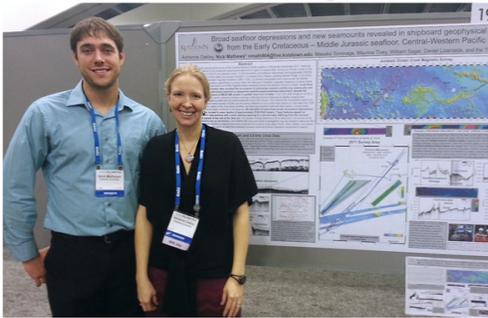
Kathy lives in Bethlehem with her husband, Peter, and daughter, Anne, a high school sophomore. Her eldest daughter, Kate, is a graduate student at West Chester University.

Congratulations to Dr. Moe Folk who won this year's John Schellenberg Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching and Innovative Pedagogy, particularly for his use of technology.



Five students were inducted into the National German Honor Society on Saturday, December 8, 2012, at a ceremony held at the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center schoolhouse. From left: Dr. Greg Hanson, Dr. Bill Donner, Rebecca Livsey, Ben Spohn, Courtney Hillock, Zachary Angstadt, Caramie Goodman, Dr. Lynn M. Kutch.

Student Nick Mathews, from Reading, Pa., is joined by Dr. Adrienne Oakley at the American Geophysical Union's 45th Annual Meeting held in San Francisco. A Marine Science/Physics major, Mathews presented his poster on broad sea floor depressions and new seamounts.



Congratulations to Kutztown student Brittney Baker who recently attended the 64th Annual Student Conference on United States Affairs at West Point Military Academy. She is seen above with her group of fellow students whom she worked with to formulate U.S. policies.

The Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists (PCPG) scholarship competition awarded KU junior, Dea Musa, first place at their annual meeting on January 15, 2013. Congratulations on this outstanding accomplishment.



# Faculty highlight

## Dr. Richard Crooker

Dr. Richard A. Crooker grew up in what he describes as “a hardscrabble, small town in northern California where there are more jackrabbits than people.” He says that he would have stayed there and worked in the town’s sawmill, but at his parents’ urging, he attended a state college where he discovered “the magical field of geography” and earned a bachelor’s degree in the subject. After graduation, he was determined to see more of the world, and he did, but not in a way that he expected. The Vietnam War was in full swing at the time, and he was drafted and sent to Saigon. His experiences there convinced him that he would like to be a college professor, making a positive difference in the lives of others. After his tour of duty ended, he earned a MA degree in Geography at Eastern Michigan University and a PhD in the subject at the University of California at Riverside.

Dr. Crooker has taught in Kutztown University’s Department of Geography since the fall of 1985. During his tenure, he has taught physical geography, descriptive oceanography, map reading, cartography, climatology, the science

of climate change, and regional courses. He has also taught a mountain environment course in Kutztown University’s summer program in Austria.

As a geographer, Dr. Crooker says he possesses “an enormous and lasting curiosity about the spatial distributions of all people, places, and things.” His PhD dissertation about opium production in northern Thailand led to post-doctorate research in that region, which the National Geographic Society and Kutztown University Research Committee funded. Altogether, he made nine trips to Thailand, most of it in remote opium-producing hill tribe villages. Opium is illegal to grow in Thailand, but “I hardly ever felt that I was in any danger, because I was usually accompanied by either humanitarian development workers, or Thailand government officials,” Crooker says.

His research in Thailand also earned him funding to visit drug-producing areas of Bolivia. In 2004, as the capstone to this phase of his career, the U.S. State Department invited him to present a paper at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawaii. Since then, Dr. Crooker has published five geography books geared for young adult readers; each book is about a different country – Bermuda, Cuba,

Chile, Argentina, and Venezuela. He has also published nearly fifty articles in scientific and non-scientific encyclopedias on a wide range of geographically related subjects. Currently, he is researching a book about the pioneers who settled in the small town where he grew up. Indeed, life for him seems to have come full circle.



