

UB INTERNATIONAL

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UB International

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NOJIN KWAK APPOINTED VICE PROVOST

Nojin Kwak, professor and chair of the Department of Communication and Media and director of the Nam Center for Korean Studies at the University of Michigan, has been named vice provost for international education at the University at Buffalo, effective August 1, 2021.

Kwak succeeds Stephen C. Dunnett, professor of second language education, the inaugural vice provost who served three decades in the position before retiring in 2019.

“Professor Kwak stood out from a highly competitive pool of candidates because of his impressive leadership experience, commitment to international research programs and student experience, innovative approach to building partnerships, dedication to inclusive excellence, and creative vision for the future of international programs at UB,” noted Provost A. Scott Weber when announcing the appointment.

As director of Michigan’s Nam Center for Korean Studies, Kwak leads an extra-departmental academic unit that serves faculty, students and the surrounding community by fostering learning about Korean language, culture, and history via programming, scholarships, and research funding.

Under his leadership, the center launched undergraduate and graduate fellows programs; established summer study abroad scholarships; expanded education-

al, research and mentorship programs; and positioned the university as a hub within the Korean studies scholarly community.

He secured more than \$13.6 million in grants and gifts, including a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education to collaborate with other area centers to offer educational and research programming,

such as the University of Puerto Rico Symposium, East Asia K-12 workshops and foreign language instruction.

Additionally, Kwak serves as the founding director of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Korean Studies e-School, an innovative course-share consortium. One of the

few consortiums to be officially designated by the Korea Foundation Global e-School Initiative, the BTAA e-School is composed of 13 world-class research institutions that collaborate to offer courses and share expertise and resources throughout the Midwest.

A Michigan faculty member since 2000, Kwak earned an MA and a PhD in mass communication from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. A prolific author, Kwak conducts research on the role of social and digital media in civic and political engagement. He has received numerous top paper awards at major conferences.

He has served as president of the Korean American Communication Association, and is a co-editor of a book series, Perspectives on Contemporary Korea. In



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FROM THE INTERIM VICE PROVOST

As our office and the university prepare to welcome our new Vice Provost, Professor Nojin Kwak, I take the opportunity to reflect on recent developments impacting the office and the field more generally.

It can be said without exaggeration that the past year has been one of upheaval and seemingly constant change. This reality has affected all aspects of higher education but particularly international education.

Yet, as we look forward to a post-pandemic, if not post-COVID, “new normal,” there are important opportunities that can help drive a renewal of international education and global engagement.

I previously noted the observation that we’ve passed through “the year of no study abroad” in 2020-2021, and we all regret that students have missed out on the opportunity due to the pandemic.

Looking forward, however, we are not only anticipating strong renewed interest among UB students in going abroad, but also planning for ways that new virtual programs might be continued on a more permanent basis. Virtual programming can be an excellent complement to programs abroad, particularly in preparing and debriefing participants.

As I write this, we are in the closing stages of selecting a new Assistant Vice Provost and Director of Education Abroad, whose charge will be to work with our new vice provost, our education abroad team and campus partners to both grow and diversify our portfolio as well as the pool of students participating.

This academic year has also seen the transfer of the International Enrollment Management unit to the Office of Enrollment Management. While the consolidation of the enrollment management functions in one office makes good sense, we miss our IEM colleagues and the opportunity to work with them on a daily basis.

It was something of a double loss for this change to occur during the pandemic, which has wreaked such havoc

on UB’s and other universities’ ability to recruit and enroll international students, particularly from key sending countries like China and India. However, under the leadership of Steven Shaw, International Admissions will no doubt continue to achieve great results for Enrollment Management and UB.

As part of the IEM transition, Joseph Hindrawan, the founding director of IEM as well as UB’s chief international recruiter for many years, transitioned to a new role in International Education as Associate Vice Provost for Overseas Programs and Partnerships.

In this capacity, Joe is continuing his key role in administering and expanding UB’s undergraduate programs in Singapore, and, in addition, developing new opportunities for UB to deliver its programs overseas in partnership with leading institutions around the world.

It is thanks to Joe and our entire SIM team that UB’s programs in Singapore have continued to grow despite the many challenges of COVID. We are proud of the program’s continued success over the past 17 years.

One especially bright spot in the recent past has been the arrival of a new US presidential administration with a very different approach to immigration policy. Our international students and scholars have been through a very trying year, exacerbated by the impression that they were not welcome in the United States and fears that they would not be able to complete their degrees.

With a return to a more supportive policy environment and the assurance that they can achieve the goals they’ve set for themselves at UB, our international students and scholars will face much reduced stress and distraction, and be in a position to focus on the work they came here to do. UB’s welcoming campus can look forward to a renewed growth in international enrollment going forward. 🌐

John J. Wood has served as interim vice provost for international education since September 2018.

UB RESEARCHERS

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pert summit focused on drawing attention to food in the New Urban Agenda, an initiative of the U.N. that aims for a better quality of life in the urbanizing world.

With support from FAO, researchers at the UB Food Lab are conducting transdisciplinary research in Ghana, India and Jamaica to document opportunities and challenges in planning for food systems, especially from the perspective of smallholder farmers.

“UB’s Community for Global Health Equity, which sup-

ports UB Food Lab’s global work, is committed to supporting those who most influence global food equity—leaders, organizations and policymakers who can affect systemic change,” says Venu Govindaraju, UB vice president for research and economic development.

“The FAO-UB partnership accelerates our faculty’s ability to translate their research in the domain of community food systems into policy and action,” Govindaraju said. 🌐

CLIMATE ACTION A PRIORITY FOR UB

By David J. Hill

On Earth Day in 2020, UB rolled out its updated climate action plan, called UB'S 10-in-10. University leaders gathered virtually a year later to update the campus community on the plan's progress so far.

Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the university — propelled by the leadership of the 10 "CAPtains" and the committees they oversee — has made substantial progress.

"UB is recognized as a leader in environmental sustainability nationally and in the Western New York region," said A. Scott Weber, UB's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, who kicked off the CAP update session.

"During Sustainability Month, we are pleased to highlight the important contributions of UB faculty, staff and students across the university to helping us achieve our goal of achieving climate neutrality within the next decade," Weber added.

While much work remains, the April 22 event aimed to capture a sense of the momentum, impact and progress around the climate action work that has transpired over the past year. In addition to brief updates by the CAPtains, student sustainability leaders provided updates from the field to bring the campus improvements to those in the UB community who have not been on campus this year due to the pandemic. "UB's 10 in 10 is a roadmap of 10 innovative, engaging and digestible steps we are taking to increase climate action throughout the university and put us on a path to net zero emissions by 2030," says Laura Hubbard, vice president for finance and administration.

Highlights of the past year include beginning construction on multiple new ground-mounted solar arrays on the North Campus and the anticipated issuance of the request for proposals for off-site solar as part of the UB-led initiative called Localizing Buffalo's Renewable Energy Future.

Also of note, work continues on One World Cafe, the new dining facility that, when it opens on the North Campus next year, will feature compostable materials instead of single-use plastic; mew electric vehicle charging stations on the North and South campuses; and placement of the GRoW Home next to the Solar Strand on the North Campus as part of a new clean energy center for the campus and the public.

In addition, UB is piloting an innovative battery-technology system that uses zinc and air as fuel as part of a partnership with Zinc8 Energy Solutions and the New York Power Authority. And the Board of Trustees of the UB Foundation (UBF) Inc. announced that its investment port-

folio of U.S. public equities has divested from companies that derive revenues from fossil fuel.

"I've been incredibly impressed with our campus, the climate CAPtains and our larger campus community. Despite all the challenges the pandemic has brought us, we have been able to make strong progress and that is worth celebrating this Earth Day," says Ryan McPherson, chief sustainability officer.

As part of the event, each of the 10 climate action plan CAPtains gave a brief update on the work of their respective climate focus since the plan was launched last year. Each of the leaders chairs one of the 10 working groups

with a committee of staff, faculty and students who are not only thinking through strategy but also rolling up their sleeves and ad-

vancing implementation, McPherson says.

"In addition to the progress they reported on, one of the first achievements was actually establishing the committees themselves to form effective and efficient groups to advance the work," he notes.

The 10 CAPtains and the committees they oversee are: Beth Corry, associate vice president and controller, Business Services, Put a Price on Pollution; Bill McDonnell, associate vice provost for academic planning, Investing Locally to Provide Flexibility; Mark Coldren, associate vice president for human resources, Flip the Switch; Christina Hernandez, interim vice president for student life, Taking Stock of our Food; Chris Austin, director of parking and transportation services, Greening Our Commute; Austin also chairs the Electrifying the Fleet group; Tricia Kandler, director of facilities and building procurement, Waste Not; Tonga Pham, associate vice president for university facilities, Keeping it Cozy and Green; Hadar Borden, director of Blackstone LaunchPad powered by Techstars, Making it Happen; and Ryan McPherson, chief sustainability officer, Not All Electricity is Created Equal.

"I am immensely excited to be the CAPtain of the Keeping it Cozy and Green working group. Our main focus will be on South Campus as we integrate UB's South Campus Revitalization plans with actionable ways to keep all the buildings comfortable for our students, visitors, faculty and staff while eliminating our reliance on fossil fuels," says Pham. Adds Corry: "As a public institution, we are stewards of many resources. We anticipate that our carbon pricing model will help guide future decision-making across campus, placing value on those natural resources and positioning UB to become a leader in reducing our carbon footprint in New York State." 🌍

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

The logo features the text "UB's 10 in 10" in a bold, sans-serif font. The number "10" is replaced by a circular icon containing a recycling symbol (three chasing arrows forming a triangle). This icon is repeated twice, once on either side of the word "in".

NOJIN KWAK

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recognition of his contributions to campus diversity—particularly in the area of international and intercultural diversity—Kwak received the Harold J. Johnson Diversity Service Award from the University of Michigan.

He was one of six fellows selected to participate in the Big Ten Academic Alliance Academic Leadership Program in 2019-20, a year-long intensive leadership development program to prepare senior academic administrators.

In describing the importance of international education, Kwak describes it as a “game changer.” “First, it changes existing games. It significantly enhances them. International education significantly expands, deepens, and enriches the core missions of the university—whether it is teaching, research or service.”

In fact, for Kwak, international education transforms the nature of the game itself: “International education is not simply complementary. It brings a whole new ball game; it changes how the game is played. It changes the nature of the game. To be a great university, you need to have a strong international program.”

“A global university is not magically born simply because we want it. There are game changers, people—students who are on their way of becoming informed global citizens; faculty who teach and study topics of enormous significance; and staff who provide invaluable expertise and support.”

He sees this, fundamentally, as a collective effort: “The commitment, creativity, and collaboration of these game changers makes international education and research possible. What it means is that this community of international game changers should be nurtured, supported, and listened.”

Describing his vision for successful international programs, Kwak lists three essential ingredients: “(1) shared vision and commitment; (2) diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); and (3) robust and sustainable partnerships.”

First of all, “for an international program to be successful, there must be a shared vision about an international program and commitment to international education and research among the members of the university, including university, college, and department leadership.”

Fostering collaboration and a shared vision is not simple or easy. “There are differences in policies, norms and cultures, and expectations. Sometimes collaboration can be challenging, and being on the same page can take time. However, differences seem to always bring out the better. At the end of the day, what matters is that faculty, students, staff, and the community benefit from these collaborations.”

“DEI is one of the most important values for institutions of higher education, and it is certainly true for international education.” However, engagement in international

education—e.g. in study abroad—has tended to be limited to the privileged few, and diversifying participation so that more students can benefit remains a major challenge at many institutions, Kwak says. He sees the inclusion of international students and faculty as a DEI priority. UB has been addressing this challenge but needs to go further.

“Regular communication builds trust, respect, and a better understanding. So when a problem unfolds, or a crisis happens, we already have an established relationship, and we can address the matter more collaboratively and effectively. We also need to envision the contribution of international members for making a more diverse and inclusive place. We want to explore ways for international members to have voice and impact in our effort to create a more diverse and inclusive community.”

“A final ingredient in my recipe for a successful international program is robust and sustainable partnerships for international education and research,” Kwak says. “One of the joys in leading international efforts in my experience has been cultivating partnerships with other units, centers, departments, schools and colleges, other universities in the US, and foreign universities.”

