

INFORMATION. TIPS. EVENTS.

UC MATTERS

# THE SOURCE

APRIL 2019

## UC PEOPLE

Rafal Kus, Visiting Professor and Professor of Journalism at Jagiellonian University

By: Jessica Bates '20 PR Intern

**Q: What do you find most interesting about living in the U.S.?**

**A:** I would have to say the diversity. In comparison to the U.S., Poland is a very homogenous country. There is not a lot of ethnic diversity and everyone speaks the same language. In the U.S., the levels of cultural and

Jagiellonian University also deal with American topics. My elective courses at the Jagiellonian include "American Television," "American Space Program," and "American Rhetoric." It's also great to be in the U.S. because everywhere I go, I am able to discover little things associated with the fields of my studies. In Utica, I found a plaque commemorating the visit of Alexis de Tocqueville. While in New York City, I was able to visit the Rockefeller Center, which is where a large part of the history of American broadcasting was made. My time in the U.S. has been a fascinating journey.

**Q: What differences do you see between students in the U.S. and students in Poland?**

**A:** To tell you the truth, I don't see that many differences. I have been lucky to spend many years of my professional academic career working at institutions of higher learning that are

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linguistic diversity are obviously much higher, which I find truly fascinating. The United States is a country that is very dear to my heart, as I spent the majority of my academic career conducting research on its many aspects. My Ph.D. dissertation was about the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and many of my lectures at

*"Having an audience that is eager to learn and is actually interested in the subject matter can create a sort of connection between the students and the lecturer, which is a magnificent experience for any academic teacher."*

*-Rafal Kus*



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BACK COVER  
Events & Training



*Color them happy! Members of the Asian Student Union celebrated Holi, the annual "festival of colors" honoring the arrival of spring—and got some sweet new t-shirts in the process. 4/11*

**UTICA**  
COLLEGE

*Never stand still*

# HR NOTES

## New Hires

Andrea Casuras, *Success Coach, Center for Student Success*

Eva DiMaggio, *Clinical Lab Coordinator, School of Health Professions and Education*

Maureen Finnegan, *Site Assistant, YSLPP*

Angela Fistick, *Administrative Assistant III, Student Wellness Center*

Kerr Flanders, *Director of Annual Support Programs, Office of Advancement*

## New Titles

Nicole Cornacchia-Morgan, *Associate Registrar*



## 2019 COMMENCEMENT

### UC'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES SET FOR MAY 11

*Kaitlyn Tambasco PR intern '20*

On May 11, UC will hold both of its undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies. The undergraduate ceremony will take place at 12:30 p.m. and the graduate ceremony at 6:00 p.m. Both will take place at the Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium and doors will open one hour before each ceremony.

Bus transportation will be available from Strebel Student Center for both graduates and their guests. They will begin loading approximately 90 minutes before each ceremony.

There is a bumper crop of undergrads this year; 626 students applied for May graduation, while 370 applied for the graduate ceremony

The valedictorian for this year's undergraduate class is Justin Derlago and the salutatorian is Gianluca Baggetta. Both are members of the men's hockey team and are originally from Canada. Derlago will graduate with a liberal studies degree and Baggetta will graduate with an accounting degree.

Linda Bramblett '89 will be the undergraduate commencement speaker and Joseph Martino '08, G '10 will be the graduate commencement speaker. Bramblett is the current director of North American transportation for International Paper and graduated from UC with a degree in liberal arts/pre-engineering and later earned another bachelor's in chemical engineering from Virginia Tech.

Martino is the supervising gaming operations inspector for the New York State Gaming Commission at both the Point Place Casino in Bridgeport and the Yellow Brick Road Casino in Chittenango. Martino earned his bachelor's degree in economic crime investigations with a minor in economics from Utica College in 2008, and his master's of business administration in economic crime and fraud management from UC in 2010.

John Costello III '66 will receive an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters. Costello retired in 2014 as the president, CEO, and co-founder of CNFA, a private, non-profit development organization in Washington, DC, that was founded to stimulate economic growth, enterprise, and development in the world's emerging economies. He graduated from UC with a degree in public relations.

## CONGRATULATIONS!



The Kudos Card program monthly drawing winners are...

**Mary Agnew**

Congratulations, Mary,  
and enjoy your prize!

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



ranked among the very best. These include both Jagiellonian University, which was established in 1364 and is traditionally known as the flagship academic institution of Poland, and Utica College.

