

UB INTERNATIONAL

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UB International

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COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE LAUNCHED

By Rachel E. Stern

UB is investing \$25 million in an initiative that will harness the strengths of faculty from disciplines across the university to confront grand challenges facing humankind.

The university announced in late May 2015 the establishment of three new Communities of Excellence — an innovative and integrated approach to addressing

critical societal challenges through impactful interdisciplinary research, education and engagement.

Through Communities of Excellence, teams of faculty will work together to find solutions, pushing the boundaries of human knowledge and understanding. Faculty leaders within communities plan to create new educational opportunities that cut across multiple academic disciplines in order to address the focus area of each community.

The three Communities of Excellence, chosen from nearly 100 initial concept proposals submitted by faculty teams, are:

Global Health Equity. This community will work to address the challenge of global health inequity by bringing together faculty and students from the health sciences and disciplines that are focused on the social, economic, political and environ-

mental conditions that lead to inequities. This community will tackle problems ranging from a lack of access to sanitation for women and girls in poor countries to high rates of non-communicable diseases due to complex sets of factors, including tobacco use and the environment.

Sustainable Manufacturing and Advanced Robotic Technologies (SMART). This community will build upon UB's reputation as a leader in advanced manufacturing and design by developing the next generation of manufacturing technologies, processes and education that enable sustainable, cost-effective production of high-quality, customizable products. SMART will leverage university and regional strength in manufacturing and partner with regional companies to educate future manufacturing leaders and shape national policy.

The Genome, the Environment and the Microbiome (GEM). This community will work to advance understanding of areas that will enable development of personalized medicine and empower individuals to have greater control over and understanding of their health, the human genome and the human microbiome — the trillions of microorganisms living in and on the hu-



Leaders of the Global Health Equity team are, from left, Pavani Ram, Korydon Smith, Li Lin and Samina Raja. Photo: Douglas Levere

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COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

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man body. Through collaboration among the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, GEM will enhance UB's reputation in genomics to make UB a national model for promoting and increasing genomic literacy.

The university is investing \$25 million over the next five years in these Communities of Excellence and RENEW (Research and Education in eNergy, Environment and Water), which was launched last year and was UB's model for the Communities of Excellence.

More than 300 faculty members from across the university are active participants in the Communities of Excellence; the initiative is expected to involve faculty from all



Team leaders for the SMART team are, from left, Kemper Lewis, Omar Khan, Kenneth English and Michael Silver. Photo: Douglas Levere

UB schools.

The Communities of Excellence initiative emerged from the UB 2020 plan to advance UB's academic and research strengths in key areas.

"UB is known for interdisciplinary research and scholarship," President Satish K. Tripathi says. "Several years ago, we shifted our disciplinary research paradigm to a multidisciplinary research paradigm, and with that the faculty identified the university's strategic strengths in research, civic engagement and creative activities. The next logical stage, therefore, is for our faculty to work together to find solutions to the most pressing challenges of our world through their research, education and engagement with our local and global communities."

"UB has chosen to harness the expertise and resources of a major public university to address complex societal challenges," says Charles Zukoski, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "What is innovative

about this initiative is that it's brought together faculty from many different schools to develop new research programs, new academic programs and new ways to engage the community."

The three new Communities of Excellence were selected after a yearlong proposal process involving recommendations from external and internal expert reviews.

"This is an exciting time for UB," Zukoski says. "I am proud of the outstanding effort our faculty have devoted to the development of the Communities of Excellence concept through the proposal process. Their leadership and creative engagement have benefitted our entire academic community and will have lasting impact within our university and beyond."

Final proposals were reviewed by a panel chaired by Venu Govindaraju, interim vice president for research and economic development, and including Carl Lund, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering; Margarita Dubocovich, SUNY Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology; Cristanne Miller, SUNY Distinguished Professor of English; Joseph Gardella, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Chemistry; A. Scott Weber, senior vice provost for academic affairs; and Sean Sullivan, vice provost for academic planning, budget and evaluation.

Global Health Equity

The Community of Excellence in Global Health Equity will work to reduce disparities in health around the world, says co-leader Pavani Ram.

"The mission of our community is to reduce the sources and effects of inequity, and promote health and well-being among under-resourced populations," Ram says.

"Because of the different perspectives and strengths of faculty from all over the university — not only in the health sciences, but also in disciplines not routinely engaged in global health concerns but with the capacity for developing transformative solutions — we will have the ability to influence the influencers, the people who can take our solutions and implement them on the ground."

The community will address challenges such as access to sanitation for women and girls, exposure to air pollution among neonates, getting essential drugs to low-resource communities and access to sufficient quantities of high-quality food.

"The philosophy that underpins our Community of Excellence is very much about community-based and community-led efforts," says co-leader Samina Raja. "We really

think about what the need is on the ground and focus on developing solutions that make sense in that community."

Co-leaders of the Global Health Equity Community of Excellence are Li Lin, professor of industrial and systems engineering; Raja, associate professor of urban and regional planning; Ram, associate professor of epidemiology and environmental health; and Korydon Smith, associate professor of architecture.

Sustainable Manufacturing and Advanced Robotic Technologies (SMART)

The SMART community will develop design, manufacturing and construction systems that bring products to market faster, regardless of their size and complexity, while remaining ecologically and economically sustainable.

"As the United States and Western New York re-embrace manufacturing, our community is given the unique opportunity to develop advanced manufacturing processes and technologies that will enable cost-effective design of highly customizable, high-quality products," says co-leader Kemper Lewis. "This will allow us to overcome the competitive advantages of low-cost, low-skill labor in other places where they have very marginal regulations on environmental impact and sustainability."

The SMART team will focus on projects such as development of sustainability metrics and models to reduce waste in consumer products; methods for constructing buildings that last longer and are more sustainable; and development of an advanced humanoid robot design for on-site construction to improve efficiency, accuracy and safety.

"The community works across things as small as medical devices and as large as architectural facades and building construction systems," says co-leader Omar Khan.

The SMART community co-leaders are Khan, associate professor of architecture; Lewis, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering; Michael Silver, assistant professor of architecture; and Kenneth English, deputy director of the Center for Engineering Design and Applied Simulation (formerly NYSCEDI).

The Genome, the Environment and the Microbiome (GEM)

The interplay of the human genome, microbiome — the collection of microorganisms that reside in and on the hu-

man body — and the environment affect a person's risk for certain diseases. Knowledge of these interactions will help us personalize treatment for people who are suffering from chronic and non-chronic diseases.

With this in mind, the GEM community will work to advance the science of genomics and the microbiome, and engage colleagues in the arts, humanities and social sciences to promote an exploration of the ethical, legal and social implications of genome and microbiome research, while also developing new interdisciplinary approaches to educating the public about new discoveries and the field in general.

"The overall goal of GEM is to integrate the science of genomics and microbiomics — to advance those disciplines — and also educating our community on the impor-

tance of the sciences because they are literally going to change how medicine is practiced in the next decade," says co-leader Timothy Murphy.

The key to increasing genomic literacy and engaging and empowering the public, the group says, is through interdisciplinary research and creative activities that involve scholars across the university.

Not only will this technique improve scientific inquiry, but it will also help to maximize the impact of the group's discoveries, says co-leader Jennifer Surtees.

"We are encouraging collaborations at the interfaces of different types of disciplines," she says. "We want to try and introduce genomic themes to a broad swath of people in a way that engages them."

"That is where our collaboration with the arts and the humanities will really come into play. We are trying to form a true community that embraces all of the disciplines represented by the university to advance the science, as well as communicate that science to everybody."

The GEM community is led by Murphy, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Medicine; Norma Nowak, professor of biochemistry and executive director of UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics & Life Sciences; and Surtees, associate professor of biochemistry. 🌐

Rachel E. Stern is a digital news specialist for University Communications.



Leaders of the GEM team are, from left, Timothy Murphy, Norma Nowak and Jennifer Surtees. Photo: Douglas Levere

FROM THE VICE PROVOST

As someone who has greatly enjoyed studying, working, and living in France, I was shocked and saddened by the terrorist attacks in Paris on November 13, 2015.

With many of my colleagues, I spent some very anxious hours that evening checking on students, colleagues and friends in Paris to confirm their safety. At UB we were very fortunate that none of our students or faculty were directly affected by the attacks.

As we did in the aftermath of the attacks, we reaffirm our solidarity with our partners and colleagues in France. We have many longstanding partner institutions in France that collaborate with UB on research and provide outstanding study abroad and internship opportunities to our students.

The recent terrorist attacks, both here and abroad, and the issuance of a Worldwide Travel Alert by the U.S. Department of State have understandably increased anxiety among those planning international travel. Nevertheless, I have been gratified by the fact that as a consequence relatively few UB students have decided not to pursue their plans to study abroad this winter and spring. I believe this is the right decision, and expect the 150 students going abroad this winter and 58 going this spring will ultimately be happy with their decision also.

Our experience with the attacks in Paris offers reassurance that our emergency protocols work well. That terrible November evening we were able to ascertain relatively quickly the whereabouts and status of the four UB students studying in Paris at the time. We were also able to check on other UB students in Europe, several of whom were traveling the weekend of the attacks, including one who had flown to Paris. Fortunately, all were safe and could continue their programs with minimal disruption.

In addition to challenging us to revisit our protocols and pre-departure preparations for students, the recent attacks remind us that it is more important than ever that our students study abroad. A sustained, purposeful engagement with another culture is the best way for any of us to transcend the limits of the parochial thinking and attitudes that make it so easy to ignore the humanity of others around the world.

This is especially important for citizens of the United States, the world's most powerful country separated by

large oceans from Asia and Europe, where parochial thinking is fostered and encouraged by our privileged position in the world. Sadly, that parochialism is often further reinforced by our media and our leaders, and we have come to realize that the worldwide web does not in and of itself make anyone a global citizen.



Terrorism and the global refugee crisis have served to stoke fear and strengthen the hand of those who would keep refugees and others out of the United States. Indeed, some, including candidates for high office, would seek to take advantage of current anxieties to foment xenophobia and isolationism, as if the U.S. in this day and age could be walled off from the rest of the world. Pandering to fear and defaming entire religions and

cultures to "reassure" voters is a nasty old trick, and should be definitively rejected by all.

By learning firsthand about other countries and cultures through study abroad, our students can better understand perspectives very different from their own and see themselves as others see them--the critical first step toward achieving mutual understanding and a more peaceful world.

Current events call on us to recommit ourselves to the key principles that are the basis of international education and exchange. While we endeavor to send more of our students out to various parts of the world, we encourage many more from abroad to study here at UB and to share their cultures with our campus community.

This is more difficult to do when blatant hostility to foreigners is part of the national conversation. In contrast, UB prides itself on the warm welcome we extend to students and scholars from more than 110 countries, who find Western New York is likewise a hospitable and supportive community for newcomers.

I remain confident that international education, whether through study abroad or through the many global learning opportunities here at UB, will help the next generation of U.S. citizens achieve a global perspective, acquire cross-cultural understanding, and the capacity to recognize the common humanity of those very different from themselves. 🌐

Stephen C. Dunnett is professor of Foreign Language Education and Vice Provost for International Education.

PRESIDENT ATTENDS GRADUATION, HOSTS ALUMNI IN INDIA

President Satish K. Tripathi visited India in late October 2015 to participate in the commencement ceremony for graduates of UB's two master's degree programs offered in cooperation with Amrita University, UB's longstanding partner. The commencement was held at the Amrita campus in Bangalore.

UB has collaborated with Amrita on a Master of Science in Management: Business Analytics and Systems since 2009, and a Master of Science in Embedded Systems since 2013. In addition to President and Mrs. Kamlesh Tripathi, Professor Stephen Dunnett, Vice Provost for International Education, attended the October 31 ceremony as well as Professor Ramaswamy Ramesh and Professor Bharat Jayaraman, the directors of the management and engineering programs, respectively; and Mr. Wei Loon Leong, director of International Alumni Engagement.

Dr. Venkat Rangan, Vice Chancellor of Amrita University, and Mr. P. Manoj, Chair of the Amrita School of Business, were their hosts.

Prior to traveling to Bangalore, President Tripathi and Professor Dunnett visited Amrita's Coimbatore campus in order to sign two new agreements with Amrita and to take part in a symposium on the role of universities in economic development.

In keeping with the strategic initiatives of UB2020 and President Tripathi's ongoing effort to engage with alumni and friends of the university, the first-ever reception for UB alumni in India, jointly organized with Amrita, was held at The Gateway Hotel Residency Road in Bangalore the evening of October 31.

The reception drew more than 120 alumni and family members from across India. The group included alumni who graduated from UB in the early 1970s onward, as well as graduates of the UB-Amrita master's degree programs who had received their diplomas that morning. The program began with a welcome on behalf of the Alumni Association by Mr. Leong, followed by remarks by Mr. Manoj. In his remarks, Rangan noted the longstanding partnership with UB and his appreciation for the success that the relationship has achieved to date with the offering of the dual-degree programs between Amrita and UB.

President Tripathi conveyed his appreciation to Amrita University for their kindness and hospitality during his trip to India. Tripathi shared the latest updates from UB with the audience including the university's recent ranking as one of the top 50 public research universities in the USA,

notable research and scholarship grants, the new General Education curriculum with international and experiential learning enhancements, and his long term goal of having a flourishing UB Alumni Association chapter in India.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of



Ashutosh Sharma (l) receives the Outstanding Alumni Award from President Tripathi

three Outstanding Alumni Awards. The recipients were Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India; Dr. Uday B. Desai, Director, India Institute of Technology, Hyderabad; and Dr. Shriram V. Revankar, Vice President and Global Head of Research on Big Data and Business Intelligence Technologies. All of the awardees recalled their early experience and UB and noted how their UB education played a role in the success of their careers.

This first alumni gathering in India was a moment for everyone to share and reminisce about their memorable times at UB. Alumni who have graduated from the UB campus in Buffalo and alums who received their UB degrees through the dual degree programs between UB and Amrita University all came together to recall their UB experiences while building friendships along the way.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Leong thanked everyone at Amrita University for their continuous support and hard work in making the event a success while noting that alumni engagement in India was off to a good start. The long term plan is to establish an alumni chapter in India that can enhance the engagement with UB of the 2000 alumni currently residing in the country. 🌐

Wei Loon Leong, director of international alumni engagement, contributed to this article.

REFLECTING ON THE PARIS ATTACKS

By Rachel E. Stern

First, Gabrielle Duval didn't know it was terrorism. She was traveling through the Place de la Republique on the metro when she heard something. It was loud, but the UB Ph.D. student didn't realize it was the sound of an attack.

