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 environmental 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 human body.
Communities of Excellence

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 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 Govindarajan, 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 Pavan 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 Li, professor of industrial and systems engineering; Raja, associate professor of urban and regional planning; Ram, associate professor of epidemiology and environmental health; and Kozydon 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 environmentally and economically sustainable.

“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 NYSCEDII).

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 human 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 future in general.

The overall goal of GEM is to integrate the science of genomics and microbiomes — to advance those disciplines — and also educating our community on the importance 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 collaboration 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; Novakov, professor of bioinformatics 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.
FROM THE VICE PROVOST

A s someone who has greatly enjoyed studying, working, and living in France, I was shocked and saddened to hear of 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 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 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.

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

FROM THE VICE PROVOST

P resident Satish K. Tripathi visited India in late October 2015 to participate in the commencement ceremony at Amrita University. UB also collaborated with Amrita on a Master of Science in Management: Business Analytics and Systems and a master’s degree program 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 did Mr. Amritanand Ramesh, President of the Amrita School of Business, 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 on 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 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. Shrivam 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 UF and noted how their UF 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 UF. Alumni who have graduated from the UF campus in Buffalo and alumni who received their UF degrees through the dual degree programs between UB and Amrita University all came together to recall their UF 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.

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

Wei Loon Leong, director of international alumni engagement, contributed to this article.
REFLECTIONS 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 the news 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 lovely right now,” she said. “It’s scary. They targeted Paris to me because it’s got a lot of history 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 stock 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 accident 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 Chippewa 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, an 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.

“It 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 the 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.

“For me, it is personal,” said Ludwig, who has lived in France several times and teaches a course called “Islam in contemporary France.”

“Nothing short of exciting.”

Its researchers are engaged in research at the forefront of several areas,” he said. “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 said the Cambridge experience “with no 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-
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 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 proud 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.

Steven’s 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 those 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 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 category. 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 since 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 FULLBRIGHT SCHOLAR

By Charles Anzalone

T here 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 emulates 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 instrumental in identifying and nurturing students competing for Fullbrights 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.”

Anyone looking for glimpses into Burrough’s 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 Fullbrights 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 snowboard and walk on snowmobiles and the Volga itself.”

“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. It got to negative 40 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.”

Continued on p. 12
But the brutal part was late December, January, February and the beginning of March. You just get used to it and everybody gets by with 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.’


“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’s 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 was her international insights that she will bring to her law studies. ‘I hope other UB students consider this opportunity.’”

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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 wore 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, D-Buffalo, said. “He immediately established himself as a key resource for working with students with a strong and helpful personality.”

Kaczmarek’s passion to make a difference in his hometown also was cited in the recommendation written by Joseph A. Cardella, 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 Cardella, 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 it’s almost as though he came to an opportune 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.”

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MARSHALL SCHOLAR

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AIDING SYRIAN REFUGEES ON THE FRONT LINE

By Marcene Robinson

he 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.

“I mean, it’s just so many things, 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.

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 Zaata 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 Shibli 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 clinic.

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 dangers, 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 expatriate 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 bomb blast, 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 classroom 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
PARTNERING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA ON CORAL REEF RESEARCH

By Howard Lasker and Mary Alice Coffroth

U b 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 and 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 waters. 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 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 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

continued from page 14

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.”

For more information about the BU4L Jordan program, including opportunities to support the families of refugees in Jordan, please visit the website.

FROM PAGE 14

UB LEADS BUFFALO-JAMAICA PARTNERSHIP

By Michael Andrei

D ignitaries 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 (CBL). 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 (JCIRD).

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. Lewis; Charles L. Anderson, Sr., chairman of the board of the Jamaican and American Association of Buffalo; and Sharon Hrynkw, president, Global Virus Network.

Components of CIRD 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 CBLS. 

The Buffalo Jamaica Innovation Enterprise has developed around central themes that focus on education, research, mentoring, community programs and economic development. E m e r g i n g 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.
NEW LAW SCHOOL OFFICE EXPANDS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

By Ilene R. Fleischmann

A s 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. International Programs Director Leslie Lewis announced the creation of the office, which will be headed by Meredith Kolsky Lewis, professor of law and newly named vice dean for international programs.

