

# UB INTERNATIONAL

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### UB International

Visit the Office of International Education website at:  
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## FULBRIGHT, BOREN AWARDS SURGE

By Charles Anzalone

UB's aspiration to become a "top-producing Fulbright institution" took another significant step forward in 2017 when a record number of undergraduates were chosen as recipients of Fulbright awards.

This year's UB Fulbright honorees include seven winners, as well as one student cho-

sen as an alternate. These winners include six students chosen for the prestigious Fulbright English Teacher Assistantship.

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Awardees (l to r: Farhana Hasan, Ashlee Hart, Michael Surrect, Antara Majumdar (alternate), Sushmita Gelda, Sarah Stanford, Lisa Gagnon and Jacob Caldwell. Photo: Douglas Levere

sen as an alternate. These winners include six students chosen for the prestigious Fulbright English Teacher Assistantship.

Also among the elite scholarships awarded to UB students this year are two Boren Scholarships, which support international study for undergraduate students with an emphasis on learning foreign languages.

"This year, UB has won more Fulbright awards and Boren awards than we ever have," says Elizabeth Colucci, director of the Office of Fellowships and Scholarships.

"The Fulbrights are significant in that

past five years, so this, too, is significant.

Colucci credits Megan Stewart, fellowship adviser, and Colleen Culleton, associate professor of Spanish and UB's Fulbright program administrator, with raising awareness of these awards among students and working with them to strengthen their applications. She also acknowledged the contribution of Walt Hakala, assistant professor in the Department of English and the Asian Studies Program.

"His assistance can be seen in our Fulbright, Boren and Critical Language

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## FULBRIGHT, BOREN SURGE

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sults," Colucci says.

"Students become fascinated with East Asian history and languages as a result of Walt's classes. Our two Boren and Critical Language winners were mentored and encouraged to apply by Walt."

The roll call of UB's latest class of elite scholarship and fellowship recipients is as diverse as it is deep.

The seven Fulbright Scholars and their areas of study:

**Lisa Gagnon**, a graduating senior majoring in English and linguistics, will study and teach English in Latvia as part of a Fulbright's English Teaching Assistantship. Gagnon, who also studied music performance and plays the cello, says she wants to teach and enrich the lives of Latvian students through music and creative writing, while learning cross-cultural communication skills to bring back to Buffalo.

"I chose Latvia because of the Eastern European heritage of my late-grandmother and an interest in the countries of the former Soviet Union," Gagnon wrote in her Fulbright application.

"The creative arts are powerful. Music, literature, art and dance not only cross cultural and linguistic boundaries, but also represent the very best of one's own culture. During my English Teaching Assistantship experience, I hope to learn about and appreciate Latvian literature and music and my own heritage, as well as offer a new view of American culture to the students so they can better understand their own lives."

**Sushmita Gelda**, a graduating senior majoring in English, will study and teach in India, also on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. Gelda will lead a writing workshop that follows guidelines to motivate participants to take risks in their writing and reduce the vulnerability they may feel when sharing personal stories. Gelda plans to offer Indian students the chance to electronically exchange stories with students in Buffalo.

"I aspire to research how the English classroom can become a place for critically examining the social processes that inform language use," Gelda wrote in her application. "I plan to develop English curriculum that teaches students from diverse socioeconomic contexts to blend academic discourse with out-of-school literacy practice."

**Ashlee Hart**, a Ph.D. student studying archaeology and anthropology, will conduct an archeological examination of indigenous ceramics from late Iron Age sites in Thracian Bulgaria. She will classify the ceramics across several sites, conduct isotopic tests to source the clay and then use modern archaeological theory to draw conclusions about the results.

"I will travel around the country to excavate archaeological sites to create a digital, internationally available database, both in English and Bulgarian, for published ar-

cheological finds," Hart wrote in her Fulbright application. "This will allow archaeologists, students, local Bulgarians and the world at large to see what Bulgarian history has to offer."

**Farhana Hasan**, a teacher of English as a second language in the Buffalo Public Schools who earned her bachelor's degree at UB in 2014, will serve as a Fulbright English teaching assistant in Malaysia. Hasan says she sees the diversity of Malaysia—and the integral role Malaysia plays in the lives of Buffalo's refugee population—as an opportunity to expand her international perspective.

"My specific civic engagement idea is to host a nature writing club," she wrote in her application. "I would like to host local excursions in the natural environment and have students of any age read and write descriptively about the setting. Not only will this club establish basic scientific knowledge of the student, but it will train the student to analyze, notice details and inspire creativity."

Hasan wrote that a visit to see her grandmother in Bangladesh when she was 10 changed her life's perspective. "It opened my eyes to the brutal reality of starving children, child labor and unsanitary environments," Hasan wrote. "But it also allowed me to discover and appreciate the diversity of my ancestry."

**Sarah Stanford**, who will receive a bachelor's degree in psychology and English this month, will serve as a Fulbright English teaching assistant in Malaysia. Stanford applied for the fellowship because of her "passion for empowering students, my interest in working with culturally and linguistically diverse populations, and my desire to learn and grow as an educator."

"With the large numbers of Muslim and Southeast Asian refugees coming into the United States, I hope to learn more about this religion and area of the world," Stanford wrote in her application. "I plan to engage the host community through a bilingual interview project. Students will interview their families in their native language about topics of their choice. They then will work in groups to present their experience in English and to explore classroom diversity. I also plan to create a class blog in which students will share the interesting events and thoughts in their lives."

**Michael Surret**, a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology, received a Fulbright award to study anthropology in Indonesia. Surret plans to study the Papuans, who have resettled in another part of Indonesia to increase their standard of living rather than waiting for development projects to come to their province.

"I propose to study how the Papuans who have resettled in Maluku re-established their communities, reinvented traditions and subsequently built new local identities advantageous to them for different purposes in a complex and growing Indonesia," he wrote in his application.

**Jacob Caldwell**, a graduating senior majoring in biomedical engineering and Spanish, has accepted a Ful-

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## FROM THE VICE PROVOST

Since I wrote my last column for our fall 2016 issue, much has happened that directly impacts international education, while many uncertainties continue to cloud our future. My prediction that the new administration would pose serious challenges for all international educators has proved all too accurate; in fact, I may have underestimated the situation.

The various executive actions imposing a “travel ban” on visitors from Muslim countries, stepping up the deportation of “illegal aliens,” and imposing restrictions on H-1B visas and “sanctuary cities” have all served to confirm the administration’s “America first” posture, limit access to the United States, and impose a heavy chill on its relations with the rest of the world.

While efforts to build the wall on the border with Mexico may have been delayed, a metaphorical and ideological wall is being built around the US that has far more troubling ramifications for the country and the world.

This semester UB, like most of its peer institutions, has been agonizing over the impact of administration actions on current and prospective international students.

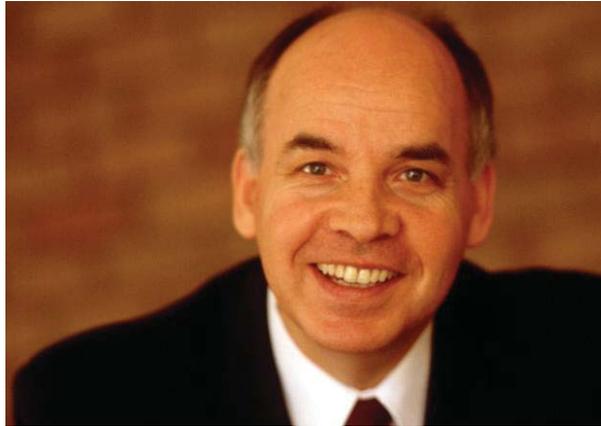
The first travel ban in late January immediately affected returning students and scholars from Iran, which has become a major sending country to UB. Some could not board flights back to the United States and ended up being delayed for days or weeks.

While the courts, fortunately, have since blocked both travel bans, fears remain that judicial action may be reversed, and other countries eventually added to the travel ban. Our students from other Muslim-majority countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia understandably fear this possibility.

Many institutions are seeing declines in international applications for both the graduate and undergraduate programs this fall, and the prospect of a poor yield or high “melt” is worrying many enrollment managers.

Prospective students from India, including many who have been admitted and even offered merit scholarships, remain fearful about coming here—not due to the “Trump effect” per se, but rather the anti-foreigner sentiment in the US that has broken out most disturbingly in hate crimes targeting Indians.

At UB we have tried to counter the media-accentuat-



ed impression that the US is unwelcoming by reassuring international students of our support and concern. Our university and Western New York more generally is a welcoming community, and we do our best to help newcomers fit into their new home here, and achieve their academic and career goals.

Our President and our Provost have issued statements strongly reiterating our commitment to openness, diversity and inclusion—the hallmarks of a great university.

We are also making good progress on planning to better support the inclusion and

engagement of international students campus-wide by implementing the recommendations of a university-wide task force report commissioned by Provost Zukoski. Three working groups have been busy developing plans this semester so that the university can move forward on implementation this fall.

A second unfortunate trend we are working hard to reverse is an apparent decline in our study abroad numbers, which may or may not have something to do with the current geopolitical climate.

Certainly, the increasing incidence of terrorist attacks, including those affecting popular study abroad destinations such as the U.K. and France, has discouraged some students from pursuing the opportunity.

Having witnessed a marked decline in study abroad among Japanese students (to their detriment) in recent years, I worry that young Americans may become even more insular than they already are as a result of the “America first” mindset that discourages exploration of the world.

The example of our UB Fulbright and Boren awardees featured in our cover story gives us reason for optimism. These impressive students recognize the value of international experience and in many cases are using the year following graduation to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities Fulbright can afford.

The question will continue to challenge us in the days ahead: Whither international education in this year of dramatic change and growing uncertainty? 🌐

*Stephen C. Dunnett is professor of foreign language education and vice provost for international education.*

## FULBRIGHT, BOREN SURGE

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bright English Teaching Assistantship to teach in an urban area in northern Spain.

"I will use American football to support health and learning at my placement," Caldwell wrote in his application. "An after-school flag football program requires little equipment while introducing a key piece of the U.S. identity. Showing football films and games will complement the physical activity. Introducing the variety of cities that host professional teams will display the variety of American society. Finally, I will play soccer as well, in order to ensure an equal exchange of culture."

Caldwell intends to pursue a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering when he returns to the U.S.

**Antara Majumdar**, a graduating senior majoring in biomedical sciences, was chosen as a Fulbright alternate. Majumdar's Fulbright project proposed expanding the international education program Beyond the Block in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the United Kingdom.

"By working with students in a local secondary school, I would like to introduce to them the work that biomedical researchers are conducting in universities," Majumdar wrote in her application. "In turn, these students will engage in digital literacy projects in which they discuss issues in their communities with students in India and America."

UB's two Boren Scholarships winners also will study abroad. They are: Hanna Santanam, a rising junior majoring in English and anthropology, received a Boren Award for her proposal to study Hindi in Jaipur, India.

Santanam also received a Critical Language Scholarship to study in Jaipur. The CLS is a fully funded, summer overseas language and cultural immersion program designed to increase the number of American students mastering languages and building relationships between the U.S. and other key countries.

She accepted the Critical Language Scholarship instead of the Boren, and will travel to Jaipur for 10 weeks this

summer to study Hindi. She will return to UB for the fall semester.

Santanam plans to use her new language skills to access the archive of Hindi films in the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, which is the world's largest collection of contemporary Indian cinema held by a museum or film archive.

"I will be able to use my knowledge of Hindi to further my expertise of the history of Bollywood film as it pertains to political and cultural change in India," she wrote in her application.

**Kayleigh Hamernik**, a rising junior majoring in environmental studies with a minor in Asian studies. Hamernik also received a Critical Language Scholarship, but chose to take the 12-month Boren Scholarship to India.

She will study Hindi at the American Institute of Indian Studies in Jaipur, Rajasthan. While there, her course study will focus on conversation, vocabulary, grammar and reading. She also will take part in such cultural activities as cooking, dance, photography and drama class throughout the rest of the week.

Hamernik plans to use her training in Hindi to supplement her interest in the effects of climate change.

"India's rapidly growing economy, coupled with its huge population of over 1.2 billion people, has created an alarming, yet predictable result: tons upon tons of waste," she wrote in her fellowship application. "The rate of garbage generation raises not only immediate health concerns for India's citizens, but environmental concerns for all global citizens."

Learning Hindi, Hamernik wrote, "is the first step toward a career that will allow me to do what I love. While I am in Jaipur for the semester, I will push myself to speak with as many locals as I can and conduct interviews with them on their experiences interacting with waste." 🌐

*Charles Anzalone is a news content manager with University Communications.*

## ALUMNI AWARDS

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In the 1970s, Kouyoumdjian worked for several companies before moving to San Francisco to join Cygna Consulting Engineers, later become its president and COO. He began his own structural engineering practice in 1987, Hratch Kouyoumdjian and Associates (HKA), later adding architectural services. In 1995, he cofounded KPA Consulting Engineers.

