

the collage

Spring 2014

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter

Faculty highlight



Dr. Sarah Tindall

Dr. Sarah Tindall's geology career began as a fascination with driveway gravel, an interest she developed as soon as she learned to crawl. She spent her childhood in the Virginia woods prospecting for gold in local streams, hammering tiny garnets out of bedrock exposures, and hunting 500-million-year-old fossils. After completing a B.S. in Geology at The College of William and Mary and a Ph.D. in Structural Geology at The University of Arizona, Dr. Tindall joined the Geology program in the Department of Physical Sciences at Kutztown in 2002.

As a structural geologist, Dr. Tindall's research encompasses the deformation of the Earth's crust – how rocks and regions fault, fold, stretch, and move in response to forces acting inside the Earth. Her recent and ongoing research projects span multiple orders of magnitude in space and time. Since 1996 she has been conducting a field-based study of ancient mountains, landscapes, and earthquakes of southern Utah, using stunning exposures of rocky desert to unravel geologic events that occurred 80 million years ago.

Dr. Tindall also conducts research on tiny fractures that influence the migration and recovery of oil and natural gas in deep subsurface rock reservoirs. Closer to home, Dr. Tindall has designed a physical analog modeling laboratory at KU where she replicates the growth of major mountain systems like the Appalachians, but in an area the size of a tabletop and in a time span of a few hours. Two of Dr. Tindall's multi-year research projects have been funded by major external grants from the Petroleum Research Fund.

The Department of Physical Sciences places strong emphasis on involvement of undergraduate students in original research with faculty mentors. More than twenty students have participated in Dr. Tindall's research, and most of them have presented their results at regional, national, and international scientific conferences. The opportunity to contribute to cutting-edge research and to interact with geologists from other institutions, industry,

and government gives students an advantage when applying for jobs or to graduate schools, and Dr. Tindall is excited to be a member of a department that facilitates such opportunities for KU students.

Dr. Tindall brings her love of geology into the classroom with an effervescent teaching style. She teaches several courses in the geology program, including Structural Geology - how rocks bend and break to cause earthquakes or form mountains; Field Geology, which is a hands-on, field trip-based boot camp for geology students; and Introduction to Geology, a broad overview intended for non-science majors.

After hours Dr. Tindall spends time with her husband, also a geologist, and their two small children. Together they all enjoy examining driveway gravel, collecting rocks from local streams, and hunting 500-million-year-old fossils in the backyard.



DEAN'S CORNER Anne E. Zayaitz, Ph.D.

"How wonderful that no one need wait a single moment to improve the world."

—Anne Frank

Every day I reflect on how proud I am to be part of the Kutztown University family. Whether individuals are here for a day or for a lifetime, we count them as family. Each of us works to make the university, the community, and the world a better place. We have a faculty that has been educated at top-notch universities and they bring that experience and perspective to the classroom to share with their students. The staff works to make Kutztown a better place and takes pride in doing so. Our students continue to dream, plan, intern, research, organize, and succeed. Pride in their accomplishments is felt by all! Spring is a time of change and we celebrate our graduates as they leave the campus knowing that as this chapter ends and another begins, they have taken on a different role in our family—as alumni. Our newest family members—our freshmen and transfer students—will be joining us very soon; we are looking forward to supporting them as they take advantage of the many opportunities to challenge themselves and we cannot wait to celebrate their successes. As Dr. F. Javier Cevallos ends his tenure here as President, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank him for all of the support and championing he has done for the students, staff, and faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the University.





Three KU students, Margariete Malenda (above), Ryan Kohn (right), and Nicholas Evans (below) were awarded \$1500 Carole and Ray Neag Undergraduate Research Grants. Margariete plans to travel to the Dǎbǎoshān mine in China and study how minerals are layered throughout the rock. Ryan will continue to work on his project, "Regulation of the Hematopoietic-Specific Atypical GTPase RhoH in Macrophage," and Nicholas is developing a server architecture for large format multiplayer gaming.



Criminal justice professor, Dr. Gary Cordner, had the opportunity to travel to Kiev on behalf of the U.S. Government and make a presentation to a joint NGO/government reform commission looking into restructuring the police (Ministry of Interior) in Ukraine.



KU STANDOUTS



Thirty members of the Electronic Media Department represented KU at the National Broadcasting Society Convention in Hollywood, California. They were the winners of the Model Chapter of the Year Award for excellence in service and the high level of achievement of the chapter. They were also awarded the Grand Prize in the Video Promo Category for their promotion of the 2013 football team. Congratulations to Electronic Media and their advisors, professors Helen Bieber and Cara Cotellese, for bringing home two more prestigious national awards.



