UC PEOPLE
Katie Spires, Librarian and Coordinator of Library Services for Distance Education

By Kelsey Carlo ‘18, PR Intern

Q: Tell us a little about yourself and how you came to take your position at Utica College.
A: I am originally from Kentucky. I received my undergraduate degree in creative writing from Kalamazoo College in 2004 and my Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) in 2008 from the University of Pittsburgh. After getting my graduate degree, I went abroad for about six years, working in libraries. I did study abroad in high school and college so it wasn’t anything new to me. I worked in Hiroshima, Japan for about two years at the Academy for the International Community in Japan (AICJ) Junior and Senior High School. Since the school was strong in English language, they wanted English-speaking employees. I then worked in Astana, Kazakhstan, for about four years, at Nazarbayev University.

Q: What does your job entail and what does a typical day look like?
A: The librarian side of me helps students with any questions they have. Once a week I sit at the reference librarian desk so I help students with any questions they have with research and such. I also serve on the Academic Assessment Coordinating Committee. On the distance learning side, I focus on looking at what we can offer to the students to make it as close to being on campus as possible, and offer them the same resources that on campus students have. I make tutorial videos for the students on how to find their research, etc. I also make captions for the videos for people with hearing issues.

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- Katie Spires

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10 RISING COLLEGE FRESHMEN WORKING AT UTICA BUSINESSES

By Kelsey Carlo ’18, PR Intern

Young Scholars Liberty Partnership Program (YSLPP) is in collaboration with Indium Corporation and the McCartney Family Foundation to provide ten graduated seniors with paid internships through various businesses and organizations in the city of Utica.

The organizations and businesses hosting interns include Meyda Lighting, A&P Master Images, Refugee Center, Mohawk Valley Latino Association (MVLA), City Hall – Mayor’s Office, YWCA, Stanley, Utica Roasting, Sculpture Space, and the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI).

Pam Matt, executive director of YSLPP, offered her thanks to Indium Corporation and the McCartney Family Foundation for their support of the internships and looks forward to many more years of success together. Matt said six of the interns will continue to “Grow Big Dreams” as they begin classes at UC this fall.

“What a great program this is for Utica’s youth to observe and experience the workforce,” said Michael Gugila, interim human resources director at the YWCA. “Our youth is on the rise – our intern has enthusiasm and professionalism. It’s great for them to see all that we do as well.”

Louis Ly, interning at the Utica mayor’s office said, “It’s been great to learn more about government. I was able to write a proclamation for a town park being re-named. I love helping people work through their problems and I am able to do this here.”

PHOTO: Young Scholars Students gazing at a bright future.

Young Scholars Liberty Partnerships Program (YSLPP) is a multi-year collaborative project, established in 1993 with Utica College (UC) and the Utica City School District (UCSD). This program is designed by education professionals to motivate diverse and talented students to stay in school, earn a New York State Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, and pursue post-secondary education. Young Scholars students participate in a comprehensive program providing academic, social, and cultural enrichment.

Sarah Garramone, career development specialist, has been appointed to serve on the Central New York Career Development Association’s executive board as the Professional Development Chair for the 2017-18 term.

Halina Lotyczewski, director of Career Services, has been elected to serve on the Central New York Career Development Association’s Executive Board as the President for the 2017-2019 term.

- Lotyczewski has also been elected to serve on the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison Counties BOCES’ School and Business Alliance Board for the 2017-2020 term.

Ellen McHale, adjunct professor of geography, was named to the Fulbright Specialist Roster for a three-year tenure, 2016-2020. Applicants are accepted on a competitive basis to the Fulbright Specialist Roster which launched in 2001. As Executive Director of the New York Folklore Society, McHale holds her Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania. Before her time with Utica College, McHale received a Senior Fellowship as a Fulbright Scholar at University of Stockholm, Sweden, from 1988–1989 and has taught folklore classes for Empire State College and Hudson Valley Community College.

Dave Roberts, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote his first piece titled “Pecking at the Shadows,” published on the Mind-Body Network.

- Roberts also presented a workshop with Kris Munsch of the Birdhouse Project, which was held at the Radisson Hotel in Utica. It was titled “Journey of Self - Discovery - Empowerment Through Grief.” The workshop was a component of the conference “Navigating Through Grief: Hurt, Hope and Healing” sponsored by The Good News Center. Roberts was also on the conference committee.

Jessica Thomas, associate professor of biology, attended the 21st International C. elegans Meeting at UCLA where she presented her research titled “Erythritol Use as an Insecticide Negatively Affects C. elegans and Two Common Agricultural Crops.” This work was in collaboration with Sara Scanga, associate professor of biology. Her student, Hardik Nariya ‘17, presented his research titled “Investigating the Effect of Artificial Lighting at Night (ALAN) on C. elegans Offspring Production and Lifespan.” This work was in collaboration with Bryant Buchanan, professor of biology, and Sharon Wise, professor of biology and dean of Arts and Sciences.

UC’s 2017 Corporate Cup Team for the 40th anniversary of the Boilermaker 15K Road Race included Gil Burgmaster, Sam Catterson, Sean Coffey, Eileen Coyle, Michele Davis, Jason Denman, Brad Emmons, Dave Fontaine, Gary Heenan, Christine Kiesel, Pamela Matt, Chris Melenovsky, Gabrielle Moriello, Richard Racioppa, Chris Riddle, Michael Stockman, Ashton Villeneuve, David Wadas and Sharon Wise.

Please send information and photos for KUDOS to source@utica.edu.
disabilities. Making videos is definitely a big part of my job for distance learning.