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 J.D. 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 developing 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 authorization 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 J.D. 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.”

“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 J.D. 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 declaration.

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.

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DEAR WORLD HIGHLIGHTS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

By Sue Wurtcher

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 students, faculty and staff submit their 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 — presided over by 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 platform 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 so much that brings us together that what keeps us apart,’ says Terri Budek, associate director of the Intercultural & Diversity Center and co-organizer of the Dear World event with Michael Venturinello, IDR’s student program 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 Us” 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 and its 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 ways 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.

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.

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

No International Education Week could be complete without the traditional dance and musical performances, and interactive displays by international student clubs. They featured Korean Poomgum drumming, traditional Malaysian and Bengali folk dance, 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 Wurtcher is the editor of the UB Reporter. Photo courtesy of Dear World.
Among the many legacies of Soviet occupation across Central and Eastern Europe is the prevalence of “tower blocks,” or vast modernist housing estates from 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 plans were generated 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 awarded by the European Union.

The fellowship for individual faculty research was awarded through the European Commission’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship 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 European institutions for five years.

Hess, who received his PhD in 2010 from the University of Tartu’s human geography department, has extensive experience in urban planning and regional planning, which 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 the 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 fellowship is a testament to his scholarly achievements 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 busily engaged in this topic for five years. “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.

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING**

Department of Architecture

Shannon Bassett, assistant professor, led a study abroad program in China since 2012 for a group of UB architecture students. Students worked in collaboration, in part, with the Peking University (PKU) School of Architecture, and were paired 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 collaboration were developed into an urban design and planning intervention for Xianhu, Anhui, China. Through Ecological Urbanism and Urban Intervention for Anhui, China, the project placed heavy emphasis on the design of the urban infrastructure and public space to help the local populations live better.

During the fall 2015 semester, Bassett will be a visiting professor at Tongji University, located in Shanghai. This will be her third trip to China. Bassett provides technical support to graduate students in their urban design and planning projects.

**INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

The School of Architecture and Planning is offering two internship opportunities for the Spring 2016 semester.

1. Summer Intern, Architecture Department:
   - Position: Architectural Assistant
   - Department: Architecture
   - Location: New York, NY
   - Duration: May 23 – August 12, 2016
   - Description: The Architectural Assistant will work on an architectural studio project led by faculty member Shyamal Mukherjee. The studio project involves a ground-up construction of a new academic facility at the University of Rhode Island. The studio will explore design concepts that address the principles of social engagement and sustainability.

2. Intern, Graduate Program Office:
   - Position: Intern
   - Department: Graduate Program Office
   - Location: Buffalo, NY
   - Duration: January 18 – May 13, 2016
   - Description: The Intern for the Graduate Program Office will assist with the administration of the graduate program in Architecture. This includes tasks such as assisting with the processing of new applications, maintaining the Graduate Program Office’s website, and providing support to prospective and current graduate students.

For more information and to apply, please visit the School of Architecture and Planning’s website.
Zhiqiang Liu
In June 2015 Zhiqiang Liu, associate professor, presented a research paper, “The Efficiency of Equity Joint Ventures: Theory and Evidence” at the conference “Corporate Financial Strategy and Social Economic Development,” Mendoza Institute, University of Innsbruck, Austria. Prior to this, in July 2015, he joined the professional staff of the Olythus Project, in the Chalcolithic of northern Greece, where he was invited to over- see the post-excavation phase of the project. He also gave a series of lectures on the economics of human capital at the Center for Human Capital and La- bour, Research, Central University of Finance and Economics of Beijing, 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 Marist Institute, Beijing University, and at Department of Political Economy, Gunongsa University (GNU), Inju, Korea, he lectured on “Marxist Political Economy without Hegel. Contrasting Marx and Lux- embourg to Piketty and Lenin.” At the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, May 26, 2015, he gave a talk on the develop- ment of the post-war economy of Japan in the conference titled “From 1945 to the 2050s: Experiences of China and Japan.” At the Helsinki University, Beijing, at the Hitotsubashi University and the Kansai branch of Japan Society of Political Economy, Kysot, and at Department of Eco- nomics, Osaka University, he presented at a conference on the position of Capital and the so-called Falling Trend 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 on Reconsidered” on May 30, 2015.