**Q: Similarities?**

**A:** What I like a lot about Utica College students and also my students at Jagiellonian University is the curiosity, willingness to expand their knowledge, and willingness to share their thoughts during class discussions. Having an audience that is eager to learn and is actually interested in the subject matter can create a sort of connection between the students and the lecturer, which is a magnificent experience for any academic teacher. I have had plenty of these moments at the Jagiellonian. For example, last semester I had a lecture about the American Space Program and I was excited to go to class every week because the students seemed to be as interested and as passionate about the topic as I was. I can see this attitude at Utica College as well, although I only teach one class here. So far, my experience has been nothing short of excellent. There are many students who are very active and eager to participate every week in class discussions. This makes my work here extremely satisfying, and also quite a lot of fun, which is very important to me as an academic teacher.

**Q: How is journalism different in Poland?**

**A:** In Poland, journalism, especially nowadays, is polarized along the ideological and political lines. As explained in the classification of media systems by Daniel Hallin and Paolo Mancini, there are three main models of media systems in democratic countries. According to those scholars, the U.S. is a prime example of the liberal media system, in which press is predominantly commercial and generally not meant to be a speaking tube for any political party or political movement, as the primary purpose of a media outlet is just to generate income for its owner. In many European democratic countries, on the other hand, press has traditionally been instrumentalized by political organizations. In the case of the Polish media, you can clearly see the political positions of the editorial teams in many magazines, newspapers, or TV channels. There is not a lot of in-depth reporting or analysis of events. Instead, they attempt to sell their own versions of truth. This is even more significant now, in the times of the new media, when basically every blogger can be a commentator of what's going on in Poland. I'm not very optimistic or happy about the current state of Polish media. Of course, superficially, it's much more professional today than it was 20 or 30 years ago. For example, you can watch an American news show and a Polish news show and the quality of the presentation is about the same. It's all well made from the technical point of view, but in many cases there is too much political bias and not really an actual attempt to inform and educate the public. I think this is a sad development, but of course it is associated with the current level of political polarization in Poland. There are two main camps fighting with each other and the press feels somehow obliged or forced to take sides in this argument.

**Q: What is everyday life like in Poland?**

**A:** Everyday life in Poland is very similar to everyday life in the U.S. The main difference is that we get less snow than the city of Utica does. To be honest though, since the political and economic transformation in 1989, Poland has been a capitalist country and is developing rapidly economically. In the days of the contemporary globalized culture, I think we all, those in the

U.S., Poland, and other countries, watch the same television shows, which usually happen to be American, we listen to the same music, also American, and we enjoy various American cultural enterprises such as Netflix. Many of my friends spend quite a lot of time in front of the TV watching "Stranger Things," "Orange Is the New Black," "Game of Thrones," and other American series. I must say that I'm also living in an American media bubble as I work at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora at Jagiellonian University and most of my colleagues and students are interested in the U.S. culture. To tell you the truth though, there really aren't that many differences between Poland and the U.S. nowadays.

One difference, however, is that the U.S. is a more affluent country, and the buying power of an average U.S. citizen seems to be much higher than in Poland. Also, prior to 1989, the situation in Poland was totally different. We had the communist system, so there were times in which there were shortages of consumer goods and the culture was much less commercialized. Now, the commercial aspects of mass communication can be seen everywhere. It's quite similar to what you have here in the U.S.

Of course, there are some other minor differences in everyday life that you could find between any set of two countries. One thing I do find a bit frustrating about the U.S. in comparison to Poland is that I feel that many cities in the U.S. are designed with cars in mind. Sometimes this makes it unnecessarily difficult to walk from place to place without using a car. In Poland, the majority of cities are much older than American cities and were designed with pedestrians in mind in the first place.

**Q: You are a graduate of Jagiellonian University, have completed postgraduate studies in several different content areas, and have made many other great accomplishments with regard to schooling. Is the way in which you obtain degrees in Poland different than how one would obtain a degree in the U.S.? How so?**

**A:** Thank you so much! I would say that the most important difference is that in Poland education is free at the academic level. If you have the grades, the will to study in your chosen field, and if you're able to pass the entrance examinations, then the government pays for your schooling. In the U.S., however, attending a college seems to be a major life investment. You have to pay quite a lot for it and you continue to pay your debt for quite some time in your adult life, in many cases. In Poland, the government takes care of this, so a lot of people in Poland get to study. However, our institutions of higher learning cannot compete with American academic institutions when it comes to research. Research, at the highest level, requires substantial funding that is much more readily available to American institutions. When it comes to teaching though, Poland is doing quite a good job. Many of our students graduate and do well, sometimes even extremely well, in their careers.