The two companies merged in 2005 into the KPA Group, which completed commercial and institutional projects, including academic facilities, airports and bridges, as well as innovative seismic retrofit designs for historic structures. A member of the UB engineering dean's advisory council, he retired in 2015 to consult and teach. 🌐

## INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES HONORED BY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Several highly accomplished international alumni were honored at the annual Alumni Association Awards ceremony at UB on May 11, 2017. Each of them has leveraged his UB education to make major contributions in their subsequent careers in North America.

**Holger Schunemann**, PhD '00, MS '97, received the Distinguished International Alumni Award. Schunemann is chair of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact at McMaster University—the birthplace of evidence-based medicine and problem-based learning—in Hamilton, Ontario. He also is a research professor in the UB Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health.



A native of Germany, Schunemann received an MD degree in 1993 from the Medical School of Hannover. He went on to earn a

doctoral degree at UB, conducting population-based studies on the association between oxidative stress, micronutrients and respiratory health.

Schunemann's scientific work now focuses on evidence synthesis, quality-of-life research and the development of health-care recommendations spanning clinical medicine to public health. Author or co-author of more than 500 peer-reviewed publications, Schunemann was named one of the 3,000 most influential scientific minds by Thomson Reuters in 2015 and 2016.

A recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, **Edward Dong**, MBA '91, is a graduate of the UB China MBA program, which operated at the Dalian University of Technology, China from 1984 to 1989. Dong is the founding chair of the U.S.-China Committee of the International Leadership Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC, with 15 chapters nationwide.

Dong took this position after a distinguished business career. Dong also founded the China division of NDC Systems in 1994. He rose from sales man-



ager to group vice president and China general manager, and established NDC as a market leader in China.

Dong has received numerous awards, including being named in 2012 a Top 10 business leader by the China Economic Review and China Economic Daily. He has served since 2011 on the School of Management dean's advisory council.

**Ram Kumar Krishnamurthy**, MS '94, originally from India, also received a Distinguished Alumni Award. A senior principal engineer and research director of the



High Performance Research Group at Intel Labs in California, Krishnamurthy leads research in high-performance, energy efficient and low-voltage circuits for next generation microprocessors and systems-on-chip.

Krishnamurthy holds 108 issued U.S.

patents with more than 50 patents pending, and has published 150 conference and journal papers. He has twice received Intel's highest technical award, and numerous honors from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the International and European Solid State Circuits Conferences, and the MIT Technology Review, among others.

A resident of Portland, Oregon, Krishnamurthy serves on UB's electrical engineering department advisory board, as chair of the Semiconductor Research Corporation technical advisory board, and was elected a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

**Hratch Kouyoumdjian**, MS '70, was the recipient



of the Clifford C. Furnas Memorial Award, established by the late Mrs. Furnas to honor a distinguished graduate of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences or the College of Arts and Sciences in a natural sciences or mathematics discipline.

Kouyoumdjian attended Jesuit schools in his native Baghdad, including Al Hikma University, where he earned a bachelor's in civil engineering in 1967. He had to leave everything behind in Iraq to come to the United States to pursue a new life.

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## NEW LAW SCHOOL DEAN IS AN INTERNATIONALIST

By Charles Anzalone

**A**viva Abramovsky, associate dean for international initiatives and Kaufman Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Syracuse University College of Law, has been named dean of the University at Buffalo School of Law.

The appointment, effective in July 2017, was announced March 27 by UB Provost Charles F. Zukoski, who said Abramovsky emerged as the top choice after an international search.

"Professor Abramovsky was chosen for the position because of her impressive leadership experience, academic accomplishments, and creative, entrepreneurial vision for the UB School of Law and the future of legal education," said Zukoski.

"Under her leadership, I am confident that the School of Law will continue to build on its long tradition of delivering innovative and interdisciplinary research and learning in pursuit of justice," Zukoski said.

UB President Satish K. Tripathi said the university is very pleased to welcome Abramovsky to UB. "As a scholar and leader, Professor Abramovsky brings to UB and our law school a wealth of experience, collaborative energy and intellectual creativity that will advance the School of Law's national and international visibility and reputation," Tripathi said.

Abramovsky has long-standing and deep roots with UB. She is the daughter of two UB alumni, Abraham Abramovsky, Law '70, and Deborah Abramovsky, B.F.A. '70. "I am deeply honored for the opportunity to collaborate with UB's world-class law faculty to chart a new path for the law school," Abramovsky said. "Legal education in the United States is at an inflection point, and UB School of Law is perfectly poised to take the lead in providing innovative, multidisciplinary and modern legal education in a world where the practice of law is radically changing.

"As the daughter of two UB alumni, this position is also a kind of homecoming. It is with great pleasure that I anticipate my future in Buffalo."

Abramovsky succeeds interim Dean James A. Gardner, who has led the UB School of Law since December 2014. Gardner will continue as the school's Bridget and Thomas Black Professor.

As associate dean at Syracuse, Abramovsky led the internationalization effort in the College of Law. Among her impressive contributions, Abramovsky spearheaded Master of Laws (L.L.M.) and two-year Juris Doctor (J.D.) programs for foreign lawyers, launched a visiting scholars and researchers program, developed international partnerships

to enable a new international student exchange program and created a legal English pre-matriculation program.

In addition, Abramovsky directed Syracuse's LLM program and clinical internship in London and previously served as associate dean for special projects.

Abramovsky is an expert in commercial law, insurance law, regulation of financial entities and legal ethics.

She has written numerous articles and legal treatises, including authoring McKinney's Uniform Commercial Code forms for New York. She is also the editor of LSN Insurance Law, Legislation, & Policy.

She contributed to "Research Handbook on International Insurance and Regulation," which was awarded the 2013 British Insurance Law Association's (BILA) Book Prize, and her scholarship has been recognized as a "litigation essential" by LexisNexis.

Abramovsky served as an academic evaluator for the American Bar Association's federal judiciary committees for then Supreme Court nominees Samuel Alito and Sonya Sotomayor.

Among other professional leadership positions, she also served as chair and later executive board member of the insurance law section of the American Association of Law Schools.

She holds a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University. 🌐



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

**O**n January 1, 2017, Irus Braverman, professor of law, embarked on an intense six-day trip to Israel/Palestine with seven of her students.

The students have been discussing environmental justice issues in the region during the 2016 fall semester, and the trip was the culmination of their studies, which focused on land and territory, planning and zoning, water issues, the Dead Sea, and the occupation.

Professor Braverman grew up in Jerusalem and served in the Israeli military. She studied law and worked as an environmental lawyer and community organizer before she headed to North America to conduct her doctoral studies in law.

The group first met in Jerusalem to discuss discriminations in zoning and the impacts of the Separation Barrier. Next, they continued to Auja near Jericho, where they visited with the director of the EcoPeace Center to consider water issues in the region, including a visit to the Dead Sea and the Baptism site on the Jordan river.

The students then traveled to the Negev desert in the



Visiting the Wadi Kelt Natural Reserve; Irus Braverman is 3rd from the right.

They visited a recent demolition site in one of the Bedouin villages (Um el Hirran) and witnessed firsthand the tragedy of the conflict over land in this region. During the visit, the students met with a range of nonprofit organizations such as Ir Amim, Emek Shaveh, MachsomWatch, Kerem Navot, EcoPeace, Haqal, Breaking the Silence, and Shatil.

For their final event on Friday afternoon, January 6, the group met with Rabbi Arik Ascherman and attorney Quamar Mishirki. Sitting at the extravagant lounge of Jerusalem's YMCA, the group ended with a message of hope at times of darkness.

A few comments posted by the students on Instagram during the trip relay the intensity of this experience: "I've tried my best to come up with the words to adequately describe how I feel about my experience today and I just can't yet. What an amazing, eye opening, truly indescribable day."

Another wrote, "What a life changing experience already. This morning we went to Qalandia checkpoint and crossed with thousands of Palestinians who

wait 4+ hours from 4 am on every morning to cross from the West Bank to work in Jerusalem."

Upon their return, several of the students emailed Professor Braverman, stating that "this was the most valuable experience of [our] life." 🌍



Meeting with a Bedouin Sheikh whose village was destroyed

southern part of Israel and met with leaders from recognized and unrecognized Bedouin villages to discuss controversies over land and natural resources.

## CROSS-BORDER LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM IS FIRST IN THE NATION

By Lisa Mueller

**T**he School of Law has developed an innovative graduate law program that recognizes the global nature of legal practice and the need for skilled attorneys to guide clients through cross-border interactions.

The Cross-Border Legal Studies L.L.M. program, the first of its kind in the U.S., is designed to facilitate a wide range of cross-border legal practice, including trade, tax, immigration, real estate, and corporate and transactional work.

Located just 20 minutes from Canada, the largest trading partner of the U.S., the UB School of Law is uniquely situated to provide students with exposure to cross-border legal issues, both inside and outside the classroom. In addition, a strong network of alumni based in Buffalo, New York and Ontario engage in a wide range of cross-border legal practice.

Admission to the L.L.M. program, which will begin in fall 2017, requires a previous degree in law.

The program's capstone course will provide opportunities for students to interact with practicing private-firm attorneys in Buffalo and Ontario while completing project-based work. Students will learn to identify relevant legal issues in real-world, cross-border contexts while learn-

ing such skills as professionalism, accurately recording billable time, business development techniques, and legal research and writing.

Students also will select four courses on topics that include international business, tax, corporate, immigration, trade and the environment. International students will be offered a legal research and writing class, and a course that introduces them to the U.S. legal system. The remainder of students' coursework will be made up of electives from throughout the law school's course offerings.

Each student will be assigned an academic adviser to provide one-on-one guidance throughout the program.

Meredith Kolsky Lewis, vice dean for international and graduate programs, and director of the Cross-Border Legal Studies Center in the UB School of Law, will direct the program.

"The Cross-Border Legal Studies L.L.M. will allow us to use our unique border location to expose students to a wide variety of cross-border legal issues, while imparting skills that graduates can then apply to cross-border work they undertake anywhere in the world," she says. 🌐

*Lisa Mueller is vice dean for communications at the Law School.*

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 45TH ANNIVERSARY

**M**any people in the UB community are surprised to learn that the university includes an institute to teach English as a second language. They are even more surprised to learn that the English Language Institute has existed for 45 years.

In 1971, Stephen C. Dunnett was an administrator and instructor in the Foreign Student English Program, and he had just organized a very successful summer program to teach ESL.

Building on that success, Stephen was appointed by the Division of Student Affairs to plan and direct a new, year-round intensive English program at UB. This new program would offer non-credit intensive English training and orientation to international students preparing for university study. It would also complement the credit-bearing classes in the Foreign Student English Program. Thus the Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) opened its Townsend Hall doors to the UB community in the fall of 1971.

Forty-five years later, the IELI is now known as the English Language Institute (ELI), and it has been a part of the Graduate School of Education since 1981. While Stephen Dunnett remains as the ELI's director, he is also UB's vice provost of international education and a professor in the GSE's department of learning and instruction.

The ELI's current administrative staff are: Kathleen L.

Curtis, who joined the IELI in 1971 and is the ELI's associate director; Keith E. Otto, director of the for-credit English as a Second Language Program (formerly Foreign Student English Program); and Colleen Maloney-Berman, director of the full-time, non-credit Intensive English Program.

Many ELI graduates have earned advanced degrees at UB or other U.S. universities; some now hold senior positions in academe, the professions, business or government in their own countries. Kathy Curtis was very proud to see the former mayor of Medellin, Colombia, on 60 Minutes in December 2016, discussing the peace accord with Colombian rebels. "He's one of our graduates!" she announced to the faculty.

Some of the ELI's former faculty and graduate students now direct English programs at schools in the US and abroad. The ELI has existed so long that its alumni are now sending their college-age children here for ESL instruction and the experience of being welcomed and immersed in UB's community.

Regardless of the paths the ELI's students have chosen, their experiences at the ELI, the language training and orientation they received or taught, and the friendships they made while working or studying in Baldy Hall remain a special part of their lives. 🌐

## ROBERT GALLO HELPS LAUNCH GLOBAL VIRUS NETWORK

By Marcene Robinson

Robert Gallo, co-discoverer of HIV as the cause of AIDS and creator of the HIV blood test, visited Buffalo March 2-3, 2017 to mark the launch of UB's Global Virus Network Center of Excellence as one of the world's premier virology research centers.

Gallo is most known for his groundbreaking work in the field of human retroviruses with his co-discovery of HIV as the cause of AIDS and development of the HIV blood test, which enabled health care workers for the first time to screen and rapidly diagnose for HIV.