Geology majors Dea Musa and Emily Snyder chose to spend their spring breaks in Boston attending the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems (SAGEEP). Dea presented her research entitled, "Geophysical Mapping of Brine Springs in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex, NY." and Emily was able to showcase her work on the "Geophysical Investigations of Local Cemeteries in Eastern Pennsylvania." SAGEEP is the leading conference on the practical application of shallow geophysics, and Dea and Emily presented their work to an audience of both students and professionals.

Student highlight



Christina Harry

Christina Harry has found her niche at Kutztown University as an organismal ecology major, and is paving a path toward graduate school and a career in conservation research. As a member of the Biology and Herpetology Clubs, Christina has always had an interest in the environment and has developed a passion to help protect it. “I have always been fascinated with helping to conserve and learning about the different relationships between species and their environments.” Through the KU Biology Department, Christina has had the

opportunity to supplement her original interest with volunteer and research experiences.

She has volunteered at Hawk Mountain and Nolde Forest participating in environmental cleanups and has taken more extensive trips to Wallops Island. Her first time visiting the small island off the eastern shore of Virginia was as part of an Alternative Spring Break program where a group of KU students opted to spend their spring breaks protecting the environment by cleaning the island of litter. In April, she got the chance to return, but this time as part of a marine biology class. She surveyed marine habitats, identified species, and took samples of the water as well as small organisms. The purpose of the trip was to practice the hands-on approach to conservation biology that is impossible to conduct in a classroom, and also work professionally to ensure that the environment on the island was balanced and secure.

In her spare time, Christina is an avid reader and she continues to volunteer even outside the realm of ecology. She is a regular volunteer

at the Berks County ASPCA where she brings compassion into the lives of abandoned and sometimes abused animals. Her volunteer obligations and commitment to her education keeps her busy, but she has a strong group of supporters to help her through. Above everyone else, her mom has always been a firm ally when it comes to her goals, but Christina also lauds the Biology Department in supporting her endeavors. “All of the professors are passionate and you can’t help but get as excited as they are. They motivate you to do your best and get passionate about what you’re doing.”

With a year left until she graduates, Christina is already determined to expand her education and opportunities by attending graduate school. She wants to stay within the field of conservation biology and help protect marine environments from both human pollution and invasive species. It is her goal to research invasive problems and develop solutions for them in order to protect the habitats that she has grown to love.

Alumni highlight

A life in eastern Pennsylvania can mean rolling fields of cultivated land, whoopie pies and fresh corn on the cob, but behind the strong agricultural business there is also a thriving manufacturing trade that has caught the attention of at least one Kutztown alumni, Stephen Hoffert. Having graduated from Kutztown in 1992 with a B.A. in English/professional writing and a minor in philosophy, Stephen has utilized both of his areas of study in his life after KU.

During his time at KU, Stephen was an active student and was a part of the Keystone Newspaper and Philosophy Club. After graduating, he attended the University of Cincinnati as a Ph.D. graduate student in order to further pursue his interest in philosophy. He was also given the opportunity to follow the other half of his academic interests by taking a job as a science writer in Philadelphia. This position helped to cement the concept that he had learned during his undergraduate years: writing and philosophy work together as cohesive counterparts. “My job as a science writer obviously allowed me to use skills I had acquired in journalism, but my skills in philosophy were also critical. I had to quickly understand and summarize technical research for which I was not an expert and

philosophy imparts unique skills in analysis and critical thinking.”

While working as a journalist, he lived near Morgantown, Pa., a small town with a strong manufacturing foundation. “Growing up in Pennsylvania, I was fascinated with manufacturing from a young age. I thought that it made our nation strong and prosperous. I also saw it as a unique part of our heritage in Pennsylvania.” Timet, a growing titanium manufacturer in Morgantown, was hiring and Stephen saw this as his opportunity to become involved in a childhood fascination while also weaving in the skills that he learned through his education.

He was hired at Timet as a raw material formulator and fifteen years later, he has moved up the corporate ladder and is now the manager of customs compliance and global inventory analysis. He is responsible for overseeing the company’s compliance with the complicated regulations that control the flow of raw materials and finished goods, as well as collecting data and providing analysis that helps the company’s leadership develop business strategies related to the manufacturing process.

