

# UB INTERNATIONAL

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### UB INTERNATIONAL

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## UB WELCOMES THE BEST OF BRAZIL

For the past academic year UB has hosted twenty Brazilian students who have received scholarships through the Brazil Scientific Mobility Pro-

institutions. Two federal government agencies in Brazil are jointly sponsoring the program—Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES) and



BSMP students (l. to r.) Rafaela, Gustavo, Pedro, Gracielle, Marina, Dayriane, and Juliiana

gram (BSMP), an ambitious initiative of the government of Brazil to send up to 100,000 students abroad for studies lasting a year or more in North America, Europe and Asia.

This is the first year that UB has received students in this program. The Brazilian students are in typically in the third or fourth year of their undergraduate studies, and most are in the health science or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines. The program aims to internationalize the students' education and provide opportunities for them to gain valuable scientific, research, and internship experiences at research-intensive institutions abroad.

The Institute of International Education (IIE), the organization that administers the Fulbright Program, is responsible for placing the BSMP students at leading US

Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq).

CAPES is the agency in the Ministry of Education in Brazil concerned with the evaluation and expansion of higher education in Brazil. CNPq, an agency in the Ministry of Science and Technology, is dedicated to the advancement of scientific research and technology and the formation of human resources for research in Brazil.

One of the UB participants, Gracielle Cardoso Torquato, a Pharmacy major from the Federal University of Goias, summed up the value of the BSMP for her: "To have a chance to know how studying in a different country is, to be familiar with research technology not available in my home university, and also to improve my English with technical vocabulary. All my experiences here are improving my professional skills and teaching me others; I plan to use this to help develop my country. After graduating I plan to

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## BEST OF BRAZIL

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get into a Ph.D program.”

Rafaela Bival Cavalcanti de Oliveira, Chemical Engineering student from the University of Campinas in Sao Paulo State, has found the academic opportunities at UB to be first rate.

“The faculty member at UB who was most beneficial was Professor Carl Lund. He is a very good professor, with an excellent and broad background in Chemical Engineering. He works hard to teach the best he can, always providing a lot of homework to help us understand the material and providing prompt feedback.”

There is a difference in the pace of courses in the two countries, she adds. “What I would have studied in two semesters of classes back home, here at UB they give us in just one semester. So it’s much quicker. This can be explained by the fact that in Brazil the Engineering program takes 5 years and twice as much the credits that the program here takes (and also here the program is just 4 years long). It’s a very different environment to study, I feel people, in general, are more serious about school here.”

Gustavo Della Flora Nunes, a biomedical sciences major from Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) in Porto Alegre, reported, “The overall quality of the professors is really great, and comparable to the best universities of the Brazil. The two classes I liked the most were classes in which each professor was responsible for a few lectures during the semester, allowing them to talk only about the subjects they are most passionate for. Namely, these classes are the Research Topics in Biochemistry (BCH405) and the Neuroscience I (NRS520).”

Two mentors were exceptionally helpful to Della Flora Nunes: “Dr. Gail R. Willsky, Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Department of Biochemistry, who helped me in the initial choice of classes and to find research opportunities. She was really kindly and showed to be willing that my studies here matched my aims. She personally contacted directors of other departments and PI’s that I could work with. In summary, she guided my first steps towards a successful academic semester.

“In addition, Dr. M Laura Feltri, principal investigator at the Hunter James Kelly Research Institute, in the NYS Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences at UB, allowed me to experience the research by being my

mentor in the Undergraduate Research Class BCH 498-TUT. This allowed me contact with cutting-edge equipment and leading research of the demyelinating diseases field. The research is preparing me technically and intellectually to be a good researcher in the future.”

“What I have noticed is that in the US there are much more investment in tools and equipment for the laboratories, allowing better conditions for practical activities in class as well as propitiating better results in the research. Grants on Brazil are much smaller and really scarce.”

Pedro Henrique Coelho Machado, an Electrical Engineering major from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, found distinctive course opportunities at UB:

“The most beneficial courses I did at UB were in the laboratory. During the fall semester I did the Microelectronics Fabrication Lab, which used the clean room located in Davis Hall to show us different techniques and procedure to fabricate most of the devices used in the high-tech world. And in the spring semester I am doing Electronic Circuits Lab, which basically teaches you how to use those components fabricated in the clean room in different circuit applications.

“Even though the courses in the Engineering faculty were the most

beneficial to me,” Coelho Machado adds, “I did Backpacking and Outdoor Activities in the Athletics department, which gave me an extra knowledge of the Buffalo area and its natural beauties.”

Extracurricular opportunities at UB have also been important to all of the BSMP students. Della Flora Nunes reports, “I also tried to explore the region around Buffalo by attending some trips organized by ISSS and by enrolling classes that implicate outdoors exploration, as the “Backpacking” and the “Outdoors Recreation Adventures”. In addition I attended on campus and off campus events in Buffalo, ranging from typical festivals and concerts to Researchers talks.

“I became a member of the Schussmeister Ski Club in order to learn to snowboard; I’m participating of a soccer competition of the IMLeagues; and I will be at the Oozefest with a team from my laboratory,” he adds. “Although for me it’s much easier to interact with other Brazilians, I have become friend of some Americans, especially those of my residence hall, the seniors of Biochemistry that were my classmates in the majority of my classes in the last semester, and those that work in the same



*One of the pleasures of being at UB; Gracielle and the Brazilian flag*

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## EVENTS IN SEOUL AND TAIPEI CONTINUE 20-CITY ALUMNI TOUR

Two of the largest UB Alumni Association chapters overseas hosted major presidential events this spring as part of President Satish K. Tripathi's "20-City Tour" of alumni events around the world.

The functions in Seoul, Korea and Taipei, Taiwan in March 2013 were attended by 180 and 140 alumni, respectively, making them among the largest gatherings on the tour. These events are opportunities to meet alumni, brief them on what's happening at UB, and enlist their support for the President's ambitious plans for the university.

Accompanying the President in the UB delegation were his wife, Mrs. Kamlesh Tripathi; Professor Stephen C. Dunnett, Vice Provost for International Education; and Joseph J. Hindrawan, Associate Vice Provost for International Education and Director of International Enrollment Management.

The dinner reception with the Korean Chapter was held the evening of March 11 at the Press Center in downtown Seoul. Many of the local arrangements for the event were facilitated by Professor Seong-Kon Kim (Ph.D. 1984), the President of the Korea Alumni Chapter, a faculty member at Seoul National University, and President of the Literature Translation Institute of Korea, an agency of the Korean Ministry of Education. It is estimated that there are some 3,000 UB alumni residing in Korea.



President and Mrs. Tripathi and Stephen Dunnett join Korean alumni leaders at the Seoul event

The presidential trips to Korea and Taiwan afforded opportunities to visit important exchange partner institutions in order to renew ties and sign new agreements. In Seoul, the delegation visited UB's primary Korean partner, Korea University (KU) on March 11. They were received by KU President Byoung-Chul Kim, who hosted a luncheon for the delegation. On March 12 the delegation visited Seoul National University (SNU), where they were hosted for lunch by President Yeon-Cheon Oh.