The Global Virus Network (GVN), co-founded by Gallo, is an international coalition of leading virologists from more than 20 countries who work together

to understand why viruses cause illness and to develop drugs and vaccines that may prevent illness and death.

"Following the immediate HIV and AIDS outbreak in the early 1980s, it became clearer than ever that there was a real need for global collaboration in biomedical research," says Gallo, GVN scientific director and the Homer and Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor in Medicine and director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

"This need for meaningful global collaboration covering every class of human viruses continued until the formation of the GVN in 2011. The GVN serves to safeguard mankind by, among other things, overcoming gaps in research during the earliest phases of viral epidemics and ensuring the next generation of medical virologists are trained to meet these challenges."

In addition to HIV, the Global Virus Network dedicates research toward all classes of human viruses, ranging from the Zika virus to HTLV-1, a virus linked to several diseases, including leukemia.

"As a member of the Global Virus Network, UB will develop new research collaborations with virology research centers around the world," says Gene Morse, director of the UB GVN Center for Excellence and SUNY Distinguished Professor in the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.



"These opportunities will expand beyond HIV, Zika, Ebola and other emerging viral infections to include human and viral genomics, biosensors and data analytics, and novel nanomedicine development for drug delivery," Morse added.

During his visit, Gallo toured Roswell Park Cancer Institute, UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and

Life Sciences, and UB's Clinical and Translational Research Center on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

He also gave a presentation, "Human Retroviruses: Reflections from the past and Approaches for the Future," that reflected on the field of HIV research, the status of an HIV vaccine and the difficulties facing researchers in the future.

Additional remarks were provided by Venu Govindaraju, UB vice president for research and economic development, and Morse, who is also co-director of the SUNY Global Health Institute and director of the UB Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences. 🌐

*Marcene Robinson is associate director for community relations for University Communications.*

## GRADUATE ENGINEERING STUDENT COMBATS CHRONIC DISEASE IN INDIA

By Haley Case

Imagine having a platform to present an idea that could solve one of the major challenges facing the world. Now imagine having the opportunity to do so in front of influential people who have the money and resources to make your idea a reality.

That's the opportunity Abhinav Khare, a master's student in UB's Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, will have when he visits the Massachusetts Institute of Technology next week to present his idea to fight chronic diseases in the slums of India.

Khare is taking part in MIT's SOLVE initiative, which aims to tackle global challenges by connecting problem-solvers with entrepreneurs, technologists and policymakers from across the globe.

"What's great about this initiative is that anyone can participate and get their ideas heard," he says.

Khare's idea involves using remote patient care to provide more convenient access to health care for those often unable to get the help they need. In many impoverished countries, people suffering from chronic diseases receive infrequent testing and treatment. The problem is exacerbated when they are unwilling or, in most cases unable, to give up a day's work and wages to travel long distances to see a doctor.

Khare personally has seen this with his father, who suffers from borderline Type 2 diabetes and hypertension.

His solution is to bring health care directly to patients, making it more accessible so they receive more frequent treatment.

His plan is to build health centers, or "SMART centers," in or near slums, where medical equipment would be housed so it is more accessible to patients. The equipment would be automated and need only minimal human supervision to operate — ideally residents of the slums would be employed and trained to work in the SMART centers, Khare says. Test results would be sent to a doctor working remotely who would provide care and treatment options to patients.

To convince patients to visit the centers, Khare would provide incentives, such as food and medicine coupons, that would alleviate lost wages.

He relied on his engineering background to develop a sustainable and affordable way to power the SMART centers, with patients exercising — riding a stationary bicycle or running on a treadmill — to generate mechanical energy that would be converted into electricity.

And Khare gets even more creative with his idea for subsidizing the SMART centers: Human waste would be collected throughout the slums and brought to the center to be converted into fertilizer and sold as a commercial product.

His proposal for the SMART centers involves a lot of working parts, but Khare is confident that with the right resources and support, it can all come together to help address chronic diseases in the slums of India.

"In general, this plan should be able to work because it combines an opportunity to give the people in the slums both what they desire and what they need so they will actually be benefitting in this ecosystem," he says. "The most important thing for a man in a slum is that he gets two meals daily and that he gets consistent employment to provide for his family. We are giving him that, as well as an accessible way to stay healthy and manage the chronic diseases he has to deal with."

After first submitting his idea to the SOLVE website, Khare was invited to pitch his idea in March in New York City before a panel at the United Nations that included UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed and other world leaders.

While there, he spent time networking with the SOLVE judges, as well as other presenters. Among event participants, Khare is in the minority as a student; most hold such job titles as CEO, co-founder and director.

"I was definitely a bit nervous at first, as a student competing against these impressive professionals. I just couldn't believe I was there, but I also wanted to take advantage of the amazing opportunity I had in front of me," Khare says. "It was amazing getting to talk to and hear from these powerful influencers that are as equally passionate about solving some of the world's problems as I am. It was a truly surreal experience for me."

Khare impressed the judges enough to be invited to SOLVE's flagship event May 8-10, 2017 at MIT to present his idea in front of leaders from corporations, foundations, nonprofits, government, academia and the media.

"The SOLVE event is essentially like a marketplace, bringing together people with ideas and groups that are interested in using their financial and technological means to help implement these ideas," he says. "I am very interested in doing whatever it takes to make this project work, whether it's starting my own company, bringing together various technological companies that already exist, or even working with the Indian government. I'm open to anything."

"The issue of chronic diseases in the slums is a vicious cycle and it is something that needs to be addressed," Khare says.

"I think my idea can truly work to help solve this problem. I really hope to get it implemented so I can start to help people and make some real change in the world." 🌐

*Haley Case is a student in the Department of Communications.*

## LEADING THE CHARGE AGAINST ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Through a grant funded by the National Science Foundation, Diana Aga and her graduate students Deena Butryn and Randolph Singh from the Department of Chemistry at the University at Buffalo (UB) are performing a global study to determine how residues of antibiotics from different wastewater treatment plants around the world are contributing to the global pandemic of antimicrobial resistance.

This 5-year project titled “Halting Environmental Antimicrobial Resistance Dissemination (HEARD)” funded by NSF’s Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) program is a collaborative research between Virginia Tech, UB, Michigan University, and Rice University.

The project seeks to provide knowledge on the occurrence of antibiotics and resistance genes in the environment, and to develop new wastewater treatment technologies to eliminate the dissemination of antibiotics resistance in the global environment.

With the increase in urbanization, combined with climate change, there is a need to expand the usage of water reuse from local communities, which tightens the linkage between wastewater and drinking water.

However, studies reveal that the receiving water from wastewater treatment plants serve as a reservoir for antimicrobial resistance. In the U.S. alone, antibiotic resistant infections result in a yearly excess of \$20 billion in health care costs, \$35 billion in societal costs, and \$8 million excess days per year spent in a hospital.

This multidisciplinary study will address questions regarding the fluxes of antimicrobial drugs and antimicrobial resistance organisms using a combination of analytical, biological, and engineering protocols. The study addresses (1) societal use of antimicrobial drugs (2) how receiving environment characteristics and WWTP treatment practices synergistically affect resistance dissemination, and (3) novel approaches to mitigate waste-water mediated dissemination of antimicrobial resistance.

The NSF PIRE program also aims to provide an international research experience and cultural exchange for US-based students to better prepare our future scientists in tackling global issues. Last November (2016), Deena Butryn and Randolph Singh, Ph.D. students from UB

Chemistry Department, spent three weeks in Manila, Philippines, to collect water samples from various wastewater treatment plants, and from receiving waters in Manila and nearby cities.

“Experiencing the Philippine’s rich culture as a young scientist was an opportunity of a lifetime” says Deena, a U.S. native. “In addition to experiencing a very different research environment, I also got the chance to learn about

the country’s tight knit community and observed the close family values and traditions when I stayed with a local family”.

One of the often-stated goals of international research and education is to enhance the global competency (or inter-cultural awareness) of the participants.

Success through this approach will ultimately help strengthen the development of future

scientific collaborations for expansion of multidisciplinary knowledge.

Deena and Randolph also trained students and researchers at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, on how to prepare samples using solid phase extraction for the subsequent trace analysis of antibiotics. They also provided a series of lectures to share their research on the environmental chemistry of pollutants, and exchanged knowledge on the analysis of antibiotics, flame retardants, and other pollutants in the environment.

Over the course of three weeks, water samples were collected from locations where antibiotics input is expected to be high due to discharges from wastewater treatment plants and from agricultural activities such as aquaculture.

To date, the Aga Lab has analyzed wastewater samples collected from Hong Kong, India, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, and the US. Results from Aga’s lab will provide information on the use patterns of antibiotics in various countries, and their persistence in different receiving environments such as coastal waters, rivers, oceans, and lakes. Aga’s research laboratory has developed robust and high-throughput analytical methods to analyze and screen for antibiotics and other pharmaceutical residues in water systems. Her lab houses state-of-the art analytical instrumentation capable of analyzing very low levels of environmental pollutants, including legacy pesticides, emerging contaminants, flame retardants, and heavy metals, and to assess their effects on human health and ecology. 🌐



*Deena Butryn (left) prepares to collect samples from Manila Bay*

## INTERNATIONAL GIS CONFERENCE MARKS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

By Laura Mangan and Ling Bian

In 1992, two graduate students, Hui Lin and Yuemin Ding, and a group of their fellow University at Buffalo Geography students organized an international conference on Geographic Information Science (GIScience) at UB.

Professor Stephen Dunnett, UB Vice Provost for International Education, opened the conference addressing an audience of GIScience researchers from around the world. The conference announced the establishment of the International Association of Chinese Professionals in Geographic Information Sciences (CPGIS).

Over the following 25 years, CPGIS has grown into a globally influential GIScience organization, with its annual conference held in different parts of the world, its own peer-reviewed journal, and a 1,400 member listserv.

This year, 2017, marks the 25th anniversary of CPGIS. The National

Center for Geographic Information and Analysis at Buffalo (NCGIA-Buffalo) will proudly host the return of the International Conference on Geoinformatics to Buffalo on August 2-4, 2017 and Stephen Dunnett will open the conference as he did 25 years ago.

The local organizing committee is chaired by Ling Bian, professor of Geography and director of the NCGIA-Buffalo and her co-chairs are Le Wang, professor of Geography, and Li Yin, associate professor of Urban and Regional Planning.

Many of the 52 founding members of CPGIS who attended the 1992 conference are now leaders of academic institutions, corporations, and government agencies and they will be in Buffalo in August, and include some of the 24 past presidents of CPGIS. Many other alumni of UB's GIS program are returning to visit UB and have already actively contributed to the preparation of the conference and expect to reunion at the homecoming event.

The anniversary conference will be an exceptionally high profile event for UB. The eight keynote speakers include academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, one of whom is the former Minister of the Ministry

of Science and Technology, members of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and a fellow of the U.K. Royal Society: Luc Anselin, University of Chicago; member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences; Michael Batty, University College London; fellow of the U.K. Royal Society; Jianya Gong, Wuhan University; academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Michael Goodchild, University of California Santa Barbara; member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences; Huadong Guo, Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Deren Li, Wuhan University; academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Guanhua Xu, Ministry of Science and Technology, China; academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences;

Zhou Chenghu, Institute of Geographic Science and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences; academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The interdisciplinary topics being explored in the 2017 conference will include cutting-edge themes: Big GeoData, GIScience of the Internet of Things, Geospatial Semantic Web, Sensor Geomatics, Geosimulation Modeling, Mobile Computing, Mo-

bile Behavior, Complex Networks, Online Social Media, Cyber Computing, Events and Process, and Critical GIS to address societal issues, such as climate change, smart cities, precision medicine, urban mobility, crime analysis, migration, disaster, and environmental sustainability.

The conference will be providing an outstanding opportunity for researchers and students to interact with world leaders, facilitate research collaborations, and enables the exchange of novel ideas and cutting-edge knowledge in GIScience. The conference will produce a peer-reviewed proceedings published by IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers).

UB has been prominent in Geographic Information Science research and education since the mid-1970s. The Department of Geography is home to one of three sites in the U.S. of the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA), an independent research consortium founded in 1988 as a National Science Foundation center. 🌐

*Laura Mangan is coordinator, Civic Engagement and Public Policy Research Initiative; Ling Bian is professor of Geography.*



*CPGIS attendees at a picnic at Niagara Falls in 1992*

## UB-AMRITA CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH

By Mickey Sperlich

A delegation of five faculty members from UB's School of Social Work (UBSSW) participated in the "International Conference on Nurturing Global Mental Health" at Amrita University in Coimbatore, India, March 8-10, 2017.

The delegation was led by Assistant Dean for Global Partnerships and Director of Field Education Laura Lewis and included Assistant Professors Annahita Ball, Elizabeth Bowen, Annette Semanchin Jones, and Mickey Sperlich.