“Many people assume that philosophy is concerned only with deep, impenetrable questions of life and its meaning. But philosophy gave me many analytic and logical tools that I use each day to sift through complicated and voluminous data.” Since his graduation from Kutztown, Stephen has been able to utilize each of the skills that he learned through his education. He learned that while it may not be obvious, a philosophy background can benefit nearly any industry.



Stephen Hoffert



Internship

CONCERN in Fleetwood, Pa. is a non-profit human services organization that is dedicated to supporting the children in the Pennsylvania foster care system that have been removed from their original homes and they focus on foster parenting, family counseling, and adoption. Kutztown senior Audra Weidner has always wanted to work with children, and as she made her way through her undergraduate degree, she discovered a passion for helping others. CONCERN became her way to exercise this, and in January 2014, she began a three credit internship with the organization that has affected her life both in and out of the classroom.

A sociology major with a psychology minor, Audra began her internship search hoping to practice the skills that she learned in her classes and work hands on with children. CONCERN gave her this opportunity and as the weeks passed, she was learning and experiencing things that a classroom setting couldn't provide. When children are taken out of their home for any reason, they are referred to organizations like CONCERN, and it became Audra's responsibility to handle these referrals and help

place each child into a foster home. "These kids come from all kinds of backgrounds, some have been abused or have mental or behavioral problems, and it's important that we find the right homes for them."

The organization works closely with foster families and one of their main goals is to aid these families and ensure that they are equipped with the right sets of skills to properly provide for the children. Along with general counseling services, the organization also requires each foster parent to attend annual training sessions. As part of her internship work, Audra will have the opportunity to facilitate one of these sessions. Audra's session will focus on how to care for children that have had traumatic experiences or come from stressful backgrounds. "This has been a long time coming; they gave me the topic, and the backbone of the sessions, and told me to run with it."

While she will be finishing up her required internship hours early in the spring, Audra has taken pride in her work and has chosen to continue on at the organization as a volunteer. She hopes to one day be a Therapeutic Support Staff (TSS) where she will meet with

children one-on-one and provide therapy in areas including social skills and behavioral rehabilitation. The hours that she has spent at CONCERN helped to shape her last semester as a Kutztown student and instilled in her the motivation to continue within the field after her graduation.



Audra Weidner

THE WORLD LANGUAGE MEET



The Modern Language Studies Department and the Language Resource Center welcomed 220 high school students from six different schools to participate in a day of world language challenges, competitions, and mentorship. Kutztown language students and the Organization of Latino Awareness volunteered to administer games like Taboorades, DefConDare, Cultural Presentations, Role Play, and GoAnimate in order to promote the importance of language to high school students.



Roberto Clemente Charter School took 1st place overall in the WLM. They competed in DefConDare, Advanced Cultural Presentations and Role Play. Teacher Sra. Nadia Olivari is a Kutztown University graduate.



Fleetwood German Club placed 2nd, just 2 points below the 1st place team. They competed in Taboorades, Intermediate Cultural Presentations and GoAnimate.



German students participated in a German DefConDare event, a game developed by Kutztown faculty and modeled after the board game Balderdash.

Faculty highlight



Dr. Amy O'Brien

Lectures and textbooks aren't the only tools that a university can use to equip its students for life after graduation. Faculty members serve as mentors, role-models, and examples, and KU takes pride in knowing that its professors are able to use their professional experiences to inspire and prepare their students. Dr. Amy O'Brien is no exception to this and has been using her background in literature, public relations, and art to develop courses that mimic real-world experiences and provide after graduation advantages for her students.

Dr. O'Brien attended Notre Dame College where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and finished with a double major in English

and psychology and a minor in art. After graduating, she moved to Pennsylvania to attend Lehigh University's English graduate program and earned a Ph.D. in early modern literature. While finishing her dissertation, she accepted a position in Manhattan with Golin/Harris Communications. She worked in the Chrysler Building on various public relations programs for clients such as Lysol, The Florida Department of Citrus, and Windows Magazine.

Dr. O'Brien also worked as a freelance public relations professional for Stranton-Crenshaw Communications. She focused on investor relations for clients working within the financial industry including Bain Capital, QRS Corporation, CIT, Domain Associates, TSI, and Pequot Capital. While she enjoyed her work, she soon recognized that there was something missing. "It didn't take me long to realize that my passion is for teaching. Working in the city was a thrill, for sure, but the ability to motivate and interact with college students is really what I wanted to be doing." Dr. O'Brien joined the KU English Department after four years in Manhattan, and since then became the Assistant Department Chair, representing the Professional Writing Program within the department.

