

# UB INTERNATIONAL

SPRING 2014 VOL. XXIII, NO. 1

## CONTENTS

Refugee Health Summit.....2

President in Japan.....3

Nursing Programs.....5

Pediatric Residency.....6

Medical Students Overseas.....7

Service in Panama.....8

Health Studies in India.....9

Addressing Air Pollution in Bangladesh.....10

RENEW Institute.....11

Pesticides in Egypt.....12

Zimbabwe Project.....13

Social Work Institute.....15

Rwandan Genocide.....17

Levinas Seminar.....19

Fulbright in China.....21

UB Women's Club.....22

International Activities of Faculty & Staff.....23

### UB INTERNATIONAL

Visit the Office of International Education website at:  
<http://www.buffalo.edu/intled>

## UB GLOBAL HEALTH

By Pavani Ram

Students, faculty, scientists, and educators in all the schools of the Academic Health Center (AHC) at the

treatment, hand hygiene, obesity and other lifestyle related non-communicable chronic diseases, child survival, effects of environmental pollution, and assessment of pesticide exposure in Brazil, China, India, Egypt,



UB medical students join Dr. Ellis Gomez, Family Medicine (4th from r.), on a medical mission in Panama (see p. 8)

University at Buffalo are learning about and contributing to solutions to health concerns of global proportions.

UB Global Health represents a new collective of individuals from all schools in the Academic Health Center working to highlight the various global health activities already ongoing at UB, to increase collaboration and cooperation between the various schools, to enrich our collective experiences in global health, and to address global health problems.

Faculty, staff, and students within the AHC (Schools of Dental Medicine, Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Public Health and Health Professions, and Social Work) are immersed in diverse research projects ranging from HIV/AIDS

Kenya, and Zimbabwe.

These global health research initiatives provide opportunities for faculty collaboration, capacity building in resource limited countries, as well as international research projects for undergraduate and graduate students at UB.

Through partnerships with universities, government, and industry, students gain a new understanding of the opportunities that can be realized, and how those interface with public policy and health economics.

UB Global Health faculty and programs also benefit through interactions and cultural exchange that broaden our abilities to engage in bi-directional academic and technology transfer.

Through global health activities, service  
*continued on page 4*

## UB HOSTS REFUGEE HEALTH SUMMIT

By Jessica Scates

On April 24, 2014 the UB Office of Global Health Initiatives (OGHI) of the School of Public Health and Health Professions, in collaboration with 22 community agencies and UB entities, hosted a Refugee Health Summit in the UB Educational Opportunity Center on the university's downtown campus.

Approximately 130 individuals representing over 30 agencies and communities around Buffalo and Western New York, including all of the Western New York refugee resettlement agencies, were in attendance. The summit's aim was to examine barriers and explore solutions to culturally engaged health care provision for refugees in Buffalo.

One of the largest refugee resettlement areas in the country, Erie County received 1,361 refugees for initial resettlement in 2013, in addition to several hundred more transferring from elsewhere in the U.S. The largest source countries were Burma, Bhutan, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

To better understand the existing barriers to culturally engaged health care, panelists from Journey's End Refugee Services, International Institute of Buffalo, New York State Department of Health, Bhutanese/Nepali Community, UB School of Nursing, and the Burmese Community Support Center shared their insights and answered questions from the audience.

Access to primary care, cultural unfamiliarity among providers, poor interpretation and interpretation costs, lack of mental health programs and screening, and inability to access health insurance were some of the barriers mentioned by participants.

The director of the OGHI is Pavani Ram, associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, School of Public Health and Health Professions, a medical epidemiologist who has worked in more than a dozen countries from Bangladesh to South Sudan helping public health practitioners work more effectively in regions that often include vast numbers of refugees.

"Refugee families in Western New York come from nations on several continents or political regions, and often endure much difficulty and loss before they arrive here,"

Ram says.

"Nevertheless, many — if not most — are imbued with energy and hope. They enrich and diversify our regional culture; broaden our global perspective; introduce us to the art, music, literature, language and other aspects of the cultures they have carried with them; and build new enterprises that support themselves, as well as our shared community.

"Upon arrival," she says, "refugees are supported by resettlement agencies, which process government documents, facilitate school enrollment, provide English language courses and link refugees to primary medical care providers.

"The agencies also offer interpretation and translation services," she says, "help address any unresolved health problems and arrange ongoing primary medical care once refugees' six-month initial

Medicaid coverage has expired."

OGHI invited guest speakers Myron Glick, MD (Jericho Road Community Health Center), Kim Griswold, MD, MPH, RN, FAAFP (UB Family Medicine), and Jim Sutton, RPA-C (Rochester General Hospital) to share different models of care that exist in and around Western New York.

Their insight provided participants with opportunities to explore and ask questions about models of care that could be employed in Buffalo to help provide quality culturally-engaged care to refugees.

Participants broke up into small groups to discuss action items and to develop short- and long-term action strategies to address barriers to care. Breakout sessions focused on the following topics: coordination of stakeholders, mentorship of providers, mobilizing human capital, interpretation, and improving linkages of care by addressing gaps in care.

Participants provided innovative ideas like producing interpretation apps for smart phones, incorporating culturally-engaged training into residency programs, and organizing a community-based steering committee to develop deliverable action plans.

We anticipate holding the summit annually in order to reconvene the stakeholder community, to monitor



*continued on page 6*

## PRESIDENT VISITS INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS, ALUMNI IN JAPAN

President Satish Tripathi made his first official visit to Japan as UB's 15<sup>th</sup> president April 12-20, 2014 to strengthen ties to key exchange partners and to participate in a reception hosted by Japan's large Alumni Association chapter.

Accompanied by his wife Kamlesh and Stephen Dunnett, Professor and Vice Provost for International Education, Tripathi visited three longstanding institutional partners during this trip. He started in the capital with a visit to Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (TUAT), which first signed an agreement with UB back in 1993 and which has engaged in faculty, student and staff exchanges with UB.

The next stop was Konan University in Kobe, where the UB delegation was received by senior leaders of Konan to discuss current and possible future cooperation. The institutional relationship with Konan University is among the most extensive of any of UB's institutional partners.

The UB delegation met with administrators and faculty of Konan's CUBE Program, which annually sends 30-40 undergraduate business students to UB for a year of management studies. In addition, the visitors met with the group of UB students currently studying abroad at Konan.

From Kobe, the President traveled to Kanazawa University on Japan's west coast. This is UB's oldest exchange in Japan, dating back to 1973 and inspired by the Sister City relationship established between the City of Kanazawa and Buffalo in the 1960s. The institutional and city linkages have remained strong over the years thanks to the active participation by the sister city committees and the universities themselves.

In line with the strategic initiatives of UB2020 and part of President Tripathi's continuous effort in engaging with alumni and friends of the university, a reception for alumni and friends of UB was held at Meiji University, UB's latest international exchange partner in Tokyo, Japan, on April 19.

Joining the UB delegation for the alumni event were Joseph Hindrawan, Associate Vice Provost for International

Education and Wei Loon Leong, Director of International Alumni Relations.

The reception drew an attendance of over 140 alumni and friends from across Japan with one attendee coming from the city of Kagoshima located in the southern part of Japan, over 7 hours by high speed train from Tokyo.

Alumni and friends attending the event include alumni who graduated from UB in the early 1970s to graduates who have recently returned to Japan after completing

their degrees at UB. Students who attended the English Language Institute at UB and participated in the exchange programs that UB has had with universities in Japan also attended the reception.

The program of the evening began with welcoming remarks by Dr. Toshio Matsutani, MBA '77, PhD '85, President, UB Alumni Association, Japan Chapter, followed by remarks by Prof. Kosaku Dairokuno, Dean, School of Political Science & Economics, Meiji University and a welcoming toast by Jack Witt, BA '84, EdM '87, Vice President, UB Alumni Association, Japan Chapter.

Professor Dunnett introduced UB's long term relationship with Japan through exchange and study abroad programs while noting the decline in students from Japan studying at UB in the past few years. Wei-Loon Leong introduced himself with the hope of furthering engagement opportunities with alumni in Japan through ongoing communication with officers of the UB Alumni Association, Japan Chapter.

In his remarks at the reception, President Tripathi expressed his appreciation to Meiji University for their kindness in hosting the event, and the UB Alumni Association Japan chapter for their hard work in organizing the event. President Tripathi shared the UB2020 strategic vision of academic excellence in his remarks. "Our aim through UB 2020 has to raise UB's stature even higher among the ranks of the leading research universities in the United States, and the world. I am happy to report that we are making significant progress toward this vision," President



L to r: Hiroshi Ota, Stephen Dunnett, President and Mrs. Tripathi, Joseph Hindrawan, Wei Loon Leong

## UB GLOBAL HEALTH

*continued from page 1*

learning is fostered in multiple countries such as Belize, China, Dominican Republic, India, Macedonia, Uganda, and even here in the U.S. Service learning helps increase UB students' and faculty's recognition and understanding of health problems affecting countries and populations with significantly less access to quality healthcare than the U.S.

Students have completed field practicum experiences in Bangladesh, India, Thailand, and

Uganda, leading them to appreciate the challenges of service delivery in low- and middle-income countries. There are also rich opportunities for future research collaboration and for student exchange with partnerships in Brazil, India, and Zimbabwe.

Various institutes and offices around the University are involved in global health activities, including the Office of Global Health Initiatives, the Institute for Sustainable Global Engagement, and the Institute for Immigrants and Refugees. Capacity building of clinician scientists also provides new UB centers such as the Clinical and Translational Research Center and the Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences to engage in global health programs that reach across all of the health professions.

Schools in the AHC are bringing global health home by working with refugees, who comprise a significant proportion of the Buffalo population. AHC students practice global health locally through clinical experiences or volunteering in health centers and resettlement agencies, fundraising, and participating in a refugee health course newly started in spring 2014.

In addition, the Office of Global Health Initiatives, with support from the Office of Interprofessional Education and in collaboration with various University and community stakeholders, hosted the first annual Refugee Health Summit in Western New York on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2014 to address barriers and potential models to deliver culturally engaged health care for refugees right here at home (see article on page 2).

April 11<sup>th</sup> was the 4th annual Global Health Day at UB. This exciting program developed by the SPHP Global Health Initiatives Graduate Student Association featured



*Ronald Waldman addressing participants in UB's Global Health Day*

speakers describing efforts to ensure public health in challenging humanitarian emergencies and was supported by the UB Graduate Student Association, Office of Global Health Initiatives, and the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (formally known as the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine).

Speakers included Dr. Ronald Waldman from The George

Washington University (*The Emergency Rooms of Public Health: A 40 Year History of Humanitarian Emergencies*) and Dr. Chun-Hai Isaac Fung from Georgia Southern University (*Cholera epidemic in Haiti: A long-term perspective in the midst of a humanitarian crisis*).

Following their seminars, a poster fair featuring students' and faculty's global activities provided an opportunity to highlight the depth and breadth of global health engagement occurring around the University.

Faculty, student leaders, and staff interested in global health gathered after the poster session to identify cross-cutting interests in research and teaching, as well as develop campus-wide activities to foster collaborations and increase understanding of global health in the larger context of UB 2020.

A social hour sponsored by International Pharmacotherapy Education and Research Initiative (IPERI), School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, brought colleagues together to celebrate the compelling global health work being undertaken throughout the university.

Global Health activities at UB bring to life the principles of Realizing UB2020: local and global community engagement, partnering across disciplines, sustained exposure to global cultures, and service learning through robust international collaboration in research and training.

For questions or comments, please feel free to contact Dr. Pavani K. Ram (pkram@buffalo.edu), Director, Office of Global Health Initiatives, School of Public Health and Health Professions, University at Buffalo. 🌐

*Pavani Ram is associate professor of Epidemiology and director of the Office of Global Health Initiatives.*

## SCHOOL OF NURSING LAUNCHES WINTER SESSION PROGRAMS

By Dianne M. Loomis and Joann Sands

The School of Nursing participated in two global experiences during the winter intercession. Joann Sands led a group of undergraduate students to Belize and Dianne M. Loomis, collaborated with SUNY Brockport in a trip to Ollantaytambo, Peru.

### Belize

During the winter intercession, Professor Sands and seven undergraduate nursing students traveled to Belize to provide medical care and education. This was the first time conducting a Study Abroad course in the School of Nursing, so we worked closely with the UB Study Abroad office as well as International Service Learning (ISL). In addition to the nine days spent in Belize, students completed a week of pre-departure assignments, and upon their return completed reflections and a video production for this 2-credit experimental course.

The group arrived in Belize City and travelled by bus to Orange Walk Town, which is where they stayed for the most of their trip. Every day was busy working in the clinics, visiting the local hospital, or conducting a health education fair, followed by an educational or cultural experience each evening. The team visited the villages of San Lazaro, San Jose, and Carmelita.

In the clinics, students began by organizing and setting up evaluation stations as well as the pharmacy. The students were responsible for interviewing patients, obtaining a history, and performing a physical exam. Students accompanied the patients in to see the doctor and reported their findings to the physician, who worked with the students in reviewing his findings, developing a diagnosis, and prescribing a treatment plan.

