UC PEOPLE
Kyle Green, Assistant Professor of Sociology
By Marissa Filletti ’18, PR Intern

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself.
A: I went to SUNY Geneseo for my undergraduate degree, and I majored in geography and philosophy. I was like a lot of freshmen here; I didn’t really know what I wanted to study. I tried a geography class, which I didn’t know anything about, but immediately became interested in it.

Q: How did you become interested in sociology?
A: I studied cultural geography at the University of Minnesota. While I was working toward my master’s degree, I took my first-ever sociology class. It really drew me in—my interests had been moving toward trying to understand how people build communities and connections to other people, and how they build meaning from the experiences that they share. For example, I have always played sports and have been a sports fan. On a regular basis, you have 30,000 people show up at a stadium and rally behind a team. That’s kind of bizarre if you think about it, right?

My professor told all of these stories of traveling and studying why people live the way that they do and the movement from people from one area to another. I was lucky enough to travel at a young age so I was always interested in cultural differences and ways of living among people. By the time I completed my undergraduate degree, I knew that I wanted to keep learning, so I decided to continue on to graduate school.

“As sociologists we not only want to observe a pattern in society, but we want to understand why it’s happening.”

-Kyle Green

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New Hires
Sainggech Ung, Site Assistant - Middle School, YSLPP
Wendy Moore, Assistant Professor of Nursing,

New Titles
Carol Bates, Academic Financial Analyst, Financial Affairs

CONGRATULATIONS!
The Kudos Card program monthly drawing winner is...

Alane Varga
Congratulations, Alane, and enjoy your $50 gift certificate to Symeon’s Restaurant!

You can access the link below at any time to recognize a colleague for his/her great work:
utica.edu/kudos

“Thank you for coming to our rescue this morning when we were short-staffed for proctoring final exams for students with disabilities. We appreciate that you sent out an email to Student Affairs staff and that you came over yourself to help us proctor first session in the morning. We appreciate all that you do to help OLS and our students.”

SUPERVISOR ORIENTATION
Starting Monday, Feb. 13 the Office of Human Resources will hold group supervisor orientations. These orientations are for any new supervisors but any current supervisors are welcome to attend. They will be held the second Monday of the month from 10-11 a.m. in the ECJSC Seminar Room (209). To register, please visit the Events and Training page on the HR website, utica.edu/hr/training.cfm.

If you have any questions please contact the Human Resource Office at x3276.
Hossein Behforooz, professor of mathematics, presented a talk at the Annual Joint Mathematics Meeting held in Atlanta this month. He has also reviewed two articles as a referee for the Journal of Algorithms and Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics. 1/17

History majors Nolan Cool ’15 and Jeremy Youngs ’13 were published this month in “New York History,” a scholarly journal by the New York State Historical Association and the State University of New York College at Oneonta. Cool’s article is titled “Pelts and Prosperity: The Fur Trade and the Mohawk Valley, 1757-1776,” and Youngs’ piece is titled “From Home Front to Battle Front: Brothers in the Civil War.” Both grads started their research projects in HIS 456 Guided Historical Research while at UC. 1/17

A manuscript co-authored by Sharon Kanfoush, professor of geology, and Sarah Robinson ’16 titled “Influence of Lake Morphometry on Paleoproductivity Patterns in Lakes Subjected to Similar Climate Change Conditions in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, eastern North America,” has been accepted for publication in The Northeastern Geographer. 1/17

Sara Scanga, associate professor of biology, co-authored a special issue open access paper titled “Acid Rain and its Environmental Effects: Recent Scientific Advances — Papers from the Ninth International Conference on Acid Deposition.” The paper was co-authored by recent bio alums Alex Alinea ’16 and Gabe Zabala ’15, as well as R.D. Sabo, G.B. Lawrence, C.D. Schirmer, D.M. Nelson and K.N. Eshleman. 12/16

