



## Academic Affairs

# Acmes & Accolades

GENESEO | September 2017

The Division of Academic Affairs at SUNY Geneseo is organized into 2 schools and 18 academic departments which provide a variety of majors, minors, and concentrations for our students. The division also includes several support units that complement our academic programs, enhance programmatic study, and ensure the development and completion of degree programs.

### Welcoming New Leadership

On June 29, 2017, Geneseo and Academic Affairs welcomed



new Provost, Stacey Robertson, who travelled cross-country to assume her new position. She has since taken the lead on or supported numerous initiatives, immersed herself into meeting and developing relationships with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and others on campus and in the community, and endeared herself to her staff.

Stacey earned her bachelor's degree from Whittier College and her Ph.D. in history with a Women's Studies emphasis from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Prior to joining CWU, she served as the director of the Women's Studies program and the Oglesby Professor of American Heritage at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, where she taught from 1994 to 2014. She also served as Bradley's interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for two years, following a four-year appointment as chair of the History Department.

Stacey has authored four books, including *Hearts Beating for Liberty: Women Abolitionists in the Old Northwest* and *Betsy Mix Cowles: Champion of Equality*. She is the recipient of many teaching awards and research fellowships, and lectures nationally and internationally. Stacey co-edits the book series, *Perspectives on Early America*, with a London-based publisher, and is the co-director of the national non-profit, *Historians Against Slavery*.

Provost Robertson is a passionate advocate for liberal arts education and a fervid proponent of Geneseo's vision and mission. Goals for her first year on campus include supporting, providing resources for, and promoting Geneseo's curricular redesign initiative, advancing and tracking the campus' applied learning efforts, and collaborating with campus administrators in promoting diversity and inclusivity in the curriculum and through co-curricular opportunities.

Please join us in giving Stacey a warm welcome to campus.

### Applying Learning

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Cesar Aguilar is just one of many faculty who engaged students in applied learning over the summer. Working with him on different projects related to his NSF-funded research on the relationship between the structure of a network (also known as mathematical graphs) and the spectral properties of a matrix representation of the network were Duncan Ho, BethAnna Jones, and Julia Witkowski.



The projects introduced the students to spectral graph theory, developed conjectures on how a particular structural property of the network affects the spectral properties of the matrix model and vice-versa, and developed their computer programming skills.

### Preparing for the New Academic Year

Members of the Provost Office enjoyed rare time out of the office on August 16 at the Ready or Not? Day Picnic, which was sponsored by the Administration and Finance Division.

The week following the picnic was busy in Academic Affairs with final preparations for the start of classes. Alongside other campus events, an orientation was held for newly-appointed department chairs, a welcome picnic for new faculty and staff was enjoyed at the beautiful Vitale Park, and a college welcome session was held to allow new faculty and staff from across campus to meet the college administrators.



## Acmes & Accolades

### Introducing Academic Affairs New Faculty and Staff (not all-inclusive - see also next issue)



**Ahmad Almomani** joined Geneseo as assistant professor of mathematics, teaching calculus 1 and 2 this fall and calculus 2 and linear algebra next spring. He previously served as visiting assistant professor at Clarkson University and SUNY Potsdam. Ahmad earned a doctorate in applied mathematics from Clarkson University and a Master and Bachelor of Science in applied mathematics from Yarmouk University in Jordan. His research interests include derivative-free optimization, numerical analysis, and special functions. Ahmad was attracted to Geneseo by its cluster hiring practices and also by the advantages afforded by Western New York's virtual lab collaboration which will help advance his research. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending time with his family. Already, he has discovered the beauty of Letchworth Park and the magic of Geneseo's "amazing sunsets."

