

# UB INTERNATIONAL

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### UB International

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## UB LAUNCHES \$650 MILLION CAMPAIGN

By Mary Cochran

**O**n April 30, UB launched a fundraising campaign that is the largest in university history and the largest in the history of the State University of New York system.

helping us secure our vision.

“Our Boldly Buffalo campaign will amplify UB’s mission of transforming ambitious, dedicated students into thoughtful leaders and change-makers who have an immeasurable impact on our region and the world,” Tripathi added. “It will further the



*Boldly Buffalo: The Campaign for UB* seeks to raise \$650 million to deliver transformative changes for the public research university, Western New York and the world, according to UB President Satish K. Tripathi.

“Our historic campaign is taking place during an incredible regional renaissance—truly one of the boldest periods in the history of UB and the City of Buffalo,” said Tripathi.

“With this campaign, we affirm our commitment to an even brighter future here and around the globe. As we look forward, and consider our shared aspirations for UB and our students, we recognize inspiring generous support from our alumni, friends and community members is essential to

work of our award-winning faculty, whose research discoveries made here in Buffalo will help millions of local and global citizens improve their environments, their health, their prosperity and their communities.”

Rodney M. Grabowski, UB vice president for university advancement, said the university already has secured more than \$451 million through the campaign, and propelled improvements across the university.

“Boldly Buffalo is a campaign about impact, and it already has begun to benefit our students and faculty, our region and our world,” Grabowski said. “Gifts from generous alumni and donors have to date

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## BOLDLY BUFFALO

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funded 109 scholarships and fellowships, and established 13 endowed chair and professor positions.”

One of these positions is the Peter A. Nickerson, PhD, Professor and Chair in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, established by the beloved longtime UB professor who died in 2017 and left a \$4.5 million bequest to the Jacob School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Through campaign gifts, UB has constructed new buildings, including the downtown home of the Jacobs School — named to honor the Jeremy M. Jacobs family for lifetime giving and contributions to the university, including their historic \$30 million campaign gift — and created new centers, such as the Stephen Still Institute for Sustainable Transportation and Logistics in the schools of management and engineering, established through engineering alumnus Still’s \$4 million gift last fall.

“This ongoing effort truly is transformational for the university,” Grabowski said.

Noting that nearly 61,000 donors have made 160,000 gifts to the campaign thus far, ranging in size from \$1 to more than \$30 million, Grabowski emphasized that “each is as important as the next, because they combine to make a tremendous impact.”

A total of 10,505 alumni made their first-ever gifts to UB. And more than 100 donors have pledged gifts of \$1 million or more, “including several that came in this week as we prepared to make this historic announcement,” Grabowski said.

Saraswati and Om Bahethi made one of those gifts, giving \$1 million to the UB physics department for student scholarships.

In 1967, Om Bahethi traveled to UB from Jodhpur, India, to pursue a PhD. He arrived with \$7 in his pocket, three weeks into the fall semester. He had been hired to teach a class and, having arrived late, was afraid he wouldn’t receive the teaching stipend, leaving him with no income. But UB’s international student office hired an instructor to temporarily teach the class until Om reached Buffalo, and had Om’s stipend waiting for him, a gesture Om said he has never forgotten.

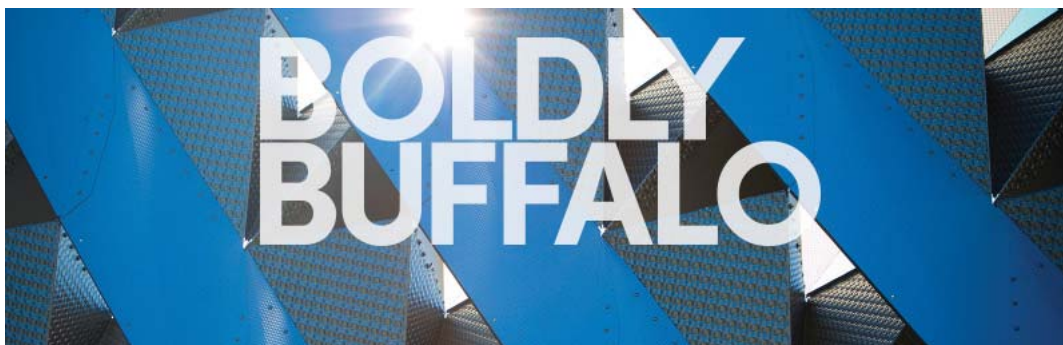
Today, Om Bahethi is chairman of SSAI, which provides scientific and technical support services to federal science agencies including NASA, the NOAA, USDA and many

others. His wife, Saraswati Bahethi, is SSAI’s corporate secretary and treasurer.

“We would not have a successful business today without the education and training I received at the University at Buffalo,” Bahethi said.

Gifts like these are what Boldly Buffalo is all about, Grabowski said.

“With this campaign we are encouraging our alumni and friends to think boldly, to act boldly and to be inspired by what UB can accomplish with their active support and investment,” Grabowski said. “There is so much at the university that engenders pride. The campaign will help us



tell that story.”

Peggy and Jeremy Jacobs, a UB alumnus, are the honorary campaign co-chairs. Jeremy Jacobs has been chair and trustee of the UB Foundation, and chair of the UB Council since 1998. The couple and their family are the university’s largest donors.

“UB feeds Buffalo’s high-skilled workforce, it is the regional hub of artistic and cultural expression, and it is the engine of Buffalo’s thriving medical industry,” Jacobs said. “With this campaign, we have the opportunity to further magnify the university’s impact on Buffalo.”

The campaign launches publicly at a time of great momentum for the university. This year, in U.S. News and World Report, UB achieved its highest rank ever among the nation’s best public national universities, at No. 41. And, in the category of the nation’s best universities – public and private – UB has risen 24 spots over the past decade, more than any institution in the Association of American Universities.

UB students have won top academic awards in recent years, including Truman, Goldwater, Marshall and Udall scholarships; National Science Foundation fellowships; Fulbright awards; and the Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

Several UB faculty have received prestigious awards of late, including membership to the National Academy of Engineering; a career award from the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics; and a National Science Foundation career award, one of the highest honors NSF offers to early-career faculty.

Campaign co-chairs Dan and Gail Alexander of Canandaigua, New York, are UB graduates who met as students,

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## FROM THE VICE PROVOST

Many foreign policy observers have noted with alarm the administration's ongoing efforts to hollow out the Department of State, leaving that agency with a reduced cadre of experienced experts who can advise the president, the secretary, and the administration on critical geopolitical and national security issues. Despite assurances by Mike Pompeo, the new Secretary, to bring "swagger" back to the department, there is no evidence as yet that this critical human resource deficit will be addressed.

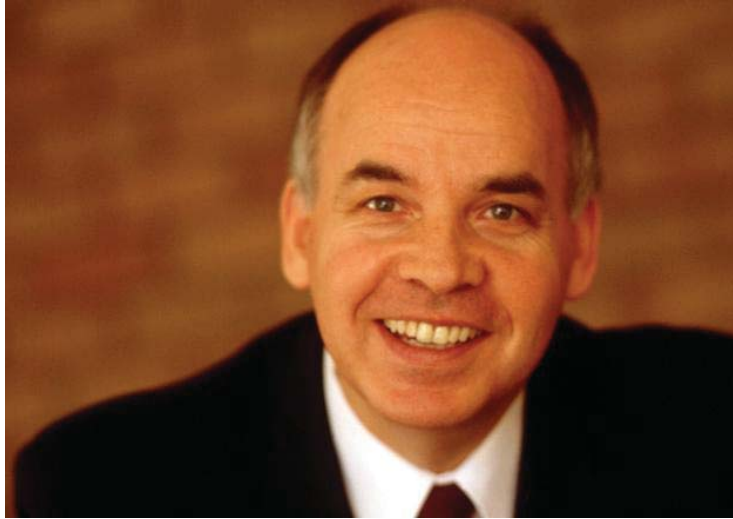
It is reported that upwards of sixty percent of top-ranking career diplomats have retired or left the service, and that applications to the foreign service are down by fifty percent. Earlier this year the McClatchy Newspapers reported that in addition to leaving many senior positions unfilled at the State Department, the administration is promoting far fewer career foreign service officers to senior positions, thus blocking career advancement and further encouraging departures. The administration has also proposed dramatic cuts to the department's budget.

The notion that administration can do without such expertise and that the president and a small circle of advisors can adequately manage US foreign policy is naïve and misguided to a dangerous degree. Yet this appears to be the way the administration prefers to operate, with the President agreeing to negotiate directly with Kim Jong-un of North Korea, without the groundwork that seasoned diplomats would normally undertake to better ensure a successful outcome.

The president's *National Security Strategy*, published in December 2017, correctly declares, "The United States faces an extraordinarily dangerous world, filled with a wide range of threats that have intensified in recent years."

It may be debated whether the world has become more dangerous recently and if so how much that is attributable to the US conduct of its foreign policy; however, most would agree that our country must now deal with a very complex set of challenges, and that relevant expertise is needed to address them.

Even an "America First" foreign policy can succeed only if it is conceived and implemented by experts who understand the rest of the world, and how the US is perceived there.



Ordinary citizens are typically not familiar with the critical role of career diplomats in maintaining our foreign policy and defending American interests around the globe.

This impressive brain trust has evolved over many years to support America's many relationships and engagements throughout the world. Without these individuals' specialized and extensive knowledge of foreign languages, cultures, histories and ideas, US diplomacy simply could not function.

A useful analogy might be drawn in the sphere of higher education. There is no doubt that our institutions, and particularly major research universities like my own, have come to rely increasingly on international education experts who serve as chief diplomats for their institutions.

Given the rapid globalization of higher education, these senior international officers

(SIOs) have become invaluable to their presidents and provosts as they seek to establish and leverage strategic international partnerships that help advance their institutional missions and foster positive, mutually beneficial relations with other universities around the world.

Identifying suitable partners and cultivating successful and mutually rewarding relations with them requires a diplomatic expertise comparable to that of senior State Department officials. Indeed, it is not uncommon to find retired career diplomats transitioning to SIO roles at major universities. Their skill set is eminently transferable to this new environment.

In an era in which diplomacy is neglected and undervalued, I wish to underscore its vital importance, not only for our foreign policy and national security, but also for the well being and success of our institutions of higher education, which must operate in a global, highly competitive environment.

Regardless of populist attacks on professional experts and the value of diplomacy itself, SIOs must continue their important work of forging ties across national and cultural frontiers. Diplomacy can save the world. 🌐

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

## ELLEN DUSSOURD, DIRECTOR OF ISSS, RETIRES AFTER 19 YEARS AT UB

Ellen Dussourd, Assistant Vice Provost and Director of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), retired from UB in April 2018 after a highly successful career leading the office that looks after the university's international students.

When she joined UB in 1999 from Indiana University, Dussourd was already a senior international educator with many years' experience in the field.

Although her previous career had largely focused on English as a Second Language teaching and administration, Dussourd soon came to be known as an expert in the area of regulatory compliance for international students and was invited to speak at national conferences of professionals in the field.

"In retrospect, it can be said that Ellen's timing in taking the job at UB when she did was unfortunate, given that 9/11 was just around the corner," said Stephen Dunnett, Vice Provost for International Education. "That event sparked a cascade of regulatory changes that made her job a lot more challenging

and complicated."

Among many other impacts felt in Dussourd's office, the terrorist attacks prompted the launch of SEVIS, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, by the newly established Department of Homeland Security, to more strictly monitor international students and scholars in the US. SEVIS and the accompanying new regulations made Ellen's life and that of her team a living hell, it might be said.

Beyond the onerous compliance mandates SEVIS imposed was the terrible quandary that international student professionals were thrust into, in having to become full-time monitors of their students on the government's behalf.

Their roles, in other words, were conflicted since they entered the field to serve international students and be their advocate, not to be a surrogate for DHS in monitoring immigration compliance. Yet this latter role has tended to overshadow the former.

Further complicating matters at the time was the rapid growth in international enrollment that UB was experiencing thanks to our vigorous recruitment efforts overseas.

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*President Tripathi, Ellen Dussourd and Stephen Dunnett*

## BOLDLY BUFFALO

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then married after Dan left the university, at age 20, to become Buffalo's youngest firefighter. After treating an injured man who urged him to become a doctor, Dan decided to return to UB, where he finished a BA and a medical degree. He went on to become an orthopedic surgeon while Gail, who graduated from UB with a finance degree, became his practice's manager. The Alexanders gave \$1 million to establish scholarships for Buffalo public school graduates and others who hope to attend medical school.

"Receiving the letter of acceptance from the Jacobs School changed my life," Alexander said. "That's why Gail and I gave to establish scholarships, particularly for students who couldn't otherwise afford to attend medical school. Our hope is that the scholarships will attract inner-city kids—such as those from my alma mater, Hutch Tech—who want to become caring, compassionate physicians."

More than 60 university alumni, friends and supporters are serving as UB campaign volunteers, actively partnering with the university to achieve the campaign's bold and ambitious goals. They hail from across the country—from San Diego to Washington, D.C.—adding a national perspective to the campaign.

In addition to student scholarships, campaign funds will be used to increase the number and quality of experiential learning opportunities—including study-abroad programs, internships and externships—so students can develop beyond the classroom. Gifts also will be put toward building new facilities and modernizing existing structures where students learn and interact, and will support faculty research and the creation of more endowed faculty positions to attract top professors and researchers to UB.

The campaign is the ninth in UB's 172-year history. 🌐

*Mary Cochran is associate director of donor and alumni communications for University Advancement.*

## UB START-UP HAS GLOBAL ASPIRATIONS

By Charlotte Hsu

Today, Athenex is one of Buffalo's best-known life sciences companies.

The firm, which develops cancer therapies, employs nearly 500 people, including 130 in Western New York. It's headquartered in downtown Buffalo, has a factory in Newstead and is opening a large manufacturing facility in Dunkirk. It has offices in Asia and across the U.S. It has been publicly traded on the Nasdaq since last year, when it raised \$66 million in an initial public offering (IPO).

But back in the early 2000s, the company was just an idea, born from a series of discoveries made in the lab of UB medicinal chemist David Hangauer.