Another difference is that the educational systems of Poland and other European states offer students the chance to participate in many international projects. For example, there are several great programs that allow young people to study in a different European country for a semester and many of our students take advantage of this opportunity. It's a life-enriching experience and I wish such programs were available to and popular among American students as well.

**Thomas Crist**, Harold T. Clark Jr. Professor of Anthropology and Anatomy and professor of physical therapy, attended the 71st annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Baltimore. Joining him were former students Katherine Pope, Rebecca Judkins, Elena Janowiak, Jenna Watson, and Megan Kleeschulte, who participated in the Albanian/Romanian Forensic Anthropology Field School. All five students are currently pursuing their masters and doctoral degrees in anthropology at various universities.

**Sam Famolaro**, site assistant at Proctor and Young Scholars Liberty Partnership Program community outreach coordinator, was named the 2019 recipient of the Genesis Group's Strive Award. *(pictured below, with Pamela Matt, Executive Director of YSLPP, at left)*



**Michael McCarthy**, assistant professor of sociology and program director for M.S. in Data Science, wrote a review of a program used by students in the masters in data science program. Alteryx is a self-service data analytics movement with a platform that can discover, prep, analyze data, and deploy and share analytics. The review was published on the Alteryx community website.

**Joe Milazzo**, head coach of the baseball team, will be inducted into the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame on June 9, at Delta Hotels in Utica. He was the league administrator for the New York-Penn League for 10 seasons, and was a director/instructor of the Grand Slam Baseball Academy in Montreal, joining UC in 2013.

**Sara Scanga**, associate professor of biology, co-organized, moderated, and gave a presentation in two sessions entitled "EREN: A Collaborative Networked Approach to Research and Teaching with Undergraduates I & II" at the Northeast Natural History Conference in Springfield, MA. Her presentation, which had 9 collaborating coauthors, was entitled "Macroscale ecology in the classroom: an EREN partnership using NEON data."

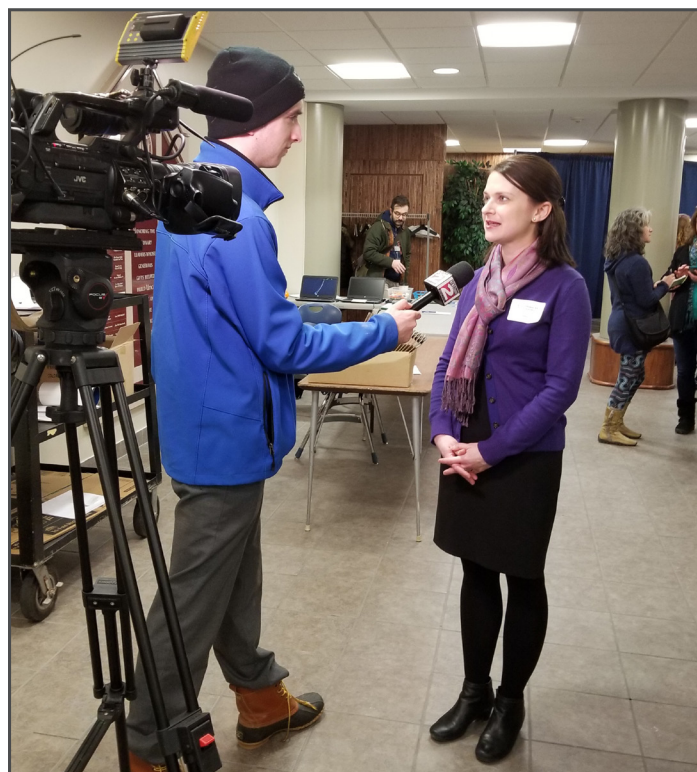
**Steven Specht**, professor of psychology, presented a paper at the Southern Humanities Conference in Asheville, NC. Also, **Julia Shove '18** won one of the Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Awards at the conference. Less than 10 percent of eligible students were chosen for the award. In addition, **Emma Kessler '19** won The Fox/Eichler Award, a \$1,000 scholarship from Zonta.

**Specht's** artwork has been shown in three juried exhibitions this year in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY; Auburn, NY and Rochester, NY, one of which accepts only 10 percent of entries, while another accepts less than 15 percent. His artwork will be featured at the Kirkland Art Center in Clinton, NY from April 28 to May 24.