Once the physician was finished, the students filled the patients' prescription according to the physician's orders, and then educated the patient on their diagnosis, medications, risk factor modification, and overall safety. Students agreed that this experience improved their interviewing and assessment skills and solidified their therapeutic communication skills.

One of the many valuable experiences the students encountered was the need to rely on their knowledge and assessment skills. There were no electrocardiogram machines, computer tomography scanners, x-rays, or labs to analyze blood samples. All patient diagnoses were

made solely on interviews and physical assessments.

The students were also able to experience cultural humility rather than just learn about it from a lecture. As one of the students stated during a presentation, "I hear about and think about how I would react to a person living in a village in a remote part of the world, but I was actually able to experience it here and have a new perspective."

In addition to the clinical work, the team experienced Belize culture by participating in a Belizean dance class, enjoying numerous delicious Belizean dishes, touring the Mayan Ruin of LaManai, and ending their trip with a stay in Caye Caulker.



Chelsea Armstrong, Joann Sands, Kaitlyn Dietrick (rear) teaching oral hygiene in San Lazaro, Belize

### Peru

The journey to Peru was a collaborative effort between SUNY Brockport and SUNY Buffalo Schools of Nursing (SON). Connie Lawrence, DNP, FNP-BC, from SUNY Brockport, invited interested family nurse practitioner students to accompany the established program "International Health Adventure in the Sacred Valley" for a 14-day trip. There were a total of 15 students on the trip; Professor Loomis and three FNP students participated as volunteers. Sacred Valley Health (SVH) has had a partnership with SUNY Brockport for the last three years. The SUNY Buffalo SON's purpose was to evaluate the experience firsthand as a potential future partnership.

Students participated in four health campaigns. The overall goal for the health campaigns was to assist the *promotoras* (community health workers) in educating the community members regarding health issues and first aid. Nursing experiences included performing physical exams, identifying abnormalities, supporting individual *promotoras* at each of the interactive stations and developing culturally appropriate visual prompts.

*continued on page 20*

## PEDIATRIC RESIDENCY INTRODUCES GLOBAL HEALTH ELECTIVE

In July 2013, the University at Buffalo's Pediatric Residency Program introduced a Global Health Elective as part of the elective rotations available to their residents. UB now joins the increasing number of pediatric residencies which offer their trainees global health experiences.

Currently, the program provides experiences in refugee health care here in Buffalo, with plans to have residents travel to Guyana, South America, for an international experience.

Dr. Lorna Fitzpatrick, Pediatric Program Director, has



Georgetown Public Hospital, Guyana

been an instrumental part of this initiative. She has teamed up with physicians in Guyana to develop the Pediatric Oncology program at Georgetown Public Hospital.

Guyana, a former British colony, is the only English-speaking country in South America. Through team work, there have been great advances in

providing care for children in this developing country.

The Pediatric Residency Program is proud to offer this elective, helping residents to gain greater insight into the challenges and rewards of caring for our newest citizens, and using these skills to care for children abroad. 🌐

### REFUGEE HEALTH SUMMIT

*continued from page 2*

progress towards the vision developed at the 2014 summit, and to identify and address emerging issues affecting refugee health. This unique university-community initiative aims to address the needs of the local global community and provides space for the creation of partnerships to implement solutions to barriers to care for refugees.

Additionally, invested students will have innumerable opportunities through inter-professional and multidisciplinary projects to experience sustained exposure to global populations, one of the UB 2020 tenets.

A strengthened university-community partnership addressing refugee health will leverage resources to strengthen the various groups seeking to foster high-quality health care provision for refugees, and empower vibrant refugee communities throughout Western New York. 🌐

*Jessica Scates is coordinator of the Office of Global Health Initiatives.*

### PRESIDENT IN JAPAN

*continued from page 3*

Tripathi added.

The warm and friendly atmosphere in the crowded reception hall of Shikonkan Building at Meiji University was a moment for everyone to share and reminisce their memorable times at UB. A slideshow put together by Eri-Ota Kostova, BS '02, with pictures and memories contributed by the alumni who attended the event, brought everyone back to their memorable days inside and outside the classroom at UB.

In his closing remarks on behalf of the UB Alumni Association, Japan Chapter, Mr. Hiroshi Ota, EdM '01, PhD '08, thanked President Tripathi and his delegation for their visit to Japan and look forward to the continuous support and working together with the Office of Alumni Relations in furthering engagement of UB alumni in Japan with UB.

The overwhelming attendance of the event is a result of the leadership and hard work of Dr. Toshio Matsutani and his team consisting of Jack Witt, Hiroshi Ota, Takumi Takeda, Eri Ota-Kostova and Rina Miyasaka. 🌐

## MEDICAL STUDENTS CARE FOR THE UNDERSERVED OVERSEAS

By Ellen Goldbaum

A diagnosis of acute appendicitis, based solely on clinical observation. A mother's reluctance to undergo Caesarean section based on cultural beliefs about going through labor. An interest in birth control methods that don't require a husband's approval.

These are just a few of the dramatic clinical experiences UB medical students have had while taking part in overseas medical programs.



Rachel Ochotny, Tyler Moore and Julie Garchow at Bwindi Community Hospital in Uganda

Students will discuss some of those experiences tonight at "Global Health Electives and Medical Relief Projects," an event that aims to promote volunteer medical opportunities available to UB medical students and educate them about some of the situations they may encounter overseas.

"Interest in global health is definitely up at UB," says David Holmes, director of global health education and clinical associate professor of family medicine in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He says about a quarter of UB medical students participate in an overseas medical program, up from the teens a few years ago.

Some of those students worked at clinics in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Lebanon and Peru. Two residents in UB's family medicine program recently staffed clinics in Haiti and Mexico.

In her first year at UB, Julie Garchow, now a fourth-year medical student, became co-president of UB's International Health Interest Group, working with several like-

minded classmates to help facilitate overseas rotations.

"We wanted to make it as easy as possible for medical students to do global rotations," she says. Members also gather regularly to discuss issues in international health. The value of these overseas rotations is hard to overstate, she explains. Last month, she returned to UB after spending four weeks in rural Uganda.

Garchow and two UB classmates worked in a hospital's maternity, pediatrics and adult internal medicine departments. Because of the lack of medical practitioners of all kinds, the medical students are called upon to play a more active role, under supervision, in an overseas clinic than they can in the U.S.

"In the U.S., a medical student wouldn't get to do first assist on a C-section because that's what the interns and residents do," Garchow says. "So when you're a medical student you're usually delivering the placenta, not the baby. But in Uganda, we were able to do first assist on C-sections. We had the opportunity to have more responsibility, all the time under the supervision of a physician."

The students also worked with many HIV patients with comorbidities, including malaria and typhoid. "You see diseases that you just don't see

here in the U.S.," says Garchow. While working with HIV patients in Uganda, she developed a color-coded labeling system for HIV medications to enable patients with minimal literacy to know what to take when, even if they couldn't read the instructions.

The experiences drive home how powerfully culture and personal experience can impact medicine. While working at a remote mountain clinic in Haiti sponsored by the international medical relief organization Heart to Heart International, UB family medicine resident Alisha Razack optimized an older woman's hypertension medications and recommended some blood tests.

The medications are provided for free by Heart to Heart. The woman's adult son was so thankful he broke down and cried, sharing his story of how his father had died of cholera and how he was trying to care for his mother.

Sometimes the cultural differences directly influence how receptive a patient is to medical care. "One woman needed an emergency Caesarean delivery, but she didn't

*continued on page 16*

## TREATING PATIENTS IN PANAMA DURING SPRING BREAK

By Ellis Gomez, MD

A group of six medical students and two Family Practice attending physicians spent their spring break week working with “Floating Doctors” in Bocas Del Toro, Panama. We worked alongside twelve other volunteers, some full time and others part time, to bring a medical clinic to the islands of this area.

The trip provided medical care to remote areas of the northeastern corner of the country while allowing first year medical students to learn about primary care in a very different setting than they were accustomed to. The people we served were indigenous to this province of Panama and were called “Ngobe Bugle.” Students learned to assess patients, interview and examine, as well as dispense medications—even learning to do some minor procedures as well.

The team was organized by Dr. David Holmes and the International Health team within the Family Medicine Department. The interest among the medical students was such that two groups formed, one of which went to Dominican Republic, and the other to Panama. Supervising physicians were only available to run these two groups at that time.

The group traveled from Panama City to Bocas Del Toro (about 400 miles to the north – near the border with Costa Rica) to meet the group from Floating Doctors. Our group consisted of other medical students from England and the U.S. (mostly 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students), nurses, and physicians. The Floating Doctors group provided housing and some meals for the week as well as medical supplies for our clinic.

The first day there we visited a nursing home and dispensed medications, examined patients and just spent time with the elders there. We also helped organize the pharmacy supplies for our multi day trip to a more remote region.

The first year medical students learned a lot about pharmacology and physical exams, and honed their interview skills in the Spanish language. Being a native Spanish speaker myself, I was very proud of the fluency of our group. Every student who went on this trip spoke Spanish, as well as the other attending that was traveling with us. This was a great tool in understanding and helping people from a culture different from our own.

Our second day in “Bocas” we traveled by canoe (called a “cayuco” made from a hollowed out tree) outfitted with a motor another 3 ½ hours to a town on a peninsula called Kusapin.

No easy ride for the twenty people on that “cayuco”—a number of volunteers got a bit sea sick on the way. In

this small town we set up a multi-day clinic that was held at the local elementary school on their basketball court (which of course was outdoors). Luckily we at least had a roof over our heads to shield us from sun and rain.

Over the next three days we had our “outdoor” clinic and saw over 250 patients. We were able to dispense deworming medication, anti-inflammatory medications, and antibiotics to the various patients there.

Many of the ailments were related to the living condi-



Caring for younger patients in Panama

tions in Kusapin: worm infestation, fungal infections, parasitic infections, and your common ailments of hypertension and diabetes. This area of northern Panama is very hot and humid – and located in the rainforest. Many older patients asked for glasses for their failing vision (which we were also able to provide).

In addition to learning about tropical medicine in a different cultural setting, at this multi-day clinic the students were able to experience living in these communities. They experienced the hardship of living in this climate, without the luxury of air conditioning, or running water and eating very basic meals (like rice and beans for two meals a day).

Some students were thrilled to give their first injection, irrigate a child’s ear, and even debride a foot ulcer. A small group even got to make a house call on a patient who lived in the mountains and offer some surgical care and antibiotics to his infected foot ulcer. 🌐

*Ellis Gomez, MD, assistant clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine, accompanied the medical students to Panama in spring 2014.*



## UB GRADUATE STUDENT FACILITATES HEALTH STUDIES IN INDIA

By Patricia Donovan

**M**ichael Healy, a second-year graduate student in the UB Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP), recently returned from Kolkata, West Bengal, India where he spent the summer working on two major projects that will employ new technologies to screen for cancers.

"In the first case," he says, "I helped the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) in Kolkata write and submit a research protocol for a research project that will test the effectiveness of the portable VELscope in the early diagnosis of oral cancers.

"In the second, I am writing a cost benefit analysis of a CNCI cervical cancer screening project, the largest such project in eastern India, and one that also employs new diagnostic technology. The analysis will facilitate the institute's application to extend the study," Healy says.

The VELscope is an autofluorescence device developed by LED Dental, Inc. to define surgical margins (the visible normal tissue or skin margin removed with the surgical excision of a tumor, growth, or malignancy) in a hospital-based population, and to aid in the diagnosis of oral cancer, in this case in a population with a high prevalence of the disease and a high risk of developing it.

"This major three-year study represents the first collaboration between CNCI and Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI)," Healy says.

The principle investigator is Mary Reid, PhD, associate professor of oncology at RPCI, where she directs collaborative research in the Department of Medicine. Reid is also a research professor of Epidemiology and Environmental Health in the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions.

Arthur Goshin MD, MPH, clinical professor of global health in the school, founded and directs the Healthy World Foundation, which supports public health initiatives that serve the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations.

The Healthy World Foundation paid for Healy's participation in this oral screening study, purchased the portable VELscope (its portability is a requirement for use in rural areas) and provided funding for pilot testing of the study.

As Healy points out, carcinomas of the head and neck are especially prevalent in India where they account for 30 percent of all cancers. In fact, such cancers are most common in developing countries. By way of comparison, they account for five to ten percent of cancers in the US. Researchers say the rate of incidence in India is due in large part to the extensive use of tobacco, the common practice of chewing betel nut and exposure to human

papillomaviruses (HPV).

"More than 60 percent of Indians with cancer of the oral cavity present with late stage disease, which has the poorest prognosis," Healy says. "Early diagnosis is difficult in poor rural areas of India where routine oral cancer screening is non-existent and poverty greatly influences the decision to seek health care.

"This project will train and assist Indian health practitioners working with a rural population in the use of the portable VELscope and examine its effectiveness in conjunction with other screening methods, in the early diagnosis of oral cancer," he says, "when it is more amenable to treatment."

While working on the oral cancer protocol, Healy was asked by Partha Basu, MD, MBBS to conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis for a second CNCI undertaking. Basu heads the CNCI Department of Gynecology-Oncology and is project coordinator for the CNCI Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Initiative.