In addition, Professor Seong-Kon Kim hosted a tour of the Literature Translation Institute of Korea, the headquarters of which is in Seoul. Professor Kim is working with UB to arrange the publication of a series of translations of major Korean literary texts into English. Professor Kim has personally advised dozens of his students at SNU to do doctoral studies in UB's Department of English.

President Tripathi's visit to Taiwan on March 15-17 included a visit to National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) in Tainan, where he and his host, the NCKU president, Hwung-Hweng Hwung, signed an agreement establishing a dual-degree program in Computer Science and Engineering that will allow NCKU students to earn both UB and NCKU degrees.

The dinner reception for Taiwan alumni was held the evening of March 16 at the Taipei Grande Sheraton. Tieh-Hsiung Wu (Ph.D. 1979), Hsin-Huang (Michael) Hsiao (Ph.D. 1979) and Ming-Chang (Mike) Cheng (Ph.D. '95) are the alumni leaders in Taiwan who helped with the local arrangements.

Both alumni events were exceptionally well attended and successful, generating a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm among local alumni keen to know more about UB's status and future plans, and to express their support for President Tripathi's efforts. 🌐



President Tripathi and NCKU President Hwung with the new agreement

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laboratory as me.”

Another Chemical Engineering student, Dayriane Do Socorro De Oliveira Costa from the Federal University of Para, values the leadership skills she has gained at UB:

“Attending workshops and clubs was an excellent way to improve my leadership skills. I like how American universities encourage us to be leaders. To become friends of American students was a very hard task, but I did it by going to events in UB.”

Dental Medicine student Juliana Delatorre Bronzato from the State University of Campinas also took full advantage of the opportunities at UB. She reports, “Yes, ISSS

group performs. Alma Nanichi got second place in the dance competition (International Fiesta 2013). Besides all the dancing skills that I acquired with LASA, I also was able to develop leadership, confidence, time and task management; and I was able to find a family within my club, which was really helpful in the times of homesickness. I was able to make really good friendships, and not only with American students. I can say that I have at least one friend from each continent.”

A mandatory and essential part of the BSMP year at UB is the hands-on experience that students gain in the summer following their course work. Some BSMP students obtain internships off-campus, others do research in a UB lab, and still others undertake experiential learning in a different context.

Cavalcanti de Oliveira notes, “I will be working at Praxair in Tonawanda for my internship this summer. This is fully related to my studies since it is a chemical company that produces industrial gases. I’ll be working in the projects department, the area that I most like in the engineering field. Working with projects allows the engineer to relate things he/she learned in school and apply them to real life.”

Delatorre Bronzato reports that in the summer she will “be doing research at the Biomaterials Laboratory at the UB School of Dental Medicine. I started researching here in the fall semester. It’s an important experience to my future career plans.”



*Brazilians love their football!*

offers trips . . . [which] are very interesting. I visited Letchworth State Park, Zoar Valley, Niagara Falls, Ellicottville, Salamanca, Lackawanna, Old fort Niagara and others.

“I was in the [ISSS] mentorship program that was really amazing,” Delatorre Bronzato added. “My mentor and I traveled around and I have experienced the American culture. I’ve met nice and friendly people that have helped me a lot. Because it’s very difficult stay away from home for one year, and making friends and participating in off campus activities makes a big difference for me.”

Mallone Lopes da Silva, a Pharmacy student from the Federal University of Para, benefited from one of the student clubs on campus: “I joined the Latin American Student Association (LASA) during the fall semester this year and since then I’ve been involved with all the activities sponsored by the group, like General Body Meeting where we discuss Latin American culture, volunteering activities like Spring Fest, community service and a huge variety of events throughout the year.

“Furthermore, LASA has a dance group called Alma Nanichi, which I also joined during fall semester,” Lopes da Silva said. I first had to learn Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Cumbia, Tango, which are the main dances that the

Last summer nine BSMP students enrolled in the UB English Language Institute’s summer Intensive English Program in preparation for their academic coursework in the US. Cavalcanti de Oliveira was one of these students. “It was a very good preparation in a lot of ways. It made us more comfortable with the language itself, to the place, to the university, to a lot of international students, and also with the distance from home and family. It was an enjoyable time. I made a lot of friends, but some of them were just here for the summer. “Together with these new friends, we went to downtown Buffalo and we explored the city including the Waterfront, the Delaware cemetery, and Elmwood Avenue. Also we went to a baseball game together, which was really fun.”

Marina Carelli, a Biomedical Sciences student from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, rightly points out how much UB benefits from hosting the BSMP students. “I have seen that UB also gained a lot with our presence here, due to the things we contributed to UB. My grades are good, so I think there are good reasons for UB to have us. Considering this is the beginning of the program, it is widely believed that it will get better.”

A second cohort of twenty or more BSMP students is expected to begin at UB this summer. 🌐

## FROM THE VICE PROVOST

Our off-campus and overseas readers will be interested to learn the exciting news about the ambitious new strategic plan Provost Charles Zukoski has developed over the past six months, at the direction of President Satish Tripathi and in consultation with a broad array of stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, community members and friends of UB.



Provost Zukoski at a public forum on "Realizing UB 2020" in April 2013 (photo: Douglas Levere)

"Realizing UB 2020" is a bold plan that seeks to take maximum advantage of the unique opportunity afforded UB by the NYSUNY2020 process, a partnership between UB, SUNY and the State of New York, giving the university the freedom to garner additional tuition and fee revenues over a five-year period to advance the institution in new and exciting ways.

Provost Zukoski has led the effort to shape a vision for a transformed UB that builds on the success of the UB2020 initiatives to advance the university's overarching goal of academic excellence. The planning process has truly been a collaborative one. The various committees involved in this process have organized 45 feedback sessions and multiple public forums attended by more than 1,500 faculty, staff and students.

The core vision of the plan is articulated in four broad institutional goals:

- ◆ Strengthen UB's reputation as a leader in research, scholarship and innovation in the global community of scholars
- ◆ Offer a superior teaching/learning experience that will instill core values and expertise and meet the individual student's educational goals.
- ◆ Improve the experience of students in a manner that creates a life-long sense of pride in the university

◆ Focus the UB external engagement agenda to help key constituencies build the capacity to address their needs while providing our faculty and students with rewarding new research and learning opportunities.

To advance President Tripathi's vision of academic excellence, the plan is structured around five broadly defined interdisciplinary areas of inquiry, or themes—Health, Innovation, Justice, Humanity, and The Environment. These thematic areas will give focus and direction to the plan's research, service and educational initiatives.

Of particular interest to me as vice provost is the way the plan seeks to advance UB's internationalization. The plan leverages the university's considerable strengths in the international area to address the major challenges in our internationalization agenda—preparing students for careers in the globalized work environment and advancing UB's global engagement.

As part of transformative changes to the curriculum—both General Education and courses in the major—that will enhance student preparation for lives and careers in the 21<sup>st</sup>

century, the plan calls for students to have an international experience or sustained exposure to global cultures as part of their undergraduate degrees at UB.

"This experience will help the students develop an ability to understand different cultures, increase their capacity to navigate the world, build the ability to communicate effectively with people who speak different languages and have different cultural backgrounds and create a distinctive sense of personal growth," the plan's draft text states.

The plan also calls for an engagement strategy that is global in scope and ambition. "In requiring an international experience and globalizing our curricula, we will need to leverage our overseas partnerships in new ways."