Hangauer was unusual for an academic: He had started his career in private industry, joining the UB faculty in 1989 after spending a decade as a scientist at pharmaceutical giant Merck. He was passionate about research, but also had an entrepreneurial bent.

Hangauer co-founded Athenex, then called Kinex, in 2003, and spent the next 13 years working to build the company into one of UB's most successful spinoffs.

The university supported him along the way, patenting a drug discovery process called "Mimetica" that his UB team developed, and backing his company with funding for research and development (R&D). Athenex's first lab was at UB, consisting initially of space carved out of Hangauer's faculty lab.

Now, the university's investments are paying off for Western New York—and for UB. As part of Athenex's original agreement to license Hangauer's UB discoveries, the university received company stock. In September 2017, UB sold its shares for \$5.8 million. In accordance with university policy, the majority will return to UB, to be reinvested in research and education.

"Athenex is a wonderful success story for UB and for the region," says Venu Govindaraju, vice president for research and economic development. "It shows how university research can lead to innovations that benefit society while helping drive economic development. By bringing discoveries from the lab into industry, it has grown into a company providing high-paying jobs to Western New Yorkers, including many UB graduates.

"As a faculty inventor, Dr. Hangauer worked tirelessly to grow his company, with the dual goals of helping cancer patients and helping the Buffalo area prosper," Govindaraju says.

"His achievements as an entrepreneur are impressive, and I hope his success will inspire other UB researchers to follow in the same path."

Dozens of UB faculty, staff and students have launched spinoff companies in recent years, including many in Buffalo Niagara's growing life sciences sector. These include companies such as Abcombi Biosciences, which is de-



At the MOU signing at HKPU in January 2018: President Tripathi (6th from right, in front), Stephen Dunnett (4th from right, in front), Johnson Lau (7th from right, in back) and Teresa Bair (far right, in back) Photo: HKPU

veloping a pneumonia vaccine; Cytocybernetics, which screens new drugs for harmful side effects; and For-Robin, which is also developing a cancer drug.

To get Kinex off the ground, Hangauer tapped a fellow UB alumnus as CEO: Allen Barnett, who earned his PhD in pharmacology at UB. Barnett was a pharmaceutical executive with national name recognition.

Barnett also helped recruit Johnson Lau as another co-founder of the company. Lau, also a former Schering-Plough executive, joined Kinex as chairman of the board, a role he still holds today.

Bringing Lau on was a prescient move: Lau, an MD and pharmaceutical executive with international connections, was named CEO upon Barnett's retirement in 2012 and has led the company to further growth, including the firm's globalization and the successful IPO in 2017.

### Partnering with UB in the early days

UB was a vital partner in Kinex's early days. As an early order of business, the company began negotiations to license Hangauer's research discoveries from the university. Robert Genco, who oversaw UB's technology transfer team, was instrumental in formulating a deal.

The firm had no laboratories yet, so its scientists set up shop in Hangauer's UB lab.

"Chemistry requires special workspace, so I did what's

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## UB START-UP

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called a facilities use agreement with UB where I could carve out that little bit of space in my lab and have part-time employees from the company work in that space and make compounds," says Hangauer, who served as the firm's chief scientific officer. "It was like a Kinex embassy, and it was a lot cheaper and faster than contracting the work to outside companies."

When the time came to open a headquarters with lab space, Kinex turned to UB again.

The company located downtown in UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences not long after the building's 2006 opening. There, the firm collaborated with UB scientists and used the clean room—a highly specialized facility—to manufacture drug capsules for early clinical trials of KX-01, one of the cancer therapies in the company's pipeline. Though the firm's headquarters have moved to new offices on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Athenex still maintains offices and lab space in the building.

### Going public and going global

As Hangauer's work with Kinex intensified, UB continued its support, allowing him to scale back on teaching and research from 2010 until he retired as an associate professor of chemistry in 2013.

As Kinex's chief scientific officer, Hangauer oversaw key research during a period of rapid growth. This growth included a name change to Athenex in 2015 and the firm's globalization under the leadership of Johnson Lau, who became CEO in 2012.

With Lau at the helm, Athenex opened overseas facilities, raised more than \$200 million in private funds from Asian investors, secured a \$225 million investment from New York State for the company's Western New York-based operations, grew the company to nearly 500 employees globally, and took the company public on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange in 2017.

Hangauer retired in 2016, but he takes pride in Athenex's continued success. Several of his former PhD students still work for Athenex, including Michael Smolinski, the company's director of preclinical operations.

Though Hangauer and Barnett have retired from Athenex, Lau—CEO and chairman of the board—has continued to cultivate the company's partnership with UB.

In late January Lau and Teresa Bair, Athenex vice president for corporate development and legal affairs, visited Asia with partners from Western New York that included UB President Satish K. Tripathi and Vice Provost for International Education Stephen Dunnett.

During the trip, Athenex and UB met with universities and institutes in Hong Kong and China, with the goal of exploring new R&D collaborations in a region where both

Athenex and UB are already very active, with many existing partnerships.

"Our visit to China with UB, where we met with four Chinese universities to explore opportunities for innovative R&D collaborations, was a significant milestone in the evolution of UB and Athenex working together," says Bair, also a UB law school graduate. "Now we're joining forces for continued global growth with international partners."

The principal partner in the visit is Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU), which has had an affiliation agreement with UB for ten years. The January trip resulted in an invitation to HKPU to send a delegation to UB in the spring to further explore potential collaboration.

Six HKPU staff, led by Ping-Kong Wai, Vice President for Research and Development, and Terrence Lau, Director of Innovation and Technology, spent several days in Buffalo (April 29-May1), meeting with Athenex staff as well as potential collaborators in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

As an outcome of the HKPU visit, the two universities are identifying the likeliest areas for research collaboration with potential commercialization opportunities.

### Changed entrepreneurial landscape in WNY

Looking back to 15 years ago, Hangauer and Barnett feel that much has changed in Buffalo for entrepreneurs.

"The startup scene in Western New York was nothing like it is today. People were not familiar with biotech companies at all," Barnett says. "UB, at that time, was not exactly known as a household name for spinning off successful companies. It's totally changed now, and we'd like to think we had something to do with that."

As an institution, UB has increased support for entrepreneurs. Programs designed to accelerate commercialization range from new sources of R&D funding to a recently launched National Science Foundation I-Corps Site program, which is run by the Business and Entrepreneur Partnerships teams in UB's Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development to help faculty inventors conduct market research on innovations.

The Blackstone LaunchPad at UB, new in 2016, introduces students and others on campus to entrepreneurship as a viable career path and provides coaching to help get ventures off the ground.

The entrepreneurial ecosystem in Western New York is stronger than ever today, and Hangauer hopes Athenex inspires other academics to take the leap into industry. 🌐

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

## HEALTHCARE IN JAMAICA: A MEDICAL MODEL THAT WORKS

By Harold Burton

Sixteen undergraduate pre-health majors and one teaching assistant participated in the inaugural study abroad program in Jamaica during winter session 2018. The program, Behavior-Driven Disease: A Global Epidemic is directed by Harold Burton, a retired faculty member in the School of Public Health and Health Professions. He was assisted by Erin O'Brien, a graduating senior in the school.

The learning outcomes of the program are based on the observation that the prevalence of obesity has increased precipitously among the world's population and is now considered a major global health concern. This condition results largely from an unhealthy lifestyle and greatly increases the risk of developing heart disease and type II diabetes—two leading causes of death around the world.



The UB student participants gather on the UWI campus in Jamaica

Treating and managing these diseases costs billions of dollars each year, but if we can somehow facilitate a healthier lifestyle in our world population, a simple and effective way to reduce risk and help manage existing disease, much of this financial burden can be eliminated. Two behaviors in particular that increase the risk of obesity are sedentary lifestyles and poor nutrition.

Obesity is not only a global health concern, it is the number 1 public health problem in the U.S. Jamaica currently has a lower prevalence of obesity than the U.S., but as the country becomes more “westernized” obesity and related behavior-driven diseases are accelerating rapidly, resulting in a huge burden on a struggling health care system.

### Program Objectives

The overarching goal of the program is to have students identify and describe factors that are contributing to this rapid increase in behavior-driven disease in Jamaica. To

satisfy this objective students attend classroom sessions at UB over 3 days to learn how cultural evolution has diverged from biologic evolution in Western society to create an environment of abundance and comfort.

This phenomenon, referred to as Evolutionary Discordance has led to widespread overconsumption of food and a sedentary lifestyle. Students then travel to Jamaica for 2 weeks to be immersed in their culture and healthcare. While in Jamaica our major objective was to compare and contrast medical models between our two countries.

### HealthCare in Jamaica

The United Nations has classified Jamaica as a developing nation whose economy has transitioned from a base in agriculture and industry to mainly tourism. The per capita income of Jamaica has increased over the past few decades which now positions it in the category of “upper middle income” compared with other “like” countries around the world. However, the income is not evenly split and the majority of Jamaicans do not benefit from the lucrative tourist industry.

As a result they must scratch out a living as best they can with little or no government support. This socioeconomic framework is reflected in the health care system. The rich can afford health insurance and have private doctors and hospitals. On the other hand, the poor receive primary care services through a network of 320 community health clinics distributed throughout the island.

All these clinics are expected to adhere to specific guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health regarding prevention and treatment, but sufficient resources are lacking to such an extent that all medical information is still kept in handwritten records stored in filing cabinets.

This situation, coupled with lack of sufficient staff results in long wait times to see a physician or nurse, sometimes in the range of 8-10 hours. If the disease or condition is severe enough to receive secondary or tertiary care, they are referred to one of the public hospitals on the island.

However, the same problems exist there – records are handwritten, they are usually understaffed and wait times to receive care are again, quite long.

Overall, this environment in which Jamaica is transitioning from developing world status toward economic stability presents an excellent opportunity for pre-health students to observe disparities in health care services. This environment also lets them examine how new-found

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## HEALTHCARE IN JAMAICA

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“affluence” affects the population as a whole in terms of lifestyle (in particular diet and exercise) and how this translates into the recent sudden and precipitous increase in behavior-driven disease.

### Impact on UB Pre-Health Students

The impact on our students is far reaching. Most importantly they have an opportunity to observe health care dis-



*Two UB students with a diabetic patient at Kingston Public Hospital*

parities in a nation where socioeconomic inequalities are reflected in the health care system.

Although Jamaica is slowly transitioning from developing world status toward some semblance of economic stability, only a fraction of the population benefits from the current economic engine - tourism. Students will learn that despite overcrowded and understaffed conditions in a healthcare environment with few resources, the system somehow works.

Through observation and interaction with medical staff and patients, students who participated this year concluded that patients benefit from a dedicated medical staff who have few choices other than to be creative in delivering effective care. One method they rely on heavily is lifestyle modification through behavior change to prevent and manage most chronic (or non-communicable) diseases.

This is a different approach than what is most common in the U.S., where only 3% of health care dollars is directed toward prevention. Our system relies heavily on drug prescriptions to treat and manage disease. The United States has 5% of the world’s population, but prescribes 75% of the world’s medications. We also have the highest per capita health care cost among high income countries, but some of the poorest outcomes.

### Role of Social Environment

Another observation students reported was the “caring” atmosphere that existed in the clinics we visited. Despite the long wait times, the patients never complained.

When queried about this phenomenon by our students, the patients responded they know and understand the conditions under which the staff works and considered them as among the hardest working and most caring individuals they know.

When nurses, doctors and social workers were questioned about this same observation, they responded the social aspect—including the family and even the community in the treatment (or prevention) process is just as important as prescribing medications in terms of positive outcomes. This underlines the importance assigned by medical staff to the social environment when considering a treatment regimen but more importantly the recovery process.

The staff knows many of the patients leave the clinic, where they know someone cares about them and return to an environment in which they are subjected to social stress that may arise from economic hardship, unsanitary living conditions or even violence. It is paramount, then in the eyes of the medical staff to include the family of the patient (and even the community) in the process to ensure a successful outcome.

Many experts agree that social stress may negatively affect the body’s regulatory systems in the same manner as chemical toxins in our food and in the external environment. But, a survey of the scientific literature on this topic shows the social environment and its impact on health is greatly understudied.

The healthcare system in Jamaica affords an opportunity for our students to explore the social aspect of health-care delivery and to gain a different perspective – one that doesn’t rely heavily on drug prescriptions, but rather emphasizes the human element.

To conclude, the dedicated medical staff who serve the inhabitants of this small island nation enabled our aspiring health care professionals to gain insight into a medical model that is low on resources but very high on caring and compassion.

This model also provided an excellent opportunity for them to experience first-hand a system that works – but doesn’t cost very much.

NOTE: This study abroad program is affiliated with UB’s Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences. The Center is dedicated toward helping create a healthier world population and bridge gaps in global health care disparities through innovative education and research. 🌐



## FOGARTY GRANT TO SUPPORT VIRAL INFECTION RESEARCH IN JAMAICA

By Marcene Robinson

UB has received a \$1.1 million award from the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Fogarty International Center to lead the training of 15 scientists from Jamaica and the Caribbean in viral infection research.

The five-year grant will establish the Global Infectious Diseases Research Training Program, a research collaboration between the UB Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences, University of the West Indies, SUNY Upstate Medical University and Jamaica Ministry of Health.

Driven by the shortage of researchers available to conduct immediate research during the recent outbreaks of the Zika and chikungunya viruses, the Jamaica Ministry of Health named the establishment of a virology research program as one of Jamaica's highest national health priorities.

The Global Infectious Diseases Research Training Program will produce a new generation of virology researchers in Jamaica by providing University of the West Indies graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with training at SUNY research laboratories.

"This new initiative will promote the development of Jamaica as a virology research hub in the Caribbean region and lead to exciting innovations and new collaborations among UB, SUNY and University of the West Indies faculty, fellows and graduate students," says Gene Morse, lead investigator on the award, director of the Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences and SUNY Distinguished Professor in the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Co-principal investigators include Timothy Endy, professor of medicine and director of the Division of Infectious Disease at SUNY Upstate Medical University, and John Lin-

do, professor of parasite epidemiology at the University of the West Indies and director of national laboratory services at the Jamaica Ministry of Health.

