who was KATHARINE CORNELL
An unexpected gift brings insight into this enigmatic woman
Downtown Presence

Buffalo’s cityscape at sunset captures the hope of a region poised for a resilient comeback. UB’s Downtown Campus has been steadily growing since 2005, adding to the enhanced medical corridor and fueling optimism about the future. UB plans to move its medical school downtown, further revitalizing the urban core and bringing together key partners in research and health care.

PHOTO BY DOUGLAS LEVERE, BA ’89
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ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING ASPECTS of my new role as UB president is that it brings me into even closer contact with members of the university family, locally as well as globally. Talking with and learning from our alumni and university friends—here in Buffalo, across the country and around the world—are among my top priorities as president. As you may know, this fall I launched my UB 2020 Presidential Alumni Tour, traveling to 20 cities in 20 months to talk with alumni about exciting progress under way and on the horizon for UB.

Our university has made a number of major strides in the past year, and we continue to build great momentum for the future.

We continue to attract more top-ranked faculty from around the world, and we are competing successfully for even more of the best and brightest students.

We’ve seen the passage of historic state legislation, the NYSUNY 2020 bill. For the first time, this legislation allows us to plan and budget on a five-year horizon, thereby enabling us to bring even more top faculty and students to UB.

We’ve secured major state funding in the form of a related challenge grant established by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher as a means for SUNY’s four university centers to propose projects that strengthen our academic programs and support economic vitality in our communities.

We’ve announced a number of major private gifts that will help the university further advance its mission, including a historic gift of $40 million to the medical school, given by a UB alumnus who has chosen to remain anonymous.

Collectively, these strides allow us to advance the next phase of the UB 2020 plan for academic excellence. Our next steps focus on building our faculty across the disciplines and relocating the medical school downtown, where it will be more closely aligned with key health sciences and research partners in Buffalo’s medical corridor.

Implementing the next phase of our long-range vision will help us achieve three vital and closely connected objectives. These are enhanced educational and research excellence; improved health care and quality of life for our communities; and the creation of a strong innovation economy.

These outcomes are good for our students, they are good for our university as a whole, and they are good for the communities we serve—regionally, nationally and around the world.

The bright future we envision for our university and our communities is on the horizon. As alumni, you contribute significantly to realizing that vision, and I welcome your insights and perspectives about UB’s future. I hope to have the opportunity to talk in person with you someday soon—perhaps here on campus or at a stop on the 2020 alumni tour!

President Satish K. Tripathi

For updates on the 2020 Presidential Alumni Tour, go to www.buffalo.edu/president/2020tour.
Events evoke pride while showcasing student and alumni achievement

a semester of celebration for the University at Buffalo Alumni Association as we honor outstanding alumni, students and friends. One of the pleasures of being association president is the opportunity to rub elbows with such accomplished individuals who hold UB near and dear to their hearts.

On Jan. 13, we gathered in Alumni Arena beneath the facility’s new high-definition video scoreboard to recognize the athletic prowess of four UB graduates who were inducted into the Dr. and Mrs. Edmond J. Gicewicz Family UB Athletics Hall of Fame. Four other individuals were honored for their support of UB athletic programs, or for excelling as professionals in the field of athletics. Read more about the event on p. 13.

Next up was the UBAA Scholarship Dinner on Feb. 3, during which I presented $7,500 in scholarships to six inspiring and high-achieving students. From presenting at an international AIDS conference in Ethiopia, to helping Western New York taxpayers get back more than $1 million in refunds, to helping their fellow students excel, these future alumni are shining examples of what UB is all about. Read more about our scholarship winners on p. 40.

Coming up is the Alumni Association Achievement Awards ceremony on Friday, April 13. This is our signature event, honoring individuals who bring distinction to themselves and to UB through outstanding professional and personal achievement, loyal service to UB, and exemplary contributions to their communities. Each year, I am convinced that the class being honored is the best and not to be outdone. And each year I am proved wrong. The recipients’ achievements are consistently outweighed only by their humility and graciousness, and their appreciation of UB runs deep. All are invited to attend this event in Lippes Concert Hall in Slee Hall on the North Campus. Tickets may be purchased by calling the alumni office at 1-800-284-5382. I hope you can join us—you will not be disappointed.

Tim Lafferty, BS ’86
President, UB Alumni Association
tplafferty@ub-alumni.org

Look for the alumni association members asterisk throughout the magazine. It’s our way of celebrating our alumni association members.
Ever wonder what your $50 membership buys?
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Learn more and join today: Online at www.alumni.buffalo.edu/join or by phone at 1-800-284-5382.
‘smart windows’

New materials science research at UB could hasten the creation of “smart” windows that reflect heat from the sun on hot summer days, but let in the heat in colder weather. The findings concern a unique class of synthetic chemical compounds that are transparent to infrared light at lower temperatures, but undergo a phase transition to begin reflecting infrared when they heat up past a certain point.

UB researchers report they have managed to manipulate the trigger temperature for vanadium oxide, one such material. The advance is a crucial step toward making the compound useful for such applications as coatings for energy-saving windows.

By preparing vanadium oxide as a nanomaterial instead of in bulk, the scientists managed to lower the compound’s trigger point from 153 degrees Fahrenheit to 90. Doping vanadium oxide nanowires with tungsten brought the temperature down further, to 7 degrees Fahrenheit. Molybdenum doping had a similar, but smaller, effect. Researchers also found that they were able to induce a phase transition using an electric current instead of heat.

Sarbajit Banerjee, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, led the studies, collaborating with Samhandamurthy Ganapathy, assistant professor of physics, to head the research on the use of the electric current.

“Definitely, we are closer than we’ve ever been to being able to incorporate these materials into window coatings and other systems that sense infrared light,” says Banerjee.

“Most birds are very smart, and once they’re trained to respond to cues, ours will take part in many different learning and hearing studies,” Dent says. “They can live up to about six years and, fortunately for us, they never go deaf as they age in the way most animals do.”

One of the 20 chirping budgies and finches perched in the “vacation room”—where the birds live when not involved in a study—is “Yoda.” He was among four parakeets fitted with tiny headphones for a recent Dent investigation related to the lateralization of acoustic signals in birds. The headphones permitted the birds to listen to sounds directed to their right or left ears. That study, published recently in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, found, among other things, that small birds localize sounds the way that humans do by using both interaural time and level differences—that is, by employing the difference in arrival time and intensity of a sound to each of their ears.

For the latest in campus news reports go to www.buffalo.edu/news
Budding architects

Students from Buffalo’s School 53 teamed up with Beth Tauke, associate professor of architecture, to design a bridge for the Architecture + Education exhibition that ran in January in the CEPA Gallery in Buffalo. Featuring colorful, functional environments and infrastructures, the exhibition was produced during 10-week hands-on classroom projects that used architectural principles along with lessons in math, earth sciences, geography, physics and animal behavior.

Golden Globe name-dropping

If you did more than watch the 2012 Golden Globes for the fashions, you may have heard two names come up in some of the acceptance speeches: Harvey Weinstein and Brad Grey. Did you know both are UB alumni? Weinstein, BA ’01, and the Weinstein Company were behind “The Descendants” (Best Motion Picture—Drama), “The Artist” (Best Motion Picture—Comedy or Musical and Best Original Score—Motion Picture) and “The Iron Lady” (Best Performance for an Actress in a Motion Picture, Meryl Streep). Grey, BA ’79, is CEO of Paramount Pictures, which won for “Hugo” (Best Director—Motion Picture, Martin Scorsese) and “The Adventures of Tintin” (Best Animated Feature Film). Results of their Oscar nominations were pending at UB Today press time.

“Our results suggest that risk factors for CCSVI in this group of volunteers are remarkably similar to those of possible or confirmed importance to MS ...”

ROBERT ZIVADINOV

Study finds risk factors for CCSVI, MS

The first study to investigate risk factors for the vascular condition called CCSVI (chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency) in volunteers without neurological disease has identified what UB researchers call a remarkable similarity between this condition and possible or confirmed risk factors for multiple sclerosis (MS).

Their study investigated associations between CCSVI and demographic, clinical and environmental risk factors in a large control group of volunteers who did not have known central nervous system disease.

“Our results suggest that risk factors for CCSVI in this group of volunteers are remarkably similar to those of possible or confirmed importance to MS, but we do not yet understand the whole story,” says Robert Zivadinov, professor of neurology at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and senior author on the study.

The study of 252 volunteers “was designed to help provide scientists and the MS patient community with new information that, combined with the results of studies that are still ongoing at UB, will ultimately help explain CCSVI and its relationship to MS,” says Kresimir Dolic, a lead author on the study. Dolic, a radiologist from the Department of Radiology, University Hospital, Split, Croatia, was a visiting fellow at the Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center, part of UB’s Department of Neurology, where the study was conducted.
Did the early universe have just one spatial dimension? That’s the mind-boggling concept at the heart of a theory that Dejan Stojkovic, assistant professor of physics, and his colleagues proposed in 2010. They suggested that the early universe—which exploded from a single point and was very, very small at first—was one-dimensional (like a straight line) before expanding to include two dimensions (like a plane) and then three (like the world in which we live today).

Now, in a new paper in Physical Review Letters, Stojkovic and Loyola Marymount University physicist Jonas Mureika describe a test that could prove or disprove the “vanishing dimensions” hypothesis.

Because it takes time for light and other waves to travel to Earth, telescopes peering out into space can, essentially, look back into time as they probe the universe’s outer reaches.

Gravitational waves can’t exist in one- or two-dimensional space. So Stojkovic and Mureika have reasoned that the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA), a planned international gravitational observatory, should not detect any gravitational waves emanating from the lower-dimensional epochs of the early universe.

Stojkovic says the theory of evolving dimensions represents a radical shift from the way we think about the cosmos—about how our universe came to be. The core idea is that the dimensionality of space depends on the size of the space we’re observing, with smaller spaces associated with fewer dimensions. That means that a fourth dimension will open up—if it hasn’t already—as the universe continues to expand.

Futurity.org, which presents research news from leading universities, voted this story as one of the top ten research stories of 2011.

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**UNIVERSITY NEWS**

**Hubbard, Wells named vice presidents**

Laura E. Hubbard, associate vice president for budget and finance at the University of Oregon, has been named vice president for finance and administration. Nancy L. Wells, who has held leadership positions at a variety of institutions, including Stanford and McGill universities, has been appointed vice president for development and alumni relations.

Hubbard will oversee UB’s strategic financial planning and analysis of resource use and development. She will provide leadership for the institution’s ongoing efforts to pursue innovative business solutions and develop operating strategies that enhance revenues and efficiency. Hubbard previously served as director of capital planning and budget, assistant vice president for administration and interim vice president for finance and administration at the University of Idaho and, before that, as finance and administrative officer, as well as director of facilities administrative services, at Washington State University.

Wells will help to foster a culture of philanthropy vital to enhancing UB’s mission of excellence, leading the university in its next capital campaign and strengthening engagement with its more than 219,000 alumni worldwide. Most recently, Wells was director of development for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the largest repertory theater in the U.S. As vice principal for development and alumni relations at McGill University, Wells planned and directed the quiet phase of a $500 million campaign. She also served as Stanford’s major gifts officer for Europe, and was vice president of development at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

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**UNIVERSITY NEWS**

**Lockwood Cybrary: from drab to fab**

The recent transformation of a popular spot in Lockwood Memorial Library is garnering rave reviews for its fresh, exciting new look. The Cybrary in Lockwood was once a white-walled, multicolor-floored room with an institutional vibe, leading students to refer to it as “the cave.” That dullness has since given way to a creative use of color that builds on UB’s branding. The site has been further beautified by a unique use of computer-generated images based on research conducted by UB students and faculty. The mural image along the back wall is a replica of an enzyme protein for drug metabolism. It is based on research carried out by Thomas Furlani, PhD ’85, director of UB’s Center for Computational Research.
Donation creates fund to commercialize research

A UB faculty member has anonymously donated $1 million to establish a fund that supports commercializing the discoveries and inventions of his UB colleagues. The donation will establish the Bruce Holm Memorial Catalyst Fund, named for the UB senior vice provost who died last year. The anonymous gift, made as a match challenge, will be used to finance prototype development, proof-of-concept studies and other research that will advance UB faculty inventions and translate them into useful products and treatments to benefit society.