The conference was jointly organized by the Amrita University Department of Social Work, and UBSSW and included dozens of speakers from all over India as well as the U.S. delegation.

Among the many distinguished speakers was Girish N. Rao, Professor of Epidemiology at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), who shared results of the National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) of 2015-2016, which utilized a multi-stage cluster sampling method to obtain data from nearly 35,000 individuals.

The representative NMHS survey found that mental and substance use disorders are a significant source of morbidity in India, with over 10% of residents of India meeting criteria for some type of mental disorder, and an estimated 150 million Indians with one or more mental or neurological disorder. Treatment gaps remain very high across India for all disorders; it is estimated that only one in ten persons in India with a mental disorder is receiving evidence-based treatments.

In discussing the prevalence of mental disorders in India, Professor Suja said, "Women, children, elderly and the disabled are most vulnerable to mental disorders because of their dependency on others. Depression among pregnant women and those who have just given birth is common, and dementia in the elderly.

"There is also an urban slant, with the prevalence of schizophrenia, mood disorders and stress-related disorders being up to three times higher in cities than in rural areas. Overall, the prevalence of mental morbidity is almost double among males than females, though specific disorders like mood disorders, anxiety disorders and obsessive compulsive disorders are higher in women."

Suja added: "Most people don't take treatment for mental illness due to the fear of stigma, isolation or rejection. Many patients prefer to visit a psychiatrist far away from their home town because they do not want to be recog-

nized. There is also a lack of awareness about symptoms. Any change in behavior of a person is considered temper tantrums. Another challenge is denial on part of family members that someone is suffering from mental disorders, as they fear labeling the patient."

Evidence-based treatments for mental illness will require cultural adaptation, as well. Nancy J. Smyth, dean of UBSSW, said that nations like India face unique challenges in addressing mental health concerns. "Modern evidence-based mental health treatments have been de-



Amrita and UBSSW faculty, including Laura Lewis (3rd from right), at the UNESCO meeting

veloped within Western cultural models, and it's unclear how well these will transfer . . . these countries also face a variety of public health threats and limited resources, so mental health remains a low priority for them," she added.

Suja said that the Indian Government is making efforts to address the issues and reprioritize mental health: "The Mental Health Care (MHC) Bill, 2016, is landmark legislation that lays down clear responsibilities of state governments and provisions to empower individuals and families. It blocks legislation that penalizes suicide as a criminal act, fixes responsibility on authorities for rehabilitation of patients, and provides for free counseling.

"However, the success of this progressive law, which will replace the archaic Mental Health Act of 1987, will entirely depend upon its effective implementation. All stakeholders need to continually put pressure on the authorities for this, which can only happen when the masses are aware about mental health," Suja added.

Many of the papers presented at the conference followed Suja's lead in focusing on reduction of stigma as paramount for addressing mental health and substance use disorders and morbidity in India. Plenary sessions and panel presentations included academicians and clinicians from across India, and covered topics ranging from anti-oppressive social work, to social work approaches across the lifespan, to the intersections of mental health and sus-

*continued on p. 14*

## AMRITA CONFERENCE

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tainable development goals.

Laura Lewis presented on Stigma and Mental Health, Annahita Ball presented on Mental Health and Children, Annette Semanchin Jones on Disability and Mental Health and also Foster Care and Mental Health, Elizabeth Bowen on Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and Mickey Sperlich on LGBT and Mental Health.

The UB delegates adopted an “all hands on deck” attitude of also introducing and chairing a wide range of paper sessions and topics, together with the faculty at Amrita. Many of the Amrita masters’ and doctoral level students presented their research projects at the conference during paper sessions, as well as professors and students from other universities, together with representatives from various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout India.

A real treat for the U.S. delegates was experiencing the Cultural Evening put on by the talented Amrita University Social Work students, which included traditional song and dance, standup comedy, and Bollywood dancing.

Prior to the conference, on International Women’s Day,

the U.S. delegates attended a working meeting regarding the recent designation of a UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment at Amrita University. The meeting addressed identification of goals and plans for the Chair, and explored ways in which UB might support the work of the UNESCO Chair at Amrita.

Following the conference, the US delegates toured an addiction treatment facility in Coimbatore and a mental health treatment facility in the countryside near Coimbatore, both of which are run by a social work colleague of Dr. Suja’s, Mr. Rajesh, through the NGO he formed, HCA Mental Health Care Centre.

Delegate Mickey Sperlich, in remarking on these site visits, said, “We were all taken with the dedication and care on the part of the staff and director at these facilities, especially considering the environment of constrained resources, and the relative stigma for mental health issues in India. We were warmly welcomed, and even ended up exchanging songs with the residents!” 🌐

*Mickey Sperlich is an assistant professor of Social Work.*

## BRASCON: BRAZILIAN GRADUATE STUDENTS CONFERENCE

*By Carleara Ferreira da Rosa Silva*

Pursuing a degree at a prestigious university in the United States is a dream for many international students. Brazilian graduate students share the same dream. However, the Brazilian community in the United States is not as large as those from other emerging economies such as India and China. It can get very lonely and difficult for these students to keep up with the high level of activities due the lack of a sense of community.

Brazilian students saw this problem as an opportunity to create a platform where Brazilian graduate students and researchers could share their work, meet colleagues, and make important networking for future collaboration.

The Brazilian Graduate Students Conference (BRASCON) was created through the volunteer work of 3 graduate students from Brazil. What seemed to be an informal idea to “get together” grew to become the largest Brazilian conference for grad students in the United States. Today, our team has 24 grad students from diverse background

and fields of research in universities in 14 American states.

The first edition of BRASCON was held at Harvard University in 2015. The second edition was March 11 -12, 2106 at the University of Southern California (USC). Over a hundred and twenty participants attended the two-day conference, participated in discussion panels, workshop for career development, lectures from prominent US-based Brazilian scientists in the field of STEM and presented their own research in poster and oral sessions.

As a PhD candidate at UB School of Nursing, I learned how community engagement and working for the advancement of science and improving society are important. These values are my inspiration as general director and co-founder at BRASCON.

Our goal at BRASCON is to become a reference platform for international collaboration, dissemination and exchange of scientific, technology and innovation among students, academia and industry for the advancement of society in the United States and Brazil.

We are planning the conference’s third edition for 2018. Please visit our website for more information [www.brascon-conference.org](http://www.brascon-conference.org) 🌐



Carleara Ferreira da Rosa Silva speaking at BRASCON

## ALISON DES FORGES AND HER LEGACY: A RETROSPECTIVE

By Shaun Irlam

In Spring 2009, between the pages of this publication, it was my grave honor to reflect on the loss of a friend: a personal friend, a friend to the UB community, a friend to the city of Buffalo, a friend to the peoples gathered around the Great Lakes of central Africa, and above all, a passionate friend to justice, human rights, and the defense of our common humanity.

It is difficult to survive such a friend. Alison Des Forges was taken from us far too soon, while she was still deeply engaged in her most important work: ensuring justice for the victims of the Rwandan genocide.

However, what Alison entrusted to us on that fateful February night when her plane fell from the sky was her extraordinary and indelible legacy. To those she left behind – family, friends, colleagues – she bequeathed a legacy and an appeal: a call to perpetuate the work to which she had devoted her life.

Heeding that call, those who knew her came together to form the Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee with the objectives of honoring her work as Buffalo Public School volunteer, a historian of Africa, a winner of a MacArthur Foundation Award, and a tireless defender of human rights around the world.

Through a variety of fundraising and awareness campaigns, we seek to perpetuate Alison's legacy and continue her quest to educate people about injustices across the world and the part we all can play in mitigating them; we strive to cherish Alison's vision of an inclusive and integrated global community. As we now pause after eight years to take stock of our path, we celebrate what this inspiring and continuing journey has meant for us all.

At the heart of our mission initially was the creation of a scholarship fund that provides financial assistance to Buffalo Public School graduates attending UB who have expressed an interest in making human rights a focus of their education. We have now established an endowment of over \$ 500,000 and are happy to have four students on campus currently receiving support from this fund.

In addition, each year the Memorial Committee has convened a landmark spring event, gathering together scholars and activists from around the world to celebrate Alison's legacy.

In order to raise the profile of human rights issues in

Western New York, the Committee has held a succession of international symposia addressing topical issues with scrutiny and depth to take audiences beyond sensational news headlines. In April 2015, for example, we hosted a two-day series of events titled, "Islam, Islamism, and Human Rights in Africa."

A symposium, dinner, and roundtable brought together specialists from the United States, Canada, and East Africa to explore the recent rise of violent extremist groups in Africa and to seek explanations of their resort to violence. Our speakers helped participants to understand the historical roots of this phenomenon as they examined groups

such as Boko Haram, Seleka, and Al-Shabaab. Taking into consideration cultural values, global interests, socioeconomic conditions, and human rights, our presenters focused on the complex interplay of religion, modernity, politics and terror.

This symposium was followed in 2016 by another, titled "Refugees, Migrants, Human Trafficking, and Slavery," which focused on the current explosion of human trafficking and

migration to Europe arising from abject poverty, harsh oppression, and endemic warfare in Africa and the Middle East.

The backdrop to this conference was the startling rise of fatalities in the Mediterranean as well as the huge spike in refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria. Speakers from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch joined academics and legal scholars as well as activists committed to ending the contemporary slave trade to examine these issues.

Together they provided participants with the contexts, history and background for intensive discussion and deepened understanding of these pervasive and interlocking phenomena. A young woman trafficked to the United States from Cameroon also recounted her experiences and a local activist from Buffalo gave a vivid account of trafficking in Western New York and what is being done to end it.

This year's symposium was devoted to "Counter-Terrorism, Electoral Politics, and Human Rights." Recently, counter-terrorism measures have resulted in immigration policies and military tactics that threaten to violate human rights and result in war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We are also currently witnessing electoral politics and



*Migrants board a train in Europe*

## MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF HIGH TEXTBOOK COSTS OVERSEAS

By Christopher Hollister

In 2014, I was invited by senior leadership in UB's Office of International Education to visit its partner institution, the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM).

The main purpose was to observe and report on SIM Library operations, particularly as they related to support for the UB/SIM program; this was in part a follow-up visit to assess progress being made after UB's previous accreditation cycle.

My visit involved a campus tour and orientation, a library tour and orientation, meetings with UB/SIM Program administrators and with SIM Library personnel, and an illuminating focus group meeting with UB/SIM undergraduate students. Somewhat unexpectedly, this visit revealed that the cost of UB/SIM course textbooks was a leading concern among students, faculty, and even program administrators.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for college textbooks increased 88% between 2006 and 2016. For a useful comparison, the CPI for all measured economic activity increased an average of 21% over the same period. Neither the CPI nor any other standardized economic measures show the average costs for course texts used in U.S.-based international education programs.

However, I have comparative data to show that textbooks used in the UB/SIM program have sold for an average of 6-9% more in Singapore than in the United States during the last two years.

Singapore is an educational hub, seeking to attract international students and programs. The Singaporean government has made significant post-secondary infrastructure investments, and it has implemented the necessary policies to build this sector of its economy.

Competition among its many universities is fierce; there are constant pressures to control educational costs. Accordingly, I returned from my visit to SIM thinking of ways to help mitigate the expense of course texts as not only a benefit for UB/SIM students, but also a potential competitive advantage for the UB/SIM program.

In 2015, I developed an initiative to leverage the use of electronic editions of textbooks for UB/SIM courses. Prior to each semester, UB/SIM course textbook lists are checked against the UB Libraries' electronic holdings for matches; I also search for and acquire reasonably priced electronic editions of course texts when they are also suitable for the UB Libraries collection.

Since the summer of 2015, the UB Libraries have provided electronic editions of course texts for 30 UB/SIM classes. Although the extent to which students used these texts is unclear, those 30 classes included 1,414 registered students, and they represented a potential cost savings of \$68,300 USD/\$95,600 SGD in textbook purchases.

Recently, I submitted a grant proposal to expand the UB/SIM textbook price mitigation initiative. I propose to grow the initiative in three ways:

1. Encourage UB/SIM faculty to explore and make greater use of alternative course texts already licensed and available through the UB Libraries. Presently, UB-affiliated library users have access to the electronic editions of over 766,000 academic books; that number increases daily.

2. Suggest to UB/SIM faculty the possibility of using combinations of current and previous editions of course textbooks. The idea is to collaborate with the SIM Library to provide new content through a system of course reserve, and to allow students to use more affordable previous editions for

unchanged course subject matter. The UB Libraries are presently collaborating with faculty in the School of Social Work on a similar experiment.

3. Explore the possibility of developing individualized course packs that include open educational resources and other pertinent materials that are already available through the UB Libraries. The University of Toronto Libraries recently piloted such a program, saving students an estimated \$107,000 CAD.