Through their UB programs, by working with our international partners and highly internationalized faculty, students will acquire firsthand experience in global engagement and be better prepared to operate successfully in that domain when they graduate.

I look forward to working with Provost Zukoski and colleagues across the campus to implement "Realizing UB 2020." 🌐

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

## REFLECTIONS ON DOHA

By Kenneth Shockley

Just as the world finds itself drawn, kicking and screaming, into facing the reality of climate change, so the international negotiation process finds itself similarly drawn, kicking and screaming, into developing substantial responses to it. Efforts at developing reasonable policy responses remain vexed by a range of practical, financial and moral issues. Sadly, the moral dimensions of climate change are insufficiently recognized.

This last November, Doha, Qatar hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the so-called COP meetings.

These annual meetings provide the primary venue for developing policies to both reduce our contributions to climate change and adapt to a changing climate. COP meetings are massive. Tens of thousands of delegates, interested parties, formal observers, and activists descend on the cities in which the meetings are held. For the past two years I have had the remarkable pleasure of having observer status at these meetings.

When we hear about these meetings in the press, typically they are covered in terms of the large scale decisions made (when they are made), and often they are covered in the broadest terms of “they were a success” or “they were a failure,” with little further discussion.

However, much is going on at these meetings that is not covered but which can have a substantial impact on the agreements and treaties that are eventually generated. Through formal and informal side events, NGOs, blocs of interest groups from around the world, and a range of other parties try to make their voices heard.

The efforts of these organizations, from the UN’s Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Waterkeepers to the International Chamber of Commerce to the Indigenous People’s Conclave, provide an important component to the talks. For many of these organizations react to the ongoing discussions, and are closely related to certain players in the negotiations.

As much as NGOs were pressing for the inclusion of particular issues within the main stream of the negotiations they were also showcasing independent but parallel efforts. The overall impression was one of struggling progress. The formal and informal side events, running

parallel to the formal negotiation process, made visible the wide-ranging successes that have proceeded independently of decisions on the formal policy process.

More contained efforts in forestry, on black carbon, in agricultural sustainability, and, perhaps above all, on the range of scientific questions necessary to get these more restricted efforts off the ground. And, predictably, both at the level of policy and at the level of science, these more modest efforts help move the lumbering process of the main event forward.

That was the upside. The downside is that those more modest efforts are clearly not enough. They are important, and they are surely motivating, but by themselves these efforts are simply insufficient to make the changes necessary to prevent the world from enduring the effects of substantial global warming.

Over the years there has been a noticeable shift in the focus of COP meetings. First, the theme was mitigation. Then, when mitigation looked unlikely to succeed on its own, the theme shifted to adaptation. In Doha it is safe to say that one of the dominant motifs was damage and loss. Sadly, this is where the world is in our response to climate change.

We can no longer reasonably expect to mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing our emissions below that necessary for 2°C of warming, generally taken to be the minimum safe level of warming. We can no longer expect our current efforts at adaptation to prevent us from bearing the costs associated with a warmed world. Thus, we are left asking how we can address the damage and loss that can be predicted to occur.

However this question is answered, climate change will be expensive. And we can expect international climate negotiations to proceed in that direction. Of course financial matters also generate the primary obstacle to instituting substantive climate policy: few countries are willing to put up the necessary financing. This is no surprise. Yet, as members of the UN’s Climate and Clean Air Coalition pointed out regarding a related matter, responding to a disaster is four times as expensive as preventing it. The effects of climate change will only get worse and dealing with them after they occur rather than before is simply more expensive.

And, in any event, the issue that moves many to care about climate change is only derivatively financial. Human suffering is occurring. And human suffering is going to get worse. The longer we wait the more suffering we



Ken Shockley (r.) presenting in Doha

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## SYMPOSIUM EXAMINES URBAN HYPER-DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA

By Rachel Teaman

Thirty years ago, Shenzhen was a small fishing village in southern China, population 175,000. Today, it's a sprawling megalopolis of over 12 million inhabitants and one of the fastest growing cities in the world.

The explosive growth of Shenzhen is just one example of the rapid, large-scale urbanization that has come to

tion with the Asian Studies program and the School of Architecture and Planning, with partial funding from the Ibrahim and Viviane Jammal Fund for Global Planning Studies and with the support of UB's HSBC Center for Global Business Leadership.

Today, more than half of China's residents live in cities, compared to only 20 percent in 1979. There are over 160 cities in China with one million or more residents, and five "mega cities" with over 10 million inhabitants.



*China's megacities like Chongqing illustrate the challenges of urban hyper-development*

define contemporary China. Since 1979, when China opened its markets to foreign investment, the nation's urban centers have seen spectacular economic growth, spawning a mass rural-to-urban migration and unprecedented levels of urban development.

On April 19-20, the University at Buffalo Confucius Institute and the School of Architecture and Planning hosted seven internationally renowned scholars in urban planning, political science and geography to consider the complex bureaucratic, political and economic forces shaping urbanization in China, as well as innovative planning and growth-management policies for the future.

"Building Out and Building Up: Understanding Urban Hyperdevelopment in Contemporary China," featured a series of panel presentations and audience discussion around topics such as transportation development, the changing shape of China's urban neighborhoods, land control and property development, local and provincial governance structures, and China's push for greener cities.

The symposium was designed for a broad audience of scholars, global business leaders, policy officials and professionals in architecture and planning. The two-day event was sponsored by the UB Confucius Institute in coopera-

Particularly because the pace of urbanization is expected only to accelerate, leaders in China and around the world are increasingly focused on urban planning strategies to manage growth. Indeed, China's urbanization has already had dramatic impacts related to environmental degradation, agricultural land loss, resource consumption, social and economic equity and changing urban form.

The symposium launches the UB Confucius Institute's academic emphasis on architecture and urban planning, making it the only one in the world to focus on these fundamental questions related to the historical development and future trajectory of the Peoples' Republic of China.

"Urban studies is a fascinating perspective from which to approach an understanding of Chinese culture," said Kristin Stapleton, associate professor of history and director of the Confucius Institute. "China's rich urban history is often seen as unconnected to the urban boom occurring right now, but the legacy of urban life in previous eras easily captures the imaginations of people in China today, shaping how they understand cities and hope to see them develop in the future. Our Confucius Institute aims to help the rest of the world appreciate China's urban history and

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the ways in which it influences planning in contemporary Chinese cities.”

Added Ernest Sternberg, professor and chair of UB’s Department of Urban and Regional Planning: “Some of the world’s biggest urban challenges – from rural migration to the global energy crisis – are playing out at a magnified scale in China.”

“This symposium offers an important opportunity to examine urbanization in China through the lens of urban planning, and serves as an exciting start to our partnership with the Confucius Institute,” Sternberg continued, adding that UB, like other universities across the U.S., has seen an influx of Chinese planning students due to China’s increased investment in urban planning.

The conference opened with a panel on transportation planning featuring Zhong-Ren Peng, professor of urban and regional planning at the University of Florida, and Qisheng Pan, professor and chair of the Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University.

Peng explored the roots of China’s severe traffic congestion and urban sprawl, as well as potential public transportation solutions. Pan proposed urban transportation configurations that reconcile China’s high-density development with its rapid transition to an automobile-centered system.