"We got off the metro and things got really scary quickly," Duval told the UB Reporter in a telephone conversation earlier this week. "We thought it was localized or maybe something at the metro station. Then everyone disappeared. The streets were empty."

Duval, who is spending a year in France as part of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures exchange program with the University of Paris, said it wasn't until her mother called her and told her what was happening that she knew the noise she heard was part of a larger terrorist attack.

Duval and her friends hid at a locked-down bar near the metro station for two hours. She said she then had to walk home, which is on the other side of the city. Her family in the United States was in contact with her the entire time, keeping her informed of what was going on.

"Paris is lonely right now," she said. "It's scary. They targeted what Paris is to me: youth and entertainment, and places that represent that liveliness, like cafes and bars and concerts. But we have to pull it together and not let it stop us."

All four UB students studying in Paris are safe, as well as the two students studying in the south of France.

For Duval, the feelings that came to mind with these terrorist attacks were similar to how she felt after Sept. 11. She said people in France stocked up on groceries and mostly stayed at home in the days right after the attacks. She honored the victims by lighting candles and saying a prayer at one of the incident locations on Sunday.

Duval said police told people to stay home unless they absolutely had to leave. Streets were pretty deserted in the days after the attacks, she said.

"It's crazy because we don't usually go to the area that was attacked, but we just happened to be there that night," said Duval, who is studying French language and literature. "I'm lucky because I didn't know anyone injured, but it's still so scary."

Amy Graves-Monroe feels lucky, too. She went straight

to Facebook after the attacks to make sure the people she knew in France were OK.

Graves-Monroe, an associate professor in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, typically visits France once or twice a year. The last time she was there was the week following the Charlie Hebdo attack.

She lived in the neighborhood where some of the attacks occurred and compared it to Buffalo's Allentown. It's an up-and-coming neighborhood, she said.

"The places targeted were where young people congregate, like Chipewa or Allen Street," she said. "These were young people out at a soccer match, or a concert, or out for dinner. They couldn't have really hit a nerve more open than that. You can't help but feel for all the young people who were so

exposed in the middle of their Friday night enjoying what France is supposed to be."

Maureen Jameson, associate professor of French, was last in Paris in 2009-10. She lived on a street where five people were killed during the terror attacks.

"I felt bad for the French people because, as they say, it really is a place where they celebrate the enjoyment of life," she said. "That really took a hit last week."

Jameson said she has been studying French since grade school and there is a reason why it is the most visited country in the world.

After the attacks last week, Jameson said she was pleased to hear that people took Duval under their wing and looked out for her.

For Jeannette Ludwig, director of the French language program, the terror attacks will change what she does in the classroom.

"We have to have conversations about this," she said. "Today, our world is so interconnected that you think it happened really far away, but it affects all of us. We have to assist our students in learning how to think about things like this." Those conversations have already begun, she said. Ludwig said she spent time on Monday talking about what happened with her class and plans to keep doing so.

"For me, it is personal," said Ludwig, who has lived in France several times and teaches a course called "Islam in France." "It is what I do. But everybody has an obligation if they teach to help students reflect on issues that events like this raise.

A student said to me, 'I hope 2016 is better.' 🌍



UB's Center for the Arts illuminated with the colors of the French flag following the Paris attacks
Photo: Douglas Levere

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

By Charles Anzalone

Students describe their experience as "uncovering the road to a vast and unknown ocean" they had only seen glimpses of, and "the most powerful academic program" they have ever been a part of.

They are talking about the Cambridge Undergraduate Scholars Program, a prime example of "experiential learning," or finding learning opportunities outside the classroom. UB has declared experiential learning an educational priority that will continue to expand in coming years. The rewards of experiential learning range from taking advantage of research and experts beyond UB classrooms to establishing professional networks that lead to postgraduate opportunities.

The Cambridge Undergraduate Scholars Program reflects what is becoming a UB academic signature: giving the best students a top-notch, off-campus experience.

"I think research and experiential training are critical for our students' success in life, independent of the career they choose," says Satpal Singh, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, who envisioned the Cambridge program and now leads it. "It immerses the students in real-life situations like no classroom lectures, or even teaching laboratories, can do."

Singh's high aspirations have paid off for the five undergraduates who spent 10 weeks this past summer conducting research in the intellectually heady atmosphere of Cambridge University. Each student was matched with a faculty mentor in Cambridge, and Singh also co-mentored the students. Not only did the student benefit from experiential learning, but the program was located at what Singh called "among the most outstanding and revered institutions in the world."

"Its researchers are engaged in research at the forefront of several areas," he says. "In addition, an international experience and interaction with faculty and students from different cultures adds a new dimension to students' experiences, which helps them in formulating their career plans."

The students returned to UB this fall with glowing endorsements of their 10-week summer research programs.

"I would recommend this program to as many students as possible," says Alexandra Van Hall, a senior chemistry major from Owego with minors in mathematics and statistics. She calls the Cambridge experience "without a doubt, the most powerful academic experience" she has ever participated in.

"The academic atmosphere of Cambridge is like no

other place and is extremely inspiring," she says. "Being pushed to work quickly and having long days was difficult, but really paid off. I accomplished so much more in 10 weeks than I ever thought I could. My project was a success and this has given me confidence in my research abilities."

"For me, this trip was a growing experience, personally and academically."

Antara Majumdar, a junior biomedical sciences major from Astoria, Queens, says she entered the application process convinced she would never have a chance because there were so many other students more qualified and tal-



ented than she. She sold herself short, as it turned out, and her experience was nothing short of transforming.

"I truly believe the Cambridge program really altered my perception of my own capabilities," she says. "I drew inspiration from the seminars I attended, where visiting scientists would discuss their research so clearly. Sometimes they would draw laughs from the audience. But mostly, they were very clear about largely complex topics."

"Every week I learned even more to enjoy being in the lab and to learn from my mistakes," she says. "The beauty of being somewhere such as Cambridge is that you can tell that the attitudes of the scientists are different. In a way, it is collaborative and people are constantly going to seminars and conferences."

Majumdar calls her daily walks through Cambridge "nothing short of exciting."

"I liked the small-town and cosmopolitan feel that the streets were a blend of," she says. "Seeing the chapels and walking through narrow streets was another highlight. I would, without a doubt, go back to Cambridge for future studies. Before I went there, Cambridge was just one of those universities where I thought I would never be able to go. Looking through their website, I would be intimidated by how professional and historical everything looked. I

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CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH PROGRAM

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learned to see beyond that through this trip. I even made three good friends while I was there," she says.

"My lab mentor would constantly ask me each week, 'Are you enjoying this project?' I started reading a lot of articles and got to know the true beauty of the topic I was researching," she says. "It felt like uncovering the road to a vast and unknown ocean, and I had only seen a glimpse of it."

Mara B. Huber, associate dean for undergraduate education and experiential learning who helped develop the model in partnership with UB Study Abroad, says Singh, who accompanied the students to Cambridge, was "a wonderful mentor," committed to student success in research and advanced education.

ELI STUDENTS FROM BRAZIL PART OF GROW HOME PROJECT

By Colleen Maloney-Berman

The English Language Institute (ELI) was thrilled to be involved in the production of the GRoW Home, UB's first-ever entry to the US Department of Energy's So-



ELI students from Brazil hold the Brazilian flag in the top row next to the GRoW Home

lar Decathlon. Competitors in the Solar Decathlon must design, build and operate energy-efficient, solar-powered homes, complete with appliances and furniture. There were 17 teams in this year's decathlon.

Five of the ELI's former students, all participants in the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program, worked on the GRoW Home in various capacities. Suzy Kim, an ELI student in 2013, worked on the home over the summer of 2014 to compile an encyclopedia of information and analysis from previous solar decathlon teams. The UB team used that

"Dr. Singh's vision to connect outstanding UB undergraduates with opportunities to work with Cambridge faculty in their labs may be the foundation for something even bigger," Huber says.

"We are working to expand the program to include summer research opportunities at Oxford for the 2016 program. Building out this initiative takes both vision and commitment, both of which Dr. Singh exemplifies through his leadership and dedication."

"Congratulations to the inaugural class of UB participants," she says. "They have represented our campus well and paved the way for future students who will go on to make amazing discoveries and contributions to their respective fields." 🌐

Charles Anzalone is a senior editor for University Communications.

data to develop and evaluate designs for the GRoW Home.

Caio Da Silva, an ELI student in 2014, worked over the summer of 2015 to plan for the logistics of rigging and shipping the house for its journey to and from California. Izabella Tavares Fernandes, also at the ELI in 2014, and a student in the School of Architecture, worked on the GRoW Home's communications team. Izabella led official tours of the home during the competition in Irvine, CA, and she also helped produce the home's official audiovisual presentation. The A/V component showcased the home's energy-saving features, its novel 'Growlarium' space, and its comfortable living areas.

Luan Torres Teixeira Amorim, an ELI student in Summer 2015, acted the role of one of the home's inhabitants in the video. Juliana Ribeiro Arruda Queiroga de Andrade, with the ELI in 2014, tested some of the house's appliances to predict with greater precision their energy consumption. Juliana also worked on the assembly of the home in California. Her team had one week to assemble the GRoW Home on its assigned site, including leveling the entire structure to accom-

modate an 18-degree slope in the terrain.

All the BMSP students worked under the skillful leadership of the GRoW Home's lead faculty advisor, Professor Martha Bohm. ELI Program Director Colleen Maloney-Berman provided the voice-over for the official GRoW Home video. Along with the entire UB community, the ELI was immensely proud of the GRoW Home's success. 🌐

Colleen Maloney-Berman is program director of the Intensive English Program at the ELI.

UB TEAM FINISHES SECOND IN INTERNATIONAL SOLAR DECATHLON

By David J. Hill

Countless hours of designing, building, fine-tuning and fundraising over the past two and a half years have paid off for the more than 200 UB students and faculty members who worked on the GRoW (Garden, Relax or Work) Home.

Their super-efficient solar-powered masterpiece placed second overall in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon. The final results were tabulated on October 17, 2015, and the top three overall place finishers were announced during a ceremony inside a former military hangar in Orange County Great Park in Irvine, California, where the 10-day competition took place.

"I couldn't be more thrilled and prouder of the team. Watching them elevate their level of performance with every new milestone that we got



to, they just rose to every challenge that they met," said Martha Bohm, GRoW Home faculty advisor and assistant professor of architecture in UB's School of Architecture and Planning.

The UB team finished with 941.191 points out of a possible 1,000. Stevens Institute of Technology, hailing from Hoboken, New Jersey, took first place with 950.685.

Stevens' Hurricane Sandy-inspired SURE House was designed to be ultra efficient while still capable of supplying power during an emergency. California State Polytechnic University placed third with 910 points. SUNY Alfred was part of one of the teams competing this year.

Altogether, 16 university teams competed in 2015 from across the U.S. and several foreign countries, including Germany, Italy, Panama and Singapore. Among past

winners in the competition is UB's longstanding partner, the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, which came in first twice (2007 and 2009).

"To finish second is an incredible testament to the teamwork everyone on the project has put into this house



The GRoW Home, UB's entry in the Solar Decathlon competition

over the last two and a half years," said Chris Osterhoudt, project manager and a 2015 master's in architecture graduate from UB's School of Architecture and Planning.

"The competition was incredibly intense," Osterhoudt added. "We finished top five in every contest. For that to happen, every member of the team had to pull their weight and had to do their best, and they did." UB's GRoW Home placed third in Communications (announced on Friday), one of five juried competitions held as part of the 10-category event.

"It's an incredible compliment to the quality of the student base that produced it, the quality of the faculty that managed it and to the tremendous support we've received from our sponsors, both in the Buffalo Niagara region and around the world," said Robert Shibley, dean of UB's School of Architecture and Planning.

Of the non-juried, measured contest categories, UB's GRoW Home fared best in Comfort Zone (first place with 95.719 out of 100 points), Commuting (tied for first with 100), Energy Balance (tied for first with 100) and Appliances (second with 99.523).

Seeing how the GRoW Home has performed once it was actually up and running has been one of the most rewarding aspects of the Solar Decathlon, according to Bohm.

"To see the house exceed our expectations in performance once we actually set it up and started running it was phenomenal.

"We did exceptionally well in the core challenge of this competition, which is making a beautiful piece of architecture perform very well." 🌐

David J. Hill is a news content manager for University Communications.

LIFE IN RUSSIA A SPECIAL CHALLENGE FOR FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

By Charles Anzalone

There is a photo of UB Fulbright scholar Courtney Burroughs standing in the middle of the immense, frozen Volga River. It's a dramatic shot, humbling even for Western New Yorkers and others familiar with winter, for its seemingly endless, merciless expanse of ice and snow. That picture almost emanates bone-chilling cold.

What's equally memorable is Burroughs: She looks radiant, alive, jubilant, thriving around all that whiteness in what appears to be anything but a hospitable environment.

This photo—and many more she took during her nine months in the formerly closed Russian military city of Saratov — provides a shorthand version of yet another UB graduate who ended her undergraduate career as part of an elite, scholarly fraternity.

She's the latest UB student who left familiar surroundings for an adventure that was profoundly formative and as fun as it was challenging, both professionally and personally. After teaching college students English in Saratov for nine months, she returned a different — or maybe enhanced — person than she was at graduation.

"You have to grow up faster in Russia," says Burroughs, a 2014 graduate of UB who this week left her hometown of Penfield, a suburb of Rochester, to start law school at the University of Miami. "You have to be more independent and mature."

And like most of her UB Fulbright colleagues, Burroughs acknowledges she never knew the Fulbright opportunity existed when she entered UB, much less considered herself Fulbright material.

"It was incredibly valuable" Burroughs says. "It was incredible to work and be with the Russian people because for many of them, I was the first American they had ever met.

"I had a really great time. People would just stop you on the street and talk to you because they knew you didn't belong. They wouldn't know you were American, but they would just know you weren't Russian. So they would talk to you and ask you questions about the U.S. A lot of people wanted to know how to get an American visa. Or just

general questions. What is your life like? Do you like Rihanna?"

Courtney Burroughs browses in the New Years/Christmas markets in Red Square in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.

Anyone looking for glimpses into Burroughs' Fulbright experience has that photo. Another certain way to measure those nine months is to talk to her. She sounds much

older than her 22 years. Nothing like the Type A personality she said she was before she left. Nothing like the young woman who showed up in her dorm room in Saratov and found it not only had no hot water, it sometimes had no running water at all "for no explainable reason," she says. Or who discovered the food served in Saratov the majority of the time is a combination of beets, potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes,

onions, carrots and buckwheat.