Closing the loop on the proposal above, I plan to assess the nature of electronic textbook use among UB/SIM students, and to solicit the perceptions of program faculty and students concerning the relative successes or failures of this cost mitigation initiative.

Moving forward, I also envision the possibilities of an open textbook/library publishing program similar to the one developed at Portland State University, which has saved their students over \$100,000 USD in textbook expenses to date. I will keep the UB International community informed on these developments. 🌐

*Christopher Hollister is a librarian with University Libraries.*



## EXPLORING SOCIAL INNOVATION IN GHANA

By Matthew Biddle

Outside a school in Ghana, children bang on drums and sing to celebrate each region of the West African nation. Soon, kids in flowing white garments begin to dance, as several University at Buffalo faculty and staff members look on.

Then, the UB representatives, along with board members from HOSIKIDS, a Buffalo-based nonprofit, present six laptops, provided through a \$1,500 donation from the UB School of Management undergraduate class gift. As each laptop is revealed, the children cheer in jubilation.

"I began crying. It was incredible," said Cynthia Shore, senior assistant dean and director of alumni engagement and external relations in the School of Management. "Education is the king of kings in Ghana. Wherever we went, the respect for education, and impact of education, was clear and inspiring."

The experience was part of an exploratory trip led by Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah, clinical assistant professor of organization and human resources in the School of Management, to develop a study-abroad experience in Ghana focused on social innovation and entrepreneurial leadership.

"There are so many things you can learn by taking a courageous move to visit another culture and work in that community," said Siaw-Asamoah, who grew up in Accra, the country's capital. "Ghanaians are welcoming and hospitable to guests, truly value education and the opportunity to collaborate with UB, and will introduce our students to a new form of leadership."

With representatives from the School of Management, UB Honors College and Division of Academic Affairs, the group spent most of the trip in Accra. They visited three universities, a nearby fishing village and historic sites, including Elmina Castle, formerly a European slave trading

post constructed in the 15th century. After noticing an issue with pollution, the team reached out to Zoomlion Ghana Ltd., a waste management leader in Africa, and toured multiple facilities.

"My favorite memory was seeing Dorothy in her element, surrounded by family and friends and sharing cultural context," said Mara Huber, associate dean for undergraduate research and experiential learning at UB.

"It's a gift to experience a new place through a colleague's personal connections, which always results in the most impactful learning opportunities for our students," Huber said.

Currently in development, the new experiential learning trip will complement UB and the School of Management's focus on global leadership, entrepreneurship and social innovation. A select group of undergraduate and graduate students will engage with local chiefs and learn Ghanaian customs before breaking into three teams: education, waste management, and health care and economic development. The students will gain hands-on experience teaching public speaking and reading at a rural school, helping Zoomlion solve a business problem or working with a nongovernmental organization on a pressing social issue. Afterward, they'll delve further into the country's historical significance and share their experiences with the UB community when they return home.

"Through this trip, students will dig into their creative problem-solving skills to develop systems that help a community thrive," said Tara Jabbaar-Gyambrah, senior assistant director in the UB Honors College. "It will be an extraordinary experience." 🌐



At the University of Ghana (l to r): Emelia Arthur, Tara-Jeniell Fenton, Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah, and Cynthia Shore Photo: Philip Shore

Matthew Biddle is assistant director of communications for the School of Management.

## PROBING FUKUSHIMA'S INVISIBLE LEGACY

By Charlotte Hsu

**M**isa Yasumiishi stepped into the invisible aftermath of the disaster. She brought with her the tools of her trade: A small shovel. A T-shaped device called a liner, used for removing cylindrical samples of soil from the ground. A GPS tracker.

It was the summer of 2016 — five years after an earthquake and tsunami had caused three nuclear reactors to melt down at the Fukushima Daiichi Plant in Japan.

Yasumiishi — a UB Ph.D. student — had returned to the country to investigate the accident's lingering effects. With a team from the University of Tokyo, she collected more than 400 soil samples from lands that were once a family farm. Her goal: to analyze how much radioactive material remained in the ground to quantify an invisible threat.

"Unlike a flood or a fire, a nuclear disaster has a very unique or peculiar side to it," Yasumiishi says. "You cannot see radiation. It may be there or it may not be there — you cannot know this unless you measure it. It's an invisible threat. It creates a feeling of distress and anxiety.

"When I talked to the locals, they kept using the Japanese word 'fuan,' which means 'uneasiness' or 'anxiety,'" she says. "This feeling stays with them all the time."

### Returning to school

When the earthquake and tsunami struck northeastern Japan in March 2011, Yasumiishi was a website consultant living in Western New York.

She felt a deep connection to the tragedy: She had grown up in the devastated region and her father still lived in the area. Though he was safe, the tsunami had swept his car away.

The news emerging from Japan saddened Yasumiishi: the nuclear meltdown, evacuations and people unable to return to land they had farmed for generations.

"When the disaster happened, I thought, 'Maybe I can do something to contribute,'" she recalls. "I had received a certificate in geographic information systems at Erie Community College and I thought I could use my knowledge to contribute in the recovery from an incident like this."

So in 2012, motivated in large part by her desire to participate in recovery efforts, she quit her job and enrolled

at UB, landing in the Landscape-based Environmental System Analysis and Modeling laboratory headed by Chris Renschler, associate professor of geography and an expert on disaster response and natural resources management.

### Radiation in the soil

This past summer, Yasumiishi returned to Japan for 10 weeks through a National Science Foundation program called EAPSI, the East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for U.S. Graduate Students. The program paid for her to

conduct research with Taku Nishimura of the Laboratory of Soil Physics and Soil Hydrology at the University of Tokyo.

Her work focused on a family farm in the disaster zone. The residents—a rice farmer in his 70s and his elderly mother—stayed in the area, although much of their village had been evacuated, Yasumiishi says.

The farm was their home and livelihood. But the radiation from the nuclear meltdown had seeped into the soil, making the land inarable. To address this problem, the government engaged workers to

scrape contaminated topsoil from much of the countryside in the lowlands and replace it with new earth. Yasumiishi wanted to know how effective those efforts were and how much radiation remained in the earth five years after the accident.

Back at UB, Yasumiishi is analyzing data from the hundreds of samples she collected in Japan. She is interested in understanding current contamination levels, as well as how land use and topography — the shape and physical features of the terrain — affect lingering radiation. The research is expected to form part of her doctoral dissertation.

"You always hope that there will not be another disaster, but by learning from what's going on in Fukushima, hopefully we can apply that knowledge to other nuclear accidents or chemical accidents in the future," she says.

She also hopes her work will remind people that five years after the earthquake and tsunami, families in the disaster zone continue to suffer. "One of the farmers I spoke to told me that when I return to the United States, he wanted me to talk about the situation in Fukushima because even in Japan, people are forgetting," she says. 🌐



Some of the many bags of contaminated soil from Fukushima

*Charlotte Hsu is a news content manager with University Communications.*

## SEONG-KON KIM RECEIVES SUNY HONORARY DEGREE

**D**istinguished academic and UB alumnus Seong-Kon Kim (Ph.D. 1984) received an honorary doctorate in humane letters at the College of Arts and Sciences' graduate ceremony on May 19, 2017.

Kim is an internationally renowned author, translator and literary critic who is president of the Literature Translation Institute (LTI) of Korea — a ministerial appointment with the national government of Korea — and professor emeritus at Seoul National University.

Kim received a Ph.D. in English under the direction of the legendary Leslie Fiedler — he has maintained a close, career-long affiliation with the university that has served to greatly enhance the university's global reputation and visibility in Korea and across Asia.

Kim's role as a mediator between literatures, cultures and traditions was reaffirmed with his appointment in 2015 to a second three-year term as president of the LTI, an undersecretary appointment reporting to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. Established in 1996, LTI administers a broad range of programs to foster greater awareness of Korean literature around the world.

In addition to being a distinguished author, critic and translator in the Korean context, Kim is a bridge-builder between the literary worlds of the East and West — a true pioneer whose influence extends far beyond the university and belletristic context.

He was among the first in his country to interpret and

champion contemporary American — particularly post-modern — literature and create a strong following for it among both students of literature and general readers in Korea.

A longtime honorary president of the UB Alumni Association chapter of Korea, Kim has generously given his time and support to UB. The university community has been enriched by the impressive collection of Korean novels, poetry and other volumes that LTI gifted to UB through Kim's generosity.

In March 2013 Kim facilitated a major gathering of Korean alumni in Seoul during President Tripathi's "Twenty City Tour" and recruited many who attended that event to donate to UB.

He has tirelessly promoted UB programs among his own students, and encouraged many to apply to the doctoral program in English at UB, including his own daughter, who

earned a Fulbright to study English at UB and is currently completing her Ph.D. Kim himself returns periodically to UB to confer with colleagues and to give talks.

Stephen Dunnett, professor and vice provost for international education, noted, "Professor Kim has been an exemplary alumnus and supporter of UB, contributing in many ways to the university's advancement while building strong bridges of mutual understanding between Korea and the United States. I am delighted that our esteemed colleague and friend has been honored in this way." 🌐

ern New York. The first recipient, Aaron Bartley, co-founder and executive director of PUSH Buffalo, was honored in April 2017.

Alison Des Forges left us with the gift of what a single human life can achieve. We strive every year to pay tribute to the sustaining power of her memory. The accomplishments of the Memorial Committee would not have been possible without the generosity of a community of donors and volunteers who continue to be moved by Alison's unique and exemplary achievements. We trust that the contributions we have made over the past eight years would make her proud. 🌐



*Kim joins fellow honoree Marc Edwards, President Tripathi and SUNY Trustee Eunice Lewin prior to the honorary degree conferral*

## ALISON DES FORGES

*continued from page 15*

referenda both in Europe and the United States that provide opportunities for racist demagoguery, nativist discrimination, white nationalism, and violence against civilians, immigrants and refugees. It is these concerns that our guests will address as they focus on Africa, Europe and North America.

Our newest initiative is the launch of a Human Rights' Activist Award, honoring the work of activists from West-

## STUDY FINDS IMMIGRANT DIVERSITY INCREASES WAGES

By Charlotte Hsu

In debates over immigration, economic anxieties loom large. One of the most common concerns is that an influx of workers born abroad will depress wages for native-born Americans.

But the opposite may be true, according to researchers Abigail Cooke, a UB assistant professor of geography, and Thomas Kemeny, a UB research assistant professor and a lecturer at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom.

Together, Cooke and Kemeny are sifting through 18 years of employment data from the U.S. Census Bureau to understand how wages respond to changes in the mix of immigrants in a region or workplace.

The two outline some of their recent findings in a September research brief written for the Partnership for a New American Economy (PNAE), a coalition of U.S. mayors and business leaders founded by Michael Bloomberg and Rupert Murdoch to advocate for immigration reforms.

Cooke and Kemeny's report provides evidence that immigrant diversity increases wages, generating widespread benefits to both high- and low-paid workers.

"There's a huge amount of attention to and fears about what immigrants do to the local economy," says Cooke, who joined UB's geography department in 2014 after earning her PhD from UCLA. "As un-self-reflective as that is, that has been a near constant concern throughout the history of this country."

### Rival views on diversity

There are conflicting theories on whether immigrant diversity aids or hinders productivity, Cooke says.

"Some people think that increasing the diversity of perspectives in a group makes it harder for people to cooperate, harder to work together," she explains. "On the other hand, there are those who say immigrants bring diverse perspectives on how to solve problems, and that this is beneficial for getting things done."

"Our results point to a net positive impact of diversity on productivity. And these benefits are evenly spread — people throughout the labor market, from the lowest- to highest-paid, enjoy them."

### Cause and effect

To study how immigrant diversity influenced wages, Cooke and Kemeny assigned 160 U.S. metropolitan regions with a "diversity score" based on the likelihood that

two people chosen at random from a metro area were born in different countries.

The researchers then looked at how annual changes in metropolitan diversity scores related to changes in the wages of more than 30 million workers between 1991 and 2008.

The pair also employed a similar diversity-score measure for individual workplaces to study whether impacts from diversity are felt at both the workplace and metro level.

Some key findings:

- When immigrant diversity rose among the highest-paid workers—the top 25 percent in every metropolitan area—wages for all workers rose significantly and substantially.
- When immigrant diversity rose among the bottom 50 percent of earners, wages rose a small amount for the bottom 25 percent of all earners, while wages for other workers were unaffected.
- When immigrant diversity rose among the lowest-paid workers—the lowest 25 percent—there was no impact on wages for workers of any income level.
- When immigrant diversity rose across all wage levels, wages rose for all workers.
- Rising diversity within workplaces has a separate positive effect on wages, with a smaller but more consistent magnitude than the city-level effect.
- For no group of workers did immigrant diversity have a negative effect on wages.