Steven Specht, professor of psychology, and Dave Roberts, adjunct professor of psychology, co-authored a paper titled “Levels of Grief and Nostalgia are Positively Correlated in Bereft Older Adults” and will present it at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association in Boston this March. 12/16


Utica College Pioneer Radio WPNR FM 90.7 will receive an award from the College Radio Day foundation for its outstanding participation in Worldwide College Radio day last November. Station adviser Doug Croft and staff members joined with Hamilton College’s WHCL, Cazenovia College’s WITC and Colgate University’s WRCU to produce special programming – including a simulcast – to celebrate the day. 1/17

Please send information and photos for KUDOS to source@utica.edu.
IN THE NEWS...

- **Austen Givens**, assistant professor of cybersecurity, was a guest on WUTQ’s “Talk of the Town” discussing Russia, its leader Vladimir Putin, and President Trump. 12/1

- WUTR Eyewitness News reporter Grace Fernandez interviewed UC students Ena ’19 and Tea Latic ’18 about balancing their schoolwork with teaching karate in their father’s downtown Utica dojo, all while practicing to make the 2020 U.S. Olympic team. 12/6

- **Rosemary Bonacci**, adjunct instructor of public relations, spoke with WKTV about how her class worked on projects to help the Abraham House, a nonprofit group providing free end-of-life care to terminally ill patients. 12/6

- Mikhail Bushinski ’17 was interviewed by Alicia Daddario on WKTV News Channel 2 about his successful ice cream truck start-up business. Bushinski, a member of UC’s Men’s Hockey team, started the business to fuel his hockey career. 12/7

- **Christopher Riddle**, associate professor of philosophy and director of the Applied Ethics Institute, was interviewed by Alissa Scott ’13 of the Utica Observer-Dispatch to talk about his second book titled, “Human Rights, Disability, and Capabilities.” 12/10

- Mahira Patkovic ’18, president of UC’s Model UN, spoke with Observer-Dispatch reporter Carolyn Bostick about a coat drive held in the College’s resident halls, to benefit the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees. 12/15

- WKTV News Channel 2 multimedia journalist Kevin Montano ’16 covered a story on donations collected by the UC Greek organizations benefitted the Adopt-A-Classroom program, providing holiday gifts to first-grade children in Utica’s Hughes Elementary School. 12/16

- Utica College’s Emergency Medical Services organization was featured in the Utica Observer-Dispatch as one of the 12 lucky not-for-profit organizations to benefit from the Excellus Bluecross Blueshield Community Health Awards this year. The grant will allow UCEMS members to administer more CPR and AED trainings. 12/19

- **President Laura Casamento** was highlighted in the Utica Observer-Dispatch for being the first woman in Utica College history to serve as “Madame President.” The article was intended to highlight some of the most buzz worthy education news of 2016. 12/29

- David Roberts, adjunct professor of psychology, participated in an international BBC podcast on grief. 12/29

Grace Fernandez, of WUTR Eyewitness News interviews Ena Latic ’18, national karate champion and 2020 Olympic hopeful. 12/6
What are people getting from that experience? What are they seeking out in those moments? How does it shape their view of the world? That’s sociology.

While getting my Ph.D., I researched gender, culture, and sports. My dissertation research was on mixed martial arts (MMA), and I also had a study on representation of gender in Super Bowl commercials. When I was finishing my doctorate, I applied for teaching jobs across the country. I wanted to be at a small institution that emphasized teaching and not just research. I also grew up in a small town about an hour south of Utica, so the job here at UC was really appealing to me.

Q: Tell us more about your dissertation research in mixed martial arts. What conclusions were you able to draw from that?