*Dr. Crooker tells his oceanography students that in 2005 he set a U.S. East Coast record for boogie (body) boarding when he rode 160 waves in three and one-half hours. He says that he knows this is a record, “Because no one else would ever think of doing such a thing.”*

## Student highlight



*Electronic Media major Megan West is busy preparing for graduation and making the most of her last semester as a KU student. President of the National Broadcasting Society and director of KUTV Sports, Megan is nearing her final days at KU, but her accomplishments will surely be remembered.*

**Q:** What interested you most about your major and why did you originally choose it?

**A:** At the time I chose Electronic Media, I knew I wanted to work in TV, but I wasn’t sure exactly what I wanted to do. I had been doing graphic design and running my own web site for years, so there was no doubt in my mind that was the direction I wanted to go in. I wanted to tell stories and give people an alternate world to live in like my favorite TV shows had done for me over the years.

**Q:** What is the most interesting way that you have applied your knowledge gained from KU?

**A:** One of the most interesting ways would have to be my internship. I will be interning at ESPN for the Spring semester. This has been my goal for about two years now and the fact that I will be there and have achieved it is just unbelievable.

**Q:** What are some of the rewarding experiences you’ve had as you’ve grown in your academic years? What experiences do you feel have prepared you for your future profession?

**A:** There was a class I took in Fall 2011 called Event and Documentary Production. We were responsible for broadcasting each of the football team’s home games. We were also creating a documentary on the team throughout the semester. We worked so hard and to see everything turn out the way ours did is just incredible. The class taught us to work together, use each other’s strengths and what it takes to be in a “live” environment.

**Q:** What are your after graduation goals?

**A:** Upon graduating I ultimately would like to stay at ESPN in one of their Production Associate training programs in hopes of eventually becoming a Production Assistant and making my way up.

# Interesting Internship



**Paige Taylor '13**

“Every individual has the right to be self-determining and to live in dignity within an environment that is free from barriers of all types.” This is the mission statement of The Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living where KU senior, Paige Taylor, is currently interning. As a Social Work major, Paige has always been interested in working with people with disabilities. Her experiences at LVCIL are giving her the opportunity to do just that.

Having grown up with a brother with Asperger’s Syndrome, Paige has been witness to the struggles that people with disabilities face on a daily basis. She has made it her goal to be part of a positive change.

She always imagined herself in the school system, helping adolescents like her brother adapt to society. However, when an opportunity arose to intern at LVCIL, a private non-profit agency that works with individuals with disabilities, she couldn’t pass it up. As one of the only cross-disability agencies in the area, LVCIL empowers people with disabilities to reach their fullest potential. They also strive to enhance disability awareness and shed light on the many assets that citizens with disabilities can offer their communities.

It is through this agency that Paige continues to grow as she works alongside young adults to develop goals and maintain employment. She focuses on the agency’s School to Life Career Path Program where it is her responsibility to

work one-on-one with young adults, assess their strengths and needs, and support them as they search for an appropriate working environment.

Because she works with both the individual and their employers, she is required to learn the various tasks of a wide range of occupations in order to support the individual. “One of the greatest things about my internship is that I am constantly learning and challenging myself. I may not know anything about baking, or inventory, but once I am on a site, it is my responsibility to educate myself.”

Paige’s experiences have assured her that she made the right decision in choosing LVCIL for her internship. “I believe that the combination of the staff, the clients, and the commitment to the mission makes working at this agency an exceptional experience. I have grown more as a person here than I have in my entire college experience. I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to work, learn, and grow here.”

# Congratulations Graduates!



*President Cevallos presided over the winter graduation ceremony, which included more than 600 students, on December 15, 2012.*

*Dean Zayaitz (right) and the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences congratulate our recent graduates as they end their time at KU and begin the next chapter in their lives.*



**The Winter 2013 edition of *The Collage* was edited and designed by Amber Himes '14, professional writing major, under the supervision of the CLAS Dean’s Office.**