His project is screening women for cervical cancer with visual inspection of the cervix using acetic acid and Hybrid Capture, a new technology that detects the presence of HPV DNA. HPV is implicated in cervical cancer. The Hybrid Capture test is being provided by Qiagen.


"This is the largest such evaluation project in eastern India" Healy says, "and so far has screened 30,000 of the 50,000 women it set out to examine. The cost-effectiveness analysis I produce will be used by project directors to apply for funding from the Indian government to continue the project beyond 2015."

Healy is using his work for the cervical cancer initiative to complete an integrative project, an analog of a master's thesis that is a qualification for his master's degree in public health.

He says that upon graduation he plans to work for the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS).

"My interest lies in building rapport with disenfranchised and underserved populations in programs that aim to improve their health status," he says, "and I would like to work specifically with the Alaska Area Indian Health Service."

This is a PHS program that works with Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations to provide comprehensive health services to about 142,000 thousand indigenous Alaskans.

"My experiences with the projects in India," Healy says, "have given me an entirely new perspective on the developing world and taught me how working in a low-resource environment can foster the kind of innovation and teamwork that overcomes obstacles to public health success." 

## ADDRESSING AIR POLLUTION IN BANGLADESH

By Anne Weaver

From late July to late September, 2013, I had the opportunity to travel to Dhaka, Bangladesh to conduct field work for a study that is a part of my PhD dissertation in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health at UB. I am studying under the advisement of Dr. Pavani Ram, and have additional collaborators at UB, Johns Hopkins, and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh.

My trip was sponsored by the School of Public Health and Health Professions Office of Global Health Initiatives' International Field Work Scholarship and the Department of Microbiology and Immunology Microbial Pathogenesis Training Grant.

Respiratory infections are the leading cause of death in children under the age of five worldwide and in Bangladesh. Exposure to air pollution is believed to be a major risk factor for respiratory infections. The focus of my dissertation is to identify the risk factors for exposure to air pollution in Bangladesh.

In a previous study, I examined the effect of household ventilation (windows, doors, and fans) on air pollution in the Kamalapur slum area in Dhaka, Bangladesh. I found that homes with windows had reduced indoor air pollution compared to homes without windows. Additionally, indoor air pollution levels were similar to outdoor air pollution levels.

One of the major sources of household air pollution worldwide is cooking with wood, bamboo, animal dung, or similar fuels (biomass fuel). Biomass fuel use is relatively rare in urban Dhaka slums (6-10% of homes use only biomass fuel for cooking), but high levels of air pollution have been observed, even in homes that do not use biomass fuel.

Given my previous findings that indoor and outdoor air pollution levels were related, I traveled to Bangladesh to identify whether or not biomass smoke from a neighboring home may affect indoor air pollution in a home that uses cleaner fuel. My team recruited homes that use wood for cooking and neighboring homes that use elec-

tric stoves in the Mirpur slum area in Dhaka.

We monitored air pollution levels in each home, and I am currently analyzing the data. Due to the previous study I completed in Bangladesh, I was prepared for daily life there, but physically being in Bangladesh and visiting participants' homes was incredibly valuable to understanding the lifestyle and living conditions of study participants.

I was struck again by the hospitality of the residents and my colleagues. When I visited homes, people insisted that I come in to sit and rest. I was warmly welcomed and offered food or tea in nearly every home I visited.

Although I know very little Bengali, participants and colleagues alike were thrilled that I knew any at all. This hospitality and friendliness are nearly-universal in a country that gained independence in 1971, after a devastating revolutionary war. Bangladesh has also been

plagued by cyclones, droughts, and famines. I am amazed at how far the people of Bangladesh have come in just 42 years and how they continue to work unceasingly to better their country, despite so many obstacles.

I have been involved in global health work for most of my graduate studies. For my Master's thesis, I conducted a secondary analysis of data that was previously collected in Nyanza Province, Kenya. Having never been in Kenya, I struggled to put these data into context.

Working in Bangladesh in-person for an extended period of time for two of my dissertation projects has helped me to better understand and analyze the data. Additionally, supervising the implementation of a study and leading a team with a variety of English skills was a daunting task.

This experience challenged me, but I gained self-confidence as a researcher. I would strongly encourage anyone to work internationally. I never imagined how much I would learn about myself and about the world. 🌐

*Anne Weaver was the recipient of the Office of Global Health Initiatives' International Field Work Scholarship.*



*The Mirpur Slum where Anne Weaver did her research*

## NEW INSTITUTE TO ADDRESS GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

By Patricia Donovan

UB has announced the launch of RENEW (Research and Education in eNergy, Environment and Water), an ambitious, university-wide, interdisciplinary research institute that will focus on the most difficult and complex environmental issues, as well as the social and economic issues with which they are intertwined.

One of the most expansive initiatives launched in recent years by the university, RENEW will harness the expertise of more than 100 faculty across the university, with the goal of hiring 20 more outstanding faculty with expertise in such areas as aquatic ecology, pollution law, behavioral economics, environmental planning, community health and energy/environmental systems.

The RENEW Institute will place the university at the forefront of environmental and energy research focused on sustainability, climate change and natural resources, says Provost Charles F. Zukoski. The initiative will build upon faculty strengths across six UB schools and colleges. It will receive up to \$15 million in university funding over the next five years to hire faculty and develop new academic programs for students.

"This is what great research universities do. We bring together the best minds to address timely topics and solve problems," Zukoski says.

"One of the most urgent challenges faced by humankind is finding ways to sustain human existence while adapting to climate change and the evolving needs for energy and fresh water," he adds.

RENEW, Zukoski says, evolved from the UB 2020 plan to position the university as one of the world's leading universities by investing in and harnessing UB's research strengths to bring positive changes to the world.

Environmental problems, he noted, are of particular concern in Western New York, which is surrounded by water, including two Great Lakes, and a legacy of early industrialization.

An international search for a world-class scholar and researcher to direct the institute is underway, said Alexander N. Cartwright, vice president for research and

economic development.

The director will foster collaborations among UB researchers, lead the search for additional faculty researchers to join the institute, coordinate with academic departments to develop new undergraduate and graduate programs, and establish partnerships with organizations, agencies and community leaders.

Alan J. Rabideau, professor of civil, structural and environmental engineering, will lay the groundwork for RENEW as the search gets underway. Rabideau will serve as

UB's first Research and Economic Development Leadership Fellow and will begin to coordinate faculty involvement in the institute and meet with local community leaders.

RENEW's research thrusts will address a variety of prominent issues, such as energy diversification, freshwater protection and restoration; ecosystem science, engineering and policy; societal adaptation to changing environments and the green

economy; public health; and environmental management and governance.

The institute's interdisciplinary focus—involving the faculties of the School of Architecture and Planning, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Law School, School of Management and School of Public Health and Health Professions—is designed to foster new collaborations and produce new ideas.

The initiative will tap the leadership and vision of the deans and faculty at the six UB schools and colleges.

"Using this integrated approach, we will bring together researchers in the sciences, technology, public health, human behavior, public policy and other disciplines to develop new ways to strengthen and support our natural and human-made environments," Cartwright says.

The establishment of the RENEW Institute was recommended by an advisory group chaired by Cartwright, whose members were the deans of the six schools and colleges participating in the institute, and from a faculty steering committee, also from across the six schools and colleges.

The faculty steering committee that developed specific recommendations for RENEW's operation included Diana



Students in the lab of Berat Haznedaroglu, a water resources expert, developing biological control mechanisms against harmful algae blooms.

*continued on page 14*

## UB PARTNERS ON PESTICIDE PROJECT IN EGYPT

By Lamyia Hamad

The Nile Delta region in Egypt is primarily an agricultural community with many farmers growing cotton. To ensure that the cotton is of high quality, the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture monitors the crop throughout the season, including the application of pesticides by government workers.

As in other developing countries, workers in Egypt walk through the cotton fields and use backpack sprayers to



*Agricultural workers spraying pesticide in a cotton field in Egypt*

apply the pesticides. However, workers seldom use safety equipment to protect themselves from exposure. The primary pesticide applied to the cotton is an organo-phosphorus pesticide that is widely used around the world and is also a known neurotoxin.

UB professors Jim Olson (Pharmacology and Toxicology and Epidemiology and Environmental Health) and Matthew Bonner (Epidemiology and Environmental Health) were concerned about the adverse health effects for community members and agricultural workers in farming communities.

In June 2008, Olson and Bonner, joined an interdisciplinary team of investigators, led by Kent Anger and Pam Lein from Ohio State, and scientists from Menoufia University in Egypt and the University of Washington, to conduct a four-year study of pesticide workers in Egypt.

This work was funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). The goal was to measure exposure to pesticides in agricultural workers and to identify ways to reduce exposures.

Working together with an Egyptian team of researchers, they set out to establish a functional research laboratory at Menoufia University to characterize inhalation and dermal exposure to pesticides and assess potential deficits in cognitive performance. The study found higher

exposure to pesticides, by absorption through the skin, in agricultural workers compared to non-agricultural workers. These findings were communicated to the Ministry of Agriculture and the workers and strategies were offered to reduce exposure to pesticides.

A second project, funded by NIEHS and the Fogarty International Center, provided an opportunity to expand this collaboration. Working with Diane Rohlman from the University of Iowa and a team of Egyptian collaborators, Olson and Bonner (UB), examined occupational and environmental exposure to pesticides in adolescents.

This study focused on characterizing the change in exposure across the application season. Tracking exposure before, during and after the application season revealed that pesticide exposures increased during the application season and then were reduced when application ended. This pattern was found in adolescents working as applicators and in adolescents living in the community, demonstrating both occupational and environmental exposure.

In 2013, this team of investigators received additional funding from NIEHS and the Fogarty International Center to continue the work with adolescents. The new project will continue to follow adolescents living and working in agricultural communities and evaluate methods to reduce exposure.

An important part of this project is to build capacity at Menoufia University and to support Egyptian scientists, to allow this research to be conducted at a local level. These projects build international partnerships and provide opportunities to address public health issues that are a concern worldwide.

All research has challenges, and this project is no exception. In addition to the usual obstacles faced by field research projects, the volatile political situation in Egypt added another challenge to be overcome. Because travel to Egypt was difficult for the US researchers and travel to the US was difficult for Egyptian researchers, an alternative solution had to be found.

Thinking outside the box, the team met in Dubai in December 2013 for a workshop organized by the Project Coordinator, Lamyia Hamad, a 2013 Masters in Public Health graduate from UB.

Ten members of the research team participated in the capacity building workshop designed to facilitate one-on-one training with the field research staff, as well as providing an opportunity to plan future research and training activities. Perhaps the most successful outcome of the workshop was the strengthening of the partnership among members of the research team.

Agricultural workers around the world are at risk to exposures from pesticides. Limited resources and occupational and environmental conditions all contribute to this

*continued on page 14*

## HIV/AIDS PROJECT IN ZIMBABWE EXPANDS

By Sara Saldi

With 14 percent of Zimbabwe's population living with HIV/AIDS, the need for prevention programs for the entire country, as well as new drugs, treatment and support of those living with HIV, is essential.

Because of these numbers, the University at Buffalo has been working with the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) to establish training programs for scientists and citizens in an ongoing effort to study, reduce and treat the incidence of HIV in Zimbabwe.



L to r: Gene Morse, Charles Maponga, Kelly Tooley, Robin DiFrancesco, and Venu Govindaraju

Recently, as part of its ongoing collaboration with UZ, a team of researchers from the University at Buffalo visited Zimbabwe – some for the fourth time – to work with collaborating scientists and meet with adult and adolescent HIV community support groups.

The UB team, led by Gene Morse, professor and associate director of UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, included: Venu Govindaraju, a SUNY Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering; Robin DiFrancesco research assistant professor; Kelly Tooley, senior research support specialist and program administrator for CPQA and AITRP; and Samantha Sithole, a current HIV implementation research fellow in the Translational Pharmacology Research Core in the Center of Excellence.

During the visit, the UB Clinical Pharmacology Quality Assurance Program (CPQA) and the UB-UZ AIDS International Training & Research Program (AITRP) worked with researchers and laboratory technicians at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded Harare International Pharmacology Specialty Laboratory (HIPSL) at UZ.

The HIPSL at UZ, directed by Professor Charles C. Maponga, '88, is one of six pharmacology specialty laboratories in the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Laboratory Center Network that provides clinical pharmacology expertise and a bioanalytical resource to conduct drug assays for samples collected from ACTG clinical studies.

The UB CPQA provides technical guidance for analytical aspects of drug assays and conducts a comprehensive on-site assessment as part of its mission to seek consistency across pharmacology laboratories in the network.

The HIPSL, located in the same building with the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe, is a growing laboratory facility that will provide an important research core laboratory for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) HIV Research Networks. In addition to building the research facility, capacity building efforts have focused on training young scientists and laboratory technologists that will increase HIV research capacity.

A second component of the visit included the continued growth of the UB-UZ AITRP, which is funded by the Fogarty International Center at the NIH and has a primary goal of increasing HIV clinical pharmacology research capacity at UZ through mentored training of UZ graduate students and faculty in HIV clinical pharmacology research methodology, laboratory sciences and applied therapeutics.

