



INFORMATION. TIPS. EVENTS.

UC MATTERS

THE SOURCE

MARCH 2020

UC PEOPLE

Lena Moser, Director Learning Commons

By Eric Schellderfer '20, PR Intern

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I am the director of learning commons at UC and have been with the College for about three months. I've always been interested in life and natural sciences; that has been my academic path so far. I went through two different programs, earning a master's in anthropology and then a

Q: What exactly inspired your passion for teaching and helping others learn?

A: I will never forget being an undergraduate at Cornell and being extremely nervous about the intense course load. In the first month I saw an advertisement for a workshop on how to succeed in academics. The workshop offered really good information about time management and learning skills. It provided the appropriate channels for finding help on campus and what resources were available. That workshop was very life changing in many ways; it honestly blew my mind. The skills that I learned in that workshop really helped me to succeed at Cornell and helped me to understand how beneficial these learning strategies can be to students.

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master's in ecology and evolutionary biology. Along the way, I realized how much I really loved to teach. I loved working with students in the classroom and wanted to focus my career on being an instructor and helping students succeed at learning.

"I feel like we succeed when a student does not need to come for tutoring any more and I know that a student learned how to approach the content on their own."

- Lena Moser



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In the News
& Kudos



BACK COVER
Around Campus
& Beyond



Utica College fraternity Alpha Chi Rho (AXP) held its annual "Deep Freeze" campout, where the brothers endured Upstate New York's harsh winter conditions to help raise awareness and much-needed research dollars for the American Cancer Society. At last count, they raised some \$3228.24 for the cause.

3/1-3/8

UTICA
COLLEGE

Never stand still

HR NOTES

New Hires

Nina Nguyen, *Senior Administrative Assistant for the Office of Human Resources*

George (Jeff) Nassar, *Payroll Manager*

CONGRATULATIONS!



The Kudos Card program
monthly drawing winner is...

Andrea Curley

Congratulations, Andrea,
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

NEW FORM FOR OFFICE MOVES

All requests to move any employee from one space to another, even within the same office area, must be submitted on the Offices Moves Request Form. This Form can also be found on the Utica College Request for Help page. Once this form has been submitted, the Office Planning Committee will review for approval. The form allows for appropriate planning of facilities, technology and furniture requirements. No moves are allowed without prior authorization of the Office Planning Committee.



CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

We continue to vigorously respond to the rapidly evolving situation regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) with the best information we have available and with the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization, U.S. Department of State, the New York State Governor's Office, New York State and Oneida County Departments of Health, and other public health experts and local authorities. As we do, we will continue to provide the UC community with regular information and updates.

Please visit utica.edu/coronavirus for the latest updates and information.

AMERICA'S GREATEST HEART RUN & WALK 2020



A-C: Team UC was bundled up and ready to brave the elements as Utica College hosted America's Greatest Heart Run and Walk. 3/7



D-E: Utica College hosted the annual Health and Fitness Expo in the Harold T. Clark Jr. Athletic Center. 3/6



Douglas Edwards, assistant professor of philosophy, was awarded the American Philosophical Association's 2019 Sanders Book Prize for his book titled *The Metaphysics of Truth*. This prestigious prize is awarded to the best book in philosophy of mind, metaphysics, or epistemology that was published in the past five years. In his book, Edwards analyzes the role of truth in language and the world. (see photo)

Leonore Fleming, associate professor of philosophy, presented a talk titled "The Culture of Cultured Meat: the clean, better, slaughter-free, cell-based, lab-grown, alternative...yes, it's meat... meat," at Hamilton College as part of the Food Justice and Morality conference.

John Lawless, assistant professor of philosophy, had his article "Against the Managerial State: Preventive Policing as Non-Legal Governance" published by a peer-reviewed journal, *Law and Philosophy*.

Carl Lohmann, director of student conduct and community standards, has completed a training program through Empowered Pathways that has certified him as a conflict mediator in accordance with standards set by the New York State Unified Court System.

Lohmann also completed training for Community Mediation, Restorative Justice in school and college settings, and Conflict Coaching.

Sara Scanga, professor of biology, and **Jessica Thomas**, associate professor of biology, published their research titled "Wrapping Culture Plates with Parafilm M® Increases *Caenorhabditis Elegans* Growth" in the peer-reviewed journal *BMC Research Notes* with student co-authors Patrick Spica '16, Hardik Nariya '17, Emra Klempic '18, and Mary Brockett '15.

Scanga also published research titled "Recovery of Soils from Acidic Deposition May Exacerbate Nitrogen Export from Forested Watersheds" with collaborators from the US Geological Survey and Environmental Protection Agency. Her research was featured on the front cover of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences*.

Scanga also participated in a National Science Foundation-funded workshop with faculty from other small primarily-undergraduate institutions. The goal of the workshop was to create teaching modules that introduce undergraduates at small PUIs to macroscale ecology concepts and analysis of large ecological datasets from the National Ecological Observatory Network.

Scanga was highlighted in the monthly newsletter of Quantitative Undergraduate Biology Education and Synthesis (QUBES) for her Twitter thread that described how educators can use QUBES resources to incorporate more quantitative skills into their classrooms, and easily find, adapt, and share teaching materials on the QUBES website.

James Smith, professor of physical therapy, and UC students James Nowak '21 and Megan Sliski '20 gave a presentation titled "Audacity or Advocacy: Essentials for Advancing You and Your Profession," at the American Physical Therapy Association's National Student Conclave in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Please send information, and photos, for KUDOS to source@utica.edu.