Q: Do you help anyone besides students?
A: I not only help students both on campus and distance, I also help the faculty and staff. In the library are not only here to serve the students, but the faculty and staff as well. I help them with any research they need. I also help them with their course of teaching such as accommodating them when they bring their class in, supporting them with their assignments they give the students and offering the resources I have.

Q: Are there any unusual things you have had to do at this job?
A: I wouldn’t necessarily call this unusual, but it is definitely interesting: using video conferencing software to offer research help to distance learning students. We use Adobe Connect and it is sufficient because it allows the student to see my screen as well. I was familiar with this because they did use Skype a lot in Kazakhstan. It is an interesting way to help students with their research from a distance. I have definitely enjoyed using it. Also, something else I do that is not necessarily unusual but different is helping students through the chat hotline we have online. I spend about an hour once a week on the chat helping whoever needs it.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of the job?
A: I like getting to help people. I like to see what they are researching. When someone comes to me for help, I may not have much knowledge in that area, but when I help him or her I learn a little bit more than I did before. It’s nice to be able to give suggestions or shortcuts when someone is researching. It benefits me also when I help people because it helps me become more knowledgeable with my job in general.
What do local knitters and activism have in common?
The UC faculty and staff knitting club shows that there
can be more to knitting or crocheting than meets the
eye. The UC knitting circle began in the fall of 2016
with Caren Summers, the Student Employment and
Wellness coordinator, and has continued growing
since. The group consists of faculty and staff from
all over campus. Some members knit while others
crochet or quilt. The group has about 10 regular
members, with others occasionally joining in for good
conversation. The craft circle has created a sense of
community among knitting lovers on UC’s campus.
The members agree that they have met wonderful,
helpful new friends through their weekly meetings.
The craft circle connects every Friday to work on
projects. In the past, the club has created hats for
the PussyHat Project for the 2017 Women’s Marches.
Most recently, the club is taking on the task of
creating refugee welcome blankets. The Welcome
Blanket Project is another national project that aims
to connect new United States immigrants with people
already living in the U.S. At the end of the summer,
the blankets will be displayed at the Smart Museum
of Art in Chicago before they are sent out to new
immigrants all over the country. The creators of the
project hope to turn the 2,000 miles of proposed
border walls into something more welcoming and
inclusive - 2,000 miles of yarn made up of individual
blankets.
The group keeps in touch with each other and other
local crafters through its Facebook page “Utica
Craftivists.” Here, they share new project ideas with
one another and announce meetings or impromptu
get-togethers at cafes. The UC knitting circle is for
any member of the faculty or staff who would enjoy
a small break throughout their week. Anyone can
join them, no matter their skill level. The club also
has some extra materials for those who are looking to
start knitting or get a quick refresher course. You can
find them every Friday at 12:30 in the Library or on
Facebook under “Utica Craftivists.”
UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING
Please visit utica.edu/hr/training for updates and to register.
For Health and Wellness events, visit utica.edu/hr/wellness

**August**

- **08/01/17** Sharing Files with Google Drive. 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., L121
- **08/14/17** Supervisor Orientation. 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.; ECJS Seminar Room (209)
- **08/16/17** Transfer Orientation
- **08/18/17** Summer Hours End
- **08/22 - 08/23/17** New Faculty Orientation
- **08/23/17** Fall Welcome. 8:00 a.m. - Refreshments, 8:30 a.m. - Welcome; Strebel Student Center
- **08/23/17** Ice Cream Social 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.; Library Concourse
- **08/24/17** TIAA Cref Individual Appointments
- **08/25/17** New Student Orientation
- **08/25/17** Convocation. 3:30 p.m.; Clark Athletic Center Gymnasium
- **08/28/17** Classes Begin
- **08/28/17** Dining Hall Ribbon Cutting

Check out HR’s new page for training and development: utica.edu/hr/trainingopp.cfm

AROUND CAMPUS

DINING COMMONS RENOVATIONS WELL UNDER WAY

Grand Opening Set for August 28

Stacy Thomas, operations manager, said the staff is so excited for the grand opening of the new Dining Commons! Faculty, staff and students will be welcomed with a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration on Monday, Aug. 28 at 11 a.m. Look for surprises, giveaways and special pricing on that day.

Thomas said that if everything goes as planned, athletes and freshmen will be the first to use the new facility when they arrive on campus, prior to the grand opening.

ENJOY SUMMER WITH UC HEALTH & WELLNESS

Stay on track this summer with fun programming from the UC Health & Wellness Committee.

*Pre-registration may be required for some events.*
Visit utica.edu/hr/wellness/ for more information and to register.

- **Food Truck Wednesdays**
  - Various food trucks on campus
  - Wednesdays through Aug. 16.
  - 11:00-2:00 p.m.; Parking Lot B
  - across from Gordon Science Center

- **UC Garden Club in full swing**
  - Contact Jessica Skeldon for more information: jeskeldo@utica.edu

- **UC Knitting Club**
  - Meets every Friday; Beginners and Pros are welcome
  - 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.; Frank E. Gannett Memorial Library

- **Get-Back-on-Track Yoga Series**
  - 6-Week Session
  - with Sharon Kanfoush, Professor of Geology
  - July 10-Aug. 18, Mondays and Fridays, 12:00-1:00 p.m.; Boehlert Conference Room (most)
  - Contact Caren for more information cbsummers@utica.edu

- **Mah Jong Lessons**
  - Beginning Aug. 21. Details to follow

- **Summer Volleyball**
  - UC vs. Gilroy Kernan and Gilroy
  - July 12 and Aug. 2, after work; UC sand volleyball court.
  - Sign up on H & W website

- **Monthly Chair Massages**
  - Sign up on H & W website

- **Flu Clinic/Farmers Market**
  - Monday, Sept. 11, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.;
  - Ellen Knower Clarke Lounge, Strebel Student Center