

UB INTERNATIONAL

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UB International

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ADVANCING UB-INDIA COLLABORATION

By Cory Nealon

Leaders from top research universities in India traveled to Buffalo for a three-day materials science workshop at the University at Buffalo, focusing on the development of joint projects relating to nanomaterials.

The UB-Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) UB-Indo Workshop, held May 16-18, centered on the design, synthesis and data-driven discovery of nanomaterials for electronics, photonics and biotechnology. Activities included presentations, strategy

sensors, photonics and cyber-physical systems including artificial intelligence," the agreement states.

"We look forward to forging what promises to be a highly productive partnership with this distinguished group of researchers," said UB President Satish K. Tripathi.

"As our institutions share a steadfast commitment to the greater good, this workshop serves as a springboard for collectively leveraging our expertise to advance research toward a healthier, more sustainable future," he added.



Signatories to the multi-institutional agreement (seated, from left): L.S. Shashidhara, dean, Ashoka University; Santanu Chaudhury, director, IIT Jodhpur; Subhasis Chaudhuri, director, IIT Bombay; UB President Satish Tripathi; Abhay Karandikar, director, IIT Kanpur; and Ashok Ganguli, deputy director, IIT Delhi. (Nancy J. Parisi)

sessions, laboratory and facility tours, and many opportunities for networking.

During the workshop, UB and six institutes of higher learning from India signed a five-year multi-institutional agreement, effective May 17, 2022 to May 16, 2027.

Under terms of the document, the institutes agreed to collaborate in educational and research fields "that are relevant to the academic, scientific, industrial, social, and cultural interests and needs" of the countries involved. Those fields include, but are not limited to, "nanomaterials and nanotechnology, biotechnology, advanced

"International collaboration in science and technology is crucial when it comes to addressing pressing global challenges," says Venu Govindaraju, UB vice president for research and economic development.

"This workshop brings together researchers from UB and India to articulate a vision for multidisciplinary, international collaboration involving the design, manufacture and application of nanomaterials to address global challenges in health, energy and the environment."

The goal is to identify specific opportunities for collaborative projects, joint grant

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FROM THE VICE PROVOST

Our cover story in this issue highlights UB's leadership in leveraging strategic partnerships in India to advance collaborative research in both basic and applied sciences.

Working with organizers Paras Prasad at UB and Ashok Ganguli of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, President Satish Tripathi and Vice President Venu Govindaraju convened leaders and researchers from a number of premier institutions in India, including five of the IITs, for a collaborative workshop with UB counterparts in May 2022.

All told, more than 50 experts, including faculty and post-docs, participated in this extended conversation about nanomaterials and nanotechnology, biotechnology, advanced sensors, photonics and cyber-physical systems including artificial intelligence.

During the workshop, visiting institutional leaders signed on to a new and unprecedented multi-lateral cooperation agreement with UB to facilitate collaboration among the participating institutions. This is a very exciting binational initiative to bring researchers together to share updates about their own work and to explore opportunities for joint projects that address critical technical challenges and may attract external funding in both countries.

I take the opportunity to report on the successful launch of our OIE Research Grants program (p. 3). We are delighted in this first round to assist so many faculty and graduate students with their exciting global and international research projects. Expanding opportunities in this area is one of my key priorities.

It is gratifying to see the strong response to this opportunity and the broad participation across many UB

schools. As our grants program becomes institutionalized, I look forward to growing the pool of eligible applicants for this funding.

I am grateful to our faculty selection committee, chaired by Professor Janina Brutt-Griffler, Associate Dean of International Education and Director of Language Programs in the Graduate School of Education, for their good work in vetting applications and identifying awardees.

The committee and I have met to assess the experience of the first cycle in order to make improvements to the grants program.

I can also report on the successful pilot of our Faculty Launch Program to provide enhanced mentoring to new international faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

In addition to departmental colleagues, the two conveners of the Faculty Launch committees, both former chairs and highly experienced mentors—Professor Mark Frank in Communication and Professor Stelios Andreadis in Chemical and Biological Engineering—played a critical role in overseeing the mentoring process and adding tremendous value. We look forward to expanding this program and potentially adding participating schools in next academic year.

Finally, I am pleased to relate the initial phases of a “soft strategic planning” exercise in the Office of International Education, undertaken in consultation with the university's Council on International Studies and Programs and other stakeholders. Their initial input has been extremely valuable and has provided a good foundation for the next phases of the process.

Here I would like to recognize my colleague John Wood, Senior Associate Vice Provost, for his assistance in all of these initiatives as the faculty liaison in our office. 🌐



STRATIGAKOS' BOOK HONORED

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geo-political project.”

Published in 2020 by Princeton University Press, *Hitler's Northern Utopia* tells the fascinating untold story of how Nazi architects and planners began to construct a model “Aryan” society in occupied Norway, revealing a haunting vision of what might have been — a world colonized under the swastika.

Stratigakos' book draws on unpublished diaries, photo-

graphs, maps and newspapers from the period to tell the story of a broad range of completed and unrealized architectural and infrastructure projects.

Hitler's Northern Utopia has also been recognized in *Azure* magazine's “Gift Guide: Seven Books for Distanced Design Lovers,” and was shortlisted for the Wallace K. Ferguson Prize from the Canadian Historical Association. 🌐

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AWARDS NEW RESEARCH GRANTS

Faculty and graduate students from five schools were the recipients of funding awards in the inaugural cycle this spring of the Office of International Education (OIE) Research Grants program (see related article announcing the grants in the fall 2021 issue).

A signature initiative of the new Vice Provost, Professor Nojin Kwak, the OIE grants program is aimed at facilitating global and international research projects and collaborations among faculty and graduate students.

Of the seven new grants available in spring 2022, there were awards in six of the grant categories, made by a selection committee of senior faculty from three schools. A total of more than \$100,000 in funding was awarded to 13 faculty and 4 graduate student groups, to be used over the next year or two.

Rapid Grants for Global and International Research, which provide a small amount of funding (up to \$500) for immediate eligible needs, made three awards, including for honoraria for visiting speakers on international topics and editing and a subvention for books based on international research.

The *Global Research Scholar In Residence Grant*, which brings research collaborators from abroad for short-term visits, had one award—to Fabiola Henri, assistant professor in Romance Languages and Literatures, to host a visiting scholar from Senegal to collaborate on research relating to creoles and pidgins.

The category with the largest number of awards, the *Faculty Grants for Global and International Research*, provided funding for five projects, including ones titled, “Pedagogical Benefits of Cultural Narratives in Korean,” “Ethnographic Research in Berlin on Demographic Crisis,” “Food Access and Diet in Low-Income Communities in Panama,” “Transnational Middle-Class Bangladeshi in Love, Desire, Sex and Violence in US and UK.”

Four *Graduate Student Research Community Grants* to support yearlong programs of collaboration among graduate students in various disciplines were awarded, for these projects: “Community-Based Project on Immigrant and Refugee Experience in Buffalo, New York;” “International Critical Ecology Lab;” “Social Reproduction and Feminism Reading Group and Roundtable;” and “A Strength-Based Approach to Inclusive and Multicultural Education for International Students.”

The grant categories with the largest likely impact are the *Associate Professor Fund for Global and International Research* and the *Office of International Education/Office of Vice President for Research and Economic Development (OIE/OVPRED) Seed Grant for External Funding in Global and International Research*.

The Associate Professor Fund, which is intended to un-

derwrite a global or international research project over two years that will help facilitate the recipient’s candidacy for promotion to full professor, had two awards—to Katarzyna Kordas, associate professor of epidemiology and environmental health, for her project: “Food supply contamination and childhood exposure to toxic elements, a comparative study between Uruguay and the US;” and to Sarah Robert, associate professor of learning and instruction, for her project, “Teaching, Gender and Covid Policies.”

Kordas’ project will generate data on toxicants in children’s foods and assess comparative level of exposure in Uruguay and the US. These data will be leveraged in future funding applications to secure appropriate level of funding to assess additional foods and address the remaining issue of short and longer-term health impacts.

Robert’s project will expand an ongoing research project of global concern, which asks: what happened to teaching work and teachers during the first two years of Covid in Argentina, Chile, the UK, and US? And how can we take what we learned to stanch intensified educational and work-related inequities?

The OIE/OVPRED Seed Grant also had two awards—to Deborah Chung, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, for her project, “Building Energy Conservation through Innovative Weight-Based Occupancy Monitoring;” and to Yan Liu, assistant professor of history, for his project “Scent from Afar: A Transcultural History of Aromatics in Medieval China.” These grants aim to prepare for successful applications for external funding.

Chung’s project to monitor energy consumption has potentially a global application. Current methods of building energy conservation are inadequate. This project will provide a novel and superior method of HVAC-serving-area occupancy monitoring (HVAC=heating, ventilation and air conditioning) that is based on measuring the live weight on each HVAC-serving area of a building.

The real-time occupancy information enables control of the heating, cooling and ventilation according to the occupancy. The weight is indicated by the capacitance of the concrete used in the building structure.

Liu’s research on aromatics in medieval China has broad resonance in terms of patterns of trade and cultural exchange along the Silk Road, by which a wide array of aromatics, such as saffron, camphor, and frankincense, entered China from South, Southeast, and Central Asia. His project seeks to map the circulation of aromatics and associated olfactory knowledge across cultural spheres by examining these substances in the medical, religious, and culinary culture of medieval China (seventh to thirteenth centuries). 🌐

UB-INDIA COLLABORATION

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proposals, publications, and exchange opportunities for students and faculty between UB and leading universities in India.

Invited guests included leaders and scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay; Indian Institute of Technology Delhi; Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur; Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur; Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) Varanasi; and Ashoka University.

Participants also included Dhananjay Tiwary, science and technology counsellor for the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C., and researchers from U.S. federal agencies including the Air Force Research Laboratory, Army Research Laboratory and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

UB faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences also attended.

“Advances in materials science are vital to health care, green energy, quantum technology and many other crucial sectors. This workshop is an opportunity to share scientific updates, identify joint priorities and develop joint projects that result in impactful research,” says workshop Co-Chair Paras Prasad, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the UB departments of Chemistry, Physics, Medicine and Electrical Engineering, and executive director of the Institute for Lasers, Photonics and Biophotonics.

“IIT Delhi has several research projects currently with various faculty of UB,” says workshop Co-Chair Ashok Ganguli, deputy director for IIT Delhi and the Prof. N.K. Jha Chair Professor in the IIT Delhi Dept. of Chemistry.

“This meeting is to widen the horizons with multiple partnering institutions and explore additional areas of partnerships in a range of areas, including nanotechnology, photonics, sensors and medicine. This is a unique meeting where several top functionaries of various IITs and of UB would be at the same platform, Ganguli said.”

The workshop organizing committee included:

- Jonathan Bird, Chair and Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, UB;
- Sunil Khare, Institute Chair Professor & Dean (Research & Development), IIT Delhi;
- Krishna Rajan, SUNY Distinguished Professor, Erich Bloch Chair and Empire Innovation Professor, Department of Materials Design and Innovation, UB;
- Stanley Schwartz, UB Distinguished Professor, Department of Medicine and Department of Pediatrics, UB;
- Ashutosh Sharma, Institute Chair Professor, IIT Kanpur; and
- Mark Swihart, Chair and SUNY Distinguished Professor, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, UB.

The event was organized with support from the Science and Engineering Research Board of India’s VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) program, and the UB Office of Research and Economic Development.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for a group of top-class learning institutions to collaborate on the frontiers of science and technology. It’s a winning situation that brings in fresh talent, with students from all sides getting involved with an intellectually rich and accomplished group faculty together,” says Santanu Chaudhury, director of IIT Jodhpur.

“Collaboration is fundamental to advancement, but equally important is that this isn’t a discipline specific endeavor. It is that multidisciplinary approach that is responsible for many of today’s scientific breakthroughs.”

“This collaboration provides the enabler needed to connect researchers who can provide impactful solutions. The minds of everyone involved, including the students we bring into the loop, are the ones that can bring about those meaningful results. And the students are a critical part of this process,” says Subhasis Chaudhuri, director of IIT Bombay.

“Every university system needs their students in the role of active participants. The researchers working today advance our current knowledge and understanding, but by involving students, we’re also helping prepare the future researchers who will continue the work we have started,” he added.