The Bruce Holm Memorial Catalyst Fund will be based in UB’s Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach (STOR), which works to transform the inventions of UB faculty and students into products and services that benefit our community.

SUNY Distinguished Professor in the medical school, Holm was director of UB’s New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences. He worked diligently to attract high-profile researchers and inventors to Buffalo.

Bloomberg Businessweek has ranked the School of Management as one of the nation’s best business schools in its biennial ranking of executive MBA (EMBA) programs.
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Books

**Toward a Better Life: America’s New Immigrants in Their Own Words**

PETER MORTON COAN, BA ’79

This book offers stories of immigrants from Ellis Island to the present told in their own words and organized by decade. "Toward a Better Life" offers a balanced and poignant portrait of American immigrants—from ordinary people doing extraordinary things to celebrities who chose the U.S. as their new home. (Prometheus Books, 2011)

**Quotable Buffalo: The Most Marvelous and Maddening Things Ever Said About the Queen City**

COMPILED BY CYNTHIA VAN NESS, MLS ’94

Following seven years of research, Western New York historian Cynthia Van Ness has compiled the liveliest things ever uttered about Buffalo. "Quotable Buffalo" aims to open the door to the vast written record that chronicles Buffalo’s legacy and "to show people that the last few decades of punch-line derision is not a terribly accurate way to see Buffalo," Van Ness says. (Western New York Wares, 2011)

**Essays in Honor of Christopher Hogwood: The Maestro’s Direction**

THOMAS DONAHUE, DDS ’79

Thomas Donahue has collected essays from authors motivated and inspired by Christopher Hogwood, the distinguished keyboard player, conductor, writer and proponent of early music, in honor of Hogwood’s 70th birthday. Donahue is a musician, instrument builder and practicing dentist. (Scarecrow Press, 2010)

**Your Brother in Arms: A Union Soldier’s Odyssey**

ROBERT C. PLUMB, BA ’44

Robert Plumb tells the story of George P. McLieland, a member of the 155th Pennsylvania Infantry in the Civil War, through his never-before-published letters written from the battlefield and from the infirmary following his serious injury at Five Forks. (University of Missouri Press, 2011)

**Smoke-Free Smoke Break: Stop Smoking Now with Mindfulness & Acceptance**

BY PAVEL G. SOMOV, PHD ’00, AND MARIA SOMOVA, PHD ’00

The co-authors offer a groundbreaking approach to quit smoking by transforming smoke breaks into a self-care routine for managing stress and nicotine cravings. Exercises and meditations are designed to help the ex-smoker mindfully manage stress, control cravings and prevent relapse. (New Harbinger Publications, 2011)

**Lost in the Blue Room**

RICHARD BARONE, MS ’73

In this novel, an ex-sky marshal’s plane to make the point that the presence of sky marshals might have averted 9/11. He demands that his passengers take a journey back to 1970 when the original sky marshals flew. The passengers enjoy first-class accommodations and make their way around the world—Paris, Rome, Bangkok—compliments of the besieged airlines. (Canto 34 Press, 2011)

**The Parchment Paper Cookbook**

BRETTE SEMBER, JD ’94 & BA ’90

“The Parchment Paper Cookbook” offers a revolutionary style of cooking in parchment paper packets that produce delicious, healthy food with no pots and pans to wash when you’re done. Included are 180 tasty recipes. (Adams Media, 2011)

**Music**

**The Innocent Ones**

WILLIE NILE, BA ’71

Featuring 11 original songs. “The Innocent Ones” is described by the Associated Press as “party-hearty yet socially conscious.” Nile, who has performed with Bruce Springsteen, says a number of the songs are “dedicated to the downtrodden, the forgotten, the outcasts, the hopeless, the innocent ones.” (River House Records, 2011)

For more books and submission guidelines go to www.alumni.buffalo.edu/ubt

www.alumni.buffalo.edu UBTODAY Spring 2012 11
Rob Golabek is one of the best throwers in the nation. The 2010-11 UB Athlete of the Year (along with women’s basketball star Kourtney Brown, BS ’10) is the reigning MAC champion in shot put in both the indoor and the outdoor track and field seasons, and holds the UB record in that event.

He earned first-team All-America honors last year after finishing eighth in shot put at the NCAA National Championships. Shortly thereafter, he again set the Bulls record with a throw of 63 feet, 9.5 inches at USATF Nationals where he placed 12th overall and second among collegiate entrants.

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named Golabek its Northeast Region Field Athlete of the Year in both the indoor and the outdoor seasons. Not bad for a guy who was cut his freshman season when the team had ample throwers.

Now a senior, the Hamburg, N.Y., native is poised to continue his success, which he hopes will include defending his MAC titles, becoming the first Bull to win a national title, and earning a spot at U.S. Olympic Team Trials, scheduled for late June in Eugene, Ore.

They’re lofty goals, but Golabek says he was influenced early on by a Western New York Olympian, Steve Mesler, who won gold with the U.S. bobsled team at the 2010 Winter Olympics. In high school, Mesler was coached by UB men’s track and field coach Jim Garnham Sr. “He said, ‘If your goals don’t scare you, they’re not high enough,’” Golabek recalls of a meeting with Mesler.

In February, Golabek won the shot put at the Cornell Upstate Challenge with a throw of 62-5.75, which broke a more than 30-year-old Barton Hall record.

Freshman phenom

Liz Scott loves to color and loves decorating her room. For her, there’s enjoyment in creating something new and exciting. That same thinking, it could be said, is what lured the Canandaigua, N.Y., native to UB, when instead she could have gone to one of several powerhouse programs that recruited her, including Duke, LSU and Temple.

Hamburg, N.Y., native Rob Golabek has had plenty to shout about with his record-setting career at UB.
Scott chose Buffalo because she wanted to be a part of a new tradition of success with UB women’s volleyball. She’s certainly doing her part, earning a nod on the All-MAC Freshman Team following a fantastic fall season. Scott finished second on the team in kills (280) and led the Bulls with a .252 hitting percentage. She ranked third in digs (176) and service aces (23).

“There are many young and talented players in our conference, so I am very proud to be recognized among them,” Scott says.

She’s also proud to be a Bull. “Instead of maintaining the tradition, I wanted to create it. I wanted to go to a school because of the people that were there, not the name itself. My goal is to be a part of building the volleyball program and creating traditions for many other teams to follow in the future,” she says.

Among the season highlights, Scott includes the Bulls’ victory over Bowling Green on Nov. 4, which gave head coach Todd Kress his 300th career win.

FOOTBALL

‘Bo’ knows records

No doubt Branden "Bo" Oliver caused many sleepless nights for defensive coordinators across the MAC. The 5-foot-8, 200-pound sophomore running back from Miami, Fla., shredded defenses with relative ease during a record-setting 2011 campaign for which he earned first-team All-MAC honors.

Oliver stands atop the UB record books as the single-season leader in rushing yards (1,395), attempts (306), all-purpose yards (1,760) and 100-yard rushing games (eight). Two of those records—rushing yards and all-purpose yards—are held by James Starks, BA ’10, who helped the Green Bay Packers win Super Bowl XLV in 2011.

Oliver also broke the Bulls’ Division I-A record with a 235-yard rushing performance Nov. 19 against Akron, a 51-10 UB victory. For his effort, Oliver was named one of six “Helmet Sticker” recipients chosen from across the nation by ESPN “College Football Final” show hosts Rece Davis, Lou Holtz and Mark May.

Oliver and fellow sophomore Khalil Mack—also a first-team MAC selection—were honored by the Touchdown Club of Columbus on Feb. 11 as two of six MAC “players to watch” in 2012.

WOMEN’S SOCCER & MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Terrific Turnarounds

The statistics are staggering, a telling indication of the tremendous turnaround the women’s soccer team achieved this past fall.

In 2010, the Bulls had an overall record of 1-16-2 and were winless in the MAC. But in 2011, UB finished 12-5-4 overall (4-3-4 MAC). The Bulls advanced to the MAC semifinals, falling to eventual conference champion Toledo 3-1.

What changed? The players made a commitment to be better. “It changed at 7 a.m. last February,” head coach Michael Thomas says, referring to the team’s offseason practice start time. “We didn’t do anything different. We just did it harder and did it better.”

The Bulls strive to win the MAC each year, thereby earning a berth in the NCAA tournament. “It wasn’t the dream ending we wanted,” Thomas says of 2011, “but it was a magical ride for a while.”

Another remarkable resurgence occurred in the UB swimming and diving teams, achieving great success, including a top 25 ranking in November. The UB men won their first MAC title in 2011. Head coach Andy Bashor says that title was huge because it challenged the squad to repeat the feat in 2012 (the men’s and women’s MAC Championships began after press time).

The UB men won their first MAC title in 2011. Head coach Andy Bashor says that title was huge because it challenged the squad to repeat the feat in 2012 (the men’s and women’s MAC Championships began after press time).

Seniors Alie Schirmers and Brynn Marecki have been key contributors for the UB women, who went from placing eighth at the MAC championships in 2008 to fifth in 2011. Senior Jared Heine and juniors Matt Schwipper, Matt Hogan and Josh Meints, and senior diver Colin Patricon have been stars for the men’s team.

David J. Hill is a staff writer in UB’s Office of University Communications.
Friendship brings a cache of theatrical treasures to UB

By Ann Whitcher-Gentzke

Cornell

the

connection

An unexpected email brought a surprising request. A New York City company had instructions to ship valuable Katharine Cornell materials to Mike Jankowski at his UB office. The memorabilia and other items associated with the famous stage actress from Buffalo belonged to Jankowski’s friend Elizabeth (“Liz”) Dribben, BA ’58, a New York television and radio producer who died in January 2011. Did Jankowski want them? “I said ‘sure,’” says Jankowski, associate director of alumni relations. “However, it was kind of nebulous in terms of what I was supposed to do with them. So I didn’t ask that question.” But when two boxes arrived with Cornell’s life mask, autographed play programs, production photos and other treasures, Jankowski wanted to verify he was the intended recipient. “I called up the company representative and asked her, ‘Are you just giving these to me? Was it Liz’s wish that they go to the university and then be given to the proper department?’”

Mike Jankowski (above) in his office with Katharine Cornell materials.
Katharine Cornell in "Flowers of the Forest," 1935.
Photograph by Vandamm.
Katharine Cornell displays her theatrical élan in this production photo.
The answer was yes, so Jankowski made inquiries about where the materials should ideally be housed on campus. Meanwhile, the boxes sat in his Center for Tomorrow office until arrangements could be made for their eventual placement in the Special Collections unit of the University Libraries. A bit stunned to find himself temporary curator of a small but significant Katharine Cornell collection, Jankowski reflected on the actress’ illustrious stage career and his friendship with Dribben, who assembled the Cornell materials with the hope of producing a Cornell documentary someday. “Having all this material come in here actually gave me a significant appreciation of Katharine Cornell that I didn’t have before,” Jankowski says.

“When you read about Cornell’s history and accomplishments, it’s really eye-opening. Then you see and hold these items of memorabilia, and realize they have been entrusted to you.”