Her nine months there—from September 2014 through this past June—are chronicled in her extensive blog, complete with quality photos. It's a permanent record that earned her praise from Elizabeth Colucci, coordinator of fellowships and scholarships for UB, whose office has been instrumental in identifying and nurturing students competing for Fulbrights and other national and international fellowships in recent years. Burroughs is one of more than 90 UB students to receive Fulbright scholarships in recent years.

"Courtney's blog about her year in Russia was an amazing insight into a Fulbright experience," Colucci says. "Courtney immersed herself in the Russian life and was able to be a true ambassador of American life to her students. The yearlong cultural exchange that a person gains from a Fulbright year is unique."

Unique is putting it mildly. The fabled Russian winter was in full force in Saratov, which although located about 500 kilometers south of Moscow, still lived up to its billing, even for someone who grew up in an area known for its snow.

"Strong winds come off the Volga because the river is so huge," Burroughs says. "In the winter in Saratov, it completely freezes over. So many people go out and ski and ride snowmobiles and walk on it.

"It got to negative 37 some days. That's the coldest it got. Usually, it just stayed between negative 10 to negative 20. From November to March it was still really cold.



Courtney Burroughs on the frozen expanse of the Volga River

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SENIOR IS SECOND UB STUDENT IN THREE YEARS TO WIN MARSHALL

By Charles Anzalone

UB senior economics major Sean Kaczmarek has been chosen to receive a Marshall Scholarship, one of the most selective graduate fellowships available to American undergraduates and an honor many consider the country's most prestigious scholarship.

Although his actual placement has yet to be decided, he most likely will study at Oxford University.

Kaczmarek, who became the youngest person ever elected to the Cheektowaga-Sloan Board of Education, is the second UB student selected as a Marshall Scholar in the past three years.

He joins the ranks of other Marshall Scholarship winners who have included prominent CEOs, Supreme Court justices, members of Congress and the U.S. Cabinet, university presidents and Pulitzer Prize-winning authors.

Kaczmarek is a recipient of UB's Provost Scholarship, an HSBC Scholarship and has studied in China on a Fulbright-Hays Grant. He

is also a Western New York Prosperity Fellow, an annual gift supported by the Prentice Family Foundation given to civic-minded students with entrepreneurial spirits.

"A Marshall Scholarship is one of the most prestigious honors a student can receive," says President Satish K. Tripathi. "These are really students who go on to change the world.

"Sean is richly deserving of this recognition, and it is wonderful to see more and more of our outstanding students compete successfully on a global stage," Tripathi says. "The student experience we foster at UB is ultimately focused on preparing our students to be thoughtful, experienced, globally minded leaders in their fields. Students like Sean really embody that vision and are using their experiences at UB as the springboard for leadership in a wide array of areas, from civic and governmental leadership to science, arts and culture, business and industry, and the professions," he says.

"On behalf of the entire UB community, I want to extend my heartiest congratulations to Sean, as well as to his faculty and staff mentors."

A graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Cheektowaga, Kaczmarek has been a teaching assistant in the Department of Economics; a member of the New York State executive board for College Democrats of New York, serving as political director of the Western New York region; and has interned for the Interdisciplinary Science

and Engineering Partnership (ISEP), a UB-led program to improve science education in the Buffalo Public Schools.

Kaczmarek, whose particular interest is finding ways to make a more equitable system of public education, says he will know more soon about how his Marshall Scholarship will serve as a way to further his goals.

"It's an amazing opportunity," he says. "I still can't believe I have it. To study policy issues in a world-class university with world-class scholars is the opportunity of a lifetime."



Photo by Douglas Levere

His story has a distinctive and familiar Buffalo flavor. The son of Thomas and Mary Kaczmarek, two U.S. Postal Service workers, and grandson of a steel mill employee, Kaczmarek comes from a family he says was "relegated to the Old First Ward in Buffalo, a neighborhood meant for poor immigrants."

Education, he says, was a way he could prove himself.

"I don't believe I have any special talents or attributes," he said when he was named a finalist for the national Harry S. Truman Scholarship earlier this year. But education became the avenue to opportunity, just the way it has for generations of talented and determined working-class people before him.

"For me, education is personal," he says. "I am a first-generation college student who realized education would open up opportunities for me, and I want education to hold the same power for all students."

Elizabeth Colucci, coordinator of fellowships and scholarships at UB, calls Kaczmarek "an amazing individual, and it has been my pleasure to work with him throughout the fellowship process." Colucci's office has fostered a significant increase in the number of UB undergraduates chosen for nationally competitive scholarships: In the past three years, UB students have received three Goldwater Scholarships, a Boren Scholarship, two Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships and a Critical Language Scholarship.

Kaczmarek "is a leader and an ardent advocate for improving education through thoughtful, well-crafted education policy," Colucci says. "He has worked tirelessly on the (Cheektowaga-Sloan) board of education and in the Buffalo Public Schools to make positive changes in the learning process and environment for children."

Colucci says Kaczmarek has the "passion, intellect and

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FULBRIGHT IN RUSSIA

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But the brutal part was late December, January, February and the beginning of March. You just get used to it and everyone goes about their life as normal. Everybody wears fur coats because when it's that cold, you have to. Other coats are too expensive, so they wear their inherited fur coats."

Buffalo gets more snow than Saratov, she says. But there is ice everywhere.

"The sidewalks have 6 inches of ice, just because people can't keep up with it. Everything freezes so quickly and some people don't want to shovel the sidewalks. I must have fallen daily. At first it was like 'Oh my goodness, this is terrible.'

"But it just becomes comical. You would see big men pretending to be all tough. They would have their Russian face on and they would just wipe out in the snow. The babushkas would stop to laugh at them. It just happens to everyone."

When Burroughs arrived at her university dormitory, there was no heat because Russians use hot water for heat. And because there was no hot water, there was no heat.

Burroughs eventually moved to an apartment — one room with a small kitchen and small bathroom. But when she asked the other students about a university dormitory without heat, they just shrugged. "Oh yeah," they would answer in Russian. "It just happens."

Then there was the 17-hour train ride from Moscow to Saratov. And the hour-long lines in the post office when the Russian workers would shut down the work flow and get actively involved in arguments about people's places in line.

Burroughs quickly learned how to defend herself from cut-ins in Russian. Then there was the sign-up sheet for a shower in her original dormitory. "Not a hot shower, just a shower," Burroughs says. "There were only 12 sign-up spots a day for a shower."

"You appreciate everything," she says. "I realized I took everything for granted."

"And the people are really friendly," she says. "People think Russians are cold and rude. Not at all. At first, they are very skeptical of a stranger. But after five minutes, they invite you to their homes and they want you to meet their grandparents. Once you have a friend in Russia, that's a friend for life."

Colucci points proudly to Burroughs' testimony and the growth and richness her nine months in Saratov had on her life. And there is a clear message Colucci is not coy about pointing out.

"Courtney simultaneously applied to law school and to be a Fulbright English teaching assistant," she says. "The year spent in Russia has given her international insights that she will bring to her law studies. 'I hope other UB students consider this opportunity.'"

MARSHALL SCHOLAR

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drive" to be a leader in the effort to improve the educational system of New York and the nation."

"Sean's goal to eventually be an elected official with the ability to direct this change in public education will be greatly enhanced by his graduate studies in the UK as a Marshall Scholar," she says. "Marshall Scholars are national and international leaders in their fields, and Sean is joining this esteemed group of individuals. To have Sean recognized at that level is a reflection of excellence at the University at Buffalo. Having two Marshall Scholarship winners in three years from UB is a testament to the strength of our students, faculty and academic programs. It truly is an amazing moment for UB and for Sean."

Those who wrote recommendations for Kaczmarek stressed his contributions and commitment to the Western New York community.

"Through tutoring and teaching in the Buffalo Public Schools, as a board of education trustee and through his involvement both inside and outside of my office, Sean has already had a profound impact on the Western New York community," New York State Sen. Timothy M. Kennedy wrote.

Kaczmarek's passion to make a difference in his hometown also was cited in the recommendation written by Joseph A. Gardella Jr., SUNY Distinguished Professor and John and Frances Larkin Professor of Chemistry.

"Mr. Kaczmarek was assigned to work at School 93 Southside Elementary supporting science teachers and working with Southside students," wrote Gardella, ISEP project lead. "He immediately established himself as a key resource for working with students with a strong and helpful personality."

Kaczmarek's selection as a Marshall Scholar also reflects the determination and resolve of those working-class roots. After not being chosen for the Truman Scholarship, Kaczmarek says he almost chose not to enter the competitive and arduous application path for the Marshall Scholarship, partly because he seriously doubted whether he could even qualify as a finalist. The short timetable to the interview process was much more intense than previous scholarship competitions he had taken part in, he says.

Colucci urged him to apply and his first impulse was to pass.

But Kaczmarek did apply, and he started the process that Colucci's office sets into motion for all applicants vying for the nation's top academic scholarships. This included three lengthy, mock interviews — sometimes two in one day — with UB faculty and administrators assuming the part of the Marshall Scholarship panelists.

"My friends, family and advisers deserve all the credit in the world," Kaczmarek says. "Through all the doubts and questions, they had my back and supported me. I couldn't be more thankful."

AIDING SYRIAN REFUGEES ON THE FRONT LINE

By Marcene Robinson

The two female students who scored the highest on the Syrian national high school final exam studied in a small basement classroom without electricity near Damascus, the Syrian capital at the heart of the country's four-year civil war.

"In spite of everything, those two girls rank first and second in all of Syria — from a war-zone area," says Othman Shibly, clinical associate professor in the UB School of Dental Medicine.

The school is one of 15 that the Syrian-born dental professor helped established in the suburbs of Damascus. And although the war has produced countless atrocities, the accomplishments of his students are a point of pride and inspiration.



Othman Shibly caring for a Syrian patient

In addition to the schools he helped build, Shibly worked with members of the Buffalo community to create more than 20 dental clinics in refugee camps in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon.

These camps house hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees, 75 percent of whom are women and children, he says. More than one-third of Syria's population has become refugees, according to the European University Institute.

Shibly traveled to the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan on Oct. 20 with nearly \$20,000 in dental supplies donated by Henry Schein, the world's largest provider of health care products and services. Before the end of the year, he also plans to tend to refugee patients in Turkey.

Children brush their teeth in one of 20 dental clinics in refugee camps in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon established by UB faculty member Othman Shibly and members of the Buffalo community.

Shibly first toured a Syrian refugee camp in 2012 while attending a dental conference in Istanbul. Moved by what

he witnessed, he returned to Buffalo and began fundraising to establish the camp's first full-service dental clinics.

Since then, he has partnered with several UB Dental alumni and the Syrian American Medical Society to raise more than \$100,000 and found nearly two dozen dental clinics.

"I knew that one visit wouldn't be enough to address all of the problems," Shibly says.

"Everything collapsed, so there isn't a good medical system or resources or experienced dental personnel available. And many of the refugees are living in these camps with war injuries and without the proper health care."

Despite the ongoing conflict and personal demands, Shibly travels to the camps every few months to deliver additional supplies and donate his time.

Some of the clinics, staffed by volunteers and Syrian refugee dentists, serve nearly 100 refugees daily, performing treatments that range from fillings and root canals to trauma support. For his upcoming visit, Shibly recruited several maxillofacial surgeons to repair broken jaw bones.

"We're helping out of compassion, not sympathy," says Shibly. "These people are like us — they are teachers, doctors, nurses. They just happen to be in this conflict."

By helping start schools in Syria, he says he hopes to provide Syrian children with those same career opportunities.

The schools, which range from elementary to secondary, have taught more than 5,000 children. The students, however, are not refugees. They are the children of families who chose not to leave the war zone.

To avoid explosions, classes are held in basements, all of which lack electricity. One of the schools recently lost a math teacher as a result of a bombing, says Shibly.

"Can you imagine the kind of trauma those children are exposed to if, every week or so, one desk is empty because a classmate was killed?" he asks.

Shibly understands the significance of his support to Syrian students and refugees.

He recalls the story of a Syrian college student who also dedicated her time to teaching children. When her father came to rescue her from the war, moments before leaving the country, she watched her students begin to cry as they waved goodbye and couldn't bring herself to leave, he says.

"She begged her father to stop, telling him, 'Either I live with them or I die with them,'" says Shibly, who later

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PARTNERING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA ON CORAL REEF RESEARCH

By Howard Lasker and Mary Alice Coffroth

UB has had a relationship with the University of Havana since 1999, and the changing US-Cuba relationship, in addition to piquing interest, has simplified travel to the island for study and research.

Among those taking advantage of the simplified rules have been two UB Department of Geology faculty, Howard Lasker and Mary Alice Coffroth. Coffroth and Lasker, whose research focuses on coral reefs traveled to Cuba in June 2015 to meet with colleagues at the University of Havana Centro de Investigaciones Marinas (CIM), and to see some of Cuba's extensive coral reefs. The goals of the trip were to explore opportunities to bring UB students to Cuba and develop collaborations with CIM scientists.

While in Cuba the UB researchers were hosted by Patricia González, the Director of the CIM. Coffroth and Lasker had previously met González at a workshop on Caribbean octocorals that they had organized in 2007.

Cuban coral reefs have had a reputation of being in better condition than much of the Caribbean, and the reefs have long interested the UB researchers. This past Spring Coffroth and Lasker started corresponding with Dr. González about teaching and research opportunities in Cuba. That led to the June trip, which was partially funded by UB's Faculty Internationalization Fund.

The coral reefs of Cuba are diverse and widespread, ranging from shallow lagoons ringed by white sand beaches, to sloping reef terraces covered with corals, octocorals and sponges and walls that drop-off into blue oceanic water. The reefs can be found along undeveloped coasts as well as offshore of cities such as Havana.

Some of the reefs are among the most pristine in the Caribbean, but others have been adversely affected by overfishing and pollution, and all of the reefs are subject to the effects of climate change. To protect its reefs Cuba has created numerous Marine Protected Areas, encompassing 15% of its coastal waters.

Cuban scientists at the CIM have well developed programs studying their reefs, and one of their projects has focused on comparing reefs subject to varying degrees of stress. After a day of presenting seminars and meeting with researchers, González led Lasker and Coffroth on several days of diving on reefs that the CIM scientists have

been studying.