The researchers used a variety of statistical techniques to ensure the changes they observed in wages were rooted in diversity and not in a wide range of other potential factors, including traits of individuals (such as differing abilities), workplaces (such as varying levels of managerial effectiveness) and cities themselves (such as different levels of education in the workforce).

To further explore the link between diversity and productivity, Cooke and Kemeny have begun studying how diversity influences wages of workers in different fields, such as those that involve high and low levels of innovation, creativity and science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

They also are exploring how cities whose residents are more welcoming to immigrants may receive larger rewards from the immigrant diversity in their midst. 🌐

## DAVID ENGEL RECEIVES LAW AND SOCIETY PRIZE IN MEXICO CITY

SONY Distinguished Service Professor David Engel accepted the Harry J. Kalven Jr. Prize, the Law & Society Association's highest honor in recognition of his long and continuing work in interdisciplinary legal studies at their annual meeting in Mexico City.

Legend has it, says Professor David Engel, that the first national meeting of the Law & Society Association took place in the living room of Richard D. "Red" Schwartz, UB School of Law's dean in the early 1970s and a pioneer in the sociological study of law.

Nobody's living room is big enough now. The Law & Society Association, the world's premier organization for the interdisciplinary study of law, counts its membership in the thousands, reflecting the huge influence these scholarly methods have had on legal scholarship.

Some 2,400 attended the group's annual meeting in June in Mexico City. It's there that Engel accepted the association's highest honor, the Harry J. Kalven Jr. Prize, in recognition of his long and continuing work in interdisciplinary legal study.

"Throughout more than four decades," the official announcement says, "Professor Engel's fields of scholarly inquiry have expanded to include a wide array of issues in the United States, Asia and beyond, including the examination of disputing practices and behavior, legal consciousness and legal meaning-making, rights as social practice, and the gap between official law and legal practice."

That's a fancy way of saying that Engel looks at how the legal system actually works in various societies, including our own – thinking about how custom, social norms and belief structures interact with black-letter law. A good example is his most recent book, *The Myth of the Litigious Society: Why We Don't Sue* (University of Chicago Press), which argues that U.S. culture isn't as litigious as it's often said to be, and examines why most U.S. injury victims never lodge a claim against their injurers.

Engel, who previously served as president of the Law & Society Association, also has been a thought leader globally, working especially to build an international research network among scholars in the Pacific Rim countries. (About a quarter of the association's members live outside the United States.) He recently helped to establish a new Asia-focused scholarly organization headquartered in Japan – the Asian Law and Society Association – and he serves as a founding co-editor of the *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, published by Cambridge University Press.



"The Kalven Prize is especially meaningful to me, because this is the organization that helped shape my identity as a scholar," says Engel, who has taught at the School of Law since 1981. "Attending their meetings, and reading the literature that Law and Society scholars were publishing in the 1960s and 1970s, led me to a new way of formulating my own scholarship and then finding colleagues with whom I could share my ideas."

He also traces his scholarly roots to his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand before attending law school. As he worked to train young teachers and assess the educational needs of Thai communities, he took notice of how official government programs worked in practice at ground level. Later, as a newly-minted law graduate, he applied these same insights to the study of Thai courts and civil litigation practices. "You could see that the law was operating in ways that could not be explained just by reading legal rules and court opinions," Engel says. "So if you wanted to understand what was really happening, you had to look at the surrounding culture and

developments outside the courtroom."

Back in the States, that made him look at the U.S. legal system differently as well – an experience that he says informed a whole generation of scholars who, like him, had spent time abroad in those years of growing international engagement and development activities.

For Engel, it has spawned a lifetime's worth of inquiry. His early essay "The Oven Bird's Song: Insiders, Outsiders, and Personal Injuries in an American Community," published in the *Law & Society Review* in 1984, has had such a lasting influence that it was recently recognized with a conference and a forthcoming edited volume of essays.

The Kalven Prize is not intended to be a lifetime achievement award—it recognizes current as well as past scholarship. Engel notes wryly that he hopes it won't be a capstone to his Law and Society career. He's already working on his next book—on relational injuries in American tort law—and he is increasingly involved in training young scholars, especially in Asia.

In addition, he accepts many invitations to visit universities in the U.S. and abroad to talk with students and faculty about Law and Society research. With colleagues at the National University of Singapore, he is also organizing a regular series of workshops for junior Law and Society scholars, working to encourage interdisciplinary legal research and strengthen international bonds among American and Asian colleagues. 🌐

## LIU APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF UB CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

By Bruce Acker

Zhiqiang Liu, associate professor of economics, has been named director of the UB Confucius Institute (UBCI), effective January 2017.

Stephen C. Dunnett, vice provost for international education and chair of the UBCI board of advisors, had overseen day-to-day operations of the Institute following the death in November 2016 of former director and philosophy professor Jiyuan Yu.

Established in 2009, UBCI supports China-related research and artistic production at UB, Chinese language teaching at the university and in local schools, and cultural events that foster a better understanding of Chinese traditions and contemporary culture throughout Western New York.

"We are very pleased that Zhiqiang Liu has been appointed director of the Confucius Institute," Dunnett said.

"Professor Liu is a prominent scholar in his field and maintains an active research agenda with a focus on the Chinese economy. He is in an excellent position to direct the work of the institute moving forward."

Liu was appointed to the position by Robin Schulze, professor and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; UBCI is housed within CAS.

The Confucius Institute works in collaboration with Capital Normal University, one of UB's longtime partners in Beijing.

A board of advisors consisting of faculty and administrators from UB and Capital Normal University oversees the work of the institute. Major funding is provided by Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters in China, as well as UB.

UBCI is part of a network of more than 500 such institutes around the world. Last December, it was named "Confucius Institute of the Year" at the annual Confucius Institute Global Conference in Kunming, China.

Liu said he was honored to be appointed director of UBCI and noted the "exceptional work" Yu had done to build the institute into a "prominent center for teaching and research about China at UB and in the community."

"I look forward to building on the significant accomplishments of the previous directors and dedicated staff to further strengthen the Confucius Institute as a dynamic and effective academic unit," he said.

A UB faculty member since 2000, Liu studies applied microeconomics, economic growth and development, the economics of crime and the Chinese economy.

In the Department of Economics Liu has served in several service roles including director of undergraduate studies and coordinator of the B.A. Program in Economics at the Singapore Institute of Management, where he has also taught courses regularly.

Liu has published numerous articles in leading economics journals, among them *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *the Journal of Comparative Economics*, *the Journal of Development Economics*, *the Journal of Economic Geography*, *the Journal of Law and Economics*, *the Journal of Political Economy* and *the Journal of Urban Economics*.

Liu has served on the board of directors and board of regents of the Chinese Economists Society, and also sits on an advisory committee of the Natural Science Foundation of China. He is currently on the editorial board of *China Economic Review*.

Prior to joining the UB faculty, Liu was a lecturer at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and also served as a special-term professor and deputy director of the China Center for Human Capital and Labor Market Research at the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing.

He earned an M.B.A. and a Ph.D. from UB and a B.S. from Tianjin University. 🌐

*Bruce Acker is associate director of the UB Confucius Institute.*



## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

## SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

*Department of Architecture*

**Brian Carter**, professor and former dean, and **Annette W. LeCuyer**, professor, were recognized as Honorary Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC). They were awarded medals at the 2017 Conference of the RAIC in Ottawa in May. Carter was appointed External Examiner in Architecture at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

*Department of Urban and Regional Planning*

**Daniel B. Hess**, professor, organized an international seminar in October 2017, "Past, Present, and Future of Socialist Housing Estates: Exploring Research Needs in the Baltic States" at Riga Technical University (Latvia). The seminar was repeated at the Lithuanian Social Research Center in Lithuania. He also presented his research about poverty and ethnicity in urban neighborhoods at the URMI/Co-Creation Workshop in November 2016 held at Demos, Helsinki, Finland.

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

*Department of Anthropology*

**Phillips Stevens**, associate professor, coordinated the annual meeting at UB of the New York African Studies Association (NYASA), founded in 1967 as the SUNY African Studies Faculty Association. NYASA is a non-profit membership association dedicated to advancing the discipline of African Studies. NYASA encompasses Africanists who are faculty members at high schools, colleges and universities; researchers, professionals and students. As a regional organization, the New York African Studies Association promotes the visibility and advancement of the discipline in New York State and surrounding areas, and offers opportunities for the scholarly and professional development of educators, and enhanced education for community members, leaders and activists. The 2017 meeting of NYASA was held at UB, March 31 – April 1. This is 50 years after the establishment of its parent organization, and 40 years after its last meeting at UB. Coordinator: Stevens was Program Chair of the 1977 meeting and President of NYASA in 1978. Program Chairs for the 2017 meeting are **Ndubueze Mbah** and **Jason Young**, History, and Local Arrangements Chair is **Cindi Tysick**, University Libraries; High Schools Liaison is **Mara Huber**, Undergraduate Education; and other committee members include **Fred Klaitz**, Anthropology; **Jeff Good**, Linguistics; and **Shaun Irlam**, Comparative Literature.

*Arts Management Program*

**Franck Bauchard**, clinical associate professor and director, organized a Summer School in Paris and Marseille, France focused on issues related to cultural diversity and art in public spaces (May 28-June 6, 2017). In this context, the students took part in the Municipality of Paris's urban and cultural project called "Reinventer nos places!" He was the curator of the international exhibition "aéroports ville-monde" at Gaité Lyrique (Paris, Feb 22- May 21, 2017) and co-curator of the multi-format international event *Lanceurs d'alerte* (January 2017) mixing performances, concerts, theater, screenings, panel discussion and an exhibition. He was also the curator of the event on cybernetics and politics titled "The perfect election," which was made possible by partnerships with Techne, Union des Patrimoines Numériques, and University Paris VII. This large event took place in May 2017 at Gaité Lyrique. He was appointed by the Toulouse Metropolis to the scientific and artistic committee for a new major cultural project called "La Cite des Arts," mixing urban and cultural development.

*Asian Studies Program*

In 2017 **Thomas Burkman**, research professor emeritus, will teach for the third time in the summer program of Jinan University in Guangzhou, China.

*Department of Chemistry*

**Alexey Akimov**, assistant professor, visited Uppsala University, Swe-

den in November 2016. The visit was a part of a collaborative Sweden-US project on the theoretical and computational studies of 2D materials for solar energy conversion applications funded by STINT, The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education. Akimov delivered an invited seminar and a series of workshops on the computational methodologies and tools developed in his group. He stayed in Uppsala for a week and interacted with many scholars including faculty, postdocs, and students. He trained the Swedish partners on the project and discussed the detailed plan of research. Akimov continued his European tour to the University of Rostock, Germany, where he presented an invited seminar on nonadiabatic dynamics studies of the excitation energy relaxation in warm dense matter and the photoinduced dynamics in molecular switches. He also gave a follow up hands-on and Q&A session about the Libra and Libra-X simulation packages he develops and discussed a new collaborative project. In summer 2017, Akimov will visit China to give a series of invited seminars and workshops on methods and tools for nonadiabatic molecular dynamics. He will visit Jilin University in Changchun and Beijing Normal University.

**John Richard**, UB Distinguished Professor, travelled to Europe for two extended stays during the Fall semester 2016. He spent six weeks at the University of Durham in the U.K. engaged in collaborative work on the mechanism of enzyme action with AnnMarie O'Donoghue. During this time, he made extended seminar tours in Germany and England, where he renewed many old acquaintances with a number of prominent chemists and enzymologists. He presented seminars at the following institutions in October 2016: Universitaet Regensburg, Institut fuer Biophysik und physikalische Biochemie; University of Bayreuth, Department of Biochemistry; Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Department of Organic Chemistry; Cambridge University (U.K.), Department of Chemistry and Department of Biochemistry; Manchester University (U.K.), Department of Chemistry; University of Sheffield (U.K.), Department of Chemistry; University of Cardiff (U.K.), Department of Chemistry; and University of Bath (U.K.), Department of Chemistry. After a short return to the U.S. Richard spent six weeks at Uppsala University, engaged in discussions with Lynn Kamerlin, her students and postdocs on state-of-the-art calculations to model experimental results on several enzymes. The experimental results were obtained by his coworkers at Buffalo. Richard presented ten lectures to graduate students at Uppsala University, in a course on Catalysis and Enzymology. In addition, he presented research seminars at KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Life Sciences Laboratory, School of Biotechnology in Stockholm, Sweden, and at the University of Turku in Turku, Finland; and spoke at a Workshop on Enzyme Mechanisms at Tällberg, Sweden.