Workshop topics included artificial intelligence- and machine learning-driven material design; applications in photonics; nanomaterial synthesis and processing; applications in (nano)electronics; applications in nanomedicine and biotechnology; and application to sensor technology.

L.S. Shashidhar, dean of research at Ashoka University, noted, “it is an honor and privilege for Ashoka to join this multi-institutional consortium of 5 IITs of India and the University at Buffalo, to work collaboratively on multidisciplinary projects in the areas of energy, environment and health.”

He adds: “Ashoka, India’s premier liberal arts research university, focuses on the innovative application of knowledge to address diverse societal problems, specifically those related to health and environment. Ashoka would be active in promoting joint PhD and student exchange programs and collaborative research with the University at Buffalo.”

Abhay Karandikar, director of IIT of Kanpur, says the conference has “been quite productive.”

“We had research conferences during which we discussed cutting-edge research in areas such as nanomaterials,” he says. “It was productive because a lot of collaborative ideas came up. In fact, our final discussion explored this even more—work areas that researchers from other institutes and the University at Buffalo can collaborate on.” Ganguli, the workshop co-chair and deputy director for

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RECORD YEAR FOR STUDENT FULBRIGHT AWARDS

By Charles Anzalone

Seven UB students and alumni have won Fulbright awards, the prestigious national scholarship competition for grants to study, research and teach abroad, a success rate equaling UB's best-ever year for these "global citizen" Fulbright scholars.

"For 75 years, the Fulbright program has forged intellectual and cultural bonds around the world," says Patrick McDevitt, Fulbright program adviser, associate professor in the Department of History and a 1993 Fulbright grantee to New Zealand.

"This year's results equal our best ever," notes McDevitt, who recognized the contribution of Megan Stewart, director of UB's Office of Fellowships and Scholarships, whose office was essential for UB's banner year in Fulbright winners. "UB's success in the Fulbright is both a testament to our growing international orientation as a university and an integral part of our future development.

"As returned Fulbrighters go on to become leaders in their fields," McDevitt says, "they carry with them an awareness of their status as global citizens, thanks to their experiences of living, learning and teaching abroad."

The seven awards are further evidence to back up UB's aspirations of becoming one of the country's top producing universities of national and international scholarly honors, none more important than the Fulbrights, according to McDevitt and Stewart.

"Our goal is nothing less than to eventually become one of the top producers of Fulbright grants in the country," McDevitt says. "Our student body is a font of amazing individuals who could win many, many Fulbrights if we could just connect with them."

UB's Office of Fellowships and Scholarships approved 20 Fulbright applications this academic year, recommending 12 to the national committees, according to McDevitt and Stewart. Of these 12, seven received awards.



The seven students include current students and UB alumni, all of whom applied for their Fulbright awards through the Office of Fellowships and Scholarships.

The winners:

Callie Camodeca-Schmitz. A graduating senior in classics and history, Camodeca-Schmitz won a study grant to the Netherlands. She will attend Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, a longstanding UB partner, for a one-year master's program in

classics and ancient civilizations.

Camodeca-Schmitz cites as an important personal quality that she is a communist and has organized pride

marches with the Workers' World Party in Buffalo. "Alternatively, I am a big fan of creative writing in Latin," says Camodeca-Schmitz, owner of two cats, Hugo and Eurus. "I also enjoy camping and going for walks in the wilderness."

Elizabeth Kubinieć. A 2021 UB alumna who majored in Spanish, Kubinieć earned an English Teaching Assistantship to Mexico. Kubinieć has deferred her acceptance to the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences for a year to take the Fulbright. "Some folks might find it a bit disjointed/unusual to read that I studied Spanish in undergrad, will be doing an English Teaching Assistantship Fulbright and then attending medical school," Kubinieć says.



She says she hopes to apply her Spanish studies and Fulbright experience to a medical career that treats patients' cultures as advantages in promoting their best health status.

Sophie May. A graduating senior in political science and French, May won an English Teaching Assistantship to Latvia. An aspiring diplomat, May also is UB's first recipient of the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship, which she will defer for a year to take the Fulbright. May plans to pursue a degree specializing in U.S. national security pertaining to Eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia. She hopes to intern at an embassy abroad and will attend graduate school at Georgetown.



The recipient of a 2022 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, May is founder and president of the UB French Club, vice president of the Political Science Association and a college ambassador for the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. She has also interned at the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, the Hudson Institute, the Joint Baltic American Committee and the National Defense University.

Kathleen Naughton. A doctoral candidate in the Department of English and part of the Poetics Program, Naughton won a U.S. Fulbright student research grant to Canada at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, working with faculty member Jeff Derksen.

Naughton is the author of the chapbooks "Study" (Above/Ground Press, 2021) and "A Second Singing"

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STUDENT FULBRIGHT AWARDS

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(forthcoming from Dancing Girl Press, 2022). Her poetry has been published or is forthcoming in *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Bennington Review* and *Michigan Quarterly Review*. She is working on two collections of poems: “Debt Ritual” and “the real ethereal,” a finalist for the 2021 Nightboat Poetry Prize and the 2021 Autumn House Press Book Prize under the title “Hour Song.”

Naughton is a publicist and assistant editor at Essay Press, editor and project manager at the HOW(ever) and How2 Digital Archive Project (launching in 2022), and founder of [Etcetera](#), a web journal of reading recommendations from poets.

Brianna Porter. Currently a third-year doctoral candidate in anthropology, Porter won a research grant to Thailand. Her study will be based in Chanthaburi, where she will carry out ethnographic fieldwork to learn about the complexities surrounding shrimp aquaculture certification and the management of environmental challenges.

Porter is a member of the Global Scholars Program, an initiative to recognize students who structure their learning and work around developing a more comprehensive global world view through study abroad and foreign language proficiency. Porter is also the recipient of the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Thai language learning.

Vice president of the Anthropology Graduate Student Association, Porter is also a red belt in Krav Maga, an Israeli martial art derived from judo, boxing, aikido and karate. She started practicing it in January 2020 to learn a practical form of self-defense, and says she enjoy the principles of respect and self-discipline that it teaches its practitioners.

Pemba Sherpa. A 2020 alumna who double majored in psychology and social sciences interdisciplinary-legal studies, Sherpa won an English Teaching Assistantship to Nepal. Sherpa was raised in Nepal along with her siblings, and lived for two years in a hostel in the capital city of Kathmandu to receive better schooling. Her mother and grandmother continued to live in the mountain village of Sanogumela, where Sherpa later attended school. At age



9, she and her family immigrated to the U.S., where her father had settled before the rest of the family arrived.

During winter break of her senior year at UB, Sherpa, accompanied by fellow UB graduate and Nepal native Hemanta Adhikari, returned to Sanogumela and her former school. As part of an experiential program they called “Scholars of Tomorrow,” the two women fundraised online to collect winter jackets, shoes and school supplies. After arriving at Lukla Airport, they walked four hours in wintry weather to deliver these materials to Shree Janasewa Basic Secondary School.

Sherpa says she found her academic purpose when she participated as a sophomore in the annual Global Innovation Challenge sponsored by UB’s Community of Excellence for Global Health Equity. She and her team developed United Youth, a mentoring program that pairs newly arrived refugee high school students with former refugees.

David Tallents. A 2020 alumnus who double-majored in political science and mathematics, Tallents won an English Teaching Assistantship to the Czech Republic. His desire to teach English in the Czech Republic stems initially from his interest in European political culture and his career goals of serving as a foreign service officer and possibly in academia. Tallents has experience teaching a broad range of topics, from math to politics, and is a TEFL-certified instructor. Tallents also has served as an Americorps volunteer. He is finishing his master’s degree in political science at McGill University in Montréal, where he specializes in European politics and the EU.



“His decision to pursue a MA at McGill in Montreal and study abroad in Lille demonstrated to the (Fulbright nominating) committee that he was able to combine a cosmopolitan world view with a firm grounding in his place of origin.”

“This combination will serve him well, as both an ETA and representative of the U.S. Furthermore, as an aspiring FSO, this experience will serve as important training for his future in the diplomatic world.” Tallents also is an avid piano player. 🌐

“This combination will serve him well, as both an ETA and representative of the U.S. Furthermore, as an aspiring FSO, this experience will serve as important training for his future in the diplomatic world.” Tallents also is an avid piano player. 🌐

Charles Anzalone is a news content manager for University Communications.



GRAND OPENING FOR ONE WORLD CAFE

By Jay Rey

The University at Buffalo has opened its newest campus hub and dining facility, as part of its “Heart of the Campus” plan.

One World Café, a three-story addition on the North Campus, offers a variety of international cuisine inside 55,000-square-feet designed to meet the growing student demand for more space to dine, gather and study on campus.

The \$37.8 million investment is a significant addition to the student experience at the university and the fulfillment of a promise to add more international dining options on a campus with students from more than 100 countries.

The building, under construction since 2019, opened for use at the end of January, but food service officially began on Monday.

Senior leadership from UB and the Faculty Student Association on Thursday joined partners in the project to celebrate the opening.

“One World Café was truly a university-wide undertaking,” said UB President Satish K. Tripathi. “Every step of the way, our students, faculty, staff and alumni brought their ideas, their feedback and their creative energy to the spectacular space we celebrate today. As a result, One World Café reflects our identity as a scholarly community: our diverse perspectives, our global diversity and our unified commitment to excellence.”

The facility will sell an array of internationally-themed meals, snacks and drinks featuring five international food stations. The café opened this week with two stations: “Kali Orexi,” which serves Mediterranean fare and “Tikka Table,” which offers food from the different regions of India. The three other food stations — “The 1846 Grill,” “Pan Asian” and “The Noodle Pavilion” — would be phased in, most likely by the fall, as Campus Dining & Shops fills needed food-service positions.

One World Café has seating for 560 people and features tiered seating on the second-floor balcony, a large fireplace and an abundance of charging outlets throughout the bright, open space, which has quickly become a popular spot to gather on campus.

The project is part of UB’s Heart of the Campus initiative aimed at enhancing the student experience at the center of the North Campus and offering new opportunities for them to collaborate outside the classroom.

“One World Café not only offers new dining options, which our campus has been asking for, but it’s meant to be another attractive place for students to meet, study and socialize,” said Brian Hamluk, vice president for student

life. “We are always trying to enhance the student experience at UB and One World does just that by creating a sense of community at the heart of campus.”

Through a series of focus groups, students, faculty and staff had the opportunity to provide input into the design



President Tripathi speaking at the grand opening (Forrest Kulwicki)

and food selection. UB launched a naming contest in 2018 with One World Café as the winning entry submitted by Sayre Stowell, an aerospace engineering major, who graduated in 2019.

“UB’s One World Café is a shining example of what successes can be achieved by collaborative planning and student-centric focus,” said Laura Hubbard, vice president for finance and administration. “We are excited to open these doors to our diverse community.”

As part of UB’s commitment to operating an eco-friendly campus, the majority of items available at One World Café will be either in compostable or recyclable packaging, bringing the facility as close to zero-waste as possible. Items placed in “organics” bins throughout the facility will be processed into a renewable resource through anaerobic digestion.

Cannon Design served as architects for the project; Turner Construction Co. was the construction manager; and Manning Squires Hennig was the general contractor.

One World is just the latest dining facility on campus. UB also has three residential dining centers, 26 retail food locations, two food trucks and three residential convenience stores on campus. 🌐

Jay Rey is a news content manager for University Communications.

ART REFLECTS GLOBAL DIMENSIONS OF ONE WORLD CAFE

By Jay Rey

You may not have known Harumo Sato during her time at UB, but if you are a frequent visitor to One World Café, you will know her work.

The same goes for Tayron Lopez, who graduates from UB this spring but not without leaving behind his mark.

Sato and Lopez are two of the artists who were commissioned to design artwork for the new international eatery on the North Campus. In all, four pieces from four sepa-

“Fruits are, in many different cultures and mythologies, treated as gifts from gods,” says Sato, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree from UB in 2015. “By visualizing a wide variety of fruits—some of which are hard to find in the U.S.—I hope that UB students explore and exchange cultural heritage through discussing different fruits and related memories.

“Through constructing a composition with abstract and figurative pattern designs from different timelines, countries and cultures, I want visitors to see UB’s diverse community as a united, inseparable, co-dependent entity as a whole,” Sato says.