Department of Political Economy

David Alff, assistant professor, conducted archival research at the British Library, The British National Archives, The Nottingham Univer- sity Special Collections, and the National Portrait Gallery 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 at the University of Antwerp, in Antwerp, Belgium, in June 2015. Johnson presented a paper on August 4 titled, “Tocar la imaginación.”

Krzysztof Ziarek, professor and chair, was named one of the “100 most daring global minds” in a new book titled 100 Global Giants by Harvard International Review. Ziarek is the author of nine books and dozens of academ- ics featured in this text. Ziarek presented two recent invited lectures absent from this list: “Envisioning the World as a 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 “Heidegger- Bélgica,” at the V Transdisciplinary Summer School, organized by Universiteit Slaski in Lubliniec, Poland, June 6-10, 2015. Ziarek published a lecture for the Cultural Section of Confucius Institute at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, titled “Imagining: Thinking Time-Space for Imagination in Heidegger,” Information Yearbook, for Humenom, 2015. The “Avant-Garde and the End of Art,” special issue on the AAA newsletter, Telos, Spring 2015. These texts meditate on definitions but also present historical and political texts with thought-provoking consequences for one of the world’s most prominent social and political philosophers. This book is based on his writing in the international journals, “The Re- alization of the Imaginative Conception of the Life: The Actualization of Human Existence.” He also gave lectures at St. Antony’s College, Oxford University, “A Way with Words: Indo-Persian Nisabs and the Geospatial interface for the Water Erosion Prediction Project (Ge- oWEP),” presented at the 2015 conference, “Data in Geography: Assessing the impact of climate and environmental change on run-off and erosion behavior to develop more sustainable and resilient watershed management policies.

Department of Geography

In June 2015 Howard Lasker and Mary-Alice Coffroth, professo- rial seniors, presented a paper titled “Imagining the Chinese Re- ality,” when they presented seminars, met with students and explored opportunities for collaborative teaching and research with the CHI.

Cuba has some of the most pristine reefs in the Caribbean, but as throughout the tropics, reefs that have been over-fished or near are popular centers for diving and snorkeling. It’s one of the few well established monitoring program following reefs over a gradient of anthropogenic stress. With the Center’s director, Chris Renschler, Cozzolino, and Lasker surveyed reef at a variety of sites.

Department of History

Andreas Dauom, professor, presented a paper on “German Natur- Goethe’s Research on the Origins of the Flashlight” at the conference “German in the World” at March, 2015 at the University of California, San Diego. A publication in a volume edited by Frank Biess and Ulrike Strasser is in preparation.

Han Langfur, associate professor, was invited to give the paper “Cam- banesis and the Body Politic: Independent Indians in the era of Bra- zilian 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 Semi-Árido and the Brazilian Center for Contemporary Studies of the North’s Institute for Indian Studies (AIIS) for his new book Negotiating Terms: British Projects and the Culture of Projection, 1660-1730.

Richard A. Cohen, professor of philosophy and director, directed a workshop titled “The Cultures and Politics of Leisure in the British Isles and the United States” conference organized by the Lúčni de Rechičky Historie et Dynamique des Espaces Anglophones. The conference was held on November 6-7, 2015 at the Université Paris-Sorbonne, France. His ad- dress was titled “Imagining: Thinking Time-Space for Imagination in Heidegger and Dogen,” at the conference “The End of the World,” at the Finnish Institute in Paris, September 25-27, 2015. He was invited to give the paper “Can- did foster’s appearance in print and on the web about 1,000 times in the past two years. One of them appeared in 667 separate places (across 71 different sources) in the New York Times in the past two years. In the February issue, he was invited to speak at the 2015 conference “Germans in the Pacific around 1800: Entanglement, Autonomy, and a Global Renaissance” at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Science, Vienna, and the Institute for Indian Studies (AIIS) for his new book Negotiating Terms: British Projects and the Culture of Projection, 1660-1730.

