



INFORMATION. TIPS. EVENTS.

UC MATTERS

THE SOURCE

DECEMBER 2014

UC PEOPLE

John Peter, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

By Victoria Lamanna '15, PR Intern

Q. Tell me a little about yourself.

A. I lived in the Detroit area until I was 30 when I received the position here at UC in August of 2012. I am a crossword puzzle junkie. I don't like games with numbers, I like games with words. Most people think that because I like math I am going to do

Q. What do you like about math?

A. There are rules. For example, if you want to argue that $1 + 1$ is not 2, that may be a good philosophical discussion but in math, there are certain axioms that everyone accepts and there is very much a right and a wrong. There is no subjectivity. When you write up mathematics, it is either right or wrong. No one is ever offended with math, except for its difficulty or how complicated it looks.

Math is hard. It is challenging in and of itself. The reason I chose math was because it was the hardest thing for me to latch onto in school. But, that didn't make me hate it. It made me obsessed with it. With math I had to sit down and think because it was extremely tough. I am never going to learn one billionth of the math that I would like to learn, let alone all of the math that there is.

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Sudoku, but I like any kind of word game, like Scrabble. I have a six-year-old female Rottweiler named Roxy, and I can play all kinds of instruments, although I haven't in a long time.

"A small school means that I get to know the students."

-John Peter



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HR Notes



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Kudos &
In the News



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Around Campus



BACK COVER
Events & Training
More Around
Campus



Falling leaves and dropping temperatures did not stop students of the Organization of Justice Studies (OJS) from helping the area's elderly citizens with their lawn maintenance needs during the Oneida County Office of the Aging's Fall Clean-up in October.

UTICA
COLLEGE

Never stand still

HR NOTES

Welcome

Karen Morton, *General Accounting Clerk*

Retirees

The following employees will be retiring, and will be honored at the Annual Recognition Ceremony, scheduled for May 2015. Congratulations go to:

Gwen Connors, *General Accounting Specialist* –
joined UC 01/04/1982

Lois Fisch, *Professor of Education* – joined UC
08/16/1995

Melodee Moltman, *Associate Professor Psychology*
Child Life – joined UC 09/01/1980

Diana Owen, *Purchasing Accounts Payable*
Specialist – joined UC 12/12/1977

Jean Zerbe, *Senior Administrative Assistant* – joined
UC 10/09/1989

REMINDER

Employees are reminded to use the Facilities Work Order System when requesting tasks or indicating problems that need to be addressed. The system should also be utilized for event set ups. The form is located at:

www.utica.edu/finance/facilities/



RECORD YOUR TIME CORRECTLY!

Benefit-eligible employees may be eligible for holidays and winter break during the month of December:

If you are off these days, please record your time as follows on your web time entry or compensated absence report. Please contact Stacey Phillips, payroll administrator, at 792-3063 if you have any questions.

Monday, December 22 – Winter Break

Tuesday, December 23 – Winter Break

Wednesday, December 24 – College Holiday

Thursday, December 25 – College Holiday

Friday, December 26 – Winter Break

Thursday, January 1 – College Holiday

Employees are reminded to change their voice mail greeting when they will be off for the holidays/winter break. Instructions may be found at www.utica.edu/hr/media/Voicemail%20Instructions.pdf

Peter *continued from page 1*

Q. What do you like most about UC?

A. It is really nice to be in a small school where the classes are small – it's a huge advantage. If you major in mathematics, or have to take a few math courses, there is a strong chance that you will have me as a professor. A small school means that I get to know the students. I did my undergrad at a big school, and UC gives more of a personal experience.

Q. You have an unusual approach to teaching. Can you explain why?

A. The joke that I make is that I really wanted to be a stand-up comedian and until I get that career on the road, I am just teaching to test out my material on various audiences.

At one point, I counted how many math courses I have had in my life, and it was somewhere around 50. I have had courses in all subjects that were extremely dry and I wanted to fall down under my desk and die. I see this happen particularly in mathematics courses because people, in general, just don't like mathematics.

It makes my life and everyone else's life easier if I make the class interesting. I am as crazy as I can be while making sure I get done what needs to be done.

In some courses, I get to choose topics that I like and then it's easy to keep people engaged. If someone has to sit around and

watch someone do something that they are passionate about, they begin to wonder if that is something that they would be interested in too.