Under the program, graduate students and fellows will gain clinical and translational science training, as well as develop an expertise in one or more of the following areas: arbovirology – viruses transmitted by arthropods, such as mosquitoes and ticks; chronic viral infections that include HIV, hepatitis B and C, and the Zika, chikungunya and dengue viruses; or antiviral drug development.

Students and fellows will alternate periods of training at SUNY research labs under faculty mentors while completing research on endemic or life-threatening infectious diseases at the University of the West Indies.

Research training labs in pharmacology, virology and immunology will be established at UB, University at Albany and Rush University, respectively. Jack DeHovitz, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, will chair the program's training advisory committee.

By increasing the number of virology researchers in Jamaica, the program aims to further advance development of the Jamaica Center for Infectious Diseases Research, a collaboration between SUNY, University of the West Indies and Jamaica Ministry of Health.

The program will also engage faculty of the SUNY Global Health Institute and build on UB's designation as a Center of Excellence in the Global Virus Network, a worldwide coalition of institutions dedicated to the study and treatment of viral infection. The University of the West Indies is an affiliate of the Global Virus Network. 🌐

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

## ELLEN DUSSOURD

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Sustaining that growth would not have been possible after 9/11 had Dussourd and her team not been so effective in managing the regulatory challenges.

The number of enrolled international students at UB nearly tripled during Dussourd's career at the university—from 1700 to 5000 enrolled students, plus more than 2,000 students on post-graduation Optional Practical Training and many more dependents and family members.

Undeterred by the upheavals that followed 9/11, Ellen navigated the rapidly changing environment of US immigration policy and skillfully led the implementation of SEVIS and the campus compliance software, Sunapsis.

"Thanks to her and her team's thoroughgoing efforts, UB achieved and maintained a sterling compliance record during her tenure, while continuing to expand services for

international students," Dunnett noted.

Among her many contributions to programming for the campus community, Dussourd has had the lead role in two annual programs with a focus on contemporary international issues and UB's larger global identity—International Education Week, which debuted in November 2002 to celebrate the university's international character and cultural diversity; and the Alison L. Des Forges Symposium, created in 2010 in honor of the late human rights champion and held each spring with a focus on current human rights challenges in critical parts of the world.

In light of her outstanding contributions to international education and to UB, Dussourd was honored with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Services in 2008. An active member of the Professional Staff Senate (PSS), she went on to co-chair the PSS Awards Committee for many years, promoting the recognition of her fellow professional staff. 🌐

## FOOD SYSTEMS THE FOCUS OF GLOBAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE

By Jessica Scates

There are more than 500 million families that farm on fewer than 2 acres of land around the world. These smallholder farmers — who rely largely on family labor — cultivate over 50 percent of the crops that are consumed in people's homes. This year's Global Innovation Challenge (GIC) at UB focuses on cultivating equity for those who grow our food.

The weeklong workshop in May 2018 was open to students from UB and other U.S. and international universities across all majors, from anthropology and architecture, to English and engineering, political science to public health, and all levels.

GIC participants engaged in team-building activities, and work with international experts and UB faculty to develop social, technological, business, educational and policy innovations to address significant and persistent global health challenges.

The focus for this year's event in Hayes Hall was developing innovative strategies to improve the health, livelihoods and environments of smallholder farmers — in turn, cultivating food equity across the Global South.

The Global Innovation Challenge, through a partnership of the UB Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), provides students with context and real-world research ideas that address challenges the FAO works to mitigate.

Jorge Fonseca, programme adviser for the Food Systems Strategic Programme, gave the charge to students on May 21 and served as a judge. Students had the opportunity to interact directly with the FAO and other international partners as they develop research proposals.

Through the Global Innovation Challenge, participants also had the opportunity to:

- Learn about the life experiences and challenges smallholder farmers face.
- Partner with faculty experts and international professionals.
- Advance their creative problem-solving and collaboration skills.
- Compete for funding to further their ideas.

Smallholder farms provide at least 50 percent of the agricultural output for domestic consumption in most low- and middle-income countries.

Yet, they withstand the worst food insecurity, especially in the Global South. Limited access to capital, markets, land, technology and training, as well as political stressors, gender inequities and, more recently, climate change, amplify the vulnerability of smallholder farm families.

Historically, top-down policy efforts have been the primary strategy for addressing the challenges smallholder

farmers experience. This approach neglects the complexity and localized nature of urban and regional food systems. Producers who farm in different contexts face different challenges.

An alternative approach is farmer-centered: learning from and building capacity among farmers in order to achieve practical and sustainable solutions to meet the consumption demands of the world's population and the farmers themselves. Nevertheless, with an increasing policy emphasis on large-scale agricultural production, innovative strategies are needed to support and empower smallholder farmers.

This year's Global Innovation Challenge expert fellows will help workshop participants better understand the issue. The experts are:

**Tanveer Ahmad Dar**, state project manager for J&K State Rural Livelihoods Mission for the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. He has led many programs in Kashmir on the issues of livelihoods, children's rights, mental health, education and disaster responses, and has been actively engaged in many initiatives on governance and people's rights.

**Biraj Patnaik**, regional director (South Asia) for Amnesty International and also the principal adviser to the Commissioners to the Supreme Court in the Right to Food case. He has been responsible for the oversight of food programs of the government of India on behalf of the court for the past 10 years.

**Jim Sumberg**, an agriculturalist by training with more than 25 years of experience working on small-scale farming systems and agricultural research policy in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. More recently, Sumberg has worked on the agricultural development potential of "home-grown school feeding," the changing global food system and the growth of interest in "local" food within the UK.

**Jorge M. Fonseca**, programme adviser for the Food Systems Strategic Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. In this capacity he provides expertise to member states in different areas related to food systems, including activities pertaining to FAO's Urban Food Agenda. For FAO, he previously served as economic and food system analyst, and also as an agro-industry officer providing supervision of field projects in Latin America, Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.

This is the third year for the Global Innovation Challenge. Last year's GIC addressed the humanitarian refugee crisis. The first event focused on creating innovative sanitation solutions for the 360 million children and adults around the world who have disabilities. 🌐

*Jessica Scates is administrative coordinator of the UB Community for Global Health Equity.*

## FOOD LAB EXPANDS GLOBAL EFFORTS

By Yeeli Mui, Alexandra Judelsohn, and Samina Raja

The Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab (Food Lab), led by Samina Raja, professor of urban and regional planning, and located in the School of Architecture and Planning, examines the role that local government policy plays in promoting health and food equity.

The Food Lab team is comprised of research staff, high school, undergraduate, graduate, doctoral students, and a postdoctoral fellow, and works closely with the Community of Excellence in Global Health Equity (CGHE), a university-wide center.

In the past year, the Food Lab has ramped up global work, building partnerships with universities and organizations, creating educational opportunities, and working directly in the Global South.

### New Scholarship Bridging Global North and South

A special issue of the international journal *Built Environment* on planning for equitable urban and regional food systems was published October 2017, with guest editors Samina Raja, Kevin Morgan (Cardiff, UK), and Enjoli Hall (UB).

This issue of *Built Environment*, which includes multiple articles from faculty, staff and students from multiple disciplines across UB, connects food equity discourse from across the Global North and Global South. UB students and faculty whose work is published in this article include Martha Bohm, Subhashni Raj, Heather Orom, Isok Kim, Roberto Diaz, Aye Bay Na Sa, Rosie DeVito, Alex Judelsohn, and Samina Raja.

In January of 2017, CGHE sponsored the Food Equity Ideas Lab (FEIL), with Raja and Erin Sweeney (MUP candidate) leading. Through a competitive process, 16 faculty and PhD candidates were selected to be FEIL fellows.

During the three-day training faculty fellows worked in four multi-disciplinary teams to develop innovative research ideas with the aim to improve food equity among smallholder farmers in the Global South. Two teams were awarded pilot funding to launch projects in the Dominican Republic and Thailand.

FEIL fellows include So Ra Baek, Martha Bohm, Jessica

Cao, Jessica Gilbert, Rajiv Kishore, Nadia Koyratty, Lucia Leone, Sara Metcalf, Harvey Palmer, Subhashni Raj, John Ringland, Sarah Robert, Hannah Stokes, Debabrata Talukdar, Helen Wang, Marion Werner, and Wenyao Xu.

### Community-Engagement and Impact

Over the past year Raja and the Food Lab have worked with multiple international organizations and communi-

ty partners to translate traditional research into policy and community impact.

With support from CGHE and a partnership with Resources for Urban Agriculture Foundation (RUAF), the Food Lab team has launched a unique Global Database for City and Regional Food Policies.

Available online, this free, searchable database contains sample food systems policies, including legislations and plans adopted or enacted by

sub-national governments across the globe. Interested policymakers and stakeholders can find policies to inspire policy change in their communities.

The Food Lab also manages a similar national database of policies focused on sub-national policies in the United States, but far greater information gaps exist in the Global South.

### New research endeavors

The Food Lab has initiated work for a new project in the Global South titled Planning for Regenerative, Equitable Food Systems in Urbanizing Global Environments (Plan-REFUGE). Working with faculty from multiple universities and community partners in the Global South, team members are examining the daily living practices of smallholder farmers, starting in India.

We define daily living practices as smallholder farmers' preferences and practices categorized into interrelated domains, including their agrarian, politico-economic, environmental, social and cultural, and dietary and health domains.

Defined globally as smaller than two hectares in size, smallholder farms encompass only eight percent of all agricultural land but account for about 70 percent of all farms.

Further, smallholder farms contribute significantly to

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Food Equity Ideas Lab (Photo: Douglas Levere)

## AMRITA'S LIVE-IN-LABS: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN RURAL INDIA

By Lisa Vahapoglu

With the support of the Community for Global Health Equity (CGHE), in January 2018, Medical Sciences students Arsalan Haghdel and Aye Bay Na Sa, Environmental and Civil Engineering double major Matthew Falcone, and Architecture and Planning graduate student Nicole Little traveled to India to conduct research through Amrita University's Live-In Labs (LILA) program.

Summarizing the experience, Arsalan – who intends to go to medical school after graduation – enthused, “It’s interesting to see how even at this stage in my education I can bring something of value to health care delivery.” This is exactly the point.

The Amrita University administrators and educators who launched LILA explain that their chief aim was to find ways to integrate education into day-to-day life, and in so doing, to foster strategic planning (rather than mere survival) in rural communities.

The “labs” referred to in the program name are 101 villages in rural India where student researchers live, assess the local community’s challenges, and apply their edu-

cational training in the creation and testing of potential solutions.

Arsalan and Aye Bay Na Sa evaluated wearable medical devices for people with cardiovascular disease and diabetes who live in rural, remote villages where there are few or no healthcare facilities and providers. The wearable electrocardiogram (EKG) device and the non-invasive glucose monitor that they tested were designed by the Amrita University’s Center for Wireless and Networks Applications.

Specifically, Arsalan and Aye Bay Na Sa conducted tests in which the same patient would participate in a non-invasive and a standard blood glucose test. “The glucose monitoring device that we used was a photo sensor that emits rays of infrared light and red light to the skin, and it receives the reflected light to give electronic signals called photoplethysmography. We can subsequently get the glucose levels of the patients by analyzing the reflected light signal,” Aye Bay Na Sa explains.

The same basic process was followed by Arsalan and Aye Bay Na Sa with the EKG devices: the data generated for each patient from the 4 Lead EKG devices, were compared to the data from the same patient generated by the standard 12 Lead device.

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## FOOD LAB

*continued from page 11*

food security, providing at least fifty percent of the agricultural output for domestic consumption in most developing countries. Still, many smallholder farmer households face issues of food insecurity and have to adjust their practices in the face of globalization, changing climatic conditions, and rapid urbanization.

In January 2018, the Food Lab completed field visits in two states of India with teams comprised of UB students and in-country partners, such as Thanal Institute and Western Orissa Farmers Union. Yeeli Mui, a recent graduate from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and postdoc in CGHE and the Food Lab, led a team in the state of Kerala, and Erin Sweeney, MUP candidate from the UB School of Architecture and Planning, led a team in the state of Odisha.

Together, both teams conducted over 40 in-depth interviews with smallholder farmers and key stakeholders, including planning officials, agricultural officers, and grass-roots organizations.

Results of this work will illustrate the extent to which smallholder farmers make trade-offs across daily living practice domains as well as describe the experiences of small-holder farmers within the context of the governance, planning, and policy landscape of urbanizing communities in India.


Upcoming field visits are planned for Summer 2018 in

Ghana, Kashmir, and Jamaica. Findings from this line of research will inform guidance on food systems planning in the Global South for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

To further help cultivate food equity in the Global South, CGHE also hosted its annual Global Innovation Challenge from May 21 - 25, 2018. This one-week workshop welcomes students of all levels and majors who will engage in team-building activities with expert international stakeholders and UB faculty (see p. 10).

### Global education opportunities

The Food Lab team aims to connect its global research with global educational opportunities for students at UB and in the Global South. In summer of 2017, Rehana Dar, an undergraduate student in agriculture, and Midhat Fayaz, a PhD student working under the advisement of Dr. Shakil Romshoo at the University at Kashmir, collaborated with the Food Lab team on research linking food systems to land use change.

The Food Lab is a host site for Dr. Abdul Ahad Guru Foundation Scholars that provides support for early career professionals from Kashmir to visit the United States for professional development. In April 2018, the Food Lab welcomed Ms. Fayaz from Kashmir University to observe research at the Food Lab over a six-week period. This program will promote collaboration between the cities of Buffalo and Srinagar (Kashmir), both places of scholarly interest for the Food Lab team. 

## ADDRESSING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN BANGLADESH

By Lisa Vahapoglu

Surrounded by a circular river system that receives the wastewater discharge of a population approaching 20 million, the physical geography of Bangladesh's capital city, Dhaka, contributes to a number of significant public health hazards, including the interaction of pathogenic bacteria with antibiotic residues and chemicals.

Despite substantial challenges ranging from the topographic to the infrastructural, Bangladesh has been making progress in increasing the public's access to safe water and improved sanitation.