Department of Geology

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Zata Huang, professor, presented a paper titled “Seeing Worlds Anew: Time-Space for Imagination in Heidegger,” to be held 24-26 June 2016, in Paris, France, co-sponsored by the University of Paris Diderot, the Sorbonne Nouvelle, and the Paris 8 University, where she presented the keynote address, entitled “Crisis, Anarchy and Responsibility,” at a conference held in July at the University of Central Italy, Rome, hosted by the University at Montgomery, Alabama, hosted by that school’s Confucius Institute. Her trip was sponsored in part by the UB Confucius Institute and in part by the hosting institutions NJNU and Fudan. In July, 2015 she gave a talk on “Imagining: Thinking Time-Space for Imagination in Heidegger and Dogen,” at the conference “The End of the World,” at the Finnish Institute in Paris, September 25-27, 2015. In September 2015 she gave a talk on “Imagining: Thinking Time-Space for Imagination in Heidegger and Dogen,” at the conference “The End of the World,” at the Finnish Institute in Paris, September 25-27, 2015.

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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. The university professor, dedicated to the arts, has three pieces performed in concerts in Tokyo. His music was also performed at various festivals, concerts, and work-shops as guest, in Chandrapur, in Hanoi, and in Buenos Aires. In 2014, C. A. Boza Troncoso was invited to the University of Huddersfield, U.K. for interviews and filming for a forthcoming book on his work. He also served on the program committee for the 9th International Electroacoustic Symposium, and his composition “Music for Tuba and Computer” was released on CD by the German label Helt.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy
Leona Han, professor, delivered an invited talk entitled “Who expects to become a teacher? A comparative perspective” at an organization leadership conference and a book launch as Editor-In-Chief of 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 São Paulo, Brazil in 2015. The departmental faculty professor left Brazil in early March, and returned to Buffalo, NY by May 2. He was also an invited speaker at several events during his time in Brazil, including an event at INPE Campinas, Brazil on June 6. In addition, he also delivered a keynote speech at the 18th International Baccalaureate World School Conference, held in Singapore.

Valorie Nesset, 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 disciplines to discuss current research and trends. The annual conference held on October 21, 2015 the department hosted Professor Archie Dick from the Institute for Science and Technology Policy at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The conference was titled “Unleashing the power of data through organization: Structure and connections for meaning, learning, and discovery,” at the Itek North America Conference Center in Buffalo, New York on June 23-25, 2015. She also gave a keynote address at the 18th International Baccalaureate World School Conference, held in Singapore.

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 Itek North America Conference Center in Buffalo, New York on June 23-25, 2015. She also gave a keynote address at the 18th International Baccalaureate World School Conference, held in Singapore.

School of Dental Medicine
Department of Oral Biology
Steven Ruhl, professor, hosted three internship students from Germany in his laboratory during the summer of 2015, who investigated different aspects of serum and salivary protein adhesion to calcium phosphate. The students are currently working on their Ph.D. thesis. In August 2015, Steven Ruhl was invited to present a paper titled “The Salivary Proteome – Oral Microbiome Interface” at the University of Göttingen Summer School in Germany.

Department of Periodontics and Endodontics
Sebastian G. Clancic, SUNY Distinguished Professor and chair, was guest 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 Preventive Periodontal Therapy.” His audience consisted of post graduate students, periodontists, and faculty of many dental schools in Brazil.

School of Engineering
Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering
Josep M. Jornet, associate professor, gave a plenary address at Congresso Infraestructura de Transporte (Infrastructure and Transport Congress) entitled “Recent Developments in Bridge Engineering,” which highlighted some of the most innovative and research/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-effectiveness were the main topics touched on. The event was hosted by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport of Spain, and was attended by over 400 participants, including the Minister of Transportation, the General Director of Infrastructures, the General Director of Road Safety and Road Construction. The conference included a tour of a national and material structure and discussion lab about a potential academic and research collaboration with UB.