On the third floor, the Lopez mural, titled “One World,” hangs next to the staircase and offers his depiction of life on campus.

Lopez, who goes by “Tai” or “Taitan,” knew what he wanted to design the first time he saw a mockup of the café. “I wanted to convey a feeling of warmth, something that focused on diversity, imagining the convergence of communities and different cultures all throughout,” Lopez says.

“I would describe the work as a new piece of nostalgia—something you haven’t quite seen yet, but still familiar,” Lopez says.

The Bronx native, who found an interest in art at age 4 and would often get caught doodling in class, earned his bachelor’s degree from Sage College of Albany and will graduate from UB with his MFA. He credits UB alumnus and mentor Stacey Robinson for introducing him to UB’s art program, where Lopez has had the opportunity to be a teaching assistant.

“I applied and made it in—thank God,” Lopez says.

Likewise, Sato, who grew up in rural Japan, calls attending UB “a lucky mistake.”

“Initially I wanted to live close to New York City, but I couldn’t afford to go to schools there,” she says. “I found UB, which is ‘close’ to the city and has a good art department, but I didn’t quite understand how big the United States is.”

Later on, Sato realized how the support of the faculty and friendships from fellow students provided an “amazing environment” to focus on her art. Coincidentally, Robinson was among those to help Sato accelerate her education at UB.



Harumo Sato’s ceiling panels “Megumu Megumi” in One World Cafe (Douglas Levere)

rate artists within the UB community will be on display at One World as part of a broader initiative to exhibit more public art on campus.

“This new space invites opportunities to celebrate the uniqueness of UB and our community,” says Kelly Hayes McAlonie, director of campus planning. “Public art is a perfect vehicle to demonstrate this.

“The project was deliberately designed with neutral colors and natural materials so as not to compete with the artwork,” Hayes McAlonie says.

Look up to find Sato’s work. The piece — titled “Megumu Megumi (Gift, Gifted)” — was incorporated into the first-floor design of One World, where the artwork hangs from above to brighten the space and contrast the dark ceiling.

The two large panels—which include colorful, abstract patterns and images of exotic fruits—celebrate UB’s diverse international enrollment and its history as home to the Native American tribes who once lived on the land where the university now stands, Sato says.

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NEH GRANT SUPPORTS DESIGN OF JAMES JOYCE MUSEUM

By Marcene Robinson

The UB Libraries, home to the world's largest collection of materials by and about famed Irish author and poet James Joyce, has received a \$100,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) toward the design of a new UB James Joyce Museum in Western New York.

The UB James Joyce Museum was among 245 projects selected from around the nation for funding. The award, an Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant, aims to leverage federal funds to spur nonfederal support for the humanities.

Through the university's \$1 billion Boldly Buffalo campaign, the UB Libraries has begun fundraising to design the UB James Joyce Museum in Abbott Hall on the South Campus. By creating a museum, the university aims to attract thousands of visitors each year from across the globe to discover and experience the rare materials and literary life and history of Joyce.

Fundraising will also support a preservation and acquisitions endowment, a Joyce endowed curator position, and programming and exhibition funds. As part of the challenge grant from the NEH, UB plans to fundraise \$300,000 to match the award three-to-one.

"Having distinctive scholarly treasures like our James Joyce collection elevates our libraries and enhances our university's international reputation," says President Satish K. Tripathi.

"We are so proud to be home to this unique trove of literary artifacts, which, for seven decades, has drawn visitors, dignitaries and scholars from all over the world to UB. Now, we look forward to showcasing this magnificent collection in a dedicated UB James Joyce Museum, which will contribute significantly to the cultural renaissance taking place in our region while greatly expanding the public's access to the life and work of James Joyce," he added.

"The UB James Joyce Museum will provide UB the ability to highlight and share its James Joyce Collection with a broad global audience that has a curiosity and appreciation for literature, culture and history," says Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for the UB Libraries.

"It presents an opportunity to bridge local, regional and international communities, and will strengthen the cultural tourism of the region by not only adding another destination to the rich list of visitor experiences, but by further expanding the scope of literary arts offerings available in Western New York."

James Joyce is regarded as one of the most influential

writers of the 20th century.

The UB James Joyce Collection is the world's most comprehensive collection of materials by and about Joyce, containing more than 10,000 pages of his working papers, notebooks and manuscripts, as well as photographs, portraits, memorabilia and his Paris library. The materials provide unmatched glimpses into the author's writing process and literary relationships.

The collection, currently housed in Capen Hall on the



A rendering of the future James Joyce Museum space in Abbott Library

North Campus, has been a destination for scholars around the world for more than 70 years as Joyce is among the most highly researched literary figures. However, a lack of adequate exhibition space has prevented the general public from accessing this significant cultural and literary collection.

"In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the publication of Joyce's *Ulysses* in 2022 and recognizing that we have a responsibility to make the collection more publicly accessible,

UB is committed to creating the UB James Joyce Museum," says James Maynard, curator of the UB Poetry Collection, the library of record for 20th- and 21st-century Anglophone poetry.

"The design phase is the critical first step in bringing to life this vision of a new landmark attraction in Buffalo."

A dedicated museum space will open the collection to visits by the public through permanent and changing exhibitions, extended viewing hours, docent-led tours and school trips, sophisticated digital displays and other programming.

The museum will also promote Irish heritage in Western New York by celebrating one of Ireland's most significant cultural exports and providing Buffalo and its large Irish

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UB-INDIAN COLLABORATION

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IIT Delhi, said the conference is “a once-in-a-lifetime” opportunity.

“It’s a historic moment. I don’t think there has been an agreement for IITs among the five institutions from India having a memorandum of understanding with an American university,” he said.

“I think this is the first time that has happened. This brings all of our colleagues and researchers together on the same platform. There may be researchers from two or three IITs joining with UB on a single problem. It gives a much wider choice of research areas to work from. Although there are similarities among the IITs, we each have our own strengths.” 🌐

Cory Nealon is director of news content for University Communications.

ART FOR ONE WORLD CAFE

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“I still keep in touch with some of the faculty members, getting some inspiration and encouragement,” Sato says. “I would not be who I am today without the UB art department.”

Since graduating from UB, Sato moved to the San Francisco Bay area with her husband, who is a UB graduate as well. She is currently in residency at the Cubberly Artist Studio Program, creating large-scale murals and public-art installations for such clients as Facebook, Target, Blue Cross Blue Shield and the City of San Francisco.

“My main focus is how to get close to the universally intriguing visuals which speak to anybody beyond the difference of nationality, generation, sex and education,” Sato says. “If people find beauty in my art, it’s because my art reaches to the universal unconscious beauty in their heart—and I am grateful to know it.”

The mural created by Lopez, and two other pieces commissioned for One World, were funded by a philanthropic gift from a donor.

Watch for the other two pieces at One World: “Together We Are” from Chicago-based artist Brendan Fernandes, who has ties to UB’s Anderson Gallery, and “Nourish/Inhabit” from Joan Linder, a professor in the Department of Art. 🌐

GRANT FOR JOYCE MUSEUM

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community with a notable, new Irish landmark. Joyce dedicated his life to writing about the city of Dublin and is inextricably linked around the world with the history and culture of Ireland.

Fundraising for the design phase coincides with the 100th anniversary of the publication of Joyce’s iconic book *Ulysses* in 2022, which will feature a global series of *Ulysses*-related programs, exhibitions and events throughout the year, including on Bloomsday. The international holiday, held on June 16—the same day *Ulysses* takes place—remembers the enigmatic story of a day in the life of protagonist Leopold Bloom in Dublin. *Ulysses* is considered by many to be the most significant novel of the 20th century.

Last year, UB extended its successful Boldly Buffalo campaign goal to \$1 billion. Through the campaign, funds are being raised for student support, faculty research and innovative programs that benefit the world—with a particular emphasis on the Western New York community.

Fundraising for the UB James Joyce Museum, completed through Boldly Buffalo, is part of UB’s efforts to continue its revitalization efforts on the historic South Campus.

This project will focus on the architecturally significant Abbott Hall and strengthen its connection with the Western New York community by inviting the general public to the museum and campus, as well as expand the region’s importance as a premier international destination for research and discovery.

“UB is proud of its role as a cultural and educational hub in Western New York. Through donor support of our campaign, we are amplifying opportunities for our incredible students while also continuing to help change the landscape of our city and region,” says Rodney M. Grabowski, vice president for university advancement. “Helping to launch the planning phase for the UB James Joyce Museum is a signature achievement of our Boldly Buffalo campaign.”

The design phase, an early stage in the development of the museum, is estimated to cost \$1 million. The funds will support the hiring of an architectural firm that specializes in museum design to ensure a premier, state-of-the-art and immersive visitor experience befitting the world-leading archive of one of the most influential writers of the 20th century. 🌐

Marcene Robinson is a news content manager for University Communications.

ASPIRING DIPLOMAT AWARDED RANGEL FELLOWSHIP

By Charles Anzalone

A graduating senior who aims to be an American diplomat has been named the first UB recipient of the far-reaching and lucrative Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship.

Sophie May, who graduates from UB with degrees in French and political science and a minor in history, will receive the full array of benefits from the Rangel fellowship.

These include up to \$24,000 annually to fund tuition and fees toward a master's degree in international affairs, and an \$18,000 stipend per year for living expenses, as well as assistance preparing for a Foreign Service career with the Department of State.

May has also been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Latvia for 2022-23 (see p. 5). She is deferring the Rangel for one year to do the Fulbright.

The Rangel award also includes a 10-week internship on Capitol Hill and a 10-week overseas internship at a U.S. embassy or consulate during the summer between May's first and second years of graduate school.

She was one of 45 students selected this academic year to receive the fellowship.

"I have dreamt of a career in diplomacy ever since I started interning at the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training in Arlington, Va., in summer 2020," says May, a graduate of St. Mary's High School in Lancaster.

During this internship, she interviewed foreign service officers and learned firsthand about careers in the American Foreign Service.

"This led me to desire a career as a foreign service official myself," she says. "The Rangel fellowship has made this possible."

After two years of graduate school, as well as internships and professional development opportunities, May plans to become a foreign service officer in 2024.

The fellowship bears the name of Charles Rangel, the second-longest serving member of the House of Representatives at the time of his retirement, serving continuously from 1971 to 2017.

"This fellowship has allowed me to fulfill my greatest

professional goals while simultaneously pursuing other incredible opportunities along the way," says May. "I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to utilize my unique skills and talents in service of the nation.

"I'm sending out a big thanks to family, friends, professors and the UB scholarship office."

May is the latest success story from UB's Office of Fellowships and Scholarships, which has mentored, encouraged and assisted scores of promising UB students who have earned national and international scholarships and fellowships.

"The Rangel fellowship will be life-changing for Sophie and is a perfect fit for her academic and career goals," says Megan Stewart, director of the Office of Fellowships and

Scholarships. "She is committed to serving our country and diversifying the Foreign Service."

May, who says she admires the career of Madeleine Albright, the first female U.S. secretary of state who served from 1997 to 2001 under President Bill Clinton, says she will pursue a degree specializing in U.S. national security pertaining to Eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia. In summer 2023, she will intern at an embassy abroad.

"An important part of my application that I believe persuaded them to select me was my ability to apply my unique experiences to a

career in the Foreign Service," says May.

In particular, she says, she was able to demonstrate on a written application each of the 13 dimensions explained in the Foreign Service Officer Qualifications on the U.S. Department of State website.

"I also believe that my language skills (advanced knowledge of French, intermediate knowledge of Russian and beginner knowledge of German and Spanish) helped me stand out," says May, an avid reader who loves learning languages, yoga and traveling.

"My passion for reading made me curious to learn more about the world around me, and this led to my love of traveling, which ultimately drove my desire to become an FSO (foreign service officer)," says May. "I love learning languages, but I also adore sharing this passion with others." She says her "absolute favorite thing in the world" is her current job teaching children French at Alliance Française. 🌐



UB SURGICAL RESIDENT LEADS MEDICAL MISSION IN UKRAINE

By Ellen Goldbaum

On March 25, 2022 the Congressional Medal of Honor Society announced that it was awarding to UB surgical resident Aaron Epstein the prestigious 2022 Citizen Honors Award for Service.