That said, the entire country's vast web of river systems—and their flood-prone nature—create a dangerously-efficient means for bacterial pathogens to circulate, develop immunity to commonly-prescribed antibiotics, and thereafter infect people and livestock, the latter of which can, in turn, infect or re-infect human beings, who, in turn, deposit their waste products (replete with antibiotic-resistant bacterial pathogens) back into the environment.

In practice, this vicious cycle of the waterborne circulation of superbugs means that patients, including those who have not taken antibiotics, show up at local hospitals with serious, antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections. How to treat these patients is a very pressing public health concern, as is gathering information about the circulation and infection pathways of these pathogens.

While antibiotic resistance (also known as antimicrobial resistance, or AMR) is a global concern, the prevalence and extent of the problem is particularly significant in Bangladesh. With support from the Community for Global Health Equity (CGHE), this past July (2017), a research team composed of Diana Aga (Chemistry), Jared Aldstadt (Geography), and Shamim Islam (Pediatric Infectious Diseases) traveled to Bangladesh to study the problem of environmental AMR and to meet with UB collaborators at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).



A polluted waterway in Dhaka (Photo: Jared Aldstadt)

Established in the 1960s, icddr,b is renowned for its role in the development, testing, and scaling of the use of oral rehydration solution to combat pernicious diarrheal diseases including cholera. In its early years, icddr,b also founded a robust public health and demographic surveillance site some 50 kilometers south of Dhaka: Matlab. Now the longest-running site of its nature globally, Matlab is an inspiration and a veritable data mine to researchers in public health throughout the world.

Welcomed by icddr,b partners Dr. Munir Alam and Dr. Mahub Rahman, Aga, Aldstadt, Islam, and I met with their research team at the organization's headquarters in Dhaka. With the guidance of icddr,b researchers, the UB team took water samples from river banks, public water fountains, clinic wash basins, and other sources for eventual mass spectrometry analysis in Aga's lab back in Buffalo. The UB group was also taken to Matlab to do more water sampling and to meet with icddr,b practitioners, researchers, and surveillance administrators.

Going forward, with the support of CGHE and thanks to the collaborative partnership of Alam, Rahman, and their team at icddr,b, UB's AMR "dream team" will continue to investigate the environmental transformation

of bacterial pathogens, and assess drivers and transmission dynamics.

Islam notes that many important questions remain to be answered: "To what extent does accumulated antimicrobial residue in the environment select for AMR, at both a bacterial and genetic level? How fluidly is AMR spread in water? What are the effects of naturally-occurring phenomenon, such as monsoons and floods on the spread of AMR? How easily do humans pick-up AMR from water and food sources, and how stable is this carriage?"

Noting that it will take "serial investigations" to address the complexity of AMR in Bangladesh and beyond, Islam's aspiration is that the joint research of UB and icddr,b will eventually result in improved AMR mitigation and prevention strategies.

*Lisa Vahapoglu is program coordinator for the UB Community for Global Health Equity.*

## EXPANDING AID FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

By Marcene Robinson

First, Othman Shibly led the creation of dental clinics to treat Syrian refugees. Then, he helped form schools. Soon, he will rebuild homes.

Each year, the UB dental professor expands Miles for Smiles, a bi-annual mission to the borders of his native Syria to deliver free oral health care and education to children who lack access to treatment due to the ongoing civil war.

Shibly, along with volunteers from around the world, will soon travel to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley to deliver care to more than 900 refugee children and, for the first time, teenagers. The team will also

provide treatment to more than 300 children with disabilities who attend Ecole Saint Maxime Kfarchima in Beirut.

The weeklong trip, from April 30 to May 4, is Shibly's 15th since the war began.

Volunteers from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, King's College London Dental Institute and Saint Joseph University of Beirut will help Shibly fill cavities, perform extractions, deliver oral health education and more.

More than \$25,000 worth of dental supplies and equipment were donated by Henry Schein, the world's largest provider of health care products and services. Logistics and support were organized by the Syrian American Medical Society.

"This trip is unique in adding, for the first time, care and treatment for Lebanese children with special needs. Also, this is the first time we have expert faculty from Harvard University and King's College to evaluate our work and advise how we can improve the quality of patient care," says Shibly, clinical professor in the School of Dental Medicine.

Since 2012, he has helped open more than 20 dental clinics in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, and created 15 schools in Syria that have taught more than 5,000 children.

To provide refugees with adequate housing, Shibly is ex-

perimenting with a new program to repair homes in Syria in exchange for the owner's permission to allow refugee families to occupy the house for two years.

With a friend, Shibly is financing the project out-of-pocket. They estimate that each house will cost \$500 U.S. dollars—or \$250,000 Syrian pounds—to repair.

Nearly 70 percent of Syrian refugees live below the extreme poverty line—less than \$2 per day, according to the United Nations. The program could provide Syrian families with an alternative to refugee camps, which are often overcrowded and have inhumane living conditions.

Shibly is also working to re-establish the schools

that he helped create after they were recently displaced by a bombing in Damascus, the capital of Syria. With the help of donations from various organizations, he is assisting the schools' move to northern Syria.

These students, however, are not refugees. The schools, which range from elementary to secondary, educate the children of families who chose not to leave the war zone.

The sooner the schools are settled, the faster they can return to providing a brighter future for thousands of the children affected by the war.

Each year, Shibly leads the delivery of dental care to more than 2,000 refugee children, about 1 percent of the 200,000 children displaced by the war.

To reach more people and expand to year-round care, Shibly is turning to teachers to bridge the gap.

In partnership with Harvard University and Kings College London, he is in the planning stages of creating a program that trains teachers in refugee camps on how to perform basic oral health care.

If successful, the program would bring Shibly one step closer to his goal of providing every Syrian refugee child with an education and a smile. 🌐



Volunteers deliver dental care to Syrian children in refugee camps

## TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY IN COSTA RICA

By Peter Murphy

John D. Atkinson believes engineering students want to study abroad, but struggle to fit semester-long trips into dense schedules. So he found a way they can have that opportunity.

Atkinson, assistant professor of environmental engineering, was one of eight UB faculty members who traveled to Costa Rica last June as part of UB's first-ever Study Abroad incubator, a program for faculty and staff interested in designing and leading new study abroad initiatives.

"Costa Rica is fascinating," Atkinson says. "They are highly ranked in global sustainability surveys. Almost 98 percent of their electricity is from renewable resources. Over 25 percent of their land is protected forests."

During the trip, "I saw the implementation of what I discuss in my on-campus class," he says. "I needed to get students there, fast."

Atkinson developed CIE 464: *Sustainability in Latin America: A Case Study in Costa Rica*.

In less than five months, working with advocates in the Office of International Education, UB Sustainability, the Experiential Learning Network, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and SEAS' Office of Diversity and Inclusion on the trip's logistics.

In January 2018 he and 16 students returned to Buffalo after spending more than two weeks in the Central American country.

"The trip reinforced what I want to be doing in my life," says Kaitlyn Alcazaren, a senior environmental engineering major. "It might put you out of your comfort zone, but there's nothing like getting out of the classroom, being in a gorgeous place and learning about super-interesting topics."

The course focused on Costa Rica's agriculture, energy and ecotourism industries. Students toured and met with professionals from Costa Rica's top five energy sources: hydroelectric, geothermal, wind, bagasse (sugarcane waste that is burned) and solar. They also spent time in the capital city, the cloud forest and at the beach.

Atkinson describes the trip as an overwhelming success, showing "that UB engineering and science students want to, can and should study abroad."

He plans to offer the course again during Winter Session 2019, and encourages students from majors across campus to consider applying next fall. Now that the inaugural trip is complete and the spring semester has begun, Atkinson says he's excited to be back in the classroom for his other sustainability course, CIE 447. He has expanded—and will rename—his #447challenge, a Twitter-based experiential learning project he developed to show students



John Atkinson (2nd from r) with students in Costa Rica

the difference between what people think it means to be sustainable and what is actually required.

Atkinson encourages students to try one activity each week to improve personal sustainability, and then tweet about it. They might, for example, try going vegetarian (#nomeatweek) or donating unused clothing (#springcleaning). Atkinson brought the #447challenge to local and virtual audiences last October when he spoke at the annual TEDxBuffalo event. His talk, "Sustainability Forward," aimed to motivate people to live the sustainable lives he believes they desire.

Using CIE 447 as an example, he encouraged his audience to step up. "No one is going to solve this for you," he said in the talk. "Rise up. Take responsibility for your actions. Mobilize your people. Now, more than ever, change will only proceed through bottom-up, individual-level lifestyle modifications. I challenge everyone listening to change something in your life."

Atkinson says the study abroad course, the #447challenge and the TEDxBuffalo talk are all part of his larger goal to increase and diversify opportunities for students to learn about sustainability. He notes that more and more students approach him about sustainability careers each year.

"Students are smart. They forecast where things are going, and appreciate that this is the path to be on, independent of major," Atkinson says. "They want to know more, read more, take more classes. "Sustainability isn't a fad. As educators, we need to respond." 🌍

*Peter Murphy is outreach coordinator for the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.*

## BUFFALO IN VENICE

By Rachel Teaman

For more than five decades, Buffalo has inspired and situated the teachings and research of UB's School of Architecture and Planning. In creative exchange, the experiments of its students and faculty—built works, mobilized plans, bold ideas—have woven new dimensions into the fabric of the city.



Palazzo Bembo (first red building in from left), site of the Time Space Existence Exhibition in Venice

Now the School of Architecture and Planning is taking Buffalo's story of place — and its place within it — to the world as an invited exhibitor at the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale.

The six-month event is the world's largest and premier exhibition of architecture and design, filling the streets of the historic city of Venice with more than 300,000 visitors from around the globe. The exhibit opens May 26 and runs through November.

Recognized as having a research-intensive program that engages its city as a testbed for design and planning innovation, the school is one of only 20 academic institutions invited to participate in "Time Space Existence," an officially sponsored collateral exhibition of the biennale.

Time Space Existence is hosted by the European Cultural Center and sponsored by the Global Arts Affairs Foundation to provoke discussion on the most pressing challenges facing the profession and academy today. The school's exhibit will be hosted at Palazzo Bembo, a 15th-century palazzo located on Venice's Grand Canal.

"The Venice Biennale is a singular opportunity to put Buffalo and our school on the global stage of architecture and design," says Dean Robert G. Shibley. "Buffalo holds an important place among the world's greatest cities for

architecture and urban design. And its influence — both the tangible and unseen — comes to life in the imaginations of our students, faculty and even alumni who carry the city with them into every corner of the world."

The school has chosen the medium of film for its exhibit, stitching together a story of school and city through the sights and sounds of Buffalo and students at work on campus and in the community. Gregory Delaney, clinical assistant professor of architecture with a focus in urban design and architectural history, will serve as co-curator with architecture professor and Associate Dean Korydon Smith.

The school will collaborate with local filmmaker John Paget to produce the film. Paget's documentary-style films on Buffalo and its architecture have gained national acclaim. An exhibition catalog of faculty and student reflections on the city as context to their work will complement the film.

Students and faculty will be involved in the production, curation and installation of the exhibit, as well as workshops and a study abroad program hosted in Venice during the biennale. Viewings of the exhibit in Buffalo are planned after the close of the biennale.

"For us, it's the full arc of Buffalo's history and the complexity of its current character—in rise and ruin, rust and revival—that shape us," Delaney explains. "We, in turn, get to play a small role in shaping the city, from research studios and design-build interventions to large-scale master plans and partnerships with local agencies and industries. "The collaboration with John Paget and the medium of documentary film give us the opportunity to share the experience of our school and city with Venice and the visitors to this year's biennale."

The school's intimate relationship with Buffalo dates back to the school's founding in the late 1960s, and it was planning students in the mid-1980s who started conceiving of Buffalo's downtown as a neighborhood and hosted citywide conversations on a new planning framework that continues to emerge today. Much of the school's internationally significant work has its roots in Buffalo. Recent developments include experiments in design with terra cotta, sheet metal and concrete with local industry; construction of a nationally award-winning zero-energy housing prototype; and the design of food-system plans now being implemented in communities around the world. 🌐

*Rachel Teaman is communications officer for the School of Architecture and Planning.*



## LANGUAGE SUPPORT KEY TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INCLUSION

By Michael Andrei

Enhancing language support and reducing impediments caused by language are among priorities in UB's action plan to promote international student inclusion and engagement, and enable students to achieve their educational and social goals at the university.



Tim Cauller (Photo: Meredith Kulwicki)

The actions are among more than 50 recommendations contained in the 159-page report of a two-year study by a task force of faculty and administrators, delivered to Provost Charles F. Zukoski, that looked into integrating international students at UB more fully into campus and classroom life.

"Competition to enroll international students is intensifying throughout the country," says Peter F. Biehl, professor of anthropology and associate dean for international education and enrollment of the College of Arts and Sciences. "In fact, the competition may never have been greater than now.

"The recommendations of the campus-wide task force offer a unique chance for UB to become a national leader in inclusion and engagement of international students," says Biehl, who also is chair of the Council on International Studies and Programs, or CISP.

"This will have lifelong benefits for our domestic students, as well. It will make them more tolerant, more adaptable and more marketable on a world stage."

Stephen C. Dunnett, vice provost for international education, notes that as UB moves toward becoming a truly global university, "improving the environment and ser-

vices for international students must be a clear priority."

"I think it is fair to say that every international student who gets on a plane to come to the U.S. has a dream of earning their degree and making American friends," he says. "For many, their biggest challenge to realizing this dream is English language proficiency."

Dunnett says the university's ESL program and the English Language Institute (ELI) have been drivers of international education at UB for decades and remain key to increasing enrollment levels of international students.

"ESL and ELI have always been very important to us," he says. "UB has very progressive ESL policies, which work as a recruitment strategy. So when international students do select us, many of them do that because that institute is here."

John J. Wood, senior associate vice provost for international education, adds that ESL courses are also a factor in retention. "They do a lot more than just teach English. They teach study skills, which make a difference for many students who are in the U.S. for the first time," Wood says.

"Coming from different cultures, some of our international students are accustomed to memorizing everything. They don't know how to read carefully, to know what you need to remember and what you don't. So the courses

have a cultural component as well," he explains.