UB has many longstanding partnerships with leading institutions around the world, and Kwak sees much that can be built on this foundation. Partnerships with other US universities, and particularly within the State University of New York, hold great promise also, as Kwak’s Korean Studies e-school initiative within the Big Ten Conference illustrates.

“The original two-school pilot course sharing has become a robust 13-school program, with schools experiencing an increase in student demand and expanding their own faculty strength. This regional partnership is more than course sharing, though. It provides a network of mentors for junior faculty, collaborative opportunities, and cost-shared major cultural programs.”

One form of partnership that Kwak highlights is with the university’s overseas alumni chapters. “Many of these alums are leaders in their countries. They can open many doors for our students and faculty. They can provide internship opportunities for our students and help recruit students. They can certainly be generous donors.”

Finally, community engagement is essential. “As a public university, we can also bring the game of international education to the local community. In particular, helping globalize education at K-12 schools that lack resources would be an important mission,” particularly in disadvantaged communities that can benefit from UB’s global expertise.

Kwak cautions that, “International work takes time. For instance, learning a foreign language, doing field work overseas, and building a global partnership all require time and persistence.” Disruptions and delays due to global crises such as pandemics and economic dislocations are not uncommon, he says. In being a game changer himself, Kwak has demonstrated how patience and persistence pay off in international education. 🌐

FACULTY RECEIVE FULBRIGHT AWARDS TO ASIA AND GERMANY

By Marcene Robinson

University at Buffalo professors Jaekyung Lee and Anya Bernstein have received 2020-21 Fulbright Scholar Awards, one of the most widely recognized and prestigious scholarships in the world.

Lee, professor of counseling, school and educational psychology in the UB Graduate School of Education, will journey to South Korea, Vietnam and Kazakhstan to



investigate educational equity, and engage in research collaborations and trainings with international universities and think tanks.

Bernstein, professor in the UB School of Law, will travel to Germany to examine how democratic states create legitimacy, and will use interviews and eth-

nography to study German national administrators.

Lee and Bernstein were honored in March 2021 at the U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program Workshop for Faculty, hosted by UB's Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Office of the Vice Provost for International Education.

"This is a well-deserved honor and recognition of Dr. Lee's excellent scholarship," says Suzanne Rosenblith, PhD, dean and professor of the UB Graduate School of Education.

"Professor Bernstein's scholarship is critical to our understanding of democracy at a global level," says Aviva Abramovsky, dean and professor of the UB School of Law. "We are proud of her exceptional work and pleased that it has been recognized with this prestigious award."

The Fulbright Program, coordinated by the United States Department of State, is devoted to improving intercultural relations, diplomacy and competence between the people of the U.S. and other nations through educational exchange. Fulbright alumni have become heads of state, judges, ambassadors, cabinet ministers, CEOs and university presidents. They include 60 Nobel Laureates, 86 Pulitzer Prize winners and 74 MacArthur Fellows, as well as leading journalists, artists, scientists and teachers.

An internationally recognized leader in education policy and equity, and international and comparative education, Lee will examine how well public schools in Asia provide protective learning environments for vulnerable students to overcome adversity and succeed in school.

Amid rapid economic growth and widening social inequalities, developing nations in Asia are faced with the

challenges of providing equitable education for all students, particularly high-risk populations such as female, rural, low-income, immigrant and refugee children.

Lee will explore transformative educational policies that close academic achievement and socioemotional well-being gaps for vulnerable students by analyzing international datasets, conducting in-depth case studies, interviewing education policymakers and practitioners, and visiting schools with innovative and inclusive child development programs.

"What lessons can developing nations in Asia such as Vietnam and Kazakhstan learn from South Korea? While Korea was a war-torn society held back by very low literacy levels in the early 1950s, today its young people achieve the highest level of education. However, schools in Korea struggle to cope with widening educational inequalities and socioemotional well-being problems," says Lee. "By pursuing more effective and equitable policy interventions, I hope my Fulbright study can help improve educational opportunities and outcomes for disadvantaged children and youth across the region."

"My ultimate goal is to inform global education policy initiatives, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal on Education, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all," says Lee.

Bernstein, who writes and teaches about administrative law, civil procedure, legal interpretation and the cultures of bureaucracy, will investigate how national administrators in Germany implement legislative policy.

Utilizing her training in both law and anthropology, she will interview public officials to learn how they view their own government and what they see as legitimate government action.

The research will be completed in affiliation with the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Germany.

"This project grows out of my long-term interest in the administration of democracy, which I've studied in Taiwan and the U.S. as well," says Bernstein. "At a time when the fragility of democratic institutions has become evident, it is particularly important to understand both how these institutions actually work and how they help legitimize democratic governance to a wider public." 🌐



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

LAW SCHOOL'S LLM PROGRAM ATTRACTS FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

With two Fulbright Scholars in the current master of laws cohort, UB School of Law is cementing its position as a premier destination for top-quality international lawyers looking to level up their careers.

Both are from former Soviet republics—Akbar Vokhidov of Uzbekistan and Olga Voronovich from Belarus—and both will complete their work in the Cross-Border Legal Studies LLM program this spring.

“They each took my International Trade Law class in the fall, and they are currently in my capstone course,” reports Professor Meredith Kolsky Lewis, who directs the Cross-Border Legal Studies Center.

“Their different backgrounds—Olga has deep experience representing Belarus as a diplomat, while Akbar has been working for over a decade for a subsidiary of one of the world’s largest oil and gas companies—mean they bring unique perspectives to the classroom. I’m always happy to see either Olga or Akbar volunteering in class, as they offer insightful opinions.”

Each year, the Fulbright Scholar Program, a project of the U.S. State Department, brings about 850 scholars and professionals in all fields to the United States for research and education.

Conversations with the law school’s scholars highlight their intelligence, their ambition—and the adventurous spirit that has brought them to Buffalo.

For Olga Voronovich, the pursuit of higher learning—she has studied in Moscow, Singapore, Geneva, her native Belarus and now America—is wrapped up with her hopes for her country and the next stages of its economic transformation.



“Taking my career path into account, it was very logical” to come to Buffalo, she says. “I started thinking about the LLM several years ago. I thought, maybe it was time to start thinking about what I want to do further—how I want Belarus as a country to evolve and how I want to see my homeland do well.”

That means getting deep-into the world of international trade, which represents an evolution from her career as a diplomat. Voronovich’s resume includes several high-responsibility positions in that world: as a United Nations consultant developing a program to help Belarus achieve the goals of the UN’s Program on HIV/AIDS; as a senior officer coordinating the Belarus government, diplomatic corps and international organizations around the

2019 European Games; serving as a secretary in Belarus’ UN mission in New York City, working on issues from HIV/AIDS to global migration to climate change; and a post in Belarus’ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working in the General Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs and, among other tasks, negotiating, free trade agreements.

“I worked for three years in New York City,” Voronovich says, “but I wanted to see more of America, visit the cities. Buffalo seemed like a perfect match. It’s New York but it’s not New York City. And it is so close to the Canadian border, so I can see how the U.S. trades with Canada, how companies relate to each other”—similar, she says, to how firms in Belarus and Russia do business together.

The first rule of doing business internationally is to speak the language. For Akbar Vokhidov, that means fluency in Russian and English as well as his native Uzbek.

Vokhidov works in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, as senior legal counsel for LUKOIL Uzbekistan Operating Co., an oil and gas driller and producer; the company is a subsidiary of the giant Moscow-based energy conglomerate LUKOIL.



Akbar Vokhidov (front center) with his LUKOIL colleagues

He has been with the firm for over a decade.

The role, he says, is varied: reviewing contracts, overseeing the documentation of bidding, and more recently working in government relations, negotiating with people in key ministries such as energy, economy and taxation. “We work in cooperation with big government,” he says.

His motivation for pursuing the Fulbright and studying in the United States, he says, was to have a better understanding of common law.

“Uzbek lawyers have some difficulties understanding the common law system,” Vokhidov says. “Our legal system is post-Soviet, and it’s more civil law, based on legislation and statutes. Common law is based both on court decisions, and on legislation.”

“It was a great experience for me to come here to learn how this legal system works. We have many foreign investors, and many times they conclude agreements and contracts under common law. Now I have an understanding of how to deal with such contracts.” 🌐

UB STARTUP'S COVID VACCINE APPROVED FOR HUMAN TRIAL

By Jessica Szklany and Cory Nealon

A COVID-19 vaccine candidate, under development by UB spinoff company POP Biotechnologies and South Korean biotech company EuBiologics, is moving into human trials in South Korea.

The candidate, called EuCorVac-19, is a liquid injection that can be stored and distributed at normal refrigerated temperatures, potentially making it easier to distribute and store than some current vaccines that must be frozen.

It was approved in January by the South Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety to enter a combined phase 1 and 2 clinical trial after generating strong immune responses in animal models.

The first phase will involve 50 healthy adults in Korea to evaluate the safety, tolerance and immune re-

sponse to the vaccine. For the second phase, the number of participants will increase to 230 adults to further evaluate immune response and dosage. The goal is to begin a wide-scale phase 3 trial later this year.

"Commencing first-in-human trials is a monumental step forward for our technology," says POP Biotechnologies President Jonathan Smyth. "Achieving this critical milestone provides validation toward not only solving this unprecedented global crisis, but also provides invaluable support toward our platform's development, further enabling the creation of new vaccines with tremendous potential to alleviate suffering worldwide."

Smyth co-founded the company in 2015 with then-fellow UB student Kevin Carter and Jonathan Lovell, a UB faculty member whose lab developed the biotechnology that is the basis of the vaccine candidate. Smyth received a JD from the UB School of Law; Carter earned a PhD from the UB Department of Biomedical Engineering.

The company's development of a vaccine-delivery platform called SNAP (Spontaneous Nanoliposome Antigen Particleization) is what caught the attention of EuBiologics, a publicly traded firm in South Korea. The platform consists of specialized liposomes — first developed in Lovell's lab and licensed to POP Biotechnologies through UB's Technology Transfer office — that bind to and improve the effectiveness of vaccine antigens, which are molecules that prompt the body to produce antibodies that neutralize disease.

Prior to the pandemic, POP BIO's primary focus for the

platform was on cancer therapies and a vaccine against HIV — research that has been supported by funds from UB Center for Advanced Technology in Big Data and Health Sciences (UB CAT). At the start of the pandemic, POP BIO swiftly transitioned SNAP to discover effective vaccine candidates for COVID-19.

"Because SNAP is a vaccine-platform technology, it could be applicable to any vaccine-related indication, for both chronic and infectious diseases. In-human testing for the COVID-19 vaccine will de-risk the technology for other indications too," says Lovell, SUNY Empire Innovation Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, a joint program of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

The move from nascent startup to a biotech company whose technology is now in human trials comes after years of hard work and innovation, as well as support from UB's entrepreneurship and technology transfer programs, from government agencies,

and from investors.

In 2015, POP BIO won the Henry A. Panasci Jr. Technology Entrepreneurship Competition, created by the UB School of Management and the UB Office of Business and Entrepreneur Partnerships. It then attracted the interest of America Online co-founder Steve Case, who along with local investor z80 Labs, invested \$100,000 in POP BIO in 2015 through the Rise of the Rest business plan contest.

Since 2017, the company has worked from UB's Incubator @ Baird, a research park for startup companies. It continues to work on the HIV vaccine with Scripps Research, a project that is supported by a \$600,000 National Institutes of Health contract.

The team was recently awarded additional funds through UB CAT to build on the SNAP vaccine platform and explore indicators in Alzheimer's disease.

A connection made by Business and Entrepreneur Partnerships resulted in an introduction to a key partner for POP Biotechnologies, according to Lovell.

"BEP provided an entrepreneur-in-residence, who took us to a business conference where we met EuBiologics, the South Korean company who is our partner in developing the COVID-19 vaccine. We would not be at this phase in the vaccine trial without EuBiologics showing an interest in our technology and leading the charge." 🌐

Jessica Szklany is a marketing consultant and Cory Nealon is a news content editor for University Communications.



Lovell (r) and Carter in the lab in 2017 (Douglas Levere)

INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON COVID TREATMENT

By Ellen Goldbaum

The first international guidelines on treating patients severely ill with COVID-19 were published in March 2020. Now, nearly a year later, the organization that published them has issued its first update: *Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines on the Management of Adults with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the ICU*.