**Troy Wood**, associate professor and chair of the Pre-Health Committee, presented two lectures on metabolomics and mass spectrometry for a workshop at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala in Guatemala City. The workshop was part of the program to celebrate the arrival of Chemistry Nobel Laureate, Ada Yonath, with an honorary doctorate by the university in February 2016. Wood was also honored by the National Council of Science and Technology of Guatemala for promoting science and technology in Guatemala.

*Department of Classics*

In November 2016, **Roger D. Woodard**, the Andrew van Vranken Raymond Chair of the Classics and chair, took part in the international conference "Written Materials and Written Cultures in the Ancient World" at Kyungpook National University in Daegu, South Korea, during the university's International Humanities Conference Week, presenting the keynote address—a talk entitled "From Drawing to Lettering: The Differential Persistence of Pictography in Mesopotamian and Egyptian Scripts and Some Implications." Following the conference he was invited to visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Haeinsa Temple complex and its Janggyeong Panjeon (on Mt.

Gayasan) to examine the 80,000 woodblocks of the Tripitaka Koreana, bearing Korean Buddhist religious texts carved in Chinese script. During January 2017, Woodard was invited to return to the American Academy in Rome, where he continued researching his current monograph project on the movement of ideas from Anatolia westward, to Greece and Italy, in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age. In March he was invited to Cambridge (U.K.) to take part in the international conference URBS II (Understanding Relations Between Scripts), a conference examining formal relations between writing systems of the Mediterranean and Levant, held in conjunction with the European Research Council-funded Cambridge project CREWS (Contexts of and Relations between Early Writing Systems). He presented a paper entitled "Vowel Representation in the Archaic Greek and Old Aramaic Scripts: A Comparative Orthographic and Phonological Examination," arguing for Aramaic influence on the design of the vocalic system of the emerging Greek alphabet.

#### Department of Economics

**Alex Anas**, professor, presented "The cost of congestion and the benefits of congestion pricing in the Greater Los Angeles Region" at the Workshop on City Structure, sponsored by the Kraks Fond of Copenhagen, Denmark, January 20, 2017; and at Urbanics 3: Third Workshop on Urban Dynamics, held in Pucón, Chile during March 13-16, sponsored by the University of Chile and several Chilean institutes and think tanks. The reported research utilized the Regional Economy, Land Use and Transportation (RELU-TRAN) model, a computable general equilibrium model, developed by Anas at UB with funds from the NSF, the USEPA and UCOP (University of California Office of the President). RELU-TRAN is a multipurpose model of an urban region to study a variety of policy issues. In the present instance, the model is used to estimate the social cost of traffic congestion in the L.A. region and the benefits from the substitution of prospective congestion tolling revenue for income, sales and property taxes.

#### Department of English

**Rachel Ablow**, associate professor, gave a conference paper on "Dombey's Form of Life" at the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers, in Toronto, May 2017.

**Walt Hakala**, assistant professor, had the South Asian edition of his book, *Negotiating Languages: Urdu, Hindi, and the Definition of Modern South Asia* published by Primus Books in New Delhi in January 2017. He delivered an invited talk, "Revisiting 'How Newness Enters the World': The Semantic Strategies of Inclusion, Identification, and Displacement in Hindva Vocabularies," at the Fourth Perso-Indica Conference, in Paris, December 2016, and was an External Evaluator for an MA Thesis at the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, spring and summer 2016. Hakala will be serving a three-year term on the Selections Committee of the American Institute of Indian Studies from 2017 to 2020.

**James Holstun**, professor, gave a talk on "Buffalo Unsteered: Connie Porter, Leslie Feinberg, and the Persistence of the Proletarian Novel" in December 2016 at the English Language and Literature Association of Korea at Daejeon, Korea. He also presented "'Mr. Kayerts. He is dead': Literary Realism and Conrad's 'Outpost of Progress'" at the English Department of Yonsei University in Seoul.

Footage from a film of **Bruce Jackson**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, made in 1966 with Pete Seeger—Afro-American Worksongs in a Texas Prison—is being used by the Icelandic composer María Huld Marcan Sigfúsdóttir as the visual component for a piece she composed ("Clockworking") for the chamber music ensemble Nordic Affect. It is being performed in Reykjavik, New York, and other places in spring 2017. Jackson's photo of Michel Foucault was reprinted in Port Magazine (London, U.K.).

**Randy Schiff**, associate professor, gave a paper at the December 2016 English Language and Literature Association in Daejeon, South

Korea, entitled "Economics of Otherness in Pearl: Fluidity and Identity."

**Tanya Shilina-Conte**, lecturer, will give a paper, "Filmmaking Machine and the Black Screen as a Tool of Deterritorialization," at the Deleuze Studies conference and participate in the Deleuze Studies Camp in Toronto, Canada in June 2017. She also directs the UB Center for Global Media, which hosted Iraqi-French filmmaker Abbas Fahdel and screened one of his films, co-hosted a screening of one of British filmmaker Isaac Julien's films and of his film installations, and screened films by Italian director Luchino Visconti and Chinese director Wu Tianming.

**Howard Wolf**, professor emeritus, lectured at University of Lisbon, Portugal on "Literary Journalism" in February 2017 and on "The Role of Literature in a Liberal Education" in Myanmar at the Parami Institute in March 2017. His three-act play, *Home at the End of the Day*, is forthcoming from Prestige Books International (Delhi, India).

#### Department of Geology

In January 2017, **Howard Lasker**, professor, and **Mary Alice Coffroth**, professor, attended the 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Coral Reefs in Hainan, China. The meeting, held in Sanya on the island of Hainan, was designed to introduce the international participants to Chinese researchers and their research projects. Lasker and Coffroth both presented at the Forum and also gave talks and met with faculty and students at Haikou University which they visited prior to the meeting. Following the meeting, on their way back to Buffalo, both UB faculty met with researchers at the Hong Kong University where they also presented talks.

#### Department of History

**David Herzberg**, associate professor, has been invited as IFRIS Visiting Scholar at the Interdisciplinary Research Unit "Sciences, Innovation and Society" (LISIS) at Paris Est Marne-la-Vallée University and at the Research Center for Medicine, Health and Society (CERMES3) at Paris Descartes University, France from May 21 through June 30, 2017. The visiting position is in connection with his book-in-preparation, *The Other Drug War*, which is a history of pharmaceutical opioids and other addictive medicines (i.e., sedatives and stimulants).

**Yan Liu**, assistant professor, is revising an article manuscript on healing by incantation in medieval China, in which he investigates the rationale of this peculiar healing through the lens of etiology and explores the dynamic interplay between medicine and religion (Daoism and Buddhism) in China. In November 2016 he gave a talk in the T'ang Studies Society Conference in Sarasota, focusing on the history of saffron in Tang China. The talk presented research from his project on foreign aromatics and the history of scent in medieval China. Liu organized a panel in the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada entitled "Poison or Panacea? Toxic Substances in East Asian Medicine from the Tang Dynasty to the Present." His talk in the panel focused on a popular and toxic drug called Five-Stone Powder in medieval China.

**Kristin Stapleton**, associate professor and director of graduate studies, has taken part in several online bookclub discussions of her new volume *Fact and Fiction: 1920s China and Ba Jin's Family* and the novel it concerns. Stapleton was interviewed about Fact and Fiction for the New Books in East Asian Studies podcast and discussed it as the keynote speaker at the 5th Pittsburgh Asia Consortium Undergraduate Research Conference at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She published an essay on comparative global cities in the *Journal of Modern Chinese History* in fall 2016, and continues to work on her research on the 1950s transformation of Chinese cities under the influence of the Soviet model. She also continues to serve as the chief editor of the scholarly journal *Twentieth-Century China*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

*Department of Jewish Thought*

**Richard A. Cohen**, professor, was invited for the spring 2017 semester to be Visiting Research Professor in the Department of Political Science, at the University of Rome, La Sapienza, Rome, Italy. In addition to working on his next book on political philosophy, Cohen gave three public lectures at La Sapienza in March and April, 2017. During the last ten days of May 2017, Cohen delivered five lectures on political philosophy at Meiji University in Tokyo, Japan, at the invitation of the Meiji Department of Philosophy.

*Department of Mathematics*

**Adam Sikora**, associate professor, was invited to the Université Toulouse, France in March 2017 to give a series of lectures on Quantum Topology. During his trip, Sikora also given a lecture "From Character Varieties to Quantum Groups" at the Mathematics Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland.

*Department of Media Study*

**Sarah Elder**, professor and documentary film director, presented an invited paper entitled, "Thin Ice: Addressing Whales, Beaver and the Moral Realm of Climate Change through Community Collaborative Filmmaking in Alaska", and presented film selections from her ongoing ethnographic film research project "Surviving Arctic Climate Change" at the British Museum, with the Royal Anthropological Institute, at the conference entitled, "Anthropology, Weather and Climate Change," May 27-29, 2016, London, U.K.

*Department of Philosophy*

**Barry Smith**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, has been appointed Honorary Professor at the International Center for Formal Ontology, Warsaw University of Technology. A conference on his work entitled "Perspectives on Deontology from Early Phenomenology and Contemporary Philosophy" was held in the University of Geneva. In addition he gave talks on "The Ontology of Terrorism at the School of Oriental and African Studies;" on "Building Ontologies" at the School of Engineering, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne; on "Permanent Generic Relatedness and Silent Change" at the International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems in Nancy, France; on "Die Datenwelt von Morgen" at the Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung, Bielefeld; on "The Ontology of the Organigram" at the conference on Normative Drawings and Deontic Artifacts, Cagliari, Sardinia; and on "Quantities as Fiat Universals," at the Istituto di Studi Filosofici, Lugano, Switzerland.

*Department of Physics*

**Surajit Sen**, professor, was awarded a Fulbright Flex Grant for 2017-18. He will spend two summers in India doing research with a collaborating group.

*Department of Romance Languages and Literatures*

**Elizabeth Scarlett**, professor and chair, had an article published on the feminism of Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda and Clara Sánchez in the June 2017 edition of *AnMal Electrónica* (University of Málaga, Spain). Her reference entry on the director Luis Buñuel was published by Oxford University Press in *Oxford Bibliographies in Cinema and Media Studies*.

**Margarita Vargas**, associate professor, read a paper entitled "Socio-Political and Aesthetic Presence of Italians in Spanish-American Drama" at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Mediterranean Studies Association Congress in Palermo, Sicily in Italy held between May 25-28, 2016.

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION***Department of Educational Leadership and Policy*

**Lois Weis**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, and **Seong Won Han**, assistant professor, are principal investigator and co-principal investigator, respectively, on a National Science Foundation grant of \$1,607,010 to support their project, entitled "Effects of State Policy on High School Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

(STEM) Opportunities and Outcomes for Low-Income Underrepresented Minorities," from August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2021.

*English Language Institute*

**Keith E. Otto**, director of the English as a Second Language Program, served in December 2016 on a volunteer selection panel for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program at the Institute of International Education in New York.

*Department of Library and Information Studies*

**Sam Abramovich**, assistant professor, presented a workshop in October at FabLearn 2016, and international conference in Stanford, California, titled "Finding Evidence of Learning: Assessment in Fablabs and Makerspaces."

**Dan Albertson**, associate professor, participated on a panel titled "How is image seeking and use studied: Theoretical models and research method" at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Information Science and Technology, in Copenhagen, Denmark in October 2016.

**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES***Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering*

**Paschalis Alexandridis**, UB Distinguished Professor, spent December 2016 as a visiting professor at the Center for Transdermal Drug Delivery Systems at Kyushu University (Fukuoka, Japan), hosted by Professor Masahiro Goto, Director of the Center. At Kyushu University, Alexandridis taught a short course on "Surface Chemistry of Surfactants and Polymers" to students in the Graduate School of Engineering. While in Japan, Alexandridis gave seminars on "Pharmaceutical Formulations based on Poloxamers: Function through Molecular Self-Assembly and Directed Assembly" at the Division of Chemical Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering Science, Osaka University, hosted by Professor Hiroshi Umakoshi, and on "Adsorption of Amphiphilic Polymers on Surfaces" at the Basic Research Center of Shiseido Co., Ltd., in Yokohama. In November 2016 Alexandridis presented an invited lecture at the 11th Hellenic Polymer Society International Conference in Heraklion, Greece, and seminars on "Self-Assembled Block Copolymers in Selective Solvents: Structure Enables Function" at the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Health, Department of Health Sciences and Technology, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) Zürich, and at the Department of Chemistry, University of Fribourg, both in Switzerland.