Director of New Student Programs **Katie Buckley** plans and implements new student orientations and leads efforts in the development of co-curricular programs for first-year and transfer students. Katie provides co-curricular support to the Office of Academic Planning and Advisement and serves as adviser to Phi Eta Sigma, the first-year honor society. Katie has a bachelor's degree in childhood education from The College at Brockport and a master's degree in higher education administration with a concentration in student affairs from the University at Buffalo. Before coming to Geneseo, she worked in residence life at RIT and most recently, worked out of the Office of Student Retention at The College at Brockport as the first-year experience coordinator. In her spare time, Katie enjoys camping, spending time outdoors, cooking and enjoying time with family and friends. She's also a football fan and declares allegiance to her favorite team with a "Go Bills!"



**Susana Castillo-Rodríguez**, assistant professor of languages and literatures (linguistics), came to Geneseo from Manchester, N.H., after serving as assistant professor at Saint Anselm College. Previously, she was a lecturer at the University of New Hampshire and before that, profesor contratado doctor (associate professor) at Complutense University of Madrid. She also served as a visiting scholar at Harvard University (Department of Romance Languages and Literatures) and New York University (Department of Anthropology). She has a Ph.D in Hispanic linguistics from The Graduate Center at the City College of New York, and a bachelor's degree and doctorate from Complutense University of Madrid in sociology and social anthropology, respectively. An avid runner, Susana has competed in several marathons in Vermont, Maine and Boston — and most recently, Geneseo's Oak Tree Half Marathon which has "too many hills compared to the flat East coast of Portsmouth, N.H.!" Fluent in French, she also speaks Spanish and can read Portuguese. "The horizon view across the Geneseo Valley is a perfect metaphor for my expectations this year," she said. "I look at the horizon and want to do my best in

teaching, expand my community of scholars, learn about Geneseo's philosophy and goals, and push further my research in Equatorial Guinea."

As executive director for Open Educational Resources (OER) in Milne Library, **Alexis Clifton** is helping SUNY institutions establish and expand programs to support the adoption of OER in their classrooms. Alexis heads up efforts to provide mentorship, professional development, community networking and technical support for OER programs across the system. Alexis has a bachelor's degree from the University of Rio Grande in Ohio and master's degrees from Marshall University in West Virginia and Northern Arizona University. Before joining the Geneseo community, Alexis was a faculty success lead and course developer for Lumen Learning and an English instructor at Tacoma Community College. She also served as an adjunct instructor at Highline Community College, Kaplan University and Lake Washington Technical College; and as an evaluator at Pearson Educational Management. Outside of work, Alexis is busily exploring her new state, scoping out hiking locations, knitting shops, gardening nurseries, coffee shops and bookstores wherever she goes.



**Emily Cole**, study abroad adviser, also serves as program manager for one-directional study abroad programs and winter intersession faculty-led programs. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in hospitality and tourism management from Niagara University and a Master of Science in college student personnel administration from Canisius College. Previous professional experience includes a



stint as coordinator for international study opportunities at the University of New Haven. As a graduate student, she interned in Galway, Ireland, and studied abroad near Liverpool, England, during her undergraduate studies. In her spare time, she likes traveling, reading, cooking and baking, doing yoga, biking and being outdoors.



**Billy Jackson** is a new visiting assistant professor of mathematics, who previously taught as assistant professor at the University of Tennessee - Chattanooga. Before that, he was a lecturer at the University of Maine and also taught at the University of West Georgia and Saint Xavier University. A former high school math teacher, Billy's education research interests include teacher education and professional development, curriculum design and pedagogical content knowledge for teaching mathematics at the secondary and post-secondary levels. His mathematics research focuses on continuous and discrete dynamical systems, hybrid systems, and more generally dynamic equations on time scales. He earned a Ph.D., master and bachelor — all in mathematics — from Baylor University, the University of Georgia, and Georgia Southern University, respectively. Billy is an avid poker player who enjoys working on his research in math education, as well as bowling. "I'm looking forward to working with some of New

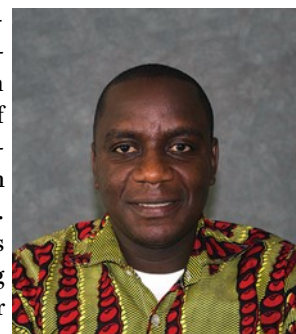
York's teachers to try and help their students learn math in new and innovative ways," he said.