Authored by 43 clinicians from 14 countries, the guidelines concern patients hospitalized with severe and critical disease in intensive care units.

Manoj J. Mammen, associate professor in the Department of Medicine in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB, section chief of UB Pulmonary at Buffalo General Medical Center and a physician with UBMD Internal Medicine, is a co-author of both the current and previous guidelines.



“The new guidelines demonstrate what we have learned about treating patients with severe COVID-19,” while underscoring how much still needs to be determined,” Mammen says.

The purpose of the document is to support hospital clinicians at the bedside taking care of critically ill patients in intensive care units.

Probably the most unsurprising item in the guidelines is that no benefit to COVID-19 patients and possible harm was found to result from the use of hydroxychloroquine. Few clinicians thought it would be helpful at the time, Mammen explains, but now there are data that have unequivocally confirmed this.

One of the most significant items in the guidelines is the recommendation that for critically ill patients with COVID-19, the steroid dexamethasone does result in lower mortality rates and improved outcomes.

“The guidelines report that dexamethasone is the only treatment that has been shown to reduce mortality in critically ill patients,” says Mammen, whose area of focus on the guidelines was pharmacotherapy.

While dexamethasone has not been shown to improve outcomes in outpatients or those with milder disease, he notes a large clinical trial has shown that it does reduce mortality rates in patients severely ill with COVID-19.

Mammen says that while most hospital clinicians are already aware of which treatments work and which don’t, the guidelines are important to circulate among the wider medical community. For example, he says it is important to note that steroids in patients with milder disease have not been demonstrated to result in improved outcomes.

Remdesivir is also included in the guidelines as recommended for patients with severe disease who are not on mechanical ventilation, a change from the first document that had no recommendation regarding this drug. The new guidelines also note that critically ill patients have the best chance of benefitting from remdesivir if it is administered within 72 hours of testing positive.

Despite numerous clinical trials on the use of convalescent plasma, the new guidelines do not recommend it, since outcomes from the trials have been inconclusive at best.

Now that populations around the globe are beginning to get vaccinated, Mammen says the next 12 months will likely look very different from the past year.

“The questions that remain have to do with how vaccination will affect disease progression,” he says.

He explains that the new variants of the virus will also be an important factor. “There are probably hundreds of variants of the virus out there right now, and only a few are clinically relevant.”

But how they will affect transmission and disease progression in the coming months is unknown.

“That’s why we need to continue to wear masks, continue to practice social distancing and good hand hygiene,” says Mammen. “Prevention is still the most important thing.”

The guidelines were developed as part of the Surviving Sepsis campaign, an international effort launched in 2002 to develop evidence-based guidelines to drive down the numbers of deaths around the world from sepsis and septic shock.

Sepsis is the body’s extreme response to an infection, which, if not treated, can cause tissue damage, organ failure and death. Mammen says a small percentage of patients with COVID-19 experience severe sepsis; it is more likely among the elderly and those with pre-existing chronic conditions. 🌐

Ellen Goldbaum is a news content manager for University Communications.

UB RESEARCHERS RELEASE MAJOR U.N. REPORT ON FOOD SYSTEMS PLANNING

By David J. Hill

UB researchers were the driving force behind the publication in February 2021 of a major report that details strategies local governments in low- and middle-income countries can use to create more innovative and equitable community food systems.

The 164-page report—titled “Local government planning for community food systems”—was published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a United Nations agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

“To my knowledge, this is one of the earliest documents outlining how local governments can take action to create innovative and equitable food systems in low- and middle-income countries,”

says Samina Raja, director of the Food Systems Planning and Health Communities Lab (UB Food Lab) in the School of Architecture and Planning, who shepherded the initiative.

The report was co-produced by researchers and community partners in the case study countries, along with authors Raja, Erin Sweeney, Yeeli Mui and Emmanuel Frimpong Boamah of UB’s Community for Global Health Equity and the UB Food Lab. It includes contributions from 10 students and six community partners from Ghana, Jamaica and India.

Sweeney coordinated the work in Odisha (India), while Mui led in Kerala, India, and Frimpong Boamah in Ghana. Mui was a postdoc at UB when the project started and is now an assistant professor in the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University.

A food system is the rich and complex web through which a community gets its food.

Despite major developments, local governments in low- and middle-income countries continue to face significant challenges in integrating food security, nutrition and sustainable food systems in their agenda, FAO directors Anna Lartey and Vimlendra Sharan note in the foreword to the report.

“This publication invites us to rethink food systems and supply chains through the lens of a ‘community,’ as a reminder that people and their everyday practices and relationships with food are central to the design of these processes,” they write.

UB researchers were the driving force behind this report

published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The report comprises six sections featuring contributions from UB and other global food systems researchers. Topics covered include describing the many ways in which local governments influence a community’s food system, an overview of the field of food systems planning, examples of local government policies from across the globe, and case studies from a number of low- and middle-income countries where food systems present an opportunity for equitable innovation.

“In its conclusion, the report reinforces the critical role of community food systems for broader social transformation in cities and regions,” says Raja, who also serves as co-director of UB’s Community for Global Health Equity.

The report is unique in that it is centered on the experiences of smallholder farmers in low- and middle-income countries. These farmers are responsible for growing food for the world and yet they are often the most food insecure, Raja points out.

“It is with this premise that we went about this work,” she says, adding that the team interviewed smallholder farmers in Ghana, India and Jamaica. “It became certain that it is impossible to prepare plans and policies without understanding the successes, challenges and adaptations made by smallholder farmers to do their job and survive. They feed the world, they fight climate change, they protect our ecologies — smallholder farmers are truly on the ‘frontline.’”

Raja says local governments have the ability and a responsibility to collaborate with stakeholders to harness and amplify the opportunities available within their jurisdiction to develop more innovative and equitable community food systems.

“There is no one-size-fits-all approach to food systems planning,” she says. “Each community’s opportunities and challenges are unique. Building community trust, designing inclusive planning processes, and conducting contextually scoped community food system assessments that center smallholder farmers’ experiences are key to planning, strengthening and leveraging food systems for community well-being in low- and middle-income countries.”

The report was the result of a collaboration between FAO and UB, which have partnered to build the capacity of local governments to engage in food systems planning. UB began work with partners at FAO in 2016 with an ex-

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Co-authors Boamah (far left) and Mui (far right)

PRESIDENT ISSUES STATEMENT CONDEMNING ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE

In March 2021 UB President Satish K. Tripathi issued a statement to the campus community condemning anti-Asian violence.

"To our entire UB community — and to our Asian and Asian American communities in particular, let me reiterate: Hate has no haven at UB," Tripathi said. "We will never allow xenophobia to gain traction on our campus. We are here for you, we stand with you, and we deeply value all of your contributions to our campus community."

The statement comes in the wake of the shooting deaths of eight people in Atlanta, six of whom were women of Asian descent.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have seen a deeply disturbing spike in incidents of hatred and violence against Asians and Asian Americans in our country," Tripathi said, adding that the Atlanta shootings earlier this week have intensified the concern and fear reverberating across the Asian and Asian American communities.

"We stand in sorrow and solidarity with our students, faculty and staff of Asian descent," Tripathi said. "Moreover, as a global community of scholars grounded in ideals

of social justice, we condemn, in the strongest of terms, anti-Asian harassment, hatred and violence — just as we condemn the ignorance, prejudice and bigotry at their root."

Tripathi said UB is "incredibly fortunate" to have a large and growing number of students, faculty and staff of Asian descent as members of the UB community, and added that the university has a long and proud history of contributions from Asian and Asian American students dating back to the 19th century.

"Throughout this time, we have always treasured UB's Asian and Asian American communities for their diversity of intellectual perspective, the cultural richness they share with our campus community and their critical contributions to pressing societal issues," Tripathi said.

"At this moment, sadly, one of the most troubling issues is xenophobia. That is why it is imperative that we at UB reaffirm, and recommit to, our mission and identity as a university grounded in principles of inclusion, diversity and social justice." 🌐

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CREATE FILM TO STOP ANTI-ASIAN HATE

By Marcene Robinson

To stand against anti-Asian racism, doctoral students in the Graduate School of Education created a short film titled "Your Bias Hurts Me" to promote support for Asian and Asian American students and communities against biases, violence and hate crimes.

Featuring 110 participants that includes UB faculty, staff and students, and community members of various ages, genders, races and ethnicities, the project provided a platform for the UB community to raise its voice against bias toward Asian and Asian American people.

"Our Asian community is underrepresented and racist incidents against us have been on the rise, fueled by the pandemic," says Qinghua Chen, the project initiator and a doctoral candidate in the Graduate School of Education. "I'm studying education, and believe that education is a powerful tool. I think speaking up to fight biases directly is a good way to spread awareness, make changes and call on people to stand in solidarity for inclusion, respect and equity."



Co-organizers of the project include doctoral students Shuyi Zhao and Yueqiu Zhang. The film was edited by Delong Zhong. Video is available in English and Chinese (Mandarin).

The film's flyer is also symbolic, using black and white colors to indicate solemnness and the evil nature of racism, and red to remind people of the lives lost due to violence and hate crimes, says Chen. The balloon symbolizes hope, while the skirt below the balloon represents women, among the most vulnerable victims of racism, she adds.

During the video, participants share messages such as "My ethnicity is not a virus. Hate is," "It's not called the China virus. It's COVID-19," "My accent does not matter. My voice does," and "I am not a minority. I have been minoritized."

The project has received overwhelming support from the UB community, says Chen. "I didn't expect over 100 people, since it's still the pandemic period, but the turnout is amazing and there are too many touching moments

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STUDENTS DESIGN CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

By Brian Carter

While students and faculty worked remotely throughout the fall 2020 semester, a graduate studio in the School of Architecture and Planning developed various projects to transform the UB campus.

The design studio is a focus for the education of architects and this particular studio consisted of 14 students from different academic backgrounds who were enrolled in the graduate program at UB's School of Architecture and Planning from around the world.

Directed by Professor Brian Carter – a registered architect from London – the studio was inspired by UB's notable reputation and record in international education and research, and organized through collaborations with faculty, administrators, researchers and students in the University at Buffalo.

The students in the studio met first with John Wood, Interim Vice Provost for International Education, who outlined the numerous global programs and opportunities at UB. They then went on to collaborate with Prof. Shaun Ir-

sought to reflect the university's significant commitments to international education and research, was a theoretical project yet one which was grounded in real programs and current issues.

This particular studio was designed to introduce graduate students to UB, the faculty, campus and the City of Buffalo at a time when they were working remotely because of the pandemic. Simultaneously, it underlined UB's



A rendering of the exterior of Keith Barnes' proposed institute

commitment to global education and research.

International students at the University at Buffalo account for more than 14% of the total enrollment and this normally brings thousands of students from across the world to study in Western New York and work on campus.

While many schools and colleges at UB are increasingly engaged in global research, they have also developed numerous opportunities for international research as well as study abroad programs for students.

UB's School of Architecture and Planning has been at the forefront in developing study abroad programs at UB. In the last decade, the school has organized global studio programs to enable students to study in Asia, Europe and Central America and a global public program of lectures and discussions throughout the academic year while the internationally recognized architecture in Buffalo brings students, faculty and professionals from around the world to UB.

This particular 2020 graduate architecture design studio included students from Asia, Africa, North and South America and was organized to enable them to meet with a diverse range of faculty, researchers and key administrators while exploring UB and its campuses in the city.

Students worked together and with faculty to outline requirements for a new building to integrate UB's interna-



Nicole Sarmiento's rendering of a student courtyard in winter

lam, chair of Africana and American Studies, and different researchers and faculty members who are engaged in a diverse range of global research initiatives and programs.