The national award, administered by the same organization that bestows the prestigious Congressional Medal of Honor, is considered the second-highest civilian award in the U.S. It recognizes those who distinguish themselves by their service or an act of heroism. The organization cited “Epstein’s commitment to providing medical relief to communities in conflict zones, austere environments and disaster areas around the world.”

But Epstein wasn’t in the U.S. to share the good news with colleagues, family and friends. Instead, he was at an undisclosed location in Ukraine, leading the Global Surgical and Medical Support Group (GSMMSG) he launched in 2014 that quickly mobilizes American surgeons and surgical residents—many of them veterans—on missions to war zones and areas of great need.

Beginning with the ongoing crisis with ISIS, Epstein created the GSMMSG to provide high-quality care to victims in Iraq in 2015. He started the group while still a medical student at Georgetown University, and has made numerous trips leading teams to the Middle East and other conflict zones around the globe.

GSMMSG has now expanded to more than 1,000 U.S.-li-



censed medical experts who cover every medical and surgical subspecialty, as well as U.S. Special Operations veterans. In 2020, Epstein was selected to receive the American College of Surgeons/Pfizer Resident Volunteerism Award.

As this CNN video explains, the group is teaching Ukrainians as young as high school age—and many with absolutely no medical background whatsoever—how to provide medical assistance on the battlefield. The training is focused on the kinds of injuries that are typically seen on the battlefield, such as penetrating wounds, which even medical personnel do not typically see in peacetime.

Epstein is in his fourth year as a surgical resident in the Department of Surgery in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB.

“Aaron Epstein is one of those unique individuals whose supreme dedication to the cause of humanitarian care serves as an exemplar to us all,” says Steven D. Schweitzberg, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and department chair, himself a veteran of the Gulf War.

Allison Brashear, vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School, noted: “Dr. Epstein’s passion for delivering critical care to communities in crisis around the world, and leading others to do the same, is an inspiration to everyone at the Jacobs School and the entire UB community.”

Ellen Goldbaum is a news content manager for University Communications.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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on “How to Overcome Difficulties with Tortuous Arterial Anatomy in Catheterization of Intracranial Vessels”, as well as the International Society of Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery meeting in Beijing where he presented “AI-Assisted Thrombectomy for Acute Ischemic Stroke.” In April, 2022 he will serve as faculty at SLICE Next Frontiers in Montpellier, France, an invited lecturer at AVM-WIN in Val d’Isere, France, as well as participate in a webinar for the Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons. In August 2022 he will serve as faculty for the annual World Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology meeting in Kyoto, Japan.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Community for Global Health Equity

The 8th annual Refugee Health Summit of Western New York is planned for September 10, 2022.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Christopher Hollister, librarian, is an invited co-panelist for the annual LILAC Information Literacy Conference, which will take place in Manchester, United Kingdom in April 2022. His presentation, “Prioritizing Inclusion and Equity in Information Literacy Scholarship: A Panel Conversation with the Editors of CIL and JIL,” will detail journal publishing policies and practices implemented to empower traditionally silenced or underrepresented authors. Hollister is also an invited presenter for the annual Consortium of National and University Libraries Conference, which will take place in Limerick, Ireland in May 2022. His paper, “Shifting the Scholarly Landscape: The Case Study of a Successful, Independent, Library-Published Journal,” will outline how the journal *Communications in Information Literacy* serves as an exemplar for the enterprise of library publishing, and as model to emulate for scholars in other fields who seek to regain control over their professional literature.

THE ROLE OF PROPAGANDA AND INFORMATION MANIPULATION

By Kate Bezrukova and Chester Spell

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine has, of course, dominated world attention, I've been trying to understand what ordinary Russians think of this in as "unfiltered" a manner as possible—by asking personal contacts directly.

Some of these contacts are friends back from my time in college, living in Moscow. Like old friends everywhere, we've been supporting each other through the worst of Covid, talking about kids, books, and our jobs for years. So, just after the invasion began, I asked them directly,

"What the heck has been going on with Russia since I left 22 years ago?" Would they, from a Russian perspective, be able to justify what is euphemistically called a "war of choice"?

My initial questions—to my surprise, perhaps borderline shock—were asked right back at



Kate Bezrukova

me. Having grown up with a firsthand experience of how Russian media operates and the limitations of any independent news agencies, I was aware that the story this group was getting would not be at all like what we hear in the Western world. Yet, I was still surprised by how they interpreted the war and the causality of the conflict.

Our interactions over the next weeks included endless texts about denazification (even though many countries have far-right presence), liberation, and Russia fighting two wars at the same time, with the U.S. being the biggest villain. There was also the conviction that Ukrainian modeling agencies were staging horrifying pictures of injured civilians for the Western press, that Ukrainians were barbarians shelling their own people, and finally, parroting Vladimir Putin's bizarre read of history (and it is bizarre) that Ukraine is not a nation.

At first, I wondered how it was even possible for anyone, much less people I've cherished as friends for decades, to believe this nonsense in the 21st century. But then it occurred to me that in our interactions prior to the war, regular topics, like kids' books or Russian authors, would spark a huge range of opinions—yet they had a surprisingly uni-

fied response regarding the war in Ukraine.

This got me thinking about several concepts and phenomena extensively researched in groups and teams that could help explain what I was hearing.

For example, the concept of conformity can explain how and why group pressure leads to these responses and outcomes, as people bring their behavior into alignment with a group's expectations and beliefs. (See Asch's 1956 line experiment, when 76% of the group made erroneous conforming judgments about the length of three lines that were obviously of different lengths.)

Why do people conform? There are two main reasons:

- **The need to be right.** The more people who hold a particular opinion, the more right that opinion appears to be. This phenomenon explains why many academic journals require three reviews before an editor accepts a paper, and why many competitions use multiple judges. Closer to our point here, this is why seeing the same interpretation of an event from different contacts in your social network could amplify a certain opinion. So, if I see one of my social media "friends" post something about a modeling agency staging a pregnant woman being carried in front of a bombed maternity hospital, and then I see that same post by my other friends, I may start believing that a tree is red and not green.
- **The need to be liked.** The tendency to agree with a group to feel more like a part of that group. This is a fundamental human motive that drives a lot of behavior in groups. It gives the sense of being part of "something bigger than myself." Governments and other players producing disinformation can simultaneously tap into this need and construct a sense of being a victim to truly mobilize group thinking that distorts reality.

Additionally, there is of course attribution error, or mistakes we make in attributing motives to other people's behavior.

Another mode of distortion is based on confirmation bias, which describes how people look for information that supports their interpretation of the event and rejects or dismisses something that conflicts with it.

In a recent, tragic example, when Russian people are shown photos of bombed civilian apartments, they may dismiss that information because it does not fit with the state-sanctioned narrative of "bombing only military objects."

Finally, consider the role of moral transgression and the concept of the group mind. There is a long history of observed differences between the individual and group that can be traced back to Plato's Republic.

In more recent times, the discussion has related to crowd behavior and the group mind. Lebon argues that

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PROPAGANDA

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individuals who join groups tend to regress to primitive mental states, become vulnerable to losing moral standards and inhibitions, and become prone to competitive, barbaric acts, including violence—all presumably because of the emergence of a group mind.

Sadly, the Ukraine invasion is not the first case of Russia's deviant behavior, even recently. We've witnessed cyberattacks and various doping scandals at the Olympics, for example.

But such nefarious activities are often justified as Russia not being a well-off country and having some type of right to use unethical ways to level the playing field. We have seen parallels of this line of thinking with justifying property crimes as a way of distributing wealth, especially in cases of extreme disparity.

All of these biases and sources of distortion likely played some role in shaping the opinions Russians have expressed and explains why those attitudes are so strongly held and resistant to change. But what is one to do? How can the individual, apart from the group, combat these effects in the face of overwhelming evidence?

Here are three ways to overcome the biases surrounding information distortion:

- Carefully consider decision alternatives and use all available information. While considering other sources might not be practical in Russia now (after all, that's why independent news sources have been silenced there), it is possible for others to consume information from sources you would not naturally be inclined to read. If you lean to the left, read *The Wall Street Journal* or *National Review* regularly. If you are conservative, take a look at *The Nation* or

The New York Times.

- Analyze information by considering which facts support a certain opinion, which facts contradict a certain opinion and which facts are neutral. I practice this approach to processing information with my students. They have to come up with a system to analyze facts to help them decide on a key suspect who's stealing technology from a company.
- Have moral standards. Here are some questions I put to my negotiation class: How would you feel if someone used this unethical tactic on you? Would you feel comfortable advising someone else to use this tactic? What would the result be in society if everyone bargained in this manner?

Returning to the question: How to justify an invasion? Some of the justifications given to me by my friends reminded me of Star Wars mythology, recalling Anakin Skywalker going to the Dark Side and justifying violence to "maintain peace."

The rationale I have been told for Russia's invasion of Ukraine sounds all too familiar. The pity is that we are not talking about a Hollywood movie but real lives and massive human suffering due to a fallacious tale. That tale, because of the strong biases and tendencies at play, was relatively easy to spin—but will be hard to undo.

This article was first published in *Psychology Today*.

Kate Bezrukova is an associate professor of organization and human resources in the UB School of Management. She is an expert on team chemistry, managing a diverse workforce, negotiations and gender, and conflict management. Her research examines group faultlines, diversity, and conflict evolution and management. Her co-author, Chester S. Spell, is a professor in the School of Business at Rutgers University Camden. 🌐

UB COLLABORATOR HONORED

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post-colonial situation, language issues are important, both are traditionally Catholic with a history of a struggle for a national identity and are small nations."

In addition to her own numerous publications, Koustas has served on the jury of the Governor General's Literary Awards, the Quebec Writers' Federation Translation Award, and the International Impact Dublin Literary Award.

At Brock, Koustas teaches third- and fourth-year courses in French-Canadian literature and theatre as well as translation.

The award will be presented at the ICCS annual meeting at York University in Toronto in July 2022. 🌐

Based on *The Brock News*, Alison Innes, March 25, 2022

COVID AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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of the themes raised by the roundtable. She examined how authorities in several African nations have abused emergency laws to harass, arrest and assault critics of COVID-19 policies.

The Committee has devoted its April 7, 2022 Symposium to the topic, "Today's Socialisms and Human Rights", with presentations on China, India, Scandinavia, Latin America and elsewhere. 🌐

Shaun Irlam, who co-chairs the Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee, is associate professor of comparative literature and chair of the Department of Africana and American Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.

LONGSTANDING COLLABORATOR IN CANADIAN STUDIES HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD

Jane Koustas, professor of French at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario and a close collaborator with colleagues in Canadian Studies at UB, is being honored with the 2022 Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies.

Presented annually by the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS), this prestigious award recognizes scholars who have made outstanding contributions to the scholarship and development of the field internationally.

Koustas says the support of her colleagues in Brock's Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Culture, the University at Buffalo, and the University College Dublin in Ireland has been instrumental to her success.

"All prizes and awards really do reflect the strength of the support network," she says. "I wish to thank the students, who always provide inspiration, and my colleagues on both the national and international scene who continue to offer encouragement."

Koustas' long-time collaborator at UB, Munroe Eagles, professor of political science, wrote enthusiastically in support of her nomination for the award, not only noting her distinguished contributions to the field as a scholar but also describing three decades of cooperative efforts to build Canadian Studies in the binational Buffalo-Niagara region, anchored in the Brock-UB partnership.

"Over the years of the 1990s and early 2000s we discussed a variety of collaborative ideas. As our schedules permitted, we began to move to implement some of these, initially experimenting with joint seminars involving students in our respective Canadian Studies programs—meetings that we were able to hold in the Board Room of the Peace Bridge that crosses the Niagara River and serves as the international boundary," Eagles said.

"Our students could appreciate directly the intimacy and vitality of the Canada-US relationship as we overlooked the international customs plaza on the Canadian side during these sessions."

Eagles notes how these early cross-border engagements led to a discussion of a collaborative degree program, which eventually emerged as a joint masters in Canadian-American Studies operated by Brock and UB.

"Students in the program took equal numbers of courses on each campus and completed a research project supervised by a faculty member on each side of the border. We were proud of the fact that this was the first genuinely joint graduate degree program for the highly internationalized 64-campus SUNY system."

Koustas was a key player in developing and launching this pioneering program, and her persistence paid off.