**Mark Swihart**, UB Distinguished Professor, visited Southwest University in Chongqing, China in February 2017 to deliver two lectures: "Synthesis and Potential Biomedical Applications of Plasmonic Semiconductor Nanostructures," College of Pharmaceutical Sciences; and "Aerosol Synthesis of Nanomaterials for Hydrogen Generation and Purification Applications," College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

*Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering*

**Michel Bruneau**, professor, was in New Zealand throughout February and March 2017 working on a project related to the reconstruction of Christchurch, which was hit by a series of devastating earthquakes in 2010-2011. Bruneau is collaborating with Professor Gregory MacRae of the Quake Centre at the University of Christchurch. Their work will culminate in a report providing useful "lessons learned" for cities that face natural disasters worldwide in the future. Before the earthquakes, Christchurch was very much a concrete city, but now the reconstruction is predominantly in steel. The purpose of Bruneau's study is to clarify the reasons for these construction choices, using anecdotal information and quantitative data. Bruneau and MacRae are talking with structural engineers and the Quake Centre's industry partners to gain an understanding of the motivation behind their design and construction decisions, and how often steel is used versus traditional structural systems.

**Andre Filiatrault**, professor, taught a short course in French in

February 2017 to practicing engineers in Montreal, Canada entitled Seismic Design and Analysis of Nonstructural Components. This course was part of the continuing education Carrefour Perfectionnement Polytechnique of Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. Filiatrault was awarded a Visiting Erskine Fellowship by the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. As part of the Fellowship, he taught a graduate course in the Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering at the University of Canterbury entitled "Seismic Performance of Non-structural Elements," April 1-30, 2017.

**Zhenduo Zhu**, assistant professor, visited Tsinghua University and the Beijing Normal University, China, in December 2016. He also presented an oral talk on "An Integrated Modeling Approach for Urban Stormwater Management" and moderated two conference sessions at the ninth International Perspectives on Water Resources & the Environment conference (IPWE-2017) in January 2017 at Wuhan University, China.

#### *Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering*

**Victor Paquet**, associate professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has been invited to deliver a keynote address at the International Conference on Ergonomics, HWWE2017 (Humanizing Work and Work Environment) in Aligarh, India in December 2017. The conference is sponsored by the International Ergonomics Association (IEA) and Indian Society for Ergonomics (ISE), and the theme of the conference is "Ergonomics for Improved Productivity".

#### **JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

##### *Department of Microbiology and Immunology*

**Thomas Melendy**, associate professor, was invited to the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia in March 2017. He also presented an invited seminar entitled "How HPV recruits and reprograms the cellular DNA replication machinery" on March 22. Melendy also served as the Opponent for the PhD thesis defense for Helen Isok-Paas, entitled "Viral-host interactions in the life cycle of human papillomaviruses" on March 23.

##### *Department of Neurology*

**Robert Zivadinov**, professor, traveled to Stockholm, Sweden as an invited speaker at the Academy of Knowledge, Scientific Exchange Forum in which he gave two talks; "The Evaluation of Aubagio MRI Efficacy" and "Lemtrada Outcome Measures in the Context of Evolving Treatment Goals in MS." The 2<sup>nd</sup> MS Genzyme Summit was held January 27, 2017 in Monterrey, Mexico and Zivadinov was an invited speaker. The title of his two talks were "Clinical Relevance of Brain Atrophy in Multiple Sclerosis" and "Prognostic Indicators of Multiple Sclerosis: Predicting Disability Progression." On November 4<sup>th</sup> of 2016, Zivadinov was invited to speak at the Academy of Knowledge, Scientific Exchange Forum, Amsterdam, Netherlands and the title of his talk was "Evaluation of Aubagio MRI Efficacy." Zivadinov was an invited speaker at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Pan American Congress of Neurology which was held in Cancun, Mexico October 30<sup>th</sup> – November 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2016. The title of his talk was "Preserving Brain Volume in Multiple Sclerosis" which was very well-received by the attendees. On September 27<sup>th</sup> of 2016, Zivadinov presented an invited talk called "Susceptibility-Weighted Imaging and Quantitative Susceptibility Mapping in the Clinical Trials of Multiple Sclerosis" at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop on MRI Phase Contrast and Quantitative Susceptibility Mapping (QSM) that was held at The University of Graz in Austria. The American Academy of Neurology's 2016 annual meeting was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from April 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. Zivadinov had an oral abstract accepted called "Leptomeningeal Contrast Enhancement is Associated with the Development of Gray Matter Atrophy over 5 Years in Multiple Sclerosis" that he presented. This article was later published in the November 2016 edition of *Multiple Sclerosis*. Zivadinov also had an invited talk as well as oral platform presentation at the ISNVD's (International Society for Neurovascular Disease) 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting that was held in New York City from April 29-30, 2016. The title of his invited talk was called "Heart and Brain in Neurodegeneration: a

Venous Perspective." The second talk was an accepted abstract called "Cerebral Microbleeds in Multiple Sclerosis. A Case-Control Study," which was later published in *Radiology* in December 2016. Zivadinov also received the ISNVD's Silver Medal of Achievement for all of his work that he has done in the field of neuroimaging and multiple sclerosis research. He was an invited speaker at the 11th World Congress on Controversies in Neurology in Athens, Greece on March 23-26, 2017. His talk was titled, "Leptomeningeal Enhancement on MRI is a Promising Biomarker to Monitor Disease Worsening, Especially in Progressive MS Patients," and he debated the topic, "Brain Atrophy Measurements Should be Used to Guide Therapy in MS."

##### *Department of Physiology and Biophysics*

**Mark D. Parker**, assistant professor, accepted an invitation to speak at the International Union of Physiological Sciences' 38<sup>th</sup> World Congress (August 1-5, 2017) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

##### *Department of Surgery*

Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo Pediatric Surgeon, **David H. Rothstein**, and research fellow, **Sarah B. Cairo**, spent 8 days in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in January 2017 doing fieldwork for a research project titled "Characterizing Pediatric Surgical Capacity in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo: Results of a Pilot Study." They visited 14 hospitals in the North Kivu and South Kivu provinces along the Rwandan border, conducting an infrastructure survey designed to assess hospital capacities for the provision of pediatric surgical care. Their work has been submitted to the American Congress of Surgeons and the American Academy of Pediatrics for fall national meetings and will be written up in manuscript form. The project was funded with seed money from the University at Buffalo Department of Surgery.

#### **LAW SCHOOL**

**Anya Bernstein**, visiting associate professor, has an article coming out in spring 2017: "Bureaucratic Speech: Language Choice and Democratic Identity in the Taipei Bureaucracy," *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*. The article is based on ethnographic fieldwork in the Taipei city government, and in it Bernstein argues that Taipei administrators mobilize the different languages available in this plurilingual society to produce new bureaucratic identities appropriate to Taiwan's democratized state. Bernstein also was a Visiting Scholar at Academia Sinica's Legal Studies Institute in Taipei, where she interviewed Supreme Administrative Court justices, district court judges, national and city government administrators, and others about the evolution of Taiwan's administrative law for a new research project on comparative administrative law across different democracies.

**David M. Engel**, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, received the Lifetime Achievement for Excellence in Research Award from the Law and Society Association at their international conference in Mexico City in June 2017 (See page 21).

**David Westbrook**, Louis A. Del Cotto Professor, has been involved with an international multidisciplinary project: "Global Foresight: Anticipatory Governance and the Making of Geo-cultural Scenarios." Based at Stockholm University in Sweden, the project investigates how organizations attempt to anticipate the future, how scenario models are produced, and what they tell us about proposed solutions for tackling urgent global challenges. Researchers are anthropologists, sociologists, and organizational scholars. In fall 2016 Westbrook gave the following lectures in Europe: "Whither Europe (and the US?) at the Universite Catholique de Louvain (Belgium), October 1; "And After Globalization? Two Understandings of the Future of Public International Law" at the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, December 12; "Peace and Prosperity? The 'Battle of Ideas' and Possible Futures for the Euro" for "EU Financial and Monetary Law," at Queen Mary University of London School of Law, December 13; "Reflections on the European and American Projects: Answering Rousseau" for the Departments of Anthropology and Law, National

University of Ireland Maynooth on December 14. Westbrook also participated in the annual meeting of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), held in Milan July 22-24, where he participated in several panels and presented the paper "The University of Planning."

#### SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

**Paul Tesluk**, professor and dean, joined members of the UB Alumni Association's Canada chapter for dinner and an evening of networking on March 31, 2017 in Toronto. About 15 alumni from across the university attended the event, during which Tesluk shared an update on Buffalo, UB and the School of Management and discussed the school's strategic initiatives in leadership, entrepreneurship, health care management and social innovation.

#### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

**Alice Ceacareanu**, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, received the 2016 Visiting Professor Award from the University of Bucharest, Romania.

**Gene Morse**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, has again partnered with the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) to form the HIV Research Training Program, supported by a \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health John E. Fogarty International Center. UB faculty will serve as mentors and collaborators with UZ students and faculty. Morse directs the newly established Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences, an international hub for addressing global health challenges through pharmacological research and drug and vaccine development.

#### SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**Gretchen Ely**, associate professor, continues a research collaboration with the Abortion Support Network of the Republic of Ireland and the Isle of Man.

**Denise Krause**, clinical professor and associate dean for community engagement and Alumni Relations, and **Susan Green**, clinical associate professor and co-director of the Institute on Trauma and Trauma Informed Care, presented "Developing Solution-Focused Champions within a Trauma Informed Environment at the Solution Focused Brief Therapy Association's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, in November 2016.

**Nadine (Shaanta) Murshid**, assistant professor, is conducting 3 research projects in Bangladesh: (1) Building inclusive banking infrastructure for financially disadvantaged populations: Mobile-money and financial inclusion in Bangladesh, that was funded by a UB Civic Engagement Research Fellowship; (2) Social and relational context of microfinance participation, funded by the Gender

Institute, University at Buffalo; and (3) Health problems and help-seeking behaviors in rural Bangladesh with Jeeon, a social business providing e-health services. Murshid has published two manuscripts on research in Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka: Murshid, N.S. (2017). Bullying victimization and mental health outcomes of adolescents in Myanmar, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, *Children and Youth Services Review*; and Murshid, N.S. & Critelli, F.M. (2017). Empowerment and intimate partner violence in Pakistan: Results from a nationally representative survey, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Advance online publication. Murshid writes for the *Daily Star*, a Bangladeshi periodical. Her recent pieces are titled: "Violence: An inevitable outcome of a world unequal"; "Violence: Neoliberalism at the root of it"; "Of gangs, adolescents, and winners"; and "Is abusive behaviour a choice?"

**Sarah Richards-Desai**, a research assistant, and **Laura Lewis**, assistant dean for global partnerships and director of field education, created "Conversations About Culture: Video and Lesson Plan on Cultural Humility", an online tool that was picked up by [globalsl.org](http://globalsl.org), a multi-institutional hub supporting ethical global learning and community campus partnerships.

#### VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

**Stephen C. Dunnett**, professor and vice provost, is one of the co-authors of the 3rd edition of the *NAFSA Guide to International Student Recruitment*, published in March 2017. Dunnett wrote a newly revised chapter on the history of international student recruitment in the U.S. He will be part of a book launch for the new edition at the annual conference of NAFSA: Association of International Educators in May 2017 in Los Angeles.

**John J. Wood**, senior associate vice provost, chaired a panel session titled "Transcending Boundaries: Inclusion and Engagement of International Students as an Institutional Responsibility" at the annual conference of the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) in Washington, DC in February 2017. Also presenting on the panel were UB colleagues, **Peter F. Biehl**, professor and chair of Anthropology, and **Chris Bragdon**, then-director of student engagement for International Student and Scholar Services.

#### International Student and Scholar Services

**Jessica Ereiz**, assistant director, was a presenter for two sessions at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Region X Conference in Lake Placid, New York in October 2016. The first session was titled "Navigating & Troubleshooting the 24-Month STEM OPT Extension" and the second one focused on "Finding Yourself in the Field: Navigating Career Paths." 🌐

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## NEW CONSUL GENERAL OF FRANCE VISITS UB

**O**n April 6, 2017 the university hosted Anne-Claire Legendre, the new Consul General of France in New York City, who was making her first visit to Western New York.

The first woman appointed to this position, Legendre took up her duties on August 29, 2016. She is responsible for representing France in the tri-state region of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, as well as Bermuda.

She serves a community of 80,000 French citizens, many of whom reside in the greater New York City area. Facilitating her visit to UB was Pascal Soares, Honorary Consul of France in Buffalo, who has coordinated past vis-



*President Tripathi, Consul General Legendre, Provost Zukoski Photo: Nancy Parisi*

its to UB by French diplomats.

After receiving Consul General Legendre in his office, President Tripathi hosted her for a luncheon with senior leaders at UB. Later, Consul General Legendre gave a public talk, titled "The Brexit: Opportunities for France," at the Law School's Baldy Center.

The talk was sponsored by the Center for European Studies, the Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Studies at UB, the Office of International Education and the Baldy Center, and was attended by a large group of faculty and students. At the end of the talk, Consul General Legendre took questions about the impact of Brexit on the European Union. 🌐

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John J. Wood, Editor