They discussed their work together and assessed needs before the students went on to prepare design proposals for a new Global Institute at UB. The project, which

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STUDENTS DESIGN CENTER

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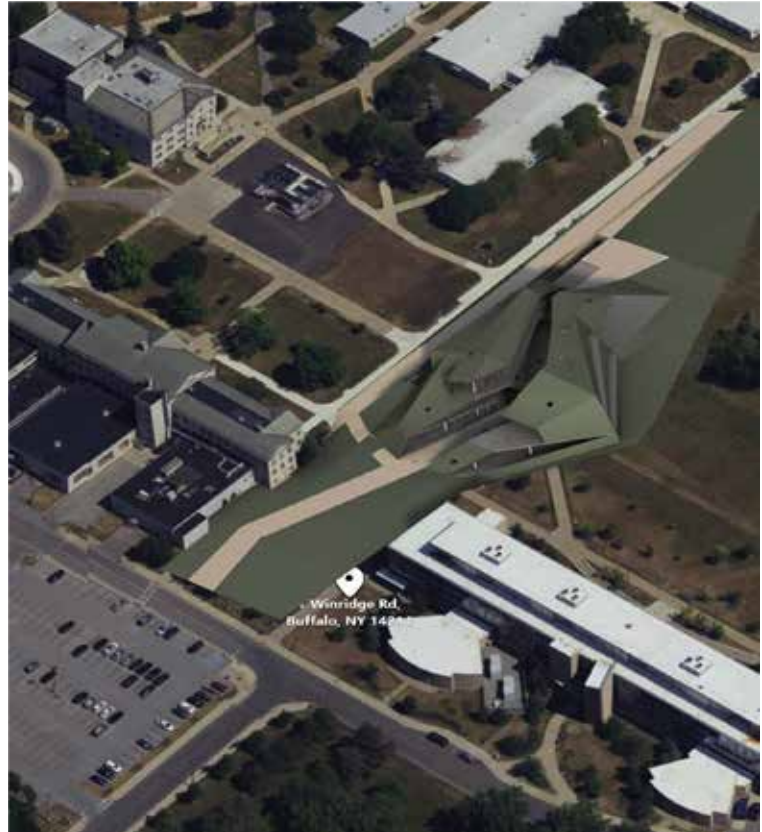
tional education programs, research centers focusing on Asia, the Americas, Africa and the Caribbean, study areas and performance spaces to create a focus for the academic community and surrounding neighborhoods.

After working collaboratively, each student in the studio was invited to prepare a design for a new building of about 40,000 sq.ft. These proposals sought to create a campus forum and workplace where international studies, research and cultural activities could be advanced and foster new initiatives.

Digital technologies enabled students from North and South America to work with others across Asia, collaborate with notable architects practicing in London, New York and Delhi to develop ideas.

UB's South Campus provided hypothetical sites set in a thoughtfully planned city defined by the work of Frederick Law Olmsted and significant architectural landmarks designed by Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Eliel Saarinen, Toshiko Mori and many more.

Students' proposals sought to enrich the campus while advancing ideas in sustainability, construction and use. Proposed buildings were integrated with campus landscapes, outlined sheltered terraces where students could work and socialize throughout the year, explore the



An overhead rendering of Vu Phuong's building in its South Campus setting

On completion of their studies students presented their individual proposals to UB researchers, faculty and notable architects working in significant practices worldwide.

And while the work of the studio will remain on paper each design proposal provoked lively discussions and revealed the significance of international education and research at UB. 🌐



Nicole Sarmiento's rendering of an atrium space

potentials of building form and materials and help to familiarize international students coming to study at UB.

The architecture students in the studio brought their own priorities to the designs and sought to underline individual cultural ideas.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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during my three filming days and I couldn't help tearing up," she says.

Chen, an international student from China, has actively coordinated philanthropic projects in both China and the U.S. In 2020, she filmed the International Cross-Cultural Children's Artwork Exhibition During COVID-19 Pandemic, a virtual showcase of children's creativity during the pandemic through 100 COVID-19-themed artworks from 60 children in seven countries, as well as a film in support of people battling COVID-19 in China at the start of the pandemic in early 2020. Chen also organized the donation of nearly 4,000 face masks to Western New York first responders in spring 2020. 🌐

HEALTH IN HOUSING CENTER RE-DESIGNATED

By Grace Lazzara

The University at Buffalo's Collaborating Center on Health in Housing has been re-designated as a Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/ World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Research on Healthy Settings.

The WHO oversees more than 800 collaborating centers across the globe, which work on topics such as nursing, occupational health, communicable diseases, chronic diseases, emergency response, e-health and more.

PAHO, the specialized international health agency for the Americas, oversees the collaborating centers in the region, including UB's.

The Center has been re-designated for a four-year term and will be co-directed by Lina Mu, associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health in the School of Public Health and Health Professions, and Samina Raja, professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning in the School of Architecture and Planning.

UB's Centre on Health in Housing was first designated a collaborating center in 1988. In the past, the center has engaged faculty cross many schools in UB and contributed greatly to the topics of accessible housing, environmental exposures, water-borne diseases, sanitation, hygiene, and food systems and healthy neighborhoods.

Currently, 15 UB faculty members, from the schools of Public Health and Health Professions, Architecture and Planning, Arts and Sciences, Social Work, and the Graduate School of Education, are engaged in ongoing, collaborative projects relating to health in housing.

These projects fall into two categories; the first category encompasses work to support the future implementation of the WHO Housing and Health Guidelines.

This 2018 report identified housing-related health concerns worldwide and recommended changes for housing policies at multiple levels. Emmanuel Frimpong Boamah, assistant professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, is further developing the WHO Housing and Health Guidelines to facilitate their implementation in diverse settings.

Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, is leading work between the Centre on Health and Housing and other regional collaborating centers to adapt the Housing and Health Guidelines for the Americas.

The second category of faculty projects is research concerning how housing affects health, with a focus on vulnerable populations. Center members explore topics like inclusive, safe, and accessible housing, food insecurity, housing inequity and insecurity, and the importance of healthy home environments at the household and neighborhood levels.

James Lenker, associate professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and program director for the Graduate Certificate in Assistive & Rehabilitation Technology (CART), lends his expertise as "...a resource for information about supporting the needs of people with disabilities in their homes who require adaptation of their mobility aids, computers, smartphones, and living environments to improve their safety and independence when completing their ... instrumental activities of daily living."

Elizabeth Bowen, associate professor in the School of Social Work, and Ghazala Saleem, assistant professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Science, are investigating how housing insecurity, including homelessness, affects health.

Center co-director Samina Raja continues her ongoing work on food systems, policy, and planning, while fellow co-director Lina Mu conducts research on the myriad health effects of environmental exposures to air pollutants.

Katarzyna Kordas, associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, conducts research on the impact of environmental exposures on children.

These projects are not an exhaustive list of all that is being done by the centre and the many faculty who contribute their time and expertise in support of the WHO and PAHO. This work is truly collaborative and provides unique opportunities for faculty.

"UB faculty contributing to the center's projects get the opportunity to network and collaborate with others working through WHO, especially other collaborating centers in the Americas region," said Mu. "Identifying as a collaborating center also brings increased visibility to UB, our faculty, and their work on these topics."

Grace Lazzara is special assistant to the dean for external relations in the School of Public Health and Health Professions.



UWI CAMPUS JOINS UB GLOBAL VIRUS NETWORK

The University of the West Indies at St. Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago has been named an affiliate center of the UB Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences (CIGBS), a Global Virus Network Center of Excellence.

The alliance will strengthen international collaboration in viral research and response to pandemics, and create a broader hub for global biomedical sciences collaboration in the Caribbean region.



The Faculty of Medical Sciences at UWI in St. Augustine

The University of the West Indies at St. Augustine will partner with the UB HIV and HCV Clinical Pharmacology Laboratory within the CIGBS to investigate and develop therapies for a number of viruses, including HIV, Zika, dengue and Chikungunya. The collaboration marks CIGBS' first international partnership with a university in Trinidad and Tobago.

The expanded research collaboration creates a growing hub within the University of the West Indies following the initial acceptance of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, in Jamaica as an affiliate center to UB. CIGBS also partners with research institutions in Nigeria, Spain, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The Global Virus Network is an international coalition of leading virologists from more than 34 nations that collaborate to identify and diagnose pandemic viruses; mitigate and control the spread of viruses; and develop drugs, vac-

cines and treatments, as well as train the next generation of virologists.

"I am pleased to see my colleagues from Trinidad and Tobago come under the GVN umbrella," says Gene Morse, CIGBS director, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and SUNY Global Health Institute co-director. "I look forward to helping them share resources with the GVN, test and develop antiviral therapies and biomarkers, promote translational science, and

build infrastructure and capacity for global virology research, including for COVID-19."

"We look forward to working with our GVN collaborators, particularly at the University at Buffalo, SUNY, to share our expertise in viral epidemiology research, as well as participating in broader training programs to enhance our virus research capacity," says Christine Carrington, professor of molecular genetics and virology at the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine and director of the new Global Virus Network affiliate.

The UB HIV and HCV Clinical Pharmacology Laboratory is recognized internationally for its work in antiviral pharmacology and therapeutics for HIV and hepatitis C virus. The University of the West Indies at St. Augustine specializes in the research of pathogens spread by mosquitos, ticks, flies and bats. 🌐

BOLDLY BUFFALO

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contributed more than \$96 million to the university.

"Despite challenges presented during the past year, we continue to set new fundraising records" said Rodney M. Grabowski, vice president for university advancement. "More than 74,000 alumni, faculty, staff and friends have

already supported the campaign and the future of the university. As we realize a truly bold vision for UB, for our students, and for our broader society, I am energized by the outpouring of support our university continues to receive from our graduates and community partners." 🌐

Jennifer Boscia Smith is assistant vice president for donor and alumni communications.

INCLUSIVE DESIGN FOR COFFEE COOPERATIVE IN THE DRC

By David J. Hill

Construction is nearing completion on a specialty coffee facility in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that is expected to infuse vital new economic opportunities around one of the world's most coveted agricultural commodities, while potentially being replicated in other coffee-producing parts of the world.

The project — situated on Idjwi Island in the Lake Kivu region of the DRC — is being led by University at Buffalo architects and experts in inclusive design, and the Massachusetts-based Polus Center for Social & Economic Development.



The coffee cooperative under construction

Construction began in May 2020, and local crews are putting the finishing touches on the structure, which will serve as an administrative building for CPNCK, a coffee cooperative. Importantly, the building also will provide training space and a station for cupping, the quality-control process in which trained testers note the tastes and aromas of the coffee beans.

"We're enthusiastic for what this collaboration will do for the region," says Korydon Smith, professor and chair of architecture in UB's School of Architecture and Planning.

"The training center will bolster coffee quality in the region while providing conflict survivors, women and people with disabilities access to coffee-sector employment," adds Smith, who is also one of the co-founders of UB's Community for Global Health Equity.

The DRC is seeing a revival of its coffee industry, and the Lake Kivu region is an ideal area for growing high-quality coffee beans, which could then be sold at a higher profit, because of its altitude and ample rainfall.

But farmers and coffee workers there face hidden dangers in the form of explosives and remnants of war that lurk where coffee beans are cultivated. Landmines have

left many locals with injuries that make it difficult to maintain or find employment, in turn devastating the lives of the workers and their families and communities.

"The construction of the training center and cupping lab not only creates social and economic opportunities for landmine survivors and people with disabilities, it raises awareness about the value and benefits of diversity within a broader community context," says Polus Center Executive Director Michael Lundquist.

"It is landmine survivors and people with disabilities that brought the Polus Center and UB to Idjwi Island," he adds. "This calling has created many collective benefits for the 220,000 people who reside on Idjwi."

The Polus Center sought out UB's Smith for the project because of his expertise working on inclusive design in global contexts.

Another key project collaborator is Stephanie Cramer, a clinical assistant professor of architecture at UB, who was instrumental in the design of the new facility and who has also done design and construction in international contexts. Cramer noted that "the project brings together contemporary design and engineering with traditional techniques, local materials, and local labor."

Each aspect of the building was designed to make it easier for workers with a disability — such as a visual impairment or the loss of a limb — to perform their assigned duties.

The project is significant for the Lake Kivu area because it's an emerging coffee-producing region.

"Increasing the production and quality of the island's specialty coffee will significantly raise income levels for coffee farmers and those working throughout the coffee value chain," says Lundquist.

"In other words, people in devalued status are directly responsible for bringing hope and economic prosperity to everyone on Idjwi. This is what makes the project unique."

The project has the potential to create major change throughout the coffee industry.

"The change that this project is going to bring is not going to be measured only in the Idjwi community. It should and will be spread, and will serve as an example for future projects of this nature, aiming to include as many people as possible in the positive changes in communities," says Adrien Nzuzi, Polus Center's DRC project manager.