Opening the boxes, Jankowski was delighted to find production photographs of Cornell as Jo in “Little Woman,” as Cleopatra in “Antony and Cleopatra,” and in many other roles in her career of nearly 40 Broadway productions and frequent national tours. The playbills include one from the 1947 production of “Antony and Cleopatra,” autographed by a young Charlton Heston in the role of Proculeius.

The boxes also reveal fascinating objects from Cornell’s childhood and personal life—a framed baby photo; a bust of the actress as Cleopatra; and a small, beautiful compact inscribed to “Kit” (Cornell’s lifelong nickname) from A. Conger Goodyear (1877-1964), the industrialist, art collector and fellow Buffaloian. Goodyear was president of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and Cornell’s close friend and frequent backer.

Like Cornell, Dribben had multiple connections to the university. Her mother, Clara Franklin Dribben, was the first woman to receive both a BA and law degree from UB. Two aunts and an uncle also graduated from UB Law, and her grandparents took night classes at the university. A UB speech and drama major, Dribben worked at WBFO-FM before moving to Buffalo’s WKBW-TV as the region’s first female television newscaster. After relocating to New York City, Dribben became a well-known producer at CBS radio and television, and later a freelance producer and adjunct faculty member at the Columbia Journalism School. In 2001, she was inducted into the Buffalo Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Pride in Buffalo

Jankowski recalls how his friendship with Dribben began. In 2006, while serving as interim associate vice president for alumni relations, he received a call from Dribben, whose producing credits included “The CBS Evening News,” “Dan Rather Reporting” and “Mike Wallace at Large.” “She wanted to get involved with alumni activities, and asked some questions about UB and the New York City chapter,” Jankowski recalls. “Ever since that point, we would exchange emails or speak on the phone almost weekly.”

Dribben began attending New York City chapter events, and would often incorporate university functions when in town to attend a reunion of her classmates at Buffalo’s Lafayette High School.

“She had a lot of pride at being a Buffalonian,” Jankowski states. “She would talk about the late Michael Bennett of ‘A Chorus Line’ fame and also Harold Arlen, the Buffalo-born composer who wrote ‘Over the Rainbow’ and countless other songs, as much as she spoke about Katharine Cornell. And she would ask me to send her things that appeared in Buffalo media, not necessarily about Katharine Cornell, but about goings-on at UB. She was computer-literate but liked to have that hard copy in her hands as well.”

Through these conversations and in correspondence found in the boxes, Jankowski learned of Dribben’s impassioned efforts in the late 1980s to produce a Cornell documentary in collaboration with the university and other funding agencies. The project never materialized. According to Jankowski, Dribben wanted to bring Cornell’s life and career to new audiences, a task made more challenging by the actress’s reluctance to embark on a film career. According to correspondence in the collection, Dribben lamented that contemporary audiences had almost no way to appreciate Cornell’s voice and inflections, her haunting stage presence or her sure-fire acting techniques.

Throughout her career, Cornell turned down opportunities to act in movies, with the exception of the 1943 film “Stage Door Canteen” made to encourage U.S. troops. Today the film clip—in which Cornell recites part of a speech from Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” to an awestruck GI—can be seen on YouTube (http://tinyurl.com/6ml6j9w).

Her few television appearances included a Hallmark production of “The Barretts of Wimpole Street,” Rudolf Besier’s 1930 play about Elizabeth Barrett Browning, her romance with Robert Browning and the opposition the couple faced from Barrett’s tyrannical father. Cornell’s portrayal of Barrett Browning became one of her signature roles, one that she memorably performed for U.S. troops during a wartime tour of 19 cities in Italy, France and the Netherlands. Most of Cornell’s stage productions were directed by her husband and business partner, Guthrie McClintic, with whom she had a long-lasting “lavender marriage,” meaning both partners were gay. So close was the couple’s professional collaboration that Cornell retired from the stage after her husband died in 1964.

Although Cornell’s career was centered on Broadway, she was intent on touring and bringing stage art and the classical repertoire to a wider audience. This was particularly true during the Depression era. In 1933-34, for instance, Cornell toured in repertory with “Romeo and Juliet,” Shaw’s “Candida.”

Artifacts of a celebrated life

Recently acquired holdings include a framed portrait of the actress as a young girl; a fragile life mask and a compact with inscription to “Kit” from A. Conger Goodyear.
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Cornell in 1946 production of “Antigone.”
Photograph by Vandamm
and “The Barretts of Wimpole Street.” The actress’ records for that year revealed an astounding 225 performances across 16,853 miles and a collective audience of half a million people, Dribben reported. “She was a great stage actress, but it wasn’t enough,” Dribben wrote in her documentary proposal. “She wanted to set a tone, bring culture to the people, participate in enlightenment in a dark, depressive time.”

Leading lady

In the proposed 28-minute documentary titled “Katharine Cornell: A Lady of the American Theatre,” Dribben sought to capture the memories of celebrated actors like Helen Hayes, Eli Wallach and Christopher Plummer, all of whom had worked with Cornell at one time or another. As an actress, Cornell “compelled an audience to come and see her because she was Katharine Cornell,” Dribben wrote. “On tour, there was no second company. She was the draw for herself and herself alone. ... She was a living event of her time.”

Even with her national stature, Cornell never lost her connection with Buffalo, where she grew up after the family moved back from Berlin, where Cornell was born in 1893. In his book, “Leading Lady,” Tad Mosel writes how the actress would frequently arrange to have her touring plays open at Buffalo’s Erlanger Theatre, which once stood on Delaware Avenue across from the Statler Hilton. Her father, Peter Cornell, was an 1888 graduate of the UB medical school who left medicine to concentrate on a career as manager of the city’s Star Theatre in 1893. In his book, “Leading Lady,” Tad Mosel writes how the actress would frequently arrange to have her touring plays open at Buffalo’s Erlanger Theatre, which once stood on Delaware Avenue across from the Statler Hilton. Her father, Peter Cornell, was an 1888 graduate of the UB medical school who left medicine to concentrate on a career as manager of the city’s Star Theatre (1888-1919). In 1935, the university recognized Katharine Cornell with the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal, UB’s highest honor, marking the first time the award had gone to a woman and to an artist as well. When UB’s Ellicott Complex opened in 1974, its Katharine Cornell Theatre was named in her honor.

The Katharine Cornell materials Jankowski received will join a more extensive, preexisting collection of Cornell materials maintained in the Libraries’ Special Collections, located on the fourth floor of Capen Hall. Many of these holdings date to 1955, when Goodyear, the businessman and collector, donated materials he had been gathering for some time. This earlier collection includes scrapbooks, correspondence, photographs, programs and other materials documenting Cornell’s life and career. In 1962, Goodyear gave the university Salvador Dali’s portrait of Cornell, which is also housed in the Libraries’ Special Collections.

According to Nancy Nuzzo, MA ’99, director of the Music Library and Special Collections, Dribben’s donation allows UB to strengthen its Cornell collection as a whole, eventually making it a rich resource for scholars near and far. “The acquisition of this new cache of materials prompted us to review the existing collection, assess its condition and identify preservation opportunities; house the materials in modern archival containers; and create a detailed inventory of the entire body of materials to facilitate scholarly use,” she says.

Cornell materials at UB don’t have the scope of major Cornell holdings at the New York Public Library. Still “researchers studying Katharine Cornell and her circle will now be able to find a substantial body of primary source materials at UB,” Nuzzo points out. The Billy Rose Theatre Division of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts today holds the largest collection of Cornell materials—“202 linear feet compared to our 60 linear feet,” says Nuzzo. Furthermore, UB’s materials are similar in nature to those held by the New York Public Library. Smith College, another repository of Cornell materials, has less than one linear foot by comparison.

Curators at work

Inventorying the Cornell collection is an important step toward fully processing the memorabilia and other holdings. “Our efforts have focused on properly housing the collection and compiling an inventory of items in preparation for the creation of a detailed finding aid,” Nuzzo explains. “Until the collection is fully processed, the inventory and a brief online finding aid will alert researchers to the presence of this collection at UB so that it is accessible for scholarly use.”

Today, of course, fewer people know of Katharine Cornell than was the case when Dribben pursued her documentary project in the late 1980s. Still, the actress continues to fascinate. A 2010 article in Opera News, for instance, described how “people who saw her in her heyday still speak of how these moments penetrated their consciousness and remain gloriously present decades later.” “The Grand Manner,” a play about Cornell by Buffalo-born playwright A.J. Gurney, opened in 2010 at Lincoln Center and provided yet another avenue for modern appreciation of the legendary actress. Even so, occasional contemporary tributes like these cannot convey Cornell’s fame at its height.

Cornell was known to give “struggling actors their first break,” Dribben writes. “She was also known for communicating to her fellow actors some of her personal artistic philosophy—that the audience out there was important and deserved the best of performances. She exercised quality control over her performances and her productions, and as manager she was able to assure herself and her company that quality and discipline were necessary for professional satisfaction and success.”

“Looking at her papers, you really see the passion that Liz felt for this project,” says Jankowski. “You feel sadness, a poignancy that it wasn’t realized, although she went on to do a lot of different things. It’s heartening to think that the materials she collected for the project will now join other important Katharine Cornell holdings at the university, thereby reinforcing and enriching the cultural legacy of both Buffalo and UB.”

Ann Whitcher-Gentzke is editor of UB Today.
Jacob Kassay, photographed in Venice Beach, California.
Jacob Kassay, BFA ’06: Young artist stays focused on his work and ignores the hype of his sudden fame

ALTHOUGH HE is one of the most significant new talents on the world’s fine arts scene whose paintings have generated six-figure auction bids and long waiting lists for interested buyers, 27-year-old Jacob Kassay, a graduate of UB’s photography program, says that he still is a “fan [of other artists] first and an artist second.”

After rising to art world fame in New York City (he was the subject of a New Yorker magazine “Talk of the Town” profile last October), Kassay recently moved to Los Angeles where he is setting up studio space not far from his apartment in Venice Beach. “It’s more calm here,” he says, relaxing outside on a 70-degree day in late December.

Kassay says he almost didn’t make it to college, but his mother, also a UB graduate, pushed him. “One thing that stands out from my time at UB is the encouragement I received from my professors,” he says, noting that Sylvie Belanger and Gary Nickard, both associate professors in visual studies, and Biff Henrich, adjunct instructor, were among the most influential. As a professional artist, Kassay says that he continues to draw on what he learned in such courses as Structural Development and Visual Theory. He returned to UB’s Center for the Arts last fall to give a talk sponsored by the Department of Visual Studies during which he described his experiences and his artistic process.

“I look at painting and try to keep it experimental in nature,” he says, adding that he’s always been interested in things with a “minimalist appearance.” The works for which he is most well known involve stretching and painting the canvas in the studio and then dipping it into an electrified silver solution—a process that references traditional photography and was influenced by his time in the darkroom.

“The language of materials is very important to me,” says Kassay, who explains that, in this particular treatment, the result is a mirror-like canvas that implicates the viewer. “An object has to have a life. I wanted to figure out how to suggest that while exploring the formal painting process.” The arrangement of an installation and how his pieces interact with the built architecture—and ultimately their audience—are paramount to understanding the essence of his work. He’s currently working on an exhibition to open in April 2012 for The Power Station in Dallas, where he plans to show his first outdoor sculpture and other new work inside that he will create “specifically for the space.”

In the meantime, the buzz continues. Forbes magazine included Kassay on its 2012 list of “30 under 30” artists and designers with the opener: “Who, in short, under the age of 30, matters?” None of the attention, however, appears to have affected him or his ambitions as an artist one way or the other. About all the hype, Kassay says: “It doesn’t really matter. There are ups and downs in everything. When I was at UB, Sylvie used to say, ‘Fear having the perfect show because what will you do after?’”

