



INFORMATION. TIPS. EVENTS.

UC MATTERS

THE SOURCE

APRIL 2015

UC PEOPLE

Gary Leising - Professor of English

By Marissa Filletti '18, PR Intern

Q: Your studies have brought you across the country, from Ohio, to South Carolina, and back again. Where are you from originally? What do you consider "home"?

A: I grew up in Kentucky, in the Northern part of the state. Even though I've been in the Utica area for almost 10 years now, I'm just starting

June. We have two kids. My 6-year-old son, Jude, is obsessed right now with making books. He writes these weird stories, the last one about how our family made a trip from the moon to the Earth. Our youngest is 3 years old, Ewan, and he is probably going to be the athlete. He's kind of a daredevil and likes climbing on things and jumping off things.

Q: You recently had your fourth collection of poems published in a chapbook called "The Girl With the JAKE Tattoo." How does your family feel about you being published again?

A: They like it; my wife is really supportive. There have been times when I've gone to writers conferences and retreats for a couple weeks to write. So, I feel like I should be publishing to show that I'm not just going away and not accomplishing anything. Ewan doesn't really know what it means yet, and it took Jude

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to feel like it's home because I have kids and the oldest one is starting school. So now we're getting more connected into the community, and I'm not just here to work.

Q: Tell me about your family.

A: I've been married for 13 years this

"I don't think you can teach somebody how to write unless you do it yourself."

-Leising



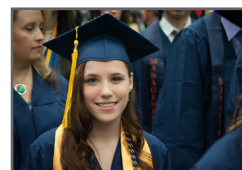
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In the News



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2015 Heart Run
and Walk



BACK COVER
Events & Training
Health and
Wellness



Trax posed for many pictures - and a few selfies - when accepted students and their families came to campus.

3/28

UTICA
COLLEGE

Never stand still

HR NOTES

New Hires

Mary Hydar, *Administrative Assistant III, Campus Safety*

Kimberly Etman, *Counselor/Tutorial Coordinator, Opportunity Programs*

Francesca Dunlevy, *Development Officer, Advancement*

Retirees

Wendy Giachetti, *effective March 25, 2015*



COMING SOON...

... Members of the UC Community will have the chance to thank their coworkers for “going the extra mile.”

Look for news in the May issue of *The Source* to learn about how you can participate in the exciting new “Kudos Card” program!

LOOKING FOR BACK ISSUES OF *THE SOURCE*?

UTICA.EDU/HR/SOURCE

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING UC EMPLOYEE!

On Friday, May 29, Utica College will recognize retirees, employees and auxiliary staff members celebrating milestone anniversaries, as well as the four recipients of the Awards for Excellence in Professional Service at the Annual Recognition Ceremony. Nominees display excellence in their job on a daily basis, go above and beyond what is expected, show outstanding interpersonal skills and working relationships, and make great contributions to their department and the College. President Hutton will present the awards in the Library Concourse on the lower level of the Frank E. Gannett Library at 3 p.m.

There is still time to submit a nomination for an employee who deserves special recognition. The deadline for nomination ballots is Friday, April 17. For more information, contact Gail Durr, PSAC Awards for Excellence Committee chairperson, at gdurr@utica.edu or 792-3055.