The UB team has been working with the Coffee Quality Institute — the organization that sets global standards — to create a new set of architectural-design standards for coffee facilities that accommodate people with disabilities.

They're also developing a pattern of architectural prototypes based on the DRC facility that could be replicated in other coffee-producing countries affected by conflict, such as Colombia, Nicaragua or Cambodia. 🌐

GLICK LEADS INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ADVANCE ORAL HEALTH

By Marcene Robinson

UB faculty member Michael Glick, a renowned researcher in interdisciplinary oral health care, recently guided two international initiatives to progress oral health care.

Glick served as co-chair of the working group that developed the FDI World Dental Federation's *Vision 2030: Delivering Optimal Oral Health for All*, an interdisciplinary roadmap on how to impact health policies and improve oral health over the next decade.

The report recommends several strategies to reduce global oral health inequalities, including adoption of universal oral health coverage, greater collaboration between dentists and other members of the health care workforce, and integration of oral health into general health systems to provide person-centered, needs-based care.

"How can we, as members of the oral health community, anticipate transformational changes and trends in the global health care environment? How do we seize opportunities to become productive members of health care teams delivering person-centered care? These are some of the broad questions we strive to answer through Vision 2030," says Glick, professor of oral diagnostic sciences, School of Dental Medicine.

Glick, along with David Williams, professor of global oral health at Queen Mary University of London, led an international team of oral health care providers and researchers in developing the report.

The release of Vision 2030 on Jan. 18 coincided with the 148th session of the World Health Organization Executive Board, where an oral health resolution was on the agenda for adoption by governments.

Oral conditions such as tooth decay, gum disease, tooth loss and oral cancer are the most widespread non-communicable diseases worldwide — impacting 3.5 billion people — and have severe and significant health, societal and economic impacts, according to the FDI World Dental Federation.

Glick also led development of the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement's (ICHOM) Adult

Oral Health Standard Set, the first international standard for measuring treatment outcomes for oral health in adults over 18.

Published last year in the *International Dental Journal*, the new standard recommends clinicians measure data related to 17 outcomes to better understand how to improve the lives of their patients.

These outcomes are di-

vided into three categories: symptoms (oral pain, sensitivity and dry mouth), caries and periodontal disease (disease staging, complications and bleeding), and physiological function and psychological status (self-confidence; smiling; ability to eat, sleep and speak; and more).

According to the report, 87% of adult patients surveyed stated that these outcomes were important to routine care and that they would want their dentists to routinely measure these outcomes.

The Adult Oral Health Standard Set was completed through a collaboration between ICHOM and the FDI World Dental Federation. Glick and Williams co-chaired the working group, which was comprised of leading dentists, researchers, patient representatives, measurement experts and economists from eight countries. 🌐



PANDEMIC DOES NOT HALT DENTAL OUTREACH TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

By Marcene Robinson

A global pandemic could not deter UB professor Othman Shibly from delivering supplies and oral health care to Syrians who have become refugees or been displaced by the ongoing war in Syria.

Through the UB *Global Miles for Smiles* program, Shibly, clinical professor in the School of Dental Medicine, traveled to Lebanon April 2-11 to deliver critical oral health care and medical supplies, and to train community health care workers to provide dental care.



Othman Shibly treats a patient in Lebanon

The mission follows an initiative he completed in January and February to deliver heating fuel throughout the winter to nearly 1,200 families in Lebanon, and 87 schools that enroll more than 31,000 children in northwest Syria.

The initiatives were supported by the Syrian American Medical Society Foundation, the Henry Schein Cares Foundation, Multi Aid Programs (MAPs), Ihsan Relief and Development, MedGlobal and MouthWatch.

“During the pandemic, all of our dental missions ceased due to travel restrictions, but people’s needs do not stop, especially at this difficult time,” says Shibly, who has traveled to Syria, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq to provide aid to refugees and displaced people since 2012.

“Refugees and the internally displaced population in Lebanon and north Syria suffered the most during the pandemic and winter. Host communities and local governments almost collapsed under the pandemic, making life worse for vulnerable populations,” he explains. “I de-

ecided that UB Global Miles for Smiles should not stand still and wait for the pandemic to end to resume its services.”

“Given the current weather conditions, we have seen a spike in infectious diseases among children, causing them to miss school,” says Bahaa El-Din Al-Jassem, director of the Al-Kalana School in Syria.

“Thanks to these heating supplies provided for classrooms, students are now able to come to school, finish the semester and stay warm in the face of unimaginable challenges.”

During the pandemic, UB Global Miles for Smiles has:

- Partnered with the Syrian American Medical Society Foundation and Ihsan Relief and Development to raise \$100,000—\$10,000 of which was provided by UB—to provide 145,000 liters of fuel to 87 schools in northwest Syria.

- Worked with MAPS to donate food baskets and fuel to more than 2,300 refugee families in Lebanon.

- With the support of MedGlobal, hired a nutritionist and additional community health care workers to provide oral health care at refugee camps in Lebanon. The team of health care workers supported by UB Global Miles for Smiles now numbers six, and includes a dentist, nutritionist and four community health care workers.

- Through training, increased the efficiency of community health care workers to 70 patients treated per day, up from last year’s average of 40 patients per day.

- Provided oral health care supplies to refugee camps that were donated by the Henry Schein Cares Foundation.

- Received teledentistry technology from MouthWatch and the Henry Schein Cares Foundation to provide and evaluate dental care from abroad.

- Received iPads from MAPS to assist with logging and monitoring patient oral health progress.

- Created a patient referral system so that children with greater oral health care needs may receive free dental care at fully equipped dental clinics in nearby cities. Transportation is provided by MAPS.

The continued success of UB Global Miles for Smiles is gaining attention and support around the world.

MAPS aims to collaborate with the American University of Beirut to replicate the program, but with a focus on providing free vision and hearing care, eyeglasses and hearing aids for children who are refugees or have been displaced.

The Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders is helping expand care through UB Global Miles for Smiles to populations in Liberia and Uganda. 🌐

TRUSTWORTHY AI: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

What does it take to create trustworthy artificial intelligence? How do we build systems that are robust, secure, and privacy-enhancing? UB Computer Science and Engineering Professor Nalini Ratha is working towards a world where we build trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI), prevent and dismantle attacks on AI systems, and protect AI models.

Ratha recently brought his expertise to several virtual venues around the world: a guest lecture at Carnegie Mellon University Africa, a department seminar at the India Institute of Technology Jodhpur, and a tutorial on Trustworthy AI at ACM India Joint International Conference on Data Science and Management of Data.

At Carnegie Mellon University Africa, Ratha delivered a guest lecture on “Recipe for Building Trustworthy Systems: Biometrics to AI,” where he discussed the components in a robust biometric system, such as threat models for biometrics systems, improving security and privacy while improving efficient search capability, and reporting confidence interval in performance evaluation. He also addressed how AI systems can be trustworthy based on the lessons learnt from biometrics systems.

For example, existing threat models can be extended to AI systems to help guard against adversarial attacks and their mitigation, and advances in blockchain technology can be used to make AI systems more trustworthy.

Ratha has teamed up with colleagues at CMU Africa to seek funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to advance AI for social good in African context.

In his Trustworthy AI tutorial at ACM India Joint International Conference on Data Science and Management of Data, Ratha, along with colleagues from IIT Jodhpur, proposed a way to address six critical issues that would enhance user and public trust in AI systems: bias and fairness, explainability, robust mitigation of adversarial attacks, improved privacy and security in model building, being decent, and model attribution, which includes the right level of credit assignment to the data sources, model architectures and transparency in lineage.

Bias has proven to be a critical component in determining if an AI system is trustworthy or not. Many systems fail due to high levels of bias, due to unequal performance

across different data sets.

For instance, if a facial recognition system has primarily been trained on a data set of predominately white, male faces, it will have a higher failure rate on the faces of people of color and women. This has significant societal implications, especially in law enforcement and medical applications.



If an AI system is expected to interact intelligently with people, decency is a critical component in deciding whether or not it can be trusted. Just as you would determine if a person you just met is decent and can be trusted, the same happens with an AI system.

If it gives indecent responses in AI-human interactions, it's not likely to be trusted or used. Past indecent behavior has led to systems being decommissioned.

The potential for AI systems is great, but much responsibility lies in developing systems that can be trusted.

It is up to each researcher and developer to ensure the technology and systems are fair, unbiased, decent, robust, can resist attacks, and protect our privacy. Only then will they be trusted.

Ratha, who holds an appointment as an adjunct professor at IIT Jodhpur, is continuing to work with colleagues there to expand their work in this area.

The team is seeking funding from the NSF and from the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) organization. IARPA invests in high-risk/high-payoff research programs that have the potential to provide our nation with an overwhelming intelligence advantage, and is part of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Ratha is a SUNY Empire Innovation Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University at Buffalo. Prior to joining UB, he was a research staff member at IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY.

He received his B. Tech. in electrical engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, M.Tech. degree in computer science and engineering also from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Ph.D. in computer science from Michigan State University. 🌐

PREDICTING LAVA FLOWS IN ICELAND

By Charlotte Hsu

The eruption of Fagradalsfjall on Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula, with lava emerging from multiple fissures, has captivated people around the world since March 2021.

As molten rock continues to pour out, lighting up the landscape with its fiery glow, a University at Buffalo researcher is helping officials in Iceland predict where the lava may go next.

Mattia de' Michieli Vitturi,, assistant professor of volcanology in the Department of Geology, is a mathematician who uses computational fluid dynamics to study natural phenomena ranging from tsunamis to volcanic events.

He is working with partners in the Icelandic Meteorological Office, the University of Iceland and the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV) in Italy to use a model he developed to map potential future patterns of lava flow.

The model considers factors such as the region's topography (how the ground slopes and rises), the shape and location of fissures and vents, and the volume of lava that's surfacing.

"I'm collaborating with them as the eruption is changing almost daily," de' Michieli Vitturi said in mid-April. "The lava is exiting from multiple vents, so the last version of the model that I sent was a couple of hours ago, with a modification because they had some requests."

This cooperative research grew from a longstanding partnership between de' Michieli Vitturi and Sara Barsotti, the volcanic hazards coordinator for the Icelandic Meteorological Office. The two had previously worked together on other projects in Europe, including at the INGV section in Pisa, Italy. It was at INGV, also, that de' Michieli Vitturi created the lava flow model with his colleague Simone Tarquini, who is also collaborating on the effort at Fagradalsfjall.

De' Michieli Vitturi's work in Iceland presented his UB

students with a great opportunity this semester. In early April, Barsotti gave a virtual guest lecture in a course de' Michieli Vitturi is teaching on geologic hazards.

The talk focused on Iceland, describing the country's geology and how the Icelandic Meteorological Office monitors events including the ongoing activity at Fagradalsfjall. Barsotti noted that the eruption—which was preceded by tens of thousands of earthquakes—could continue for weeks or months.

Though the immediate area surrounding the fissures that have opened up at Fagradalsfjall is largely uninhab-

ited, de' Michieli Vitturi says predicting how lava may flow remains important.

The model could be useful in understanding how human-made barriers could be used to influence how the molten rock spreads.

"Even if the area where the eruption occurred is sparsely populated, with no major towns or villages in immi-

nent danger, the main road connecting the capital Reykjavík and the international airport at Keflavík is only a few kilometers away.

In addition, thousands of people are visiting the eruption site making the capability of anticipating the lava propagation an important element to evaluate the hazard in the area," de' Michieli Vitturi says.

In addition to de' Michieli Vitturi, Barsotti and Tarquini, colleagues involved in the lava flow modeling efforts have included Melissa Anne Pfeffer and Bergrún Arna Óladóttir at the Icelandic Meteorological Office, and Gro Birkefeldt Møller Pedersen at the University of Iceland. 🌐

Charlotte Hsu is a new content manager for University Communications.



Lava flows at Fagradalsfjall in April 2021 (Gro B. M. Pedersen)

ALISON DES FORGES SYMPOSIUM GOES VIRTUAL

By Shaun Irlam

A staple among the activities of the Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee each year is our signature spring event, the annual International Symposium. These have focused on a range of contemporary topics with a global reach and a firm foundation in the promotion of human rights, the cause to which Alison Des Forges devoted her life.

