An innovative leader and educator, the new dean of the Dyson College, Nira Herrmann possesses an eclectic scientific and administrative background. She joins Pace from Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she served as department head and professor in the department of mathematics and computer science.

Herrmann’s accomplishments are many. As department head, she oversaw a significant increase in undergraduate enrollment in mathematics and computer science, created a student resource center to improve retention, and initiated innovative math and science curricula through course redesign and new programs. She has given numerous presentations on her research and curricular innovations and published the results in refereed journals. In addition, she coordinated the development of initiatives for research in a variety of science-related areas such as bioinformatics, nanoscience, and proteomics, and supported faculty research groups in fields such as applied artificial intelligence, combinatorics and discrete mathematics, software engineering, and human-computer interactions.

Herrmann founded the first departmental external advisory board in the College of Arts and Sciences. The board, composed of alumni, academic, and industry leaders, advised the department on curricular issues and research directions. The recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, Herrmann was instrumental in winning nearly $1,000,000 worth of secured endowed funds and grants to support her research and educational activities. During her tenure, research support for department faculty increased by several million.

Enthusiastic about Dyson’s potential for growth, Herrmann says, “Dyson’s liberal arts programs are wonderfully diverse and reside in an eclectic environment that is rich in possibilities. I look forward to working with the college’s thoughtful faculty to identify and develop those possibilities that will enhance the college’s position as a leading educational institution in the liberal arts.”

A true believer in collaboration and consensus building, Herrmann plans to work with the Dyson faculty on the multidisciplinary endeavors outlined in Pace’s Strategic Plan. “With its comprehensive academic offerings and highly accomplished faculty, Dyson is in an excellent position to contribute to the success of the Strategic Plan,” she says.

Collaboration that leads to success is a key motivating factor for Herrmann. “I enjoy working with people, whether faculty, staff, or students, not only to see them succeed individually, but also to create something that is bigger than what any one person can accomplish alone.”

Herrmann views learning as a lifelong endeavor. “If we convey to our students a respect and passion for learning in its broadest form, and that ‘lifelong learning’ is not a cliché, but an important part of life, then we’ve done our job. Students are a vital part of the community of scholars, and Dyson will continue to build upon its tradition of providing a nurturing, welcoming community for its students and faculty.”

She includes alumni in that community. “Alumni are a continuing and essential part of the Dyson community. We’re here if they need us for lifelong learning—and we want to meet their needs. Alumni are extremely inspiring role models for our current students. Through mentoring, they help undergraduates to see career paths and provide them invaluable advice as they progress in their professional lives.”

Herrmann received her bachelor’s in mathematics with distinction in general scholarship from the University of California, Berkeley, and earned an MS and PhD in statistics from...
How can you get a community excited about water quality protection? One of the many things that Dyson’s Environmental Center director, Angelo Spillo, does is get people in Westchester involved in activities that make them aware of how they can safeguard the high quality of the Kensico Reservoir watershed.

Spillo is cochair of the Kensico Environmental Enhancement Program (KEEP), whose primary mission is to educate the communities in the Kensico watershed about the importance of protecting water quality. By educating the people who live and work in the 13-square-mile watershed about how their daily activities affect water quality, KEEP works to protect the watershed and reservoir from pollution.

KEEP’s outreach to the community starts at a young age. With the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Pace, they cosponsor an art and poetry contest for watershed middle school students to encourage classroom discussion of water conservation and water quality protection issues. The five towns in the watershed are New Castle, North Castle, Mount Pleasant, Harrison, and Greenwich, Connecticut.

“Since KEEP’s major focus is on educating the public about watershed protection, this contest involving middle school students lays an important foundation of awareness with residents early in life,” says Spillo. This year, 70 students from the Westlake and Crittenden middle schools participated in the contest. They, their teachers, and parents attended the award ceremony in May at the Pleasantville campus, where their work was displayed and winners received their certificates. The keynote speaker was Charles Sturcken, director of Public Affairs for DEP.

Pace students also benefit from Spillo’s connection to KEEP with internships they provide. In a recent summer internship, environmental studies major Tanya Rodriguez surveyed and digitally mapped storm water infrastructure and septic systems in the Kensico watershed and prepared a digital database and map of the septic systems.

Spillo reports that KEEP will begin a lecture series this fall, hosted by Pace, focusing on topics such as a protected and high quality water supply, specifically designed for outreach to the community and for college students. In another initiative, Spillo participates on a KEEP committee in conjunction with the Westchester County Water Advisory Committee (WAC) 7 that will clean up the Bronx River, which flows into the Long Island Sound. Their goal is to improve the river water quality to a level where trout can survive there again.

If you would like more information about the Environmental Center, KEEP, or any other environmental issue, please contact Angelo Spillo at aspillo@pace.edu.
This year’s Dyson Distinguished Achievements Awards Benefit Dinner was a signal event in more ways than one. Quintessential New Yorker Donald Trump attended the benefit, which earned a record $138,500 in support of the Dyson College Scholarship Fund.