The UB researchers did not have opportunity to see the very best of Cuban reefs, which were too far offshore for their brief visit, but those that they did visit were impressive and reefs only a few hours' drive from Havana were as healthy and had as much biodiversity as many far more remote Caribbean reefs.

While US citizens are not aware of it, Cuba is one of the primary tourist destinations in the Caribbean, and a question on the mind of many is how its reef ecosystems will



Patricia Gonzalez exploring the Llaya Coral east of Havana

be affected by the accelerated tourist development that might occur with further opening up of the island to US citizens.

While no firm plans have been developed, both Coffroth and Lasker hope to return and work with CIM researchers in studying Cuban reefs. 🌐

SERVING SYRIAN REFUGEES

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helped the same college student found her own school near Damascus.

An ardent believer in giving back to the community, Shibly strives to instill similar values in his children and UB students as well.

"We cannot wait for the United Nations and other super powers to find solutions," he says. "Every one of us should think of what we can offer to help, whether it be through medical relief, education or the settlement of refugees in the U.S. The support will make a difference in the lives of those Syrian people." 🌐

UB LEADS BUFFALO-JAMAICA PARTNERSHIP

By Michael Andrei

Dignitaries from Jamaica and Western New York convened in Buffalo on July 15, 2015 for the first annual meeting of the Buffalo Jamaica Innovation Enterprise (BJIE), where the main topic of conversation was the planned establishment of a Jamaican center to study infectious diseases.

The event took place at UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences (CBLIS).

The BJIE was formed to create the foundation for a partnership that will lead to a number of collaborative projects, including the Jamaica Center for Infectious Diseases Research (CIDR).

This Jamaica-based institution—a collaboration between the Jamaica Ministry of Health; the University of the West Indies at Mona in Kingston, Jamaica; UB; and SUNY — will seek to provide a regional center of excellence for Caribbean countries for the study of infectious diseases.

The July 15 meeting included welcoming remarks from Charles F. Zukoski, UB provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

Perspectives and comments were provided by Buffalo Mayor and new SUNY Trustee Byron W. Brown; SUNY Trustee Eunice A. Lewin; Charles L. Anderson Sr., chairman of the board of the Jamaican and American Association of Buffalo; and Sharon Hrynkow, president, Global Virus Network.

Components of CIDR were presented by Fenton R. Ferguson, Jamaica Minister of Health; and John F. Lindo, professor and associate dean (research) in the Faculty of Medical Sciences and department chair for microbiology at the University of the West Indies.

BJIE and the July 15 meeting are the result of a planning process that began in 2012 and included weekly meetings of a core planning committee that included Gene D. Morse, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Anderson; and

Beverly Joy, an executive committee board member of the Jamaican and American Association of Buffalo.

"This represents a wonderful opportunity to bring together the extensive international research and education training experience at UB with a regional Caribbean leader that will lead to new translational and implementation initiatives built on an integrated sciences approach," said

Morse, who also serves as associate director of the CBLIS.

The Buffalo Jamaica Innovation Enterprise has developed around central themes that focus on education, research, mentoring, community programs and economic development. Emerging collaborations include efforts to develop joint

STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education projects and infectious diseases research training, as well as patient safety-monitoring systems in Jamaica using biometrics, bioinformatics and electronic health records.

CIDR, a national program that will be located in Kingston, Jamaica, will partner with UB and the SUNY Global Health Institute, a system-wide initiative co-directed by Morse and Jack DeHovitz, a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

The program, which has completed the planning phase, is also part of the vision of an emerging collaboration between SUNY and the UWI central administration that is planned to lead to multiple campus-to-campus collaborations and new educational opportunities for students and faculty, as well as economic development through new business relationships. 🌐

Michael Andrei is associate director of community relations for University Communications.



From l to r: Charles Zukoski, Fenton Ferguson, Eunice Lewin, Charles Anderson, Sr., Beverly Joy, John Lindo, and Byron Brown (Photo: Nancy Parisi)

NEW LAW SCHOOL OFFICE EXPANDS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

By Ilene R. Fleischmann

As the UB Law School expands its global presence, drawing international students and establishing programs worldwide, a new Office of International and Graduate Programs will build on that momentum.

Interim Dean James A. Gardner announced creation of the office, which will be headed by Meredith Kolsky Lewis, professor of law and newly named vice dean for international and graduate programs. In addition, Joseph E. Schneider has been named assistant dean for international and graduate education.

Lewis, who joined the law faculty in January 2013, maintains an appointment at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, in Wellington, New Zealand. She teaches public and private international law subjects, with a primary research interest in international economic law, focusing on international trade. The Law School began developing new international offerings and linkages in 2013 when Professor David “Bert” Westbrook was appointed director of global strategic initiatives and Lewis was named director of the Canada-U.S. Legal Studies Centre.

“Bert was very successful in his role, making important strides in conceptualizing, marketing and developing our international programs,” Gardner says. “Among other achievements, Bert led our efforts to design and roll out our two-year JD program, and developed and implemented our dual LLM program with the Catholic University of Lyon. While Bert is stepping down from his position, he has laid the groundwork for additional growth in these programs.

“Meanwhile, Meredith has been instrumental in de-

veloping our cross-border initiatives, beginning with re-branding the Canada-U.S. Legal Studies Centre as the Cross-Border Legal Studies Center, then developing and initiating our cross-border legal studies concentration and, most recently, obtaining faculty approval to seek the authorizations necessary to introduce an LLM in cross-border legal studies.” These initiatives have prompted more international students to apply for the Law School’s master of laws and two-year JD programs.

Gardner says that in her new role, Lewis will be responsible for overseeing and developing a wide range of international and graduate initiatives in the areas of degree programs, curriculum, international student recruitment, study abroad and exchange programs, and faculty exchange. Schneider, formerly director of post-professional and international education, joined the Law School in 2008.

“Joe has traveled extensively on behalf of the Law School and has communicated directly with many prospective students,” Gardner says. “His efforts have resulted in significant growth in our international applicant pool, as well as a welcome increase in the engagement of many of our international alumni.

“As assistant dean, Joe will continue to be the person primarily responsible for recruiting, admitting, seating and supporting the Law School’s LLM and two-year JD students,” Gardner adds. “He will also play a more prominent role in working with current international students and international alumni.”

Ilene R. Fleischmann is vice dean for alumni, public relations and communications at the Law School.

LAW STUDENTS JOIN CLIMATE TALKS IN PARIS

By Charles Anzalone

Six University at Buffalo law students and their professor traveled to Paris in December for the 2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change.

The students – all members of the Law School’s climate change seminar – delivered a scroll with the names of 2,300 residents, organizations and public officials from the Buffalo Niagara region who signed a climate justice pledge requesting that President Obama “lead the world to a universal agreement to cut greenhouse gases.”

The students delivered the scroll and its names to national Sierra Club officials, who then forwarded them on to top negotiators at the two-week international summit.

They also met and received a behind-the-scenes tour from Alejandro Rivera Becerra, the lead negotiator at the summit for Mexico. Becerra earned his doctoral degree

and two master’s degrees at UB, and recently was recognized as an international distinguished alumnus.

“To be a student observing and participating in international treaty talks, that’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” says Jessica Owley, an environmental law professor in the UB Law School who coordinated the trip, contacting United Nations officials and organizations to set up meetings and interviews for the students.

Owley says the students will take part in programs put together for the public and civil society. They plan to be a part of some high-level talks with chief negotiators and world leaders through the Climate & Clean Air Coalition and United Nations Environmental Program.

The six students who will travel to Paris are Collin Doane of Elmira, Leah Bernhardt of East Aurora, Alyssa Erazo of Orchard Park, Christina Kennedy of Tonawanda, Andrea DiNatale of Buffalo and Bridget Steele of Amherst.

DEAR WORLD HIGHLIGHTS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

By Sue Wuetcher

UB’s annual celebration of International Education Week for 2015 featured a new keynote event, “Dear World,” which celebrated the diversity and energy of UB through an interactive photo shoot in which faculty, staff and students share their unique stories by writing their message somewhere on their body.

All members of the UB community had the opportunity to have their photos taken during the day on Nov. 17 in the Student Union. That evening in the Student Union Theater, Jonah Evans, executive producer of Dear World, talked about the national organization’s mission and how it aligns with the goals of International Education Week.

Five students — pre-selected from those who had their portraits taken earlier in the day — shared the stories behind their individual portraits. The event concluded with a photo release slideshow of all the portraits that were taken that day. The portraits also were also released on UB’s social media platforms for viewers to tag and share.

The idea behind the Dear World event is that “students will walk away recognizing that through our stories, there is much more that brings us together than what keeps us apart,” says Terri Budek, associate director of the Intercultural & Diversity Center and co-organizer of the Dear World event with Michael Venturiello, IDC’s student programming coordinator.

“Media in Focus” was the theme of IEW 2015, with a keynote talk and other events bringing a global perspective to the topic. The keynote speaker this year was longtime journalist Geneva Overholser, senior fellow in the Informed Participation Program at the Democracy Fund. Overholser discussed “The Media Revolution: What It Means for You” on Nov. 16 in the Student Union Theater, North Campus.

Building on the idea that a free press is the cornerstone of democracy, Overholser discussed the state of America’s legacy media institutions and their increasing inability to rely on the traditional economic model of advertising to support the production of journalism. She addressed whether emerging technologies and social media — which offer new opportunities for citizens to inform themselves and create new content — are able to provide the information that a self-governing people require. She explored

what we’re losing, what we’re gaining and what our individual responsibilities are in today’s constantly changing media landscape. In addition to her position with the Democracy Fund, Overholser is a senior fellow at the Center for Communication Leadership and Policy at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

Previously, she was director of the School of Journalism at USC Annenberg and held the Curtis B. Hurley Chair in Public Affairs Reporting at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. She also was editor of the Des Moines Register — leading the paper to a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service — and spent five years overseas, working and writing in Paris and Kinshasa.

UB’s International Education Week celebration has been an annual tradition since 2001. Its goal is to highlight the university’s international student population, as well as the international efforts of UB faculty and students. The celebration is particularly relevant

at UB. With more than 6,000 international students, UB ranks in the top 20 of 2,700 accredited U.S. universities in international enrollment (see p. 28).

Besides the two keynote events, activities this year include student presentations on holidays in Vietnam, and cultural traditions and business opportunities in Egypt; career-related sessions featuring job search advice from School of Management alumni, as well as information about international service and internship opportunities for UB students; and the “World View: Study Abroad Photo Contest and Exhibition,” a display of photos taken by UB students participating in the wide range of study abroad programs offered at UB.

The “Without Borders” lecture series highlighted UB’s global reach, and the “World Bazaar” extolled the differences and commonalities of all people, cultures and abilities with performances, cuisine and demonstrations.

No International Education Week would be complete without the traditional dance and musical performances, and interactive displays by international student clubs. They featured Korean Poongmul drumming, traditional Malaysian and Bengali folk dances, a performance of “Dia de los Muertos” by the Latin American Student Association’s Alma Nanichi and a multi-themed dance exhibition featuring American and Latin dance styles.

Sue Wuetcher is the editor of the UB Reporter. Photo courtesy of Dear World.



HESS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS MARIE CURIE GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP

By Rachel M. Teaman

Among the many legacies of Soviet occupation across Central and Eastern Europe is the prevalence of “tower blocks,” or vast modernist housing estates mass produced in the decades following World War II. Today, the infrastructure - estimated to house one-third to one-half of the population in this part of Europe - is aging and in disrepair. What’s more, little is known about how these units were planned and developed.

Daniel B. Hess, associate professor of urban and regional planning, will work to fill this knowledge gap and offer design and planning solutions for these Soviet-era estates through a prestigious research fellowship that will take him to the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The fellowship for individual faculty research was awarded through the European Commission’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions program to foster transnational and interdisciplinary research. Hess was among a large field of competitive applicants in the “Global Fellowship” category, in which researchers from non-European Union institutions bring research projects to Europe’s most competitive universities. The award, named for the French-Polish scientist who conducted pioneering work on radioactivity and twice won the Nobel Prize, involves a two-year academic stay with the Institute of Human Geography at the University of Tartu, the top university in Estonia.

Mass produced to meet housing demand and rebuild war-torn cities, the developments typically feature pre-fabricated panel buildings, or “tower blocks,” set in open areas. While occupants represent a mix of income levels and most own their flats, few people have invested in their properties, a particular challenge during Soviet times, Hess says. The estates are also not efficiently located. Planned by Soviet administrators in Moscow, the complexes were more often sited based on proximity to factories (for the pre-fabricated units) than on rational urban planning principles, he adds.

These factors combine to present critical planning challenges for post-Socialist cities involving issues of quality of life, urban design, accessibility and public health, according to Hess. “Maintaining the social mix, quality of life and attractiveness of these vast housing estates is one of the

greatest challenges facing post-Socialist cities,” he says. “Since they are not going away, we need to ask ‘how can we improve them?’”

Despite the centralization of the Soviet system, on-the-ground implementation was led by local architects and planners. Through extensive interview research, these aging design professionals will serve as a primary resource in Hess’s effort to document the history of socialist urban planning in the Baltic states.

Hess’s research will also take him into the government archives of cities across Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to examine original plans and policies. In addition to historical analysis, Hess will produce a set of recommendations for the maintenance and redevelopment of these housing estates. “The goal is to get this information in the right hands and ultimately improve the properties.”

Hess’ scholarly and professional experience in urban planning is a great asset, since urban planning systems in the Baltic states - formed after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 - are barely 25 years old.

Tiit Tammaru, PhD, professor and chair of the University of Tartu’s human geography and regional planning program, will serve as Hess’s research advisor.

“The social and physical downgrading of modernist housing districts is one of the largest urban planning challenges facing cities in Eastern Europe.”

This is by no means the first time Hess will conduct urban planning research in Estonia. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Award in 2010-11 at the Tallinn University of Technology to study how urban planning practice has evolved since the Soviet Union disintegrated. For the past five years, he has overseen UB’s annual study abroad program in Estonia and Latvia. “Professor Hess’s receipt of the Curie award reflects his high exceptional scholarly achievement and the high caliber of our faculty’s research,” says Ernest Sternberg, professor and chair of UB’s department of urban and regional planning.

“American planning researchers have rarely studied the pervasive effects of the Soviet occupation on the Eastern Europeans’ living conditions, so Professor Hess has been given a special opportunity,” Sternberg adds. “He will be able to investigate the consequences of this traumatic period, and then to collaborate with the Baltic states’ planners to propose directions for the future.”

Rachel M. Teaman is communications officer for the School of Architecture and Planning.



INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Department of Architecture

Shannon Bassett, assistant professor, led a study abroad program in China in summer 2015 with a group of UB architecture students. Students worked in collaboration, in part, with the the Peking University (PKU) School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture/Turenscape on a village planning design project in Anhui province, in addition to being based part time out of Beijing at PKU. The design proposals from this studio, “Back to the Countryside! An Urban Landscape and Architectural Intervention for Xixinan, Anhui, China Through Ecological Urbanism and Public Space Design” will be featured in an ensuing publication of the studio work, in addition to being exhibited at both Beijing Design Week as well as the 2015 BAUAIK International Architecture Exhibition during the 2015 Busan International Architectural Cultural Festival (BIACF) in Busan, South Korea. Bassett’s urban design master plan for Bradenton, Florida, “Designing The Village Tapestry-New Architectural Agency (ies) of Community Building and Urban Village Design” will also be exhibited in Beijing Design Week as well as in the BAUAIK Exhibition. Bassett presented “Shanghai Water Urbanisms-Recovering Shanghai’s Post-Industrial Waterfront-Landscape Strategies for Sustainable (re) development in China’s Cities” at the IACP (International Association for China Planning) annual conference Planning, New Urbanization: Smart Growth and Sustainable Development this past June in Chongqing, China. She also chaired the session on Urban Design. Bassett was invited to teach at the 2015 Busan International Architecture Design Workshop, organized by Busan International Architecture Festival and Pusan National University in Korea this past August. The two teams of students she led were recognized for their design schemes. Their design proposals will be featured in an ensuing publication, as well being exhibited at the 2015 BAUAIK International Architecture Exhibition.

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Sam Cole, professor, recently returned from Beijing, China where he presented a seminar to the School of Governance at Peking University. The topic was “Globalization, Clusters, and Chaos: Tourist Destinations, Creative Cities, and Universities.” Cole drew on his research focusing on the dynamics of tourism destinations and so-called creative cities. This work explains how the complicated dynamic behaviors of clustered systems depend on a few key variables describing the interaction between three geographic scales: discrete enterprises and their investment decisions; localized scale-related agglomeration synergies and congestion; and the globalized market economy with enhanced capital and labor mobility. Sam presented a paper at the International Symposium “Three Gorges City Cluster & Yangtze River Economic Belt”, Yichang, Hubei Province, Sept 14-16 hosted by CASS (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) and the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development). Yichang and the Three Gorges are designated as the third most important project for China in the 21st Century. In his presentation, “Cities and Clusters in the Global Economy,” spoke to the topics of The Yangtze River Economic Belt as a world catchment economy; City clusters and regional economic development in a global perspective; and The Three Gorges as a world tourist destination.

In November 2014, Cole was a keynote speaker at the International Executive Forum: “Leading Sustainable Tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean” organized by the University of Aruba, with the topic, “Sustainability, Innovation, and Competitiveness in Caribbean Destinations.” After reviewing the success of Aruba as an international tourist destination, the Prime Minister Mike Eman remarked that Cole’s and Victoria Razak’s “Framework for Sustainable Tourism in Aruba,” prepared in 2004, was their “bible” for tourism. More remotely, Cole has an article in the new Journal of Tourism Futures, on “Space tourism: prospects, positioning, and planning,” that applies the tourism planning methods taught in his Tourism Policy class to the extra-international dimension.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Anthropology

Ana Mariella Bacigalupo, associate professor, conducted ethnographic research with Mapuche shamans and their communities in southern Chile during the month of June 2015. In July she participated in a field school and conducted collaborative research on the cultural meanings of medicinal plants and their use by healers and primary health care practitioners in Northern Peru. Bacigalupo is currently at Visiting Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Gottingen, Germany where she is conducting research on the intersection of Chilean state violence during General Augusto Pinochet’s military dictatorship, the emergence of spirit cults around deceased Mapuche victims, and the concept of sacrifice. Bacigalupo is giving talks about her research at the Max Planck Institute, the Philipps-University at Marburg, and EHESS, among others.

Ezra Zubrow, professor, is currently the Lady Margaret Beaufort Visiting Scholar at St. John’s College University at Cambridge, UK. In summer 2015 he participated in a small conference entitled the “Artful Economist” in Catania, Italy. In addition, Zubrow was involved in the following field work: in 2015, Zubrow has undertaken the Osteroy Island Field Work Project Viking Grave Survey; and in 2014 he was part of the Archaeoacoustics Field Work Project at the Viking Grave Site on Nordmannslepa trail near Hardangervidda, Norway; and the Archaeoacoustics Field Project al Saffieni Hypogeum, Heritage Malta. In September 2015 Zubrow gave a paper in European Archaeological Association in Glasgow, Scotland and previously a paper in Siena, Italy.

Department of Art

Elizabeth (Libby) Otto, associate professor, visited Burma for three weeks in January 2015 as a guest of the Kayan people. She was able to witness the ongoing struggles of Burma’s ethnic minorities, and her work with them will inform her ongoing exhibition project with documentary photographer Law Eh Soe. Otto also made a summer 2015 research trip to Berlin, where she completed essential archival research for her *Haunted Bauhaus* book project.

Miriam Paeslack, assistant professor and director of graduate studies, presented a talk ‘Inventing Tradition: Berlin’s Märkische Museum and its Photo Survey Picturesque Berlin,’ which is part of her book project *The State of Urban Imagery: Berlin Photography during the Second Empire* at the international workshop Survey Photography and Cultural Heritage in Europe (1851-1945): Expanding the Field, at the Institute of Art, the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw in April of 2015. In June she was invited to participate in a panel to discuss the topic of photography as medium of historiography and the architectural photographic work of the German photographer Johanna Diehl at MAXXI B.A.S.E., Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome, Italy. This trip also took her to Berlin, Germany, where she interviewed artists for her new Humanities Institute Seed Fund Grant – supported project on photography of Italian Rationalist Architecture.

Department of Chemistry

Timothy Cook, assistant professor, visited to China to deliver five invited lectures in July 2015. Cook traveled between Shanghai (East China Normal University), Hangzhou (Zhejiang University), Nanjing (Nanjing University) and Beijing (Tsinghua University) before circling back to Shanghai (Fudan University), meeting with faculty and students specializing in supramolecular and polymer chemistry. His work on coordination-driven self-assembly with a focus on photophysical phenomena and post-self-assembly modifications was presented as a series of special seminars.

Department of Classics

Bradley A. Ault, associate professor, was invited by the municipality of the Hermionida, in the Argolid of southern Greece, to deliver a public lecture about and lead a tour of the remains of ancient Halieis

(August 7 and 9, 2015). Ault has for a number of years been involved with the study and publication of Halieis, an ancient Greek city which flourished between the 6th and 4th centuries BCE. Its excavation was undertaken by the University of Pennsylvania and Indiana University under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. As part of the proceedings accompanying his lecture and tour, Ault was made an honorary citizen of the Hermionida. Prior to this, in July 2015, Ault joined the professional staff of the Olynthos Project, in the Chalkidike of northern Greece, where he was invited to oversee the pottery processing operations for renewed excavations at the site of this ancient Greek city. The Olynthos Project is a collaborative undertaking of the University of Michigan, the University of Liverpool, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, and the British School of Archaeology

Roger Woodard, Andrew v. V. Raymond Professor of Classics and chair, was a visiting scholar at the American Academy in Rome in the summer 2015; during his stay at the Academy he conducted research for a new monograph on trans-Mediterranean international relations in the early Iron Age. While in Rome he paid a brief visit to the Centro di Antropologia e Mondo Antico at Università di Siena (in Buffalo's sister city of Siena) where he was invited to collaborate with faculty sharing interests in the anthropology of the Greek and Roman worlds.

Department of Comparative Literature

Rodolphe Gasché, SUNY distinguished Professor and Eugenio Donato Chair, gave a lecture in May 2015 on "The Wind of Thought: On Thinking and Judgment in Hannah Arendt," in the context of the GSSSH Distinguished Scholar Seminar Series of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey. He also lectured at the research Center for Anatolian Civilizations on "'Europe and the Stranger: Some Reflections on Plato's Sophist.'" In October, and early November, he gave the keynote addresses at the 5th Balvant Parekh Memorial Lecture at the Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics and Other Human Sciences in Baroda, India, as well as at the 7th National Seminar on "The Enigma of Law," at The English and Foreign Language University, at Hyderabad, India. In July of this year he was an invited Guest Scholar at the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung at Berlin, where he also participated in the annual meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Center.

David E. Johnson, professor, was an organizer of an international workshop titled "EN TORNO A LA IMAGINACIÓN: On Imagination" held in Mexico City, Mexico August 4-6, 2015. Johnson presented a paper on August 4 titled, "Tocar la Imagenación."

Krzysztof Ziarek, professor and chair, was named one of the "100 most daring global minds" in a new book titled *100 Global Minds* by Gianluigi Ricuperati. Ziarek is one of only a small number of academics featured in this text. Ziarek presented two recent invited lectures abroad: "The End and/or Beginning: The World as One-Time Event in Heidegger and Dogen," at the conference "The End of the World," at the Finnish Institute in Paris, September 25-27, 2015; and "Heideggerian Belongings," at the V Transdisciplinary Summer School, organized by Uniwersytet Slaski in Lubliniec, Poland, June 6-10, 2015. Ziarek published three recent articles in international journals: "Image-less Thinking: Time-Space for Imagination in Heidegger," *International Yearbook for Hermeneutics*, 2015; "The Avant-Garde and the End of Art," special issue on *Modernism*, *Filosofski Vestnik*, 2015; and "Humans and Humanities Without Humanism"; in *Imagine there were no humanities. Transdisciplinary perspectives*, Wydawnictwo DiG.

Department of Economics

Alex Anas, professor, was an invited speaker at the 5th Applied Urban Modeling conference, an interdisciplinary and international conference, held at Cambridge University, The United Kingdom, June 24-25, 2015, where he presented the conference's leading paper (first draft) co-authored with Ioannis Tikoudis of the Vrije Universitat and the Tinbergen Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands), titled "Numerical solution of general equilibrium models of urban transportation and

land use: decomposition versus all-in-one approaches."

In June 2015 **Zhiqiang Liu**, associate professor, presented a research paper, "The Efficiency of Equity Joint Ventures: Theory and Evidence" at the Chinese Economists Society 2015 Annual Conference in Chongqing, China. As an appointed member of a supervising committee of the Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), he took part in the midterm review of three major data-infrastructure projects funded by the NSFC and was invited to review a number of NSFC Outstanding Researcher Grant applications. He also gave a series of lectures on the economics of human capital at the Center for Human Capital and Labor Market Research, Central University of Finance and Economics in China, where he has been a special-term professor since 2008. In July he taught two courses at the UB-SIM program in Singapore.

Paul Zarembka, professor, gave a series of lectures in Asia during May and June 2015 on subjects in political economy. At the Marxism Institute, Beijing University, and at Department of Political Economy, Gyeongsang National University (GNU), Jinju, Korea, he lectured on "Marxist Political Economy without Hegel: Contrasting Marx and Luxemburg to Plekhanov and Lenin". At the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, May 26, 2015, he gave a presentation on the development of the yearbook he has edited since 1977, *Research in Political Economy*. He also lectured at the Institute of Economics, Tsinghua University, Beijing, at Ritsumeikan University and the Kansai branch of Japan Society of Political Economy, Kyoto, and at Department of Economics, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, on "The Materialized Composition of Capital and the So-called Falling Tendency of the Profit Rate." At the Institute of Marxist Philosophy and the Marxist School, Wuhan University, he lectured on "Marxism, Conspiracy and 9-11." Finally, at the Institute of Marxist Philosophy, Wuhan University, he gave a lecture on "Accumulation of Capital Reconsidered" on May 30, 2015.

Department of English

David Aliff, assistant professor, conducted archival research at the British Library, The British National Archives, The Nottingham University Special Collections, and the Cambridgeshire Archives in August 2015 in order to complete his book manuscript, *The Wreckage of Intentions: British Projects and the Culture of Projection, 1660-1730*. This trip was made possible by a Summer Stipend Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Walter Hakala, assistant professor, is the recipient of the Edward Cameron Dimock, Jr. Prize in the Indian Humanities from the American Institute for Indian Studies (AIIS) for his new book *Negotiating Terms: Urdu Dictionaries and the Definition of Modern South Asia*. In honoring the work, the AIIS noted that, "By privileging texts produced by less celebrated—even widely denigrated—authors whose work straddles such modern disciplinary divides as literature, linguistics, history, and ethnography, *Negotiating Terms* provides insights into the historical development of broader South Asian society. Although previously little studied, these texts were not mere lists of words and definitions but powerful political tools with fateful political consequences for one fifth of the world's population." Hakala received the UB Faculty Internationalization Fund to travel to Kyungpook National University in South Korea, June 2015, where he gave a paper entitled "Muslim Identities in South and Southeast Asia." He also gave lectures at St. Antony's College, Oxford University ("A Way with Words: Indo-Persian Nisabs and the Limits of Lexical Evidence," May 15) and the University of Toronto-Mississauga ("Arguing with Words: Lexicons as Sources for History," March 13) and conference papers at Kyungpook National University (June 13) and at the University of British Columbia, June 5.

Graham Hammill, professor and dean of the Graduate School, presented "Biopolitical Spenser" at the International Spenser Society's conference in Dublin, Ireland, June 18-20, 2015.

Bruce Jackson, SUNY Distinguished Professor, had his photos of Mi-

chel Foucault appear in print and on the web about 1,000 times in the past two years. One of them appeared in 667 separate places (according to Google Image), some of them: *Nouvelles de France, Actu-Philosophia, Sociólogos, Revista de Letras, Gramscimania, La Gaceta, Cultura Francesea, Revista Cult, Journal-de-Vie, Mundo Mediterráneo, Milenio, Conversaciones Filosóficas, Entrevista, Criminología Social, The New York Times*, and *Inside Higher Ed*. A mock-ad by a French artist using one of them on the *Jacobin Magazine* web site has been accessed over 5,100 times and reposted more than 2,100 times.