Story by Mara McGinnis, BA ’97, with photos by Max S. Gerber

OUTTAKES
Hometown Lewiston, N.Y. Favorite Buffalo hangouts Pink Flamingo (“The Pink”) on Allen Street; Niagara Gorge
Most memorable Buffalo art show “Extreme Abstraction” at the Albright-Knox in 2005
Gallery representation Eleven Rivington in New York City and Xavier Hufkens in Brussels, which will present a solo show of Kassay’s work in May 2012
Downtime interests Cooking, reading, television and film
Favorite emerging artist Matt Sheridan Smith
Website http://jacobkassay.com
It wasn’t Heather Scott’s best day. The 57-year-old woman had been wrenched out of sleep at 4:30 a.m. by severe chest pains, but had waited four hours before calling her daughter, who took her to the hospital. Now she lay in an intensive-care bed, the focus of attention by a nurse, two third-year medical students and her very worried daughter. Then she started having trouble breathing. The medical team made some quick decisions, giving the patient morphine, nitroglycerine, a beta-blocker—all standard treatments for chest pain—as well as oxygen to help her respiration. Her blood pressure and oxygen levels were perilously low. Things were moving fast.
Then, a little more than 11 minutes after the medical students came into the room, it was over. Ms. Scott—a sophisticated medical mannequin—fell silent. The human beings gathered to discuss the surprisingly tense scenario that had developed.

This is how medical education happens at the Behling Simulation Center, the university’s new immersive health care learning facility. Conceived and developed to serve students in the five health care disciplines of UB’s Academic Health Center—medicine, nursing, public health and health professions including physical therapy, dentistry and pharmacy—the center opened in September and is already changing the way future health care professionals learn their craft.

“Immersive patient care management simulation” is what Behling Center director Jeffrey W. Myers, EdM ’07, calls what happens at the South Campus facility. “We’re re-creating reality, trying to get students to suspend their disbelief,” he says.

This process begins with sophisticated medical mannequins that can simulate conditions from preeclampsia to stroke to chronic conditions; whose eyes blink and pulses beat; who can deliver simulated babies; and who, thanks to the machinations of technicians in a sophisticated “mission control” room, can evidence all sorts of surprising symptoms—and talk to their caregivers all about them.

The simulation experience goes far beyond the lifelike patients, however. In the center, which covers 10,000 square feet on the fourth floor of Farber Hall, eight clinical settings can be staged to represent anything from an operating theater to an ICU room to a patient’s home. There are even screen-printed curtains that create the illusion of an outdoor setting for training first responders—complete with the piped-in noise of joggers and tennis players.

The goal, Myers says, is to create learning situations as close to reality as possible, so that students can test their skills in a low-stakes environment. A wrong decision here hurts only the students’ pride; the mannequins always live to suffer another day.

Interprofessional skills

But more than technical skills, the center’s goal is to develop interprofessional skills, says Myers, an osteopath and assistant clinical professor of medicine in the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. “Health care is a team sport,” he says. “It takes the talents of all those individuals to really take care of a patient. We all have the same goals: high-quality, good patient care. But most students in the health professions don’t actually talk to someone in another profession until they graduate. In their clinical rotations, often they’re not interacting with other pharmacists, nurses, doctors. They talk mostly to their preceptor. It’s no wonder people are scared to talk to each other. We’re trying to break down those silos.”

“Many people don’t have these experiences and are not entirely sure what people in each discipline are capable of,” adds fourth-year nursing student Dennis Alex. “You find out all the resources you could have used—the nurse knows this, the pharmacist knows this. It gives you a better understanding of what they can do for you and what you can do for them.”

The ultimate goal, Myers explains, is to keep patients safer when they’re in the health care system. Myers cites studies showing that 70 percent of medical errors can be attributed at least in part to miscommunication. “If we can get these students talking to each other very early in their careers and improve that communication, we can significantly improve patient safety,” he points out.

That critical need for improved communication is important to Ralph Behling, MD ’43 & BS ’40, whose $3 million gift to UB—augmented by $2.7 million from the State University of New York—funded development of the center that now bears his name. During the planning process, Behling, who lives in California, looked at Stanford University’s simulation facilities, but found them to be disjunctive. “The good thing about the simulation center at Buffalo is that it was developed by every medical group,” he says. “This is the only simulation center where all these departments were pulled in to get their ideas. Every department was really involved from the very start.”

As well, Behling says, the technology that enables groups of students to dissect their peers’ performances is an irreplaceable learning tool. “The movies which are taken of the students while doing the performance in the simulation center are very helpful for showing the students their mistakes. Most students can see their mistakes; if not, they can be pointed out by the instructor,” Behling says.
Debriefing the team

Such was the case as a class of medical students debriefed their two members’ performances with the unfortunate Heather Scott. Wayne Waz, a pediatric nephrologist and clinical associate professor in the UB medical school, led the discussion, nimbly drawing out the students’ medical knowledge and their critical thinking about how to manage this patient in crisis.

“What did they do well?” Waz asks the group of six men and two women. “They seemed confident,” someone says. “They always seemed to have something positive to do.” “They called for a cardio consult.” “They worked well as a team, and they stayed calm.”

“Was there anything they did that could have made things worse?” Waz asks. He continues to prod: “What are your goals? What do the different pressors [anti-hypotensive drugs] do, and how do they affect blood pressure? If the stuff you do doesn’t work, how would you help her to breathe in that circumstance?”

At this point, Waz cues up the digital video, saying, “Let’s watch the part where they tell her she’s having a heart attack.” He then addresses one of the simulation participants, asking, “Did you realize you put your hand on her shoulder when you started talking to her? That was good.” And then they talk about it—about how at one point the two medical students were piling orders on a confused and overburdened nurse, about how the patient’s daughter (played by an actor) asked one question and never got it answered. The talk progresses to a discussion of how to manage when a family member is demanding information but the caregiver has his hands full with a patient’s fast-moving situation. The consensus: You can have the daughter stay on one side of the bed and hold her mother’s hand, or you can send the daughter out of the room temporarily but appoint someone to stay with her.

And this is only one scenario. The facility and the technology are almost infinitely flexible, and the training, Myers says, can range into areas like how to break bad news to a patient compassionately or how to overcome cultural barriers, such as deeply held religious beliefs about personal modesty.

Patricia Ohtake, associate professor of rehabilitation science in UB’s School of Public Health and Health Professions, served on the advisory committee that developed the simulation center. She says medical simulation benefits students in three ways. It develops specific technical skills, such as intubation and CPR. It makes students into team players in the health care environment, teaching them how to communicate effectively with both the patient and the other providers involved in his care. And, she says, it teaches students how to approach clinical decision-making—“probably the highest-level component that we see happen. That is what makes a great clinician, being able to interpret a situation, recognize that there is a change in the situation and respond appropriately.”

In their clinical work, says Ohtake, some students are exposed to some of these skills, but it’s catch-as-catch-can. “With simulation, every student can have that experience,” she says. “It affords us the opportunity to provide students with experiences they might not otherwise have, especially in a critical care environment.”

The students’ sweaty palms and pounding hearts, when they’re in the midst of a simulation, testify to the effectiveness of the process. No matter what happens, their instructors say, nobody gets hurt and everyone gets better at delivering great health care. As Waz says to his students, “If you fail miserably, you’re going to learn a lot. If you succeed tremendously, there’s still more to learn.”

“It’s like learning to play an instrument,” adds Myers. “These students are training to cope with events they might see once in a lifetime, but they’re also practicing good behavior—the skills that they’ll need in practice every day.”

Riley Mackenzie is a Buffalo freelance writer.
Cheryl LaRoche, photographed at the Josiah Henson Special Park in North Bethesda, Md. Henson’s 1849 autobiography inspired “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”
TRUTH SEEKER

Archaeologist’s experience with excavations of historic sites in New York and Philadelphia propels her work as scholar and educator

OR ARCHAEOLOGIST Cheryl J. LaRoche, BA ’82, each object in a dig is imbued with some form of personal history or cultural significance. This is especially true when studying the burial grounds of Africans brought to America as slaves, or exploring the Underground Railroad that allowed escaping slaves to find freedom in the North. Working as a conservator in an African burial ground in lower Manhattan in the early 1990s, LaRoche found herself in the middle of a contentious debate about who could best analyze, evaluate and preserve artifacts of African experience in colonial America.

LaRoche, who teaches African-American visual and material culture at the University of Maryland, steadily developed her academic and research career by focusing on archaeological hotspots like the New York burial ground, then finding the tools and training she needed to do more. “In New York, I was mending and conserving artifacts, but I couldn’t speak about what they meant,” she says. “I couldn’t speak about the larger context because that was reserved for others. I wanted to think more broadly about the artifacts we were finding, put them in context and think about the meaning, the history, the visual culture that was involved.”

At this point, LaRoche began to expand the work she had done for her master’s degree at SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology where she first encountered archaeology as part of a program in decorative arts and conservation. Earlier, she did conservation framing as owner of a picture frame shop after graduating from UB with a double major in art and psychology. After receiving her PhD in American studies from the University of Maryland and being recognized for her efforts at the New York burial ground, LaRoche was tapped to work on a significant site in Philadelphia—the grounds of George Washington’s executive mansion when Philadelphia was the nation’s capital. Once again an archaeological quest had far-reaching import.

“We pretty much knew that the main footprint of the executive mansion probably had been destroyed,” LaRoche says. “But the outbuildings, the kitchen and the areas where the enslaved population may have worked, might have survived.” Although the slave quarters remain buried, excavation of the outbuildings led to a movement among historians and Philadelphia’s African-American community to focus on the story of George and Martha Washington’s nine slaves when the President’s House site opened at Independence National Historical Park in 2010.

LaRoche observes that her work has often been associated with thorny public issues, but she wouldn’t have it any other way. “The New York burial ground, for example, was the place where I began to learn to listen to the public, to engage with the public, and to walk the line between my intellectual community and the academic discourse required there, and to translate what is sometimes dense scientific discourse and bring it to the public.”

Today LaRoche consults on Underground Railroad sites across the country, blending her teaching with research and consulting work. In 2011, she received the John L. Cotter award for “scholarship that is truly outstanding” from the Society for Historical Archaeology. She lectures widely and strives for curricular advances that would make African-American history a part of the core curriculum at all educational levels. “I think African-American history is a very important and effective vehicle for teaching so many of the precepts that we actually want our students to learn philosophically at the undergraduate level,” she says. “And it is something about that field that most educators don’t understand.”

Story by Ann Whitcher-Gentzke, with photos by Nicholas McIntosh
Bullying effect

“I always say how bullied I am, but no one listens. ... What do I have to do so people will listen to me?” Taunted since grade school, 14-year-old Jamey Rodemeyer, who had just entered high school, hanged himself outside his home in Williamsville, N.Y., last September, drawing national attention to the issue of bullying in school among activists, journalists and Lady Gaga, Jamey’s idol, who decried the loss of another promising life to bullying. Thrust into this tragic spotlight was a new voice, one just beginning to be heard but already demonstrating authoritative resonance. The Dr. Jean M. Alberti Center for the Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence in UB’s Graduate School of Education was suddenly being solicited for response and support from parents, educators and media in the wake of this ultimate victimization. The center has since been helping to stem the anguish with a rallying stance on ways to approach this complex issue.
Warning Signs

Bullying is a complex, multilayered problem, says Amanda Nickerson, director of UB’s Center for the Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence. Nickerson lectured on bullying—what it is and isn’t—before the Nov. 9 Distinguished Speakers Series appearance by Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard, who was murdered in 1998 in a brutal hate crime. While no profile exists to precisely pinpoint bullying, Nickerson says the following signs may indicate problematic behavior, or point the way to a possible solution. Her full lecture and slideshow can be accessed at http://gse.buffalo.edu/alberticenter/conferences/research-highlights.

