



the Collage

Kutztown University's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Nov. 2019

interesting Internship

“Everyone is the main character to their own story,” said Tracy Alcée, a junior Psychology major. Getting out of your comfort zone, ignoring what others have to say about you, and trying new things are some ways to create your own story. In high school, she had no idea what she wanted to be, but she knew she wanted to leave her mark on the world by helping people. She is creating a life where she can do that, and her summer internship through The Washington Center was an important chapter in her story.

Psychology major and participated in a unique internship experience. She interned for the nonprofit organization Beacon House in Washington D.C. for two months during summer 2019. Beacon House is a nonprofit organization that focuses on the urban youth community of Washington D.C. by offering after-school and sports programs. Tracy was part of the marketing and communications team.

Tracy did a bit of everything during her internship. She filed papers, organized databases, emailed donors, kept members up to date about the organization, and handled the social media platforms. With her day-to-



Tracy Alcée | Psychology

“What scares you the most, take advantage of it.”

When Tracy first came to Kutztown, she was lost, but she got involved on campus and quickly developed into a student leader. She has held many elected positions, which include president of Black Student Union, vice president of Women Achieving the Vision of Excellence (WAVE), and the LAS representative on the Student Government Board. “These positions allow me to take the first steps of realizing my dreams, to understand people enough to help them out, and to fight for what I believe in.”

Tracy exercised the adaptability of her

day responsibilities, she learned that interaction with others is very important. “Conversation really matters because you get to know each other and you get to connect with someone because you never know when you are going to meet that person again down the line.”

By spending the summer in Washington D.C., Tracy was able to explore a new place where no one knew her. She delved into the social side of her life like she never had before; one of her favorite memories from the trip was sneaking into rooftop pools every weekend with her fellow interns. “There are a

lot of interesting things to do in D.C., but the thing is, you have to know people to find those things, which means you have to network.” If you are afraid of starting a conversation with someone you do not know, go to Washington D.C. because you will learn how to very quickly, advises Tracy.

Based on her experience, Tracy has insight for others preparing for an internship: “What scares you the most, take advantage of it.” She knows the internship may be overwhelming and even a little scary, but she recommends taking a deep breath, enjoying your time there, and interacting with everyone around to make the most of the experience.

Tracy’s internship has helped shape her time at KU, but it was just one of the many chapters in her story. Her journey is just beginning. According to Tracy, no matter what may be going on, you are the only one who can create your story—no one else can do it for you. “Don’t let what other people think of you affect how you see yourself.” Whether she is in a psychology class at Kutztown or emailing donors requesting money for company needs, she will follow her own advice and not let anyone hold her back, not even herself.

DEAN’S CORNER | DR. DAVID BEOUGHER

Exploration, experimentation, and experiential learning are hallmarks of the learning process. So too is opportunity. Opportunities to explore our local culture in depth as well as study abroad are provided by Dr. Hanson’s works. Tracy Alcée has experienced a range of student organizations and leadership opportunities which led to her summer internship in Washington, D.C., at the prestigious Washington Center. These examples suggest just a few of the opportunities available to our students. In addition, this month brought the dedication ceremonies for the Fred and Martha Hafer ’02 Scanning Electron Microscope Lab and the Carlson R. Chambliss Astronomical Observatory – two generous gifts that enhance students’ ability to conduct research and experiment with state-of-the-art facilities and instrumentation. While November brings plenty of exams and papers, it also allows us to showcase the incredible learning experiences available to students. I encourage everyone to take a moment in this busy time to explore the incredible opportunities Kutztown provides.





Dr. Hanson | Modern Language Studies

Faculty highlight

The Pennsylvania Dutch language has a rich history in Kutztown and the surrounding areas. Among the Amish and Mennonite communities, the language continues to be used and taught. However, in the nonsectarian communities, the language is not as prevalent. Associate Professor of Modern Languages Dr. Gregory Hanson is making it his mission to study and teach both standard German and the Pennsylvania Dutch language and the lasting effects both languages have on the community and students of KU.

