



the Collage

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Kutztown University

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Professor Donna DeMarco | CSIT Faculty Highlight

"My favorite part [of Computer Science] is solving problems and creating something that's never existed before," explains Professor Donna DeMarco, Computer Science and Information Technology professor at Kutztown University. Professor DeMarco found her love for teaching when her work led her to travel and teach software engineering to Fortune 100 companies. Years later, after earning her master's degree and retiring from the industry, she started teaching at KU.

Professor DeMarco says the most fulfilling aspect of her teaching career is when her students figure out how to do things on their own, and the lightbulb goes off. "I just so enjoy working with students," she shares. She also loves to get feedback from her students, especially after they graduate and have a chance to see what the industry is really like.

titled Computer Science for All has the goal of helping underrepresented students enter the field. She also wants to encourage young women to enter computer science and STEM to create more of a female presence within the industry. Along with Dr. Frye and Chris Brutschea, the Associate CIO at St. Luke's University Health Network, Professor DeMarco helped create the Girls in STEM Symposium, a part of another multi-year grant. The annual event is co-hosted by the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology and other STEM departments at KU. The event showcases what the fields are all about to encourage female high school students to enter the offered STEM majors.

One of the classes Professor DeMarco currently enjoys teaching is the Computer Science Seminar. The class, offered to upperclassmen, applies everything they learned in computer science so far to a larger, real-life project. A recent student collaboration for

up green, red, or yellow depending on how hard the baby is shaken. Ms. Augustine created a detailed silicone infant brain from a 3D printed mold to go inside the doll to simulate a real baby's brain and see what happens when it is shaken. The hope for these simulators is that they are distributed within the network for different training programs. One of the students was even hired full-time to work in the department after they graduated. "[The class is] just really cool; the students are actually working with a real-world company and organization, and they are getting to build something that has a real-world impact," Professor DeMarco adds.

Through her experiences and love of teaching, Professor DeMarco tries to create an equal space for all students within her classroom. "I try to make students aware of all the different people that have achieved things... that there are people like them out there," she notes. "I make sure everybody gets equal time and responsibilities; we hold each other accountable." She believes having different perspectives and skills are important when building a product, and she encourages everyone to try Computer Science: "It's fun to solve problems."

"My favorite part [of Computer Science] is solving problems and creating something that's never existed before."

Her focus on mentoring younger students and introducing them to the field along with other STEM oriented tracks has been important to her career as well. She explains that her first National Science Foundation (NSF) grant worked to get middle school students excited about STEM. Professor DeMarco's current NSF grant with Drs. Lisa Frye, George Sirrakos, and Joleen Greenwood

the seminar with the St. Luke's University Healthcare Network Simulation Center aided in creating tools for training programs and nurses. Director Megan Augustine asked the students to help design a simulator to show new parents and guardians how easy it is to give their babies shaken baby syndrome. The students used a baby doll with a clear head and built sensors to go inside that light

Congratulations, December Graduates!

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's office would like to congratulate the fall 2022 graduates. You have met many challenges during your journey here at KU, but you have made it to the end with success. We hope you are proud of your accomplishments and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Congratulations, class of fall 2022!





Eva Labram | Professional Writing Student Highlight

Writing has always been an interest for Kutztown University senior Eva Labram. Now majoring in Professional Writing, Eva likes to explore different types of writing and is currently working towards a certificate in technical writing with minors in public relations, literature, and women's, gender, and sexuality studies (WGS).

Eva started off her college journey at Penn State's accelerated pre-medicine program, but she quickly learned that it wasn't her path. After taking some time off, she went back to school, this time for writing. "It's something that I'm passionate

about and it's something that I love to do. So, I decided to pursue it," she says. Eva transferred to Kutztown her junior year after earning her Associate degree in journalism from Northampton Community College.

She hopes to help others with her writing, using not only her knowledge in professional writing, journalism, and PR, but also her WGS minor. "I want to always be an advocate for people," she notes. "I feel like WGS is perfect for that because you learn so much about marginalized communities." She feels a minor in WGS allows her to procure the research and background she may need when advocating for others in the future. "I want to help my community and the larger global community," Eva explains. "I want

to go into the nonprofit field to begin with, and eventually I was thinking about doing grant writing for a local university or a local nonprofit." After graduating, Eva is also planning on applying to graduate schools, making her way into a career in academia as a professor alongside nonprofit work.

"Try your hand at as many things as you can. The more types of writing that you try the better you will get at the skill of writing...."

Her interest in advocacy shows up in her involvement on campus as well. Eva has been a part of the KU Above and Beyond Language of the Ear club (KUABLE), where

members can learn new signs in American sign language and discuss topics related to deafness and the hearing impaired. Through this club she is hoping to learn how to help disabled communities in her own life while also strengthening her American Sign Language skills. "I think the disabled community gets pushed to the side," she says. "I went [to KUABLE] so that I can find ways to make life more inclusive."

One of the most rewarding aspects of Eva's success has been helping the department secretary as a student worker with the English department. She explains how she gets to meet many professors outside of the classroom environment and have conversations with them about their experiences in the writing field. "It's given me a fuller, overarching view of the career that I've chosen and the path that I've decided to go on," Eva explains.

Along with her involvement on campus, Eva has been nominated as a Standout Student by Dr. John Ronan, professor of English at KU, for her work in the course Experiences in American Literature. "It's a fantastic

opportunity," she says. In her free time, Eva likes to read, do some creative writing, crochet, and sew. As for her advice to other Professional Writing students, "Try your hand at

as many things as you can," Eva says. "The more types of writing that you try, the better you will get at the skill of writing...."

Bonus Content



Watch Some of Eva's Interview

To watch, click on the video!

Or go to our YouTube channel:
<https://youtu.be/77UKWZ8o-nA>