This team was led by Tinashe Mudzviti, an AITRP mentor at UZ, and visited the Opportunistic Infections (OI) Clinic at the Parirenyatwa Hospital and the Newlands Clinic to review the current approach to medical records and the status of implementation of electronic medical records (EMR) systems. The UB-UZ AITRP previously received a supplemental award to develop standardized approaches to the use of EMRs to facilitate clinical research.

Govindaraju is planning pilot implementation research projects that will employ the handwriting recognition technology he developed at UB to create legacy records from paper medical charts that can be incorporated with growing EMR use.

The UB group additionally met with the PARI Support Group, a group of adult HIV-infected patients who meet at the OI Clinic and provide support for its members to be adherent to anti-retroviral drugs, achieve viral suppression and participate in clinical research projects.

Morse led a week-long workshop on HIV Research Publications. The workshop included informal group and individual meetings and provided an opportunity for direct mentoring in preparing a research manuscript, criteria

*continued on page 14*

## ZIMBABWE PROJECT

*continued from page 13*

for identifying peer-reviewed journals, identifying and facilitating co-author contributions and establishing timelines for manuscript writing and submission. All current AITRP fellows participated in the workshop and each has a manuscript that is being finalized for journal submission.

The UB investigators then gathered with faculty of the UZ College of Health Sciences during the initial meeting of the AITRP with the leaders of the UZ Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI).

The UZ MEPI is home to the Novel Education and Clinical Trainees and Researchers (NECTAR) Program that is an NIH-PEPFAR supported grant.

NECTAR is a grant awarded to the UZ College of Health Sciences (UZCHS) for the implementation of a program to improve medical education and strengthen research capacity at the college for the period 2010-15.

The AITRP and NECTAR have jointly established an Implementation Sciences and Research Committee that will focus on including education, training and research opportunities within the curriculum as well as development of multidisciplinary pilot implementation research projects for faculty and graduate students. The members of the committee include Maponga, Mudzviti and Dexter Chegwenwa (UZ-AITRP), Morse (UB-AITRP), James Hakim, Zvavahara (Mike) Chirenje, Kusum Nathoo, Jonathan Gandari and Gibson Mandozana (all from UZ-MEPI).

The AITRP mentors and fellows contribute to this effort by working with the members to complete various agricultural projects that are aimed at increasing food security, thereby improving patient retention in care, treatment and medication adherence.

Through his AITRP mentoring at the Newlands Clinic, Mudzviti has also established a community leadership role at Africaid Zvandiri, a support group for HIV-infected children and adolescents in the Harare area.

The Zvandiri program provides community-based prevention, care and psychosocial support for HIV-positive

children and adolescents. These services complement the care provided in clinics and promote a continuum of care for children and their families. The Zvandiri model is headed by HIV-positive adolescents who lead and plan services for counselors, trainers and advocates for their HIV-positive peers.

The Zvandiri group has gained international recognition for its recent release of a music video, "How to Dance" focusing the public's awareness on the needs and hopes of children who have grown up with HIV infection, achieved sustained viral suppression with combination antiretrovirals and are now planning their future as members of the local community.

During the visit to the Zvandiri group, Morse discussed the outstanding contributions the group is making toward assisting HIV-infected children in Zimbabwe and considered the opportunities for networking with UB programs that will foster medication adherence, peer counseling, vocational training and small business development models. Tooley met with a pediatric AIDS support group in the community setting, which is also assisted by Africaid and meets every month to teach HIV-infected adolescents and children the critical life lessons necessary to be well equipped to address issues of growing up with HIV.

"This trip provided an opportunity to discuss the important progress that has been made through the UB partnership with UZ," said Morse.

"The UZ group of researchers have become leaders within their academic community through their focus on building pharmacology laboratory resources for research, clinical programs for HIV-infected individuals and by linking patient support groups to clinical researchers who work closely with the government ministries to advance the national effort to conduct the Evidence to Action (ETA) project that was announced at our meetings last March.

"Great progress is being made through the perseverance and dedication of the newly trained researchers to achieve the national goals of Zimbabwe." 🌐

*Sara Saldi is a senior editor with University Communications.*

## RENEW INSTITUTE

*continued from page 11*

Aga, professor of chemistry; Debabrata Talukdar, professor of marketing; Richelle Allen-King, professor of geology; D. Scott Mackay, professor of geography; Errol Meidinger, professor of law; G. William Page, professor of urban and regional planning; Rabideau; and Jennifer Zirnheld, assistant professor of electrical engineering. 🌐

*Patricia Donovan is a senior editor with University Communications.*

## PESTICIDES IN EGYPT

*continued from page 12*

problem. Understanding exposure during agricultural activities and the impact on health will allow researchers to develop effective interventions to reduce exposure and protect the health of both workers and members of agricultural communities. 🌐

*Lamya Hamad, a 2013 Masters in Public Health graduate from UB, is the coordinator of the pesticide project.*

## INSTITUTE ON SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

By Charles Anzalone

Two faculty members in the School of Social Work have launched a graduate student and research institute to encourage global activities that extend trauma-informed treatment, human rights perspectives and other themes championed by the school to other parts of the world.

The Institute on Sustainable Global Engagement is the brainchild of Laura Lewis, director of field education, and



Through the efforts of the Institute, organizations in Moldova are supporting the rights of persons with disabilities.

Filomena Critelli, associate professor.

"After seeing faculty and students involved in an increasing number of global activities, we felt it was important to make these more visible," says Lewis.

"We have students completing their social work practicum in other parts of the world — Macedonia, Thailand, South Korea — and a growing number of partnerships with non-governmental organizations and schools of social work. These experiences can be transformative for students and for participating faculty." Lewis says the institute will encourage students and faculty to think about social problems more broadly and learn new ways of responding to these concerns.

"Our study abroad trip to the post-Soviet Republic of Moldova, for example, increases our understanding about what is happening on the world stage and events in Ukraine," says Lewis. "We hope to further attract innovative projects and partnerships. This work is important because people around the world are united by similar issues and concerns."

The new institute begins its work with an International Association of Schools of Social Work-funded project regarding transnational migration. The project will examine the experiences of transnational families who live for prolonged periods of separation due to the migration of one family member. This phenomenon is one by-product of an increasingly globalized world and illustrates the ways in which a global lens is increasingly necessary to understand and address social problems, according to Lewis and Critelli.

The institute's planned activities include research and partnerships that emphasize cross-national collaboration to address educational opportunities. There will be cross-national research projects, faculty research and scholarship focused on global issues that identify innovative social work and multidisciplinary responses to them.

"Social workers need to be more knowledgeable and have an understanding of the larger political and social issues that are going on in the world," Critelli says.

"We really recognize that as social workers — and preparing people to work in social work — there is a need for a greater global perspective to the work," Critelli says. "So much of what we do is very connected to globalization and to global trends."

"Our School of Social Work emphasizes 'from local to global' in its mission statement," says Lewis. "So it's building on the current existing foundation of the school's global activities, emphasizing our curricular focus on a trauma-informed — and human rights issues."

A trauma-informed approach recognizes that trauma is present in a large percentage of the population and works to avoid repeating the trauma. A human rights perspective complements this approach and is fundamental to social work because of its emphasis on universality of rights on the basis of being human. The rights-based approach represents a shift from looking at social problems, such as poverty or lack of education, as "needs" to understanding them as "rights for all," emphasizing the need for respect and advocacy to ensure these rights.

"We see these ideas integrated in the work of our colleagues in other parts of the world and have much to learn from them," says Lewis.

"When you live your life in one country, it's easy to lose sight of all the ways you are privileged. Working in an academic institution in the U.S., we have access to re-

*continued on page 16*

## SOCIAL WORK INSTITUTE

*continued from page 13*

sources. I've seen people doing great work in countries like Moldova, where Amazon.com does not deliver. The books we can share and materials make a tremendous difference there. But you see people doing tremendous work. These people are being forces for social change, supporting the rights of people — people with disabilities, for example — building community supports where there have not been any before."

Colleagues at Prerana, an NGO in India that operates a shelter for children of brothel workers in Mumbai, asked the young residents what they think social workers need to learn.

"Social workers should ensure that they possess a non-judgmental attitude and do not force their choices upon children," the residents answered.

"And that really sums it up," says Lewis.

The two social work professors are connected around their shared interest in international social work. Critelli launched a course on this topic in the School of Social Work in 2008.

One of Critelli's particular areas of expertise has been research based in Pakistan, where she has chronicled how women's activism has helped curb dramatic widespread violations of women's rights.

In India, after meeting with social workers at a college, a hospital and several non-governmental organizations,

Critelli and Lewis learned their Indian counterparts take a different approach. Not only do they work with clients on an individual basis, they also go back and advocate on a governmental level for changes in policy.

"We don't often operate that way in the U.S.," Lewis says.

The two also have twice traveled together to India, where they saw many innovative programs and witnessed firsthand the application of human rights approaches to address such social problems as child labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

They are seeking ways to sustain partnerships with these organizations to promote professional and scholarly exchanges, and engage in joint research to seek solutions to these issues.

"As social workers, we care about the equitable distribution of resources, we care about the needs of marginalized populations and we care about basic human rights," says Lewis. "We see work being done that is truly inspiring and there is always potential for collaboration. I get excited about bringing together faculty, practitioners and students using online tools.

Technology makes it possible to continue conversations from a distance; conversations that first began face-to-face." Currently, the two are working on a project related to transnational migration, with post-Soviet countries as their focus. 🌐

*Charles Anzalone is a senior editor with University Communications.*

## MEDICAL STUDENTS OVERSEAS

*continued from page 7*

want it," Garchow recalls. "We thought she was just scared, but then we found out that in her culture, people believe that if you don't push the baby out, you're not a woman. In that culture, laboring is a badge of honor." With encouragement and support, the mother did undergo the procedure and delivered a healthy baby.

Students are expected to pay for their travel and accommodations, but student fundraising efforts at UB are helping to offset these costs. This year, first-year medical students are raising funds to send a group to a clinic in Haiti; they have been so successful that they have money to spend on medications for the clinic as well.

Another UB group of second-year students went to Panama this spring (see page 8) to work with Floating Doctors, which provides free health care to isolated regions worldwide.

Holmes began leading overseas rotations with UB medical students in the late 1990s. Since then, he has led UB medical students on medical rotations in Haiti and the

Dominican Republic; he also has done medical missionary work in Kenya, India and Costa Rica.

"Dr. Holmes is our biggest cheerleader," says Garchow. "When we wanted to start the International Health Interest Group, he and the Department of Family Medicine said, 'Tell us what you need. We'll help you.'" Karen Devlin, the department's program coordinator, also has been extremely helpful and helps coordinate all the detail. 🌐

*Ellen Goldbaum is a senior editor with University Communications.*



## SYMPOSIUM COMMEMORATES ANNIVERSARY OF RWANDAN GENOCIDE

By Sue Wuetcher

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, in which an estimated 800,000 people lost their lives over 100 days beginning in April 1994.

To commemorate this anniversary and honor the memory of Alison L. Des Forges, internationally known historian and human rights activist, UB presented two events on April 24, 2014.

The first, an international symposium that brought together some leading survivors of the genocide and experts on its origins, course and consequences, was held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at UB's North Campus. The symposium was free and open to the public.

Alison Des Forges, an internationally known historian and human rights activist, was one of the world's leading experts on Rwanda.

Later that day, a Scholarship Fund Dinner and Discussion took place at the Jacobs Executive Development Center in downtown Buffalo.

Both events were sponsored by the Alison L. Des Forges Memorial Committee, the UB Humanities Institute, Office of the Vice Provost for International Education and UB Department of History, and Hodgson-Russ LLP.

One of the world's leading experts on Rwanda, Des Forges was senior adviser to the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch at the time of her death in 2009 in the crash of Continental flight 3407 in Clarence Center, near Buffalo.

She was an adjunct member of the UB history faculty during the 1990s and received an honorary doctorate from SUNY during UB's 155th general commencement ceremony in 2001.

Her book, *Leave None to Tell the Story: Genocide in Rwanda*, is a landmark account of that event and her tireless efforts to awaken the international community to the horrors of the genocide earned her much recognition, including a MacArthur Foundation Award in 1999.

The symposium, "The Rwandan Genocide: 20 Years Later," featured six main speakers addressing three topics: "Justice for the Perpetrators," "Healing for the Survivors" and "Contemporary Rwandan Politics."

The panel on "Justice for the Perpetrators" addressed what happened to the perpetrators of the genocide and how justice was sought and administered. Francois-Xavier Nsanzuwera, appeal counsel in the Prosecutor's Office for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for

Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha, Tanzania, brought to trial and convicted some of the most egregious perpetrators of the genocide. He assessed the record of the tribunal and its legacy.

While those most responsible for planning and inciting the genocide were tried at the ICTR, thousands of the lesser figures implicated were judged by their neighbors in a process of popular justice called "gacaca" courts.



A memorial to victims of the Rwandan genocide (Photo: Shkuru Afshar)

Lars Waldorf, formerly head of the Human Rights field office in Rwanda and now a professor at the Centre for Applied Human Rights at York University in the U.K., evaluated the work of the gacaca courts and the results of these efforts at mass justice.