"As much as we can, we want to remove the language barrier."

Timothy Cauller, the newly appointed program director for English as a Second Language Instruction, points out that most international students who are pursuing degrees at U.S. colleges and universities — and at UB — have already put in eight to 10 years of English study.

"And whatever amount of English language study they may have had," Cauller says, "once they arrive in the U.S., they are taking on a very complex, challenging and cognitively demanding task.

"Even under the best of circumstances, the level of expectations that our professors are going to have for any student to be successful is going to require a sophisticated knowledge and understanding of the English language," he says.

"From that perspective, the first part of what we do at UB — and what most students need — is to continue the trajectory of English language learning.

"Building international students' familiarity and proficiency with the English language is a highly integrated part of the UB character," he says. "UB has been doing this well for a long time."

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## STUDENTS SELECT “ONE WORLD CAFE” AS NAME OF NEW EATERY

By Michael Andrei

The UB student community has voted “One World Café” as the new name for the university’s much-anticipated international eatery in the Heart of the Campus.

The winning entry was submitted by Sayre Stowell, a third-year aerospace engineering major, in response to a student-wide naming contest.

The announcement of the winner, and the second- and third-place entries, was made Tuesday by Graham Hammill, vice provost for educational affairs and dean of the graduate school, at an event in Founders Plaza courtyard, the site of the new eatery.

“When Sayre was asked what inspired him to submit this name, his answer was simple: ‘The name for an international eatery in the heart of the campus should reflect unity and diversity, just as much as the university it represents,’” Hammill told those gathered for the announcement.

The second-place entry, “World Market,” was submitted by Michael Bentz and Liping Lin. The third-place entry, “The Centre,” was submitted by Harris Bresowsky.

Hammill, who is also chair of the steering committee for the project, said it has been a pleasure to watch the initiative progress and come to life.

“This process has been truly collaborative in nature,” he said. “I extend a sincere thank you to UB leadership, our partners in Campus Dining and Shops, the Heart of the Campus committees, the Faculty Student Association Board and Cannon Design,” Hammill said.

“When it came time to develop an official name for the space, there was no question that our largest stakeholder group, our students, would be instrumental in choosing its identity,” Hammill said. “From the onset we made it a priority to include students in the process, and with that has come invaluable ideas and feedback that has helped shape this project.

“I also extend a special thank you to those individuals

who could join us this afternoon. I know this is going to be great for our students,” he said.

The opening of One World Café will complete the third phase of Heart of the Campus, the UB2020 initiative to enhance the student learning experience by creating a learning landscape in the center of the academic spine.

The renovation of Silverman Library and development of 1Capen and 1Diefendorf were the first and second phases of the initiative.

“This is an amazing special event for us today,” said A.

Scott Weber, vice president for student life.

“When we cut the ribbon in 2020, a new and unique addition to the university will occupy one of the busiest crossroads on the North Campus, in the space where we’re standing right now,” Weber said.

“This phase of the project will create a ‘front door’ to the university, around

and under the existing overhangs of Capen Hall and the Founders Plaza courtyard.

“This will meet the demand for expanded dining facilities among a growing campus population, while also bringing to UB an international eatery and community space where students, faculty, staff and visitors can enjoy a diverse selection of foods from around the world in a welcoming, multicultural environment,” he said.

Weber noted the design and cuisine of One World Café are based on a collaboration between the campus community and the project’s designer, Cannon Design.

“This is truly a transformative initiative that is being designed by the UB community, for the UB community,” he said.

In welcoming remarks, Ray Kohl, marketing manager for Campus Dining and Shops (CDS), cited the significance of the collaboration between CDS and Cannon Design.

“CDS is very pleased to be working with Cannon’s world-class design team on this project,” Kohl said. “Three members of the team — all UB graduates — are here with us today: Peter McCarthy, Luke Johnson and Chris Whitcomb.



L to r: Sayre Stowell, Ray Kohl, Scott Weber and Graham Hammill (Photo: Meredith Kulwicksi)

## MARGARET ATWOOD SPEAKS AT UB ON BEHALF OF THE HUMANITIES

By Charlotte Hsu

It has happened before. And it can happen again. If we disregard the humanities, we can lose our moral bearings, and totalitarian regimes can rise. Science can run amok and lead us astray.

That, perhaps, is a takeaway of the talk that Margaret Atwood, one of the world's greatest writers, gave to a packed Mainstage Theatre at UB's Center for the Arts on the evening of March 9.

Atwood, a novelist, essayist, poet, literary critic and environmental activist, is known as the author of the "Handmaid's Tale" and the "MaddAddam" trilogy. She was speaking at UB as the 2017-18 Eileen Silvers Visiting Professor in the Humanities at UB.

These speculative works of fiction portray dystopian societies in which, respectively, authoritarian rulers have quashed free speech and thought, and bio-engineering has led to a near-apocalypse for humankind. The "Handmaid's Tale" has been adapted into an Emmy Award-winning television series by Hulu, a streaming service.

"Nothing went into *The Handmaid's Tale*, the novel, and nothing goes into 'The Handmaid's Tale,' the TV series, that does not have a precedent in real life," Atwood told the audience at UB.

With wit, candor and sometimes dark humor, she kept her listeners enthralled — and laughing — as she discussed tyranny and other bleak subjects.

Atwood's lecture opened "Humanities to the Rescue," a weekend of programming presented by the university's Humanities Institute. Activities included an environmental film series, curated by UB history professor Adam Rome, that showcased documentary makers whose works spark environmental activism.

Atwood's talk argued powerfully for the import of the humanities in an age where academia is tilting toward the natural and physical sciences — fields seen as capable of generating revenues for institutions of higher learning. As a society, we are intrigued by new technologies. But what

of the moral and philosophical consequences of these advances? "Like a hammer, any technology is morally neutral," Atwood said. "You can build a house with a hammer, or you can kill your enemy with it."

### A world without a moral compass

In Adolf Hitler's Germany, Benito Mussolini's Italy and Stalin's Soviet Union, pressure to conform and demonstrate

loyalty to the party in power was great. Intellectuals were vulnerable because they were likely to have nonconforming thoughts, Atwood said. Those who publicly expressed disagreement faced danger, even death.

This suppression is mirrored by *The Handmaid's Tale*, which is set in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at a time when a patriarchal, religious regime has overthrown the government. Terrifying events, including executions, occur on the grounds of what used to be Harvard University.

Atwood told the UB audience that Harvard began as a Puritan, theological seminary in the 17th century when New England was "emphatically not a democracy."

"That bears remembering," she said. "Where we have once been, we can be again."

### The story of humanity

As humans, who are we? How do we want to live?

Art, literature, philosophy and more — the humanities — inform the answer. Both science and the humanities are made by human hands and, therefore, are part and parcel of what we are, Atwood told her listeners.

"The arts and humanities must reclaim a central place in the public arena," said David Castillo, Humanities Institute director and professor of Romance languages and literatures, who, along with institute Executive Director Kari Winter and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Robin Schulze, introduced Atwood to the audience at the start of the night.

When it comes to human wholeness—to the question of who we are and what we want to be—"the humanities must be engaged," Atwood insisted. 🌐



L to r: Robin Schulze, Margaret Atwood, David Castillo (Photo: Meredith Kulwicki)

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHINE IN THREE-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

By Sally Jarzab

A typical dissertation might contain more than 50,000 words and would take hours to present. What if you have only three minutes?

Participants in the 2018 Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition proved that it is not only possible for graduate students to explain their research in that abbreviated timeframe. It's interesting and entertaining, too.

The polish with which Odonkor and the others delivered their talks was the result of in-depth training provided during workshops offered last fall leading up to the big event. The workshops and a host of other resources were open to those with an eye on a 3MT prize, as well as to any graduate student looking to improve his or her public-speaking skills.

Thirty students participated in that first phase. They then had the opportunity to submit video applications to be included among the 12 finalists at the competition.

The practice-makes-perfect approach helped Camila Rosat Consiglio nab the \$250 People's Choice Award for her presentation on how sex hormones play a role in men's and women's immune responses, and how those differences could be leveraged when it comes to fighting disease.

Rosat Consiglio, who is from Brazil and studies immunology in UB's Roswell Park Cancer Institute Graduate Division, also claimed the third-place judges' prize of \$500.

Second place, a prize of \$750, was awarded to Naila Sahar from Pakistan. Her presentation, titled "Who Is a Muslim Woman?" outlined the



L to r: Philip Odonkor, Camila Rosat Consiglio, Naila Sahar (Photo: Meredith Kulwicki)

barrier-breaking research she is conducting as she pursues a PhD in English.

Judges were Anthony Chase, theater notable and assistant dean of arts and humanities at SUNY Buffalo State; Laurie Dean Torrell, executive director of Just Buffalo Literary Center; and Anthony Johnson, president and CEO of Empire Genomics and founding partner of Buffalo Biosciences.

Buffalo broadcaster Kevin O'Neill served as master of ceremonies. The UB Gospel Choir performed during the judges' deliberations. The event was free and open to the public, emphasizing the twin goals of celebrating student research and sharing it with the community at large.

"Most doctoral students spend their days in libraries and laboratories talking to other academics," said Graham L. Hammill, vice provost for educational affairs and dean of the Graduate School, who, along with President Satish K. Tripathi and Provost Charles F. Zukoski, gave remarks at the event. "If research is to have an impact on the broader world — and we hope it does — it has to be communicated."

Hosted by the Graduate School and Blackstone Launchpad, 3MT challenged UB doctoral students from any discipline to inform an audience what their research is — and why it matters — for a chance to win monetary prizes. Twelve contestants competed during the afternoon event, held in the Center for the Arts Screening Room before a panel of guest judges charged with selecting first-, second- and third-place winners. Audience members voted for their favorite presentation to determine the People's Choice Award winner. International students did particularly well in the UB competition.

The 3MT competition was started at the University of Queensland in Australia in 2008 and has spread to more than 600 universities across more than 59 countries. This was the second year the event has been offered at UB. Philip Odonkor from Ghana took the \$1,000 top prize for his presentation titled "Is Your House Smarter Than a Mud Hut?" The answer, from the perspective of this PhD student in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, is no. During his three minutes onstage, Odonkor explained how his research aims to change that by developing better ways to track people's energy habits at home. His vision, he said, is the realization of net-zero energy smart buildings.

Sally Jarzab is a senior content editor for University Communications.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

### SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

#### Department of Architecture

**Joyce Hwang**, associate professor, was awarded the 2017 International Craft and Design Residency at the Australian National University, School of Art and Design, in Canberra and was in residence there for part of summer 2017. During that time, she began collaborating with faculty in both design and biology, as well as with an ecologist working with the Australian Capital Territory's Parks and Conservation Service to develop an artificial habitat structure for the city of Canberra.

### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

#### Department of Anthropology

**Deborah Reed-Danahay**, professor and Jean Monnet Chair, presented a keynote lecture to the meeting of the World Literatures: Cosmopolitan and Vernacular Dynamics Research Program at Stockholm University in February 2018. Her talk was entitled "Pierre Bourdieu's World-Making: Between Ethnography and Literature." She presented a paper on "EU Mobility, Brexit, and the Liminal: 'Incertitude' among French Citizens in London" at the American Anthropological Association Meetings in Washington, D.C. in November 2017. Her article "Bourdieu, Social Space, and the Nation-State: Implications for Migration Studies" was published in the journal *Sociologica* [Bologna] in a special issue on Space, Interaction and Communication in fall 2017. She spent winter session 2018 in London continuing her ethnographic research on French migrants and the implications of Brexit for mobile EU citizens. The 2017-18 Jean Monnet Distinguished Lecture, sponsored by her Jean Monnet Chair, was delivered in April 2018 by Michael Herzfeld of Harvard University, who spoke on "Paradoxes and Paroxysms: Nationalism, Migration, and the Dream of Cultural Identity—Reflections from the Southern Fringe."

**Jaume Franquesa**, assistant professor, was invited to give the paper "The rural roots of dignity: Republican and reactionary specters in rural Spain" at the Emancipatory Rural Politics Initiative 2018 International Conference, Authoritarian populism and the rural world, organized by the Transnational Institute and the International Institute of Social Sciences, The Hague, Netherlands, 17-18 March, 2018. Franquesa was invited to give one of the keynote lectures, "Engaged anthropology: Juxtaposed spaces and non-synchronic times," at the 14th Conference of Spanish Anthropologists (XIV Congreso de la FAAEE), Valencia, Spain in September 2017. He has also been invited to take part in the International Workshop "Grassroots economics: Meaning, project and practice in the pursuit of livelihood," organized by the ERC Project Grassroots Economics. It will take place at the Instituto Internacional de Sociología Jurídica, Oñati, Gipuzkoa, Spain, 23-27 June 2018.

**Phil Stevens**, associate professor, has been invited to write the Foreword to the proceedings of the 28th Conference of the Pan African Anthropological Association, held at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria, in August, 2016. The papers, edited by P-J Ezeh of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, will be published in Nigeria this year. As an academic discipline, anthropology was widely dismissed by newly independent African nations as a tool of colonialism, and regarded as potentially subversive by autocratic leaders. Stevens, who has conducted various anthropological projects in Nigeria since the 1960s, regards the persistence and success of the PAAA as a sign of both the entrenchment of democratic ideals and the maturation of higher education in Africa. The organization is dedicated to the application of anthropological insights to the alleviation of real human problems in African development. The 2016 papers address the theme of anthropological approaches to conflict resolution.

#### Department of Art

**Reinhard Reitzenstein**, associate professor, took part in the CRE-ATOUR 2nd International Conference - Emerging and Future Trends in Creative Tourism in Porto, Portugal June 7-9, 2018. His research appears in a new publication by University of Toronto professor Mark Cheetham, *Landscape into Eco Art/ Articulations of Nature since the '60s*. Reitzenstein's project called "Transformer," is the cover image for that publication. Another major project, "Waiting, Watching, Waiting," was featured at the first Bonavista Biennale in Newfoundland, Canada in late 2017 and will remain in situ for another year.