UC ALERT GETS AN UPDATE

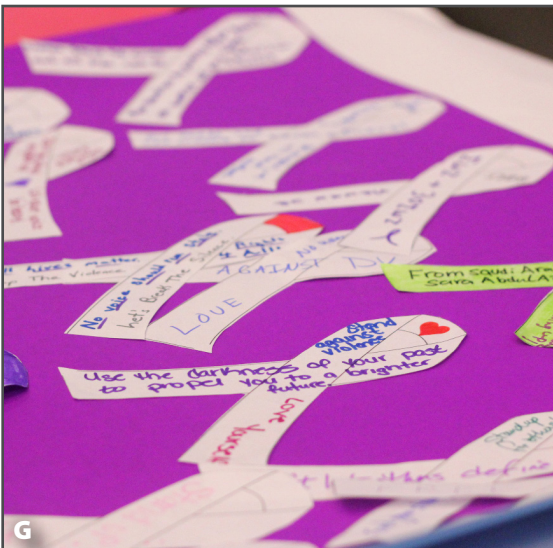


UC Alert, Utica College’s emergency alert system, was recently updated to increase usability and student and employee safety. UC Alert previously required users to opt-in to receive alerts, said Wayne Sullivan, director of campus safety. UC Alert has changed to an opt-out system. This change has greatly increased the reach of emergency messages. “With an opt-in system we only had about 35 percent of our eligible campus population registered,” said Sullivan. “Now that we have an opt-out system, we have nearly 100 percent of our campus population registered.”

The new system also affords administrators the ability to target alerts to special groups. “Through this feature, we could send out alerts related to our nursing site in Syracuse without interrupting operations at our other locations,” said Sullivan. While these changes have improved the usability of UC Alert from an administrative standpoint, faculty and staff are unlikely to notice any major changes. For more information on UC Alert, contact the Office of Campus Safety at (315) 792-3201.

AROUND CAMPUS - RAISING AWARENESS

A - C: Utica College's Psychology-Child Life Society hosted a St. Baldrick's Day head-shaving event to benefit children's cancer research. 3/27



D - I: The Brothers On A New Direction and Omega Phi Beta Sorority hosted a discussion about domestic violence as part of a White Ribbon Campaign event. 3/26

awhile before he would believe I was writing books. Eventually when he saw the books, he was sort of impressed, but he doesn't really see the how it's different from him drawing pictures and writing stories and me stapling the pages together.

Q: After living in and experiencing different places, what about Utica College appealed to you the most? How did you get here?

A: The one thing that I like about Utica College is that I get to work with students very closely. I can work with students more as individuals rather than teaching in large classes. I'm not only dealing with English majors or students that are most interested in poetry; I like that I get to introduce students who may not know that they are interested in what I teach, but can discover that they are.

Q: When did you first realize your love for poetry?

A: I think it was in seventh grade in an art class. We read this poem by Elizabeth Bishop called "The Fish," and our art assignment was to go home and find things that we could use to make a collage of the fish described in the poem. So the day everyone brought in their fish, I was sure mine was the one that was exactly what was described in the poem. Then, I was looking at them and could see how everyone's fish was so different, but everybody caught something of the poem. I was amazed at that moment that one poem could be so precise, and I could see it a certain way, and everyone else saw the same poem in a different way, but they didn't see it wrong. I was amazed that language could do that.

Q: How did you turn that passion for poetry into a career?

A: I thought about being a writer, but it really wasn't until I got into college and took some poetry classes that I saw the way that you can describe something precisely, but make somebody see more than one simple image. I just decided I wanted to do that.

Q: What would you say sets this collection of poems apart from the others? What makes it unique?

A: I think this one uses more humor. It uses more contemporary images and more references to pop culture. Kate Winslet appears in it, there's a poem about Scarlett Johansson, and there's a poem about an unnamed contemporary politician. So, this book, this collection, uses more of what's out there in society and in the world right now. It's more immediate, funnier, and in some ways, it's a little sarcastic.

Q: Where do you get the ideas for your poems?

A: I don't always start with an idea as much as I start with, "I have this hour set aside that I am going to write." If I don't have an idea, I just have to go out and find something. The poem about Scarlet Johansson was inspired an article I read about this French novelist who wrote a book and used her name in it and she sued him. I needed to write that day, and that just came out. If she's reading *The Source*, and she wants to sue me, she can go ahead because the publicity would be better than whatever she can take from me.

Q: Do you ever write poems about your family?