Signs a child may be a victim of bullying

- Has unexplained illnesses, cuts, bruises
- Avoids school and social situations
- Is passive and unassertive, and lacks friends
- Experiences a change in behavior (e.g., lack of interest in doing things, withdrawal)
- Has feelings of self-blame or hopelessness

Signs a child may be bullying others

- Refers to others negatively (e.g., "wimp" or "loser")
- Lacks empathy
- Has strong need to win or be the best
- Has hostile/defiant attitude
- Angers easily
- Gets in verbal or physical fights
- Blames others

Ways to respond to a bullied child

- Listen
- Empathize ("That must have been very scary for you.")
- Thank child for telling
- Take it seriously without minimizing
- Partner with child and school to solve the problem
- Follow up

Jean M. Alberti, PhD ’70, is a native of Buffalo who started as a teacher in Cheektowaga and Tonawanda school districts before deciding to pursue a doctoral degree at UB in educational psychology. For the past 30 years she has been in private practice as a licensed clinical psychologist in the Chicago area doing cognitive-behavioral therapy. Her experience as a teacher as well as a therapist led to her groundbreaking theories on bullying that resulted in her establishing the center.

“I recognized that bullying is an area of abuse that has not been addressed,” she observes. “Through my counseling of victims of child abuse, spousal abuse and bullying in school, I saw the parallels in behavior of adult abusers and child and adolescent bullies. I concluded that bullying is child abuse by children. No one else is talking about this as child abuse.”

Alberti’s passion for the issue focuses on changing attitudes in order to ultimately change behavior. “As an educator, I want to change people’s thinking about this issue so we can change the lives of the millions of children who suffer bullying abuse at the hands of other children every day,” she says.

Alberti notes that she was a feminist in graduate school. When she began to practice in Illinois in the 1980s, the feminists helped change the term in legislation about domestic violence, redefining it as spousal abuse or child abuse. “All of it came under the rubric of abuse. By changing the term, it began to change people’s attitudes about and behavior toward it. If an adult is pushing another adult into a wall or locker, it would be abuse. If a child is doing it to a child, shouldn’t we call that child abuse too? Child abuse by children,” she contends.

Alberti notes that bullying has become an increasingly serious issue. “The media focus on bullying when there is a suicide or homicide, tragic as they are, is just the tip of the iceberg,” she observes. “After the media spotlight fades, the real issue remains—the fact that millions of children experience bullying abuse every day in this country, and the adults, including educators, are not doing enough to protect them from this abuse. Bullying abuse has lifelong consequences of depression, resulting in lowered earning capacity and low self-esteem, making it a mental health issue in addition to a public health issue.”

Amanda Nickerson was named director of the Alberti Center last summer after a nationwide search. The former University at Albany associate professor and program director of school psychology is widely respected among researchers for her work in anti-bullying efforts.

“I’ve had people say to me, ‘We keep talking about this. Haven’t we figured it out yet?’ I think with any complex social problem, which this is, the answer is no. It’s like saying, ‘Why haven’t we fixed poverty yet?’ ‘Why is there still murder?’ The solutions are oftentimes not overly complicated in theory but to actually carry them out and make change is much more complex,” Nickerson explains. “I think what the research is showing is that bullying abuse involves individual factors, influences from families, from schools, from peer culture—all of those things come into play, and there needs to be a significant change in all of those systems to reduce bullying.”

There has been an increase in research since the 1980s beginning in Norway after a rash of suicides there related to bullying. “We know more about the characteristics of children who bully and of children who are victimized,” says Nickerson. “We know some about family and school conditions that are more likely to be associated with bullying and victimization. We know something about developmental differences, gender differences, some about outcomes, but there is a lot that we still don’t know.”

In its start-up phase, the Alberti Center has been identifying reputable, high-quality resources primarily for educators and practitioners and also for parents, and posting them on the center’s website (http://gse.buffalo.edu/alberticenter). The center’s mission is to reduce bullying abuse in schools by providing research-based tools to actively change the language, attitudes and behaviors of educators, parents, students and wider society.

“We have a collaborative study going on with other colleagues from the department looking at bullying and victimization in the context of wellness—looking at eating disorder behavior, personality characteristics and self-compassion,” Nickerson notes.
“We’re working with a number of middle schools in the area on this project. Another study we are conducting involves looking at the roles of empathy, gender, group norms [attitudes] and friendship, and how these are associated with specific bullying behaviors among middle school students.”

The center has an ongoing program evaluation study of a crisis-prevention and intervention-training curriculum called PREPaRE, of which Nickerson is an author. “We train school-based professionals to prevent and intervene with a wide variety of crisis situations that could affect schools. We have data from thousands of people who have gone through the training looking at the changes in their knowledge and attitudes.”

Nickerson says she has been working with a number of Buffalo area schools providing guidance and consultation about how they can go about measuring school climate and bullying and victimization in their schools. “I take it from the comprehensive perspective that you don’t just want to single in on the bullying and victimization but what is it that’s happening in the larger school environment—for example, how do kids feel about their connections with others and their learning environment?—because in environments that are healthier it’s going to be less likely that bullying will occur.”

As for the social media aspect, Nickerson refers to research that clearly shows that those who are involved in cyber-bullying also are involved in other types of bullying. “I think we’re fighting a losing battle when we focus too much on how to control the technology and how to censor, spy on it and stop it, because youth will find ways around that,” she says. “We have to get at it and stop it, because youth will find ways of the technology and how to censor, spy on it,” Nickerson says. “We have to get at it and stop it, because youth will find ways around that.”

Nickerson wants the center to be the “go to” resource on a national and international level. She notes that it’s beginning to happen in the Western New York area, with links to the Alberti Center appearing on school sites.

The Alberti Center also has contributed resources to the New York State Education Department to help with the Dignity for all Students Act, anti-harassment legislation with which schools must comply by July 2012. UB faculty affiliations include Jamie Ostrov, associate professor in the Department of Psychology, who has been conducting research on forms of aggressive behavior in preschool children (see sidebar article). He has appeared in Web videos accompanying a “Sesame Street” episode, and has participated in the White House summit on bullying.

Since her arrival at UB, Nickerson has made presentations and led information workshops on bullying and the work of the center within schools, community and agencies. Nickerson, mother of a 7-year-old and an 11-year-old, is encouraged by the positive response and partnering interests that the center has generated thus far.

Support for the Alberti Center may be made by contacting the UB Foundation at ub-giving@buffalo.edu or at 716-645-3011.

Jim Bisco is senior writer for University Communications.

Facets of bullying research

While the Dr. Jean M. Alberti Center for the Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence is understandably the nexus for anti-bullying activities and research on campus, faculty from other schools and departments at the university continue their efforts to delve into the causes of bullying while seeking solutions from a variety of perspectives. Prominent among them is Catherine N. Dulmus, associate professor and associate dean for research in the School of Social Work. A leading expert on bullying and related issues of child and adolescent mental health, Dulmus has frequently addressed bullying in books, journal articles and presentations.

“Research we conducted in rural Appalachia schools examined children who were ‘bully-victims,’ meaning they both bullied and were victims of bullying,” says Dulmus of one investigation. “We found that bully-victims experience significantly more bully behaviors than other victims. Thus, bully-victims might be caught in a troubling cycle wherein they respond aggressively to being bullied, which, in turn, triggers more persecution.”

In the Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences, Associate Professor Jamie M. Ostrov serves as a consultant for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Education in their efforts to develop a uniform definition of bullying. He has assisted the federal StopBullying.gov initiative in adapting bullying-prevention materials for young children. And he was featured in a series of Web-based videos to accompany an episode of “Sesame Street.” The series also is available on DVD.

“Essentially, my research is geared toward preschoolers, which is the target audience of ‘Sesame Street,’” explains Ostrov, a developmental psychologist who also was a consultant to the Children’s Television Workshop for its bullying prevention initiative.

Their messages—teaching children how to identify what bullying is and what to do if it happens to them, such as seeking assistance from adults—are consistent with our intervention program that addressed aggressive behavior in preschool classrooms and that also used developmentally appropriate puppets, stories and activities.”

Jamie Ostrov and Rosita of “Sesame Street” help children understand why bullying hurts.

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UBTODAY Spring 2012 31
Adam Zelasko, photographed at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers, Florida.
Adam Zelasko, BFA ’05: Broadway actor meets with alumni while on national tour of “Jersey Boys”

AGE 29, Adam Zelasko, BFA ’05, already has made one of his dreams come true. The theater and dance alumnus is a member of the touring company of “Jersey Boys,” a Tony Award-winning musical about the rise of pop music group Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.

As a “swing” ready to play several roles, Zelasko understudies two main characters, Tommy DeVito and Nick Massi, and is part of the ensemble. “I’ve been on for both of them [characters DeVito and Massi] and both times I just had to take a minute backstage and think, ‘This is a dream come true.’ This is a show that thousands of people want to be a part of, and there’s a very small percentage of people who get to actually do a show that gets that much recognition and play the roles that I’m playing. It’s pretty fulfilling.”

At the behest of the UB Alumni Association, Zelasko arranged to play band member Massi in three of four performances as the show toured to UBAA chapter cities Washington, D.C., on Dec. 8, 2011; Ft. Lauderdale on Jan. 26, and this spring in Chicago (May 3). (He was in the ensemble cast for the March 1 show in Charlotte, another chapter city.) At a reception following the D.C. performance, UB alumni and friends got to rub elbows with Zelasko. “Adam’s performance onstage was surpassed only by his humility and graciousness off stage,” says Jim Militello, BA ’79, who is the D.C. chapter leader. “We were delighted to have the chance to interact with such an accomplished, warm member of the UB family.”

The handsome, 6-foot-1-inch native of Orchard Park, N.Y., 20 miles south of Buffalo, fell in love with acting while playing Uncle Henry in a production of “The Wizard of Oz” in fifth grade. At Orchard Park High School, with the guidance of director Darcy Young and choreographer Jack Greenan, he discovered that acting “was something you could choose as a career and that Broadway wasn’t just this mythical place that existed in New York City.”

Zelasko passed the required theater program audition and was accepted to UB, also his parents’ alma mater. His experience at the university was “great; it was nice to learn from people who loved to do what they were doing,” Zelasko says. “I got that feeling from all of my teachers there.” UB is also where he met his mentor, former faculty member Lynne Kurdziel Formato, MA ’87 & BA ’85. “If she hadn’t been there, I probably wouldn’t have gone there,” Zelasko says. “She knew everything about everything, and was our go-to encyclopedia about the industry.” Kurdziel Formato readily returns the compliment. “Adam Zelasko was, and still is, one of the nicest people in the universe,” says Kurdziel Formato, now associate professor of performing arts at Elon University in North Carolina. “He is extraordinarily talented, incredibly hardworking and generous with his colleagues—onstage as well as off.”

Life on the road with a major musical touring company can be challenging, but “I’ve grown accustomed to living on the road,” Zelasko says. “This show has become the job that I’ve always wanted. Not only is it lucrative and stable, but it’s also as much of a joy to perform as it is to watch. I never want to leave this show!”

Story by Barbara Byers, with photos by Brian Tietz

OUTTAKES

Vanity plate “Adam Z”—“I like the A and the Z.”

Advice to current UB theater students “Audition. Most people go to New York and they don’t audition.”

Favorite downtime activity/hobby “I like to play DJ and put together mashups [recording compilations].”