#### Department of Economics

**Alex Anas**, Frank H. and Josephine L. Goodyear Professor and chair, was an invited speaker at the panel discussion on "Challenges in Urban Transportation Policy for the Greater Toronto Area and Beyond" held on March 22, 2018 at the University of Toronto, Canada. On March 23, during the University of Toronto Conference on Issues in Transportation, held in the Rotman School of Management, he presented his paper titled "How and how much do public transportation megaprojects induce agglomeration economies?: The case of the Grand Paris project," co-authored with Huibin Chang, an alumnus of the department, and currently on the faculty of the University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, China. On March 29, Anas gave the keynote speech titled "Urban Logistics" at the Tenth Bi-Annual Postal Economics Conference on E-commerce, Digital Economy and Delivery Services, held at the Toulouse School of Economics in France, March 29-30, 2018.

**Isaac Ehrlich**, SUNY and UB Distinguished Professor, presented the lead paper titled, "Has Higher Education been a Major Channel through which the US Became an Economic Superpower in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century?" in the Asian Development Bank Institute and Asian Growth Research Institute workshop on "Public and Private Investment in Human Capital and Intergenerational Transfers in Asia," held in Kitakyushu City, Japan, November 14-15, 2017. Ehrlich was invited by the CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute in Tokyo to stay at the ADBI as a Visiting Fellow for a few weeks in April 2018 to participate in a project on financial asset allocation by Aging Populations worldwide. The project involved meetings with leading researchers at Tokyo University, Japanese senior government officials, and major Pension companies in Japan. Work on the project will also involve core faculty at the UB Center for Human Capital.

#### Department of English

**Walter Hakala**, associate professor, received a Short-Term Senior Fellowship in Iranian Studies from the American Institute of Iranian Studies, which supported a trip to Maharashtra and Karnataka, India, in March 2018 for a project on the history of Urdu inscriptions. During this trip Hakala conducted research at the Archaeological Survey of India's Arabic and Persian Epigraphy Office in Nagpur and visited the sites of early Urdu inscriptions preserved in Achalpur, Bidar, Gulbarga, and Bijapur. He also presented papers at the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research and the Department of Linguistics at Deccan College, both in Pune, Maharashtra. His book *Negotiating Languages: Urdu, Hindi, and the Definition of Modern South Asia* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2016; New Delhi: Primus Books, 2017) was awarded Honorable Mention in the 2018 Bernard S. Cohn Book Prize by the South Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies.

**Karen Mac Cormack**, adjunct professor, gave poetry readings June 10, 2017 at Bank Street Arts, Sheffield, UK and June 12, 2017 at University College London, London, UK.

**Carine Mardorossian**, professor, was asked to join the Advisory Board of the Cross/Cultures Series for Brill Publishers' Literature & Cultural Studies list. Brill is a Dutch international academic publisher with offices in the Netherlands and the United States.

**Tanya Shilina-Conte**, assistant professor, gave a paper, "'This Video Does Not Exist: A Remix of Blank Screens in Cinema," at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference in Toronto, Canada, in March 2018. In June 2018, she is giving a paper, "When the Internet Goes Dark: Elective Mutism in Social Media," at the European Network for Cinema and Media Studies conference in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Her article, "Filmmaking Machine and the Black Screen as a Tool of Deterritorialization," has been translated into Portuguese and is forthcoming in *Leitura: Teoria & Prática* (Associação de Leitura do Brasil) in 2018.

#### Department of Global Gender Studies

**Kari Winter**, professor of American Studies and executive director of the Humanities Institute (interim), represented the UB Humanities

Institute at the annual meeting of the CHCI (Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes) in Cape Town, South Africa, August 10-13, 2017 and presented a paper on racial justice and public history at the CHCI Public Humanities conference on August 14, 2017. Winter presented a paper in Toronto, Canada in May 2017 at the International Autobiography/Biography Association conference. The Humanities Institute cultivated and supports a wide range of international research by faculty and graduate students. The Institute partnered in spring 2018 with the Guru Foundation to sponsor a Visiting Humanities Fellow from Kashmir, Malik Sajad, a graphic novelist of exceptional power (March 15-April 15, 2018).

#### Department of History

**Hal Langfur**, associate professor, published in Brazil's most prestigious history journal the article "Canibalismo e a legitimidade da guerra justa na época da Independência" ["Cannibalism and the Legitimacy of Just War in the Era of Independence"], *Revista Brasileira de História* 37, no. 75 (2017): 119-43. In March 2018 he presented his research to members of Cornell University's Latin American Studies Program. His talk was entitled "Indians, Territorial Consolidation, and Improvised Justice in the Forests of Southeastern Brazil, 1750 – 1800."

#### Department of Jewish Thought

**Richard A. Cohen**, professor, gave a short lecture entitled "Business with a Human Face," at a business school in Vilnius, Lithuania, on February 6, 2018. At the end of June 2018, he will give a lecture on "Politics and Ethics The Uncertain Future of Democracy," at the invitation of the Department of Political Science, University of Rome, La Sapienza, Rome, Italy. From July 2-6, 2018, he will direct the 6th annual Levinas Philosophy Summer Seminar, attended by 12 international participants, at the University of Chicago Center in Paris, Paris, France, on the topic of "Emmanuel Levinas: Ideology and Justice."

#### Department of Music

**James Currie**, associate professor and coordinator of musicology, was invited to participate in October 2017 on a panel at Mozart Society of America meeting at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, where he gave a paper entitled "Allanbrook in the Mirror," and in November to give a performance lecture, "Annihilation," as part of the November 2017 Tuning Speculation V: Vibratory (Ex)changes, organized by The Occulture in Toronto, Canada. He also collaborated with the composer Diana Soh on a commission for Radio France ("A/Z") for which he wrote the text. The piece was premiered on Radio France in October 2017. In February of 2018, Dr Currie returned to Canada, to the Department of Music at the University of Toronto to give a lecture ("Mozart; or the Comedy of Absolute Necessities") in their Distinguished Guest Lecture Series before flying to the UK where he was invited to talk about the interactions between his work as a musicologist and his activities as a performance artist in a talk entitled "Kill Yourself/Musical Life: Performance as Research and Professional Death," in the Department of Music's Guest Lecture Series at the University of Huddersfield. He then flew to Asia where he was invited to present in Distinguished Guest Lecture Series in the Departments of Music at Hong Kong University, and in China at Soochow University and the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He also participated in a preconcert talk in Singapore for the premier by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra of piece for soprano and orchestra by the composer Diana Soh ("A is for Aiyah") for which he wrote the words. He then returned to the United Kingdom where he was invited to give a talk in Scotland, in the Department of Music of the University of Glasgow drawn from his work on the relationship between Edward Said and Jean Genet ("Slow Introductions: Said, Genet, Barenboim, Beethoven").

#### Department of Physics

**Andrea Markelz**, professor, spent the 2017-2018 academic year as a visiting scientist in the group of Lehrstuhl Rupert Huber at the University of Regensburg, Germany. During that time she pursued studies at the BESSY II photon source - Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin as well as gave invited talks at: BioTHz2017 in Frascati, Italy; Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria; Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany; Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany; Ruhr University Bochum, Germany and Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

#### Department of Psychology

**Peter Q. Pfordresher**, professor, has been awarded a Fulbright

Canada Research Chair at the Center for Research in the Brain, Music and Language at McGill University. He is a scholar in residence from April 2nd through July 31st of 2018. The research focus of this visit will be on how the rhythmic organization of speech and music influences the planning of serial order, and how this may vary across English and French given differences in the rhythmic organization of these languages.

#### Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

**Elizabeth Scarlett**, professor and chair, organized and hosted a concert by the University of Salamanca (Spain) Tuna Universitaria. This musical group presented an evening of traditional Spanish and Latin American song at UB on October 10th, 2017, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, sponsored by the Zengierski Family Spanish Language and Culture Fund. They also played in the Student Union and around the North Campus during daytime hours of that week.

#### Department of Sociology

In April 2018, **Kevin T. Smiley**, assistant professor and a core faculty member of RENEW, is the co-author (with Michael Oluf Emerson) of a new book published by New York University Press titled *Market Cities, People Cities: The shape of our urban future*. Using original survey research and qualitative analysis, the book compares and contrasts two cities – Copenhagen, Denmark and Houston, Texas – to discuss the wide variations in cities today, and the implications for a range of social outcomes like the environment, diversity.

#### Department of Theatre and Dance

**Meredith A. Conti**, assistant professor of theatre, presented "'What a noble mind is here o'erthrown!': Gendering Victorian Madness at London's Lyceum Theatre" at the British Society of Literature and Science in Oxford, England, in April 2018. The talk featured research from her new book, *Playing Sick: Performances of Illness in the Age of Victorian Medicine* (Routledge, 2018).

**Eero Laine**, assistant professor, is a member of the executive board of Performance Studies international (PSi) and is also an organizer for the second annual PSi summer school. The summer school will take place in Daegu, South Korea before and during the annual PSi conference in July 2018. The event brings together an international cohort of junior and emerging scholars and artists for a week of workshops, seminars, and performances.

#### SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

##### Department of Periodontics and Endodontics

**Abhram Maddi**, assistant professor, has been appointed an honorary adjunct assistant professor at Manipal University in India for a three-year term. This appointment involves visiting, collaboration in teaching and research, and participating in continuing dental education. Maddi visited Manipal University in March-April, 2018 for a 4-day program as a guest speaker. This program involved a continuing dental education program on the topic of peri-implantitis. It also involved interacting with dental students regarding career opportunities in the United States. Maddi interacted with the postgraduate periodontics residents who presented intriguing clinical cases for clinical diagnosis and treatment planning.

#### GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

##### Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

**Seong Won Han**, assistant professor, delivered an invited talk entitled, "Who wants to have a career in teaching? Trends between PISA 2006 and PISA 2015" at the OECD PISA Governing Board Meeting, held at the OECD Headquarter, Paris, France on November 8, 2017. The meeting explored ways in which PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) is being used in research in support of policy making and provide a space for dialogue between PISA Governing Board members, OECD officials and academics on emerging trends in global education.

In January 2018, **Stephen L. Jacobson**, UB Distinguished Professor, gave an invited lecture at the Institute for Educational Planning & Administration at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, entitled: "Managing the school organization," and in March 2018, as a Fellow of the

Fund for the Advancement of Humanities and Social Sciences in Israel, he delivered guest lectures on “Principals and school effectiveness: Current status, challenges, and future directions” at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba, Israel; and “School leadership for academic, organizational and community sustainability” at The Open University of Israel in Ra’anana.

#### *Department of Learning and Instruction*

The department has awarded the annual Judith T. Melamed Fellowship to **Yuqing Olivia Tian** from China. Tian began her graduate studies in TESOL in fall 2017. She was previously enrolled in the Intensive English Program during summer 2017. Tian graduated from Shandong University, China in July 2017. Before coming to UB she had been a volunteer interpreter for a rock climbing champion, and a volunteer teacher at an orphanage.

#### *Department of Library and Information Studies*

**Dan Albertson**, associate professor; **Valerie Nessel**, associate professor; and **Heidi Julien**, professor, presented at the iConference in Sheffield, U.K. March 24-28, 2018. Albertson presented a poster with colleague Melissa Johnston titled “Digital video curation: Adding to a user-centered understanding.” Nessel presented a paper co-authored with Bryce Bible, Chief Information Officer at UB, titled “Building understanding between users and designers through participatory design: The Bonded Design approach,” and Julien, with colleagues from a range of other institutions, presented a workshop on qualitative research.

**Amy VanScoy**, assistant professor, will present a paper at the Canadian Association for Information Science CAIS conference in Regina, Canada (May 30-June 1, 2018), with Deborah Hicks from the University of British Columbia and Mary Cavanagh from the University of Ottawa titled “Understanding public libraries’ conversations: Promises and challenges of microblogging data.” Heidi Julien will be presenting a paper at the same conference, titled, “Thirty-one tears of the Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science: A content analysis.” Valerie Nessel will present “Researching the researchers: Gathering data on academics’ use of technology” at that conference. Dan Albertson will present “Digital social services: From data aggregation to culturally competent content.” In addition, VanScoy is presenting a paper at the Libraries in the Digital Age conference in Zadar, Croatia (June 13-15, 2018) titled “Challenges to Diversity and Inclusion for American Librarians of Color: Uniqueness and Difference.” Dan Albertson is presenting a paper at the same conference, titled “Digital social services: From data aggregation to culturally competent content.”

#### **SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES**

##### *Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering*

**Cemal Basaran**, professor, was invited to give a plenary lecture in September 2018 at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus at their Innovations in Mechanical Engineering - 2018 Conference. He received the invitation from Sergei Sherbakov, who is the Vice-Chair of the Belarus State Committee on Science and Technology. The title of Basaran’s talk is “Is it time to replace Newtonian Mechanics with Unified Mechanics Theory: Unification of Newtonian Mechanic and Thermodynamics.”

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

**Victor Paquet**, professor and chair, delivered a keynote address at the International Conference on Ergonomics, Humanizing Work and Work Environment in Aligarh, India in December 2017. His presentation, titled, “Minimizing Work Disability through Universal Design Research and Practice” was attended by faculty, researchers and students from India, Europe and South America. The conference was sponsored by the International Ergonomics Association (IEA) and Indian Society for Ergonomics (ISE), and the theme of the conference is “Ergonomics for Improved Productivity.”

#### **SCHOOL OF LAW**

**Anya Bernstein**, associate professor, visited Taiwan three times in the past three years as a Visiting Scholar at Academia Sinica, Taiwan’s premier research institute. While there, Bernstein conducted interviews for a research project that explores how Taiwanese government administrators relate to the legislature and how they understand their place in their democracy. Bernstein is writing an article arguing that

although we often think of elections, constitutions, and courts as key indicators of democracy, what each of these things can tell us depends on its particular cultural and historical context. In Taiwan, she suggests, administrative action and administrative law may illuminate democratic development. In particular, she concludes that bureaucrats paint an administrative state with a direct connection to the people under its purview—a kind of “direct bureaucracy”—helping to legitimize state action. Bernstein will return to Taiwan in summer 2018 to present her findings at an Academia Sinica conference on executive practices. She will also travel to Germany this summer to conduct preliminary research for a related project on German administrators. Her research in Taiwan and Germany builds upon her ongoing research involving interviews with U.S. federal administrators, as part of a larger exploration of the structure of administrative power and the legitimization of administrative action in democratic states.