Qing Shen, professor and chair of the Department of Urban Design and Planning at the University of Washington, examined best practices in sustainable development, including Shanghai’s successful approach to public trans-

portation, transit-oriented development and travel demand management (e.g., restricted automobile licensing). Shen’s presentation serves as the symposium’s keynote address and the UB Department of Urban and Regional Planning’s annual Jammal Lecture.

Li Yin, associate professor of urban and regional planning at UB and a co-organizer of the symposium, says many of the event’s speakers are at the forefront of an important shift in urban planning for China.

“China’s unprecedented urbanization, urban expansion and rapid motorization have resulted in challenges that are pushing the nation’s policy makers and planners to move beyond traditional design-oriented planning to a more systematic and scientific approach using state-of-the-art technology.”

UB graduate students who have participated in a joint course in history and urban and regional planning also played a key role in the program, presenting their research on the history of foreign involvement in China’s cities, social life and transportation in contemporary cities, and comprehensive planning for small cities in China.

As part of a panel on “Governance and the Environment in Chinese Cities,” Pierre Landry, associate professor of political science at the University of Pittsburgh, explored political forces behind China’s “bureaucratic urbanization.” Alana Boland, associate professor of geography and planning at the University of Toronto, discussed China’s environmental governance and the genesis of its “eco-city” model. 🌐

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

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should expect. Climate change is a moral matter.

My involvement in the COP meetings resulted from an interest in the disconnect between the ethical dimensions of the impacts of climate change and the minimal focus on those ethical dimensions in policy discussions. I was able to join a cohort of academics and activists from across the US with similar interests. We presented our case for the explicit recognition that considerations of fairness, suffering, harm, and equity constituted ethical matters.

Failing to address these issues in the climate change debates constitutes a culpable moral blind spot, an inability or simple failure to recognize matters of moral significance regarding which one has some level of responsibility. The importance of pressing this point has led many of us to attend these meetings in the past, and the need to keep making this point will lead many of us to continue to

attend in the future.

So, in Doha, the delegates debated financial matters. They tried to develop policy instruments to bridge the commitments of the Kyoto Protocol and related UNFCCC agreements into a new agreement for the post 2020 world.

Meanwhile, in the background are not only the difficulties of finding a fair way to pay for the costs of climate change, but also the need to address what appears likely to be the great moral challenge of our age. As we look forward to the next meetings in Warsaw in November of 2013, let us hope we are better capable of meeting this challenge. 🌐

*Kenneth Shockley is associate professor of Philosophy and director of UB’s Sustainability Undergraduate Academy.*



## SOCIAL WORK ONLINE COURSE LINKS BUFFALO AND MOLDOVA

By Laura Lewis

Skeptics of the benefits of classroom technology might be surprised to learn that it is connecting faculty and students from around the globe, and supporting cross-cultural exchange.

The benefits of cross-cultural experiences for students are widely known. For Social Work in particular, exposure to other cultures can help students become more adept at working with other cultures, and help them to incorpo-

rate a larger world view. Despite these benefits, cross-cultural experiences in the traditional sense, i.e. student or faculty exchange, study abroad, and international internships, have been enjoyed by a limited few. Connecting classrooms through technology can make the benefits of cross-cultural experiences more broadly available.



Ana Niculaes and Laura Lewis in Buffalo

I was presented with the opportunity to collaborate with a professor in the Republic of Moldova while visiting the SUNY Center for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) in Manhattan last summer.

COIL promotes the development of online collaborative international courses at SUNY as a format for experiential cross-cultural learning. An array of widely available technologies can allow for a series of exchanges between classrooms situated in different countries. Exchange activities vary, but include team teaching, curriculum design, and research collaboration.

COIL does not merely promote courses where students from different countries co-habit an online classroom. Rather, they create co-equal team-taught learning environments where faculty from two cultures work together

to develop a shared syllabus, emphasizing experiential and collaborative student learning. According to Director, Jon Rubin, "The courses give new contextual meaning to the ideas and texts they explore, while providing students' new venues in which to develop their cross-cultural awareness."

My partner, Professor Ana Niculaes, of the Pedagogical State University "Ion Creanga" in Chisinau, Moldova, and I set about the task of becoming acquainted, and very quickly moved to planning elements of a shared class assignment and exchange. Using Blackboard, Skype, and Adobe Connect, we were able to join University at Buffalo students, situated in multiple states in the US, and Canada, with students in Moldova.

Our aim was to increase student sensitivity to cross-cultural differences, and broaden their perspectives on the social and human problems in their communities.

Students presented on social and human problems in their respective countries, exploring together the impact of societal conditions, such as poverty, inequality, and violations of human rights. They introduced themselves and posted their

work to Blackboard, and shared Prezi and PowerPoint presentations using video conferencing technology.

Participating students remarked on the benefits of the exchange and expressed a desire to collaborate more. The universality of problems such as poverty, and mental illness, helped to unite students around their shared concerns.

Similarly for instructors, shared interests, common professional experiences and training, and mutual instructional goals, eclipsed any differences that existed due to language and culture.

Perhaps the most persuasive argument for the power of technology to bring people together is the fact that Professor Niculaes has since come to Buffalo to complete a Carnegie Fellowship. We are now discussing in-person our ideas for future exchanges. 🌐

*Laura Lewis is the Director of Field Education at the School of Social Work, and instructor. Professor Ana Niculaes, originally at the Pedagogical State University "Ion Creanga" in Chisinau, Moldova, is currently a Carnegie Fellow at the School of Social Work at UB.*

## BRUCE JACKSON HONORED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

By Sue Wuetcher

UB faculty member Bruce Jackson's scholarly work on the death penalty in the United States played a significant role in France's abolition of capital punishment 30 years ago. In recognition of that and his other ethnographic work, the French government awarded Jackson the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters), one of the country's highest honors, in 2002.

Now, a decade later, Jackson, SUNY Distinguished Professor and James Agee Professor of American Culture in the Department of English, again is being recognized by the French government, this time with L'Ordre national du Mérite (National Order of Merit), the country's second-highest honor after the Légion d'honneur.

While Jackson received the actual appointment letter several months ago, the consul general of France in New York, Bertrand Lortholary, traveled to Buffalo on March 13, 2013 to personally present Jackson with the medal. The ceremony was held in the Buffalo residence of Provost Charles Zukoski.

The order has five classes; Jackson was named a chevalier (knight). He noted that his previous award, Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, is France's highest honor specifically in arts and humanities, and is a national order, administered by the minister of culture.

"Both Légion d'honneur and L'Ordre national du Mérite are given by the president and acknowledge broader accomplishment," he said. "There are several ranks in each of these orders; they could have promoted me to a higher rank in arts and letters. They chose instead to award me this second order, a much bigger deal because there are far fewer of them and they are given by the president, rather than by one of the president's ministers."

An acclaimed folklorist, ethnographer, documentary filmmaker and photographer, Jackson is being honored for continuing the kind of work that led to his being

named Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. Lortholary spoke several times of Jackson's artistic achievement when presenting him with the Ordre national du Mérite.

Over the past decade, Jackson has continued to publish on capital punishment and on American prison conditions—much of this work in collaboration with his wife and colleague Diane Christian, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of English.