In the preceding year, we had witnessed a spate of popular uprisings that had led to changes in governments in Algeria, Sudan, Puerto Rico and elsewhere. At the same time, the United States was using various methods to coerce regime change in Iran, Syria, and Venezuela.

And so we were in the closing stages of planning our 2020 Symposium, “Human Rights at Risk: Popular Uprisings and Regime Change” when we were obliged by the Covid-19 pandemic to defer it to October 2020 and quickly master the arcana of Zoom. Then, with a couple of our committee members at the controls on campus, we took a leap of faith on October 15, anticipating several obstacles as we had speakers joining us online from across the world.

Launching our first panel, “Collective Action and Human Rights on Three Continents,” was Professor Suzanne Mettler of Cornell University. She asked, with staggering prescience, given the hapless insurrection of January 6, 2021: “Is American democracy in danger of backsliding today?”

She argued that four threats have previously exposed the fragility of American democracy: political polarization; conflict over who belongs, particularly along lines of race; economic inequality; and executive aggrandizement. She suggested that for the first time ever, the United States was facing the dangerous confluence of all four threats.

Professor Lisa Mueller of Macalester College followed with her presentation, “African Protestors: Troublemakers or Heroes?” Africa, she argued, had experienced a historic surge of protest, a trend that recent turmoil in Dakar appears to corroborate. She weighed the practical and ethical options for foreign actors regarding whether to discourage protesters or support them with diplomatic, humanitarian, and material aid.

Professor Ji Yeon Hong of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology addressed the anti-government protests in Hong Kong and the challenges these pose for human rights in the enclave; as recent events have revealed, the future of Hong Kong has only grown dimmer.

She explored how these protests were different from previous ones, and how Hong Kong’s own public perceives the movement.

In keeping with Alison Des Forges’ legacy as a human rights activist devoted to Africa, our second panel was titled “Political Change and Human Rights in Sudan.” Harry Verhoeven of Oxford University opened with his talk, “From Revolution to Revolution: The Promises and Risks of Ending 30 Years of Military-Islamist Rule in Sudan.”

He reviewed how the al-Ingaz regime under Omar Bashir had mixed militant conservatism with social engineering in its clumsy pursuit of authoritarian modernization. He concluded that three decades of al-Ingaz (Salvation party) rule have left behind devastating economic legacies.

Aly Verjee of the Rift Valley Institute spoke about “Popular Change in (Revolutionary) Sudan and (Evolutionary) Ethiopia: An Early Comparative Analysis.” He argued that historic changes are occurring in the Horn of Africa. In both countries mass popular uprisings precipitated these changes, but the processes of reform were different. Ethiopia’s 2018 shift occurred in the context of a leadership transition while Sudan saw an overthrow of the previous regime. Verjee noted the

fragility of these reforms in both countries and suggested they potentially provide both models to emulate as well as cautionary tales to avoid.

Suliman Baldo of *The Sentry* next presented “The Human Rights Drivers and Consequences of Sudan’s 2018-2019 People’s Revolution.”

He focused on the mobilizing factors and demands of the youth and women groups behind the uprising, and explored how the traditional political and trade union opposition was also taken completely by surprise. Baldo also highlighted the human rights and gender justice demands behind the uprising.

Finally, drawing the symposium to a close, Jehanne Henry, formerly of Human Rights Watch, examined “Human Rights Priorities during Sudan’s Transition.” She focused on the protest movement, the violent and bloody crackdowns, the transitional government, and the struggle for justice by victims of the repression and other violations during al-Bashir’s regime in the year since the protests erupted. 🌐

Shaun Irlam is associate professor of Comparative Literature and chair of Africana and American Studies.

THE Alison Des Forges MEMORIAL COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO
AN INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM ON
Human Rights at Risk: Popular Uprisings and Regime Change

In the past year, we have witnessed popular uprisings that have led to changes in governments in Algeria, Sudan, and Puerto Rico. At the same time, the United States has used various methods to coerce regime change in Iran, Syria, and Venezuela. Popular uprisings are often considered as pressure of demanding or restoring human rights, but they can sometimes result in a change of power only. And calls for regime change in the name of "democracy" and "human rights" are often used to justify imperial intervention leading to additional democratic repression.

Schedule of Events

8:00 WELCOMING REMARKS
9:15-10:00 COLLECTIVE ACTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ON THREE CONTINENTS
Four Threats: What U.S. History Reveals about American Democracy Today
Suzanne Mettler, The Johns Hopkins Professor of American Institutions, Cornell University
African Protestors: Troublemakers or Heroes?
Lisa Mueller, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Macalester College
Anti-Government Protests in Hong Kong: Diverse Challenges to Human Rights
Ji Yeon Hong, Associate Professor of Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

10:00-12:30 LUNCH BREAK

12:30-2:30 **POLITICAL CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN SUDAN**
From Revolution to Revolution: The Promises and Risks of Ending 30 Years of Military-Islamist Rule in Sudan
Harry Verhoeven, Professor of International Law, University of Oxford
Popular Change in (Revolutionary) Sudan and (Evolutionary) Ethiopia: An Early Comparative Analysis
Aly Verjee, Lecturer in African Studies, Rift Valley Institute
The Human Rights Drivers and Consequences of Sudan's 2018-2019 People's Revolution
Suliman Baldo, Editor, The Sentry
Human Rights Priorities during Sudan's Transition
Jehanne Henry, Senior Lecturer, Human Rights Watch

2:30 CLOSING COMMENTS

FREE EVENT
THURSDAY
OCTOBER 15, 2020
9AM - 2:30PM
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HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE AIDS REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

By Ellen Goldbaum

Since its inception in 2014, the UB Human Rights Initiative, a medical student group, has played an important role in helping to document and assess evidence of torture in people seeking refuge and asylum in Western New York.

The group, based in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB, is one of the most active in the Physicians for Human Rights' national network of medical school organizations that train medical students to do forensic exams on asylum-seekers.

Recently, the UB group's students and faculty mentor were asked to assist their counterparts in Syracuse and at SUNY Upstate Medical University as they go about developing the same capabilities to help asylum-seekers in Central New York.

On Feb. 24, 2021, Kim Griswold, professor of family medicine and psychiatry in the Jacobs School, and the UB group's faculty mentor, gave a virtual talk on "Insights and Best Practices for Medical Evaluations in the Context of Immigration Applications" as part of a panel presentation for potential medical volunteers in Syracuse.

"The Jacobs School group is an established Physicians for Human Rights clinic," says Griswold. "Because we've been doing medical evaluations for years and have been training our students in this important work, we were asked to provide some assistance as the Syracuse effort gets off the ground."

Certified by Physicians for Human Rights, Griswold, also a physician with UBMD Family Medicine, works with local

clinicians in Buffalo to document and assess evidence of torture and trauma in refugees and asylum-seekers. She also provides testimony at asylum hearings.

This work can save lives, Griswold notes, since individuals are more likely to be granted asylum in the United States with documentation of the physical or psychological evidence of the torture they experienced.

As mentor to the student group, she is helping to train the next generation to do this work. UB medical students learn to conduct physical and psychological medical exams. They act as scribes, carefully recording the harrowing and terrifying details of what the person has been through. Students also attend court hearings.

There are currently more than 90 UB medical students trained as scribes for the Human Rights Initiative, and 17 students from all four classes in the Jacobs School comprise the initiative's executive board. These are experiences, Griswold says, the students find enormously enriching.

"This is an experience that solidifies our students' connection to the community. It allows them to alleviate suffering and to fight for social justice," she says. "It is a joy to teach students who really have their eyes open to the world and who want to make things better."

The main goal of a medical evaluation is to document physical or psychological torture by an individual seeking asylum in the U.S. Through the years, Griswold has testified in court in 15 cases. A case typically takes five years or more to go through the entire process. 🌐



ACCREDITATION

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the Center for Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness.

"We strive for excellence in all of our programs, and it's gratifying to see our efforts recognized by this prestigious accreditation," said Paul Tesluk, professor and dean of the UB School of Management. "This is truly a testament to the hard work of our faculty and staff, and the dedication of our alumni."

A number of other business schools worldwide completed reviews and extended their accreditation in the same period as UB.

"AACSB congratulates each institution on their achievement," said Stephanie M. Bryant, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB. "Every AACSB-accredited school has demonstrated a focus on excellence in all areas, including teaching, research, curricula development, and student learning. The intense peer-review process exemplifies their commitment to quality business education."

The school will undergo its next accreditation review in 2025-26. 🌐

Jacqueline Molik Ghosen is assistant dean and director of communications for the School of Management.

MBA STUDENTS TAKE THIRD IN INTERNATIONAL CASE COMPETITION

By Matthew Biddle

A team of first-year MBA students from the University at Buffalo School of Management took third place in the Kogod Case Competition, hosted virtually by American University.

Connor Clinton of Kailua, Hawaii; Jack DeMarco of Rochester; Anu Patel of San Francisco, California; and Tyler Penberthy of Buffalo each collected \$300 in prize money for their third-place finish.

Participating teams were tasked with evaluating the impact of the “On the Table” initiative, a civic engagement forum that brings residents from diverse backgrounds together to discuss critical issues, find tangible solutions and spark positive change.

After reviewing data from past events and community surveys, teams proposed an outreach strategy for 2021 to expand the initiative’s impact in the Greater Washington, D.C., region and ensure equity among its participants and stakeholders.

“The competition challenged us to dig deeper on issues of equity and institutional racism,” Patel says. “As a group, we were able to deliver on a strategy to engage more members of the community—including the most vulnerable—in sharing their experiences.”

In the competition’s preliminary round, 38 teams made video pitches before being narrowed down to finalists

across three divisions. The UB team was one of five finalists in the graduate division.

For the final round, held virtually Feb. 4-6, 2021, teams delivered 15-minute presentations and fielded 10 minutes of questions from the judges.

Ultimately, the team from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada, took first in the graduate division, followed by a squad from American University and the UB team in second and third, respectively.

Beyond the prize money and résumé booster, the UB MBAs say they gained valuable skills from the experience as well. “The real-life application of the case was

impactful, and I hope to use this experience in future non-profit work,” DeMarco says.

Penberthy agreed: “I was proud of my team’s ability to collaborate over Zoom and submit a quality presentation to address inequity. I strongly believe participating in this virtual competition has benefited my personal and professional skills, as remote teamwork and collaboration are key for future employment in a COVID world after graduation.”

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



L to r: Jack DeMarco, Connor Clinton, Tyler Penberthy, Anu Patel

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT REACCREDITED BY AACSB INTERNATIONAL

By Jacqueline Molik Ghosen

AACSB International has once again granted the University at Buffalo School of Management a five-year extension of its accreditation. Earned by less than 5% of B-schools, AACSB accreditation is considered the hallmark of excellence in business education.

The UB School of Management has been continuously accredited by AACSB International since 1930. Accreditation review is conducted every five years and includes all of the school’s undergraduate, master’s and doctoral business and accounting programs. Dual accreditation in business and accounting has been earned by only the top 1.5% of programs.

In their report to the AACSB accreditation board, the peer review team lauded the school for its impressive stra-

tegic direction; the strength of its faculty scholarship and engagement; and a strong international footprint and rapidly expanding global programming. New programs highlighted included a BS in information technology and management, an MS in business analytics and such new minors as entrepreneurship and data analytics.

The team also commended the school for providing students with significant opportunities to engage with businesses and the community through innovative experiential learning programs like the Terese Kelly Investment Group, LeaderCORE™, Non-profit Board Fellows, Corporate Champions and activities generated by the Career Resource Center.

Other initiatives with high-quality outcomes noted by the review team included the school’s social innovation programs, the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, and

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MELTING OF GLACIERS AND ICE SHEETS CAN BE SLOWED, STUDY SHOWS

By Charlotte Hsu

New research from a large international community of scientists predicts that sea level rise from the melting of ice could be halved this century if the world meets the Paris Agreement target of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. That's relative to projections based on countries' current pledges to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases.

The study, published in *Nature* on May 5, and led by Tamsin Edwards, reader in climate change at King's College London, explores the land ice contribution to sea level in the 21st century arising from the world's glaciers and the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets.

Edwards is the lead author on the paper, "Projected land ice contributions to twenty-first-century sea level rise," and worked with more than 80 authors internationally.