Q. How did you become interested in teaching mathematics?

A. I had a fantastic calculus teacher in high school, who influenced my decision. He was goofy and made us parade around the hallways singing the quadratic formula. He was just crazy and that had such a major effect on me and I wanted to teach that way in some sense.

Math is hard, but the only reason that you can't do math is because you think that you can't do math. Math is only as hard as you make it.

Q. What research do you do?

A. I research algebraic topology, which is the study of continuous deformations of space using methods of algebra. So far, it has been extremely abstract. But in the past year, I saw that people have used it for data analysis. I decided to switch to topological data analysis because I want to be able to do research with students. The learning curve is huge to get to the research level, but what I do now involves a lot of undergraduate mathematics and has been very interesting.

'TIS THE SEASON ... OF GIVING

Working on that holiday gift list?

By making a gift to Utica College's Annual Fund, you are not only making a difference in the lives of individual students, but also to the success of the College and the community it serves. Your gift will provide resources and opportunities for new and exciting programs, while enhancing the academic success of our students – the heart of Utica College.

If you make your gift before Dec. 31, you will be entered into a drawing for several prizes. Please contact the Office of Advancement for more information.

For additional information on UC's Annual Fund, please visit:
www.utica.edu/advance/annual.cfm



*Time is running out to redeem your
"Thank You" voucher for 2014!*

PAYROLL CALENDARS

For a complete listing of 2015 pay dates, employees are encouraged to visit the following web pages:

Exempt/Faculty

<http://www.utica.edu/hr/media/Paydates%20for%202015.pdf>

Non Exempt:

<http://www.utica.edu/hr/media/Paydates%20SCT%202015.pdf>

A clip and save will appear in the January 2015 issue.

In Memoriam - Doris Wester Miga

This past month, Utica College lost a longtime and cherished friend, Doris Wester Miga, professor emerita of sociology and trustee emerita, at the age of 87.

A life-long resident of the Mohawk Valley, Miga earned a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany in 1948 and a master's degree from Syracuse University in 1970. She began her teaching career at the high school level in 1948.

In 1963, Miga was named a part-time lecturer at Utica College, and a full-time professor in 1993. She retired in 1997 after 34 years, and was named an emerita professor of sociology. She continued to teach at the College on a part-time basis for many years.

Until recently, Miga taught local senior citizens' groups and received the Mohawk Valley Institute for Learning in Retirement (MILIR) Outstanding Facilitator Award. She was an expert in the study of what she called "successful utopias," and she was tireless in educating the local community on the Quakers, Mormons, Shakers, old-order Amish, Hutterites and her favorite topic, the Oneida Community.

During her tenure as a professor, Miga served on and chaired many committees, including Faculty Affairs, Academic Standards and Curriculum.

Miga was recognized with a number accolades during her 50-year career at Utica College, including the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1980, the National Alumni Council Outstanding Faculty Award in 1988, the Honorary Alumnae Award in 2003 and the National Alumni Council Pioneer Legacy Award in 2012. In 2010, Miga was inducted into the Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame for her many years as a mentor to the Utica College basketball teams.

Miga had a longstanding history of service and philanthropy to the College. She was a member of the Utica College Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2006, and she was granted trustee emerita status in 2007. Miga and her late husband Walter, who passed away in January 2013, were members of UC's Oneida Square Society at the State Street level, which recognizes major donors.

In 1990, Miga's family and friends established the Doris Wester Miga Scholarship to be awarded to a valedictorian or member of the National Honor Society who wants to pursue a career in teaching.

In addition to her service to UC, Miga was active in a variety of community causes, including serving as a member of the St. Luke's-Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, the Utica Senior Day Center Board of Directors and the Lutheran Homes Foundation Board, the American Association of University Women, and Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Women Educators. Miga was active in sociological and gerontological associations and was credited with helping develop UC's first gerontology course.

Miga truly reflected an unparalleled commitment to UC's students and the institution itself. She mentored countless young professors and used "tough love" to hold students to the highest standards, earning the nickname "Mother Miga" and gathering a devoted following of former students. It was because of her stewardship, dedication and service that Miga was awarded a Utica College honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, at the May 2014 Commencement Ceremony.