A: This summer I’m actually looking to turn my dissertation research into a book. Mixed Martial Arts has really grown in the United States. It’s only been around since 1994. It was initially seen as this very controversial, brutal practice. Yet, all these people were joining MMA gyms—not with the goal of becoming a professional, but rather to learn to fight. At Minnesota I started going to a few local MMA gyms. I expected them to be these really rough places, like what you would see in a movie, but instead I found doctors, musicians, artists, graduate students, construction workers, chefs, lawyers—men from all different backgrounds and walks of life. These people would spend their lunch breaks and after-work hours choking and punching each other out, and I wanted to know why. So, I spent five years training in gyms around Minneapolis and St. Paul—sharing experiences and conversations with the people who filled those spaces.

What do I do in the book is look at the different reasons that this appeals to people. One interesting part of this story is that even though MMA is a very physical and painful pursuit, people are finding a sense of community and real intimacy through it. These guys share complicated personal stories and feel safe enough to reveal vulnerabilities. They are able to do that because they are in that setting punching and kicking one another—that both requires and builds this strong sense of trust. People have even said to me that they trust the guys that they fight with more than their good friends and long-time co-workers.

I saw this happen first hand. For example, the very first day I went in to the gym I was training with this guy, and he really opened up to me about how his marriage was falling apart and how his job wasn’t working out. This is the first time I met him, and he is having this personal conversation. That wouldn’t have been happening if 10 minutes before he had not been choking me. That moment is what made me decide that there was something to important I could learn from doing this research.

Q: The Super Bowl is coming up; tell us more about your research in Super Bowl ads. What should we be looking at from a sociological perspective?

A: Another graduate student and I sort of fell into this project. After watching the Super Bowl in 2010 we both had this immediate reaction that the commercials that year were very strange, and we wanted to take a closer look at what was going on. To do so, we went back and looked at all of the Super Bowl commercials from five years prior to 2010 and found that there was this clear shift in how masculinity was being represented and also a shift in the concerns companies were using the to sell their products. In 2010, men were portrayed at being at this breaking point. Many commercials featured men who were disillusioned about problems in society or just angry about the world. This wasn’t the classic portrayal of masculinity—you drink the beer, you drive a really fast car, and all of the sudden this really attractive woman is interested in you. It also wasn’t what researchers call the “loveable losers” of the early 2000s—young guys hanging out, having a good time, and treating women like sex objects, but just ending up with each other and their beer. In fact, in 2010, you have all these commercials where the women are virtually gone!

For example, take the Dockers commercial. Here you have guys wandering in a group, clearly lost in something that looks like an African savannah. They are disheveled in button-up shirts and white, tight underwear. But they are whistling and singing like they don’t have a care in the world, even though, as a viewer, we know they are facing impending doom. Then, at the end, it shifts to this tough, solitary man wearing Dockers and a t-shirt in front of this brick wall as this deep voice says something like “It is time to wear The Pants.” And this type of reject the silliness and reclaim something that was lost story was told over and over in 2010.

What is important is that the commercials are an important cultural object that provides insight into bigger shifts happening in society. In a way, advertisers do a lot of the work for us. They use massive amounts of resources to conduct research to get into the mind of the consumer so that they know what will appeal to them. As a result, they have a really good idea about what’s going on in society. The year 2010 was really the height of the recession. The companies were trying to take advantage of the concern about the economy and the awareness that a lot of traditionally masculine jobs certainly weren’t coming back. This context matters. As sociologists we not only want to observe a pattern in society, but we want to understand why it’s happening. The patterns of masculinity portrayed in Super Bowl ads are one particularly compelling example of this.
A-D: UC’s Inter Greek Council spread holiday cheer by delivering new hats, gloves, scarves, socks and winter coats to 61 lucky first grade students at John F. Hughes Elementary School. This year, the council adopted two classrooms and donated an additional $500 to the school. Sororities and fraternities that raised funds for the service project include Alpha Phi Delta, Alpha Chi Rho, Lambda Sigma Upsilon, Phi Beta Sigma, Theta Phi Alpha, Chi Beta Sigma, Omega Phi Beta, Sigma Iota Alpha and Kappa Delta Phi NAS. 12/15
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for donating all of the animal food, toys, treats, supplies and cleaning supplies to Spring Farm CARES. Thank you also for the monetary donation, totaling $370. We would not be able to continue to do what we do without the generosity of our wonderful supporters. Approximately 275 animals live at Spring Farm CARES including a large number of cats, a handful of dogs, rabbits, mice, parakeets and other exotic birds, turtles, horses, ponies, donkeys, goats, ducks, chickens, a sheep and geese.

