

## Academic Affairs

# Acmes & Accolades

## GENESEO | February 2017

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The Division of Academic Affairs at SUNY Geneseo is organized into 20 academic units and departments that provide a variety of majors, minors, and concentrations for our students. The division also includes several support units that complement academic programs, enhance programmatic study, and ensure the development and completion of degree programs.

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### New Library Director

The Academic Affairs Division is pleased to have Benjamin Rawlins on board as Director of Milne Library, effective January 12th.

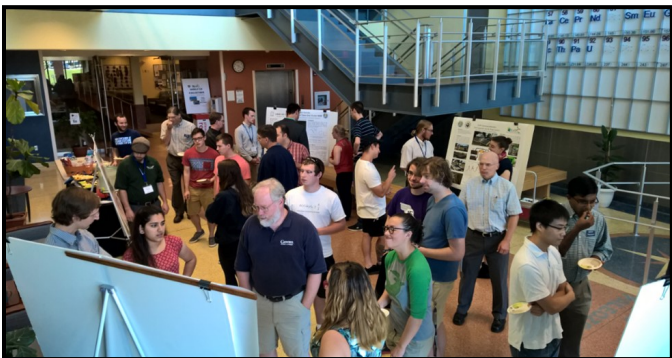
Ben came to Geneseo with advanced degrees in both history and library science, and with an impressive background in digital services and information literacy as well as considerable experience as a library administrator, most recently as Director of Library Services at Georgetown College in Kentucky.

Welcome to Geneseo, Ben! We look forward to working with you.

### SURGE Program

Supporting Undergraduate Research at Geneseo (SURGE) is an REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) program run by the Department of Physics & Astronomy at SUNY Geneseo.

SURGE provides an exciting ten-week research experience to a cohort of undergraduates each year. Students are integrated into small teams of undergraduate researchers working closely with a faculty mentor, who nurtures their experimental, analytical, and communication skills.



Students also experience physics in action by visiting regional facilities, where they interact with practicing physicists and learn how physics research addresses societally relevant problems.

After the summer experience, an online mentoring com-

munity continues to provide support for SURGE students as they advance in their physics degrees and careers.

In 2016, the SURGE program completed its first year, and plans are underway for the 2017 year.

The SURGE program organizers are Dr. James McLean or Dr. George Marcus.

### Master Teacher Program

SUNY Geneseo is pleased to host the New York State Master Teacher Program (NYSMTP) in the Finger Lakes Region, one of ten such regions in the state.

Centered on content, pedagogy and knowledge of students, the NYSMTP seeks to identify, reward, and support master teachers in mathematics, science, and technology throughout New York State.

Funding for this program comes directly from New York State.

Currently 88 NYS Master Teachers in our region come to campus for professional development activities on weekday evenings and weekends.



Shown in the above photo are Master Teachers learning about the ecology of Canandaigua Lake at a summer retreat.

Kurt Fletcher (Physics and Astronomy), Amy Sheldon (Geological Sciences), and George Reuter (Mathematics) are the coordinators for the Finger Lakes Region.

## RYSA Directed Study

Under the direction of the School of Education's Xerox Multicultural Center Director Susan Norman, the Rochester Young Scholars Academy sponsors a directed study where Geneseo students read relevant scholarly articles and discuss, practice, and reflect on their experiences in the city working with 5th-12th grade students in all the content areas. In Fall 2016, 15 Geneseo students, who are highly skilled and culturally responsive tutors, provided tutoring and enrichment programming to 30 Rochester City School children. While many education majors sign up for this service experience, other students in Biology, Chemistry, French, International Relations, and Psychology majors also relish working in this diverse environment.



Housed in the Xerox Multicultural Teacher Education Center, this program provides tutors with diverse backgrounds such as Chinese-American, Haitian, Nepali, African-American and Latino. Rochester school-age students are thrilled at the exposure they get to the college students who help them with math, science, English, history, Spanish and other content areas but also with problem solving real world situations that they experience.

One of the tutors, Jess Sidoti, explained, "I'm glad I joined this program because I am constantly learning new things about myself. I've realized what areas of work I need to brush up on and what areas I am solid in. I have also had to be very creative when I am teaching. I have come up with new ways to teach students math. Instead of teaching them a way in which I might learn the material, I thought outside of the box and came up with new ideas."

## Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

Geneseo was awarded a \$1.2 million grant in 2014 from the National Science Foundation as part of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program to encourage talented STEM students to pursue teaching careers in elementary and secondary schools.

There are three main components to the SUNY Geneseo Noyce program. First, science and math majors entering their third or fourth year of study are eligible to receive scholarships from \$10,000 to \$12,000 each. Scholarship re-

cipients agree to teach for at least two years in a high-needs school district for each year of scholarship support.

Second, students completing their first or second year at Geneseo may apply for a funded summer internship. The Noyce Interns are placed in science summer camps and museums located near the interns' homes. This early teaching experience allows the undergraduate to get a taste for science and math teaching and allows them to see if they enjoy working with kids.

The third component of the program is the Build-it, Leave-it, Teach-it (BLT) program. In the BLT program, undergraduates and faculty design and build physics demonstration equipment, discuss how best to present a lesson based on the demo, and then visit local high school physics classrooms in teams. The BLT demo is then donated to the classroom for the physics teacher to use in future years.



The Noyce Leadership Team includes Kurt Fletcher and James McLean (Physics and Astronomy) and Katie Rommel Esham and Dennis Showers (School of Education).