**David M. Engel**, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, helped to organize and conduct a Young Scholars Workshop in December 2017 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Asian Law and Society Association at National Chiao Tung University in Taiwan. The workshop trained a group of graduate students and young faculty members from East, South, and Southeast Asia in socio-legal research methods, publication strategies, and career planning. In January 2018, Engel conducted a workshop on Law & Society Research Methods for graduate students at the Chiang Mai University Law School in Thailand. CMU is one of UB’s longtime exchange partners. In March 2018, Engel published a new book, *Injury and Injustice: The Cultural Politics of Harm and Redress* (Cambridge University Press) with co-editors Anne Bloom and Michael McCann. The book is a cross-cultural collection of essays by an international group of authors, addressing “some of the most difficult and important debates over injury, law, and inequality now taking place in societies around the world.” In May 2018, Engel presented the annual Van Vollehoven Lecture at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands, on the topic, “Rights of the Relational Self: Law, Culture, and Injury in the Global North and South.” In June 2018, he is scheduled to present the annual lecture of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford University in England, on the topic of “All Injuries Are Relational: Individual Legal Consciousness Reconsidered”

**James A. Gardner**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, visited the University of Barcelona in Spain throughout the months of March and April 2018, where he taught an introductory seminar on American constitutional law and participated in a symposium on free speech and criminal law.

**Nicole Hallett**, assistant clinical professor, served as a short-term legal expert for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative in Mexico City, training the directors of three new labor law clinics at Mexican law schools: Universidad Nacional de Mexico, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, and Universidad Autónoma de Mexico.

**Meredith Kolsky Lewis**, professor, travelled to Wellington, New Zealand with 10 law students for two weeks in January 2018 as part of the course “New Zealand: International Economic and Comparative Law in Context.” Professor Lewis and her students met with academics, government officials, private practitioners and a Supreme Court justice; and visited a Maori marae, Parliament, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and a wildlife sanctuary. Lewis also gave several presentations on international trade law and global economics including “The International Economic Order in the Trump Era” at National Tsing Hua University, Institute of Law for Science and Technology in Tsing Hua, Taiwan on December 12, 2017, and “Current Trade and Investment Developments: WTO, Mega-FTA and Plurilateral Trade Agreement Negotiations and Notable Investor-State Dispute Settlement Issues” at Georgetown University Law Center Institute of International Economic Law’s Global Trade Academy in Washington, D.C. on November 17, 2017. On November 16, 2017, she participated as a panelist on “NAFTA Renegotiation: International Trade and Arbitration Going Forward” at George Washington University Law School’s International Arbitration Student Association and International Law Society in Washington, D.C. In September of 2017, she presented “The ‘New’ Plurilateralism in International Trade Law” at the University of Warwick Conference in Warwick, England.

**Makau W. Mutua**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, delivered the keynote at the symposium “The Crisis of Human Rights: Why TWAIL Still Matters,” held in Berlin, Germany in January. Mutua also delivered the lecture “Is the Age of Human Rights Over?” at the Centre for Human Rights in the University of Pretoria in South Africa in February. In March, Mutua appeared on Jeff Koinange Live, Kenya’s most watched talk show.

**Jessica Owley**, professor, spent all of 2017 as a visiting professor at the Universidad Pontificia—Comillas (ICADE) in Madrid, Spain, where she will be returning annually to offer a course on comparative environmental law. She brought five students to the International Climate Change treaty negotiations in Bonn, Germany in November 2018. While there, Owley presented at an event sponsored by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on climate change law. In December 2018, she will be bringing another group to the annual negotiations taking place in Katowice, Poland. While in Poland, she will be presenting her research and meeting with faculty at Jagiellonian University in Krakow. In January 2018, Owley traveled to Santiago, Chile to participate in the second global congress of the International Land Conservation Network. At the end of May 2018 she is presenting her research that compares land conservation policy in the UK and the US at the annual meeting of the Association of Law Property and Society at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. She recently published a book chapter, “The Use of Property Law Tools for Soil Protection,” in *International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy* (Harald Ginzky, Elizabeth Dooley, Irene Hauser, Till Markus, & Tianbao Qin, eds. Springer Global Publishing). She is a member of the International Academic Association on Planning, Law, and Property Rights (PLPR), the International Ecological Law and Governance Association, and on the board of the Association of Law, Property, and Society (and co-editor of the organization’s international peer-reviewed journal). She is member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, World Commission on Protected Areas, and Species Survival Commission.

**Stephen Paskey**, lecturer in Law, Legal Analysis, Writing and Research, both presented and moderated a panel at the 2018 International Conference on Narrative in Montreal, Canada. His presentation was titled “Law’s DNA: The Double Helix of Rhetoric and Narrative.”

**David A. Westbrook**, Louis A. Del Cotto Professor, participated in the King’s College Transnational Law Summit 2018: The New Human Condition: Creating Justice for Our Future held in the UK on April 10-13, 2018. Westbrook moderated a panel titled “Trade, Borders, and the Prospect for International Economic Justice.” From October 31 through November 3, 2017, Westbrook was a global scholar at Université Catholique de Louvain, where he presented “EU and the World: How to think about ourselves?”; “The politics of large polities: the imagination of identities and allegiance in the EU, US and Russia” (with Dimitry Kochenov and Pierre d’Argent); “Deploying Ourselves: Islamism violence and the Responsible Projection of US Force”; and “Unicorns, Guardians, and the Concentration of the US Equity Markets”. In September 2017, Westbrook presented “Happy Endings? (Partially) Reconciling Ourselves to Bureaucracy through Teleology” at the Telos/HSE Moscow Conference, and “After the End of Revolution: Constitutional Order Amid the Crisis of Democracy” at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow. He continues to work with Global Foresight, a multi-year, multi-disciplinary project run out of Stockholm University and funded by the Jubileumsfond, the Swedish Foundation for the Humanities and the Social Sciences, itself established by the Riksbank, the central bank of Sweden.

## SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

### Department of Marketing

In summer 2017, **Debabrata (Debu) Talukdar**, professor, was invited by the World Bank to serve as a research consultant to one of its research projects on sustainable development for the Africa division. The project is investigating the living and economic conditions faced by the urban slum residents in Kenya and how relevant policies can help with sustainable development goals in Kenya as it faces rapid urbanization. Two of Talukdar’s research articles based on this project were recently accepted for publication at *World Development*, a leading academic journal in the disciplinary domain of development economics.

## JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

### Department of Biomedical Informatics

**Peter L. Elkin**, professor and chair, presented the abstract titled “AI Disease Surveillance: NVAF patient cohorts with their CHADS-VASc and HAS-BLED Scores using Natural Language Processing and SNOMED CT Led to the Identification of Patients Who Require Treatment and are Currently Untreated” at the Medical Informatics Europe conference in Gothenburg, Sweden on April 24-26. The study looked at a bio-surveillance method for electronic health records using structured fields plus natural language processing of clinical text compared to structured fields alone. Structured plus clinical text had a higher sensitivity in comparison to structured data alone, allowing for an increased number of true positive cases, patients who may benefit from an oral anticoagulant, to be identified.

In August 2017, **Diane G. Schwartz**, research associate professor, presented a paper, “Health Sciences Library Closings; a Context Sensitive Pilot Study” at the Context Sensitive Health Informatics 2017 conference, August 18-19, 2017, held on the campus of the City University of Hong Kong. It was a wonderful opportunity to revisit this tantalizing city, which she last visited twenty years ago when Hong Kong was formally returned to the People’s Republic of China. From Hong Kong she travelled to Hangzhou, China, where she attended the 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Medical and Health Informatics (MedInfo) 2017, August 21-25, 2017. MedInfo was an impressive experience due to the broad representation of informationists from around the world and the diversity of research results reported. The final stop on her trip was a visit to Capital Medical University in Beijing. Her husband, **Stanley A. Schwartz**, also a UB faculty member, and she, were invited to lecture to faculty, and trainees at the medical school. Her presentation focused on clinical decision support systems.

### Department of Emergency Medicine

**Jeffrey J. Thompson**, clinical assistant professor and associate residency director, is currently serving as a medical missionary at the MCM General Hospital, and the Myungsung Medical College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During his one-year tenure at MCM/MMC (January-December 2018) Thompson is working as Director of Emergency Medicine, where he oversees the educational and clinical activities of the emergency room, including a 10-month lecture series he has developed called the Emergency Medicine Core Training Program. This weekly didactic and skills series is attended by over 40 regular participants, including general practitioners, nurses, medical students, and emergency medicine and surgery residents wishing to advance their knowledge, understanding, and skills in emergency medicine practice. As a specialty, emergency medicine is new throughout most of Africa, including Ethiopia. At present there are only two emergency medicine residency training programs in the entire country, one of which has partnered with MCM General Hospital and whose residents are working under Thompson’s supervision. In addition to his work in Ethiopia, he will be a guest instructor at a hospital in Somaliland this summer and will present at the Best Evidence in Emergency Medicine conference in Dubai, UAE just before returning to the US to resume his duties in at UB in December 2018.

### Department of Medicine

**John K. Crane**, associate professor, participated in international medical teaching in Kenya, Mar. 8-22, 2018, as part of a team from Medical Education International (MEI). Crane was joined by George Stewart, Jeffrey Jackson, and John Coppes. The first teaching location was in Chogoria Hospital, central Kenya, Mar. 11- 15. The second week was spent teaching in Kisumu, southwestern Kenya, at a government-run County Hospital in Chulaimbo, Kenya. Crane’s presentations included “Opportunistic Infections in AIDS,” “Fever in a Man from Africa,” and “Infectious Complications of the Opiate Addiction Epidemic.” In addition, Crane and the other members of the team participated in ward rounds in Chogoria. Another highlight of the trip was a visit to the Kenya Medical Research Institute, in Kisumu, where the team learned about the research going on there related to tuberculosis (TB), and the newest generation of interferon-gamma release assays for diagnosis of latent TB.

**Anne Curtis**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, Charles and Mary Bauer Professor and chair, was invited to present at the 30th Annual Con-



gress on Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Reykjavik, Iceland and Dublin, Ireland last June 2017. While in Reykjavik, Curtis spoke on "The Role of Cardiac Devices in Chronic Heart Failure: The Heart Failure Electrophysiology Connection". In Dublin her topic was "Pacing in Patients with AV Block: What Are the Options?" Also in June 2017 Curtis traveled to Vienna, Austria for the Europace Cardiostim 2017 symposium. While there she gave a presentation on "Arrhythmias induced by Chemotherapy and Biological Treatment." In July 2017, Curtis traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia where she was asked to speak at the 22nd World Congress on Heart Disease. Her talks included: "Improvement in Quality of Care for Atrial Fibrillation in Get With The Guidelines-Atrial Fibrillation (GWTG-AF)," and "Improving Understanding, Treatment and Outcomes in Atrial Fibrillation."

**Paresh Dandona**, SUNY Distinguished Professor and chief of Endocrinology, is on the move in spring 2018, traveling to multiple locations, giving a variety of presentations, as well as receiving a prestigious award. In February 2018, Dandona attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Androgen Society in Lisbon Portugal where he spoke on "The role of testosterone therapy in classical hypogonadism." On April 10, 2018, Dandona was in Frankfurt, Germany at an Endocrinology Advisory Meeting where his topic was "The role of Empagliflozin in Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus. On April 20, Dandona is scheduled to attend the Challenges in Diabetes 2018 Referendum in Mumbai, India where he will discuss "Hypogonadism and diabetes and obesity." On May 4, 2018 Dandona traveled again, this time to Thailand where he received the "Glory of India" award.

**Jeffrey Lackner**, professor, vice chair of research, and chief of the newly formed Behavioral and Preventive Medicine division, is scheduled to attend the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Federation of Neurogastroenterology and Motility, which is being held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in August 2018. Lackner will be discussing "Therapeutic advances in functional gastrointestinal disorders with a focus on novel behavioral treatments developed at the University at Buffalo and funded through a landmark NIH grant."

**Richard Quigg**, The Arthur M. Morris Professor and chief of the division of Nephrology traveled to Wales, United Kingdom as a visiting professor this past December 2017. In addition to teaching, he presented a talk on "Insights into complement in health and disease." Quigg is currently a visiting professor in Tokyo, Japan where he is scheduled to discuss "The role of complement in experimental renal diseases."

**Thomas Russo**, professor and chief of the Infectious Disease division, and vice chair for finance, attended the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases in Madrid, Spain from April 21-24, 2018. While There Russo will be speaking on "Hypervirulent Klebsiella pneumoniae: An emerging pathotype poised to inflict global havoc."

**Brahm Segal**, professor in the division of Hematology & Oncology and vice chair of Faculty Development, and Professor of Oncology and Chief of Infectious Diseases at the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center traveled to Havana, Cuba from April 24-27, 2018 for a collaborative meeting at the Center for Molecular Immunology.

**Sanjay Sethi**, professor and Chief of the Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine division, and Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences, traveled to Milan, Italy September 9-13, 2017 to attend the European Respiratory Society International Congress. While there, Sethi spoke on "The microbiome in chronic respiratory diseases." On February 23-24, 2018, Sethi was asked to speak at the International Symposium on Clinical Update in Respiratory Medicine where his topic was "Acute and chronic infection in COPD." This spring Sethi is traveling to Osaka, Japan for the 58th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society. While there, Sethi is providing an update on Pharmacotherapy in COPD.

Andrew Talal, professor of Medicine in the Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition division traveled to Figueira da Foz, Portugal for a March 24, 2018 presentation at the MSD Symposium in the Portuguese Liver Congress. Talal was invited to provide a review of his clinical practice, how many patients treated, regimen preferred, SVR and his published study about how to reach and treat the patients in OAT centers using the telemedicine.