Jakobshavn Glacier in Greenland (Thomas Overly)

Contributors included University at Buffalo climate scientist Sophie Nowicki, the paper's second author. Nowicki led the Ice Sheet Model Intercomparison Project for phase 6 of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (ISMIP6), a major international effort that provided key data for the study.

UB's Center for Computational Research (CCR) facilitated the research by providing resources for data storage and sharing.

The new study in *Nature* uses a large number of computer models combined with statistical techniques, making predictions for the latest socio-economic scenarios to inform the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's

Sixth Assessment report, which will be published later this year.

The research predicts that if the world can limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, Greenland Ice Sheet losses would fall by 70%, and glacier losses by half, compared with current emissions pledges (called nationally determined contributions).

For Antarctica, the predictions did not produce a clear link between the volume of ice loss and different emissions scenarios. This is because it is unclear whether snow falling in the cold interior of the ice sheet will offset melting at the coasts. However, under a "pessimistic" storyline, with much more melting than snowfall, Antarctic ice losses could be five times larger.

Edwards, director of the King's Climate Hub, says, "Ahead of COP26 this November, many nations are updating their pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement.

Global sea level will continue to rise, even if we halt all emissions now, but our research suggests we could limit the damage: If pledges were far more ambitious, central predictions for sea level rise from melting ice would be reduced from 25 centimeters to 13 centimeters in 2100, with a 95% chance of being less than 28 centimeters rather than the current upper end of 40 centimeters. This would mean a less severe increase in coastal flooding." (COP26 is the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference.)

"This study is important because the statistical techniques used—called emulation—allowed us to explore many more different futures than possible with the numerical ice sheet and glacier models,"

says Nowicki, Empire Innovation Professor in the Department of Geology in the UB College of Arts and Sciences, and in the UB RENEW Institute.

"This is because numerical modeling takes a lot of time and computer resources and so we are limited in the number of simulations that we can do.

"These numerical simulations, however, are the key input for the emulator. ISMIP6 gave key inputs for this study, providing 600 sea level rise projections from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets from 27 international ice sheet models. The first ISMIP6 workshop that I organized was 7 years ago, and it took us as a community this whole time to get here."

The study adds to evidence—such as a 2020 study on

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MELTING OF GLACIERS

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the Greenland Ice Sheet led by UB geology professor Jason Briner—indicating that reductions to emissions of heat-trapping gases can have an important impact on how much sea levels rise this century.

Glaciers and ice sheets are currently responsible for around half of global sea level rise, with most of the rest arising from expansion of the oceans as they warm.

Previous predictions had used older emissions scenarios, and could not explore uncertainty about the future as thoroughly due to the limited number of simulations.

This statistically-based study updates the scenarios, and combines all sources of land ice into a more complete picture that predicts the likelihood of different levels of sea level rise.



An iceberg in Greenland (Donald Slater)

“We used a larger and more sophisticated set of climate and ice models than ever before, combining nearly 900 simulations from 38 international groups using statistical techniques to improve our understanding of uncertainty about the future,” Edwards says.

“Antarctica is the ‘wildcard’ of sea level rise: difficult to predict, and critical for the upper end of projections. In a pessimistic storyline, where Antarctica is very sensitive to climate change, we found there is a 5% chance of the land ice contribution to sea level rise exceeding 56 centimeters in 2100 even if we limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

“Coastal flood management must therefore be flexible enough to account for a wide range of possible sea level rise, until new observation and modeling can improve the clarity of Antarctica’s future.” 🌐

TRANSNATIONAL STUDIES BECOMES AFRICANA AND AMERICAN STUDIES

Building on a 50-year tradition in African, African American and American studies, the College of Arts and Sciences has officially renamed the Department of Transnational Studies to the Department of Africana and American Studies.

The new name follows more than a year of discussions, meetings and town halls with students and student groups, as well as a deliberative faculty process.

The renaming responds not only to the current needs of students and faculty, but also of the community and society at large, as the ongoing national struggles against racism make tragically clear, CAS administrators say.

“The renaming of the department brings the history of one of the first departments in this field to the forefront with a renewed focus on the research and scholarship that addresses the needs of our students,” says CAS Dean Robin Schulze.

While the name change serves to increase the visibility and community awareness of Africana and American studies on campus, it is part of a robust series of steps to renew the department.

“The department celebrated the 50th anniversary of African American studies at UB in 2019, so this struck us as an auspicious occasion to rename the department and reclaim that rich legacy,” notes department Chair Shaun Irlam.

“The term ‘Africana’ profiles its transnational focus on all expressions of Black culture and history, globally, while ‘American studies’ also retains the legacy of its decade-long association with the former American Studies department,” Irlam says, explaining the meaning behind the new name.

As part of the investment, the college has committed funding to hire faculty in Africana and American studies. Additionally, the plan involves reclaiming the physical space in Clemens Hall that housed the earlier iteration of the Department of African and African American Studies.

The creation of a prominent home hub for students to spend time learning, connecting and honoring Black cultures, histories and peoples is an important component to the mission of the department. CAS administrators said. 🌐

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Economics

Alex Anas, Frank H. and Josephine L. Goodyear Professor of Economics and chair, was an invited presenter at the remotely organized conference on Applied Urban Modeling sponsored by Cambridge University, UK. On November 12, 2020 he presented to a large audience the paper "Productivity benefits of urban transportation megaprojects: a general equilibrium analysis of «Grand Paris Express»" co-authored with Huibin Chang, alumnus of UB's Ph.D. program in Economics and currently on the faculty at Dongbei University of Finance and Economics, Dalian, China. The paper presents new methodology for assessing the potential urban economic impacts of transportation projects and its application to "Grand Paris Express," a 35-billion Euro public transportation megaproject under construction that will circumferentially connect the inner suburbs of the City of Paris. The methodology utilizes the Regional Economy, Land Use and Transportation (RELU-TRAN) general economic equilibrium model developed by Dr. Anas at UB with funding from the National Science Foundation, the U.S.E.P.A, the University of California's Office of the President, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Societe du Grand Paris.

Yun Pei, assistant professor, was an invited discussant for the International Macro/Finance and Sovereign Debt Workshop, at Sogang University, South Korea that took place virtually on November 5-6, 2020.

In early April 2021, **Paul Zarembka**, research professor, offered a lecture and discussion via Zoom to the Edward Lipinski Foundation for Promotion of Pluralism in Economic Sciences, Poland. It summarized his new book *Key Elements of Social Theory Revolutionized by Marx* (Brill, 2021), which reflects important aspects of his work in political economy over several decades. Shortly thereafter Zarembka presented a talk with discussion on "Engels' Role in Editing Marx's Capital," the thrust being that certain of Engels' decisions have had long-term and undesirable consequences in understanding Marx's most mature thought. This presentation was part of a three-month series of talks by political economists sponsored by the South Korea's Gyeongsang National University's Research Team on "Postcapitalism and the Innovation of Marxism."

Department of English

Walter Hakala, associate professor, gave a presentation on November 12, 2020 to the Pakistan Society of the United Kingdom. The title of his paper was, "When Did Urdu Become Urdu? The Prehistory of Pakistan's National Language." He recently published three encyclopedia entries: on the life of the German scholar of Persian and Arabic Francis Joseph Steingass (1825–1902) for the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, on the *Qasida dar lugat-i hindi* (a 16th-century medical vocabulary) in Perso-Indica, and on Urdu lexicography in *Encyclopaedia of Islam, THREE*. His chapter, "Steingass's *Comprehensive Persian-English Dictionary* (1892) and the Rise and Fall of Persian as a Transregional Language," appeared in *Nineteenth-Century Lexicography: Between Science and Fiction* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

In spring 2021, **Tanya Shilina-Conte**, assistant professor, curated a series of virtual events, "Keeping Cultural Borders Virtually Open: Global Cinema Talks." Organized through the Center for Global Film, the series featured talks on Turkish, Indian, Iranian, early twentieth-century Russian, and contemporary Russian queer cinema.

Department of History

Andreas Daum, professor, published an article on Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt in a recent volume on Germany: *The Global History of a Nation* (in German, C. H. Beck 2020, 2nd ed. 2021), in which the features the transcontinental networks of knowledge and globally dispersed sources for the comparative scientific and linguistic studies by the 19th century Humboldt brothers.

Hal Langfur, associate professor, published "Race and Violence in Portuguese America" in *The Cambridge World History of Violence*, ed. Philip Dwyer and Joy Damousi (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020). Remotely, because of the pandemic, he presented a pa-

per to indigenous studies scholars at the University of Kent, UK conference "Entangled Modernities," and he discussed a book chapter draft with members of the Toronto-area Latin American Research Group.

Department of Media Study

Cort Lippe, associate professor, had a paper entitled "Computational Media: new sounds, algorithms, processes, and interaction" published in the journal *Ideas Sónicas*, vol. 12 no. 23, Morelia, Mexico; and a paper entitled "Musings on the Status of Electronic Music Today" published in the edition *From Digital Echos to Virtual Ethos: Critical issues on Music Technology in Contemporary Music*, NKUA Press. Athens, Greece. He had compositions performed in Catarroja, Spain, Curitiba, Brazil, Toronto, and Bordeaux. His recent composition "Duo for Tam-tam and Computer" will be performed at the Virtual International Computer Music Conference, Santiago, Chile in July, 2021. He recently served on the Program Committee for the New Interfaces for Musical Expression Conference which will be hosted in Shanghai, China in June 2021.

Andrew Lison, assistant professor, was an invited virtual speaker at the University of Gothenburg's digital humanities seminar in February 2021. He presented a paper, "Convolute (N)atural: Artificial Intelligence at the End of Moore's Law," based on his current book project.

Department of Music

Stephanie Vander Wel, associate professor of musicology, gave a talk, "Gendering Humor: Country Music, Rebellion, and the Pistol Annie's," at the David Schroeder Music and Culture Lecture Series, Dalhousie University's Fountain School of Performing Arts, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in March 2021.

Department of Philosophy

Barry Smith, SUNY Distinguished Professor, delivered lectures on philosophy and artificial intelligence in the University of Italian Switzerland, Lugano. On October 1, 2020 he delivered a paper on "Digital Identity in Medical Records" at a panel of the United Nations General Assembly on the topic of: How to deliver during the COVID-19 pandemic SDG (Sustainable Development Goals). On November 24, 2020 he delivered the keynote address at Ontobras, the 13th Annual Seminar on Ontology Research in Brazil, Federal University of Espírito Santo, in Vitória, ES, entitled "ISO/IEC 21838 as the Basis for a Sustainable Ontology Development Strategy." The talk related to the newly approved ontology standard of the International Standards Organization and the International Electrotechnical Commission, for which Dr Smith served as editor. On October 30, 2020 he delivered a talk to the Digital Science Center of the University of Innsbruck, Austria on "The Impossibility of Digital Immortality." On October 22 he delivered the opening address on "Relatively Isolated Systems" to the international conference on Roman Ingarden and the Lvov-Warsaw School organized by the Lvov-Warsaw School Research Center in the University of Warsaw. Since October 2020, Smith serves as an international board member of the European Union OntoCommons initiative.

Department of Psychology

Jamie Ostrov, professor, was elected to a four-year term as Treasurer of the International Society for Research on Aggression.

Peter Pfordresher, professor and chair, is a presenter in June 2021 at the 7th Neurosciences and Music conference, supported by the Mariani Foundation (Italy). The theme of this conference was "Connecting with music across the lifespan" and it was held at the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus, Denmark. Pfordresher's talk was entitled "Singing accuracy across the lifespan: Problems and predictors" and summarized research on basic cognitive mechanisms involved in vocal pitch matching and how these develop across the life span, drawing on large online data sets as well as experiments carried out at UB.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

Melinda Lemke, assistant professor, was appointed to the Fulbright Association, WNY/NWPA Chapter Board in February 2021 and has an

affiliated appointment with the International Advisory Group for the None in Three (Ni3) Centre for the Prevention of Gender-based Violence at the University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom. In March 2021, she presented on a University of Denver, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies colloquium panel, *Naming discontents: A critical conversation about policies that dislocate and implications for strategic educational coalition-building*, with Drs. Hollie Mackey and Sarie E. Ates-Patterson. She also served as a Faculty Recorder for the Graduate School of Education Symposium, Creating the “beloved community” session with Noliwe Rooks and Graduate School of Education doctoral student discussion leader Iman Lathan. Lemke co-authored the following publication in early 2021: Lemke, M., Nickerson, A. & Saboda, J. (2021). Global displacement and local contexts: A case study of U.S. urban educational policy and practice. *International Journal of Leadership in Education*.