## Wolfgang Ketterle Visit

In January 2016, Nobel Laureate in physics Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle came to Geneseo to deliver the Sells Lecture, named in honor of Dr. Robert "Duke" Sells, founder of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at SUNY Geneseo.

Dr. Ketterle, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics in 2001 "for achievement of Bose-Einstein condensation in dilute gases of alkali atoms, and for early fundamental studies of the properties of the condensates," spent two days on campus meeting with students and faculty, and delivered a large public lecture for the campus.





## **Marriage, Divorce and Distress in Northeast Brazil: Black Women's Perspectives on Love, Respect and Kinship**

Melanie Medeiros, during the Drescher Leave she received for Fall 2016, completed her book manuscript, titled *Marriage, Divorce and Distress in Northeast Brazil: Black Women's Perspectives on Love, Respect and Kinship*.

Medeiros' book explores Afro-Brazilians lived experiences and perceptions of gender, marriage and marriage dissolution in light of social and economic change attributed to processes of modernization and globalization.



Under contract with Rutgers University Press and currently under review, the book has a Fall 2017 expected release date.

explores the field of paleoanthropology past and present and provides answers to these questions and more.

Beginning over 65 million years ago, Dr. Welker traces the evolution of our species, the environments and selective forces that shaped our ancestors, their physical and cultural adaptations, and the people and places involved with their discovery and study.

Welker's book is both an overview of the people, places, and discoveries that have imbued paleoanthropology with such fascination, romance, and mystery, and a comprehensive technical reference for relevant terms, theories, methods, and species.

Designed as a textbook for a course on Human Evolution, the book can also serve as an introductory text for relevant sections of courses in Biological or General Anthropology or general interest.

Shown in the photo below with Welker is former anthropology student Keenan Taylor, who illustrated the book.



## **The Evolution of Our Tribe: Hominini**

"Where did we come from? What were our ancestors like? Why do we differ from other animals? How do scientists trace and construct our evolutionary history?"

A new book by Associate Professor of Anthropology Barbara Welker, titled *The Evolution of Our Tribe: Hominini*,

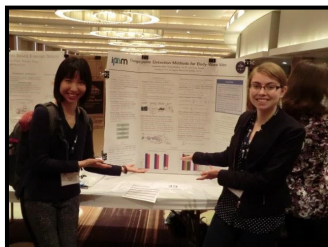
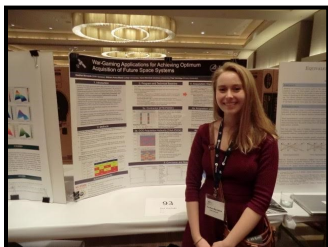
## **eGarden Update**

A one-acre, off-grid education and research facility on the west side of campus, the SUNY Geneseo eGarden is focused on renewable energy, organic agriculture and sustainable organic waste management. Dr. Stephen Padalino (Department of Physics and Astronomy) and students from across five departments are involved in various aspects of this project, which include the eGarden club electric car, solar collector air heater, Arduino data collection and telemetry system, photo voltaic solar collector and micro-algae pond farming to produce bio-fuels. Recent updates include installation of a portable wind turbine and small PV solar panel, a direct solar air heater and thermal storage system for the greenhouse, and an Arduino control system for solar thermal storage system, including a 3D-printed manifold made in the Geneseo 3D printing lab.



## 2017 Joint Mathematics Meetings

Chair of the Mathematics Department Caroline Haddad and two students traveled in January to Atlanta to attend the largest mathematics meeting in the world. The students, Heather Barbomb and Stephanie Allen, gave presentations and Dr. Haddad gave a talk entitled, *Final Projects that Give a Taste of Research*, at the joint meeting of the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society, which had nearly 6100 attendees.



## Adopt-A-Business Program

Four Geneseo Business students, Corinne Shanahan, Kelly Driver, Shannon Hayes, and Heather Molzon, participated in the Small Business Development Center's Adopt-A-Business Program in the fall semester, holding weekly office hours on campus and serving as social media experts for Livingston County businesses seeking assistance with marketing tools.

Run by SBDC and the Livingston County Economic Development Group, the program provides an opportunity for four students to intern each semester, sharing their knowledge of current social media strategies with small businesses while gaining hands-on experience.



## 2016 Educator of the Year Award

Colleen McNamara, 2009 graduate from the School of Education, is the recipient of the Educators of America 2016 Educator of the Year Award. A fifth grade teacher at Alexan-

der Elementary School in Alexander, NY, Colleen has worked the last five years as a literacy and math specialist for students who need extra academic support.

Her dedication to education is demonstrated, too, in her personal life. In 2013, Colleen opened her own business, Stutelage Innovations, which hosts education-based birthday parties and summer camps.

## Elevated Position with the Peace Corps

After completion of his graduate degree in the Literacy & Reading program at SUNY Geneseo, Nicholas Damiani '16 was offered an elevated position with the Peace Corps. In addition to supporting teachers in the program, as a trainer, he will strengthen and implement EFL (English as a foreign language) curriculum in Quito, Ecuador.

The two-year appointment is funded through the US Federal Government, and as part of the Ecuador TEFL Project, includes a certificate of TEFL validated by the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C.

## No Act of Kindness, However Small, is Ever Wasted." (Aesop)

Geneseo is celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week (February 13-17) with various planned activities (see [www.geneseo.edu/events\\_office/kindness-week](http://www.geneseo.edu/events_office/kindness-week)).

Campus constituents are encouraged to sign the Kindness Pledge and perform at least one random act of Geneseo Kindness each day. Activities include filling out Valentine cards to be given to a member of the community, and collecting change to be donated to Livingston CARES.