"At every turn, Jane was instrumental in navigating the institutional, regulatory, and logistical hurdles. These included overcoming the difficulties associated with moving students regularly across the border in the post-9/11 era of heightened security, and getting approvals for U.S.-based students to serve as teaching assistants in the Brock undergraduate Canadian Studies program," Eagles said.

"Without Jane on the Brock end of the partnership, these initiatives would have simply been inconceivable. Dozens of students have benefited from this unique educational experience. Therefore, I only have to look at Jane's contributions to the binational Niagara community to appreciate her passion for sharing the Canadian experience with American students, and to see the product of her extraordinary diplomacy, determination, and administrative expertise."

Bringing together academics from many continents, the ICCS is a "real community of scholars interested in Canadian Studies" that Koustas says she is thankful to be a part of.

Koustas has served as president of the Canadian Studies Network and the Secretary-Treasurer of the ICCS. She spent three terms as the Craig Dobbin Chair of Canadian Studies at the University College Dublin, and held the James M. Flaherty Visiting Professorship there in 2018.

Koustas' research interests encompass English-Canadian literature in translation, translation theory and practice, the history of translation in Canada, and Quebec theatre and theatre translation. A prolific scholar, she is currently working on a comparison between Quebec and Irish theatre.

"I saw parallels between the two theatre communities while at the University College Dublin," she says. "There are similarities between the communities: both are in a



THE IMPACT OF COVID ON HUMAN RIGHTS

By Shaun Irlam

A dozen years have passed since the world lost the voice and the verve, the passion and the poise of Alison Des Forges, a tireless champion of human rights and justice for victims of the Rwandan genocide. And for a decade the Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee has held an annual Symposium to rekindle her memory and sustain her legacy.

In April 2021, with the pandemic still raging, we staged our annual event entirely online, bringing together scholars from Hong Kong, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Korea and the United States, to explore the topic, “COVID-19: Human Rights and International Cooperation.” The symposium included a mix of pre-recorded lectures and live Zoom sessions – the full proceedings are available on our website: www.alisondesforges.org.

In any international crisis—terrorism, drug-trafficking, migrancy, refugees—corrupt regimes are swift to constrain human rights—and the pandemic has proven to be no exception.

This symposium sought to explore how various polities have responded to the pandemic and to analyze their alternative approaches. Among the enigmas of this pandemic is how unequally it has affected different parts of the world, paradoxically spreading more aggressively in some developed countries in the West, leading certain commentators and autocratic regimes to suggest that the parlous character of liberal democracy hobbled effective responses to the pandemic. The symposium also addressed the decline in positive international cooperation and the rise in exploitation of the pandemic to do harm.

The day opened with the panel, “Controlling COVID-19 in East Asia.” Professor Marta Hanson, Department of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, examined the changing applications and fortunes of the “Sick Man” motif, which has been used to characterize the political and moral “health” of different nations through the ages. She concluded with “Sick Uncle Sam”, which has recorded vastly more COVID deaths in proportion to its population than any other nation on earth.

Next, Professor Chunyan Ding, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong, explored the diverging COVID-19 responses in China and Hong Kong with her presentation, “One Country, Two Approaches to COVID-19.”

She provided a detailed and insightful analysis of the complementary pandemic responses in the two zones. She contrasted the surveillance and quarantine measures adopted in mainland China with those in Hong Kong according to measures such as virus spread, individual privacy, data integrity, and so on.

Professor Juhwan Oh, College of Medicine/Hospital, Seoul National University, concluded the session with

“History, Democracy, and Science in the Republic of Korea’s Response to COVID-19.” He presented a wealth of data, charts and graphs allowing the audience to visualize the trade-offs between various pandemic measures (e.g., lockdowns, border closures, quarantines, widespread testing) and economic impacts in a broad selection of nations around the globe.

A roundtable conversation devoted to the question, “International Cooperation in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Will Nationalism and Securitization Eclipse Real Global Solidarity?”, was moderated by Buffalo’s own Julia Hall, a human rights lawyer and Expert on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights, Amnesty International.

She welcomed two guests, Rajat Khosla, Senior Director, Research, Advocacy and Policy, Amnesty International, and Fionnuala N Aolin, Law School, University Minnesota and Special Rapporteur, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to reflect on the hopes for positive cooperation, for example in the rollout of vaccines, and on other, more alarming modes of cooperation, such as many states’ securitization of the response to COVID-19.

The afternoon panel took up “Pandemics, Health and Human Rights in Africa,” providing critical perspectives on dealing with COVID-19 in Africa, where some nation-states adopted harsh measures to suppress the pathogen while others drew on experience with AIDS and Ebola to mount effective responses.

The first speaker, Catherine Kyobutungi, addressed the gathering remotely from Nairobi, Kenya, where she is Executive Director of the African Population and Health Research Center. Her presentation, “COVAX, TRIPPS and AstraZeneca: Challenges Facing African Countries in Responding to COVID-19”, focused on the experiences of Kenya during the pandemic. Dr. Kyobutungi examined the grossly uneven distribution of vaccines worldwide as well as the widespread vaccine hesitancy that healthcare workers face in Kenya.

Professor Tamba M’bayo, Department of History, West Virginia University, followed Dr. Kyobutungi. Prof. M’Bayo has studied the history of epidemiology in Africa from the continent’s early reputation as a “White Man’s Grave” to the recent outbreaks of Ebola.

His talk highlighted Sierra Leone as a case study, “Public Health, Politics, and Human Rights in Sierra Leone: Encounters with an Ebola Epidemic (2013-2015) and a Coronavirus Pandemic (2020).” He explored the ways in which health care and human rights issues intersect, and the limitations in protecting human rights in Sierra Leone.

Finally, the panel and the day’s proceedings concluded with a lecture by Mausi Segun, Executive Director, Africa Division, Human Rights Watch. Her talk, “Weaponizing COVID-19 as a Pretext for Abuses in Africa” revisited some

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BOLD FELLOWSHIPS BRING INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS TO UB

By Charles Anzalone

UB's entrepreneurial ecosystem continues to attract global talent, the latest a group of 15 young entrepreneurs from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) who recently took part in a three-week boot camp at UB as part of the BOLD Fellowship program.

The BOLD Fellowship is an entrepreneurship development program for young aspiring entrepreneurs from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main objectives of program are to develop new skillsets, leadership skills, create mean-

ingful connections and nurture role models for the next generation of Bosnian entrepreneurs.

UB administrators guiding the program. While in Buffalo, the fellows engaged with UB faculty and staff, including Neubert; lead instructor Celine Krzan, clinical instructor, Department of Operations Management and Strategy; David Thiemecke, startup client manager, Business and Entrepreneur Partnerships; and Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah, clinical assistant professor and faculty director of global programs, Department of Organization and Human Resources.

They also worked through the Experiential Learning Network's digital badge process, leveraging their Buffalo experience to further develop their own initiatives while helping to strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem back in BiH.

"Through global collaboration, everyone benefits," says Mara Huber, founding director of the Experiential Learning Network, who helped to bring the fellows program to UB. Huber says she's excited to see experiential learning applied to this important vision and the emerging connections between UB students and the Bosnian fellows.

"As the fellows build capacity around their own ventures and the emerging ecosystem in BiH, UB students can engage through collaborative projects and digital badges," Huber says.

In addition to the rigorous boot camp, the fellows were immersed in the vibrant Buffalo startup scene, including visiting the M&T Tech Hub, 43 North, Buffalo Angels, TRc Niagara incubator, UB's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, UB's New York State Center for Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, and other dynamic partners.

Through building and refining their business ideas, the fellows are getting ready to launch their tech-based ventures in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Krzan says. They have also been sharing their experiences and insights with UB students eager to engage and build their own global networks.

The fellows agree the networking and instruction they received from UB has enhanced their chances of success.

"Even though Bosnia's startup ecosystem is in its early stages, and we are still looking for ways and opportunities to scale," says fellow Ena Kapetanovic, "there are several prerequisites that can play an important role in a transition to a more sustainable and innovative economy."

"One of the vital components of Bosnia and Herzegovina's ecosystem is its human capital with a hard-working



Four BOLD fellows presenting to the rest of their group (Douglas Levere)

ingful connections and nurture role models for the next generation of Bosnian entrepreneurs.

"Entrepreneurship enriches lives and offers much-needed solutions to social and economic challenges facing emerging nations," says Bob Neubert, director of entrepreneurship academic programs in the School of Management.

"Entrepreneurs are known for their resilience and ingenuity, but they need support in countries where entrepreneurship has historically been discouraged. I am grateful that UB's entrepreneurship program can play a vital role in developing global entrepreneurship," Neubert says.

The UB program was developed by Network 20/20, a New York City-based international affairs and impact-driven organization, with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

UB is a key partner with the BOLD Fellowship, providing fellows with a unique opportunity to learn with leading faculty members and creating engagement opportunities with the UB and greater Buffalo community, according to

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MALAYSIAN ALUMNUS HONORED WITH THIRD PULITZER PRIZE

By David J. Hill

UB alumnus and *Los Angeles Times* roving foreign correspondent and photojournalist Marcus Yam has won the Pulitzer Prize — his third — for breaking news photography. The Pulitzer Prize winners were announced in May, honoring the best in U.S. journalism.

Yam, BS '06, who shared the award for breaking news photography with four photographers from Getty Images, was honored for his “raw and urgent images of the U.S. departure from Afghanistan that capture the human cost of the historic change in the country.”

A *Los Angeles Times* story reporting on Yam’s Pulitzer calls Yam a “journalist with a warrior’s courage and a poet’s heart.”

Yam delivered pictures of unspeakable tragedy and abiding emotion despite a manhandling by one of the insurgents, the near-constant menace of other fighters and the abundant technical hurdles of transmitting images out of a war zone, the story notes.

In a recent interview with *At Buffalo*, UB’s alumni magazine, Yam recalled his terrifying encounter with a Taliban fighter while documenting the Afghanistan crisis. “If he points his gun at me, I’m dead,” he said.

Patrick Soon-Shiong, owner and executive chairman of The Los Angeles Times, told newspaper staffers in a videoconference how proud and scared he was last summer as he followed Yam’s harrowing coverage in Afghanistan.

“You were out there doing amazing things,” Soon-Shiong said. “What you’ve done, with the photography and the images, was so important for the world. The word ‘genocide’ really needs to be said. And your pictorial really brings it home. It’s really important.”

Times’ Executive Editor Kevin Merida also praised Yam, saying, “We are proud of Marcus Yam for the raw power and humanity of his photojournalism in Afghanistan.”

Born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Yam came to UB to study aerospace engineering and left besotted by photojournalism.

Yam, who worked on the staff of the UB student newspaper *The Spectrum*, realized early on in his internship with *The Buffalo News* during his senior year that photography was his true calling. He eventually landed stints with The Associated Press, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and *The Seattle Times* before joining the *LA Times*.

He spoke previously about how his engineering background plays a role in his approach to photojournalism. “It really informs my work,” he said. “I take a very analytical and technical approach to everything that I shoot.”

“Marcus was a great, unique student,” Kemper Lewis, dean of UB’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, told At Buffalo. “I saw him in class one day with a camera around his neck and asked him about it. Photography was clearly a passion he made a lot of time for, which told me he was disciplined — most engineering students are overwhelmed by just their homework alone.”

Yam was awarded a 2015 Pulitzer Prize for his role in *The Seattle Times*’ coverage of a horrific mudslide that killed 43 people in rural Washington. He was also part of the Pulit-



Marcus Yam in a helicopter over Afghanistan

zer Prize-winning breaking news team that covered the San Bernardino, California, terrorist attacks in 2015 for the *LA Times*. 🌐

David J. Hill is a director of news content for University Communications.

BOLD FELLOWS

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and tech-savvy youth who are eager to succeed regardless of the challenges,” adds fellow Amina Mahmutagic.

Interest in the BOLD program is growing. UB plans to bring additional cohorts from nearby countries and regions. Filip Sasic, managing director of Southeast Europe for Network 20/20 and project lead, hopes this is only the beginning of the entrepreneurial endeavors that will lead to new ventures and economic impact in Bosnia. 🌐

LESSONS FROM WORKING WITH REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

By Melinda Lemke, Alexandra Judelsohn, Kasia Kordas, Samina Raja, and Kafuli Agbemenu

The dramatic rise in women, children, and families forcibly displaced worldwide, and seeking humanitarian protection within the last 10 years, has brought public attention to social and economic inequalities tied to within border and cross border movement.