The panel on "Healing for the Survivors" focused on how the survivors of the genocide are coping and the consequences that have affected their lives. Buffalo resident Nicole Fox, a doctoral candidate at Brandeis University and newly appointed assistant professor of sociology at the University of New Hampshire, has talked to dozens of Rwandan survivors about how they have been coping and how they have memorialized their loved ones.

Aimable Twagilimana, a native of Rwanda and a UB graduate, professor of English at SUNY Buffalo State College and author of several books on the genocide, talked about how history, culture and identity might be reimagined in post-genocide Rwanda—as Germans reimagined their country after the Nazis.

The third topic, "Contemporary Rwandan Politics," addressed how politics have changed in the country since the genocide: The majority Hutu were in power leading up to the genocide; now the minority Tutsi dominate the government. Jean-Paul Kimonyo, senior policy adviser to the president of Rwanda, was expected to present an insider's view, but unfortunately he could not attend.

*continued on page 20*

## GHOSTS OF EMPIRE PAST

By Shaun Irlam

**A**cross the sky came a screaming .... Twenty years ago, the shriek of a small jet, shot from the sky, ripped open the tranquil Rwandan twilight. It plunged out of the night to a fiery end over Kigali. The crash took down the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi as well as a fragile peace process that had been stumbling towards some truce in a bitter civil war.

Like an exterminating angel, that flaming debris would sweep almost a million Rwandans to their deaths in carnage that soon engulfed the thousand hills of Rwanda; that fiery scream was the clarion to let slip the paramilitary goon squads who would spill a widening tide of blood across this tiny, tightly-woven nation no bigger than Vermont. Over some hundred days, thousands upon thousands were tumbled into oblivion by deaths less dignified than beasts, all sinews leading back to humanity prematurely snapped.

What demons rose that Easter in 1994? The genocide must be mapped both regionally and historically. The genocide, like the Nile whose headwaters it clouded with blood, has origins in Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. Its genealogy, too, stretches far back, to the introduction of identity cards by colonial authorities in 1934, to the rancid racial fables of nineteenth-century anthropology, and ultimately to the Bible, the source of wildly fanciful speculations about this region's peoples.

One could almost say that the genesis of this genocide lay in Genesis. The story of Noah's son, Ham, scripted the notorious hypothesis about the Tutsi as 'Hamitic' interlopers from north-east Africa and post-colonial Rwanda laid its foundations in this fable. Modern Rwanda has been a tale of fratricides, the clash of Cain and Abel writ large as national history — the vengeance of Hutu cultivators against Tutsi pastoralists.

Historians have often noted that old, colonial scripts long ago severed Rwanda from its own history to entangle it instead in a fabricated web of toxic myths. These invented histories later unraveled in a cycle of pogroms, culminating in the genocide of April 1994 when Hutu extremists tried to exterminate their Tutsi compatriots and moderate Hutu allies.

Whatever those names once meant, the imaginary identities of 'Hutu' and 'Tutsi' today are largely remnants of a *prosthetic* history engineered by colonial authorities and grafted into the national psyche through decades of

colonial educational and administrative policy, as well as religious instruction. Belgium left this prosthetic history behind in 1959 to script the future catastrophes in Rwanda.

A bitterly divided and ethnically polarized Rwanda became independent in 1962 and the first deadly reprisals soon followed. The emancipated Hutu majority turned on their former Tutsi overlords, setting in motion a pattern of persecution repeated until 1994. Rwanda is one grim and potent reminder of how often imperial meddling in the histories of others has sown unforeseen and disastrous consequences. The fate of Rwanda is *still* tragically haunted by lingering colonial mythologies.

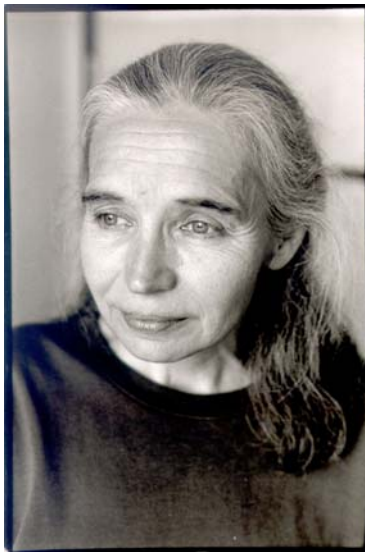
April 1994 is perhaps the cruelest month in modern African history: while the collapse of apartheid and the rise of Nelson Mandela to the presidency of South Africa bred celebration everywhere, Mandela's triumph was eerily backlit by the dance of death turning Rwanda into a wasteland. As South Africa at last laid one colonial misadventure to rest, the unquiet ghosts of another stirred from the grave. Hope contended with horror for our attention, as though the fell and better angels of empire struggled for the soul of history.

Now it is April again. Twenty years on. Across the globe, as the rains return to Rwanda, people gather to reflect back on the genocide and the terrible losses it wrought; Philip Gourevitch recalls how birds of carrion "over massacre sites ... marked a national map against the sky." Every evening still, almost in ritual observance of that season of slaughter, the crows at dusk wheel in wide circles over the hills of Kigali.

Now, in solemn ceremonies of commemoration, knots of Rwandans and their friends, at home and abroad, gather to offer tributes of remembrance burning brightly against oblivion. Slowly, painfully, steadily, reknitting torn fibers of memory, those who now hallow this anniversary, strive to raise its victims from the common grave of anonymity, restore to them their stolen individuality, and recall the love and esteem they once inspired among the community of the living. We celebrate their lives and give them sanctuary in our hearts.

Here in Buffalo this April, like many other communities across this nation and around the world, we remember the hundreds of thousands who died during the Rwandan genocide, but we will also celebrate the memory of Alison Des Forges, without whom far less of the Rwandan story would have been told.

After the genocide, Rwanda found in Dr. Des Forges one of the most courageous human rights activists of our time and a tenacious champion of its cause. Until her un-



Alison Des Forges

## INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH THOUGHT AND HERITAGE ORGANIZES INTERNATIONAL LEVINAS SUMMER SEMINAR

The Levinas Philosophy Summer Seminar (LPSS) is an annual one-week long summer seminar of research and discussion, organized by Professor Richard A. Cohen, director of the Institute for the Study of Jewish Thought and Heritage, and a recognized authority on the work of Emmanuel Levinas.

The inaugural LPSS was held in July, 2013, in Vilnius, Lithuania, birth country of Levinas. The second LPSS is scheduled for July 7-11, 2014 at the UB North Campus.

Each summer the intellectual focus is on a different aspect of Levinas's philosophy. In 2014 it will be the "primacy of ethics" considered in the encounter of Levinas and Kant.

The seminar is composed of ten invited scholars – graduate students, post-doctoral students and professors - selected from applicants from around the world.

Both Emmanuel Levinas and Immanuel Kant assert the primacy of ethics. At the same time, both see this primacy as supporting rather than undermining science. Indeed, for Levinas ethics provides the very justification of truth. Nevertheless, despite their proximity, these two thinkers are as far apart as classical and contemporary philosophy.

The critical idealism of Kant concludes and culminates the grand project of representational philosophy – the primacy of knowledge - which began with Parmenides' equation of being and logos. In the *Critique of Pure Reason* Kant shows the grounds and the boundaries of natural science and metaphysics.

Building on these analyses, in the *Critique of Practical Reason*, he shows the grounds and boundaries of rational ethics. Post-Kantian thought from Schelling to Nietzsche to Heidegger, from Romanticism to Expressionism to Dadaism, breaks with Kantian objective rationality by shifting to creative imagination.

Levinas opens up a radically different post-Kantian path: renewing the primacy of ethics Kant proclaimed by liberating it from its Kantian dependence on objectivist rationality. For Levinas neither science nor aesthetics but

rather "ethics is first philosophy." Only in this revolutionary *ethical* reorientation of philosophy do science and aesthetics for the first time find their proper significance.

Thus, Levinas does not reject ethics in a positivist or pretentious "beyond good and evil." But this is because ethics begins not in respect for law, not in autonomy, not in pure freedom, but rather in responsiveness to the suffering of the other person.

Moral responsibility emerges in and as the primacy of the other, the other's transcendence as ethical obligation.

To better understand what is new in Levinas's thought, this seminar will compare and contrast it to Kant, and especially to the Kantian "primacy of practical reason." Participants will enter into a dialogue between Levinas and Kant based on the idea that though these two thinkers are radically separated by the divide between classical representational philosophies oriented by eternity, the soul and divinity, and contemporary philosophies which takes seriously time, history, language, the body and worldly being, that these two thinkers are in special and fruitful proximity across this divide.

It is directed by Professor Cohen, who is assisted by two additional scholars, in 2014: Professor James McLachlan of Western Carolina University, and Levinas scholar and LPSS co-organizer Jolanta Saldukaityte, Ph.D., Vilnius, Lithuania.

The seminar participants will prepare by reading selected readings from Levinas's two major works, *Totality and Infinity* (1961) and *Otherwise than Being or Beyond Essence* (1974), as well as selected articles or portions of articles related to the Levinas-Kant encounter.

The Levinas Philosophy Summer Seminar is sponsored by The Levinas Center; Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage; Humanities Institute. 🌐



Participants in the 2013 LPSS in Vilnius, next to a plaque marking Levinas' birthplace

## RWANDAN GENOCIDE

*continued from page 17*

Noel Twagiramungu, a Rwandan human rights activist who fled the country in 2005 to become a Scholar at Risk at Harvard University and is now a doctoral candidate in the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, offered an insider-outsider view of the genocide and of Rwanda today.

Each of the panels was followed by general question-and-answer periods, and then by small-group discussions led by the six principal speakers and seven others who are survivors of the genocide and/or experts on human rights and Rwanda. All but two of these participants knew Des Forges well as colleagues in the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch, as co-workers at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, or as graduate students whom she mentored and/or protected.

The Scholarship Fund Dinner held later in the day provided members of the Buffalo community with an opportunity to speak with the 13 symposium participants and raise funds for the Alison L. Des Forges Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund at UB. The fund supports four-year scholarships at UB for promising Buffalo public school students interested in pursuing a course of study and career in human rights. 🌐

*Sue Wuetcher is the editor of the UB Reporter.*

## GHOSTS

*continued from page 18*

timely death in the plane that crashed one icy night near Buffalo in 2009, she tirelessly fought for justice, both against those who committed the genocide and against those among the current president's minions who still elude prosecution for human rights atrocities.

From her, we today draw renewed resolve for cause her own life embraced, bearing witness for those who no longer can. More than ever, humanity needs her example and moral guidance on this anniversary of the Rwandan apocalypse, as we see Syria, South Sudan and the Central African Republic riven by ethnic and religious slaughter and hear the pledge of 'Never again!' sound ever more hollow.

Rwanda is renowned as a nation of master weavers. Their basketware is celebrated as the finest found in Africa. Yet nowhere have those legendary skills been more tested than in these twenty years since the genocide, during which Rwandans have worked so hard to mend a social fabric once feared torn beyond repair. A tapestry of human dignity begins to emerge, but it remains far from complete. History has yet to tell us whether the old ghosts have been exorcised. 🌐

## WINTER SESSION NURSING PROGRAMS

*continued from page 5*

Education in managing chronic problems such as back pain in limited resource settings was also provided. There was often a lack of trust with existing health services when referral for more comprehensive services was suggested. The overall experience highlighted the impact of health care disparities.

Thinking "outside of the box" was demonstrated by adapting equipment and using readily accessible materials for demonstrating the various techniques at each station. For example, balloons filled with dirt and pebbles were utilized as breast models for self-breast exams, branches from trees were utilized to stabilize fractures, etc. Consistent with the Belize experience, students needed to depend on strong clinical skills.

This trip allowed immersion into the culture through Spanish lessons, attending a bullfight, participating in the El Día De Los Reyes' festivities and staying with host families. The "lived experience" of cold showers and family meals requiring students to use Spanish in casual conversations posed challenges for most students. We toured Machu Picchu and climbed Waynu Picchu and ended our trip near Puerto Maldonado for a three-day Amazon jungle eco tour.

## Conclusion

The opportunities certainly outweighed the challenges. Both partnerships provided clinically and culturally relevant experiences in safe environments. These global experiences embraced the importance of the nursing role in a global society.

There were several challenges encountered which would be applicable to other winter intercession trips. Flight costs are typically higher in January, which impact the overall cost for students and faculty. There is also a greater chance for weather-related travel issues, which did significantly impact the Peru trip.

The next steps for the School of Nursing, will be to evaluate the experiences and make appropriate changes to the experimental course. Suggestions include choosing locations in the world that require eight hours or less travel time, advertising earlier so that students have an adequate time to secure financial resources, and partnering with organizations that provide sustainable services.

Ideally, it would be good for the schools in each of the health sciences to work collaboratively. Utilizing the full cadre of skills in one global setting could provide a more sustainable and lasting impact. 🌐

*Dianne Loomis, clinical associate professor, and Joann Sands, clinical assistant professor, led the inaugural School of Nursing Winter Session programs.*

## ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES MAKES UB ITS NEW HOME

By Munroe Eagles

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, UB became the new institutional home for the next three years for the Association of Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS), one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious professional organizations in the field of Canadian Studies.

UB was selected from proposals from four universities to be ACSUS' new home last summer in a competitive application process by a special committee of the ACSUS executive.