Trump presented the award for distinguished leadership in business and industry to alumnus David Pecker ’72, chairman, president, and CEO of American Media, Inc. The two are longtime friends and business associates.

Edith D’Addario, director of the Joffrey Ballet School, was special guest honoree in recognition of her 40 years of distinguished leadership at the Joffrey. For his outstanding work as an investigative reporter with the Wall Street Journal, Dyson alumnus Charles W. Gasparino ’85 was honored. Two distinguished Dyson faculty members, Professor of Fine Arts Janetta Rebold Benton, and Professor of Philosophy Harold Brown, were honored as well.

Held at the trendy Tribeca Rooftop in New York City, the event was attended by more than 250 people who were entertained by the performing arts department cast of students who performed “A Grand Night for Singing,” and by a pair of Joffrey Ballet School students with excerpts from “Presley Pas de Deux.”

We sincerely thank all of Dyson’s supporters for their generous contributions to the Dyson Scholarship Fund and for making this event the most successful in its history.

An Evening with Tony Kushner
Benefit reading supports Dyson College Scholarships

In an evening of rare performance that benefited Dyson College’s undergraduate students, a cast of stars from several of playwright Tony Kushner’s most highly acclaimed shows read from a series of his short works this spring.

Performers included Kushner stalwarts Academy Award-winner Marcia Gay Harden (Angels in America on Broadway), Linda Emond (Homebody/Kabul), Geoffrey Wright (Angels in America on Broadway and HBO), Ben Shenkman (Proof), and Rita Wolf (Homebody/Kabul). Scenes were read from three short plays: East Coast Ode to Howard Jarvis; Terminating, or Sonnet LXXV or “Las meine Schmerzen nicht verloren sein” or Ambivalence; and Only We Who Guard the Mystery Shall Be Unhappy, a work in progress.

Kushner is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Drama; two Tony Awards for Best Play; two Obie Awards for Best Play; a Whiting Writer’s Fellowship; and an Arts Awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. At this year’s commencement ceremony in New York City, Pace awarded Kushner an honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

To view the photo gallery, please visit www.pace.edu/alumni and click on Items of Interest.

New Dean
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Stanford University. She spent eight years conducting epidemiological research and teaching at the University of Pennsylvania’s medical school and at its Wharton School of Business. She completed a second master’s degree in computer science at Rutgers prior to joining the faculty at Drexel.

A devotee of the performing arts, Herrmann took dance, piano, and flute lessons through college and enjoys concerts, museums, and reading a broad range of fiction and nonfiction. Her husband, Ted H. Szatrowski, is a faculty member at Rutgers. Her younger daughter is a recent graduate from New York University, and her elder daughter is a law student at Northwestern University.

If you would like to contact Dean Herrmann, e-mail her at nherrmann@pace.edu.
Amy Lee ’04, Fulbright Scholarship Winner
Will teach English to South Korean students

“I was really excited and honored—even taken aback when I learned that I won the Fulbright,” says Amy Lee, this year’s Dyson Fulbright winner. Lee will be going to South Korea this July for one year on an English Teaching Assistantship Fulbright Scholarship, where she will teach English to approximately 250 Korean middle or high school students.

Lee, who graduated with a BA in history and a women’s and gender study minor, is enthusiastically looking forward to her trip. “This assistantship is important because it gives both Americans and Koreans the opportunity to learn more about one another’s culture. And I will have the chance to impact young Koreans in a positive way by helping them develop their English skills and learn more about America.” While in South Korea, Lee also plans to establish a book club for the community and take Korean history courses.

A native of Korea who immigrated to the US at the age of six, Lee speaks Korean fluently. She has been one of Dyson College’s stellar undergraduate students and has earned numerous scholarships and awards: Dyson College Ben T. Ford Memorial Scholarship; Dyson Dean’s Achievement Award; the History Department’s Award for Academic Excellence; and the Marilyn Thornton Williams Memorial Prize for Best Women’s and Gender Studies Minor. Notably, Lee worked a full-time job while attending Pace full-time, taking all her classes in the evening.

She presented her senior history thesis, “Korean War Brides,” at the Asian Studies Association annual conference at George Washington University and at the Dyson College Society of Fellows annual meeting. In recognition of her research, she became an honorary member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and was inducted as a fellow in the Society of Fellows.

For her thesis, Lee interviewed Korean women who married American military servicemen deployed in Korea and immigrated to America when their husbands’ service was complete. Because Lee grew up in a Korean community in the town of Wallkill, New York, she had entrée to the very private world of these women. “I was interested in them because they were always considered outcasts and because there is a stigma attached to Korean War brides. I wanted to learn more about their lives directly from them. It was a wonderful experience,” Lee says.

Before leaving for South Korea, Lee will take the LSAT exam, and plans on attending law school when she returns next year.

We congratulate Lee on winning the Fulbright Scholarship and look forward to hearing from her from South Korea.”