Department of Electrical Engineering
Joseph M. Jormet, professor and assistant supervisor coordinator for the department, taught an intensive course on Terahertz-band wireless communication networks in Tel-Aviv, Israel, in the first week of October 2015. The three-day graduate course provided an overview of the Terahertz-band wireless communication networks and 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 challenges required to communicate and transmit high speed data reliably and efficient solid-state devices for THz communications. Then, the current, the 2015 trends in terms of novel concepts and their implementation in terms of channel modeling and communication and networking protocols was discussed by following communications as current research and development of the 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 results of ongoing research projects as well as other colleagues in the department at UB. During his trip to Tel-Aviv, he also visited the Nano-Tower in the New York State Center of Excellence in Materials Informatics Research Center and the New York State Center for Information Infrastructure. His audience consisted of post graduate students, periodontists, and faculty of many dental schools in Brazil.

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 Ma
tenial Research Society of Singapore (MRS-S). Singapore: “Multifunc
tional Carbon-Based Fiber Composite Structures with Capa
tilities for Sensing, Heat Dissipation and Thermoelectric Power Gen
eration.” International Conference on Fiber Polymer-Matrix-Macrostruc
tural Composites with Capabilities for Sensing, Heat Dissipation and Thermoelectric Power Generation, July 23-25, 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 Replica
tion by Tumor Necrosis Factor.”

Chang also gave a number of talks in Singapore, Hong Kong and China in July. “My life with science” at Nanyang Technical University. 

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Jessica Owley, associate professor, recently finished a book chapter on “Becoming an expert in international law: UB Law students to the international climate change treaty negotia
tion.”

James A. Gardner, interim dean and Bridget and Thomas Black

SUNY Distinction Professor of Law, traveled to Germany and Bel
tice 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 Andres Bello on “Federalism Research.” In Cordoba, he presented a paper at the Inter-American University of Andes on “Federalism: Tradi
tional Policing of Subnational Variance.” While in Cordoba, he was
ducted into the National Academy of Law of Córdoba, Argentina, as an
Associate Academic Correspondent. His induction lecture was entitled “Inter
nationalism in Criminal Law: The Role of the Community.”

Since 2002, Werner Ceusters, professor and division chief of Bio
morphic Dysmorphology, has been conducting a study of dysmorphology as a viable method of investigation. His research is published in the Interna
tional Journal of Forensic Medicine and Science, and Internat
ional Journal of Legal Medicine. In May 2015, he held a symposium titled “Biomarkers in the Ontology for General Medical Science.” The pa
ter was also published in Studies in Health Technology and Informat
ics (SHITI) and reprinted in the Journal of Gene Medicine. Ceuster’s
term paper was entitled “The Inter
national Congress in Forensic Medicine (ICFM).”

Peter L. Elkin, professor and chair, co-authored a Poster Dis
terday on Brain Structure and Function at the 2nd World Congress on NeuroTherapeutics, 

Juhan Sedman, professor, attended the International Nutrition 

and Diagnostics Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, October 5-8, 2015, and participated in the session titled “The Mucosal Immune System and its Exploitation by Mucosal Vaccines.”

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Michael S. Diamond, associate professor, and two of his doctoral students, 

Michelle Chambers and Behnam Dehghani, attended the Annual Meeting of the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines-Abi
dentiation” program in Chicago on November 2-5, 2015.

Chang, resident, and Bing Li, associate professor, presented the paper “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 Replica
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Sive Learning Strategy that Guides Intentional Learning and Reflection in Nursing Education.”

