UC PEOPLE

Todd Pfannestiel - Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

By Kelsey Carlo ’18, PR Intern

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: Throughout the last 33 years of my life, I have been a college student in various forms. I first attended the University of Arkansas, where I earned my bachelor’s degree in history and economics. I then undertook post-graduate studies at Duke University and The College of William & Mary, where I received my Ph.D. in American History. While I served at Clarion University, I enrolled myself into several courses in acting and theatre and was privileged to join the marching band. During my 20-year span at Clarion, I was faculty fellow to the president, assessment coordinator for academic affairs, dean of the College of Arts, Education and Science, and, my last position, provost and vice president of academic affairs. I am not a “learned individual,” as I consider that too much past tense. I’m a “learning” individual, and try to learn something new every day.

Q: What attracted you to UC?

A: One of the greatest attractions of UC to me was the tuition reset that was implemented by President Casamento. I was also very impressed by UC’s ability to maintain strong enrollment year after year. I started to see UC recreating a story for itself, and I wanted to be a part of that story. When I came on the campus visit, I just felt very comfortable. I know it seems cliché to say this, but I was able to see that the Utica College community really is like a family. I just thought to myself, I belong here.

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- Todd Pfannestiel
The Utica College Nursing Program recently received a grant in the amount of $10,782 from The Slocum-Dickson Foundation Inc. to purchase equipment that will help the program further replicate a hospital setting.

The grant enabled the College to purchase four Workstations on Wheels (WOWs), which are easy-to-maneuver healthcare carts that feature sit-to-stand adjustment, an adjustable keyboard tray and an auto-locking medication drawer system that will enable students to replicate the efficient management of non-controlled medications. Each WOW is outfitted with an HP notebook-style computer with a washable, antimicrobial, medical-grade keyboard, a USB mouse and a bar code scanner that will be integrated with the existing medication dispensing system.

Utica College’s nursing program aims to better prepare graduates for the technology-rich post-graduation healthcare environment where nurses are challenged to provide patient-centered, caring and therapeutic bedside practice while working with technologies. Beginning this fall, the equipment purchased will help the nurse-educators provide the demonstration, training and practice time on bedside technology to approximately 100 nursing students and 30-50 other healthcare-related majors.
Q: What opportunities do you see for the College academically?
A: First off, there are some excellent academic programs at Utica College. I think one way is to grow the opportunities for students within their program, for example, gaining more internship opportunities for students is important. Internships help grow the academic experience for students in college. I think another thing is to continue to look at what programs we could explore to expand both our undergraduate and graduate offerings. Listening to new program ideas from professors is crucial to see where we can go next with our current programs. Stabilizing enrollment year after year is always an important factor, but since UC has done a great job with that thus far, it’s not so much about fixing problems but what we should be doing next.

Q: How do you feel UC needs to position itself in regards to the recent struggles faced by private institutions?
A: Well, I think that UC has already positioned itself well in spite of Excelsior; enrollment remains strong. Utica College set a new standard by being one of the first colleges to break the tuition barrier with its tuition reset. It is important to look at what students can afford and give them the price for their education that represents both the excellence and value of our programs; and that’s what UC did. Beside the value proposition, it is important to position the College and show prospective students that UC should be their top choice. Many times students ready to go to college may have UC third or fourth on their list. We need to look at how to get those students to put UC as their top choice.

Q: What are you most excited for during your chapter at UC?
A: I would love to create more opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff and see a great college grow greater. I just hope that it becomes an even better college for everyone. If I could be remembered for anything it would be that UC is a better place because I helped everyone be better at everything they do. I would also love the opportunity to be able to teach again someday, and am very excited for hockey season to see the men and women Pioneers on the ice, as well as all of our athletic teams and other student groups perform and express themselves!

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• **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote an article for *Medium*, “Supporting Faculty After Traumatic Loss.” 6/10

• *Observer-Dispatch* reporter Amy Neff Roth spoke with **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, about his reflections upon speaking to faculty, staff and students from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School after the shooting, and his experience when he traveled to Parkland, Florida to participate in “A Day of Hope & Healing”. 6/12

• **Chris Tingley**, assistant professor of marketing and strategy, was a guest on WKTV News Channel 2 at Sunrise with Katrina Smith to discuss what happened to Toys R Us as a major toy retailer and what trends to look for moving toward the holiday shopping season. 6/14

• *Observer-Dispatch* reporter Amy Neff Roth spoke with **Chris Tingley**, assistant professor of marketing and strategy, about older Americans working longer, filling volunteer positions after retirement, and spending money on charities and taxes. 6/17

• *Observer-Dispatch* reporter Greg Mason spoke with **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC’s Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, about Claudia Tenney and the NY-22 Congressional Race. 6/17

• WalletHub reporter John Papas spoke with **Suzanne Lynch**, professor of practice of economic crime, about secured credit cards. 6/20