Stephen Santa-Ramirez, assistant professor of higher education, is co-presenting in March 2021 for the ACPA—College Student Educators International Annual Conference, alongside his colleague, Katherine Cho (Miami University), in a session titled “The Support and Stifling of College Student Activism.”

Department of Information Science

In fall 2020, **Heidi Julien**, professor, presented multiple papers at the annual conferences of the Canadian Association for Information Science, the Association for Library and Information Science Education, and the Association for Information Science and Technology. On February 9, 2021, she presented an invited keynote talk titled “Information is power: Digital literacy and misinformation” to the Information Without Borders Conference at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Department of Learning and Instruction

Yunjeong Chang, assistant professor of the Learning Sciences program, was invited to deliver an online session on “Designing equitable online learning environments for all” in The Korean Association for Educational Methodology Studies (KAEMS) Annual conference on January 23rd, 2021. The KAEMS invited Chang to share her research in designing equitable online learning environments to explore future research and practice areas and directions for educational methodology studies in the Covid-19 and post-Covid-19 era.

SCHOOL OF LAW

Anya Bernstein, professor, has received a 2020-21 Fulbright Scholar Award. Bernstein, who writes and teaches about administrative law, civil procedure, legal interpretation, and the cultures of bureaucracy, will travel to Germany to examine how democratic states create legitimacy, and will use interviews and ethnography to study German national administrators (see p. 3).

Irus Braverman, professor, authored the book, *Zoo Veterinarians: Governing Care on a Diseased Planet* (Routledge, Oct. 2020). Drawing on in-depth interviews and observations of zoo and aquarium veterinarians, mainly in Europe and North America, the book highlights the recent transformation that has occurred in the zoo veterinarian profession during a time of ecological crisis, and what these changes can teach us about our rapidly changing planet.

James Gardner, SUNY Distinguished Professor, presented “The U.S. Law of Presidential Elections” via Zoom to Peking University School of Transnational Law, Shenzhen, China, on November 19, 2020.

Meredith Kolsky Lewis, professor and vice dean for international and graduate programs, co-edited *A Post-WTO International Legal Order: Utopian, Dystopian and Other Scenarios* (with J. Nakagawa, R. Neuwirth, C. Picker, P. Stoll) (Springer Nature: 2020). The book provides readers with a unique opportunity to explore how the international economic legal order may look in a post-World Trade Organization world.

Stephen Paskey, lecturer in law, legal analysis, writing and research, chaired a panel titled “How Narratives Shape and are Shaped by the Legal System” at the 35th International Conference on Narrative, sponsored by the International Society for the Study of Narrative and

held virtually in New Orleans on March 5-7, 2020. His presentation was titled, “Judging Refugee Stories: Truth, Verisimilitude, and Narrative Form in Legal Adjudication.”

David Westbrook, professor, co-authored the book, *Getting Through Security: Counterterrorism, Bureaucracy, and a Sense of The Modern*, with Mark Maguire (Routledge 2020). The book is based on extensive interviews with special forces and other security operators who seek to protect the public, and survivors of terrorist attacks. The subjects range from targeted European airports to African malls and hotels. Maguire and Westbrook reflect on what these practices mean for the bureaucratic state and its violence and offer suggestions for the perennial challenge to secure not just modern life, but humane politics.

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Department of Accounting and Law

Michael Dambra, associate professor, was an invited speaker to the London School of Economics in October 2020. He virtually presented his paper titled “Disclosure and the Cost-of-Capital: Evidence from FOMC Announcements” and met with faculty and Ph.D. students following his presentation. His paper documents that surprise cuts in the Fed Funds rate leads firms to issue more press releases and Form 8-K disclosures.

Department of Organizations and Human Resources

Katerina Bezrukova, associate professor, has been on the panel of 30 experts that provides advice to Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in the UK on the area of diversity training and criminal justice. The Correctional Services Accreditation and Advice Panel (CSAAP) accredits offending behaviour programmes for delivery in prison and probation in England and Wales.

JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Department of Biomedical Informatics

Peter L. Elkin, professor and chair, was elected to the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics. The academy contains the 200 informaticians internationally, including about 50 people from the US and Canada. The mission of the academy is to improve the world using informatics practice, education and research methods. Elkin has published over 190 peer reviewed publications and book chapters. Elkin is a Master of the American College of Physicians and a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics and a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine. He was awarded the Mayo Department of Medicine’s Laureate Award for 2005.

Elkin is the index recipient of the Homer R. Warner award for outstanding contribution to the field of Medical Informatics. Elkin is an internationally renowned expert in knowledge representation, ontology, natural language processing and health IT standards. Elkin in 2018 received the Team Science Award from the National Center for Advancement of Translational Sciences and was elected an inaugural fellow of the American Medical Informatics Association for Clinical Informatics excellence. He serves on the NCATS Informatics Quality Metrics Committee.

Department of Medicine

Anne B. Curtis, SUNY Distinguished Professor and chair, was a virtual speaker at CardioEgypt 2021 on the topic of Updated Guidelines on the Diagnosis and Management of Atrial Fibrillation. The presentation was part of a joint session of the International Society of Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and the Egyptian Society of Cardiology.

Supriya D. Mahajan, associate professor, was invited to give a lecture entitled “Neurotherapeutics” in a webinar series titled Bioscience for Enriching Human Life, organized by the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts and Science for Women, Coimbatore, India on May 17, 2020. The lecture was attended by over 125 faculty from the institution and highlighted clinical translational research and highlighted the role of women faculty in STEM fields. Mahajan was also invited to give an inaugural lecture for the International Lecture series titled Multifaceted Chemistry—An Ever Evolving Domain of Science, organized by DshBandhu College, University at Delhi, India on Feb. 14, 2021, where her topic of presentation was: Nanotherapeutics: Future of Personalized Nanomedicine? This Zoom meeting was attended by over 225 students and faculty

from Delhi University. Mahajan was invited as external expert and PhD thesis examiner by the Controller of Examinations, University of Madras to evaluate a PhD thesis of Mr. M Babu Kumar, Department of Physiology, University of Madras, Taramani Campus, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India in Oct, 2020.

Department of Physiology and Biophysics

Mark Parker, associate professor, gave a series of virtual tutorials in February 2021 on the voltage clamp technique to a group of Physiology students at the University of Sao Paulo (USP), Brazil. He was invited by Raif Musa-Aziz who runs an epithelial physiology laboratory in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at USP.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Yu-Ping Chang, professor and associate dean for research and scholarship, has been selected as a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing will honor Chang at its 32nd International Nursing Research Congress, being held in July in Singapore. Chang, the Patricia H. and Richard E. Garman Endowed Professor in the UB Nursing School, is being recognized for her lifetime contributions to research, as well as her mentoring of future nurse researchers.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

Tia Palermo, associate professor, and **Sarah Quiñones**, PhD student, conducted a study with national partners and UNICEF Tanzania examining how Covid-19 affected adolescent health, livelihoods, and well-being in two regions of Tanzania. This remote, primary data-collection effort leveraged an existing longitudinal cohort study on which Palermo is the principal investigator, and she shared findings from the larger study as a panelist on Jan. 13, 2021, at the “Gender in Social Protection: Learning as We Go from Eastern and Southern Africa” Learning Event on Gender in Social Protection organized by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office’s Gender-Responsive Social Protection Programme, with World Bank, FCDO and UNICEF. Palermo has facilitated a new MOU between the School of Public Health and Health Professions and the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) in Nairobi, Kenya. APHRC is a research institution and think tank, generating evidence to drive policy action to improve the health and wellbeing of African people. The collaboration between UB’s SPHHP and APHRC aims to support joint research and research capacity strengthening. Objectives include supporting rigorous, collaborative research in the areas of social protection, nutrition, population health, demography, family and child

well-being, environmental health, and impact evaluations; providing hands-on learning opportunities for students and researchers affiliated with APHRC and SPHHP through visiting research placements and other forms of collaborative work; and facilitating the sharing of knowledge between academia and public sector decisionmakers. .

Office of Global Health Initiatives

In November 2020, the office held its inaugural Innovation Sprint, the “COVID-19 Vaccine Challenge.” The competition, open to all UB students, was co-sponsored by Blackstone LaunchPad, and saw students work as teams for several weeks to address how to make a then-hypothetical Covid-19 vaccine equitably available in Western New York. On Nov. 20, the teams pitched their approaches to a panel of expert judges via Zoom. Team 3, with members **Ray Huang** (public health/psychology), **Kelly Law** (MPH), Steven Gabriel (MBA/MPH), **Ritika Bhajiwala** (biological sciences) and **Oluwademilade Daniel Aguda** (biotechnology) took first place. Their “Vac-to-Normal” pitch emphasized partnership with community leaders, the Department of Health, experts from UB, small business owners, the Buffalo Bills and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. They also stressed the potential of mobile clinics, and even food trucks, for making the vaccine readily available and equitably distributed. Other competing teams also were awarded prizes. They were “Power Vaxxers”: **Mridu Moitra**--biomedical engineering, **Maisha Rahman**--public health, **Supriya Mahajan**--MPH, **Sadia Rifah**--public health, **Lianne Novak**--MPH; “#VaxUp”: **Nelli Kisliuk**--public health, **Ali Attai**--computer science, **Parveen Attai**--MPH (epidemiology), **Crystal Asabor**--public health, **Asiya Mohamed**--French, **Maia Weiss**--biology; “Vital Consultants”: **Gabriel Attallah**--EMBA, MD, **Anjali Bhagavatula**--biotech, **Nicole LoCascio**--MPH, **Ashiqi Shaji**--public health, **Paige Sinsebox**--MPH.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Mickey Sperlich, assistant professor, collaborated with a team from The Centre for Early Child Development (Blackpool, UK) and from the University of Birmingham (also in the UK) to produce a perinatal resource, “A Good Practice Guide to Support Implementation of Trauma-Informed Care in the Perinatal Period.” The guide was commissioned by the NHS England and NHS Improvement and is directed at both clinical and non-clinical staff who may be working with women in the perinatal period across the UK. The guide aims to help staff better understand the impact of psychological trauma during the perinatal period and suggests ways to respond with sensitivity and compassion in order to minimize risk for retraumatization during the provision of care and promote safety and well-being. 🌐

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BOLDLY BUFFALO CAMPAIGN EXTENDED

By Jennifer Boscia Smith

Citing remarkable fundraising success and record engagement with its alumni, friends and community partners, the University at Buffalo announced today it is extending its Boldly Buffalo campaign goal to \$1 billion.

With an original goal of \$650 million, donors have committed more than \$711 million to date. 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.

“Since its launch, the Boldly Buffalo campaign has had a transformative impact on our university and the many communities we serve,” Tripathi said. “Now—thanks to the incredible support and engagement of our alumni, campaign volunteers, friends and community partners – we are able to set our sights even higher.”

The Boldly Buffalo campaign plays

a pivotal role in Tripathi’s aspiration to situate UB among the top 25 public research universities in the nation within the next decade. “The public research university is increasingly being called upon to solve the most complex issues of our time,” he noted. “Therefore, it is imperative that we continue to propel UB forward – that we accelerate the pace of discovery, that we make world-class education even more accessible, and that we prepare our students to lead in a rapidly evolving world. As we celebrate UB’s 175th anniversary this year, the extension of our Boldly Buffalo campaign positions us to enhance our societal relevance and impact for the next 175 years—and well beyond.”

Through the Boldly Buffalo campaign, donors have supported more than 300 new scholarships and fellowships to help make college more affordable for undergraduate and graduate students, with a focus on attracting high-achieving students from diverse backgrounds. Investments in

faculty—with 32 newly endowed faculty positions—help advance research and academic output and elevates the university’s standing among its peers.

Campaign gifts also allowed UB to build or renovate 15 buildings or spaces. Even during the COVID-19 crisis, UB alumni and friends continued to show their support for the university by contributing nearly \$715,000 toward student and health science emergency funds last year. In 2020 alone, UB alumni, donors and friends

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John J. Wood, Editor