His most recent publications include "In This Timeless

Time: Living and Dying on Death Row in America," co-authored with Christian (University of North Carolina Press, 2012) and "Inside the Wire: Photographs from Texas and Arkansas Prisons" (University of Texas Press, 2013).

"Being There," an exhibition of 350 of Jackson's documentary photographs taken over the past 50 years, is on display at the Burchfield Penny Art Center in Buffalo.



Consul General Bertrand Lortholary (left) and Bruce Jackson at the award ceremony

What does it mean to Jackson to receive another honor from the French government? "It is always nice to have one's work recognized by the president of a country," Jackson said. "But far more important is that awards like this open doors. Certain people are more willing to talk to me, or let me in places, or give me access to documents because of this two-fold ratification by the French government," he said. "Which means it helps me do my work, and that's the part that really matters."

In remarks after receiving the award, Jackson said he often is asked what he does for a living, "what my field is. I paraphrase the great Mississippi writer and photography, Eudora Welty, who said her goal, her job, was to tell people things they did not wish to hear, show them things they did not wish to see, and help them think things they might not otherwise think," Jackson said.

"That is a profession without a name, but it has a long lineage: Zola did it, Camus did it, Jean Paul Sartre did it, Dorothea Lange did it, James Agee and Walker Evans did it. "So," he said, "I gratefully accept this award honoring my work, but I do it as simply one of that great company whose task it is to help people see, hear and think." 🌐

*Sue Wuetcher is editor of the UB Reporter.*

## UB TEAM HELPS LAUNCH TWO NATIONAL PROGRAMS IN ZIMBABWE

By Gene Morse

A research team from UB traveled to Zimbabwe in March 2013 to participate in a week-long program that included the launch of two Zimbabwe National Programs: the Zimbabwe International Nanotechnology Center (ZINC) and the Zimbabwe Evidence-To-Action (ETA), an implementation project to eradicate HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe.

These events were jointly sponsored by the Zimbabwe Ministry of Science and Technology Development (MSTD); Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Welfare; University at Buffalo (UB)-University of Zimbabwe (UZ) AIDS International Training and Research Program

Physiology and Nutrition.

The week continued with a two-day workshop on March 20-21 for the ETA Project. Hosted by the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, the event was moderated by James Hakim (UZ) and Chiedza Maponga, Technical Director for Nanotechnology and Director of the UZ School of Pharmacy, and officially opened by Midion Chidzonga, Dean of the UZ College of Health Sciences. The first day summarized recent compelling data that provide the rationale for preventing HIV transmission through Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Treatment as Prevention (TaSP). Angela Mushavi summarized the national statistics for prevention of mother to child transmission and pediatric HIV infection.



Gene Morse (2nd from r.) and other members of the UB team join collaborators at the University of Zimbabwe

(AITRP); and the UZ-UB International Pharmacotherapy Education and Research Initiative (IPERI).

The week began with the 2nd Zimbabwe National Nanotechnology Consultative Meeting on March 18-19. Hosted by the MSTD, the two-day meeting launched the ZINC, a national program led by UZ and Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT), along with the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) and African University.

UB is an international partner in ZINC. Paras Prasad, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Executive Director of UB's Institute for Lasers, Photonics and Biophotonics gave the keynote address. Prasad will direct the international nanotechnology contributions for ZINC. Gene Morse of the UB Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences (CoE) and Principal Investigator of the UB-UZ AITRP presented the role that UB and the CoE will play in ZINC.

Morse will direct the international nanomedicine component of ZINC. Other participating UB faculty included Stanley Schwartz, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Peter Horvath, Associate Professor of Exercise

Hakim reviewed HPTN 052 and the dramatic results obtained in discordant couples when the HIV-infected partner was treated early after infection leading to a reduced transmission rate. David Parirenyatwa, current Chair of the Parliament Portfolio Committee on Health and former Minister of Health and Child Welfare, summarized the need for a strategy to provide treatment to key populations with HIV infection including high risk groups such as prisoners, MSM, commercial sex workers and pregnant women.

The afternoon session focused on Patient Retention and Adherence, co-chaired by Morse and Melanie Abas, senior lecturer from the Kings College London Institute of Psychiatry and Co-Investigator in the UZ Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and Initiative for Mental Health Education and Research in Zimbabwe (IMHERZ).

The meeting focused on developing multidisciplinary teams that will contribute to ETA and, through an integrated approach with MEPI, train health professionals in retention and adherence strategies centered at the Parirenyatwa Hospital Opportunistic Infection Clinic.

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## ZIMBABWE

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In a concurrent daily workshop, Robin DiFrancesco, manager of the UB Clinical Pharmacology Quality Assurance Program (CPQA) and an AITRP mentor, provided lectures focused on building laboratory skills and bioanalytical method development. The presentations occurred at the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) under the auspices of the Harare International

mation Technology (HIT) required for the ETA infrastructure in collaboration with the Zimbabwean health care system. Tariro Makadzange, OI Clinic Medical Director, presented the status of the medical records system in the Parirenyatwa Hospital, recent implementation of an electronic medical record and discussed that the majority of the legacy records for the 16,000 patients are in paper charts.



Pharmacology Specialty Laboratory (HIPSL).

HIPSL is funded by the NIH-supported AIDS Clinical Trials Group at the UZ Clinical Trials Unit. The lectures were accompanied by mentored training in the HIPSL facilities to develop skills needed to conduct bioanalytical procedures consistent with Good Laboratory Practice. HIPSL is poised to serve as a national Bioequivalence Reference Laboratory in an effort to promote the manufacture of generic medications in Zimbabwe.

In a second afternoon workshop, Kathleen (Kelly) Tooley, Education and Operations Administrator for CPQA and AITRP, and an AITRP mentor, moderated a group at the UZ College of Health Sciences to address challenges in Research Ethics and Research Administration for faculty and students who will conduct research within ETA.

The AITRP will continue to mentor graduate research projects, expanding research teams to include MEPI faculty and graduate students and offer courses in Responsible Conduct of Research, Research Design, Biostatistics and Epidemiology in collaboration with the Zimbabwe-based, Biomedical Research and Training Institute (BRTI).

The second day of the ETA Workshop was chaired by Gene Morse who provided a presentation on the progress of the UB-UZ AITRP. Highlights included a review of the Training Advisory Group and the recently established Scientific Advisory Board. New research programs, including Nanomedicine and Drug Development (in collaboration with ZINC), Nutritional and Traditional Medicine Pharmacology, Clinical Pharmacology and Healthcare Informatics. Isaac Shadreck Dombo gave an overview from the community practitioner perspective and suggested mechanisms that physicians can contribute to early HIV treatment. UB AITRP mentors who attended included Prasad, Schwartz and Horvath.

The second half of the morning program was chaired by Morse and focused on Bioinformatics and Health Infor-

Makadzange indicated the need to establish integrated digital systems between the Parirenyatwa Hospital laboratories and the OI clinic so that HIV viral loads, CD4 cell counts and other laboratory results could be accessed by the clinic.

Professor Morse presented an overview of approaches to conduct implementation research using HIT within ETA that would provide education and research opportunities for AITRP and MEPI faculty to investigate clinical and economic outcomes.