The four years she spent between her own schooling and joining the KU faculty served as

the foundation for how she manages her classes. Writing for Public Relations, Public Relations for the Corporate Environment, Desktop Publishing, and Advanced Desktop Publishing, are all courses taught by Dr. O'Brien and subjects that she has professional experience in. "My goal is to push my students beyond what they think they can do and to give them real-world assignments. This way, I know my students have a clear understanding of what they'll be in for in the workplace."

Dr. O'Brien's professional work did not stop when she started teaching. She started her own public relations business, AC O'Brien Communications, and continued to do similar work to what she had been doing in the city. She held her own client list including Sage and Lafayette Ambassador Bank. She has also put her minor in art to use and has designed the logo for Air Products' intramural golf league, and completed design and PR work for Lower Macungie Youth Baseball and East Penn Youth Wrestling Association.

Dr. O'Brien is a dedicated member of Kutztown University and her passion for teaching has strengthened the English Department, and the university as a whole. Motivational and supportive, she continues to represent the best of the KU faculty.

Internship



Molly DeMatties

Molly DeMatties has spent Spring 2014 interning at Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut. As one of only four facilities in the U.S. to hold Steller Sea Lions and having one of the largest outdoor Beluga Whale exhibits in the country, Mystic Aquarium has given Molly the opportunity to take one step closer to her dream of being a marine mammal trainer.

Q: Why did you originally choose this area of study?

A: *I have always wanted to work with marine animals. By doing this marine animal care internship, I have realized 100% that I want to be a marine mammal trainer and I want to educate the public about these animals.*

Q: What are your internship responsibilities?

A: *I am responsible for the daily care of six California seal lions including the preparation of their food, exhibit maintenance, and conducting end of session reinforcements. I am also in charge of the sound booth that we use for all of the education shows that we do--I run the video and audio cues. Along with those responsibilities I also help trainers with any training that needs to be done.*

Q: What are some of the rewarding experiences you have had while interning?

A: *I get to spend a lot of time with the sea lions and perform rail feedings with three of the male California sea lions where the animal focuses on me and I feed them. I am also involved in an ongoing research project on one of our female juvenile California sea lions. I conduct behavioral observations and try to reduce stereotypic behavior by providing more enrichment to her environment.*

Q: What are your future plans?

A: *I have an internship lined up at Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Illinois which I couldn't be more excited about. I hope that these internships will help me to become a marine mammal trainer in the future.*





Geography students Aaron Brouse, Caitlin Del Roccili, and electronic media/meteorology student Ben Kosek accompanied Dr. Michael Davis to the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida.

Hannah Leidich, a psychology major with a German minor, attended the Fourth Annual Undergraduate Conference in German Studies on April 12. The conference was held at Lafayette College and Hannah presented her project, “*Der Blaue Engel: The Bird Motif and the Regression of Professor Rath.*”



The Social Media Team of Kutztown's radio station (KUR) was recently awarded a gold medal for “Best Use of Social Media” by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting Society. The team consisted of students Matt Cech, Mitch Lambert, Nicole Zensky, Ryan C. Moore, and advisor, Mike Regensburger. KUR was also a finalist for “Best Radio Station at a College of Under 10,000 Enrollment” and “Best Promotional Event.”



Three KU students won awards at CPUB (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists) at Bloomsburg University on April 12 for their various research projects. Sarah Kropf won 1st place for her oral presentation, “*The Relationship Between Diamondback Terrapin Habitat Characteristics And Road Mortality.*” Emily Schell won 2nd place for her poster presentation: “*The Effects of Chloromethane, Vanadium, and Diethyl Phthalate on Embryonic Chick Development and the Efficiency of Acetylcholinesterase.*” Ryan Geisler also won 2nd place in his ecology/organismal division for his platform presentation: “Honeybee Directional Decisions in Reference to an Artificial Skyline.”



The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences hosted its biannual Science Math Technology Open House on Saturday, April 5th. Over 100 high school students visited the KU campus to find out what the CLAS is all about. KU student volunteers set up informative displays and faculty members held detailed sessions about their departments.



Student highlight



Heather Urban

Kutztown senior Heather Urban found her inspiration amidst the hushed voices and coffee aroma of a true crime aisle at Barnes and Noble. She started her KU career as an undeclared freshman, but a year and multiple trips to Barnes and Noble later, she officially declared a major in criminal justice and a minor in sociology.