Professor Miga leaves two sons, Wester and his wife Lorraine; and Wesley and his wife Karen. She also leaves two grandsons, Ryan and Glenn.

A complete obituary appeared in the Nov. 19, 2014, edition of the Utica Observer-Dispatch.



*Doris and Walter with their family
at her induction at the 2010 Pioneer
Hall of Fame ceremony.*

Hossein Behforooz, professor of mathematics, reviewed two articles as a referee for the Journal of Applied Mathematics and Journal of Mathematics and Computer in Simulations. The subjects were Integro Spline Approximations. In November, he presented a talk on the Secrets of Magic Squares to the members of the Tramp and Trail Club of Utica.

Paul J. MacArthur, associate professor of public relations and journalism, co-authored the presentation, "Gendered Take-offs in the Sochi Playground: NBC Ski Jumper Depictions at the 2014 Winter Olympics," which he presented at the 12th International Symposium For Olympic Research in October in London, Ontario.

Derek Pooley, area coordinator, was recently named the recording secretary of the Executive Committee of PSAC.

Mary Siniscarco, assistant professor and chair of health studies, presented a lecture, "Brain Health: Implications for Education" at the New York State United Teachers Regional Education Conference in November.

- **Siniscarco** also co-authored the article, "Career Mapping: An Innovation in College Recruitment and Retention," with her colleagues **Shauna Malta**, professor of physical therapy, and **Richard Rifes**, former interim dean of Health Professions and Education. Their article was accepted for publication in "The College and University Journal" of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).

Congratulations to the following employees who have earned master's degrees in December 2014:

Gary Carrock, *Academic Financial Analyst/Payroll Supervisor*, Degree: MBA in Economic Crime and Fraud Management

Linda Madore, *Compensation and Benefits Manager*, Degree: M.S. in Liberal Studies

Peter Ollis, *Assistant Swim Coach*, M.S. in Cybersecurity

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



The Utica College men's hockey team tied nationally-ranked No. 2 Oswego State 4-4 in the first ever collegiate hockey game at Syracuse University's Carrier Dome on November 22. The Frozen Dome Classic set a new NCAA Division III men's hockey indoor record after attracting 7,047 fans.

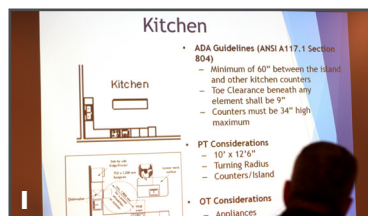
IN THE NEWS...

- *WKTV News Channel 2*, *WUTR Eyewitness News*, *Time-Warner Cable News*, *the Observer-Dispatch*, *the Rome Sentinel* and *WRVO Public Radio* covered Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's tour of Utica College's cybersecurity labs and research facilities. 11/10
- **David Chanatry**, associate professor of journalism, reported on how fly fishing can help rehab disabled veterans. It was broadcast on *WAMC*, *WRVO*, *WSKG* and *North Country Public Radio*. It can be heard here: <http://wamc.org/post/thanks-project-healing-waters-vets-find-solace-fly-fishing>
- *Time-Warner Cable News* covered the annual Utica College Veterans Day Concert. 11/9
- *WKTV News Channel 2* and *WUTR Eyewitness News* covered UC's annual International Fair and Flag Presentation, welcoming new international students. 11/10
- **Ray Philo**, professor of practice, spoke with *WKTV News Channel 2*'s Sklyer Srivastava about whether motorists might fear police after reports of someone pretending to be a police officer. 11/14
- *WKTV News Channel 2*'s photojournalist Kirk Tupaj covered the groundbreaking new class of PT, OT and construction management students presenting their designs for universal housing. 11/19
- **Mary Hayes Gordon '82, G'13**, assistant director of the Young Scholars LPP, was a guest on *WKTV's Newstalk*, discussing a challenge grant from The Mele Family Fund of The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. 11/21
- **Anthony Martino**, director of the Northeast Cyber Forensic Center, spoke with *WUTR's* Ana Rivera about shopping on Cyber Monday. 12/1
- **Flossie Mitchell**, director of the Young Scholars LPP, was a guest on *WUTQ's* Talk of the Town with Mark Piersma and Frank Elias, discussing a challenge grant from The Mele Family Fund of The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. 11/24
- *Utica Observer-Dispatch* reporter Alissa Scott '13 also interviewed **Mitchell** about the challenge grant. 11/25
- **Donald Rebovich**, professor of criminal justice and executive director of the Center for Identity Management and Information Protection, spoke with reporter Robbie Ward of the *SC Greenville News* about identity theft. 11/26