**Liz McManus**, lecturer in French in the Department of Languages and Literatures, has come back home to the Rochester area where she'll be closer to family after living in Chicago for 14 years. She teaches French 101, 102 and 201. Previously, she served as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and before that, as lecturer in the Department of French and Italian at Northwestern University. Liz earned a doctorate in French literature from Northwestern University, a master's degree in French literature from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a bachelor's degree in French studies from Cornell University. Her research interests revolve around 19th-century French literature and culture; Fantastic, Utopian/Dystopian and Gothic literatures, the fantastic in contemporary short stories and popular culture; film; 19th-century British literature; and 18th-century French literature. In her spare time, she likes to cook, bake, read, and sew, and share activities with her husband, Gary (who is teaching a humanities course at Geneseo) and their two young daughters. With "exceptionally prepared students who are 10 minutes early and ready to go," Liz looks forward to getting others excited about French language and culture. She is also eager to work with the digital humanities group at Geneseo.



**Ken Miller** joined Geneseo as visiting assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, where he teaches American Government, Modern Political Analysis, Legislative Process, and Public Opinion and Mass Media. He earned a doctorate in government from the University of Texas at Austin, a master's in applied politics from the University of Akron, and a bachelor's in political science from Cleveland State University. Before pursuing a career in academia, Ken was a musician for about 15 years; he played bass on 14 full-length albums with two different bands – the Cowslingers (1996-2003) and the Whiskey Daredevils (2004-2011) – and toured across 28 states and in Europe. "I've mostly moved on from that part of my life, but I still rejoin the old band to record in the studio or play a one-off show once in a while," he said. He last recorded with the Cowslingers this past June at Rust Belt Studios in Detroit. The album is scheduled for release this winter. Coming from UT-Austin, about "10 times the size of Geneseo," Ken is surprised by the energy of the university. "I expected to find a quiet and pastoral place, but there's a lot going on here – both in my department and across campus."

**Sedar Ngoma**, assistant professor of mathematics, teaches one section of Calculus I and one section of Calculus II this fall; next spring, he will teach two sections of Calculus I and a section of Differential Equations. Sedar earned a doctorate in applied mathematics from Auburn University, a Diploma in mathematics from ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics) in Trieste, Italy, and a Bachelor of Science degree in automated systems and industrial networks from Institut Universitaire de Technologie Henri Poincaré, Longwy, France. He also holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's in mathematics and fundamental applications from Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville, Congo. Sedar's research interests focus on applied mathematics, partial differential equations, inverse problems and numerical methods. He is fluent in French. Outside of work, Sedar enjoys playing soccer, running and reading. He looks forward to contributing to the Geneseo mission "so it continues to be a better place for our students and everyone."



## Acmes & Accolades



**Laxman Pandey** serves as lecturer in the Department of Chemistry this year, coming north from Georgia Southern University where he previously held positions as lecturer and visiting assistant professor. He teaches general chemistry and introductory lab. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry (with a minor in mathematics) from McKendree University and a doctorate (computational material chemistry) from Georgia Institute of Technology. In his spare time, Laxman enjoys working with computers and writing algorithms to automate routine tasks. He also loves music – playing guitar for his 2 ½-year-old daughter – and playing soccer. “I’ve found the Geneseo community to be very warm-hearted and welcoming, and the campus feels very connected,” he noticed. Laxman looks forward to working with students and eventually forming a small research group that will support and advance his work as well provide opportunities for knowledge transfer.

**Lee M. Pierce** is finally back up North, joining the Department of Communication as a visiting assistant professor after eight years in Georgia. Lee holds a doctorate in Communication Studies from the University of Georgia (UGA), a master’s in Communication from SUNY Brockport and a bachelor’s in Business and Marketing Communications from Elmira College. At Geneseo, Lee will teach Visual Communication, Introduction to Public Speaking, and Interpersonal Communication. Previously, Lee was a lecturer in UGA’s Department of Communication Studies, which included teaching an original course entitled “Politics of Style: Or, the Curious Case of Taylor Swift.” Outside of the classroom, Lee enjoys writing and working on a new book project (Syntaxing the Nation: Readings of the Rhetorical Present), as well as playing the piano, practicing yoga, cooking and sailing. Lee is also a fan of women’s mixed martial arts and rugby (“Go Warthogs!”), and hopes to teach yoga on campus next spring. “When I was here as an undergraduate, the campus always smelled like burning alfalfa,” Lee recalled. “I’m very happy that I have only noticed the smell once!”



**Mike Volza** joined Geneseo as a lecturer in the School of Business, where he teaches International Business and Principles of Marketing this semester. He brings extensive career experience in the consumer products and retail industries. For the past 25 years, Mike served as vice president of sales and marketing for a private consumer products company, building relationships with national retailers such as JC Penney, Kohl’s, Target and Macy’s and traveling through Taiwan, mainland China and Hong Kong for business. Prior to that, he served in various roles as merchandise manager and buyer for leading retail corporations including Hallmark and department stores Sibley’s and Dey Brothers, divisions of May and Allied Department Stores, respectively. He also has served nine years as an adjunct lecturer, most recently teaching economics at SUNY Polytechnic Institute and before that, four years each at Utica College (marketing) and Herkimer College (international business). Mike earned an MBA from Syracuse University and a B.A. in economics with a minor in management from SUNY Cortland. In his spare time, he enjoys cycling and being with his family. “It’s really not a surprise, but everyone has been so nice to me, including the students,” he noted. “They’ve been great!”

An academic advisor in the Office of Academic Planning and Advising, **Heather Wilhelm Routenberg ’05** assists students in a variety of ways, including helping to answer questions about degree requirements. She also offers support to faculty advisors across the college. Heather has a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Geneseo and a master’s degree from the University of Connecticut. Previous roles include as executive director for InciteChange! Consulting, LLC, in Ypsilanti, Mich. She also served in a variety of positions at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, including as instructor for the Center for Global Intercultural Study, research associate for the College of Literature, Science & Arts, and coordinator of co-curricular service learning. Heather also served as administrative assistant for the Pathways to Success program at Erie Community College. She enjoys volunteering with animal therapy programs at eldercare facilities and can often be found working out in the garden.



**Alan Witt**, reference and instruction librarian (business) in Milne Library, works with professors and students in business, political science/international relations, and mathematics to teach research skills, application of said skills, and critical thinking. He teaches sections of INTD 105 and acts as a mentor and faculty contact to this semester’s graduate intern in the library. Alan serves on a variety of committees within the library, including a web team that is revamping the library website to be more access-





ible and useful. Alan earned a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University, a master's in history and a master's in library and information science from the University of Rhode Island. He is an avid boardgamer and also performs in the a cappella madrigal group, Myschyffe Managed, which is based in New Hampshire.



**Jacalyn Wittmer Malinowski** joins Geneseo as assistant professor of geological sciences, teaching Environmental Geology, Our Geological Environment Lab, Invertebrate Paleontology, and Basin Analysis. Previously, she served as a lecturer at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, teaching a variety of courses including Natural Disasters and a massive open online course, or MOOC, on the evolution of life through time. She co-developed the course with a colleague. Jacalyn earned a doctorate in geosciences from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; a master's in geology from the University of Cincinnati; and a bachelor's in geology from Beloit College. Her research centers on ecology and sedimentology of both modern and ancient systems, specifically using fossils as tools to help understand past environments, ecosystems, and climate. Outside of work, she loves hiking and camping with her family, gardening, and playing soccer and baseball with her daughters. Already, she has learned "how friendly and inquisitive Geneseo students are!" She looks forward to setting up her lab and starting undergraduate research projects with students out in the field.

