College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences

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The Generosity of our Students

Dr. Barbara Schneider, Senior Associate Dean

A couple of weeks ago, I left a meeting on the health science campus and headed to Rocket Hall for the next meeting. I got there with about ten minutes to spare, and decided to make good use of my time by adding a quart of oil to my poor old car since I was driving to Indianapolis at the end of the workday.

That quart of oil, after riding around in my back seat for a week, had wedged itself under the passenger seat. I was sprawled across the floor of the car, feet sticking out the open door, and was trying to dislodge it when a student approached me.

“Ma’am?” he asked. “Are you okay? Is there anything I can do to help you?”

I emerged with the quart of oil in my hand, assured him I was fine, and thanked him.

Three minutes later, my hood propped open, I was carefully pouring the oil into the tank when another student came by.

Ma’am?” she asked. “Are you okay? Is there anything I can do to help you?

I showed her my empty quart of oil, assured her I was fine, and thanked her.

Neither student knew me, nor neither had anything to gain by taking time out of their own undoubtedly busy days. Seeing someone who appeared to be in need, however, each generously offered help.

Just a few days later, I was welcoming prospective new students to our campus. As part of the event, we had asked several of our best students if they would volunteer to be part of a student panel to answer questions. Five of them rolled out of bed, put on their dress clothes, and showed up in the Student Union at 9 o’clock on a Saturday morning to talk with these students and their families. The $25.00 gift card we offered them as thanks in no measure repaid them for the time they put in that day, and no money in the world would be enough to compensate them for the empathy and understanding they extended to these high school visitors.

I thought about these instances of generosity often as the semester came to a close.

One of the things we strive to inculcate in our students is a sense of responsibility for the communities in which they live. These students demonstrated that sense in concrete actions. Maybe that means we’ve done our job. Maybe it means their parents have. In any event, I hope as they returned home this summer they took with them a corresponding sense of the generosity of their faculty.
Dr. Jeff Broxmeyer joined the department of Political Science as an assistant professor in January 2015. He earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin, Master of Philosophy and Political Science and Ph.D. in Political Science from the Graduate Center-CUNY. His work examines the political wealth accumulation in American political development. Using correspondence, census tax and land records, government reports, investigations, and newspaper coverage, he compares the career trajectories of four prominent New York political figures during the Gilded Age. He said, “I wanted to learn how these politicians built fortunes as risk to career in some cases.”

In June, he received Honorable Mention for the Walter Dean Burnham prize from the American Political Science Association’s Section on Politics and History for his dissertation "Politics as a Sphere of Wealth Accumulation: Cases of Gilded Age New York: 1855-1888." Dr. Broxmeyer said he felt completely honored that his dissertation had been forwarded to the selection committee by his mentor at CUNY and his dissertation was recognized.

Dr. Broxmeyer is excited to be in Toledo and especially enjoys the small town feel compared to New York. Being in Toledo, for example, he has seen students at the grocery store and other local ventures. He said he was drawn to Toledo, in large part, because during his interview it was clear that the university and department of Political Science and Public Administration were balanced. “I was excited about the opportunity to be in a department that was collegial, cared about students and research. It is a great balance.” In all of his courses, he enjoys engaging students about local, state and national issues related to politics as well as how politics influences other social and cultural lives.

Dr. Kim Nielsen, a professor in the Disability Studies Program, has been invited to participate in discussion sessions and other events during the Smithsonian’s Festival ADA: 25 Years of Disability Rights. The Festival will take place on the terrace of the National Museum of American History from July 24-July 26, 2015. It is part of the national effort to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act and will include many events over the several day period.
Both a Helen Keller biographer and prominent scholar in disability history, Dr. Nielsen’s work is widely read and cited by disability and other scholars throughout the academic community. At the festival she will discuss her book entitled “A Disability History of the United States”, which traces disability and the treatment of disabled persons prior to European arrival to the present and highlights how race, class and gender all intersect with disability. She joined the university in 2012.

**Graduate Student News**

Chandrima Bhattacharya, an experimental psychology doctoral student, recently accepted a tenure-track faculty position as an Assistant Professor of Cognitive Psychology at the Palm Beach Atlantic University, in West Palm Beach, Florida. The position will allow Chandrima to continue pursuing her research interests in decision making processes under risk as well as the neurological underpinnings of risk perception and risky decision making. Chandrima was able to obtain this competitive position through her development of her research and teaching skills at the University of Toledo under the guidance of her mentor, Dr. John D. Jasper. Chandrima mentioned she is “very excited about her new position” and would like to continue to teach and conduct research, especially in applied decision making areas such as medical decision making in elderly.