Morse also described the handwriting recognition software developed by UB's Center for Unified Biometrics that converts legacy records into a digital format, and could allow the OI Clinic to establish multiple patient cohorts within ETA. PSMI, a local health care company, provided a summary of their organization's health system and informatics programs that foster communication among hospital, clinics, pharmacies and administration. Considerable discussion and extensive audience participation followed with comments and questions for the presenters.

The afternoon program was at the Perseverance, Adherence, Respect and Integrity (PARI) Support Group at the St. Joseph Community Center. Members of PARI described the role of the group in sustaining their individual motivation to battle HIV infection, maintain adherence to ARVs and encourage others in the community to take medications and participate in UZ-sponsored clinical research projects.

In the HIV Nutrition Pharmacology working group, Dr. Peter Horvath and faculty and graduate students from the Departments of Pediatrics and Biochemistry discussed nutritional considerations for the ETA project. Dr. Horvath provided a seminar on March 25 for the UZ Departments of Pediatrics and Biochemistry titled "Nutritional Aspects of HIV Infection and Treatment."

In summary, the UB team's visit accomplished many goals, contributed to two Zimbabwean national initiatives and conducted numerous sessions, workshops and small group meetings. This extensive spectrum of research and education programs has been built on the strong AITRP link between UZ and UB. 🌐

## ON FIRST VISITING CUBA

By Georg Iggers

Accompanied by my son Daniel, I traveled to Cuba this spring for the first time, having received an invitation from the University of Havana, UB's longstanding partner institution.

Unfortunately, my wife Wilma could not come along. Since the U.S. still forbids its citizens to go to Cuba, she would have needed special permission. There are exceptions to the prohibition, including for scholars who are invited to give lectures in Cuba, which allowed me to go.

Daniel, who lives in Toronto and is a Canadian citizen, could accompany me without a problem, as Canada has no such restrictions. We had a wonderful reception in Cuba, but then we had the privilege of being tourists.

Tourism is today Cuba's main industry. We lived in an old fashioned but very comfortable hotel in the midst of historic Old Havana, the historic Hotel Ambos Mundos, where Ernest Hemingway wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

I would like to have talked with average Cubans in the countryside, but we were too busy to leave Havana. The closest we came to speaking with ordinary Cubans was with cab drivers, especially one with whom we drove several times, who on the one hand believed strongly that the "Revolution" as they call it had achieved a great deal in terms of health, education, social equality, lack of crime – he considered Cuba today the safest country in the world – but also stressed that Cubans are afraid to express their criticisms in public because of the retribution which could follow—in other words positive social reforms at the expense of personal freedoms.

Three historians who had close contacts with Cuba had urged me to go to Cuba and had mediated my invitation from the Department of History at the University of Havana for a week as guest of the department. I had expected a situation under strict control as I had experienced it in the old German Democratic Republic (Communist East Germany) where I had lectured frequently in the 1970s and 1980s, but things turned out to be much more open in Cuba.

In East Germany my lectures were always restricted to a small circle of distinguished historians with no students, except for occasional doctoral candidates, although I had

always asked that I wanted to meet with students. This became possible only after 1985 in the last days of East Germany. I made a similar request in Havana; the request was granted. The organizers arranged for me to meet with three classes—a second year history class, a fourth year history class, and a class with graduate students.

In addition, there was an informal session with the Center for U.S. Studies which cosponsored my visit. They preferred that I lecture in Spanish, which I did. I can express myself freely in Spanish, but have problems understanding the spoken language; and there was always someone there to assist me when I did not understand.

I sent them three Spanish texts on three very different



Professor Iggers (center-left, with white hair and white shirt) addresses a class at the University of Havana

topics, which they thought were very appropriate. One was from Wilma's and my autobiography, which has been translated into Spanish, the chapter "Unequal but Separate" on the Little Rock crisis in the 1950's and our involvement in the civil rights movement; the second my development as a historian in the context of the historiographical trends of the time; the third about Marxism and historiography.

The first class was to deal with civil rights. The day before Dan and I had a very frank discussion with a professor about racial equality in Cuba, where over half the population is of African or partially African descent. He obviously identified himself with the "Revolution", felt that a great deal of progress had been made in the direction of racial equality, that in this way Cuba was ahead of the United States, but that there remained definite inequalities in terms of social mobility. He pointed out that in his department of thirty professors there were only two of African descent.

Thus a lot still had to be done and he saw the roots of this inequality not as you would expect of a good Marxist in economic but largely in cultural factors. The atmosphere in all three classes was jovial and open in a way which would not have been possible in the old East Germany;

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## CUBA

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each time there were about thirty five attending.

In my paper I spoke of the situation at the time of the US Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, declaring the doctrine of equal but separate unconstitutional. I talked then freely in Spanish, in part using statistics, to point out the great advances which had been made since then, but that the schools are almost as segregated today as they were in 1954.

The first question which followed was surprising and did not relate directly to the topic, but revealed how the students felt. The question was how I felt about North Korea, a country with which Cuba has friendly relations. I answered that I see North Korea as an oppressive, essentially Stalinist regime with gulags; he replied that he fully agreed with me.

The students applauded. I had circulated a page from my FBI file which indicated that the FBI began a file on me when as a teenager I became involved in civil rights. This led to the question how I was able to get at the file. I explained the Freedom of Information Act and discussed what freedom of information means.

Somewhat off the subject, I compared my visit to Santiago de Chile the previous month with my visit now to Havana and said that I saw something positive in the absence of international commercial chains, including fast food restaurants. One of the students replied that once in her lifetime she would like to eat at a McDonalds, and everyone laughed.

The next class was less exciting because it dealt more narrowly with historiographical issues, specifically with the question of the objectivity of historical inquiry and the challenge of postmodernism. There was nevertheless a good discussion which prepared the way to the next session on Marxism and historiography.

But the most exciting session was the final one on Marxism and Historiography. I originally intended to discuss a project on which my Chinese-American friend Edward Wang and I are engaged, a volume with contributors from throughout the world on the question of the role of Marxist theory for historical writing at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

I cited Eric Hobsbawm's last book in which he, a life-long Marxist, wrote that much of what Marx wrote was outdated and other parts were, to use his word, unacceptable. In a short introductory paper I presented Marx's basic ideas of economic determinism, class struggle, and stages of historical development and compared them with the remnant of Marxist ideas in historical writing today, particularly in the non-Western world and specifically Latin America.

One of the professors spoke about the revisions which the Italian Marxist political activist and philosopher Antonio Gramsci had made of Marx's theories, particularly

class, which did not fit the actual realities of industrially less or unevenly developed countries. The question immediately was raised why there had never been a significant socialist movement in the United States or even, as in England, a labor party.

According to Marx's prediction it should have been exactly in highly developed industrial countries like the United States or England that a revolutionary proletariat would develop rather than in less developed countries like Russia and China – one could hardly speak of a significant proletariat in China. The class was to last ninety minutes; we were still discussing well after two hours. Students and faculty, including the chair of the department, asked how they could get my publications and I promised to send them online. I am confident that we shall remain in touch.