Last book read “Lies that Chelsea Handler Told Me” by Chelsea Handler’s friends and family

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be? “Chicago...but only in the summertime!”
The roots of Donnica Moore’s (MD ’86) vocation as a women’s health advocate grew during her time at UB’s School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences—but not in precisely the way you might guess. Then, medical schools everywhere defined a women’s health issue simplistically as any issue that didn’t apply to men. Moore says she continually found herself asking, “How does this apply to women? All our information was based on a 75-kilogram male.”

That intellectual curiosity, and feminism, stoked her career-long efforts to educate people on women’s health issues. Astutely applying a high public profile formed by extensive national media exposure, Moore trains a spotlight on topics like hormone replacement therapy, breast implants, osteoporosis and the HPV vaccine. She uses media appearances, consulting, public policy and more to build “awareness, interest, action and advocacy” around the issues she takes up.

When Moore was a medical resident, she chose gynecology because it was “an area where you often have positive outcomes.” Fate intervened when her own health problems (she’s had three major spinal surgeries) precluded the physical demands of being an ob-gyn. She moved into the world of pharmaceutical research, where she had the chance to interact with opinion leaders and do lots of public speaking.

At the same time, Moore was rising through the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) ranks, becoming president-elect in 1993. The next day—literally—NBC invited an AMWA representative to speak on air about women’s health problems. Moore stepped in, her natural ability and poise encouraging NBC to call again (and again). She ultimately became the women’s health contributor for a six-and-a-half-minute weekly segment on the network’s “Later Today” show. Over the years, “Dr. Donnica” has contributed regularly to ABC’s “Good Morning America Health!” and made hundreds of appearances on “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” “The View,” CNN, “The Dr. Oz Show” and more.

“My goal,” she explains, “is to use my time on air to help doctors and patients with their time in the office to help women put their health issues in perspective.” In addition to the broadcast pulpit she wields so well, Moore is an active presence online, bringing attention to women’s health issues at her award-winning website, www.DrDonnica.com, and as a woman’s health expert on several other sites.

Moore also works tirelessly in other venues to help define women’s health issues more broadly. While working at NBC, she founded Sapphire Women’s Health Group in Far Hills, N.J., a holding company for her women’s health education, communications and consulting activities. Through Sapphire, Moore works with organizations and corporations to advance the idea that “women’s health is anything that affects the health of women, period.”

Moore recognizes that her visibility has real value for people who don’t have ready access to information or who might be misinformed. After she appeared on “The Dr. Oz Show” discussing the subtle early symptoms of ovarian cancer, for instance, the show later featured women who had seen Moore’s segment, followed up with their doctors, and been diagnosed and successfully treated.

Says Moore, “The gratifying thing is I still have the opportunity to save lives.”

Story by Grace Lazzara, with photos by Carolina Rivera

Donnica Moore, MD ’86: Physician uses the media to promote a better understanding of women’s health

A HEALING VOICE

OUTTAKES
Hometown Brooklyn (Cypress Hills), N.Y.
Hobbies Making photo scrapbooks for family and friends
Fondest Buffalo memory Picnics near the Law Library
Fondest UB memory The medical school follies!
Last book read “The Marriage Plot” by Jeffrey Eugenides
Favorite vacation spot Lake Como, Italy
Donnica Moore, MD '86, photographed in her home in Far Hills, N.J.
The Main Event

Alumni by the Numbers

Alumni by the Numbers

ALUMNI TOTALS

- 120,557 (NYS)
- 5,000+
- 3,000-4,999
- 1,000-2,999
- 500-999
- 0-499

As of February 2012

UR WORLD is so diverse and extensive, and yet, no matter where you go, it seems, you’re bound to be within reach of a fellow UB alum. Of the more than 219,000 UB alumni, it’s probably no surprise that the largest contingent is in New York State. However, you may be impressed by the fact that, after New York, the state with the highest concentration of UB alumni is California. (Florida, Pennsylvania and Virginia round out the top five.) UB alumni also may be found living, working and contributing in every state in the U.S. and in more than 120 international locales.

Two interactive maps on the alumni website depict UB’s global alumni presence. Check them out at http://alumni.buffalo.edu/alumni-map-us.

Are you moving to—or already live in—North Dakota? Then reach out to some of the approximately 35 alumni in North Dakota for instant

UBAA BY THE NUMBERS

ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

- 219,673 UB alumni
- 123 countries where UB alumni live
- 1,224 alumni in Canada, country with the highest concentration of UB graduates outside U.S.
- 9,004 alumni in California, state with highest concentration of UB graduates outside New York
networking and friendship. Have business travel in Taiwan, Azerbaijan, Madagascar or Singapore? Perhaps one of the 1,161 UB alumni in those countries will show you the sights. Search for them in the online alumni directory on UB Connect. (And, make sure your profile is updated too.)

In fact, keeping accurate data about alumni leads to one of the most important functions of the UB Alumni Association: helping to make connections among alumni, and keeping alumni connected to the institution. “It’s a service we proudly provide,” says Alumni Association President Tim Lafferty, BS ’86, “so that alumni can benefit from having this priceless network at their fingertips.”

Whether in Western New York or far from campus, alumni come together precisely because they have UB in common. For example, a group of alumni in Istanbul, Turkey, held an impromptu gathering over Buffalo-style chicken wings last December. That’s just one example of events that occur frequently, whether planned by the UBAA or organized by a few UB friends.

“It’s incredible, and comforting, to know that UB alumni have this presence outside Buffalo and around the world,” says Lafferty. “Not only does it help to build camaraderie, but it also spreads the word that UB is a world-class institution, which increases the value of our degrees.”

Are you taking advantage of the UBAA’s vast alumni network? Check it out online via UB Connect at www.ubconnect.org.

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Arnold Berleant, PhD 1962, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree by the Rhode Island School of Design for contributions to the foundational literature in environmental aesthetics. He was also a keynote speaker at a 2011 landscapes in transition conference at the University at Lisbon in Portugal. Berleant lives in Castine, Maine. Bernard B. Freedman, JD 1964, is special counsel at Hodgson Russ LLP in the education and municipal law practice groups. He has more than 45 years’ experience representing school districts and municipalities in Erie, Niagara and Orleans counties. Freedman resides in Williamsville, N.Y. Robert W. Irwin, BS 1965, was named chair of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants’ peer review committee for 2011-2012. He lives in Salamanca, N.Y. Richard J. Abtin, PhD 1967, delivered the Weinstein Lecture at the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center’s annual symposium at Columbia University Medical Center in May 2011. His discovery of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in 1970 led to the development of the PSA test as a diagnostic tool for prostate cancer. Abtin, who resides in Tucson, Ariz., received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the UB Alumni Association in 2010. Clinton Deveaux, BA 1967, retired from the Atlanta Municipal Court in June 2011, where he served as chief judge twice during his tenure and most recently served as the Community Court Division’s presiding judge for eight years. He lives in Atlanta, Ga.

Arthur A. Russ Jr., LLB 1967, of counsel at Phillips Lyle LLP in Buffalo, N.Y., is president of the Bar Association of Erie County. He also serves on the board of directors for numerous organizations, including the UB Foundation. Russ resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

Barbara B. Saromines-Ganne, BA 1967, is chair of the board of commissioners, Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. She lives in Honolulu, Hawaii. Frederick E. Brace Jr., BA 1966, serves as housing court judge for the University District in the city of Buffalo and is a board chair for the University District Community Development Association. He retired in 2010 after working for 39 years in pharmaceutical sales. Brace resides in Buffalo, N.Y. Sandra M. Donaldson, BA 1968, received the 2011 Faculty Achievement in Research Award from the University of North Dakota (UND). A Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor, she has been a faculty member at UND since 1977. Donaldson lives in Grand Forks, N.D.

Michael L. Lipman, BA 1968, is a partner in the white-collar defense, corporate investigations and regulatory compliance practice group of Duane Morris LLP in San Diego, Calif. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and is listed in The Best Lawyers in America. Lipman resides in San Diego. Arnold Minkoff, EdB 1948, retired as head coach of the cross country and indoor track and field teams at Farmingdale State College. He was head coach for numerous institutions throughout his 37-year career, as well as a member of 10 U.S. Maccabiah teams as an athlete, coach and overall team manager. Minkoff lives in Oceanside, N.Y.

Stephanie Brumbach, BA 1969, was part of the editing team that won an Emmy in September 2011 for a segment about the 2010 Haitian earthquake that aired on “60 Minutes.” In addition, “Janie’s Janie,” a documentary she co-produced in 1973, was recently awarded a grant for restoration and preservation by New York Women in Film & Television. Brumbach resides in New York, N.Y. James J. Herr, PhD 1969, MA 1965 & BA 1963, associate professor emeritus at the College at Brockport, was honored by Universidad Internacional de Cuenca, Mexico, as the first “Distinguished Member of the University.” He coordinated Brockport’s study abroad program in Cuenca for 25 years, followed by 12 years of leading adult education groups there. Horn lives in Cuenca.

Elliot Brecher, MD 1970, is a clinical professor of surgery at the University of California, Irvine. He has participated in several volunteer surgical
The Albany chapter hosted its third annual UB Day at the Races at Saratoga Race Course on opening day, July 23. Among the crowd of 93 were 39 who traveled by bus from UB’s North Campus for the event.

A second straight sellout gathering of 30 watched the Buffalo Sabres face off against the Bruins in Boston on Nov. 12. The NHL fans viewed the matchup from a suite in TD Garden.

Hamburger University in Chicago was the venue for speakers Rich Floersch, MBA ’80 & BS ’80, executive vice president and chief human resources officer for McDonald’s Corporation, and Jerry Newman, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the School of Management. Thirty attended the Sept. 28 event.

A pregame tailgate party and tour of the new $1.3 billion Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, were bright spots for 45 UB alumni and friends in the Dallas area who attended the Bills-Cowboys game on Nov. 13.

The fourth annual pregame party at Lodo’s Bar and Grill in Denver, followed by a Colorado Rockies baseball game and fireworks choreographed to music, sold out once again with 65 attending the festivities in Coors Field on July 1.

A game between the Staten Island Yankees and Brooklyn Cyclones, Class A farm teams for the New York Yankees and Mets, respectively, was the setting for an Aug. 5 New York City chapter event. The family-themed, all-you-can-eat event sold out at 66. On Nov. 9, the chapter brought 75 alumni and friends together at Blondie’s in Manhattan for its annual wings night. In addition, the UB men’s basketball team traveled to New Jersey on Nov. 19 to play Princeton; 62 UB alumni and friends from the chapter attended to cheer them on.

Twenty-seven San Diego chapter alumni enjoyed a limousine bus tour of five breweries on June 4. On Dec. 11, 91 diehard fans of the Buffalo Bills and San Diego Chargers enjoyed a tailgate party on the Chargers’ practice field in Qualcomm Sta-

Hey, that’s me! A group of international alumni living in Istanbul, Turkey, got together Dec. 11 for some camaraderie and traditional “Buffalo wings.” Holding the UB flag (from left) are Erhan Igdemir, BA ’86; Basak Kusefoglu Kizildemir, MA ’88; Zeynep Atac Anisoglu, BFA ’85, who hosted the event; Billur Ozsoy, BA ’83; and Murat Atac, BA ’87. (Inset) Igdemir shows off his batch of tasty Buffalo wings.

And in chapter news...

UB Bulls road games draw UB alumni

UB Bulls road games proved to be a popular way for UB alumni to gather in non-chapter cities. Pregame tailgate parties were held at the University of Pittsburgh (Sept. 3); University of Tennessee in Knoxville, the first stop on UB 2020 Presidential Alumni Tour (Oct. 1); and Temple University in Philadelphia (Oct. 15). These events attracted a total of 336 attendees.
Chris Charles, BA ’08; Lacey Stanton, BA ’08; Sarah Salzberg, BA ’08; Ross Graney, BS ’08; and John Ilacqua, BS ’11, enjoyed good company and even better chicken wings during the annual wings night in Manhattan.