**Undergraduate News**

LaVelle Ridley, a third-year English major and Africana studies minor, was selected as a research fellow for the 2015 Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute in New York City. The highly competitive summer institute only accepts 10 rising seniors each year to participate in projects at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. The institution is the world’s leading research center devoted to the preservation and dissemination of materials on the African and African Diaspora experience.

When asked why he chose to major in English, Ridley explained, “I chose to major in English (with a concentration in General Literature) and minor in Africana Studies because I have a sincere passion for both of these areas of the humanities. I love to read and write critically, investigate the nuances of a text, and learn about the history of the African Diaspora and the impact it has on me, my community, and the world at large. Literature influences and informs how and what I see in the world and it’s something I truly excel at. Also, there are plenty of skills one gains from majoring in the humanities, skills useful in any job or career.”
Upon graduating, Ridley plans to pursue a PhD in English Literature; among his top choices are the University of Michigan, Northwestern University, and the University of Virginia. Ridley’s research currently focuses on the intersection and performative nature of social identities (e.g. race, class, gender, and sexuality) in contemporary African American literature. His goal is to carry on this research in graduate school, possibly branching out to Black British and Caribbean literature and to eventually a tenure track position as a professor of English.

Ridley believes that the College of Languages, Literature & Social Sciences “is the most diverse college on UT’s campus, not only regarding students, but also faculty/staff experience, academic and research opportunities, and post-graduation employment. The degrees conferred upon LLSS students enable us to pursue a great variety of career paths. We have great faculty and administrators that are not only supportive of student endeavors and achievements, but are proud of them, too.”

Honors and Awards in LLSS

At the annual Honors and Awards Ceremony held on May 8th, eleven undergraduate students across the college were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements, university and community service. The awards winners were:

James Kitson – Economics
Keevan Hazel – English Language and Literature
Hannah Kissel – Foreign Languages
Tim Kosmya – Geography and Planning
Samantha Scott – History
Kirby Jewell – Political Science
Alex Buhk – Psychology
Danielle Stamper – Sociology
Paul Fuzinski - Anthropology
Monica Klonowski – Women’s and Gender Studies
John Burkardt – Disabilities Studies Program
Robert Worthington – Law and Social Thought

Kirby Jewell, Political Science, was selected as the 2015 College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences’ Outstanding Student.

Sam Duling, a dual major in Political Science and Economics, and Melanie Krose, an English major, were awarded the Dean’s Essay Prize.

Congratulations to all of our very fine students.

Retirements

Christine Habrecht has retired from the university after 33 years of service. She began working at the university in the 1980’s as a part-time instructor, teaching English Composition I and II and Organizational Report Writing. In 1988 she became an academic adviser under Associate Dean Gertrude Robertson in the College of Arts and Sciences, located at that time in Gillham Hall. In 1999, she became Director of Student Services for undergraduates in Arts Sciences, and in 2001, Assistant Dean, continuing in that role for the Colleges of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences; Communication and the Arts; and Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Professor Sunday E. Ubokudom retired from the Department of Political Science and Public Administration in May. He joined the faculty of the University of Toledo in 1995 after serving
various administrative positions in the Kansas State government. Dr. Ubokudom's research interests were focused primarily in health care organization, delivery, and management. His publications include *United States Health Care Policymaking* (2012) and *Physician Participation in Medicaid Managed Care* (1997).

**Professor Peter Lindquist** has retired from the Department of Geography and Planning. He had two different tenures at the University of Toledo, first joining the institution in 1988 and then returning in 1996. His recent research interests have extended into the development of specialized GIS software for applications in location analysis, emergency facility location for EMS services, accessibility to health care, enhanced vehicle routing, and simulation of freight movements. Dr. Lindquist has participated in a number of research projects with investigators from other universities and government agencies. During his time at the University, he served as Graduate Advisor and Department Chair.

**Professor Lynn Bachelor** has retired from the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. Dr. Bachelor came to the University of Toledo in 1988. She served her departments as the Director of the Master of Public Administration Program and as Department Chair. Her research focused on relationships between city governments and private businesses. Among her many publications, she co-authored the book, *The Sustaining Hand* (2nd edition, 1993). Her teaching interests included urban policy, intergovernmental relations, ethics and public policy, and program evaluation.

**IMPORTANT FALL 2015 DATES**

First Day of Classes: August 24  
Labor Day – No Classes: September 7  
Fall Break: October 5 and 6  
Thanksgiving Break: November 25 and 26  
Fall Semester Ends: December 3

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**Donor News and Giving**

The support of our alumni and friends is paramount to the success of our educational programs. Your generous financial support will impact the lives of current and future students.

Gifts to UT may be made online at: https://give2ut.utoledo.edu.

For more information about giving, please contact Mary Galvin, principal gifts officer for the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences at 419.530.4134 or mary.galvin@utoledo.edu.

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