All of this is very encouraging for Cuba's future. But there are also many disturbing signs. The strict control of information: There are no independent newspapers; all the newspapers I was able to buy, not only Granma, the Pravda of Cuba, were published by the party. Normal civilians have no access to Internet. They can receive only six TV stations; the only foreign one to which they have access is a Venezuelan one. And of course outspoken dissidents face incarceration under harsh conditions. We can only hope that there will be an opening which will grant greater freedom and democracy, and also create room for economic initiatives without abandoning the social reforms which distinguish Cuba today.

The Cubans we spoke to, including persons very much committed to what they see as the achievements of the Revolution, are aware of shortcomings; they praised the health system; but also saw the miserable state of hospitals; they felt rightly that here had been considerable advances towards overcoming racial inequality, but also like the professor we interviewed, who had a picture of Fidel and one of Bolivar in his office, recognized that there were still considerable social inequalities in regard to race.

My account reflects the positive impressions we had about the openness of our discussions with the students and faculty. It is also clear where they stood, when they applauded what I said about North Korea notwithstanding the friendly relations which Cuba still has with North Korea.

But I also took notice of the fear which exists regarding dissident opinions, reflected very clearly in the comments the cab driver made to us who identified with the social reforms brought about by the Revolution but also stressed the fear Cubans have of differing with official policies.

I had made it very clear in the discussions where I stood and tried to give a balanced picture of advances in the United States not only in civil rights but also civil liberties.

I brought up the question of freedom of information in connections with the page from my FBI file which I circu-

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## SEAS ALUMNUS ELECTED RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY IN PANAMA

Oscar Ramírez, a Ph.D. graduate of the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, was elected Rector of the Technological University of Panama (UTP), the highest authority of the institution.

The appointment was made during an inauguration ceremony on February 1, 2013, where over 500 people, including university officials, government representatives and the university community, joined in the celebration. His term will run for five years, through 2018.

Michael Constantinou, professor in the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, who was Ramírez's dissertation advisor, was an invited guest speaker at the ceremony.

He told the audience that "Ramírez's dissertation (published in 2001) represents the basis of the only standard or specification, worldwide, on the design of structures with damping systems. Few students, if any, are ever fortunate enough to see their doctoral work achieve such wide recognition and implementation. To this day, Professor Ramírez continues to be involved in code and specification committees in the Americas, including the American Concrete Institute."

Constantinou also spoke about Professor Ramírez's extensive experience as a practicing engineer. "In 1999, I was fortunate to have Professor Ramírez assist me in the analysis and design of the seismic rehabilitation and up-

grade, using seismic isolation, of the Ataturk Airport in Istanbul, Turkey that was seriously damaged in the earthquake of August 1999. Professor Ramírez performed analyses to evaluate performance when the procedures were then at their infancy."

Constantinou also presented a seminar on "Seismic Protection Systems" to the civil engineering department the day before the ceremony, on January 31, 2013.

In addition to Ramírez, two other graduates from UB's Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering were appointed to leadership positions at the university. Gilberto A. Chang, who received his Ph.D. in 1993 (advisor: John Mander), is now the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate

Education; and Ramiro E. Vargas, who received his Ph.D. in 2006 (advisor Dr. Michel Bruneau), is the Director of the Experimental Center for Engineering Research, the position formerly held by Professor Ramírez. All three were funded by MCEER (or its predecessor the National Center for Earthquake Engineering Research – NCEER) during their studies at UB.

The Technological University of Panama, founded in 1981, has graduated over 45,000 professionals in the areas of engineering and technology and serves an enrollment of 19,000 students. 🌐



Rector Ramírez (center) and his advisor Michael Constantinou (3rd from l.) at the inauguration ceremony in Panama

## FULBRIGHT ALUMNI CONFERENCE AT UB

Thirty-seven alumni of the Fulbright Program gathered April 12, 2013 at the Student Union on UB's North Campus for the annual conference of the Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania (WNY/NWPA) Chapter of the Fulbright Association. Participants included faculty from eight institutions of higher education in Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Dr. Shannon Risk, assistant professor of history at Niagara University and president of the WNY/NWPA, was the principal organizer of the conference. Professor Stephen Dunnett, Vice Provost for International Education at UB, a Fulbright alumnus himself, made the local arrangements at UB and offered welcoming remarks to

conference attendees.

The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Abdiweli Ali, professor of commerce at Niagara University, who is a former prime minister of Somalia and who spoke about the conference theme, "African Connections: The Importance of the Fulbright Program."

Among conference participants from UB were Professor Kenneth Shockley, Department of Philosophy, outgoing Fulbright Student Advisor for UB, and Professor Colleen Culleton, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, the incoming Fulbright Student Advisor.

One of the topics for discussion at the conference was opportunities for networking among past faculty Fulbright grantees and prospective student Fulbrighters. 🌐

## SYMPOSIUM HONORS ALISON DES FORGES

By Sue Wuetcher

The Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee presented two events on April 16, 2013 to highlight the current human rights crises in the Middle East and in Central Africa, as well as honor the memory of Des Forges, an internationally known historian and human rights activist.



L. to r.: Scott Weber, Ledeebari Banuna and Roger Des Forges

A symposium on “Human Rights in the Middle East and Central Africa: Comparisons and Contrasts between Rwanda and Israel” took place that afternoon in the Law School.

Later that day, the committee hosted a Scholarship Fund Dinner and Discussion at the Jacobs Executive Development Center downtown.

The theme for the symposium derived from an article in *The New York Times* in December 2012 on the current situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where an estimated 4 million people have died in conflict over the past several years. In the article, correspondent Jeffrey Gettleman referred to Rwanda as “the Israel of Africa,” arguing that both countries use their history of genocide as a rationale for military action affecting their neighbors.

The symposium addressed such questions as, Does Gettleman’s comparison of Rwanda and Israel have merit? Are there other ways in which Israel and Rwanda are similar or different? Why is Syria in the news and Congo is not? What are the roles of the United States in

these two important world regions and what should they be?

Three speakers attempted to answer these questions. Ken Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, examined “Are there Parallels between Rwanda’s and Israel’s Experience and Conduct?” Howard French, associate professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism who has reported extensively on the political affairs of Western and Central Africa, discussed “Guilt, Oversimplification and Inattention in Perspectives and Policies toward the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa.”

Uri Zaki, director of the U.S. branch of B’Tselem, Israel’s pre-eminent human rights organization, addressed “Israel at 65—Democracy, Occupation and In Between.”

Commentators included UB faculty members Tara Melish, associate professor and director of the Buffalo Human Rights Center, UB Law School; and Shaun Irlam, professor and chair of the Department of Comparative Literature, and a student of the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide. Also serving as a commentator was postdoctoral scholar Nimer Sultany of the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, UB Law School.

In addition to The Alison L. Des Forges Memorial Committee, the symposium was co-sponsored by the Baldy Center, Buffalo Human Rights Center, UB Gender Institute, the Anne Frank Project at Buffalo State College and the Western New York Peace Center.

The Scholarship Fund Dinner was designed to foster dialogue with the Buffalo community and to raise funds to support the Alison L. Des Forges Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund at UB.

The fund supports four-year scholarships at UB for promising Buffalo public school students interested in pursuing a course of study and career in human rights. The first scholarship winner, Ledeebari Banuna, a senior at City Honors School, was recognized at the dinner in a presentation by Professor Roger Des Forges and Professor Scott Weber, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

One of the world’s leading experts on Rwanda, Des Forges was among the victims of the 2009 crash of a Continental Connection flight in Clarence Center. She was an adjunct member of the UB history faculty during the 1990s and received an honorary doctorate from SUNY during UB’s 155th general commencement ceremony in 2001.