Terminology, within policy, practice, and public discourse used to describe individuals on the move, has come under increased scrutiny. Words and language – whether asylee, evacuee, forcibly displaced, migrant, refugee, undocumented, or unDACAmented¹ – are powerful, as such terms can be instruments of liberation or oppression.

In other words, whether circulating on social media or utilized within research and policy, these terms either can underscore the need to protect basic human rights and access to social provision, or they can do the opposite.

Finally, military engagements in places like the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, and most recently in Ukraine, have brought attention to the manner by which policy decision-making remains firmly rooted in a neoliberal and settler colonial geopolitics.

In particular, there is wider awareness of the causes and effects of migration flows, forced or otherwise, and how rapidly changing ethical and symbolic processes can figuratively represent, but also literally displace and/or contain people.

In short, within critically oriented research, there is shared consensus that political and economic (dis)advantages are produced, reproduced, and distributed based on predetermined oppressive cultural and policy understandings of what it means to be deserving and belong (i.e., heteropatriarchy, nationalism, nativism, structural racism, xenophobia).

Despite increased social awareness, the numbers of those displaced internally and across international borders are staggering and oppressive systems remain. A triple pandemic of COVID-19, increased gender-based violence², and ongoing systemic and institutional racism³ has created new dynamics, concerns, and questions regarding how to ethically engage, through research and practice, dislocated and displaced communities.

Furthermore, in the United States, and specifically in the context of Western New York, public reporting and research has demonstrated that despite the economic and cultural contributions refugees offer to local communities and the presence of vital and successful local organizations, knowledge gaps and disparities exist within educational,⁴ health,⁵ and legal⁶ systems.

Where practice is a consideration, resettlement processes (e.g., education, healthcare, housing, legal aide, work placement, and otherwise) must include ways to weigh

refugee histories of violence and trauma, with recognition of specific national contexts of origin, and an asset-based orientation toward diverse resettled persons.

In terms of research, while there are benefits to co-constructed and community-based research, reflection upon the challenges of doing such research, including the possibility of reproducing existing power relations, also must be considered. In working with refugees (and other populations historically unserved and underserved by policy and public systems), researchers must ensure that inclusion in research does not manifest in solely using community partners for their language and cultural knowledge.

Utilizing community-centered, co-constructed, and participatory research practices emphasizes the role of community members throughout all stages of academic research. Focusing on research questions presented by community members ensures that issues important to those living in the community are addressed, and allows community members to engage in research. It also allows findings to be interpreted and utilized in a manner beneficial to those actually experiencing the disparities.

The Community for Global Health Equity (CGHE) works with the local refugee community in multiple ways, including co-organizing with the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) the annual Refugee Health Summit² and through the Refugee Health and Wellbeing Big Idea team, led by Melinda Lemke and Kafuli Agbemenu. From our work, we have learned the following important lessons:

1. Scholars concerned with global health equity, the advancement of human rights, and who aim to engage in community-centric research with refugee communities, must begin with the premise that it is not enough to identify the social, economic, and political determinants of health. To engage in de-colonizing public health research means to name, critique, and bring about action around macro and micro level structures of oppression (e.g., ableism, capitalism, racism, sexism). This includes those forms of oppression perpetuated by the U.S. government, and its academic institutions, that are intergenerationally transmitted in ways that maintain a current world order seemingly content with the dispossession and dislocation of millions of women, children, and men from their homelands.
2. Engaging in community-centric research, which also is co-constructed, means that research should be beneficial to the “people” and “place” involved. Furthermore, ethical “principles” and established evidenced-based “precedent”⁸ should guide the project or the event. In short, community members’ interests take precedence. For example, in prepara-

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REFUGEE COMMUNITY LESSONS

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tion for the Refugee Health Summit, CGHE meets with leaders from the refugee community to understand what pressing issues exist. From there, we connect with other community members, faculty, and other experts to develop an agenda for the Summit together. At each step, community members have a say in the event. Additionally, CGHE aims to support refugee-owned and led businesses and organizations by engaging them as purveyors of food and entertainment.

3. Monetary compensation for time and expertise is paramount. Researchers must pay community members for their expertise, experience, and knowledge. At times, CGHE has forgone paying honoraria to academics and other experts to ensure availability of funds for refugee community members. Payments must occur in a timely fashion, and if possible, be provided in a way that is fully accommodating of community members. For example, in her research,⁹ Agbemenu has found that participants prefer cash, gift cards that can be used at multiple stores (e.g., Visa gift cards), or gift cards from which cash can be extracted. This allows compensation to be as flexible as possible, as many participants choose to send compensation received from research studies to families in countries of origin.
4. Authentic representation of the community ensures all voices are heard. Individuals, even when in leadership positions, also may not always be able to accurately represent the full range of a community's experiences, views or concerns. In communities where English language skills are not widespread, it may be difficult to engage with the wider community, but in those cases, utilizing translation services may be needed.
5. Research on refugee health and well-being requires iterative reflection upon researcher identity, as well as one's insider-outsider status relative to the community engaged, how the engagement proceeds, and what transpires after the research project or event. In particular, researchers who have worked in inter- and transdisciplinary public health research for decades, are concerned about "health equity tourists,"¹⁰ many of them white, who at best have heightened awareness of structural oppression, or worse, have opportunistic agendas that can con-

tribute to uniformed, performative, and even racist and/or sexist scholarship. At CGHE, we not only advocate for increased training around researcher identity and respective privilege, but make conscious efforts to include community partners on research projects, panels, and publications.

As Buffalo becomes home to many more refugees, faculty, staff and students at UB are positioned well to work alongside previously displaced communities to further understand community experiences and needs through scholarship. Doing so in a way that not only ethically engages but empowers community members, allows research findings to be useful to communities and ensures fruitful long-term partnerships that enrich all Buffalo communities. 🌐

Melinda Lemke is associate professor of educational leadership and policy; Alexandra Judelsohn is a PhD student at the University of Michigan and programs manager for CGHE; Kasia Kordas is associate professor of epidemiology and environmental health, and co-director of CGHE; Samina Raja is professor of urban planning and co-director of CGHE; and Kafuli Agbemenu is assistant professor of nursing.

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DESIGNING THE BUILDINGS OF THE FUTURE

By Melvin Bankhead III

Jin Young Song, a working architect since 2008, views architecture as more than building design.

“We are living in architecture, but not every building we see is architecture. It is somewhere between a wide spectrum of commodity and profound spatial experience, engineering and art, commercial service and humanitarian mission, body attachment and urban dynamics, architect’s vision and client’s needs, socio-cultural embodiment and a



Renderings of a hospital in Seoul before and after facade renovations designed by Jin Young Song

machine, and maybe cosmetics and cosmos,” says Song, associate professor in the Department of Architecture, School of Architecture and Planning.

“My interest in architecture is in this continuing effort to define what this discipline is as a student and a professional at the same time,” he notes.

Song has won multiple awards for his designs, particularly those focusing on façade renovations and alternative construction systems. Last year, he was invited to the third Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism, which featured architects, urban planners, designers and theorists focused on “the innovations linked to new types of buildings or infrastructures, social relations and design processes.”

His presentation, “Stick, Snap, Stack: Reconfigurable Stacked Lattice System,” utilized stacked designs with a “snap-on” interlocking system (think of a blend of Legos and Lincoln Logs).

In 2021, he was also honored in South Korea for the new construction of an information center on Hongdo Is-

land (completion in 2023), as well as the expansion of a library in a historic district in Seoul.

Coming off that string of wins in 2021, he has no plans to slow down in 2022.

“From an extended network from the Seoul Biennale, I was asked to redesign the façade of an old 12-story hospital in Korea using building-integrated photovoltaics,” or BIPV, says Song, a founder of Dioinno Architecture, which is headquartered in Buffalo and Seoul.

A close-up of building-integrated photovoltaic panels used in the hospital renovation. Photovoltaic panels convert light into electricity, but unlike conventional solar panels, photovoltaic panels can use colors and patterns via printing and laminating technology.

Photovoltaic panels convert light into electricity. Unlike conventional solar panels, building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) panels can use colors and patterns via printing and laminating technology. For Song’s project, he is using photovoltaic materials to replace more typical building materials in the building’s exterior surfaces.

The new design won’t just be aesthetically pleasing; it will also be energy-efficient.

“The project uses color BIPV panels, which look very different from conventional dark solar cells,” Song explains. “Our design not only renovates the skin of the old building, but also produces energy for the building’s operation. ... We used gray, dark gray, satin gray panels, green aluminum and LED strips to create a pattern/facade for (a) 21st-century hospital.

It was a good challenge to argue two opposite natures of the project—the efficiency of panel manufacturing and a dynamic image-making to transform the old building—to both the BIPV manufacturer and client.

“The new façade will generate 101,330 kilowatt hours per year, which will save 43 tons of CO2 emissions per year,” says Song, who earned his bachelor’s from Yonsei University in South Korea and his master’s in architecture from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design.

“There are two broad efforts in the building industry in response to climate change,” he notes.

“The first is to reduce embodied carbon emissions in building materials and construction. The second effort is about the operation energy after the occupancy. Under the highly market-oriented construction industry, reduc-

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BOOK ON NAZI-OCCUPIED NORWAY HONORED

By David J. Hill

A UB architectural historian's acclaimed book on Nazi efforts to build a model "Aryan" society in Norway during World War II has been recognized by the Society of Architectural Historians.

The book, *Hitler's Northern Utopia: Building the New Order in Occupied Norway*, by Despina Stratigakos, vice provost for inclusive excellence and a professor of architecture, received the Spiro Kostof Book Award from the Society of Architectural Historians.

The organization announced the recipients of its 2022 Publication Awards at its conference in Pittsburgh on April 28, recognizing the most distinguished publications in architectural history, urban history, landscape history, preservation and architectural exhibition catalogues.

The Spiro Kostof Book Award was introduced in 1993 in recognition of the career of its namesake, a professor of architectural history

at the University of California at Berkeley and host of the public television series "America by Design."

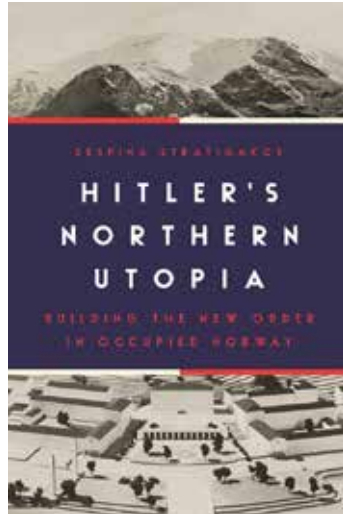
In the spirit of Kostof's writings, the international award, one of the most prestigious offered by the Society of Architectural Historians, recognizes interdisciplinary studies of urban history that make the greatest contribution to our understanding of the growth and development of cities.

"Drawing on underexplored archival sources, Stratigakos' book provides an outstanding textual and visual history of Nazi New Order through both infrastructural and architectural projects in Nazi-occupied Norway," reads the SAH citation.

"This original research eloquently expands the historical and architectural knowledge on Nazi expansionism and the 'Nazification' of towns in Norway, and their vision for a postwar Germanic empire, a topic neglected in recent literature. Providing a captivating investigation of wartime environments and urban lives, Stratigakos offers new insights into the ways the Nazi

regime deployed architecture as a vital tool in their larger

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DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE

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ing embodied carbon in the building materials requires a transformation of our building products market.

"Buildings account for 40% of carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S.," Song warns. "In the imminent challenge of climate change, architects are responsible for making a sustainable built environment. Renovating (an) old building is better than reconstruction. Using renewable energy sources is another critical path to the new standard of carbon footprint," he says. "In this context, South Korea is one of the countries radically pushing the energy-system transformation using renewable energy technology.

"Being smart in heating, cooling and lighting also requires sustainable design solutions, smart envelope design and energy-efficient MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) systems," Song says.

"These are meaningful, disciplinary actions and we are improving in this direction. However, in the sense of the imminent nature of the crisis, building-integrated photovoltaics is a direct and efficient method to transform the present energy system into a CO2-neutral energy system. It is the designer's role to determine how to integrate the photovoltaics technology to the building envelope."