The Center for Career and Professional Development, through its affiliation with the Central New York Recruiting Consortium, hosted "Strategies for Recruiting Diverse College Student Talent" on February 25th at Utica College. Attended by 30 employer representatives, the event featured both a keynote presentation and moderated panel where Jaye Holly (Jaye Holly Consulting), Mary Murphy (Elderwood), Sady Fischer (Excellus), Sady Fischer (Excellus) and Lesley Wallace shared valuable insights and strategies on promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.



Tony Martino, director of the Northeast Cyber Security and Forensics Center speaking to Spectrum News reporter Melissa Krull. 02/11

- **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 impeachment. 2/3
- **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 the Iowa Democratic primary. 2/4
- **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 New Hampshire Democratic primary. 2/11
- *Spectrum News* reporter Melissa Krull spoke with **Tony Martino**, director of the Northeast Cyber Security and Forensics Center at Utica College, about internet safety. 2/11
- **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 the New Hampshire Democratic primary. 2/12
- **Suzanne Lynch**, professor of practice of economic crime, served as a subject-matter expert for an article by *Wallethub* titled "Free Credit Cards." 2/13
- **Clemmie Harris**, assistant professor of history, was quoted in *The Hill's* article titled "Buttigieg, Klobuchar Face Uphill Battle in Pivot to Diverse States." 2/13
- *WKTV News Channel 2* and the *The Observer-Dispatch* covered stories on Sled Day, where Utica College students enjoyed sledding with members of the community. This event was funded by a small grant from the Diversity Committee. 2/21
- **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 Representative Brindisi announcing his campaign for reelection. 2/25
- **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, spoke with Heather Stang of the Mindfulness and Grief Institute about "Coping With Overdose Grief." 2/26
- **Daniel Tagliarina**, assistant professor of government, was a guest on *WUTQ Talk of the Town 100.7 FM* to discuss presidents and their power. 2/27
- Maria Montero Silva '20, UC journalism intern with *The Observer-Dispatch* wrote a story on **Douglas Edwards**, assistant professor of philosophy, being awarded the American Philosophical Association's 2019 Sanders Book Prize for his book *The Metaphysics of Truth*. 2/29
- *The Observer-Dispatch* covered a story on Utica College's Young Scholars Liberty Partnerships Program preparing to host its fifth annual Grow Big Dreams celebration dinner. 2/29

Q: What can you tell us about your time working for the University of New England?

A: At New England I was the science academic support specialist. I was a learning specialist so students could see me one-on-one for learning consultations. I was also a professional tutor for biology. In those sessions, instead of teaching students a specific piece of content, I focused on teaching them how to learn. It was so important to me to be able to teach the steps necessary to be able to learn the content.

Q: What are you trying to achieve with the Learning Commons program?

A: I feel like we succeed when a student does not need to come to me for tutoring any more and I know that a student learned how to approach the content on their own. The irony is that the goal of every tutor is to be no longer needed. We want to help students to understand the procedures behind every problem, not just how to get the answer. It was always important for me to teach students the unique approach to every problem.

Q: What is the process like with helping students transition from learners to tutors?

A: All my tutors are warm, welcoming, and ready to help. I pick tutors not only on their academic achievement and faculty recommendations, but their GPA needs to be a 3.0 or higher and they must have obtained at least a B+ in the course they want to tutor for. What is just as important is having good interpersonal skills, the ability to connect, compassion, and to be able to have shared experiences with the student in need. Tutors are a bridge between the course and the student. It is so beneficial to have a tutor who has been in the same position as the student and is able to relate with them. I want to work toward getting international certification for tutor training. This will allow tutors at Utica College to gain actual certification through online modules, self reflections, and workshops. As I go along I want to create more resources for students that are readily available and designed to help them develop lifelong learning skills.

Q: In your opinion what do you feel are the main benefits of peer-to-peer learning?

A: A tutor's job is to clarify the material, to help put it into a different language or words to rephrase it and to help the student work with that material in a creative way. The teaching that is happening is not just directly teaching the content. It's being able to teach students in need great strategies for learning the material. We want to teach our tutors to empower the students to be independent learners. My goal is to create more robust training to create better tutors.

Q: What steps are you taking to make sure tutoring sessions at the learning commons are as productive as possible?

A: It is important to teach these tutors their responsibilities and the dos and don'ts of the position. I try to teach the tutors how to structure a successful tutoring session. This involves everything from the greeting, to the middle of the session, to where to end the session. I also try to prepare the tutors for specific scenarios that they may encounter. Tutors are not supposed to be writing papers, doing homework that's due, or take home evaluations. These "don'ts" of tutoring are all outlined in the tutoring contract that every tutor must sign. I always want to know if my tutors have struggled in the past with a particular subject. Students that have struggled in the past and that have overcome the challenges of the course make for very effective and approachable tutors.

Q: Anything else you want to add regarding the Learning Commons and tutoring at UC?

A: Tutors are not supposed to be teachers. Their job is to help the student understand information, how to find it, and help them work with the information. Tutoring is just one of the many approaches a student can take here at UC to improve in a particular area. There are numerous resources that are readily available to students such as counselors, professors' office hours, and study groups. All of these resources are here to help students succeed at UC.

AROUND CAMPUS & BEYOND



The Utica College Department of Performing and Fine Arts presented Ghost Stories at Yotsuya. This revival of Tsuruya Namboku IV's 16th-century horror masterpiece explores the connections between the U.S. and Japan, stage and film, and dives into one mutilated woman's spectral revenge on the husband who ruined her life. Written by Tsuruya Namboku IV in a new translation by Mark Oshima, Directed by Rachel M. E. Wolfe. Photo credit: Hannah DeStefano. 2/27-3/2



UC students traveled to Albany to advocate for student aid programs such as the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP).