



Academic Affairs

Acmes & Accolades

GENESEO | December 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.

Faculty Fellow Program

In early October, Provost Stacey Robertson announced a new Faculty Fellow Program, a professional and leadership development opportunity that allows a full-time, tenured faculty member or lecturer to work closely with the provost and the academic affairs team on strategic initiatives.

The half-time position, which carries an adjustment to teaching load, offers the opportunity to develop advanced academic leadership skills, increase knowledge of higher education processes, build a robust and widespread network of colleagues across the campus and region, and a complete a project that contributes to the success of the college.

Distinguished Service Professor of Education Dennis Showers was selected from several applicants to fill the position, which will focus on the creation of new programs that draw on the College's strengths across the disciplines, beginning in January through summer 2018 and possibly through spring 2019.



Dennis said, "I am excited to be joining the provost's office in a capacity where I can use my experience and knowledge in key academic projects that also provide me opportunities to grow and develop professionally."

Digital Learning and Scholarship

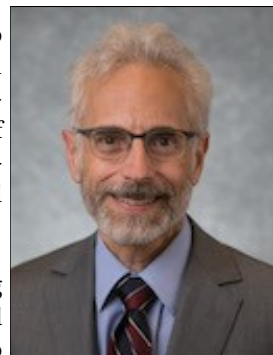
Professor of English Paul Schacht has been appointed as Assistant to the Provost for Digital Learning and Scholarship, a part-time position created by former provost Carol Long that he was slated to begin prior to his stint as interim provost. The appointment begins mid-January and extends through summer 2019.

In his new position, Paul will help re-envision public liberal education in light of the opportunities digital technology

has created for openness, collaboration, community engagement, and applied and integrative learning.

He will work with faculty to increase the use of digital tools in pedagogy or scholarly/creative projects and the number and scope of the College's online course offerings during summer session and intersession.

Paul is looking forward to working again in the Provost's Office and with faculty and staff to continue to support and promote Geneseo's mission and vision.



Piano Trio Performance

The SUNY Geneseo Music Department's Faculty and Guest Artist Series will feature the Geneseo Piano Trio Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. in Doty Recital Hall. The program will begin with a recently composed work, "Moments Past," by James Walker, professor emeritus of music at the College.

Walker describes "Moments Past" as "a short, somewhat rambling, repetitive, episodic, very difficult, dissonant, developmental bit of composition, using several fragments borrowed from previous compositions. Hence, the title "Moments Past" or even "Moments Passed."

Trio members — Jon Gonder on the piano, Andrew Bergevin on the violin, and James Kirkwood on the cello — will also perform Schubert's "Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 100," a large-scale work featuring some of Schubert's finest writing for a chamber group.

The concert is free and open to the public.



Acmes & Accolades

New Faculty and Staff (not all-inclusive - see also previous issue)

The September 2017 issue of the *Academic Affairs Acmes and Accolades* newsletter also featured new faculty and staff: Ahmad Almomani, Katie Buckley, Susana Castillo-Rodriguez, Alexis Clifton, Emily Cole, Billy Jackson, Liz McManus, Ken Miller, Sedar Ngoma, Laxman Pandey, Lee Pierce, Mike Volza, Heather Wilhelm Routenberg, Alan Witt, Jacalyn Wittmer Malinowski, and Colin Zestcott.



Pouya Seifzadeh joined the School of Business as an assistant professor of business, where he teaches strategic management. He previously taught at St. John Fisher College, and before that at Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus. Earlier in his career, he taught in the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University. Pouya's teaching interests include international management/business, entrepreneurship, leadership, management and organizational theory, and organizational behavior. His research focuses on corporate strategy, organizational theory, international management, multinational corporations, and the development of organizational capabilities. Pouya earned his Ph.D. from the Ivey Business School at Western University (Canada), an MBA from Sharif University of Technology (Iran), and a master's and bachelor's in civil engineering disciplines from the University of Tehran.

In his free time — when he's not studying and pursuing research in his field — Pouya enjoys watching soccer and working out at the gym. As a former club player, he now competes in a fantasy soccer league with colleagues from around the world. "I had heard many good things about the quality of Geneseo students," he said. "I was pleasantly surprised how willing students were to accommodate my teaching style which involves intensive discussion of real business case studies — and how considerate they are when responding to comments from their fellow students, even when they contradict one another."