AROUND CAMPUS

A. Members of Phi Beta Sigma participate in a 24-hour camp out to benefit the March for Dimes campaign. 11/22

B – D. The Utica College Choir and Concert Band perform during the annual Veteran's Day Concert. 11/9



E – G. Martin Dietrich, CEO of NBT Bank, speaks to students as part of the Executive Lecture Series sponsored by the School of Business and Justice Studies. 11/19

H – K. Construction Management, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy students present on universal housing design as part of a first of its kind interdisciplinary, collaborative effort. 11/19

UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

Please visit utica.edu/hr/training for updates and to register.

December / January

12/16/14 TIAA CREF on campus – appointment required

12/17/14 Board of Trustees' Annual Holiday Party.
3:00 – 5:00 Library Concourse

12/24/- COLLEGE HOLIDAY

12/25/14

01/01/15 COLLEGE HOLIDAY

01/05/15 Winter Session (Ground) begins

01/15/15 TIAA CREF on campus – appointment required

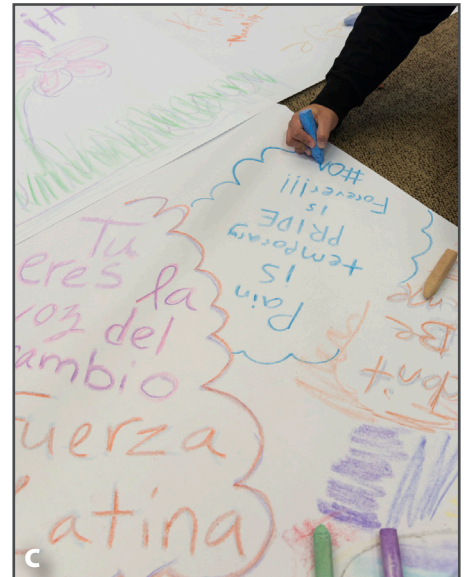
AROUND CAMPUS



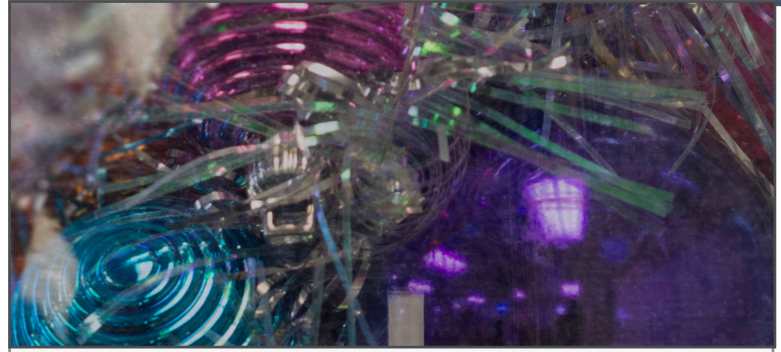
A. Utica College presents a production of "The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later." 11/6

B & C. Students participate in the "Chalk Positive" event in the Ellen Knowler Clarke Lounge. 11/18

D - G. International students participate in the annual International Fair and Flag Presentation. New international students presented their home countries' flags, which will be displayed in the Ellen Knowler Clarke Lounge. 11/10



HOLIDAY PARTY



Wednesday, Dec. 17

3-5 p.m.; Library Concourse

Annual Board of Trustees' Holiday Party

Donations will be accepted for the Stevens-Swan Humane Society. Look for the wish list on the invitation.

Proceeds from the 50/50 drawing will be combined with proceeds from the Student Holiday Dinner and the UC Hockey Dinner to benefit Make-A-Wish, Central NY.

Committee members are Joanne Hathaway, *Senior Administrative Assistant*, Andrea Lawrence, *Administrative Assistant III*, Mariann Munson, '85, *Senior Administrative Assistant*, Daniel O'Toole, *Director of International Programs*, Liz Zylka, *Grounds Landscaping Coordinator*.