Ming-Qian Ma, associate professor, co-organized a panel and presented "Screams without Objects: Pain and the Bodily Soundscape in Steve McCaffery's Sound Poetry" at the MLA, in Vancouver, Canada, in January. In June, he presented a paper titled "Seeing Worlds Anew: American Language Poetry and Its Poetics of Scale Derangement" at the conference of the European Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts in Valletta, Malta, where he was appointed co-editor of a special issue of *CounterText* on innovative poetry. In October, he presented "Displaced by Reading: Contemporary Innovative Poetry and the Democratized 'Criticism'" at a symposium in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Cristanne Miller, SUNY Distinguished Professor and interim chair, is a co-organizer of the Emily Dickinson International Society conference "The Angled Road Preferred against the Mind: Experimental Dickinson," to be held 24-26 June 2016, in Paris, France, co-sponsored by the University of Paris Diderot, the Sorbonne Nouvelle, and the Paris-Cité Internationale Universitaire.

Irving Massey, professor emeritus, gave a lecture on June 4, 2015 at the University of Cambridge (in the Gatsby Room at Wolfson College) entitled "Metaphor."

Carla Mazzio, associate professor, presented a paper entitled "Mathematics in Navarre: Ramus in England, Ramus in Love" at the Renaissance Society of America Conference in Berlin, Germany, in March 2015. She was a panel respondent for another session at this conference.

Nnedi Okorafor, associate professor, was a guest speaker at: African Futures and Beyond, University of Bayreuth, Germany, 2015 (June); 2nd SAYAS Symposium on Science & Society in Africa, Cape Town, South Africa, 2015 (September); A Collage of Opposites – on DADA, Africa and its Diaspora, Venice, Italy 2015 (October); African Futures, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2015 (October); the Ake Festival of the Arts, Abeokuta, Nigeria, 2015 (November).

Department of Geography

Jessie Poon, professor, presented a paper on Malaysia's Islamic finance at Oxford University, England in August 2015. She is currently completing an NSF grant that compares Islamic financial centers in Southeast Asia and the Middle-East.

Chris Renschler, associate professor, has received a prestigious Fulbright Scholar award to conduct research and lecture in Austria. He is based at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna from late November 2015 until late January 2016 and from mid-May through mid-July 2016. Renschler's work there combines two of his concepts — the PEOPLES Resilience Framework and the Geospatial interface for the Water Erosion Prediction Project (GeoWEPP), a geographic information systems (GIS) software tool — to assess the impact of climate and environmental change on run-off and erosion behavior to develop more sustainable and resilient watershed management policies.

Department of Geology

In June 2015 **Howard Lasker** and **Mary-Alice Coffroth**, professors, visited the Center for Marine Research (CIM), University of Havana, where they presented seminars, met with students and explored opportunities for collaborative teaching and research with the CIM.

Cuba has some of the most pristine reefs in the Caribbean, but as throughout the tropics, reefs that have been over-fished or are near population centers have become degraded. CIM researchers have a well established monitoring program following reefs over a gradient of anthropogenic stress. With the Center's director, **Patricia González**, Coffroth and Lasker surveyed reefs at a variety of those sites.

Department of History

Andreas Daum, professor, presented a paper on "German Naturalists in the Pacific around 1800: Entanglement, Autonomy, and a Transnational Culture of Expertise" at a conference on "Germans in the Pacific" in March 2015 at the University of California, San Diego. A publication in a volume edited by Frank Biess and Ulrike Strasser is in preparation.

Hal Langfur, associate professor, was invited to give the paper "Cannibalism and the Body Politic: Independent Indians in the Era of Brazilian Independence" at the interdisciplinary workshop "Amerindian Spaces," St. Andrews University, Scotland, in June 2015. In September, he delivered the keynote address at the International Seminar on the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His talk was entitled "Os Estudos Indígenas e o Brasilianismo Contemporâneo na América do Norte" [Indigenous Studies and Contemporary North American Scholarship on Brazil].

Kristin Stapleton, associate professor, presented a paper at a conference on comparative urban history in Beijing, China in June 2015 and then traveled to Sichuan to meet with the leaders of the Li Jieren Research Association. Li Jieren (1891-1962), a prominent writer and activist from Sichuan's capital, Chengdu, has had a significant influence on Stapleton's work on Chinese urban history. During this visit, she was appointed a member of the steering committee of the Li Jieren Research Association. In September 2015 she gave a talk on "Humor as a Path to Understanding in Modern China" at Auburn University at Montgomery, Alabama, hosted by that school's Confucius Institute.

Victoria Wolcott, professor, gave the keynote address at the "The Cultures and Politics of Leisure in the British Isles and the United States" conference organized by the L'unité de Recherche Histoire et Dynamique des Espaces Anglophones. The conference was held on November 6-7, 2015 at the Université Paris-Sorbonne, France. Her address was titled "Dangerous Play: Racial Conflict in Twentieth-Century Urban Amusements."

Institute for Jewish Thought and Heritage

Richard A. Cohen, professor of philosophy and director, directed a week-long summer seminar on the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas, on the topic of "Eros and Ethics," held at John Cabot University, Rome, Italy, from July 6-10, 2015, attended by fourteen professors and graduate students from six continents. On October 28, Cohen delivered the keynote address, entitled "Crisis, Anarchy and Responsibility," at an international conference on "Levinas and Crisis," sponsored by the University of Vilnius, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Department of Linguistics

Tsan Huang, clinical assistant professor, delivered two invited talks at the Nanjing Normal University in Nanjing (NJNU), Jiangsu Province, China. The titles of the talks were: "Categorical perception and speech sound categories"; and "How light are 'light' tones in Rugao Chinese?" She was visiting the institution from May 31 to June 4, 2015, along with Professor Keith Johnson of UC-Berkeley. She also visited Fudan University in Shanghai, China from June 4 to 6, 2015. Her trip was sponsored in part by the UB Confucius Institute and in part by the hosting institutions NJNU and Fudan.

Department of Music

Cort Lippe, associate professor of composition, was composer-in-residence at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, where he lectured for

one week and presented a concert with 5 of his works. He was also composer-in-residence at the Kunitachi College of Music in Tokyo, Japan, where he lectured for three weeks and had three pieces performed in concerts in Tokyo. His music was also performed at various festivals, including the 6ème Festival Musique au Présent, in Charnay-lès-Mâcon, France, the Festival Manifeste at IRCAM, Paris, the Concepts of Doing Festival, Berlin, the International Festival for Artistic Innovation, Leeds College of Music, U.K., and the Dias de Música Electroacústica, in Seia, Portugal. In addition, he had performances in Poland, China, Spain, and Brazil. In January, he was invited to the University of Huddersfield, U.K. for interviews and filming for a forthcoming book containing a chapter on his work. He also served on the program committee for the 9th Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium, and his composition "Music for Tuba and Computer" was released on CD by the German label Wergo.

Department of Philosophy

James Beebe, associate professor, gave the following international lectures in 2015: "Are the Folk Moral Objectivists or Moral Relativists?" at the University of Warsaw, Poland on June 1; "Cross-Cultural Differences in Semantic Intuitions," University of Warsaw, Poland on June 2; "Do Ordinary People Believe Moral Judgments Are Objective?" Cognitive Science Symposia Lecture, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland on June 8; and "Shutting the Door on Epistemic Closure," Sixth Conference of Experimental Philosophy Group UK, University of Nottingham, UK on June 29. Beebe also led a workshop on experimental philosophy at the University of Warsaw on May 31, 2015.

Department of Physics

Andrea Markelz, professor, gave an invited lecture at the "Frontiers in Terahertz Technology Symposium," in Hamamatsu Japan, Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2015. She also was a keynote speaker at the "Biological and medical applications of THz technology," at Imperial College, London, United Kingdom, Sept. 25, 2015.

Department of Transnational Studies

Tom Burkman, research professor emeritus of Asian Studies, has taught in Asia four semesters since his retirement from UB in 2011. Most recently he taught in the Summer Program 2015 of Jinan University in Guangzhou, China, and is contracted to return there in July 2016. He published an essay, "Can Nations Forgive? Japan, Korea, and China Remember the Past and Face the Future" in the *Review of Asian and Pacific Studies* (Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, Seikei University, Tokyo), 2014.

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Department of Oral Biology

Stefan Ruhl, professor, hosted three internship students from Germany in his laboratory during the summer 2015, who investigated different aspects of serum and salivary protein adsorption to chemically modified biomaterial surfaces. Nora Obermeier and Nora Serve from the University of Regensburg performed the work as main part of their Bachelors theses and were supported by PROMOS fellowships of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Linn Bieske from the RWTH Aachen University was supported by a DAAD-RISE student fellowship. Later in August, Stefan Ruhl was invited to present a lecture entitled "The Salivary Proteome – Oral Microbiome Interface" at the University of Göttingen Spirit Summer School in Germany.

Department of Periodontics and Endodontics

Sebastian G. Ciancio, SUNY Distinguished Professor and chair, was a keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Brazilian Society of Periodontology Meeting held in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. The topic of his presentation was "Improving Oral Health: New Research in Prevention of Periodontal Disease and Peri-Implantitis. His audience consisted of post graduate students, periodontists, and faculty of a number of dental schools in Brazil.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

Seong Won Han, assistant professor, delivered an invited talk entitled, "Who expects to become a teacher? A comparative perspective" at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Education Forum, held at the OECD headquarters in Paris, France, on January 13, 2015.

Stephen Jacobson, UB Distinguished Professor, was a visiting scholar at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand while on sabbatical leave during spring 2015. While in New Zealand, Jacobson gave three invited presentations: 'Preparing School Leaders in the United States,' for the New Zealand Educational Administration and Leadership Society of Otago, 'Successful Leadership in High Needs Schools,' at Abbey College, in Dunedin, and 'School Leadership for Social Justice in Belize, Central America,' at the University of Otago College of Education. He was also engaged as co-investigator with Ross Notman, director of the Centre for Educational Leadership and Administration at the University of Otago, in a research project examining "Culturally Responsive Leadership Practices in High Need, Early Childhood Education Centres in New Zealand."

Department of Learning and Instruction

The most recent book by **Sarah A. Robert**, assistant professor and director of the Social Studies Education Program, was released in September 2015 as part of a Routledge Series on Education and Neoliberalism. *Neoliberal Education Reform: Gendered Notions in Global and Local Contexts* is based on a multi-year ethnography exploring how teachers understood and then transformed so many national and provincial policies into everyday work practices and the rationales or conditions that affected the transformation. Robert specifically explored how gender was implicated in teachers' navigation of the changing occupational terrain. While global reform movements impinged on local contexts, she argued, it was the local, gendered notions of "the teacher" and teaching work that shaped decision-making and policy outcomes. The data revealed that gender unevenly advantaged and disadvantaged men and women; for example, women had privileged access to the best professional education while men had unfettered access to higher pay and more work. Still, Robert found no adversarial relationship as a result. Instead, data illuminated collective efforts to advocate for public education and their profession by evoking symbolic notions of a feminine and caring teacher. The conclusion is that teachers are not passively changed by global reform ideas but rather are dynamically negotiating a vision and practice for a 21st century national education project.

In July 2015, **Christine X. Wang**, associate professor and director of the Fisher-Price Endowed Early Childhood Research Center, presented with her collaborator a paper, entitled "Young children reading iPad app books together: Reading approaches, meaning making, and changes over time" at biennial conference of Computer Supported Collaborative Learning (CSCL) in Gothenburg, Sweden. In September 2015, Wang organized two symposiums, entitled "Young Children's Experience with Multimodal Texts in Different Language Contexts" and "Understanding Young Children with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds," at annual conference of European Early Childhood Education Research Association in Barcelona, Spain. She also presented two papers with her collaborator Tanya Christ, entitled "Reading through play: Kindergarteners' buddy reading on iPads," and "Buddy reading multimodal iPad App books."

Department of Library and Information Studies

Heidi Julien, professor and chair, gave an invited plenary talk titled "Beyond the hyperbole: Information literacy reconsidered" at the 3rd European Conference on Information Literacy in Tallinn, Estonia, October 19-22, 2015. She also gave an invited talk titled "Altmetrics in library and information science" to the Department of Information Science, Bar-Ilan University in Tel-Aviv, Israel on May 20. She gave a conference paper titled "Altmetrics in academe: Bottom up or policy

driven?" at the Social Media & Society Conference in Toronto, Canada, July 27-29; and a conference paper titled "The times, they are a-changin': Attitudes towards altmetrics in higher education" at the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science in Ottawa, Canada, June 3-5, 2015.

Valerie Nasset, associate professor, has been selected as editor of the *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science*. The Department's Research Seminar Series brings in guest speakers from a wide range of international universities to speak on a diversity of topics. On September 21, 2015 the department hosted Professor Archie Dick from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, who spoke on "Librarians and readers in South Africa's liberation struggle."

Dagobert Soergel, professor, gave an invited keynote talk titled "Unleashing the power of data through organization: Structure and connections for meaning, learning, and discovery" at the ISKO UK Conference in London, U.K., July 13-14. He also gave two papers titled "Organization authority database design with classification principles" and "Managing classification in libraries: a methodological outline for evaluating automatic subject indexing and classification in Swedish library catalogues" at the International UDC Seminar in Lisbon, October 29-30, 2015.

Amy Van Scoy, assistant professor, gave papers titled "Understanding professionals' interventions in response to user errors and challenges" and "Information professionals' reference and information practices as expertise or skill: An exploratory study" at the Information: Interactions and Impact Conference in Aberdeen, U.K., June 23-26, 2015. She also presented a paper titled "Time in the experience of reference and information service work" at the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science in Ottawa, Canada, June 3-5, 2015.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Paschalis Alexandridis, UB Distinguished Professor and director of graduate studies, visited the Department of Chemistry and Material Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Shinshu University, in Nagano, Japan, in September 2015 at the invitation of Professor Toshio Sakai and in the context of the Shinshu University Fellowship Program for Overseas Eminent Researchers. While in Japan, Alexandridis presented an invited talk on the topic of "Nanoparticle Synthesis, Surface Modification, and Organization Facilitated by Polymer Amphiphiles" at the Chemical Society of Japan 66th Divisional Meeting on Colloid and Surface Chemistry, held in Kagoshima. Alexandridis also gave seminars on "Soft Materials and Complex Fluids via Self-Assembly: From (Nano)Structure to Function to Applications" at the Division of Chemical Engineering, Department of Materials Engineering Science, Osaka University, and on "Phase Behavior, Structure, and Dynamics of Non-ionic Polymer Amphiphiles" at the Skin Care Products Research of Kao Co., the Cosmos Technical Center Co., Ltd., and the Basic Research Center of Shiseido Co., Ltd., in the Tokyo area. In September 2015 Alexandridis served as the external examiner for the Ph.D. dissertation of C. A. Boza Troncoso "Free Energy Models for Surfactant-Oil-Water Systems" at the University of Toronto Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry.