• WUTR Eyewitness News reporter Ben Dennis spoke with **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, about video game addiction. 6/22

• WUTR Eyewitness News reporter Marlee Tuskes spoke with **John Rowe**, executive director of graduate admissions, and **Kathleen Cullen**, professor and chair of education, about a shortage of special education teachers. 6/27

• **Daniel Tagliarina**, assistant professor of government, was a guest on *WUTQ Talk 100.7 FM* to discuss retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy and the makeup of the Court. 6/29

• **Brett Orzechowski**, assistant professor of management and media, wrote a column for *The Daily Gazette*, “FOIL’s future is on trial.” 7/8

• **Daniel Tagliarina**, assistant professor of government, was a guest on WKTV News Channel 2 at Sunrise and *WUTQ Talk 100.7 FM* to discuss President Trump’s nominee for Supreme Court Justice. 7/10

• WUTR Eyewitness News reporter Marlee Tuskes spoke with **Anthony Martino**, director of the Northeast Cybersecurity and Forensics Center at Utica College, about the likelihood of hacking of key fobs. 7/11

• *The Observer-Dispatch* ran a story about **Blaise Faggiano**, head football coach, along with 30 current UC players and coaches who hosted the annual “TNT High School Football Team Camp” where they look to make an impact on football in the Mohawk Valley. 7/12

• WUTR Eyewitness News reporter Marlee Tuskes spoke with **Donald Rebovich**, professor of criminal justice and director of UC’s Center for Identity Management and Information Protection, about the corporate fraud study UC did with Protiviti. 7/13

• *The Rome Daily Sentinel* and the *Observer-Dispatch* ran stories about **James Smith**, professor of physical therapy, for receiving the New York State Physical Therapy Association’s Dr. Marilyn Moffat Distinguished Service Award. 7/16

• WRVO Public Media reporter Payne Horning spoke with **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC’s Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, about the Tenney/Brindisi race as the New York 22 election approaches. 7/17

• **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC’s Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, was a guest on “First News with Keeler in the Morning” radio show on WIBX to discuss national impacts on the NY-22 Congressional Race. 7/19
Nathaniel Richmond, professor and chair of government and politics, was a guest on WUTQ Talk of the Town 100.7 FM to discuss foreign policy. 7/26

Dave Roberts, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote an article for The Ascent titled, “3 Suggestions to Help Individuals Look at Bereavement Differently.” 7/27

WUTR Eyewitness News reporter Marlee Tuskes spoke with Pamela Matt, executive director of Young Scholars Liberty Partnerships Program, about the Young Scholars STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) program and their summer learning poster presentations. 7/27

WUTR Eyewitness News reporter Marlee Tuskes spoke with Angel Rivera, associate professor of computer science, about 3D printing. 7/27

Big Frog 104 reporter Luke Austin ran a story about UC students returning to campus with renovations of the basketball court, the chemistry lab in Gordon Hall, remodeling of the lounge in South Hall and the new construction management building will be completed this fall. 7/31


Behforooz also presented two talks at the International Conference On Missions (ICOM) 2018 in July held at the Faith Sultan University in Istanbul, Turkey.

Brett Orzechowski, professor of management and media, was nominated for campus connector for the 2018 Venture Ecosystem Award from Upstate Venture Connect.

Sara Scanga, associate professor of biology, provided a peer review for the publication “BioTime: A database of biodiversity time series for the Anthropocene” in Global Ecology and Biogeography with 250+ coauthors.

Steven Specht, professor of psychology, was one of a group of exhibitors this summer at the Broad Street Gallery in Hamilton. Specht’s collages were part of the exhibit, “Gathered Visions.”

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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
08/24/18  New Student Orientation
08/24/18  College Picnic, 11:00 a.m.; Strebel Lawn
          (inside Strebel Student Center in the event of rain)
08/24/18  Convocation, 3:30 p.m.;
          Clark Athletic Center Gymnasium
08/27/18  Classes Begin
08/29/18  Unity Walk, 3:00 p.m.; Duffy Plaza

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

AROUND CAMPUS

A. After three weeks of learning college-level classes and
   materials, Young Scholars LPP of Utica students presented
   their final projects on 7/27. Brandon Tran, YS class of 2021,
   explains his project on facial aesthetics to M&T Bank Market
   President David Manzelmann at the YSLPP STEAM program
   poster fair. Young Scholars would like to thank both M&T
   Bank/Partners Trust Charitable Fund and the Mele Family
   Foundation for underwriting the 2018 STEAM Scholars
   Program through donor-advised funds of The Community
   Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties Inc. 7/30

B-C. Utica College's Clark Athletic Center gymnasium is
   looking fresh these days, thanks to the support for the Miga
   Basketball Court Fund. 6/29