A: I do sometimes. I have a couple poems that will appear in future collections that deal really specifically and really honestly with my family. Most of the time, my family appears in my writing as not who they really are, but idealized and funny versions of themselves.

Q: How do you think your expertise as a published author carries over into the classroom?

A: I don't think you can teach somebody how to write unless you do it yourself. You need to know what works. You need to write yourself so when students come to you with a blank page, you can help them get started and give them strategies and ideas. The other thing that helps is if you are a writer and you are writing and succeeding, you know that success is a struggle. You know that you have to work hard at it. As a teacher, I know that students are working hard. I have poems that take years before I finish them, so I am sympathetic to students who are struggling on a deadline because I'm right there with them.

Q: What advice would you give to English majors here at UC who hope to reach your level of success someday?

A: The biggest piece of advice I'd give them is to read a lot. No kind of art happens in a vacuum. You have to know what other people are writing and understand what they are doing and why it works. I'd also tell them to believe in themselves and in their work.

One of **David Chanatry's** New York Reporting Project stories won "Best in Competition" in the Faculty News category at the Broadcast Education Association Media Arts Festival. The story, about small town heroin abuse, was broadcast on *WAMC/Northeast Public Radio*, the *WRVO* stations, *WSKG Binghamton/Ithaca* and *North Country Public Radio*. The piece is archived at nyrp-uc.org. Chanatry is an associate professor of journalism and director of the New York Reporting Project.

Daniel Shank Cruz, assistant professor of English, presented two papers at the Mennonite's Writing VII conference held at Fresno Pacific University in California March 12-15, "Stephen Beachy's boneyard, the Martyrs Mirror, and Anabaptist Activism" and "Reading My Life in the Text: Adventures of a Queer Mennonite Critic." Cruz also edited a special issue of the *Journal of the Center for Mennonite Writing* on sports that was released in October 2014.

David M. Dubbelde, professor of practice and director of the Construction Management program, will give a keynote address at the New York State Concrete Masonry Association Spring Conference in April. Dubbelde will discuss UC's Construction Management program and how real-world collaborations can enrich students' academic experiences, providing a win-win scenario for both students and businesses.



Leonore Fleming, assistant professor of philosophy, was recently published in the journal *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*.

The article is titled, "Why flying dogs are rare: A general theory of luck in evolutionary transitions." She also gave a lecture at Arizona State University School of Life Sciences on January 26, titled "The world is more random than we realize: proteins as a complex system."

Austen Givens, professor of practice in cybersecurity, spoke about his book, "The Business of Counterterrorism" at the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies, FIU Modesto Campus, last month. The book, written with Nathan Busch, explores how partnerships between business and government agencies have impacted the homeland security arena since the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01.

Dana Hart, professor of health care administration, was appointed to serve as the sole academic representative on the New York State Nursing Home Administration Licensure Board until January 2018. In addition, his manuscript titled, "Conceptualizing a Theoretical Model of Behavior Conditioning Theories," was accepted for publication by *The International Journal of Business and Social Science*.

Sharon Kanfoush, associate professor and chair of geoscience, has been invited to serve as a Member-at-Large on the Research Grants Committee of the Geological Society of America. She will represent paleoceanography and paleoclimatology and serve through 2018.

Gary Leising, professor of English, has published another chapbook of poems, "The Girl With The JAKE Tattoo." Recently released from Two of Cups Press, the chapbook is Leising's fourth book of poems.

Christopher A. Riddle, assistant professor and chair of philosophy and the director of the Applied Ethics Institute at Utica College, published an article titled "Disability, Health, and Minimal Risk Thresholds" in *The American Journal of Bioethics* last year. Riddle also presented his paper, "Ethical Issues in Mental Health and Competency," at a meeting of the Oneida County Bar Association, as well as presented commentary on "Debt Aggregation and Equality: Beneficence and Disability" at the SPAWN Philosophy and Disability Conference at Syracuse University.

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

IN THE NEWS...