Mark T. Swihart, UB Distinguished Professor, made two trips to China in 2015 to deliver invited lectures: "Introduction to UB and New York State Center of Excellence in Materials Informatics Research Capabilities" on June 29, 2015, and "Better Living through Nanomaterials" on June 30, 2015 at Hainan University, Hainan; "Plasmonic Copper Chalcogenide-based Colloidal Nanocrystals with Tunable Size, Shape, Composition, and Optical Properties," The 8th International Conference on Nanophotonics (keynote lecture) in Changchun on May 27, 2015; and "Plasmonic Copper Chalcogenide-based Colloidal Nanocrystals with Tunable Size, Shape, Composition, and Optical Properties" at Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, on May 21, 2015.

Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering

In January 2015, **Andre Filiatrault**, professor, gave a 5-day short course (40 hours) to 100 graduate students and practicing engineers on the Seismic Design and Analysis of Nonstructural Building Components at the University of the Armed Forces (ESPE) in Quito, Ecuador. In February 2015, he gave a 2-day short course in French (16 hours) to 30 practicing engineers on the Seismic Isolation and Dissipation Systems for Civil Engineering Structures at Carrefour Perfectionnement Polytechnique Montreal, Canada. On February 27, 2015, Filiatrault delivered a keynote address to 500 practicing engineers at the PROTA 30th Anniversary Symposium on Earthquake Engineering in Ankara, Turkey. From June 16 to July 7, 2015, he gave a one month (40 hour) short course to 35 graduate students and practicing engineers on the Seismic Isolation and Dissipation Systems for Civil Engineering Structures at the Understanding and Managing Extremes (UME) School of the Institute of Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia, Italy. On October 29, Filiatrault delivered a keynote address at the Hilti Seismic Academy in Pavia, Italy entitled Performance-based Seismic Design of Nonstructural Building Components: The Next Frontier of Earthquake Engineering" (see attached Agenda). On November 25-26, he gave a 2-day short course in French (16 hours) on the Seismic Design and Analysis of Nonstructural Building Components at Carrefour Perfectionnement Polytechnique Montreal in Montreal, Canada.

Institute of Bridge Engineering

Jerome O'Connor, executive director, represented the Institute of Bridge Engineering at CITrans-III in San Jose, Costa Rica August 24-26, 2015. He delivered a plenary address at Congresso Infraestrutura de Transporte (Infrastructure and Transport Congress) entitled "Recent Developments in Bridge Engineering" which highlighted some of the innovative research and design/construction practices that are being used to improve safety as well as sustainability over a bridge's entire service life. Hazard mitigation, accelerated construction, and lifecycle cost of bridges were also touched on. The event was the third biennial conference hosted by the University of Costa Rica and the National Laboratory for Structural Materials and Models (LANAMME). There were 220 participants, including the Minister of Transportation, the two vice-ministers of Transportation, and the National Directors of Road Safety and Road Construction. The trip included a tour of the national material and structures lab and a discussion of potential academic and research collaboration with UB.

Department of Electrical Engineering

Josep M. Jornet, assistant professor and study abroad coordinator for the department, taught an intensive course on Terahertz-band Communication Networks at the University of Oulu, in Finland, in the first week of October 2015. The three-day graduate course provided an in-depth view of THz-band communication networks. First, the state of the art and open challenges in the design and development of THz-band devices was presented. A special emphasis was given to the utilization of novel materials such as graphene, to develop compact solid-state devices for THz communications. Then, the current progress and future research directions in terms of channel modeling and communication and networking protocols was discussed by following a bottom-up approach, and defining a roadmap for the development of this next frontier in wireless communication. This is a "condensed" version of the course he teaches at UB every spring semester, and is strongly based on the research conducted by him and other colleagues in the department at UB. During his trip to Finland, he also taught an invited seminar on Terahertz-band Communications at the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering in the Technical University of Tampere. Jornet has been also an external evaluator for a Ph.D. on the topic of Efficient Communication Protocols for Wireless Nano-scale Sensor Networks in the Terahertz Band for the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, in May 2015.

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Deborah L. Chung, professor, gave two invited lectures at the in late June 2015 at the International Conference on Materials for Advanced

Technologies (ICMAT), a major biennial event organized by The Materials Research Society of Singapore (MRS-S), Singapore: "Multifunctional Carbon Fiber Polymer-Matrix Structural Composites with Capabilities for Sensing, Heat Dissipation and Thermoelectric Power Generation" (June 29); and "Multifunctional Carbon Fiber Polymer-Matrix Structural Composites with Capabilities for Sensing, Heat Dissipation and Thermoelectric Power Generation" (June 30).

Chung also gave a number of talks in Singapore, Hong Kong and China in July: "My life with science" at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (July 3); Speech Day at Ying Wa Girls' School, Hong Kong, (July 7); "World War II with the Flying Tigers" at Heep Yunn School, Hong Kong (July 10); "World War II with the Flying Tigers, as experienced by a DGS graduate," Diocesan Girls' School, Hong Kong (July 10); "World War II with the Flying Tigers," ELCHK Lutheran Secondary School, Hong Kong (July 10); "Electrical and dielectric behavior of carbon and manganese dioxide electrochemical electrodes," Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Hong Kong (July 10); "World War II with the Flying Tigers" at the Hong Kong Museum of History in Hong Kong (July 11); "Electrical and dielectric behavior of carbon and manganese dioxide electrochemical electrodes," at Tongji University in Shanghai, China (July 14).

LAW SCHOOL

Rebecca French, professor, is the founding editor of the new journal *Buddhism, Law & Society*, the first issue of which will be published in fall 2016 by William S. Hein, the largest law journal publisher in the world. This will be the first journal dealing specifically with Buddhism and Law. Two issues will be published each year.

James A. Gardner, interim dean and Bridget and Thomas Black SUNY Distinguished Professor of Law, traveled to Germany and Belgium in June 2015, to continue his field research on comparative federalism, funded by the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy. In Germany, he interviewed scholars and government officials in Berlin, Hannover, and Darmstadt. In Belgium he interviewed scholars and government officials in Antwerp, and also lectured at the University of Antwerp on "The Constraints of Federal Constitutional Design: Practice and Constitutional Change in the United States and Canada." He continued the project during August 2015 with a trip to Argentina, interviewing scholars and government officials in Buenos Aires and Cordoba. In Buenos Aires, he gave a presentation at the University of San Andres on "Distinctive Identity Claims in Federal Systems: Judicial Policing of Subnational Variance." While in Cordoba, he was inducted into the National Academy of Law of Córdoba, Argentina, as Académico Correspondiente. His induction lecture was entitled "Intergovernmental Contestation in Federal Systems". He also spoke at the Catholic University of Cordoba on "Sustainable Decentralization: The Cases of the United States and Spain." The project is expected to issue in a book-length treatment of how subnational units in federal states exert influence on national policymaking.

Jessica Owley, associate professor, recently finished a book chapter (forthcoming ELI Press) examining the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). She led a delegation of UB Law students to the international climate change treaty negotiations in Paris, France in December 2015.

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Department of Organization and Human Resources

G. James Lemoine, assistant professor, was featured in an interview article in *Zeitschrift für Organisationsentwicklung*, one of Germany's leading business magazines. The article focused on Lemoine's work with Nate Bennett of Georgia State University on how organizations can adapt to industrial environments characterized by VUCA - volatile, uncertain, complex, and/or ambiguous conditions. This article was published on October 16, 2015.

JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Department of Biochemistry

Tom Melendy, associate professor, and two of his doctoral students, **Michaëlle Chojnacki** and **Caleb Homiski**, attended the International DNA Tumour Virus meeting held in Trieste, Italy, July 21-July 25, 2015. They presented three papers: "Role of the C-terminal brace of the E1 protein in HPV DNA replication," "Functional Interactions of the Papillomavirus DNA Replication Protein E1 and Cellular DNA Polymerase delta," and "Inhibition of SV40 Large T-Antigen Replication Function by DNA Damage Kinase Phosphorylation." Melendy hosted Professor **Juhan Sedman**, from the University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia, August 7 to August 9, 2015. Sedman gave a seminar to the Departments of Microbiology & Immunology, and Biochemistry, on "A novel mitochondrial helicase at the crossroads of DNA replication and recombination." Visiting scholar, **Zhenru Liu**, from Sichuan University in China, joined the laboratory of Melendy in August, 2015, where she will spend the year studying immunological memory and protein-pocket mutational analysis, as part of her PhD studies for Sichuan University.

Department of Biomedical Informatics

Jos Aarts, associate professor, became past chair of the European Federation for Medical Informatics Working Group Human and Organizational Factors of Medical Informatics in Madrid, Spain, May 2015 after serving as its chair for 19 years. Also, in May 2015, at the conference Medical Informatics Europe (MIE 2015) in Madrid, Spain, he presented the panel Designing for Patient Safety together with researchers from Canada, France and Australia. Earlier in 2015, he presented the workshop "How to Integrate Human Factors and Sociotechnical Analysis in Health Informatics" at the conference ITCH in Victoria, Canada. Aarts is co-supervisor of doctoral student Feikje van Stiphout at Utrecht University Medical Center in the Netherlands for her thesis Development and evaluation of an educational intervention to enhance outpatient medication management by internists using CPOE. She is expected to graduate in 2016.

Since 2002, **Werner Ceusters**, professor and division chief of Biomedical Ontology, has served as a member of the Advisory Board of IFOMIS (Institute for Formal Ontology and Medical Information Science), located in Leipzig and Saarbrücken, Germany. In May of 2015, he served as a reviewer for Medical Informatics Europe 2015, held in Madrid, Spain. At the conference, he presented a paper, along with **Barry Smith**, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, entitled "Biomarkers in the Ontology for General Medical Science." The paper was also published in *Studies in Health Technology and Informatics*. Ceusters continues to mentor two international PhD students; P. Russo, Laboratory for Biomedical Informatics "Mario Stefanelli" at the University of Pavia in Italy; and Winta Aklok Kebede, Information Technology Doctoral Program, at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.

Peter L. Elkin, professor and chair, co-authored a DigiPoster Display regarding Influenza Biosurveillance along with Daniel Schlegel, post-doctoral associate. Elkin presented the poster, entitled "Digital Healthcare Empowering Europeans", at the Medical Informatics Europe (MIE) Conference in Madrid, Spain in May, 2015. He also participated as a session chair at and reviewer for the European Federation of Medical Informatics Meeting at the Medical Informatics Europe (MIE) in Spain. Elkin served as an editor for the *Journal of Applied Clinical Informatics* and for the journal *Metabolomics* and is active in the International Medical Informatics Association. Elkin is mentoring two international fellows and one international graduate student.

Jaroslav Zola, research assistant professor, served on the program committee and also attended the 2015 IEEE International Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium. The symposium was held in Hyderabad, India, May 25-29, 2015. This is the flagship conference of the IEEE's Technical Committee on Parallel Processing.

Department of Medicine

Anne B. Curtis, Charles and Mary Bauer Professor and chair, traveled to Sao Paulo, Brazil in October 2015 to assist in the implementation of the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines-Atrial Fibrillation (GWTG-AF) program throughout the country. Later the same month, Curtis traveled to Beijing, China to speak at the annual Great Wall Conference, the largest annual cardiology meeting in China.

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Michael Russell, professor, attended the International Nutrition and Diagnostics Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, October 5-8, 2015, and gave an invited talk on "The Mucosal Immune System and its Exploitation by Mucosal Vaccines."

Department of Neurology

Norah Lincoff, clinical professor, is returning for the fourth consecutive year to Nicaragua for a mission regarding Eye Care. The mission is sponsored by Hopeful Ways of Buffalo, which is a non-profit organization. The mission takes place in different remote regions of Nicaragua for a two-week period at the end of January. The group sees 3000 patients each year offering minor eye surgery, to the fitting of eyeglasses or eye prosthetics. Many patients have never worn a pair of prescription glasses. The eyeglasses are donated by the Lion's Club, and sorted and organized by Hopeful Ways staff and volunteers. Four thousand pairs are brought down each year hoping to cover all of the prescriptions necessary.

Gil I. Wolfe, Irvin and Rosemary Smith Professor and chair, gave an invited talk at the 2nd World Congress on NeuroTherapeutics, Prague, Czech Republic, in September 2015. The title of Wolfe's talk was "Management Dilemmas in Neuroimmunological Conditions: Thymectomy in MG." The congress was organized by Wolfe's colleagues from Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, Israel, Professors Israel Steiner and Zohar Argov.

Department of Otolaryngology

David Sherris, professor and chair, had Yuangang Lu from Third Military Medical University in Chongqing, China as a visiting physician for two months in summer 2015. Lu was able to shadow in the office and in surgery, as well as attend departmental educational events. Last year Sherris led a mission surgery trip and educational exchange to the hospital in China. The surgeries focused on reconstruction of facial deformities. Sherris was also guest of honor at the 4th Bulgarian-Italian International School of Rhinoplasty and Rhinology in Ruse, Bulgaria, September 3-6, 2015.

Department of Pediatric Surgery

Carroll M. Harmon, John E. Fisher Professor of Surgery, delivered an invited lecture at the 2015 IPOKRaTES Pediatric and Adolescent Interdisciplinary Symposium (PAFIS) held in Mainz, Germany. He also participated in workshops entitled "Obesity and metabolic surgery, indications, approaches, outcome monitoring" and "Which surgery is best for what age group?" The symposium was held July 25-26, 2015.

Department of Physiology and Biophysics

Joan S. Baizer, professor, has continued her highly productive collaboration this year with **Sandra Witelson** at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Witelson is well-known for her work showing differences between the brains of men and women, and also for describing the unique features of the brain of Albert Einstein. She developed a brain bank including the brains of over 100 neurologically normal individuals who died of cancer. Using cases from that brain bank she and Baizer have studied, and published papers on, neuro-anatomical features of the human brainstem and cerebellum that distinguish humans from all other mammals. Last year they described a key auditory system component, the dorsal cochlear nucleus. They are presenting data on another auditory structure, the ventral cochlear nucleus, at the meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago. They have just submitted a paper showing the accumulation of an ab-

normal tau protein in a different brainstem structure, the inferior olive.