Raslan Ibrahim joined Geneseo as assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations. He earned a doctorate in International Studies from the University of Denver, and a master's degree in International Relations and a bachelor's in Political Science and International Relations from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. Raslan, who studied in the United States as a Fulbright Scholar, also completed a post-doc fellowship at the Institute of International Relations at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. Previously, he was a visiting assistant professor at Haverford College and a lecturer at the University of Colorado at Denver in political science. In his earlier career, he served in various correspondent roles as a journalist for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) — USA and Israel — and as editor and correspondent of economic affairs for the Israel Broadcasting Authority – Arabic Service.



In his spare time, Raslan enjoys traveling and watching tennis and movies. He also has a book in development titled *Sovereignty and Intervention in the Middle East: From the fall of the Ottoman Empire to the Arab Spring*.

"I look forward to engaging in stimulating debates with my students about international politics, U.S. foreign policy, and the Middle East," Raslan said, "and also meeting my new colleagues at SUNY Geneseo."

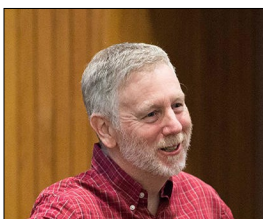


Serena Moseman-Valtierra joined the Biology department as a visiting assistant professor after spending the last six years at the University of Rhode Island. There, she taught courses in biology, marine biology and salt marsh ecology as associate and assistant professor, respectively. Before that, she taught at Boston College. Serena also was a Mendenhall Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the U.S. Geological Survey Woods Hole Science Center in Woods Hole, Mass.

She earned a Ph.D. and master's in Oceanography from Scripps Institution of Oceanography and a bachelor's from the University of California at San Diego in ecology, behavior and evolution. Serena's research interests include wetland ecology and biogeochemistry, benthic ecology, nitrogen and carbon cycling, microbial diversity and global change. In her free time, she enjoys playing with her 3-year-old daughter (and impersonating Oscar the Grouch). "I am here primarily because I love teaching," Serena said. "I hope to help concepts 'click' for students and raise their interest in knowing more about how life on our planet works. My research expertise in wetlands and biogeochemistry is perfect for helping students to get their hands dirty, which is a lot of fun."

The Psychology of Happiness

Associate Professor of Psychology Jim Allen explores the psychology of happiness in his new textbook, *The Psychology of Happiness in the Modern World: A Social Psychological Approach*. Primarily for an academic audience but interesting and useful also for non-academics, the book places a socio-cultural lens on the field by emphasizing economic and other social/structural factors that influence happiness.



"I took a unique approach," Jim said, "because most texts and popular accounts of the field have a heavy individualistic focus. The emphasis in happiness studies or 'positive psychology' is most often on how individuals, acting alone, can increase their happiness via gratitude, spirituality, optimism and the cultivation of strong personal relationships."

Over emphasis of these factors, he says, can give the impression that the surrounding cultural environment is not also important and can place too much responsibility on the individual to "make yourself happy" regardless of circumstances.

Study Abroad Participation

SUNY Geneseo recently earned a national accolade for the participation of students who choose to study abroad.

Geneseo is ranked 26th by the Institute of International Education among all master-granting institutions and first among public master-granting institutions for the highest study abroad participation, through the institute's Open Doors report. The Open Doors report is funded by a federal U.S. State Department grant and serves colleges and universities as an informational resource for campus internationalization.

To determine participation rates, IIE measures the number of degrees a college grants in a given year compared to the number of students who studied abroad. Geneseo boasted 440 individual students abroad and 1,004 degrees granted in 2014-2015, or 44 percent of students, an increase from 39.2 in 2013 and 34.6 in 2012.



"This recognition is a direct result of Geneseo's commitment to international education," said Sam Cardamone, associate direc-

tor of study abroad. "We have faculty, staff and students who are all interested in international study and have a real desire to incorporate different perspectives in their learning."

As a liberal arts institution, says Cardamone, "there is an added level of emphasis on study abroad and on understanding international perspectives. It's being seen as an integral part of a student's undergraduate education. It distinguishes us from other institutions."

New Choral Composition

The annual fall concert of the Geneseo Chamber Singers and Spectrum Singers featured the world premiere of Glenn McClure's '86/MSEd '11 new choral composition "Tremble," based upon scientific data he gathered during a visit to Antarctica last year.



McClure, a Geneseo music and English professor, joined a scientific team in Antarctica during his National Science Foundation Artists and Writers Fellowship experience last November. He used sophisticated audio and video equipment to collect raw scientific data from vibrations in the frigid continent and has now converted the data into his choral composition.