Announcing the outcome of the competition, then-ACSUS President Myrna Delson-Karan (Professor of French, St. John's University), wrote: "We at ACSUS are ... thrilled at having the University at Buffalo as our host. We look forward to a pleasant and productive relationship with Buffalo and in seeing our organization grow and thrive in the right environment for success."

Founded in 1971 at Duke University, ACSUS is a multi-disciplinary organization that provides a wide variety of services to academics and students who share an interest in our neighbor to the north. is a multi-disciplinary membership based organization committed to raising awareness and understanding of Canada and the bilateral relationship.

ACSUS supports research and academic activity through its publications (an occasional paper series, and the *American Review of Canadian Studies* which is managed by ACSUS members at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washingtons), conferences, and grant programs; promotes the academy through active advocacy and outreach; and positions the community by profiling the scope and diversity of research undertaken by the ACSUS membership in the humanities and social sciences.

The extraordinary level of interdependence between Canada and the United States makes our partnership each country's most important bilateral relationship. Understanding Canada is therefore of immediate and pressing importance for the United States.

The academic community plays an important part in helping to educate policy makers and the public-private sectors about the economic, political, trade, security, defense, environmental, technological, scientific, and cultural dimensions of Canada-US relations.

In the United States there are more than seventy universities teaching courses on Canada to an estimated 20,000 undergraduate students each year. Five regional associations are also actively engaged in raising awareness of Canada.


The integrated nature of the Canada-US partnership demands future leaders possessing the tools to successfully navigate an increasingly complex world.

The academic community represented and supported by ACSUS is key to this future success.

UB's location on the Canada-US border makes us a 'natural' university home for ACSUS, and our selection recognizes our growing reputation for leadership in the Canadian Studies community. Within ACSUS itself, UB faculty members have long been active members.

Most recently, for example, Munroe Eagles (Canadian Studies and Political Science) just completed a four-year elected term as a member of the ACSUS Executive Council, and Jean-Jacques Thomas (Canadian Studies and Romance Languages and Literatures) is a currently serving as an elected member of that body.

Eagles was elected last fall to a two-year term as the Association's Vice-President, and will succeed Kenneth Holland (Ball State University) as ACSUS President in November 2015.

ACSUS is affiliated with UB's Canadian Studies Academic Program in the Department of Transnational Studies, and is now located in 1013 Clemens Hall. 

*Munroe Eagles is professor of political science and director of Canadian Studies.*



## UB WOMEN'S CLUB MAKES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FEEL AT HOME

By Kevin Stewart

The sign outside 210 Student Union reads “International Brunch,” but inside looks more like a neighborhood hangout at Grandma’s house. The room is usually empty, or hosting the quiet anxiety of a blood drive, but on Monday it was humming with the satisfied sighs of college students and the comforting chattiness of the women who have taken the time to put on this event.

Once a month, the UB Women’s Club and its international activity group — led by Meena Rustgi and Rose Marie George — host a brunch to give UB’s growing international student population a chance to sit down, socialize and, most importantly, eat.

For the past 68 years, the Women’s Club has been fostering a sense of wellness and community at UB, whether through events like the

monthly brunch or the Grace Capen Award, a scholarship the group sponsors. Club members hold numerous events throughout the year to raise money for the scholarship fund, among them fashion shows, wine-tastings, soup luncheons and a wreath and poinsettia sale.

The Grace Capen Award is available to students who have completed at least 45 hours of study at UB and have earned a GPA of 3.9. But the international brunch serves a different purpose: It’s a way for the women to show their support for a greater number of students than the scholarship can encompass.

And despite its name, it wasn’t just international students who were there.

“Everyone is international,” explains Ardis Stewart, a proud member of the Women’s Club for more than 30 years. “This is an opportunity for students from different countries to interact with one another, and that includes students from America.”

In an age where much social interaction happens online, it can be hard to meet new people and form real

bonds. But for students like BingBing Liang, who devotes most of his time to his studies and research while still learning the English language, it can be nearly impossible.

“I spend most of my time in my office with a pencil and paper,” says the 23-year-old graduate student from China. “Even when we go to seminars, many of the stu-



Members of the UB Women's Club share brunch with international students in the Student Union (Photo: Nancy J. Paris)

dents are Chinese, so we usually don’t speak in English. It’s nice to have somewhere that I can come and talk to people. I get to practice my English and I get to eat. One stone, two birds.”

Liang wasn’t the only student to appreciate the free meal; more than 100 students from all over the world came to enjoy the cold cuts, fruit salad and a Indian rice dish fondly referred to as “Meena’s rice.”

“I come almost every month to eat here,” says Sonia Jing Jian Ang, a first-year finance student. But the easy conversation and the fact that Ang was accompanied for the second time by her friend Daniel Chan, a third-year mechanical engineering student who she refers to as her “brother,” shows that the brunch is doing more than just filling empty stomachs.

While students may come to the event initially for the break it offers from Ramen noodles and microwaved dinners, they come back for the people. 🌐

*Kevin Stewart is a student in the English Department.*

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

## SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

*Department of Architecture*

**Brian Carter**, professor, was a major contributor to the book *Uneasy Balance* that was recently published by the Mackintosh School of Art in Glasgow, Scotland. In addition, he was the editor of the most recent book in the series that focuses on the work of young architects in Canada published by TUNS Press. The book, which has been enthusiastically reviewed in Canada, highlights the work of Battersby Howat.

**Jin Young Song**, assistant professor, has won the Grand Prize in the 2013 Hyundai Engineering & Construction Technology Forum for his proposal for a prefabricated unit for apartment remodeling. The organizer, South Korea-based Hyundai Engineering & Construction, is a subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Group and one of the leading construction companies in the world. Competing for the prize in innovative technology for the building industry were 159 teams from around the globe. Song's proposal, developed through his architectural practice Dioinno Architecture, was noted as an innovative approach to remodeling urban housing. As a prefabricated facade unit, it eliminates the need for onsite reconstruction and remodeling, radically reducing construction time and cost. Its design also contributes to a novel streetscape for urban environments. Song will receive a \$10,000 award with additional support to patent the proposal. Hyundai Engineering & Construction will register Dioinno Architecture as a cooperative firm in the continued development of the project. Song's housing and memorial project, *Slanted Memorial* has won Special Mention for the Unbuilt Visions 2013 international architectural design competition. *Unbuilt Visions* exhibition showcased Song's Slanted Memorial project at the TSMD Turkish Architectural Center in Ankara, Turkey from Jan. 7-21, 2014.

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

*Department of Anthropology*

**Deborah Reed-Danahay**, professor, has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Council for European Studies (CES), an international and interdisciplinary organization based at Columbia University, and will serve a term from 2014-2018. UB is a member of the Academic Consortium of CES, and Reed-Danahay serves as the institutional liaison. UB's membership in the consortium is supported by funding from the departments of Anthropology and History and by the Center for European Studies (CEUS) at UB.

*Department of Biological Sciences*

**Paul Cullen**, assistant professor, has been invited to Marburg, Germany to present his work at the Marburg Meeting on Microbiology in March 2014. Cullen will be one of 25 speakers presenting at the event, which will be attended by faculty and students at the Philipps-Universität Marburg. Cullen will be talking about the roles of mucin receptors in signal transduction, adherence, and pathogenesis.

*Department of Classics*

**Neil Coffee**, associate professor and chair, has won a joint grant with the University of Geneva, Switzerland for a three-year project studying the application of digital search methods to the tracing of literary history and artistry. A particular focus is the work of the UB Classics – Linguistics Tesseræ Project, which offers a free web tool for intertextual research. The UB – Geneva project kicked off in February 2014 at the Fondation Hardt, a foundation for classics research outside of Geneva, with a workshop that convened distinguished scholars of classical literary history and several digital project groups. In addition to UB and Geneva, contributors to the workshop came from Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Carnegie Mellon University, Ohio University, Oxford University, Penn State University, the University of Göttingen, the University of Leipzig, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Toronto, and other international institutions. Also

attending was **Christopher Forstall**, UB Classics Ph.D. candidate. In addition to convening and organizing the event together with Damien Nelis of University of Geneva Classics, Coffee gave a presentation on the Tesseræ Project, along with Forstall and their collaborator Neil Bernstein, associate professor of Classics at Ohio University. The goal of the workshop was to outline an agenda for future digital studies of literary history that could inform the work of both the UB – Geneva collaboration and the scholarly community at large.

*Department of Comparative Literature*

**Rodophe Gasché**, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Eugenio Donato Chair, recently delivered several invited lectures in other countries: Brasilia, Brazil. International conference on Pensamento Intruso: Literatura, Filosofia e Infinito (no Limiar de Nancy & Derrida). Lecture: "The Eve of Philosophy: On 'Tropic' Movements and Syntactic Resistance in Derrida's *White Mythology*;" Santiago, Chile. Universidad Diego Portales. Conference on "Derrida y el hegelianismo frances". Lecture: One Before the Other? On Jean Wahl and Jacques Derrida;" Rome, Italy. International Conference on "The Reasons of Europe: History and Problems of a Philosophical Concept." Keynote Address: "Is 'Europe' an Idea in the Kantian Sense?" Gasché's book *The Tain of the Mirror: Derrida and the Philosophy of Reflection* (Harvard 1986) was published in Italian under the title *Dietro Lo Specchio: Derrida e la Filosofia della Riflessione*, (trans. F. Vitale and M. Senatore, Milano: Mimesis Edition, 2013). Gasché also published articles in international journals: "Viitta, Laskos, Kuva. Gustave Flaubert in *Salambosta*, trans. Kääntänyt Anne Savioja, in *Romaanin historian ja teorian kytköksiä*, ed. H. Meretoja and A. Mälikalli, Helsinki: Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, 2013, pp. 83-112; "Sobre la figura del Archipiélago," trans. N. Parra, *A la sombra de lo político: Violencias institucionales y transformaciones de lo comun*, ed. M. del Rosario and C. Andres Manrique, Bogota, Colombia: Ediciones Uniandes, 2013, pp. 267-76; "Nach Poussin," in: Alexander Johannes Kraut, *Tagundnachtgleiche*, Berlin: Revolverpublishing, 2013, pp. 99-102, 136-37; and "Unter dem Zeichen des Anderen. Jaspers' Blick zurück auf den Ursprung Europas in der 'Achsenzeit,'" in *Grundordnungen. Geographie, Religion, Gesetz*, Berlin: Kadmos, 2013.

*Department of Economics*

In June-July 2013, **Paul Zarembka**, professor, presented a theoretical and empirical paper demonstrating the unchanged relationship in the United States from 1956 to 2011, using a Marxist measure, of hours required to produce the means of production U.S. workers are working with, compared to the number of hours worked. The presentations were made at political economy conferences in Bilbao, Spain and in The Hague, Netherlands. On March 8, 2014 (which happened to be International Women's Day), he presented a paper at a workshop in Berlin celebrating the 100th anniversary of Rosa Luxemburg's *The Accumulation of Capital*. Zarembka considers Luxemburg the most important Marxist theorist of the 20th century. He presented a paper entitled "'Marx's Evolving Conception of Value and Luxemburg's Legacy: A Process of Intellectual Production."

*Department of English*

**David Alff**, assistant professor, delivered an invited talk at McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario) on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. The title of the talk was "What is a project?"

**Tim Dean**, professor, co-organized a two-day symposium, "Consent," at the University of Birmingham, UK, in November 2013.

**Jerold C. Frakes**, professor, delivered a paper, entitled "Marvels of the East and the Paradisical Otherworld in the Nordic West: The Vinland Sagas," at the conference: Trans-Cultural Entanglements and Global Perspectives in the Pre-Modern World," organized by the Freie Universität Berlin, 12 July 2013. He delivered the keynote

address, entitled "Brautwerbungsepos auf den altjiddischen Kopf gestellt" at the conference "Aventiuren in Aschkenas. Jüdische Aneignungen nichtjüdischer Erzählstoffe im vormodernen Europa," at the Humboldt Universität in Berlin on 5 March 2014.

**Walter Hakala**, assistant professor, gave a paper titled "Dictionary Dacoits: Self-Quotation and Plagiarism in Colonial Urdu Lexicography" at the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin in October 2013. Hakala received a travel grant from the American Institute of Pakistan Studies to participate in the conference.

**Graham Hammill**, professor and chair, was elected President of the International Spenser Society. He began a two-year term in January 2014.

**Stacy Hubbard**, associate professor, co-organized and co-led a seminar (with Melissa Zeiger of Dartmouth College) on "Modernist Women Poets and the Everyday" at the Modernist Studies Association Conference in Sussex, UK on August 31, 2013.

**Bruce Jackson**, SUNY Distinguished Professor and James Agee Chair of American Culture, has a photograph selected for this year's Venice Biennale by curator Rem Koolhaas.

**Steve McCaffery**, professor, delivered "Frame-Time: Variant Cinematic Temporalities in Gertrude Stein and Bob Brown," at the MDRN Conference on Time & Temporality in European Modernism and the Avant-Garde (1900-1950), at the University of Leuven, Belgium, September 18, 2013. He also delivered "Pataphysics and Potential Architecture," at New Architectures, New Landscapes, University of Greenwich, London, September 20, 2013. He gave readings at the Ottawa Arts Court, October 19, 2013; the UnAmerican Readings Series, a transatlantic reading series held simultaneously in New York City and Cambridge, UK, November 17, 2013; and St. Jerome's University, University of Waterloo, Ontario November 29, 2013.