**Colin Zestcott**, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, is teaching Social Psychology, Personality Psychology, and Research Methods this semester. Equally exciting, he plans to re-engage in one of his preferred pastimes in just a matter of months: Nordic skiing. He joins Geneseo from the University of Arizona, where he taught Social Psychology and Personality Psychology. In addition to winter exercise, Colin enjoys training through CrossFit and watching sports, especially football and the Minnesota Vikings. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Macalester College (Saint Paul, Minn.) and his master's and doctorate in social psychology from the University of Arizona. Colin's research interests include attitudes; health disparities; implicit social cognition; sports; stereotyping and prejudice; and the role of metaphor in cognition. His biggest surprise thus far? The level of engagement from Geneseo students. "Almost every student I've spoken with is involved in some sort of extracurricular activity and many work on research outside of the classroom," he observed. "Geneseo students have an inspiring desire to do more for their community, and I'm excited to be a part of that environment!"



The December 2017 issue of the *Academic Affairs Acmes and Accolades* newsletter will feature the remaining new faculty and staff: Raslan Ibrahim, Leah McGrayPouya Seifzadeh, Amanda Lewis, Serena Moseman-Valtierra, Melissa Dussault, Sarah Gaudio, Adam Guenther, Adam Klinges, Benjamin Rawlins, and Flossie Stephens.

## 2017 Faculty Promotions

### Promotion to Associate Professor with Continuing Appointment

Lei Gao, School of Business

### Promotion to Associate Professor

Eric Helms, Chemistry

## 2017 Distinguished and Award-Winning Faculty and Staff

**Distinguished Teaching Professor** - Charles Freeman, Physics

**Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching** - Harry Howe, Business

**Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching** - Glenn McClure, English

**Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service** - Jennifer Katz, Psychology

**Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service** - Daniel Jacques, Chemistry

### Drs. Carol and Michael Harter Endowment for Faculty Mentoring Award

- Paul Pacheco, Anthropology

- Katie Rommel-Esham, School of Education



Dr. Ronald Herzman is presented with the Faculty Career Achievement Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Teaching, and Service to the College & Community

## 2017-18 Sabbatical Leaves

The following faculty members were granted sabbatical leave during the 2017-18 academic year:

Name	Department	Semester Request	Sabbatical Title
Robert Goeckel	Political Science & International Relations	2017-18 Year	Book manuscript, Playing Harmony in the Singing Revolution
Christopher Leary	Mathematics	2017-18 Year	Mathematical epidemiology - modeling, data, and applications
Elaine Cleeton	Sociology	Fall 2017	Pentecostal women ministers
Wendy Pogozelski	Chemistry	Fall 2017	Completion of manuscripts and obtaining training in new mitochondrial analysis methods, in an effort to update teaching and bring new laboratory technologies to Geneseo
George Marcus	Physics & Astronomy	Fall 2017	Developing expertise in quantum optics and commissioning experiments for the advanced undergraduate physics lab
Susan Muench	Biology	Fall 2017	Strengthening student research experiences abroad and revitalizing student research on campus through learning updated techniques for detecting human and animal parasite infections
Maria Lima	English	Fall 2017	UNCHAINING SELVES: The Power of the Neo-Slave Narrative Genre
Ken Cooper	English	Fall 2017	[the seventies]: an ecology
Sharon Peck	Education	Spring 2018	Building partnerships through integrating community and place-based education and multimodal games into Language Arts
Isidro Bosch	Biology	Spring 2018	Species identification and development of clonal sea star larvae
James McLean	Physics & Astronomy	Spring 2018	Development of scanning microscopy capability
Jani Lewis	Biology	Spring 2018	Differential effects of ultrapotent corticosteroid treatment on vulvar carcinoma cell lines
Colleen Garrity	Geography	Spring 2018	Multidimensional visualization of atmospheric data using ArcGIS Pro
Farooq Sheikh	School of Business	Spring 2018	Group-lending in microfinance: technology spillover effect and diffusion of entrepreneurship
Matthew Pastizzo	Psychology	Spring 2018	Estimation of semantic relatedness between word pairs using distribution-based and lexical-based similarity metrics
Jonathan Gonder	Music	Spring 2018	Preparation of repertoire for solo concert performances and recording
Carlo Filice	Philosophy	Spring 2018	The afterlife and value