"The piece features some key concepts from my experience of working with a seismic team that is 'listening' to the infra-gravity waves that travel from the rest of the planet and resonate with the

Ross Ice Shelf," Glenn said. "Through a variety of musical gestures, the piece attempts to imitate the waves that resonate through the wind, water, ice, and (with our acceptance) into our body and soul."

Glenn's work is not his first venture into the synergies between the arts and sciences. He also composed a work for choir and string quartet in 2014 for the European Space Operations Centre Chorus that was performed to help celebrate the placement of a lander on a comet. In 2006, McClure also composed an oratorio titled "The Starry Messenger," to explore the musical influences of Galileo's family, based upon the letters of Galileo's daughter.

McClure is also on the faculty of the Eastman School of Music and is serving this year as Scholar-in-Residence at Paul Smith's College in New York's Adirondack Park.

Students Present at COPLAC Conference

Twelve SUNY Geneseo students presented their research projects Oct. 13-14 at the Council of Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) Northeast Undergraduate Research Conference in Pennsylvania.



Mansfield University hosted the conference, where more than 100 students from COPLAC schools featured their research in the natural sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities.

The students discussed their work with other presenters and faculty in their discipline from other COPLAC colleges, and enjoyed seeing other student projects in action.

Students Resurrect The Memories Campaign

SUNY Geneseo students have resurrected The Memories Campaign (formerly Heard @ Geneseo) to continue the organization's legacy of documenting the lives of senior citizens in the region.

The campaign, which has its roots in the Edgar Fellows (Honors Program) Senior Capstone project of Christopher Roth '11, allows the community's senior citizens to reflect on their lives, contributions, and achievements.

Christopher's idea "was to build a connection between Geneseo students and community seniors based on the value of his grandparents' stories," said Casey Vincelette, head interviewer for the project and a senior English and communication double major at the college.

Since Roth's graduation, the idea has transformed into a student-run organization complete with a constitution, executive board, and operating procedures. The club partners with the Departments of English, History, and Anthropology to recruit students. Wes Kennison from the Department of Languages and Literatures is the new faculty advisor.

For the newest life profile, or "chap book," which was just released, well-known alumna and community member Patricia Malet Fennell '65 invited student interviewers to her cottage on Conesus Lake, which she proudly calls "my little piece of heaven." She was impressed with how friendly the students were, and was pleased that today's students have a genuine interest to meet and learn about others in the community.

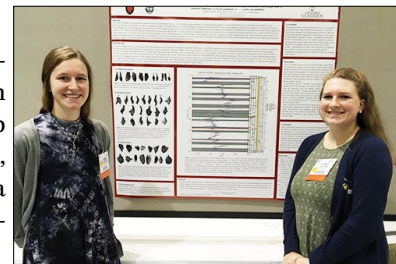


Students Present at GSA Meeting

Twelve SUNY Geneseo students and two recent College alumni presented their Geneseo-mentored research projects Oct. 22-25 at the annual Geological Society of America (GSA) Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

GSA is one of the largest gatherings of geoscientists from across the nation and abroad. Approximately 5,000 geoscientists presented their projects in multiple facets of the discipline including petrology, paleontology, and geoscience education.

Students had the opportunity to interact with other presenters and top researchers in the field, like Dr. Carl Brett, a leading figure in paleontology.



Geological sciences majors Emily Hauf and Josephine Chiarello (pictured) were among those who presented.

Students Serve as CIDD Ambassadors

Ten SUNY Geneseo students are serving as ambassadors for the 2017-18 school year in the college's Center for Inquiry, Discovery and Development (CIDD), directed by professor of history Joe Cope.

Their ambassadorship began this summer and will extend through the school year.

Working through the CIDD, a center for integrative learning on campus, student ambassadors pursue opportunities to develop active learning projects that connect academic work, co-curricular experiences, and community engagement.

Student ambassadors are encouraged to design projects that ask meaningful questions about real-world problems and issues, synthesize knowledge and skills drawn from multiple disciplines, and make connections between their academic programs, personal experiences, and co-curricular life.

Student ambassadorship awards are provided by generous donors to fund individual grants for ambassadors in varied disciplines to carry out self-directed, transformational projects on campus, within the local community or around the world.

For more information about the current student ambassadors and the application process for the 2018-19 school year, visit www.geneseo.edu/cidd/student_ambassadorships.