Song's modular design for the BIPV panels won over not

only the hospital administration, but also officials in the Seoul metropolitan government. Song says. "After several important presentations and reviews, not only did the clients love the transformation of the hospital image to match the 21st century medical environment, Seoul decided to support ... solar panel production" by providing \$800,000.

Song and his team submitted the hospital façade redesign to the Seoul metropolitan government in November. Construction is expected to begin in May 2022, with the renovation's completion date targeted for the end of the year.

Korydon Smith, chair of the UB Department of Architecture, says Song's work charts new ground in façade design. "Façade systems are among the most complex and important elements of a building. Not only are they part of a building's structure, façades are critical to a building's environmental performance and user experience, and also present the image of the business, client or occupant who resides inside. Professor Song's innovative work weaves together structural engineering, sustainability, material science and aesthetics, charting new ground in façade design," Smith says. 🌐

Melvin Bankhead III is a freelance writer for University Communications.

CHINESE RESTRICTIONS LIMIT PLASTIC RECYCLING IN THE U.S.

By Cory Nealon

University at Buffalo researchers have published a study quantifying how a series of regulations limiting the import of plastic waste to China has affected recycling in the United States.

Described in *Sustainability*, “Impact of China’s National Sword Policy on the U.S. Landfill and Plastics Recycling Industry,” analyzes the impacts of China’s Green Fence and National Sword programs. Both imposed strict contamination limits on recyclable materials, and, after National Sword, the landfilling of scrap plastic in the U.S. increased.

The study was led by Aditya Vedantam, assistant professor in operations management and strategy, Nallan C. Suresh, UB Distinguished Professor in operations management and strategy, and Khadija Ajmal, a doctoral student, all in the UB School of Management; and Michael Shelly, an environmental/ecological economist at UB’s RENEW Institute.

In 2013, China introduced Green Fence, a program which involved intensive inspections of incoming loads of scrap material. In 2016, China announced restrictions for secondary material commodity imports from the U.S. The following year, China launched its National Sword program, which imposed strict contamination limits on recyclable materials. Finally, in 2018, China introduced a 0.5% contamination limit along with a ban on many recyclables, including plastics.

Before these restrictions, the U.S. shipped most of its plastic scrap overseas, particularly to China.

Controlling for oil prices, producer price index and amount of plastic scrap exported, the researchers found that Green Fence had no statistically significant impact on the amount of plastic landfilled in the U.S. However, the quantity of plastic landfilled in the U.S. increased by 23.2% following the implementation of National Sword.

“With waste generation consistently growing, coupled with fewer options to export plastic scrap, the domestic supply of lower value plastic scrap has drastically exceeded existing demand. This has resulted in a decline in prices, which reduced the profitability of recycling and increased the attractiveness of alternate disposal options, such as landfills,” says Vedantam.

To gauge how National Sword affected plastics recycling

in New York State, the researchers created a database of information obtained from annual reports submitted by registered material recovery facilities (MRF) to the state’s Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Researchers also interviewed MRF operators in New York and other industry experts.

“Analysis of data showed that even though China’s restrictions led to an increased amount of incoming material at MRFs in New York, the amount of plastics recovered still went down, consistent with national trends,” says Vedantam.

“The study shows that following China’s National Sword policy, the amount of plastic recycled in the U.S. has significantly declined. Meanwhile, the amount of plastic

that is landfilled in the U.S. has increased.

This underlines the importance of improving domestic plastic recyclability, recycling rates and reducing contamination,” says project director Amit Goyal, SUNY Distinguished Professor and SUNY Empire Innovation Professor at in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at UB.

The study is part of a multidisciplinary project directed by Goyal and sponsored by New York’s Environmental Protection Fund and the DEC.

“Another part of this multidisciplinary project focuses on using human behavioral science and outreach/education to help develop initiatives to understand and address consumer confusion about recycling. This work is important to determine how to understand decision making, improve messaging and reduce contamination at the recycling bin,” says Goyal.

While interviewing MRF operators and industry experts, the researchers discovered that most MRFs’ costs increased as they improved the quality of materials sorted and met contamination standards.

“For example, one MRF we spoke with had to increase the number of sorters and slow down its sorting line by 40% to improve the quality of their sorted plastics and paper, leading to a doubling of operating cost,” says Vedantam.

Ultimately, the previous model of relying on exports to solve the problem of recycling plastic scrap is no longer viable in the U.S., he says.



NIH AWARDS \$1.4 MILLION TO EXTEND PARTNERSHIP WITH ZIMBABWE

By Marcene Robinson

A partnership between the University at Buffalo and the University of Zimbabwe to train future HIV researchers in Zimbabwe has received a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) John E. Fogarty International Center to continue the program through 2027.

The initiative, the UB-UZ Pharmacology and Therapeutics Research Training Program, supports graduate students and postdoctoral fellows completing HIV research at the University of Zimbabwe Center of Excellence in Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences, a lab focused on drug development and clinical pharmacology training.

UB faculty in the program serve as mentors and research collaborators for University of Zimbabwe students, helping build research infrastructure and a critical mass of HIV research scientists to, ultimately, advance public health in Zimbabwe.

“The training program was initiated to address the need for in-country research and to optimize the rollout of HIV medications in Zimbabwe,” said Gene Morse, PharmD, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director of the UB Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences.

“While HIV medications were primarily developed and tested in the United States and Europe, the successful use of these drugs in Zimbabwe require additional research to investigate their use in individuals with concurrent illness-

es that complicate treatment such as tuberculosis, malaria and cancer,” he said.

“Our philosophy emphasizes the key role of international education as a means to achieve better public health,” said Charles Chiedza Maponga, PharmD, director of the University of Zimbabwe Center of Excellence in Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and visiting research assistant professor in the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. “This approach has led to sustained outcomes at the University at Buffalo and the University of Zimbabwe, illustrating the joint value of strategic partnerships in education.”

Since it was established in 1998, the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Research Training Program has expanded to include UB and University of Zimbabwe faculty mentors in fields that range from nursing and genetics to social work, as well as the publication of dozens of academic journal articles. The University of Zimbabwe Center of Excellence in Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which was modeled after UB’s Translational Pharmacology Research Core, also created two certificate programs.

To help scale the program, the University of Zimbabwe has committed to build a new bioinformatics center and clinical pharmacology lab, and to establish a virtual hall that enables remote participation and education.

The program is also serving as the model for the construction of a national center for health care innovation and biomedical research in Zimbabwe called Health Galaxy Park. 🌐

PLASTIC RECYCLING

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“China’s restrictions have highlighted the need to invest in and improve recycling in the U.S. Sophisticated machinery and a sufficient supply of materials are available. Still, due to low market prices of plastics — particularly, the mixed Nos. 3-7 plastics — there is little incentive to invest in expanded and improved plastics recycling,” Vedantam says.

“This work highlights that there is a pressing need for industry organizations and policymakers to encourage demand creation for scrap plastic and improve the quality of recyclables,” says Vedantam.

Such efforts are underway. For example, the Polypropylene Recycling Coalition and U.S. Plastics Pact are voluntary initiatives where industry has committed to using recycled materials. Additionally, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has proposed an extended producer responsibility program

that will encourage producers to invest in recycling infrastructure, make products that are easier to recycle and encourage alternatives that are more in line with the circular economy.

If adopted, this proposed approach aims to build on the progress of current laws and initiatives that support recycling and reduce contamination in the recycling stream.

Further, human behavioral science and outreach/education initiatives such as the Recycle Right NY campaign are being employed to decrease contamination and improve recycling in New York State.

“A comprehensive regulatory solution may be needed in the U.S., perhaps on the scale of the European Union’s circular economy package, to support recycling and help turn the tide on plastic pollution,” Vedantam says. 🌐

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Department of Architecture

Brian Carter, professor, was appointed as International Editor of the *Journal of Architecture* by the Royal Institute of British Architects. Carter will serve as an External Examiner in Architecture at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Art

Millie Chen, professor, recently realized the first iteration of a major art project, *SRS (Silk Road Songbook)*, made in collaboration with Arzu Ozkal. *SRS* was exhibited from December 2021 to March 2022 as a work-in-progress installation at OCAT Xi'an in Xi'an, China, curated by Wang Mengmeng. A single-channel version of *SRS* will be exhibited in June 2022 at Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art as part of the "A Light Footprint in the Cosmos" show curated by Substantial Motion Research Network. Other recent and upcoming international exhibitions and screenings include: "Image... envoyée" at Centre Culturel Canadien, Paris, France, curated by Catherine Bédard (2020 and continuing online until 2024); "Scents of Movement" at Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, curated by Lindsey Sharman (Fall 2022-Winter 2023); "while we wait," Small File Media Festival, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada and online (Summer 2020). Among Chen's recent awards (both for the *SRS* project) are a 2021 Media Artists Creation Projects Grant from the Ontario Arts Council and a 2022 Media Arts Concept to Realization Grant from the Canada Council for the Arts. Chen's recent lectures include online presentations for the UK-based Blind Dog Salon (Fall 2021) and the "Beyond Anthropocene: Ecological Wisdom in Art" Conference at Tsinghua University (Spring 2020).

Maximilian Goldfarb, assistant professor, is the author with Nancy Shaver and Sterrett Smith of *Wolf Tones* (Sobercove Press, 2022) presenting many new sculptural works as well as essays contributed from the fields of art, media study, poetics, architecture, landscape, literature and music.

Berin Golonu, assistant professor of art history, has received a Getty/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowship in the History of Art for the 2022/23 academic year. She will travel to Greece and Turkey to conduct research on her book *People's Gardens: Structuring Public Leisure Space in the Late Ottoman Empire, 1870-1918*. In addition, Golonu will participate in the third international workshop of the Network for the Study of Environmental History of Turkey, which will take place in Vienna, Austria in September 2022.

Stephanie Rothenberg, professor and chair of Art, will be exhibiting a new project titled "Aquadisia" at the seventh Trondheim International Biennale for art and technology April 1 – August 14, 2022 in Trondheim, Norway. The artwork will be exhibited at the Trøndelag Center for Contemporary Art. The biennale explores how artistic practice can expand the boundaries of scientific research to present alternative approaches to scientific problems and technological development. This year's theme titled "Ecophilia" is focused on our human desire to connect with nature within the challenges of ecological crisis. Rothenberg's project "Aquadisia" is an environmental science fiction that speculates on a new breed of bioengineered oysters able to cure climate change through innovations in toxic water filtration. Playing on the myth of the oyster as an aphrodisiac the project questions human behavior in the desire to be more sustainable. In addition to the exhibition, Rothenberg is giving an artist talk at the biennale conference May 21-22, 2022.

Paul Vanouse, professor, exhibited his artwork "America Project," in the exhibition "Gaia: Gene, algorithm, intelligent design, automata" at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Taipei, Taiwan, Feb. 12-March 14, 2022.

L. Vance Watrous, professor, will spend two months in summer 2022 in Greece working on the publication of the archaeological finds

from the excavation (2010 – 2014) of the prehistoric Minoan town site in Crete. As director of this project, he has received a grant from the Institute for Aegean Prehistory to bring to Greece and support a dozen scholars at the East Crete Graduate Center in Pacheia Ammos, who are writing five books on the results of this excavation.

Department of English

Carrie Tirado Bramen, professor and director of the UB Gender Institute, delivered two papers in Europe and the UK this year. In October 2021, she gave a talk entitled "Astrological Speculation on Wall Street, 1880-1930," at the Speculative Endeavors: Cultures of Knowledge and Capital in the Long Nineteenth Century Conference at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. On March 25, 2022, she delivered a keynote at the Enchantment and Economics Roundtable at King's College, London, Department of Digital Humanities. The title of her lecture was "Astrology, Enchantment, and the Financialization of Everyday Life."

Department of Geography

Adam M. Wilson, associate professor of geography and environment and sustainability, is the PI on a large research project (\$7-9 million) funded by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to conduct its first biodiversity field campaign across South Africa's Greater Cape Floristic Region (GCFR). The GCFR contains two Global Biodiversity Hotspots with the richest temperate flora and the third-highest marine endemism in the world. The field campaign includes collection of new hyperspectral data ranging from UV to thermal wavelengths combined with a laser altimeter. These data will be combined with existing and new observations of the spatial distribution of species, ecosystems, and their traits to enable high-resolution mapping of biodiversity, functional traits, and three-dimensional structure across environmental gradients and disturbance regimes. This focus represents an important paradigm shift from previous NASA field campaigns, which were primarily biogeochemical, toward an approach for measuring and understanding functional, phylogenetic, and taxonomic biological diversity as key components of ecosystem function. The project runs from 2022-2025 and involves twelve separate sub-projects by institutions across the U.S. and South Africa in a collaborative science team. Wilson plans to spend a sabbatical working on the project in South Africa in 2023-24.

Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies

Elizabeth Otto, professor of modern and contemporary art history, participated in a February 2022 conference at the Bauhaus Dessau in Germany on the Bauhaus's communist students' faction, where she spoke about some of those students' anti-Nazi resistance activities. For her current research, she visited archives in Berlin, Dessau, and Weimar, and she made a short trip to France to visit the daughter of a Bauhaus member who was a Holocaust victim. Next year Otto will be a fellow of Germany's Gerda Henkel Foundation.

Department of Media Study

Katja Praznik, associate professor in the Arts Management Program, will give a talk "The Contradictions of the 1980s Alternative Art in Socialist Yugoslavia," for the Central European Research Institute for Art History in Budapest, Hungary on June 14, 2022. She will also present a paper "Feminist Critique of Reproductive Labor as a Vantage Point for the Critique of Creative Labor" for a panel discussion with Emilia Barna at the University of Technology and Economics in Budapest, Hungary on June 16, 2022. In May, her essay "They Call It Creativity, We Call It Exploitation! The Legacy of Yugoslav Socialism and the Class Character of Autonomy," will be published in an edited volume featuring international scholars and activists *Paths to Autonomy*, edited by Noah Brehmer and Vaida Stepanovaite for Autonomedia/Minor Compositions, New York. In December 2021 a Serbian translation of her text "Wages for and against Art Work: On Economy, Autonomy, and the Future of Artistic Labor" was published in an edited volume *Work for Art: An Anthology by the Association of Visual Artists of Serbia (Rad u umjetnosti: zbornik Udruženja likovnih umetnika Srbije #1)*, edited by Vahida Ramujkic and Milan Đordevic.

Department of Philosophy

Barry Smith, SUNY Distinguished Professor, continue his association with the University of Italian Switzerland and the Swiss Institute for Artificial Intelligence Research (IDSIA) in Lugano, where in spring 2021 he delivered a series of lectures on philosophy and artificial intelligence. He is also part of the IDSIA InMaX project on integrating Machine Learning with scientific methodology. Since 2021 he served as a fellow of the NormaCtivity international research network, which aims to promote research on both human and non-human normativity, and as a member of the European Observatory for ICT Standardisation. He served as External member of PhD Committees in the Universidade Federal Do Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil (on ontology for petroleum geology) and in the University of Delft, the Netherlands (on aerospace technology evaluation and selection). In 2021 he gave lectures in the Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto (on AI and the Ontology of Complex Systems); in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest (on neural chatbots); in the Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Salzburg (on cognitive ontologies); and in the University of Turin, (on the ontology of capabilities). He presented to the International Association for Ontology and Its Applications (on the ontology of roles and functions), and he gave the keynote address on “The Natural, Cultural, Cognitive and Social Niches of Human Activity” to the 8th International Conference on Spatial Cognition, held in Rome.

Department of Theatre and Dance

Thomas Ralabate, professor emeritus of dance, appears in the HBO Max award-winning documentary film, “UPROOTED: The Journey of Jazz Dance,” directed by Khadifa Wong, about the history and celebration of jazz dance. Streaming through Spring 2022 on HBO MAX, the cinematic exploration of jazz dance aims to open conversations within the dance community, challenging established thoughts and opinions about this controversial art form. The film pays homage to jazz dance’s lineage and history, inspiring the dancer of tomorrow to keep this art form alive. Ralabate, instrumental in establishing the jazz dance track at UB, was one of 60 international artists/ practitioners/ scholars interviewed contributors for “UPROOTED: The History of Jazz Dance.”

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

Melinda Lemke, assistant professor, became an affiliate faculty member of the UB Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies in spring 2022. This spring she presents research at three conferences covering topics ranging from feminist and Critical Race analyses of social-emotional educational policy in NYS to ethical supports for displaced populations fleeing violence. Conference presentations include a paper with UB PhD student Katelyn Rogers (University of Wisconsin System Women’s and Gender Studies Consortium), a paper with UB PhD student Anthony White (AERA), and a panel with UB colleagues Katarzyna Kordas and Kafuli Agbemenu (Consortium of Universities for Global Health). In February 2022, Lemke also presented on a UB Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs panel on Fulbright Fellowships, and is facilitating a Fulbright Program for the Honors College in May 2022. Lemke authored the following reference chapters: “Education (and influence on women’s health)” (pp. 223-226), “Post-traumatic stress disorder” (pp. 523), and “Social isolation and social marginalization of women” (pp. 627-628). In J. M. Duquaine-Watson (Ed.), *Women’s health: Understanding issues and influences*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, Inc. She also co-authored the following peer reviewed publication: Lemke, M., Bascug, E., & Howard, A. (2021), “Seen yet unseen: A case of human trafficking at Harris High School,” *Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership*, 1-16.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES*Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering*

Cemalettin Basaran, professor, has been awarded a Fulbright Specialist Grant to visit the Indian Institute of Technology Madras in Chennai, India in May 2022. Basaran currently supervises PhD students at IIT Madras and has a five-year appointment as adjunct faculty in its Department of Applied Mechanics.

Michel Bruneau, SUNY Distinguished Professor, delivered several invited international webinars over the past year, including: “Structural

Engineering Perspectives on Designing Resilient Buildings,” (October 2021) as part of the International Lecture Series of Tianjin University (China); “Resilient Buildings from A Post-Christchurch Earthquake Perspective,” A Year after – Samos (Sisam) Mw 7.0 Earthquake, as part of an On-Line Symposium of Istanbul Technical University’s Disaster Management Institute (October 2021); “Resilience Reflections, 20 Years after 9/11,” (September 2021) as a webinar of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineering; “Perspectives on Structural Engineering Resilience,” as the Inaugural Lecture of the Distinguished Webinar Series in Earthquake Engineering & Seismology of the Canadian Association of Earthquake Engineering (May 2021), and; “Plain Vanilla and Other Flavors of Steel Plate Shear Walls”, (March 2021) webinar for The Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE).”

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Deborah Chung, professor, has been ranked by the 2021 Stanford University study (based on the widely accepted citation indicators) to be No. 1 in the world in the Building and Construction research field. The No. 1 ranking is obtained by considering all researchers that have Building and Construction as one of their two primary fields. The University of Alicante in Spain recently honored Chung for her contributions. (Alicante previously conferred an honorary doctorate on Chung.) She was invested in a ceremony in which she was sponsored by professors Luis García Andión and Pedro Garcés Terradillos, professors of the Department of Civil Engineering of the Higher Polytechnic School. His research focuses on composite materials, with an emphasis on multifunctional structural materials, materials for thermal management and electronic packaging, materials for shielding against electromagnetic interference, structural materials for vibration damping, and structural materials for thermoelectricity. She has been the inventor of the so-called “intelligent concrete” (concrete that can detect its own condition), nickel nanofiber (also known as nickel filament, for shielding against electromagnetic interference) and conformable thermal paste (to improve thermal contacts, with applications in microelectronic refrigeration).

JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES*Department of Biochemistry*

Christine Schaner Tooley, associate professor, is an invited speaker at the biennial EMBO workshop “Protein termini: From mechanisms to biological impact,” in Bergen, Norway. The meeting, which will be held in-person in June 2022, is hosted by the International Society of Protein Termini. Her talk entitled “N-terminal methylation and stem cell development” will cover her recent published works on the role of the protein NRMT1 in both muscle and neural stem cell differentiation. She will also be presenting this work in-person at the FASEB Science Research Conference “Biological Methylation: Fundamental Mechanisms in Human Health and Disease” in Catania, Italy and virtually at the “Proteins and Biology” symposium at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India.

Department of Medicine

Anne B. Curtis, SUNY Distinguished Professor, Charles and Mary Bauer Professor, and chair, was an invited speaker at the CardioPrevent 2021 Conference in Egypt (virtual participation). Her presentation was “Atrial Fibrillation Prevention and Control: State of the Art.”

Department of Neurology

Gil I. Wolfe, Irvin and Rosemary Smith Professor and chair, gave a virtual talk, “Evolving Therapeutic Landscapes in the Management of Myasthenia Gravis” at the Philippine Neurological Association 43rd Annual Convention on November 12, 2021.

Department of Neurosurgery

Adnan Siddiqui, professor and vice-chair, has been invited to share his expertise on stroke and cerebrovascular disease at various international conferences. In November 2021, he participated in the virtual SIMI Buenos Aires (Argentina) conference where he presented “Surgical Indications in Arteriovenous Malformations”, and LINNC Live Talks in Paris, France where he served as discussant for live surgical presentations from around the world. In December, 2021 he presented lectures at virtual meetings including the ICI conference in Israel, with his topic “The Changing Landscape of Mechanical Thrombectomy for Stroke”, the virtual European Course in Interventional Neuroradiology

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UNIVERSITY OF BURGUNDY VISIT



Standing: Krishna Rajan (far left), President Tripathi (4th from l), Vice President Govindaraju (3rd from r) and Provost Weber (2nd from r) with Burgundy visitors (Nancy J. Parisi)

A delegation of researchers from the University of Burgundy (uB), UB's partner in Dijon, France, joined counterparts at UB for technical meetings on April 4-7, 2022 to explore areas of mutual interest in artificial intelligence and materials design.

Krishna Rajan, SUNY Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Materials Design and Innovation (MDI), organized and hosted the program with the assistance of the Office of International Education.

The faculty visitors from Burgundy were Gregory Wegmann, Vice President for European and International Policy; Franck Marzani, Director of the Image and Artificial Vision Laboratory (ImViA); Christophe Nicolle, Director of Distributed Artificial Knowledge and Intelligence; Julien Dubois of ImViA; and Omar Tahri and Stephanie Bricq of the Laboratory of Electronics, Computers and Imagery—all units affiliated with the University of Burgundy.

Faculty and researchers from MDI and related departments in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and College of Arts and Sciences participated in the technical

sessions with the Burgundy visitors. In addition to collaborative research initiatives, their discussions addressed potential joint educational programs and student exchange.

President Tripathi hosted the visitors for a campus luncheon on April 7 and was briefed on the progress of the discussions (see above).

Based on these discussions, the group is developing a UB-uB AI-Materials Science (AIMS) Alliance to facilitate joint projects in machine vision, robotics, and machine learning, with accelerated innovation in materials modeling, materials discovery and characterization. The alliance may serve as a platform for academic-industry partnerships.

The visit by the Burgundy delegation, which was postponed from January due to the Covid situation, follows the signing of an MOU in fall 2021 during a virtual meeting of institutional representatives, including their two presidents. That meeting involved participants from the Embassy of France in Washington and US diplomatic staff in France. Pascal Soares, then-Honorary Consul of France in Buffalo helped facilitate the Burgundy connection. 🌐

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STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

The UB community has responded to the war in Ukraine with acts of solidarity and support. The shared revulsion at the war of aggression by Russia and the commitment to assist Ukrainian victims was voiced by students, faculty and UB leaders.

President Tripathi issued a statement soon after the invasion began: "As we look upon the Russian invasion of Ukraine with disbelief, anguish and horror, our thoughts are with the Ukrainian people and the extended Ukrainian family across our community, across our nation and around the world. In the moments and days ahead, we will continue to watch and hope that Russia will deescalate its rhetoric and violent actions, and retreat from the sovereign nation of Ukraine.



UB students at a vigil for Ukraine in February 2022 (Forrest Kulwicksi)

"The University at Buffalo community stands in solidarity with Ukraine for their inalienable right to remain as a free republic and to live peacefully without fear of oppression by military invasion. As an inclusive and welcoming international community, the University at Buffalo greatly values our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends from all backgrounds and

nationalities."

Faculty have hosted teach-ins and panel discussions to clarify the origins and context of the war, and have reached out to colleagues in Ukraine to offer support; in addition, students have organized vigils and protests, and the community as a whole has supported efforts to fundraise and lend material support to Ukraine. 🌐

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John J. Wood, Editor