Department of Psychiatry

The department has been hosting a program for academic physicians from the Department of Psychiatry, Hebei University Medical School, Hebei Province, P.R. China. Following a series of discussions with departmental leadership about the most effective approaches to improving knowledge and skills of their faculty and developing international research collaborations, the first two members of the Hebei faculty began six month rotations with us in July, 2015. These individuals are **Lili Zhang**, resident, and **Bing Li**, associate professor. Zhang and Li are working closely with Hong Yu, assistant professor in the department who is chief of an inpatient service at ECMC, and **Ginger Xu**, assistant professor, working primarily at the VA. In addition to expanding the clinical expertise of Chinese psychiatrists, Yu and the visiting faculty have begun a study of conceptual differences between American inpatient psychiatry and inpatient psychiatry in a matched hospital in China. Leadership from Hebei University Medical School came to the U.S. to attend the department's annual conference in Niagara Falls.

Department of Surgery

Steven D Schwartzberg, professor and chair, recently led a team of surgeons to Bogotá, Columbia to teach the first Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery course in Latin America. The course provides a curriculum and high stakes testing developed and managed by the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), which currently examines more than 1000 surgery residents in United States as a requirement before sitting for the American Board Surgery Examination. The course and examinations were provided in English and consists of both cognitive and psychomotor evaluations. The long-term goal of the society's to provide these programs in Spanish creating greater inaccessibility in Spanish speaking countries. Dr. Schwartzberg (who is a past president and the current chair of the FLS program worldwide) and his team has been expanding education and testing on three continents outside of North America in the last three years.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Kafuli Agbemenu, assistant professor, visited with faculty at the University of Nairobi School of Nursing in May 2015. The purpose of the visit was to begin to establish a research partnership. Agbemenu studies reproductive health education and communication in marginalized populations.

Nancy Campbell-Heider, associate professor, has been named a fellow in the International Academy of Addictions Nurses (FIAAN). The FIAAN is a fellowship of the International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA), a professional organization committed to the prevention and treatment of addictive disorders. Fellows are recognized for their contributions through practice, teaching, advocacy, administration and research to the field of addictions nursing. Campbell-Heider received the honor at the IntNSA 39th Annual Educational Conference held last month in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Suzanne S. Dickerson, professor and chair of Biobehavioral Health & Clinical Sciences, presented her paper, "Using Instrumentation Theory to Evaluate Patient Interaction and Accommodation to Technology," at the 2015 International Philosophy of Nursing Society Conference titled "Technology, Health Care and Person-Centeredness: Beyond Utopia and Dystopia. Thinking of the Future" at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden on August 24-26, 2015.

Susan Grinslade, clinical professor and assistant dean for undergraduate programs, along with Clinical Assistant Professor **Penelope McDonald**; Clinical Associate Professor **Theresa Winkelman**; and Center for Educational Innovation and Assessment Associate Director **Carol Van Zile-Tamsen** were invited to present a symposium at the 26th International Nursing Research Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on July 23 to 27, 2015. The title of the symposium was "A Metacogni-

tive Learning Strategy that Guides Intentional Learning and Reflection in Nursing Education."

Adrian Juarez, assistant professor, represented UB at the 27th Annual Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on September 13, 2015. He raised nearly \$1,000, with the event raising nearly \$300,000 total.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

Jo Freudenheim, UB Distinguished Professor and interim chair, was an invited speaker at the Third Alcohol and Cancer Conference, held in Crete, Greece, May, 2015. Her talk was entitled, "Alcohol and Breast Cancer, Risks and Mechanisms." She also gave an invited talk at the Fifth International Breast Cancer Symposium: Epigenome, Environment and Prevention Tools in LeGosier, Gaudeloupe, French West Indies in October 2015. Her talk was entitled "Breast cancer and the environment: DNA methylation as an indicator of exposure."

Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

In June 2015, **Shiu-Ming Kuo**, associate professor of nutrition and research associate professor of biochemistry (school of medicine), gave a talk in Taipei, Taiwan, on her collaborative work with **Yijun Sun**, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology (school of medicine). The talk "Diet on intestinal microbiome and inflammation" is a part of the 15th International Symposium of Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America. In the same "Microbiome and inflammation" session, **Sanjay Sethi**, professor of medicine (school of medicine) and assistant vice president of health sciences, also gave a well-received talk on "Airway microbiome in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease". The other two speakers in the session were from the College of Medicine at National Taiwan University.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Venu Govindaraju, SUNY Distinguished Professor and interim vice president, received the IAPR/ICDAR Outstanding Achievements Award from the International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition (ICDAR). The award, presented by the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR), recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the field of document analysis and recognition in the areas of research, student training, industry interaction and service to the profession. The citation for the award recognizes Govindaraju for his pioneering contributions to pattern recognition and its application to the fields of handwriting recognition, multilingual document analysis and biometrics, and for the development of real-time engineered systems. Govindaraju accepted the award at ICDAR 2015, held Aug. 23-26, 2015 at Gammarth, Tunisia.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Elizabeth Bowen, assistant professor, presented a poster titled Rent burden as a social driver of HIV risk for single room occupancy building residents at the North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit, in Washington, DC. Bowen has also served as a Consultant, Migration, Displacement, and Risk of Bloodborne Infections among Afghan Drug Users [Pls A. Alaei and K. Alaei, University at Albany Global Institute for Health and Human Rights] and was named as Affiliated Faculty, Global Institute for Health and Human Rights, University at Albany, State University of New York.

Lisa Butler, associate professor, chaired a session titled Veteran and Military Family Care at the XXXIVth International Congress on Law and Mental Health in July 2015. Butler, Project Manager **Katie McClain-Meeder**, and colleagues **Susan Bruce** and **Janice Feigenbaum** from the UB School of Nursing presented a paper titled "Joining Forces: Developing a curriculum to train social work and nursing students to work with veterans and military families." UBSSW doctoral student Brad Linn, Butler, McClain-Meeder and **Mary Ann Meeker**, UB School of Nursing, presented a paper titled What Veterans, Mili-

tary Families, and Students Say about Needs and Gaps in Healthcare Provision and Clinical Training: Focus Group Findings in the Veteran and Military Family Care session. Katie McClain-Meeder presented a paper titled "Avoiding Re-traumatization: Utilizing a Trauma-Informed Framework with Veterans and Military Family Members" in the session on Veteran and Military Family Care.

Catherine Dulmus, professor and associate dean for research, presented her research at 2 international conferences. Dulmus and Maria Cristalli from Hillside Family of Agencies presented a paper titled, "Advancing research through a University-Community Partnership" at the 19th International Academic Conference in Florence, Italy. Dulmus together with colleagues **David Patterson** and **Maria Cristalli** presented a poster titled "Use of youth restraints in psychiatric care and its impact on organizational climate and culture" at the 12th World Congress on Biological Psychiatry in Athens, Greece.

Gretchen Ely, associate professor, is collaborating with the Abortion Support Network, which assists women in Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man to obtain abortions in England and provides funding for the procedure, travel and lodging.

Susan Green, clinical associate professor and **Denise Krause**, clinical professor chaired a session titled Solution-focused Therapy and Trauma Informed Care: An Integrated Approach for Treating Trauma at the XXXIVth International Congress on Law and Mental Health in Vienna, Austria in July, 2015. **Maria Piccone**, Catholic Charities and serves and adjunct professor together with **Angela DiBiase**, Regional Office Project Associate, and **Ann Marie Orlowski**, Gateway Longview (formerly) presented a paper titled "Weaving the Tapestry of Collaboration: Verbal and Horizontal Relationship Building." Representing the WNY Trauma Informed Community Initiative, **Kim Bennett** (UBSSW alumna), together with Katie Grimm from Erie County Medical Center and **Jamy Stammel** (UBSSW alumna) and from Lakeshore Behavioral Health presented a paper titled "Educating a Community on Trauma Sensitivity and How to Provide Trauma Informed Care." Judge Judith Claire from the Chautauqua County Family Court presented a paper titled "Creating a Trauma Informed Court System" in the session on Solution-focused Therapy and Trauma Informed Care.

Elaine Hammond, adjunct professor and interim director of undergraduate programs, conducted a 3-day training program at the University of Toronto on the neurobiology of Trauma Informed Care as it interfaces with self-care.

Laura Lewis, assistant dean for global engagement and director of field education; **Filomena Critelli**, associate professor; and **Steven Sturman**, instructional designer, presented a paper titled The Role Technology can Play in Supporting Cross-Cultural Exchange at the Council on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting on Globally Networked Classrooms.

Patricia Logan-Greene, assistant professor, has developed student groups that have completed advocacy/activism projects or about immigrants, asylees, and refugees in Canada. Student groups have also conducted program evaluations (e.g. a process evaluation of domestic violence outreach) in Canada.

Shaanta Murshid, assistant professor, is exploring how social policies and institutions have individual-level ramifications in Bangladesh by focusing on the relational and social context of microfinance participation, its association mental health, well-being, and the experiences of intimate partner violence. Murshid and **Yunju Nam** are also exploring the process of building financial inclusion using mobile-phone-based technology (mobile money).

Yunju Nam, associate professor, became a member of editorial review board of *Feminism Studies*, an academic journal published in Korea.

Tom Nochajski, research professor and doctoral student, **Travis Hales** presented a paper titled "Evaluation as a Tool for Creating Trauma-Informed Systems" at the XXXIVth International Congress on Law and Mental Health in Vienna, Austria in July 2015. Nochajski together with doctoral student **Brad Linn**, undergraduate premed student Jake Silver and **Joe Ruszala**, Director of the Dog Tags Niagara Program through the Niagara County SPCA presented a paper titled "Training Rescued Pets: For the Dog Tags Niagara Program It's a Two Way Street!." **Doyle Pruitt**, alumna and Nochajski presented a paper titled, "A Community-Based Adaptive Sports Program for Disabled Veterans with PTSD and/or TBI."

Mickey Sperlich, assistant professor, is a member of an international group of researchers in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia known as the "CASEY" collaboration (child abuse, stress, and the early years). They are focused on fostering research which will help to disrupt inter-generational cycles of abuse and psychiatric vulnerability. The CASEY collaborators have co-authored a book for a special series by Dunedin Press (Edinburgh, London) on Protecting Children and Young People entitled *Trauma Informed Care in the Perinatal Period*.

Hilary Weaver, professor and associate dean for academic affairs, made presentations at 3 global conferences. Weaver provided a keynote address titled "Finding wellness through balance: Valuing the intersection of social work and Indigenous ways" for the International Indigenous Voices in Social Work conference in Darwin, Australia. She also presented a workshop titled "Social work, Indigenous ways and the power of intersection: Bringing a Good Mind to positive change" at the International Indigenous Voices in Social Work Conference. Weaver gave an invited presentation titled "Recognizing our Past and Moving Toward our Future: Decolonizing Attitudes about Skin Color and Native Americans" at the Global Perspectives on Colorism conference which was held at the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute of the Washington University Law School in St. Louis, Missouri. Weaver gave a juried presentation titled "Transforming Contemporary Indigenous Communities: Revitalizing Roles for Native American Women" at the International Consortium for Social Development in Singapore. Weaver was invited to present a talk titled "Looking Back, Looking Forward: Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Western Hemisphere" at the 14th annual Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations, New York, NY.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

In June 2014, **Michael Basinski**, curator of the Poetry Collection, presented a lecture titled "Turkey and Fixins - the James Joyce Col-

lection of the Poetry Collection at the University at Buffalo," at the Dylan Thomas Center in Swansea, Wales. In July 2014 he presented a paper, "Of Use - Poetry Manuscripts: A Crooked Line from Robert Graves to Charles Abbott" at the Twelfth International Robert Graves Conference: Robert Graves: Humour, Irony, Tragedy, and the Grotesque in Palma and Deia, Mallorca, Spain.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

John J. Wood, senior associate vice provost, was a presenter for the panel "Commitments that Work: Mapping Curriculum to the Major" at the Generation Study Abroad Summit in Washington, DC in October 2015. Wood chaired a panel at the annual conference of the Canadian Bureau for International Education in Niagara Falls, Ontario in November 2015. The title of the panel was "Successful Models of Cross-Border Degree Programs: Challenges and Opportunities."

OPEN DOORS

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Statewide, 106,758 international students contributed \$3.7 billion to the New York economy, and the creation or support of 43,865 jobs.

NAFSA also stated that international students offer an "immeasurable academic and cultural value ... to our campuses and local communities."

Some of these contributions include:

- Building bridges between Americans and those of other nationalities-Bringing global perspectives to U.S. classrooms and research labs.
- Supporting U.S. innovation through science and engineering coursework, making it possible for U.S. colleges and universities to offer these courses to U.S. students.
- Supporting programming and services on campus for all students by paying tuition at out-of-state rates, funded largely by non-U.S. sources.

The Open Doors report is published annually by the IIE in partnership with the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The 2015 Open Doors report was released on the occasion of the 16th annual celebration of International Education Week. 🌐

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UB REMAINS IN TOP 20 IN 2015 OPEN DOORS

By Michael Andrei

The 2015 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange, released in November by the Institute of International Education (IIE), announced that for the 13th-straight year, UB is among the top 20 U.S. institutions hosting international students.

UB's total of 6,852 international students for the 2014-15 academic year is up from 6,594 students in 2013-14, an increase of 3.9 percent. The figure places UB 19th among the 1,491 colleges and universities surveyed enrolling 10 or more international students in 2014-15.

UB is ranked third in New York State for the highest number of international students, behind only New York University and Columbia. It is the only SUNY institution in the top 20.

The largest numbers of international students come to UB from China, India, South Korea, Canada, Malaysia and Iran.

"We are pleased that for the 13th year in a row UB is among the top 20

U.S. institutions enrolling the largest number of international students," says Stephen Dunnett, vice provost for international education at UB.

"This is particularly impressive in light of the intensifying competition for international students among our peer institutions around the country. UB's strong academic programs and reputation for excellent services and support continue to make the university a leading destination for students around the world."

The Open Doors report lists New York State, with a total international enrollment of 106,758 students, second among the 50 states for international student enrollment. New York's numbers represent an increase of 7.9 percent from last year.

In 2014-15, the number of international students in the U.S. increased by 10 percent to a record high of 974,926. These students made up 4.8 percent of the 20,300,000 students enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities. The primary sources of funding for international students at institutions across the country were personal and family funds (63.6 percent), with 21 percent of their fund-

ing coming from a U.S. college or university, 7.7 percent from a foreign government or university, and 5 percent from current employment.

A report on the economic impact of international students to the regional economy by the Association of International Educators (NAFSA) estimates that international students contributed \$217.8 million to the Western New York economy in 2014-15, with their presence leading to the creation or support of 2,492 jobs.

International students attending UB contributed \$157.9 million to the local economy, leading to the creation or support of 2,109 jobs.

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John J. Wood, Editor