A dedicated student and active Kutztown community member, Heather has stood out within the Criminal Justice Department as a Dean's Scholar and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Star Student. As the Vice President

of KU Ambassadors, Co-President of the Criminal Justice Honor Society, and Kutztown coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Heather has proven to be a successful leader as well as a promising student.

Throughout her four years at Kutztown, Heather has taken numerous criminal justice courses, but felt a particular attachment to a criminology theory referred to as restorative offender practices. This approach focuses on the needs of victims and offenders and instead of legally punishing the offender, officials encourage them to take responsibility for their actions, discuss the issue, and work to repair the damage. Heather became especially interested in this aspect of criminal justice and in order to broaden her experience on the topic, started at the Community Service Foundation in Pipersville, Pa. as a school counselor intern.

As an alternative school, CSF serves as a secondary educational option for students with emotional or behavioral issues. As part of her internship responsibilities, Heather maintained strong, supportive relationships with each of the students. She participated in open discussions and talked about personal and family issues, as

well as behavioral problems. "It was very hands on, and sometimes emotionally taxing. I would ask them things like, 'what are you feeling,' and 'how can we fix this,' and was able to apply restorative offender practices to their behavior."

She worked at CSF on a daily basis and when her internship hours were completed, there was no doubt in her mind that she had found her passion. "I loved what I was doing and when I finish school, I want to be a school counselor in an urban setting." To make this happen, Heather will start graduate school this upcoming fall at the University of Maryland and will be studying school counseling. "My criminal justice undergraduate degree and a master's in school counseling will be a good combination. I think it's important to have that background and I will even be able to use restorative practices as a counselor."

Heather credits the Criminal Justice Department in motivating her to achieve these goals. "They are supportive and approachable and I didn't expect to find that in a college setting. They push you to achieve what they know you can even if you don't know it yourself."

Alumni highlight

Born in Guatemala, William Montepeque first came to the United States when he was 19 years old. With only a limited English vocabulary, he spent the first few years in his new country learning to speak English and working various low skilled jobs. It took him two years, but he eventually found himself speaking with fluency and was determined to make a better life for himself. In 2000, he made the decision to attend college and chose Kutztown to be his new home.

He taught himself English, but that did not mean that he was willing to let go of his Spanish heritage. His studies were focused on the Spanish language and he graduated in 2005 with the hopes of becoming a Spanish teacher. Soon after he earned his degree, his dream was realized and he accepted a position at Emmaus High School. He has been teaching Spanish there ever since. Teaching hasn't been the only thing that he has been doing since his graduation from Kutztown, however. He was eager to expand his education even further, and in 2008 he earned a M.A. in educational policy and globalization from The University of Illinois and then in 2012, he added a M.A.

in education technology and leadership from George Washington University to his already impressive list of degrees.

William has utilized these degrees to not only teach students the basics of the Spanish language, but also to transform the way in which Emmaus High School organizes its Spanish classes. "While being in Emmaus, I noticed that the Latino population had been increasing steadily and that they were taking regular Spanish classes. These classes are not suited for them, as they already possess some skills in the language such as speaking and listening. I created a curriculum for Native/Heritage speakers to provide the Latino students with a class better suited for their needs." Through the introduction of this course, William has made a positive impact in the lives of his students and has permanently changed how students at Emmaus High School learn languages.

After coming to the United States with only a basic knowledge of English, and then attending Kutztown with only two years of practice in the language, William overcame every obstacle that accompanied his immigration. After years of

dedication and persistence, he has accomplished his goals and is guiding his students in their own education. In order to continue helping his students, William is currently planning to travel to many Latin American countries to experience first-hand the language and culture and pass that knowledge on to his students. "I love my job as a teacher. Going back to school was one of the best decisions in my life."



William Montepeque





THE CHAMBLISS STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2014

GOLD



Brooke Ann Coco '13



Troy Spier '14

SILVER



Dea Musa '14



Chloe Jackson '13



Erin Reynolds '14



Kristie Thudium '14

COPPER



Mary McCormick '14



Marlena Rock '14



Nicholas Imbesi '14



Guy Sechrist '14



E. Justin Warren '14



The Spring 2014 edition of *The Collage* was designed and written by
Amber Himes '14, professional writing major,
under the supervision of the CLAS Dean's Office.