**Cristanne Miller**, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Edward H. Butler Chair of Literature, gave lectures during January 2014 in Germany at the University of Bonn; in England at Portsmouth and Cambridge Universities; and was a keynote speaker at a conference on Modernist Revolutions in Toulouse, France. She is now helping to coordinate a conference on Emily Dickinson and Translation that will take place at Fudan University in Shanghai in November 2014.

**Joseph Valente**, UB Distinguished Professor, delivered the keynote lecture at the Psychoanalysis in Ireland Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, August 25, 2014. He was elected Treasurer and Vice-President International Yeats Society.

#### Department of History

**David Gerber**, professor emeritus, presented a paper, "Exploring the Mental Lives of Immigrant Letter Writers: Nostalgia and Adjustment to Changed Circumstances," at Comparison, Exchange, and New Perspectives: International Symposium on Transnational Migration Letters, a conference at Wuyi University in Jiangmen, China, 6-9 December, 2013.

#### Department of Media Study

**Loss Pequeño Glazier**, professor, had the following works published internationally: "La Cuchufleta," a visual poem exhibited in the exhibition "Räume für Notizen", Wechselstrom Gallery, Vienna, Austria, January 28 to February 12, 2014; "Form, Formations, Formulations: The poetics of it," a paper presented at the International E-Poetry [2014] Intensive, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, March 20-22, 2014; "Broméliacées à face blanche sur 20 hectares", digital poem, exhibited at "Les Littératures numériques d'hier à demain", Labo BnF, BnF | François-Mitterrand, Paris, September 24-December 1, 2013; "Loss Pequeño Glazier Interview"

published in "Ars Poetica", *European Poetry Forum*, Ars Poetica Association, Bratislava, Slovakia.

In Fall 2013, adjunct professor **Tanya Shilina-Conte** hosted two events through the Center for Global Media, (1) a visit by Professor Alexander Livergant, Editor-in-Chief of the Russian monthly journal *Foreign Literature* and chairman of the Union of Literary Translators, Moscow, Russia. Alexander Livergant gave a lecture, "American and Russian Literature: Politics of Translation," followed by the screening of the film, "The Woman with the Five Elephants," directed by Vadim Jendreyko, about Svetlana Geier, translator of Dostoyevsky's novels into German. The event was co-sponsored by the "Juxtapositions" Lecture Series in the English Department; and (2) a retrospective of documentary filmmaker Su Friedrich's films, organized together with **Sarah J.M. Kolberg**, Department of Visual Studies. Su Friedrich's films are considered to be "a premonition of global cinema," which reflected the movement in American film towards internationalization. Shilina-Conte also introduced and led the discussion of the film, "The Prisoner of the Mountains" by Sergey Bodrov, presented as part of the Global Cinemaspectives series. The film explores Chechen culture and was discussed in light of the recent bombings that took place in Boston on April 15th, 2013.

#### Department of Music

Soprano **Tony Arnold**, associate professor of voice, gave the world premiere of Beat Furrer's *La Bianca Notte* with Ensemble Modern on the opening concert of their new music biennale in Frankfurt, Germany on November 21, 2013. She was invited back for a repeat performance at the Philharmonie Köln on February 1, 2014, with the composer on the podium. Ensemble Modern is one of Europe's premiere contemporary music groups. In October 2013, Arnold was in Mexico as a guest at both the Festival Internacional Cervantino (Guanajuato) and the Fiestas de Octubre (Guadalajara) with the Atlanta-based new music ensemble, Bent Frequency, and PUSH Physical Theatre performing Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon's scenic cantata, *Comala*. In July 2014, Arnold will return to Italy for her seventh consecutive year teaching and performing at the soundSCAPE New Music Festival in Maccagno. In November 2013, the faculty trio of soundSCAPE (featuring Arnold with percussionist Aiyun Huang and pianist Thomas Rosenkranz) released their first CD on the New Focus Recordings label. Entitled *Inflorescence*, the disc is a compilation of music commissioned and performed in recent years at soundSCAPE, including world premiere recordings of works by Josh Levine, Richard Carrick, and Mark Applebaum.

**James Currie**, associate professor, gave two invited guest lectures in the U.K. in December 2013. His "Listening and the Limits of Understanding: Lacanian Reflections on Said's Late Style," was presented at the Humanities and Arts Research Center of Royal Holloway College, University of London, as part of a series of talks on listening, and he was also featured on the Department of Music's *Guest Lecture Series* at the University of Southampton, where he gave a paper entitled, "When Straw Loves Tin: Sound and Sentiment in Comic Modernity." Other international papers include "Puccini's Mortuary," presented at the Royal Association and Music and Philosophy Study Group 3rd Annual Conference at King's College, London. His book, *Music and the Politics of Negation* (Indiana, 2012) was reviewed by James Garratt in the British journal *Music and Letters* (Volume 94, Fall 2013) and his article "The Death of Narcissus: On Musical Subjectivity," appeared in the Brazilian journal *Revista Vórtex* (Volume 1). He also worked during the year with Singapore composer Diana Soh on an experimental theater/vocal work, "Arboretum," for which he wrote the text. It was commissioned and premiered at the Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (IRCAM), in the Centre Pompidou, Paris, France in June 2013.

#### Department of Philosophy

**James Beebe**, associate professor, gave a lecture entitled "What Triggers Supernatural Ideas?" to the Centre for Human Evolution,



Cognition, and Culture at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada on March 3, 2014.

#### Department of Physics

**Surajit Sen**, professor, presented a seminar at the Department of Physics, Brock University in Canada on November 28, 2013 and presented two colloquia while on a visit to India in January 2014. On January 5, he spoke at the Department of Physics of the newly formed Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU) near Kolkata, and on January 22 he spoke at the School of Physics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. His lectures focused on Solitary waves, the Fermi-Pasta-Ulam problem and the frontier of nonlinear many body physics. Sen is initiating a new collaboration with experimentalists at BESU on nanoparticle collisions.

#### Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

**David R. Castillo**, professor and chair, delivered the following paper in July 2013 at the *Jornadas ALCEs XXI* conference in Madrid, Spain: "Los zombies somos nosotros."

#### Department of Sociology

**Christopher Mele**, associate professor, and **Megan Ng** and **May Bo Chim**, 2013 graduates of UB's Sociology program in Singapore, co-authored the article, "Urban Markets as a 'Corrective' to Advanced Urbanism: The Social Space of Wet Markets in Contemporary Singapore" which has been accepted for publication in the journal *Urban Studies*, in fall 2014.

#### Department of Theatre and Dance

**Sarah Bay-Cheng**, professor of theatre, presented on theatre, performance, and digital technology as part of a residency in Dramaturgy Studies at the University of Zagreb, Croatia in summer 2013. Funded by a grant from the US Embassy in Croatia, this program included scholars from UB, Northwestern, Columbia, and Stanford for teaching residencies in Zagreb's Dramaturgy program. As part of the residency, Bay-Cheng presented research from her current book project, *Digital Historiography and Performance*. She also continues as a member of the Board of Directors for Performance Studies International, for whom she chairs the committee on Media.

#### Department of Transnational Studies

**José F. Buscaglia**, professor and director of the Program in Caribbean and Latin/o American Studies, was honored with the 2013 Nicolás Guillén Prize for Philosophical Literature bestowed by the Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA). Past recipients of this award include Nobel laureate Gabriel García Márquez and other major Caribbean writers such as Wilson Harris, Edwidge Danticat and Junot Díaz. According to the selection committee of the CPA, the award was given "for the overall impact of his work as a literary critic, public intellectual, and institution builder. The committee paid special attention to the influence of his book *Undoing Empire, Race, and Nation in the Mulatto Caribbean*, which has already influenced scholars across the globe since its publication in 2003."

Buscaglia published the following articles in international journals: "Pan, tierra y tapaboca: Luis Muñoz Marín y el breve interregno democrático del Partido Popular (Puerto Rico, 1938-1948)" (*Bread, Land and Censorship: Luis Muñoz Marín and the Brief Democratic Interregnum of the Popular Party (Puerto Rico, 1938-1948)*, *Diálogos Latinoamericanos*, Arhus, Denmark, 20 (June 2013): 4-21; and "Los alarifes de Santo Domingo: la historia oculta de los musulmanes que construyeron la primera ciudad europea en América" (*The Alarifes of Santo Domingo: the Hidden History of the Muslim Masters Who Build the First European City in America*), *Dirasat Hispánicas*, Tunis, Tunisia, 1(2014): 43-54.

Buscaglia took his second-year Masters students to Spain in Fall 2013 and has spent part of spring 2014 semester with this year's class in Mexico. While in Spain during the fall he delivered the following lectures: "Islas dolorosas del mar: el terror racista y la permanencia del antiguo régimen de cara al fin de la *Pax Usoniana*

en las Antillas," (Sorrowful Islands of the Sea: Racist Terror and the Persistence of the Old Regime at the End of the *Pax Usoniana* in the Antilles), Seminario de Historia y Cultura en el Caribe Contemporáneo (Seminar on the History and Culture of the Contemporary Caribbean), Escuela de Estudios Hispanoamericanos, Seville, Spain, September 27, 2013; ¿Negro, cristiano o ciudadano? De cómo se desactivó en el Caribe el principal "punto de filosofía" de la verdadera *différance* en la colonialidad, 1673-1802, " (Black, Christian or Citizen?: Of How the Main "Point of Philosophy" of the True *Différance* in Coloniality Was Deactivated, 1673-1802), Seminario Internacional "Juego de espejos: identidad y visiones comparadas en las Antillas (siglos XVII-XX)," Instituto de Historia, CCHS/CSIC, Madrid, October 11, 2013. In February 2014, Buscaglia was the main opponent in a doctoral defense at the University of Tromsø in Norway.

#### GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

##### Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

**Stephen Jacobson**, UB Distinguished Professor, has several recent international publications: with Lauri Johnson (Boston College) as guest editor: special 2013 issue of the *Journal of Educational Administration*, 51(1): "Educational Leadership Development in International Contexts;" Garza, E., Drysdale, L., Gurr, D., Jacobson, S. & Merchant, B. (2014). Leadership for school success: Lessons from effective principals. *International Journal of Educational Management*; Minor-Ragan, Y. & Jacobson, S. (2014). In her own words: Turning around an under-performing school. In *Leading schools successfully: Stories from the field*. (pp. 9-18). C. Day & D. Gurr (Eds.) London: Routledge; and Jacobson, S. (2013, May). Stable leadership and trust: Critical elements for sustained success. Paper presented at the ISSPP Practice and Research Conference. Umea, Sweden. Jacobson delivered the following invited presentations at international conferences: Jacobson, S. (2014, April). Reshaping educational practice for improvement: How schools mediate and enact government reforms. Symposium discussant at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA; Jacobson, S. & Schoenfeld, R. (2014, June). Leadership practices for sustained improvement in two high-need schools: Understanding the importance of positional longevity and trust. Paper to be presented at the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management Conference. Fredericton New Brunswick, Canada.

Jacobson was named by the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) to a three-year term as Associate Director for International Initiatives (2014-2016). He was invited by the Israeli Council for Higher Education (CHE) to serve a member of an International Quality Assessment Committee that will evaluate the leading Educational Studies programs in universities and institutes in Israel including Bar Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University, Hebrew University, Open University, Technion (Israel Institute of Technology), Tel Aviv University, University of Haifa and Weizmann Institute.

##### English Language Institute

**Keith Otto**, program director, English as a Second Language Program, gave a lecture for the faculty at the Language Teaching and Learning Center at the Chinese Culture University in Taipei, Taiwan on March 5, 2014. His lecture topic was "Rubric Use in Language Teaching."

##### Department of Learning and Instruction

**Xiufeng Liu**, professor, gave an invited talk at the Northeast China Normal University on Nov. 13th, 2013 entitled "Latest Developments in Science Education Reforms in the US"; he also gave a keynote presentation at the 10th annual conference of the Chinese National Chemical Curriculum and Teaching Methodology on Nov. 16th, 2013 in Wuhan entitled "Grand challenges for science education: Implications for Chemical Education Research."

**Yinyin Yang** is this year's Judith T. Melamed Fellowship recipient. Yinyin is a UB graduate student in TESOL who comes from

China and is expected to graduate in September 2014 with an Ed.M degree from the Graduate School of Education.

**X. Christine Wang**, associate professor, is the co-PI for the research project "iPad App-Play for Young Children: Analyzing and evaluating the educational qualities of iPad Apps" funded by Zayed University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. She visited her research team in Zayed University January 10-17, 2014. Wang presented two papers at the annual meeting of the European Educational Research Association in Istanbul, Turkey in September, 2013: "Games of the moment: Social practice and identity construction in young children's game playing;" and "Addressing the challenges to classroom practices in early childhood through a community of practice professional development."