Many are elderly and/or have other special needs. Unfortunately, some of the animals that come to us are gravely ill, or seriously injured and require extensive and costly medical intervention. Our animals receive the best care available and most recover and thrive. The animals that find their way to Spring Farms CARES are fortunate.

Two such individuals are Dax and Salem. Dax was brought to us in late October with very severe injuries after a Good Samaritan found him in the road, most likely hit by a car. Dax had been hospitalized for over a week receiving treatment for his injuries. His spine was fractured and his tail needed to be amputated, but he has made full recovery. Unfortunately, he needed to return to the veterinarian a few days later due to breathing difficulties. He has a cardiac condition for which he receives medication.

Salem is a very friendly cat that must have been hit by a car as well and left on the side of the road. A Good Samaritan also brought him to us and we brought him straight to our veterinarian. His pelvis was also fractured. He can take a couple of steps right now and with continued rest, we are very hopeful that he will regain full mobility. He has a great appetite and is very talkative.

In addition to being home to the animals, Spring Farm CARES offers several programs to the community. So far this year our Happy Hearth Spay/Neuter program and our feral cat TNR clinics have altered 2,792 animals! One of the most beautiful places in our area is Spring Farm CARES’ nature sanctuary where the goal is habitat restoration, wetland creation and the reintroduction of native vegetation. It’s definitely worth a visit.

Animals are incredible, special beings and we at SFC consider lucky to work among some of the most incredible and most special.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
Karen Strange
Office Manager
UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING
Please visit utica.edu/hr/training for updates and to register.
For Health and Wellness events, visit utica.edu/hr/wellness

January
01/27/17 Healthy Rewards Demonstration. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Webinar

February
02/03/17 Healthy Rewards Demonstration. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Webinar
02/10/17 Healthy Rewards Demonstration. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Webinar
02/13/17 Supervisor Training. 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., ECJS Seminar Room (209)
02/14/17 TIAA Individual Meetings. 9:00-5:00 p.m., Strebel 105C
02/17/17 H&W: Chair Massages

AROUND CAMPUS

A-B Snow day fun in the Ellen Knower Clarke Lounge.
C-D Annual midnight breakfast for those who plan to stay up late prepping for final exams.

SAVE THE DATE

UC To Host 2017 America’s Greatest Heart Run/Walk
Saturday, March 4, 2017

UC will once again host America's Greatest Heart Run/Walk on Saturday, March 4. New this year will be a half marathon, beginning at 8 a.m. As in years past, the College will also host the Health Expo on Friday, March 3.

Look for TEAM UC’s various fundraising events to take place in the coming weeks!

Contact Marissa Finch at mmfinch@utica.edu or x4575 for more information.

Pennies: This Means War!
The war is on! Departments across campus are pooling their pennies in an effort to support Team UC in America’s Greatest Heart Run and Walk. Each penny deposited will count one point toward an office total, while silver coins or dollar bills can “sabotage” another office (for example, a nickel is a -5 point sabotage, while a dollar bill is a -100 point sabotage).

Marissa Finch will visit participating offices every Friday to collect coins, including sabotages. Offices or departments may receive an official sabotage declaration, and if so, may then choose to return the sabotage!

It's all in fun and for a great cause. The office or department with the highest number of points on Feb. 17 will win a grand prize.

Bottle and Can Drive
If your office would like to contribute to Team UC’s bottle and can drive, you can deliver your collection to the library (Thursdays, please) and we will get them converted to cash. The library contact is ecaraco@utica.edu.