Dr. Hanson is one of two German professors on campus. While Hanson teaches all general German courses, he comes from a linguistics background. His favorite course to teach is the German Fairy Tales class. He originally developed it as an experimental course, but it is now part of the regular curriculum. The course is a great way to learn the German language since fairy tales teach basic vocabulary through creative repetition. With the two German language tracks—the traditional German major and the B.S. Ed. in German—students come away with a great understanding of the language and literature.

Being a Modern Language Studies professor, Hanson usually has small classes, so he can work with students for a number of semesters and monitor the progress they make. For students, the skills they learn go way beyond the classroom. They are able to take the hard work they put in and graduate with a skill that can take them places. Many of Hanson's students have built lives for themselves all over the world, like moving to Europe after studying abroad.

Hanson does not have any familial ties to Germany; he is of Scandinavian heritage. However, in his undergraduate years, he found a love for the German language and switched from music to German studies. He moved to the Kutztown area almost two decades ago and quickly found a research path with the PA Dutch language.

Dr. Hanson's most recent research interest is the radio skits of farm couple Asseba and Sabina. Every Sunday afternoon in the 1940s and 50s, WSAN Allentown broadcast original radio conversations between Asseba and Sabina, all in PA Dutch dialect. "I couldn't believe that this authentic material had never really been given a wider public exposure," said Hanson. Hanson took 24 of the over 400 Asseba and Sabina episodes, translated them into English, and published them

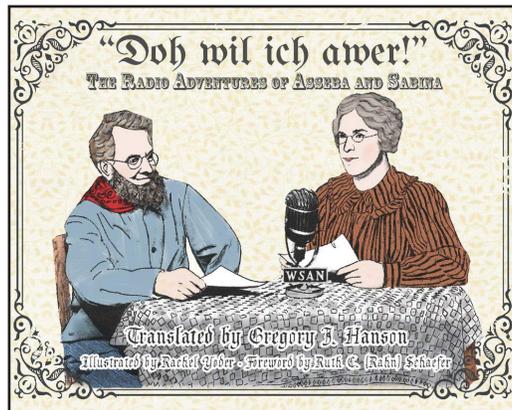
in PA Dutch, and the other side has his English translations. Hanson designed the book this way so it serves every level of the German-speaking audience. Of the 24 translations, his favorite is the first one he ever worked on, "The Night is Dark." Originally aired in 1947, it is the second January skit in the book. He hopes to continue translating and publishing as many of the remaining 400 episodes of Asseba and Sabina as he can.

Aside from Hanson's research with the locals Asseba and Sabina, he also explores the nuances of the German language around the world. Hanson

"I couldn't believe that this authentic material had never really been given a wider public exposure."

into a book titled *Doh Wil Ich Awer! (Well I'll Be!) The Radio Adventures of Asseba & Sabina*. The sales and proceeds of the book benefit The Pennsylvania German Culture Heritage Center located on the KU campus.

is the director of the KU Germany and the Alps summer study abroad program. From the busy city life of Munich, Germany to the small alpine village of Telfes, Austria, students spend time exploring beautiful mountain areas and classic German sites, such as the Neuschwanstein Castle.



The cover and illustrations of *Doh Wil Ich Awer! (Well I'll Be!) The Radio Adventures of Asseba and Sabina* were done by KU alum Rachel Yoder.

Hanson's favorite aspect of the three-week long trip is watching the development of the students. "In the beginning when they step off the plane in Munich, they are following us like little ducklings not knowing what they're doing." Then, by the end of the trip, the students have learned not only the course material but also a real sense of independence.

The German language has deep roots in the Kutztown area, and it can open up an entire world of possibilities and knowledge. "The Germans have an expression that translates into 'jumping over your own shadow,'" said Hanson. "It goes back to saying that it's a leap of faith. You have to jump over your own shadow to open up to the world." Many students have taken that leap multiple times and have created beautiful lives for themselves all over the world.