*Department of Library and Information Studies*

**Lorna Peterson**, associate professor, submitted an agreement to supervise the postdoctoral studies under a Fulbright Scholarship of Zapopan Martin Muela. Muela is a 2001 UB Master of Library Science graduate and earned the Ph.D. in Information Sciences from Sheffield University, United Kingdom. Currently an adjunct faculty member for UNAL Nuevo Leon Autonomous University, Muela's proposed Fulbright project is "A Mexican-U.S. Comparative Study of the Adverse Effects of Flexibility, Lack of Tenure, and Renewable Contracts in Library and Information Science Faculty." The project, if accepted, is slated to begin August 2014 and end July 2015.

**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES**

*Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering*

**Paschalis Alexandridis**, UB Distinguished Professor and Co-Director, Materials Science and Engineering Program, served as a Member of the External Evaluation Committee for the School of Chemical Engineering, National Technical University of Athens, Greece in December 2013, at the invitation of the Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency.

*Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering*

**Salvatore Salamone**, assistant professor, has been invited to teach a two-day short course on Structural Health Monitoring at the Kore University of Enna, Italy, December 19-20, 2013. This course was part of a project called Laboratory of Earthquake engineering and Dynamic Analysis, recently financed with European Community funds from the Italian National Operative Program to the Kore University of Enna. The objective of this course was to provide an introduction to the structural health monitoring methods and their application to the assessment of the state of health of a broad range of materials and structures.

*Department of Computer Science and Engineering*

**Kui Ren**, associate professor, taught a Dragon Star Lecture at University of Science and Technology of China in August, 2013 on the subject of Cloud Data Security, attended by more than 100 graduate students and junior faculty members from all over China. Dragon Star lecture series are designed to help the People's Republic of China to improve its graduate education in Computer Science and Engineering. Each year, a few advanced graduate-level courses in the field of computer science and engineering are offered in a diversified set of universities in China. Six to twelve internationally recognized scholars are invited to be the lecturers. During his visit to China, Kui also attended and chaired The 8th International Conference on Wireless Algorithms, Systems, and Applications (WASA 2013). He also visited and delivered a number of invited talks at various universities including Hong Kong Polytechnic University, City University of Hong Kong, Zhejiang University, Nanjing University, Shanghai Jiaotong University.

**Alan Selman**, professor, and his student, **Dung Nguyen**, will present a paper at the 31st Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science, held in Lyon, France, March 5-8, 2014.

*Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering*

**Kemper Lewis**, professor, gave an invited lecture entitled, "Handling Complexity: Design Processes and Design Analytics" at Ecole Centrale de Paris in France in September 2013 and an invited lecture in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at McGill University in Montreal, Canada entitled, "Handling Emerging Complexity in Engineering Design Processes" in November 2013.

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

*Department of Microbiology and Immunology*

**John C. Panepinto**, assistant professor, was invited to participate in a workshop entitled "Gene expression as a circular process: cross-talk between transcription and mRNA degradation in eukaryotes" on November 4-6, 2013 as part of the "Current Trends in Biomedicine" workshop program at the International University of Andalusia, Baeza, Spain. He gave a presentation entitled "Breaking the circle of mRNA synthesis and degradation impairs stress adaptation in the pathogenic fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*".

*Department of Pediatrics*

**Vasanth Kumar**, clinical associate professor, was an invited presenter at the Neonatal International Conference of Experts (NICE), National Neonatology Forum in Mumbai, India in September 2013. He gave two talks: "Difficult situations in weaning off the ventilator" and "Pharmacotherapy in the Management of Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension of the Newborn." During his visit to India in September 2013, Kumar gave an invited presentation at the National Neonatology Forum, Karnataka Chapter in Bangalore, India: "Management of Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy in the Newborn."

**SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**

**Gina Prescott** and **Carolyn Hempel**, clinical assistant professors, went to the Dominican Republic with Score International in 2013. They precepted 21 professional pharmacy students on a medical mission trip with UB alumnae, **Michelle Ingalsbe** and **Emily Obrist**. They provided pharmacy services and patient counseling with an interdisciplinary team to over 1500 patients during 6 clinic days.

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

*Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health*

With support from Society of Toxicology (SOT) Global Initiative Travel Award, **Xuefeng Ren**, assistant professor, went to Guangzhou, China to attend the 6th national Congress of Toxicology of the Chinese Society of Toxicology (CSOT), which was held on November 12-15, 2013. Ren presented results of his long-term collaborative efforts in a talk entitled "Arsenic metabolism and arsenic-induced epigenetic modifications: the role and implication for arsenic-induced carcinogenesis." After the meeting, with the invitations from two universities in China, the Inner Mongolia Medical University and Fudan University, Ren visited and presented two talks titled "Preventive and Therapeutic Strategies for Arsenic-induced Carcinogenesis: the Implication of Epigenetic Modulators" and "Tumor Suppressor, FRY, and Its Application in Clinical Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment for Breast Cancer," respectively.

**Youfa Wang**, professor and chair, was invited to join a panel in the Healthcare Symposium "The Evolution of China's Healthcare Industry: Opportunities and Challenges" held on March 6, 2014 in the SUNY Global Center in New York City. Wang provided an overview of the growing burden of non-communicable chronic diseases in China and the related opportunities and challenges. Wang gave an invited presentation entitled "Fighting Global Epidemic of Obesity and Chronic Diseases—A Systems Science Approach" at Columbia University School of Public Health on March 7 2014. Wang's ongoing research includes his NIH R01 and part of the U54 Center grant related to childhood obesity and systems science research. One is a China nationwide study and the other is a US nationwide study. His team is conducting a US-China comparison study based on the two projects: (1) The \$1.6 million NIH R01 project, "Causes and Interventions

tions for Childhood Obesity: Innovative Systems Analysis," uses integrated conceptual framework, innovative statistical analysis approaches, and rich data from multiple sources to study how complex factors may affect childhood obesity and test potential intervention options in the U.S.; and (2) The NIH U54 grant is a part of a \$16 million NIH center grant awarded in 2011. The U54 portion at UB, "Multilevel Systems-Oriented Childhood Obesity Study In China," one of the three key research projects in the grant, uses a systems-oriented conceptual framework, longitudinal data collected in China, and novel systems analysis to study changes on individual children and their families' decisions regarding eating, physical activity, and adiposity outcomes. The study findings will have many important policy implications for the U.S. and other countries.

Wang's research team recently published an important study in *Circulation*, 2014 Feb. 19. The paper entitled, "Effect of Childhood Obesity Prevention Programs on Blood Pressure: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis." Findings from the study have some important public health implications considering the growing global obesity epidemic. As part of an Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality funded 2-year comprehensive study, the project assessed the effects of childhood obesity prevention programs on blood pressure in children in developed countries based on a comprehensive review of related literature databases up to April 2013 for relevant randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental studies, and natural experiments. Studies published worldwide were included if they met inclusion criteria. Of the 23 included intervention studies, 21 involved a school setting. Obesity prevention programs have a moderate effect on reducing blood pressure and those targeting at both diet and physical activity seem to be more effective.

#### Department of Rehabilitation Science

**Mary Matteliano**, clinical assistant professor, led the study abroad program "Health in Brazil" in August 2013. Matteliano has co-directed the Health in Brazil program with Dr. John Stone for 10 years. This program offers UB students from several schools the opportunity to travel to different cities and campuses in Brazil to learn about Brazil's health system.

#### UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

**Fred Stoss**, associate librarian in the Arts & Sciences Libraries, received the first Friend of the Biblioteca Nacional Aruba (BNA, National Library of Aruba) Award, in Oranjestad, Aruba, for his work with BNA in green education programs and his role in designing the library's Caribbean Energy, Environmental, and Sustainability Education Program. The award was presented at the opening session of the Green Education Symposium III, whose theme this year was Sus-

tainable Agriculture. The symposium took place April 7-11, 2014 at Cas di Cultura in the capital city of Oranjestad, Aruba. Stoss's presentation, "The Realities of Food's Carbon Footprint," included select slides from Al Gore's climate change slide deck, for which Stoss trained. He also provided a workshop in which he elaborated on this theme by demonstrating various websites from which statistics and data on climate change and agriculture are found.

#### OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

**Stephen C. Dunnett**, professor and vice provost, was an invited speaker at ceremonies in Krakow, Poland, marking the 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Jagiellonian University, UB's longstanding institutional partner. Dunnett delivered remarks on behalf of the Jagiellonian's many institutional partners around the world. Dunnett is a presenter for a panel titled "Mobility of Global Talent and Networking" as part of the 2014 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Brock University in Ontario, Canada in May 2014.

**Ellen A. Dussourd**, assistant vice provost and director of International Student and Scholar Services, co-presented a webinar titled "Cross-Cultural Dynamics in Crisis Management" for NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The webinar provided training for international education professionals who provide support to international students and scholars during crises such as arrest, death, disappearance, physical injury, mental breakdown and natural disaster. The webinar discussed the importance and development of crisis protocols, presented ways to provide practical and emotional support to crisis victims, and explored the cross-cultural dimensions of crisis management. Individuals at sixty-seven schools participated in the webinar and follow-up discussion.

**Steven L. Shaw**, assistant vice provost and director of International Admissions, is a presenter on a panel titled "Fighting Back against Fraud in the Academic Space" at the national conference of NAFSA: Association of International Educators in San Diego, California in May 2014.

**John J. Wood**, senior associate vice provost, is chairing a panel titled "Cross-Border Research and Collaboration" as part of the 2014 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Brock University, UB's partner university in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada in May 2014. Wood will chair a panel titled "Stepping into a New Era: Transatlantic Dual and Joint Degrees under Erasmus+" at the annual conference of the European Association for International Education in Prague, Czech Republic in September 2014. 🌐

## DIRECTORY

**Office of the Vice Provost for International Education**  
(716) 645-2368, 645-2528 (Fax)  
vpinted@buffalo.edu  
<http://www.buffalo.edu/intled>  
Stephen C. Dunnett, Vice Provost  
John J. Wood

Senior Associate Vice Provost  
Patricia Shyhalla  
Associate Vice Provost and Director  
Resource Management  
Marvis Robinson  
Financial Resource Officer

#### International Enrollment Management

(716) 645-2368, 645-2528 (Fax)  
intiem@buffalo.edu  
Joseph J. Hindrawan  
Associate Vice Provost and Director  
Raymond Lew, Associate Director

#### International Admissions

(716) 645-2368, 645-2528 (Fax)  
intadmit@buffalo.edu  
Steven L. Shaw  
Assistant Vice Provost and Director  
Jessica M. Kane, Assistant Director for Operations  
Amy Matikosh, Assistant Director for Outreach  
Jennifer A. Gammell  
Admissions Advisor

#### International Student and Scholar Services

(716) 645-2258, 645-6197 (Fax)  
intlservices@buffalo.edu  
Ellen A. Dussourd  
Assistant Vice Provost and Director  
Jessica Freiz, Assistant Director  
Amy Cleveland, SEVIS Coordinator  
Eric E. Comins  
Coordinator for Student Programs  
Chris Bragdon  
Coordinator for Student Engagement  
Darla Maffei  
International Student Advisor

#### Immigration Services

(716) 645-2355, (716) 645-6197 (Fax)  
Oscar E. Budde, Esq.  
Associate Vice Provost and Director  
Mary Jean Zajac, Paralegal

#### Study Abroad Programs

(716) 645-3912, 645-6197 (Fax)  
studyabroad@buffalo.edu  
Mary Odrzywolski, Director  
Olga Crombie, Assistant Director  
Krista Pazkowsky, Study Abroad Advisor

#### Council on International Studies and Programs

(716) 645-2368, 645-2528 (Fax)  
David M. Engel, Chair

#### Fulbright Program

(716) 645-0145; 645-6139 (Fax)  
Colleen Culleton, Fulbright Advisor

UB INTERNATIONAL

Office of International Education  
University at Buffalo  
The State University of New York  
411 Capen Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260-1604  
U.S.A.

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE SCHOLARSHIP HAS BIG IMPACT

**C**hristine Tjahjadi-Lopez, a graduating senior in Geography and one of the initial recipients of the new President's Circle Study Abroad Scholarship, participated in a study abroad program to Mexico during the 2014 Winter Session.

The scholarship was established in 2013 at the initiative of President Tripathi and benefits from the generous gifts of the President's Circle of donors to UB, to help make it possible

for students with financial need from Western New York to go abroad during their programs at UB.

To date, nearly 25 scholarships have been awarded totaling more than \$36,000.

Christine, who is from Buffalo, had always wanted to study abroad but could not previously afford it.

"With the help of the President's Circle Scholarship I was not only



*Christine Tjahjadi-Lopez teaching photography in Mexico*

given the opportunity to study abroad in Mexico and experience an entirely new culture, but I was able to bring my Spanish speaking skills to an entirely new level," she said.

"While I was studying abroad I learned about the people, the culture, and myself. I ended up teaching photography to children and the last two weeks I was there I ended up collected funds to sponsor two child street ven-

dors to attend school for a year!

"Motivated and inspired by this journey, I have now received multiple funding sources to return to Latin America and continue teaching children photography and leaderships skills.

"From there, I hope to connect children across the globe through a global photography and pen pal program. Thank you for helping give my college career a direction!" 🌐

### UB INTERNATIONAL



is published twice yearly by the Office of International Education of the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York.

John J. Wood, Editor