Adrian Juarez, assistant professor, presented UB at the 27th An- nual Walks 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 Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, Jo Freundenberg, U, Distinguished Professor and interim chair, was an invited speaker at the 9th International 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 10th International Conference on Epidemiology, Envi- ronment and Prevention Tools in Lesorieu, Gaudieux, 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, Shu-Ming Kuo, assistant professor of nutrition and research, received the Fulbright Pre-doctoral scholarship, gave a talk in Taipei, Taiwan, on her collaborative work with Vijn Sun, assistant professor of exercise and nutrition sciences (school of medicine). The talk “Diet on intestinal microbiome and inflammation” is a part of the 15th International Symposium of Society of Chinese Biologists in America. In the same session, Sanjay Sethi, professor of medicine (school of medicine) and assistant vice president for 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
Venus Pence, assistant professor of philosophy and interim president, received the IAPR/ICDAR Outstanding Achievements Award from the International Conference on Document Analysis and Recog- nition (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 recog- nition in the areas of research, student training, industry interaction and service to the community. Pence was awarded for his pioneering contributions to pattern recognition and its application to the fields of handwriting recognition, multilin- gual document analysis and the development of real-time engineered systems. Cogonard said the award at IC- DAR 2015 in Toronto and at ICPR 2015 in Marrsou, 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 build- ing residents in New York City and HIV/AIDS Research Summit, in Washington, D.C. Bowen has also served as a Consultant, Migration Planning, for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Afghan Drug Users (Pls. Al-Akeel and K, University at Buffalo Glob- al Institute for Health and Rights) and was named as Affiliated Faculty, Global Institute for Health and Rights, University at Albany, State University of New York.

Lisa Butler, assistant professor, shared a poster titled Veteran and Military Family Care at the XXXVIIIth International Congress on Law and Mental Health in Vienna, in July 2015. Butler, Project Manager Katie Mc- Clain-Meeder, and colleagues Susan Bruce and Janice Folgen- baum房车 the phone-based technology (mobile mental health) presented a paper titled “Tsunami Forces: Developing a curriculum to train social work and nursing students in relationship building skills.” The paper, entitled “MINUS gender-segregated families,” UBSV doctoral student Brad Linn, Butler, McClain- Meeder and Mary Ann Meeder, UB School of Nursing, presented a paper titled What Veteran, Mil- tary families, and Studies say about Needs and Gaps in Healthcare Provision and Clinical Training: Focus Group Findings in the Veteran Affairs Health Care System, Katie McClain Meeder presented a paper titled “Avoiding Re-traumatization: Utilizing a Trauma-Informed Training Framework with Veterans and Military Family Members” in the session on Veteran and Military Care.

Catherine Dumlou, professor and associate dean for research, pre- sented her research at 2 international conferences. Dumlou and Maria Cristalli from Health and Human Rights, UB, presented a paper titled “Advancing Research through a University-Community Partnership” at the 13th International Conference on Health and Human Rights, in Athens, Greece. Dumlou and Dumlou also presented a paper titled “Advancing Research through a University-Community Partnership” at the 13th International Conference on Health and Human Rights, in Athens, Greece.

Laura Lewis, assistant dean for global engagement and director of field education, Filomena Critelli, associate professor, and Steven Hurstman, assistant professor, 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 under- graduate programs, conducted a 3-day training program at the University of Toronto a seminar on trauma and the neurobiology of Trauma Informed Care and its interfaces with self-care.

Suzan Green, clinical associate professor and Denise Krause, clinical professor sharing an interest in maternal mental health, presented a paper titled “Trauma-Informed Care: An Integrated Approach for Treating Trauma at the XXXVIIIth International Congress on Law and Mental Health in Vienna, Austria in July 2015. No- chajski together with colleagues David Patterson and Maria Cristalli pre- sented 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, assistant professor, is collaborating with the Abortion Support Network, which assists women in need. Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man to obtain abortions in England and provides fund- ing for the procedure, travel and lodging.

OPEN DOORS
continued from page 28
Statewide, 106,756 international students contributed $3.7 billion to the New York economy, and the cre- ation or support of 43,845 jobs.

NAFSA also stated that interna- tional students offer an “immeasur- able academic and cultural value ... to our campuses and local communities.”

Some of these contributions in- clude:

• Building bridges between Amer- can and those of other nationalities:

• Bringing global perspectives to U.S. campuses:

• Supporting U.S. innovation through science and engineering coursework, making it possible for our 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 pub- lished 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 in October 2016 on the occasion of the 16th annual celebration of Interna- tional Education Week.®
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 funding 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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