Fay Migdol and her husband, Marvin, BA ’59, enjoy the pre-game tailgate with fellow alumni and friends before the Bills-Cowboys game on Nov. 13, 2011, in Cowboys Stadium.

dium, then watched the two teams play. The UB 2020 Presidential Alumni Tour has President Satish K. Tripathi visiting alumni in 20 cities over 20 months. The tour made its second stop Nov. 14 in San Francisco at the Spur Urban Center, with 45 attending.

On Nov. 20, 50 alumni in the South Florida area watched the Bills take on the Dolphins in Sun Life Stadium. Before the game, a group of 25 met for an all-you-can-eat Buffalo buffet tailgate party at The Big Easy Bar & Grill in Hollywood, Fla. The Washington, D.C., chapter had an active summer and fall. A panel of alumni from the College of Arts and Sciences discussed UB’s influence on their careers with a crowd of 80 in the University Club on June 29. Another sold-out crowd of 70 attended the annual Buffalo Tailgate, Sept. 25 at Jimmys’s Old Town Tavern in Herndon, Va. Fans watched the Bills shock the New England Patriots with a win. President Tripathi hosted an Oct. 14 lunch for nine D.C.-area alumni, including UBAA board member and chapter president Jim Milletello, BA ’79. Adam Zelasko, BFA ’05, performed in the touring cast of “Jersey Boys,” in D.C.’s National Theatre on Dec. 8. The sold-out crowd of 60 had an opportunity to meet and greet Zelasko afterward during a reception at Chef Geoff’s.

To see photos of other alumni and friends from recent chapter events, go to www.alumni.buffalo.edu/chapters

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Fay Migdol and her husband, Marvin, BA ’59, enjoy the pre-game tailgate with fellow alumni and friends before the Bills-Cowboys game on Nov. 13, 2011, in Cowboys Stadium.
Six students receive awards

UB Alumni Association President Tim Lafferty, BS ’86, presented a total of $7,500 in scholarship money to six students during the UB Alumni Association scholarship dinner Feb. 3 in the Center for Tomorrow on the North Campus.

J. Scott Fleming Scholarship

The J. Scott Fleming Scholarship, established in 1985 as a student-to-student award, was given to four individuals who promote student involvement and enhance the student experience at UB. The recipients are Nathanael David Carbre, Grace Mukupa, Jovin Panthapattu and Jennifer Trapani.

Carbrey, who is pursuing a combined bachelor’s and master’s degree in accounting, helped refund more than $1 million to local taxpayers through his work with UB’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Mukupa, a doctoral student and president of the Graduate Student Association, presented at the 16th International Conference on AIDS & STIs in Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 2011.

Panthapattu is pursuing a degree in pharmacy and is a research assistant in a pharmacology and toxicology lab, as well as a senior student assistant in Campus Living’s Residential Education Department. Trapani, a junior biological sciences major, is a member of the Undergraduate Academies Living and Learning Community. She is pursuing research with significant relevance to the Great Lakes communities.

Alumnae Scholarship

Lisa Kulka was presented with the Alumnae Scholarship for her academic and extracurricular accomplishments. Kulka is a senior studying English and English as a second language education. She plans to enroll this fall in UB’s Graduate School of Education to obtain her teacher certification.

Willie R. Evans UB Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship

The Willie R. Evans UB Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship went to Caitlin Curry. A junior pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in international business, Curry is on the cross country and track and field teams.

“I am so proud of these students and I look forward to welcoming them into the alumni family when they graduate.”

TIM LAFFERTY, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT
5 for 5

The University at Buffalo Alumni Association hosted five well-received luncheon presentations both on and off campus.

Day trip on the Erie Canal (June)

UB at Noon kicked off the summer June 21 with a day trip on the Erie Canal. A group of 50 began the day with a two-hour narrated boat tour followed by a lunch buffet at Lockport’s Canalside Banquet Center and a trip to the city’s Market Street Art Center.

Buffalo Zoo Rainforest Falls Habitat (August)

A new Rainforest Falls habitat at the Buffalo Zoo provides shelter for hundreds of exotic species thanks to Owen Howard, MArch ’95, project manager and associate at the architectural firm Foil-Albert Associates. On Aug. 24, Howard spoke to a crowd of 65 during a UB at Noon lecture at Buffalo Zoo’s Children’s Resource Center about her unique specialty and her upcoming project to design a new arctic habitat.

Longevity and Luck (September)

On Sept. 16 as part of UB at Noon, Stephen McKinley Henderson, actor, director and professor in the UB Department of Theatre and Dance, spoke about “longevity and luck” in the Center for Tomorrow, North Campus. Henderson was nominated for a 2010 Tony award for his performance in the Broadway revival of “Fences.” He also has roles in three forthcoming feature films.

Medical School Move (October)

On Oct. 5, Michael Cain, vice president for health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, described the medical school’s impending move to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus downtown. More than 100 alumni and friends attended this UB Downtown event at Chef’s Restaurant.

Canalside District Development (November)

Redevelopment of Buffalo’s historic Canalside district was the topic of discussion for the Nov. 10 UB Downtown lecture. Moderator was Thomas Dee, EMBA ’96 & BS ’95, president of the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation. Panelists were Hiro Hata, associate professor in urban design; former faculty member Max Willig and Rishawn Sonubi, MUP ’03, March ’03 & BPS ’00; and Douglas Switt, MArch ’93.

To sign up and learn about future luncheon presentations, go to alumni.buffalo.edu/events.

Cole, King & Stageberg in Washington, D.C. He lives in Silver Spring, Md. Nancy Carriuolo, PhD 1979, president of Rhode Island College, received a 2011 Women of Achievement Award from the YWCA. Carriuolo is a long-standing member of the board of the Journal of Developmental Education and the founding statewide leader of the Rhode Island chapter of the American Council on Education’s Network of Women Leaders in Higher Education. Carriuolo resides in Providence. R.I. Charles J. Desmarais, MFA 1977, is president of the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI), where he shapes and implements the school’s strategic plan for long-term growth, strength and sustainability. He also oversees SFAI’s academic programs, which emphasize rigorous studio practices and interdisciplinary studies. He lives in San Francisco, Calif. James E. Hughes, JD 1979 & BS 1976, partner at Hancock Estabrook LLP in Syracuse, N.Y., presented at the Construction Owners Association of America’s Spring Leadership Conference in 2011. Hughes resides in Fayetteville, N.Y. Vincent E. Schicchitano, BA 1979, is a member of the supervisory committee at Bethpage Federal Credit Union in Bethpage. Schicchitano, N.Y. He has extensive experience in strategy, business development, finance, accounting, planning and analysis. Schicchitano lives in Nesconset, N.Y.

Randolph Rakoczynski, MS 1980, a senior project engineer at Barton & Loguidice PC, received the 2011 William A. Faust Award from the Niagara Frontier section of the Air & Waste Management Association. Rakoczynski resides in Snyder, N.Y. Barry J. Glick, PhD 1981 & BA 1974, is chief executive officer of ALK Technologies in Princeton, N.J. He was the founding CEO of GeoSystems Global Corporation and led the company to its breakthrough MapQuest.com consumer website. Glick, who lives in Arlington, Va., received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the UB Alumni Association in 2007. Karen A. Cummings, BS 1982, is a commercial banker and vice president for the Erie County market at Five Star Bank in Buffalo, N.Y. Cummings resides in Buffalo. Lotta E. Kelly, EdM 1982 & BA 1974, is a member of the board of directors for the NEA Foundation. She is a teacher of U.S. history and government and AP U.S. history in the East Rochester School District. Kelly lives in Rochester, N.Y. Eric M. Kramer, BS 1982, partner with Farrell Fritz in Uniondale, N.Y., was appointed to the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants’ board of directors. Kramer serves on the advisory board of the Long Island Community Foundation. He resides in Dix Hills, N.Y. Barrie E. Bazarsky, BS 1983, is an associate director of the Bethpage Federal Credit Union in Bethpage, N.Y. She is also a senior associate at Birzon, Strang & Associates in Smithtown, N.Y., where she focuses her practice on personal injury and commercial litigation. Bazarsky lives in Oceanside, N.Y. Michael Mooney, BS 1983, is director of intercollegiate athletics and recreation at SUNY Geneseo in Geneseo, N.Y. He serves as president of the SUNY Athletic Conference and as national chair of the NCAA Division III Men’s Soccer All-America Committee. Mooney resides in Geneseo. Robert Smolinski, MD 1983, a surgeon with University Orthopaedics, participated in the Hope for Tomorrow Foundation’s effort to donate 100 surgeries for the needy in the Immaculate Conception Hospital in Les Cayes, Haiti. He lives in Orchard Park, N.Y. Stamatia V. Destounis, BS 1984, is a fellow of the American College of Radiology. She is a radiologist and managing partner at Elizabeth Wende Breast Care LLC in Rochester, N.Y., and a clinical associate professor at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Destounis resides in Scottsville, N.Y. Robert M. Dorcy, BS 1984, is director of rehabilitation at The Warburg Adult Care Community in Mt. Vernon, N.Y. Dorcy lives in Ossining, N.Y. Kerry A. Driscoll, PhD 1984 & MA 1983, professor and chair of English at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn., received the 2010-2011 Reverend John J.
Carrie Boye, BFA ’97*
Buffalo, N.Y.

Why did you join UBAA?
So many doors have opened up for me as a member of the UB Alumni Association and the UBAA board of directors, both to network and to make a difference to UB. Just this summer a potential UB graduate student from Calcutta, India, contacted me via UBAA’s Facebook page. I was able to tout all UB’s strengths, and lo and behold, he decided to come to UB instead of his other option, Arizona State University. I’ve since had the pleasure of meeting the student and his friends in person, and they are all loving UB!

UBAA MEMBER SINCE 2009

Boye close-up:
Owner/Co-founder of Allstar Advertising, soon to be known as Boye Creative Group, with brother, Jerry. The firm provides marketing and advertising services in the areas of television, Web, video, print and corporate branding.

Fond UB memories:
The many friends I made at UB, especially professor Alan E. Cober (1935-1998). His illustration program truly shaped who I became as an artist.
Meet New Dean of Nursing Marsha L. Lewis 05.23.12
Frank Lloyd Wright Boathouse, Buffalo

Career Conversations Buffalo 05.30.12
Ramada Hotel & Conference Center

UB 2020 Presidential Alumni Tour 05.31.12
Los Angeles

All dates and times subject to change. Visit www.alumni.buffalo.edu/events for updates.
Alumni Association Achievement Awards

Congratulations to this year’s award winners

Bringing distinction to themselves and the university through outstanding professional and personal achievement, loyal service to UB and exemplary service to their communities

SAMUEL P. CAPEN AWARD

*John R. (Jack) Davis, BS ’55, of Akron, N.Y.

DR. PHILIP B. WELS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

The University at Buffalo Engineering Alumni Association

DR. RICHARD T. SARKIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Linda Heim McCansland, EdD ’90, MS ’78 & BS ’74, of Amherst, N.Y.

CLIFFORD C. FURNAS MEMORIAL AWARD

Dexter Johnson, PhD ’95, MS ’89 & BS ’87, of Cleveland, Ohio

WALTER P. COOKE AWARD

Esther S. Takeuchi, of East Amherst, N.Y.