*Please send information and photos for KUDOS to [source@utica.edu](mailto:source@utica.edu).*

# IN THE NEWS...

- **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote an article for *Mindfulness & Grief Training Institute*, "3 Reasons Why Pet Owners Repeatedly Visit the World of Grief." 3/4
- *Spectrum News* reporter Melissa Krull spoke with **Shad Crowe**, emergency management director, about security improvements UC has made in the last year. 3/5
- **Dave Dellecese**, director of content strategy, was a guest on *The Uticast* to discuss his new children's book, "The Little Lamp." 3/5
- **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, was quoted by *City and State New York* reporter Alyssa Sims in her article "The Factions, Fringes and Future of New York's U.S. House Republicans." 3/6
- **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, spoke with Bill Keeler on *WIBX Radio's First News with Keeler in the Morning* about national politics including the proposed budget, impeachment, and party politics. 3/12
- *WUTR Eyewitness News* reporter Parker Tully and *WKTV News Channel 2* reporter **Joleen Ferris '92** spoke with **Donald Rebovich**, professor of criminal justice, about his former student, **Laura Smith '03**, leading the investigation for the FBI case on college admission scandals. 3/14
- **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, was quoted by *Observer-Dispatch* reporter Joseph Labernik for a story titled "No Candidates for Mayor in Village of Poland." 3/17
- *Observer-Dispatch* reporter Joe Labernik and *WKTV News Channel 2* reporter Brent Kearney spoke with **Jessica Thomas**, professor of biology and science fair director, about this year's regional science fair. 3/23
- **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, was quoted in an article written by **Samantha Madison '10** for the *Observer-Dispatch* titled "Brindisi Co-chairs Group of Moderate Democrats." 3/25
- *WKTV News Channel 2* spoke with **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, about the Mueller Report. 3/25
- **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote an article for *Medium*, "The Barricades of Heaven." 3/25
- **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, wrote an article for *The Conversation*, "Romney's Mormon Religion Helps Explain His Criticism of Trump." 3/26
- *WUTR Eyewitness News* reporter Jenn Seelig spoke with **Alison Franklin**, director of counseling, about suicide. 3/26
- **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, was quoted by *City and State New York* reporter Zach Williams in his article "The Downstate-Upstate Divide - Budget Edition." 3/26



*Jessica Thomas, associate professor of biology and director of the UC Regional Science Fair, speaks with WKTV reporter Brent Kearney about this year's competition. 3/23*

- *City and State New York* reporter Zach Williams spoke with **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, about the Mueller Report. 3/28
- **Daniel Wilcox** from UC EMS Club was a guest on *WKTV News Channel 2 Newstalk @ Noon* with anchor Jason Powles to discuss Battle of the Wings. 3/28
- *WKTV News Channel 2* covered the Project Fibonacci "Women in Steam" Congress at Utica College. 3/28
- **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, was a guest on *WUTQ Talk of the Town 100.7 FM* to discuss the Mueller Report. 3/29



## UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

Please visit [utica.edu/hr/training](http://utica.edu/hr/training) for updates and to register.

For Health and Wellness events, visit [utica.edu/hr/wellness](http://utica.edu/hr/wellness)

### May

- 05/11/19 Undergraduate Commencement, 12:30 p.m.,**  
Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium
- 05/11/19 Graduate Commencement, 6:00 p.m.,** Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium
- 05/14/19 Employee Recognition, 3:00-5:00 p.m.,** Library Concourse

## AROUND CAMPUS



**Tuesday, May 14th 3:00-5:00 pm**

### Library Concourse

Utica College is showing its appreciation to longtime employees and auxiliary service personnel for their commitment and support. Please join us in recognizing employees celebrating milestone service anniversaries.

We will also honor employees who are retiring, Professional Excellence in Service Award winners and the recipient of the Diversity Committee Certificate of Recognition.

President Laura Casamento and emcee Kim Lambert will begin the presentation of the awards at 3:00pm.



**A:** More than 90 students from local middle and high schools competed in UC's 41st annual Regional Science Fair! From left: Jessica Thomas, associate professor of biology and director of the science fair; Ruqiyah Shaik, RFA, Senior Level Grand Prize Winner; Mason Salvatore, Poland Central School, Junior Level Grand Champion; Sara Borner, Poland Central School, Senior Level Runner-Up; and Todd Pfannestiel, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs. **3/23**

**B-D:** Students compete in the regional New York Business Plan Competition. **4/5**

**E:** Two UC students were selected to compete at the next level NY State Business Competition in Albany. From left, Aneesa Lewis '20, occupational therapy; Brett Orzechowski, assistant professor of journalism and management; and Rylee Meelan '19, PR, management and entrepreneurship.