#### Department of Neurology

**Gil I. Wolfe**, UB Distinguished Professor and Irvin and Rosemary Smith Professor and chair, is once again serving on the program committee for the International Congress of Neuromuscular Disease, to be held in Vienna, Austria from July 6-10. The ICNMD meeting is held every two years, and is the one international congress that convenes neuromuscular experts across the entire spectrum of motor neuron, peripheral nerve, neuromuscular junction and muscle disorders. Wolfe will be delivering two lectures on myasthenia gravis during the meeting and will also chair one of the platform sessions.

**Robert Zivadinov**, professor, traveled in May 2017 to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Society for Neurovascular Disorders (ISNVD), which took place in Taormina, Italy, where he and his colleagues at the Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center presented a total of six podium and poster presentations. At this conference, Zivadinov chaired a discussion on imaging and mechanisms of neurodegeneration, and gave a talk entitled Effect of a Cerebral Protection Device on Brain Lesions Following TAVI in Patients with Severe Aortic Stenosis. In October 2017, Zivadinov's group presented a total of 22 abstracts for both podium and poster presentations at the Paris, France meeting of the 7th Joint European and American Committee for Treatment and Research on Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS-ACTRIMS) in France. At the Paris conference, Zivadinov's platform presentation was entitled "Watching the Hourglass: Disease Monitoring and Detecting Disease Activity in Multiple Sclerosis (CME)." His poster presentations included: Impact of fingolimod on MRI brain volume measures in RRMS patients with active disease at baseline: Results from MS-MRIUS, a longitudinal observational, multicenter real-world outcome study in a clinical routine; Slowing of cortical grey matter atrophy with Teriflunomide is associated with delayed conversion to clinically definite MS; Lateral ventricular volume as a proxy for brain volume loss in the assessment of no evidence of disease activity: Results from a longitudinal, multicentre, real-world study; Establishing pathological cut-offs for LVV expansion rates; LVV measurement is feasible on low-resolution T2-FLAIR MRI pediatric MS; Defining the anatomical & physiological hierarchy of neurodegeneration of the afferent visual system in MS: A cross-sectional study with spectral domain OCT, visual fields multifocal ERG, EDSS, regional & whole brain atrophy; Conversion to clinically definite multiple sclerosis is associated with lobe-specific atrophy of the cerebellum; Cognitive impairment and brain atrophy in MS: A 10-year follow-up study; Disability measures used in MS patients: Correlations with MRI-derived global and microstructural damage; MS patients who improve in their disability over time develop less brain atrophy compared to those who remain stable or progress; Aging is accelerating central atrophy in MS patients, and finally Thalamic WM in MS: An MRI study combining DTI and QSM. In March 2018, Zivadinov traveled to Warsaw, Poland, to attend in the 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Controversies in Neurology, where he participated in a discussion on the topic of progressive forms of MS and whether they respond to agents used for the relapsing forms of the disease. For the neuroimmunology segment of the program, Zivadinov was involved in a pro and con discussion on whether the central vein sign is really helpful in differentiating MS from other white matter diseases.

#### Department of Ophthalmology

**Steven J. Fliessler**, UB Distinguished Professor, Meyer H. Riwchun Chair and vice-chair/director of research, is presenting a research seminar, "Retinal Degeneration and Rescue in an Animal Model of Smith-Lemli-Opitz Syndrome (SLOS)" at F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG, Basel, Switzerland on June 22, 2018.

**Sangita P. Patel**, clinical assistant professor, and Brandon Clair, an ophthalmology resident, traveled in December 2017 to Kota, India for 2 weeks to initiate collaboration with D. D. Verma. Verma is director of the D. D. Eye Institute and the D. D. Netra Seva Foundation, and provides ophthalmology training fellowships and charitable eye care in Northern India. The goals are to provide UB ophthalmology residents and supervising faculty with exposure to international ophthalmology and cataract surgery, exchange ideas on ophthalmic surgical education, and provide charitable care. Patel and Clair performed cataract surgery for 25 patients and assisted in many more.

#### Department of Physiology and Biophysics

**Mark Parker**, assistant professor, presented an invited seminar enti-

tled "Signs of proximal renal tubular acidosis without acidemia in an Nbc1b-null mouse" on April 13, 2018 at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Molecular Biosciences in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Parker also presented a talk entitled "Features of the pH-sensitive H<sup>+</sup>/OH<sup>-</sup> conductance mediated by SLC4A11" at a satellite meeting on pH regulation on April 11.

*Department of Surgery*

**David H. Rothstein**, associate professor and Oishei Children's Hospital pediatric surgeon, and research fellow Sarah B. Cairo returned to the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in January 2018 for follow-up work on their project, "Characterizing Pediatric Surgical Capacity in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo." Working principally in the North Kivu provincial capital, Goma, they met with Ministry of Health officials, colleagues at the HEAL Africa and North Kivu Provincial Hospitals, and gave lectures at those locations as well as at the Université des Grand Lacs medical school. The project, funded in part through a seed grant from the UB Community for Global Health Equity, is intended to improve outcomes in pediatric surgical diseases through a multimodal approach including more rigorous referral of children born with surgically correctable congenital anomalies, mentoring of local surgeons on pediatric surgery particulars, and collaboration with nursing educators for postoperative care optimization. The team then continued on to the third biannual meeting of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery, in Vellore, India. Traveling with Cairo and Rothstein was Jacques Bake, a Congolese general surgery resident who was sponsored by the CGHE seed grant to further his pediatric surgery education. In Vellore, Rothstein participated in a panel discussion on pediatric surgery in conflict zones, based on his experience with the non-governmental humanitarian relief organization, Doctors Without Borders. Based on previous work and discussions at the Vellore meeting, the Oishei Children's pediatric surgery research group has begun work on a low-literacy, pictogram-based education tool for midwives, primary care providers and parents to improve identification and referral of newborns with surgically-correctable congenital anomalies.

### SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

*Department of Biostatistics*

**Lili Tian**, professor, associate chair and director graduate studies, will organize an invited session titled as "Recent Developments in Diagnostic Studies and Related Topics" at the 2018 International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) China Conference, July 2-5, 2018, Qingdao, China. She will also present an invited talk titled as "Recent developments of Statistical Methods in Diagnostic Studies Based on Generalized Inference" at the same conference.

**Jihnhee Yu**, associate professor, was appointed as an editorial board member of the Journal of Korean Data & Information Science Society, the Society's official journal. It was founded in 1989 and its focus is the methodological development of "big data" and dissemination of relevant techniques. Yu was invited as a statistical advisor at the Department of Advanced Materials and Chemical Engineering, Catholic University of Daegu, South Korea. She advises on uncertainty analysis of chemical production processes and their cost analysis. She traveled to Daegu in December 2017, delivering an invited presentation for the topics related to uncertainty analysis.

*Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences*

**John Wilson**, professor, gave a keynote lecture on March 20, 2018 at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vitamin C, held in Seoul, Korea. His lecture was titled, "Vitamin C for sepsis."

*Department of Rehabilitation Science*

**Kimberley Persons**, clinical assistant professor and academic fieldwork coordinator, is presenting two research projects at the 17<sup>th</sup> World Federation of Occupational Therapist Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. She will complete an oral presentation entitled "Occupations of Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: From Their Perspective" and a poster on a collaborative research with Erie Community College entitled "The Effects of an Intraprofessional Education among Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy Students."

### SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**Denise Krause**, clinical professor, coordinates the school's Mentorship program and has recruited and incorporated Canadian mentors and students in the program.

**Laura Lewis**, assistant dean for global partnerships and director of field education, has received a Fulbright Scholar Award to participate in the International Education Administrators Program in France in 2019. This program is designed specifically for U.S. higher education professionals. These two-week seminars demystify higher education in the destination country and include campus visits with a cross-section of universities and colleges; briefings with faculty and administrators, government officials, and leading educational experts; and tours of historical and cultural sites.

**Nadine (Shaanta) Murshid**, assistant professor, focuses on institutions, structural sources of violence, social policy, and health disparities in Bangladesh and Pakistan. She has published the following manuscripts: Murshid, N.S. (2018). Poor hygiene and bullying victimization in Pakistan, *Children and Youth Services Review*; and Murshid, N.S. & Bowen, E.A. (2018). A trauma-informed analysis of the Violence Against Women Act's provisions for undocumented immigrant women, *Violence Against Women*. Murshid has also written 4 Op Eds for *The Daily Star*, a Bangladeshi periodical. Her recent pieces have been titled: "No Country for Beauty"; "If Not Now, Then When?"; "2017: The Year We Found Purpose"; and "Of Lists, Naming, and Shaming."

**Melanie Sage**, assistant professor, is on an international non-profit board, husITa, whose focus is the ethical use of technology in human services settings.

**Larry Shulman**, professor and dean emeritus, presented a workshop titled, "The Dynamics and Skills of Supervision for Leading Edge (a training program) in Toronto, Canada and a workshop titled Engaging and Working with the Hard to Reach Client for Mission Empowerment in Stratford, Ontario.

**Mickey Sperlich**, assistant professor, hosted Clare Law, who is a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust fellow. Law and Sperlich collaborate on the UK's National Center for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children "Better Start" Initiative in Blackpool, UK at the Blackpool Centre for Early Child Development. Sperlich also co-authored a paper with researchers from the UK and two Australian researchers: Sperlich, M., Seng, J., Rowe, H., Fisher, J., Cuthbert, C., & Taylor, J. (2017). A cycles-breaking framework to disrupt intergenerational patterns of maltreatment and vulnerability during the childbearing year, *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*, 46(3), 378-389.

### UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Christopher Hollister, Education Librarian, visited UB's Singapore Institute of Management (UB-SIM) partnership program to present on the Libraries' e-textbook initiative and its new SUNY-funded open educational resource textbook program. He also reported the results of a study on UB-SIM students' use of e-textbooks, and he conducted a review of SIM Library operations. Additionally, Hollister consulted with the Singapore National Library's Manager of Content and Services on the development of a new, grant-funded Singaporean Studies collection in the UB Libraries.

### VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

**Stephen C. Dunnett**, professor and vice provost for international education, is an invited speaker at the annual Summer Institute, *Innovative and Inclusive Internationalization in Higher Education*, at Boston College (BC) in June 2018, co-sponsored by the Center for International Higher Education at BC and World Education Services. Dunnett will give a presentation on "Institutional Perspectives on Innovative and Inclusive Internationalization."

**John J. Wood**, senior associate vice provost for international education, is part of a panel session at the annual conference of the European Association for International Education in Geneva, Switzerland in September 2018. The panel is titled, "Bienvenue! Creating a Welcoming Environment for Incoming International Students." 🌐

## LANGUAGE SUPPORT

*continued from page 17*

Cauler notes that international students are trying to assimilate American culture and people, as well as other people from around the world who are part of their environment.

“For some of the students who are the least engaged, it is due to their lack of proficiency in English,” he says.

The wide range of recommendations offered by the Provost’s Task Force on International Student Inclusion and Engagement include additional sections to provide more international students with first-semester access to ESL courses, and expanding capacity at the Center for Excellence in Writing to assist students whose first language is not English with writing assignments.

Initiating a structured conversation series between international students and domestic students in the same discipline around topics of mutual interest is also among the recommendations being considered. 🌐

*Michael Andrei is a public affairs specialist for University Communications.*

## LIVE-IN-LABS

*continued from page 12*

Arsalan notes that “if these devices are successful, they can be applied to health care challenges to fit the needs of other underprovided populations globally, not just in India.”

Another LILA feature is the relationship of the student researcher to the local villagers. Student researchers are encouraged to approach their time embedded within a rural village with openness to learning about—and learning from—their host community members. One of

Arsalan’s most cherished mementos the LILA experience is a photograph of himself surrounded by children with whom he would play soccer each day when he was not working.

## ONE WORLD CAFE

*continued from page 18*

“UB is recognized for having one of the leading university culinary programs in the country,” he said. “We regularly receive input from our students, especially our Student Advisory Board—new thoughts and fresh ideas about what they like, and what sort of foods they would like to see.

Members of the UB community attending the event were offered free samples of three international foods that may be served at One World Café, including Vietnamese Summer Roll, Chicken Matar Keema and Jamaican/Caribbean Salad.

Following an initial February contest in which UB students submitted their naming suggestions, about 600 students voted in a second contest to choose the new name from among several finalists. Stowell’s submission received 49.45 percent of the final student vote. He was awarded \$500 in UB Dining Dollars. Bentz and Liping each were awarded \$200 in Dining Dollars for their second-place entry. Bresowsky received \$100 in Dining Dollars for third place. 🌐

For her part, Aye Bay Na Sa relished the ability to communicate with others. “While I was in the tribal village of Mothakara, I tried to learn basic Malayalam phrases so I could introduce myself and greet the villagers,” she says, adding that it was a delight “to have learned enough Malayalam to share conversations with children.” It’s this blend of interpersonal relationships and real world experience conducting research that distinguish the LILA from other overseas student experiences.

“Though there were certainly challenges doing field work, we were able to get a lot of data collected since people here are very welcoming, friendly and cooperative.” 🌐

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## KATHRYN TUDINI IS NEW ISS DIRECTOR

**A**t the end of April 2018 Kathryn “Katie” Tudini took up her appointment as the new Assistant Vice Provost, International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). She succeeds Ellen Dussourd, who retired after 19 years of service to UB (see p. 4). Tudini was selected from an excellent pool of candidates that emerged from a national search.

Tudini joins UB from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she has served since 2013 as Assistant Director of the Office of International Student and Scholar Services and prior to that as Senior Advisor. All told, she has more than ten years of experience in the field, including a three-year stint as an international student advisor at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

A native of Western New York, Katie earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from SUNY Fredonia in 2005 and her master’s in College Student Personnel Administration



from Canisius College in 2007. Her husband, Jeff Tudini, is a proud alumnus of UB’s M.S. in Environmental Engineering program. They have two young children.

Well regarded in the field of immigration compliance as this pertains to international students, Katie was recently appointed to a position of na-

tional leadership as Chair of the International Student and Scholar Regulatory Practice Committee of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the largest professional association of its kind in the world. She has also served in NAFSA’s Trainer Corps since 2010. In 2017 she was awarded the Georgia Tech Provost Award for Management in Action.

Tudini anticipates a smooth transition for the office thanks to the excellent stewardship of her predecessor, Ellen Dussourd. 🌐

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John J. Wood, Editor