GEORGE W. THORN AWARD

Daniel G. Gibson, BS ’99, of La Jolla, Calif.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Jim and Jill Kelly, of East Aurora, N.Y.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

C. L. Max Nikias, PhD ’81 & MS ’80, of San Marino, Calif.
Frank B. Silvestro, MA ’68 & BA ’62, of Clarence, N.Y.

INTERNATIONAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Seong-Kon Kim, PhD ’84 & MA ’81, of Seoul, Republic of Korea
Robin Li, MS ’94, of Beijing, China

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

To honor outstanding volunteer contributions to the university

*Rita Andolina, MSW ’88 & BA ’80
*Raymond P. Poltorak, MBA ’68 & BA ’65
*Roger Roll, Friend

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WILL BE HELD

Friday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m

Lippes Concert Hall in Slee Hall

Reception to follow in the Center for the Arts Atrium.

Tickets are $75 each and are available by calling the alumni office at 1-800-284-5382, or online at www.alumni.buffalo.edu/events.

*Asterisk indicates UBAA member
UBAA Travel  From the fabled British Isles to rugged Alaska and picturesque Tuscany, the UB Alumni Association is offering three incomparable trips in 2012 in conjunction with its travel partners AHI and GoNext.

British Isles Odyssey Oceania Cruise, June 5-18, 2012
Explore the rich history and dramatic scenery of the British Isles while cruising on the elegant Seven Seas Navigator. Enjoy stunning landscapes and fascinating attractions. Call 1-800-843-8600 or visit www.alumni.buffalo.edu/travel.

Alaskan Discovery Regent Seven Seas Cruise, June 13-20, 2012
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For more information, including details on this and other UB alumni trips, go to www.alumni.buffalo.edu/benefits
Winter Carnival Instead of moaning about the Buffalo snow, UB students in the mid-20th century used snow to their advantage. Winter Carnival was an anticipated annual event in February. It included such events as a ski fashion show, ice-skating, snow sculpture contest, skiing contests, an all-freshman talent show, a king and queen contest, a beard-growing contest and a jazz concert. PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
Marco Muenchhof, MS 2000, is director of system development at Eckelmann AG in Germany. He also teaches a graduate course on system identification at theTU Darmstadt in Germany. He lives in Erzhausen, Germany.

Eric Katzman, BA 2001, is director of communications and marketing for the Madison Square Garden Boys and Girls Clubs in New York, N.Y. He resides in Forest Hills, N.Y. Sabina Lim, MD 2001, is executive director of Yale–New Haven Psychiatric Hospital in New Haven, Conn. She is also assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine. Lim lives in Hamden, Conn. Kristie L. Mack, BPS 2002, is a project manager at King & King Architects in Syracuse, N.Y., where she focuses her practice in the health care industry. Mack resides in Onida, N.Y. Vincent T. Pallaci, BA 2002, is a partner with Kushnick Pallaci PLLC in Melville, N.Y. He focuses his practice on complex construction disputes, and has lectured and written extensive on numerous topics of construction law. Pallaci lives in Bay Shore, N.Y. Jill M. Schaefler, MBA 2002 & BS 2002, a principal at Lumsden & McCormick in Buffalo, N.Y., earned a Certificate of Advanced Technical Study for mastering health care accounting and finance. She resides in Cheektowaga, N.Y. James S. Skloda, JD 2002, a partner at Hancock Estabrook LLP in Syracuse, N.Y., presented on recent case law—and broader issues facing non-profits attempting to obtain or maintain property tax exemptions—at the New York State Bar Association’s summer 2011 meeting. He lives in Clay, N.Y. Walter Iwanenkos, PhD 2003, is dean of graduate studies and a professor of public administration at Hilbert College in Hamburg, N.Y., where he resides. Christopher Kichkis, BS 2003, is vice president of sales and marketing at Sandhill Investment Management in Buffalo, N.Y. He is a certified public accountant and a certified financial planner. Kichkis lives in Clarence Center, N.Y. Shaun A. Thelen, BS 2003, director of human resources at Lumsden & McCormick in Buffalo, N.Y., is a member of the Society of Human Resource Management and the Buffalo Niagara Human Resource Association. Thelen resides in Colden, N.Y. Evan Colfer, BA 2004, is a movie trailer editor for Wild Card in Hollywood, Calif. He worked on the 3D trailer for “Green Lantern” and the international trailer for “X-Men First Class.” Colfer lives in Redondo Beach, Calif. Seth D. Hennard, MS 2004 & BS 2003, is manager of the auditing and accounting department at Lumsden & McCormick in Buffalo, N.Y. He resides in Buffalo. Margaret D. King, MBA 2004, vice president and senior product manager of HSBC Bank USA, is on a two-year international assignment with HSBC in the United Kingdom, working in the bank’s headquarters in London. In August 2013, she will return to her home in Williamsville, N.Y. Cristina A. Bahr, JD 2005 & BS 1998, is an associate at Harris Beach PLLC in Rochester, N.Y. She focuses her practice on workplace disputes and employment matters. Bahr is a member of the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys and the steering committee of the Rochester chapter of the UB Law School Alumni Association. She resides in Rochester. Lindsey C. Clark, MD 2005, has joined UB Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine. She is a fellow-ship-trained spine surgeon and clinical assistant professor at UB. Clark resides in Hamburg, N.Y. Peter Emmett Harley, MD 2005 & MS 2001, is an ophthalmologist and oculoplastic surgeon at Fichte End & Elmer Eyecare of Western New York. He lives in Amherst, N.Y. Heather D. Jung, BA 2005, is manager of government affairs at The Business Council of New York State Inc., in Albany, N.Y. She resides in Albany. Daniel J. O’Hantlon, BA 2005, is coordinator of institutional planning and assessment at Austin Community College in Austin, Tex., where he lives. Amy A. Dauber, BS 2006, is project coordinator for University Communications at UB. Dauber resides in Lockport, N.Y. James W. Herdlein, BA 2007, started Herdlein Holz, a small business in which he makes and sells his own hot sauce. In 2010, Herdlein’s hot sauce won first place in the “Amateur Sauce-Off” competition at the annual Buffalo Chicken Wing Festival. He lives in Oceanside, N.Y. Pauline W. Hofmann, PhD 2007 & MA 2003, is interim dean of the Russell J. Jandoli School of Journalism and Mass Communication at St. Bonaventure University. She resides in Alden, N.Y. Jill R. Ginsburg, MA 2008, is assistant director of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Buffalo in Buffalo, N.Y., where she lives. Kevin Habberfeld, JD 2008, is a partner in the personal injury law firm of Dwyer, Black & Lyle LLP in Olean, N.Y. He is on the board of directors of numerous volunteer organizations. Habberfeld resides in Sicx, N.Y. Lisa Hayes, PhD 2008 & MA 2002, is president and chief executive officer of the Accokeek Foundation in Accokeek, Md. She has served as the organization’s director of education and public programs since 2007, overseeing content and delivery of events, special programs and school tours. Hayes lives in Bowie, Md. Gerald C. Mead Jr., MBA 2008, BS 1986 & BA 1985, received a Bronze Excellibur Award from the regional chapter of the Public Relations Society of America and a Silver ADDY Award from the Advertising Club of Buffalo for a tourism publication he authored for Visit Buffalo Niagara. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y. Tammy Lee Demler, EMBA 2009, PharmD 2002 & BS 1992, director of pharmacy services at the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, received an American Pharmacists Association award in April 2011 for her work with the New York State Office of Mental Health to improve vaccination rates. She also received a community service award from the Mental Health Association of Niagara County in May 2011. She lives in Wheatfield, N.Y. Ashley Nadine Otto, BA 2007 & Cert 2009, is volunteer and resource coordinator at International Institute of Buffalo. She is helping to start the AmeriCorps Alumni Buffalo chapter. Otto resides in Colden, N.Y. Holly R. West, BS 2009, is a senior certified public accountant at Brock, Schechter & Polakoff LLP in Buffalo, N.Y. She lives in Churchville, N.Y. Elaine S. Rinfrete, PhD 2010, is an assistant professor at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in Edinboro, Pa. She resides in East Concord, N.Y. Chelsea Idrogo, MS 2011, is a staff accountant at Brock, Schechter & Polakoff LLP in Buffalo, N.Y., where she lives. Kristen M. Lopez, MBA 2011, is an account recruitment coordinator for Crowley Webb, a full-service marketing communications agency in Buffalo, N.Y. She resides in Cheektowaga, N.Y. Matthew R. Prok, BA 2011 & BS 2011, is an account coordinator at Crowley Webb in Buffalo, N.Y. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.
in my opinion
ALUMNI SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

Fill in the blank: You know you went to UB if...

Your love of mazes started when you lived at the Ellicott Complex.
David Swan, BA '81
Greensboro, N.C.

You are still wearing the 2008 MAC Champions sweatshirt.
*David Ariel, BA '10
New York, N.Y.

You stalk your co-workers for their parking spot.
Ben Loeffert, BS '10
Buffalo, N.Y.

A bluebird to you is a bus.
Dana Louttit, JD '86
Washington, D.C.

You remember how many people gathered in the area outside the old student union (Norton Hall, now Squire) on the first warm, sunny day in the spring.
Leonard Goerss, BS '77
North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Names like Red Jacket, Ellicott and Richmond make you think of housing, not history!
Sarah Ruchalski, BA '06
Buffalo, N.Y.

You still have the same down parka you bought for the first winter you spent there because the spine at the North Campus was like a wind tunnel!
*Tom Trinchera, MLS '96 & BA '94
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

You went to the “Library” for a drink (not to study or read). And you remember negotiating to get wings for $.05 at Miners Ten.
Michael Williams, BS '77 & AAS '77
Buffalo, N.Y.

You still can’t feel your toes.
Larry Rosenthal, JD '07 & MBA '07
Brooklyn, N.Y.

You excel at solving complex multiple-choice questions, meaning very involved, “shades of gray” questions.
*Jeffrey Raugh, BS '95
Williamsville, N.Y.

Your favorite lunch was Buffalo wings at the local bar or deli.
Marilyn Gross, MS '79
Downingtown, Pa.

You started wearing your snow boots in October.
Chuck Schwartz, AT
Southampton, N.Y.

You remember traveling the underground tunnels on the Main Street campus between academic buildings with the wind whipping the snow above, and sat on the grass in the springtime under tall trees by Hayes Hall, the squirrels scampering about as you read your assignments. If you remember this, you also know you’re old.
Karyn Vampotic, JD '84, EdM '75 & BA '72
Oro Valley, Ariz.

You know how to work a bus system like a professional.
Dakotah Forell, UB biomedical sciences major
Buffalo, N.Y.

Playing volleyball anywhere but a mud pit seems just a bit too sterile.
Robert Wilder, BFA '02
Buffalo, N.Y.

The question for In My Opinion derives from the monthly electronic newsletter @UB. To read the latest question and alumni responses, go to http://alumni.buffalo.edu/ub-imo.
Kathleen F. Cellura, EdB ’59, who taught for 35 years before retiring, says friends tell her she “remains a teacher to this day.” That’s because the former public school teacher, who taught in Rochester and Fairport, NY, as well as Venice, Florida, began several new “careers” after leaving the classroom: realtor, novelist, animal welfare advocate and arts patron, to name just a few.

And though she stopped teaching, she didn’t stop caring about students.

“Philanthropy is my passion,” says Cellura, who will use proceeds from her recent novel, Forever Footprints, for philanthropic endeavors. “I have worked and invested all my life with the sole purpose of giving forward.”

Cellura established an endowment at UB to benefit Graduate School of Education students who plan to become teachers of STEM areas of study: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

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For information about making a planned gift:

Wendy Irving, Esq.
Assistant Vice President
Office of Gift Planning
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dev-pg@buffalo.edu
www.giving.buffalo.edu/planned
If UB Today is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please clip the address label and return it with the correct address to the Alumni Office, University at Buffalo, 103 Center for Tomorrow, Buffalo, NY 14260–7400.