Thomas Diana,
associate professor of education

- **David Smith**, adjunct lecturer of cybersecurity, was a guest on the Rhod Sharp radio show on BBC. He discussed nuclear issues, Iran, Edward Snowden, and related cyber threats. [2/25](#)
- Utica College was mentioned for its ban of YikYak on wireless networks in a syndicated column by Jonathan Mahler; the piece ran in *The New York Times*, *CNBC*, *MSN*, and as far as the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. [3/9](#)
- **Thomas Diana**, associate professor of education, spoke with OD reporter Alissa Scott about the importance of technology in grade school and high school classrooms. [3/10](#)
- **Brad Emmons**, associate professor and chair of mathematics, spoke with *WKTV News Channel 2* photojournalist Kirk Tupaj about the practical applications of Pi. [3/11](#)
- **Jordan Huang**, associate professor of finance, spoke with OD reporter Micaela Parker about the strength of the finance and insurance industries locally. [3/20](#)

2015 HEART RUN & WALK

A: Six UC coaches took one for the team to help support the American Heart Association during the annual "Pie Your Coach" event. **B-D:** Head Football Coach Blaise Faggiano took his share of pies. **E-F:** Students enjoyed the opportunity to cover their coaches in whipped cream and support a worthy cause. 3/4



A



E



B



F



G



C



H

G: Head Women's Lacrosse Coach Kristin St. Hilaire looks at a photo of her pie-covered face.
H: Assistant Track Coach Ryan Kelly pies one of her fellow coaches.
I: From left, Assistant Track and Field Coaches Jessica Rhyner, Ryan Kelly and Kristin Wilson took part.



D



I



A

A-B: Plenty of Utica College students, faculty and staff braved the cold to join the fight against heart disease at the 2015 America's Greatest Heart Run and Walk. 3/7

C-G: Utica College hosted the America's Greatest Heart Run and Walk Health and Wellness Expo in the Clark Athletic Center. 3/6



B



C



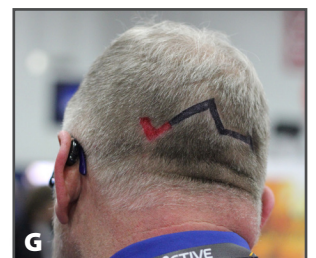
E



D



F



G

UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

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

Health and Wellness: utica.edu/hr/wellness

March

- 04/16/15 H&W - UC Trivia Pub Night**
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; Pioneer Cafe
- 04/17/15 H&W - Chair Massages** 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; Strelbel Student Center, 105C
- 04/17/15 How to Encrypt a Document for Safe Internet Travel**
(15 Minutes) Webinar. 3:00 p.m.
- 04/17/-**
- 04/18/15 Relay for Life** 6:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.; UC Campus
- 04/21/15 H&W - Lunch & Learn with Ahmed Radwan, Office Ergonomics and Back Pain** 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Boehlert Hall Conference Room
- 04/22/15 How to Back up your Computer Windows**
10:00 a.m.; L121
- 04/29/15 Google Hangouts** (45-60 Minutes)
10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m.; L121
- 05/16/15 Graduate Commencement Ceremony**
2:00 p.m.; The Stanley.
- 05/17/15 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony** 9:30 a.m.;
The Utica Memorial Auditorium.

2015 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER ANNOUNCED



Award-winning journalist, best-selling author, and television news anchor Gwen Ifill will give the keynote address at this year's undergraduate commencement ceremony May 17. Moderator and managing editor of "Washington Week" and co-anchor of "The PBS NEWSHOUR with Gwen Ifill and Judy Woodruff," Ifill has covered seven presidential campaigns, moderated vice presidential debates and was named one of Ebony Magazine's "150 Most Influential African Americans."

ACCEPTED STUDENTS DAYS

Nearly 600 students and family members came to UC for the first of two April Accepted Student Days. **3/28**