## 2017-18 Presidential Scholars

Fifteen students have been nominated and selected for the 2017-18 academic year to serve as Presidential Scholars, a distinguished college-wide honor bestowed on exceptional students who best exemplify the ideals of SUNY Geneseo. The role of the Geneseo Scholars is to participate in Admission activities and panel discussions, take an active leadership role in assisting the college in its development and advancement activities, and assist the Provost and President in promoting academic excellence on campus.

This year's cohort has a 3.89 average GPA and represents 23 majors, 7 minors, 7 Edgar Fellows and numerous disciplines.

- ♦ **Julia Cameron**, a Psychology major and Edgars Fellow with a minor in Human Development
- ♦ **Nicole Delligatti**, a dual Philosophy and History major
- ♦ **Emily Ellmann**, a Biology major with a minor in Dance
- ♦ **Justen Geddes**, a Mathematics major with a minor in Anthropology
- ♦ **Thomas Hurysz**, a Biochemistry major
- ♦ **Benjamin Juchniewicz**, a dual Philosophy and Accounting major and an Edgars Fellow
- ♦ **Derek Kaczorowski**, a dual History and Sociology major
- ♦ **Rachel Knapp**, a Biology major and an Edgars Fellow
- ♦ **Jenna Lawson**, a History major and an Edgars Fellow
- ♦ **Brendan Mahoney**, a dual major in English and Economics with a minor in Mathematics
- ♦ **Harrison Moses**, a dual Anthropology and Philosophy major
- ♦ **Kyle Powers**, a Chemistry major and an Edgars Fellow
- ♦ **Shauna Ricketts**, a dual Political Science and Sociology major with a minor in Urban Studies
- ♦ **Blain Shinkle**, an Anthropology major with a minor in Museum Studies
- ♦ **Veronica Taglia**, an English Literature and American Studies major with a minor in Psychology

## Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence acknowledges students who have received recognition for distinguished achievements. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a student by the State University of New York. The following students received the award in 2017:

- ♦ **Stephanie Allen**, Mathematics and Economics
- ♦ **Bradford Campion**, History and Adolescence Education
- ♦ **Jessica Heppler**, Philosophy
- ♦ **Hannah Loo**, Biology and Music (Vocal Performance)



2016-17 Presidential Scholars

## 2017 Major Fellowships & Scholarships

Geneseo students who have recently won major external fellowships and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study, and for travel in many parts of the world, include:

### Barry Goldwater Scholarship

- ♦ Lara Finnerty-Haggerty
- ♦ Jeffrey Doser

### Critical Language Scholarship

- ♦ Annie Renaud
- ♦ Alex McGrath

### NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (Undergraduate)

- ♦ Shayne O'Brien

### Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

- ♦ Alexis Leslie (South Africa)
- ♦ Shekiqua Reid (Senegal)
- ♦ Carolina Fernandez (India)
- ♦ Nicholas Dean (Australia)

### Fulbright US Student Program

- ♦ Patrick McCormick (ETA) Brazil
- ♦ Kiaya Rose Dilsner-Lopez (ETA) Brazil
- ♦ Natalie DuBois (ETA) Germany
- ♦ Kate Dunn (ETA) Malaysia
- ♦ Kelli Panara (ETA) Netherlands
- ♦ Erik Mebust (ETA) Vietnam

## Bridging the Language and Culture Gap

In 2002, in response to her students' statements that they felt lonely and had a hard time making friends, Lecturer of English and Coordinator of English as a Second Language Irene Belyakov-Goodman started the Speech Buddies program, which has become a Geneseo course: Methods of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

In the program, American-born student volunteers meet weekly with an assigned "buddy" to tutor them on English skills like grammar and pronunciation, as well as American culture, including slang and how to speak to professors. Speech Buddies enhances the students' educational and cross-cultural experience.

"The students are not just teachers," Irene says, "they are friends, who are also well-trained tutors. They teach each other about the world."

## Exploring Global Health and Development

Twenty-six students explored health issues, the environment, economics, and education for four weeks this summer, all across Ghana, enabling them to better understand the complexity of some of the challenges.

Students and faculty in two courses - a biology course, Global Health Issues, and a sociology course, Global Development in Ghana, worked together in the African country for the first time, drawing on a longtime Geneseo partnership with organizations and leaders. Such an interdisciplinary approach is a cornerstone of Geneseo academics.

Each course examined themes of interdependence and interconnectedness, as Ghana undergoes rapid change with a fast-growing economy. Although each course was separate, both groups visited most of the same locations and activities. There was also a week-long, hands-on research and service-learning aspect to the courses.

## Mapping Geneseo's Sustainability Efforts

Senior geography major Miles Druce has built an interactive storytelling map to share how the college and alumni are leading sustainability efforts on campus and throughout the world.

Accessible at [www.geneseo.edu/sustainability](http://www.geneseo.edu/sustainability), the map allows access to stories of how Geneseo is utilizing the curriculum, integrated learning opportunities, research, international and local service, and other efforts to address the 17 sustainable development goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which Geneseo adopted when it joined the United Nations Global Compact to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

Visitors are able to view stories and media connected to the location of Geneseo's efforts or by the 17 U.N. goals, which range from reducing inequalities and providing opportunities in education, health, and economic growth, to creating sustainable communities and focusing on preservation of natural resources and other areas.

Geneseo is one of just 36 U.S. academic institutions and the only SUNY school in the compact. "Our approach to sustainability, here at SUNY Geneseo, is comprehensive and holistic," says Dan DeZarn, director of sustainability. "We have succeeded in pushing this passion out to the world at large through study about programs, relief trips, and research."

The tool was launched Sept. 21 at the U.N. Global Compact Leaders Summit in New York City.

## Assessing Excellence

Assistant Provost for Curriculum and Assessment Savi Iyer and Director of the Teaching Learning Center Dave Parfitt organized the day-long activities for this year's ASSESStivus - Assessment for the Rest of Us - on September 13.

A day dedicated to reinforcing Geneseo's commitment to a continuous improvement model of assessment, the schedule included sessions highlighting assessment initiatives, sharing of experiences, and utilizing best practices. It concluded with a keynote given by Dr. D. Alexis Hart, associate professor of English and director of writing at Allegheny College.

ASSESStivus was developed by the College Assessment Advisory Committee (now the College Assessment Committee) as a follow up to Geneseo's decennial Middle States accreditation team visit.

## Teaching at the US Air Force Academy

Political Science Professor Jeff Koch is serving a one-year appointment as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Political Science at the USAF Academy in Colorado Springs. He had discovered the announcement in a professional newsletter and applied for a special leave from Geneseo to pursue the opportunity.

Part of the appeal for Jeff is the U.S. military's emphasis on teambuilding and leadership. He is especially interested in learning how the experience will enrich and enhance his teaching at Geneseo. "Working in another culture allows you to think outside the box," he said.

This isn't the first time Koch and his family have temporarily left Geneseo; they lived in Shanghai in 2002-2003 while he completed a Fulbright Fellowship at East China Normal University.