She served as senior adviser to the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch for the last 20 years of her life.

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



## UB PROFESSOR HONORED IN NIGERIA AS CHIEF

By Sue Wuetcher

Being installed as a Nigerian chief in an elaborate ceremony in December 2012 in the Yoruba town of Esie was a high point of his career, says UB anthropologist Phillips Stevens Jr.

But that was just the beginning: Stevens learned after the installation ceremony that a research center will be built in the town and named for him.

"This is a double honor," Stevens recently told the UB Reporter. "I don't think it's sunk in yet. Very few people from outside the area are given such an honor."

Both honors recognize Stevens' work in the 1960s preserving the stone images of Esie, Africa's largest and most mysterious collection of stone carvings. His work, part of his duties during a stint with the Peace Corps, put Esie on the map and sparked an economic boon for the town that continues to this day.

Stevens, associate professor of anthropology, was one of 17 people installed as chiefs on Dec. 1 by the traditional ruler of the town, HRM Oba Yakubu Babalola, as part of his 25th anniversary celebration. Stevens received the chieftaincy title "The Erewumi of Esie Kingdom;" Erewumi roughly translates to "the images and I get along well," Stevens explained.

His trip to Nigeria began just after Thanksgiving with an 11 ½-hour flight from Atlanta to Lagos, Nigeria. He stayed in Lagos for two days, then traveled by road to Esie, a town in southwest Nigeria—a six-hour trip.

Once in Esie, he was given two suits of traditional Yoruba clothing to wear during the ceremony, which was held on a football field and attended by 1,000 invited guests and, by Stevens' estimation, another 500 onlookers.

Stevens and the other chiefs-to-be were brought individually before the king by groups of supporters and drummers. Stevens knelt before the king and a cap, inscribed with his title "Erewumi" in gold beads, was placed upon his head. Under the cap were stuck sprigs of akòko (*Newbouldia laevis*, or African Border Tree), traditionally placed on the heads of chiefs.

Stevens said that when he stood up, well-wishers, drummers and officials from the National Commission for Museums and Monuments—who had come from

Nigeria's capital, Abuja—surrounded him, held his arms and led him, dancing, "back into the world after this transformation." The ceremony is, in fact, a rite of passage, marking a change in status, Stevens said. "One leaves his former status, is transformed, and ceremonially enters society in his new status."



Before the installation, Phil Stevens sits with HRM Oba Yakubu Babalola, the traditional ruler of Esie (left) and the traditional ruler of a neighboring town, one of many invited for the event.

The well-wishers also "sprayed" small-denomination paper money on his forehead and over his body, in a traditional recognition of great achievement.

Drummers and musicians played, praise-singers chanted, the new chiefs danced and everyone was served a big meal.

Stevens said he learned that the research center would be built and named for him at a meeting later in the day with representatives of the national commission.

The Phillips Stevens Jr. Center for Esie Studies will be the center of further research on the soapstone figures, and Stevens said other topics also may be addressed, such as economic development and social issues.

Stevens had worked part-time for the national commission—then called the Department of Antiquities—while teaching in the Peace Corps in 1963-64. He was offered a full-time job in 1965 and was sent to Esie to document, catalogue and help repair the 1,000 soapstone statues—many were broken or damaged to some extent—and build a new museum to house them. He lived and worked in Esie until 1966, when he entered the graduate program in anthropology at Northwestern University.

In 1974, he returned to the town to further document and photograph the statues. His 1978 book, "The Stone

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## INTERNATIONAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

**R**ichard Ru Gin Chang, MS '79, was honored with the 2013 International Distinguished Alumni Award. The award was presented to Chang in Shanghai by Dr. Courtney Walsh, assistant dean for executive development at the School of Management.

Chang has more than 30 years of experience in foundry operations, wafer fabrication and semiconductor research and development.

He is founder of two integrated supply chain for LED products: AepiTek Optoelectronics, which produces sapphire wafers, and ShineRayTek Optoelectronics, maker of LED lighting products.

While studying at the University at Buffalo, Chang says he received "a sterling education and developed lifelong friendships," which were of great assistance to him in founding another company, Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (SMIC).



SMIC was one of the top foundries in the industry and the largest foundry in China. He also founded Worldwide Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (WSMC).

Early in his career Chang spent 20 years at Texas Instruments, where he had the opportunity to work with Jack Kilby, inventor of the integrated circuit.

Chang credits Kilby's encouragement during his early career with inspiring the vision and work ethic that has allowed him to build and manage semiconductor fabs and integrated circuit operations throughout the world, including China, the United States, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore and Italy.

He has also received a number of awards such as the Asian Venture Capital Awards "Entrepreneur of the Year," the Magnolia Silver Award from the Shanghai Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, the International Scientific and Technological Cooperation Award of The People's Republic of China, and

the China Semiconductor Industry Leadership Award. 🌐

## NIGERIA

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Images of Esie, Nigeria" (Ibadan University Press/Federal Department of Antiquities; NY: Holmes & Meier/Africana), is the only complete catalogue of the collection and the definitive text on the figures.

Stevens said the whirlwind trip to Esie "is still kind of a blur." He said he met a few people he remembered, including a man who had worked with him who is now the chief Imam of the town. While most of his friends and co-workers from the 1960s have died, he was welcomed by several of their adult children.

And the town has grown tremendously. "It used to be a mile walk or a difficult drive on a rutted dirt road to get to the museum," he said. "Now, the town has spread to the museum.

"But Esie town is not on a main highway, hence it is quite a peaceful place," he said. "It is north of the humid, tropical forest zone, nearly to the edge of the savannah, and on somewhat elevated ground so there is frequently

a breeze, and many successful people are building their retirement homes there."

But what struck Stevens most strongly is the "peaceful, indeed, indifferent coexistence of Christians and Muslims."

"The two largest buildings in the town, of equal height, are the central mosque and the Cathedral Church of St. Michael, the home church of the bishop of the Anglican diocese," he said. "Nigeria has a sad reputation for Muslim-Christian conflict and Esie is a refreshing model of mutual tolerance and respect."

Stevens noted that hereditary or honorary chieftaincy is a great honor and can benefit incumbents politically and economically. "But it comes with a set of expectations," he said, adding that the newly installed chiefs were bestowed their titles in recognition of their service to the town and its people, and they will be expected to continue their service.

So Stevens has been rounding up copies of his book, which has been out of print for many years, to send to the new research center. He also plans to help with fundraising. 🌐

## INTERNATIONAL MASTER'S PROGRAM IN VOLCANOLOGY

By Rebecca Leach, Robert Dennen and Eliza Calder

**N**ow in its third year, INVOGE is a grant-funded international master's degree program jointly sponsored by the US Department of Education and the European Commission which gives students in geology a unique learning experience in the global environment.

The International Geological Masters in Volcanology and Geotechniques (INVOGE) program is cooperatively administered by four partner universities—the University at Buffalo and Michigan Technological University in the United States; and Blaise Pascal University (UBP) and Milan-Bicocca University (UM-B) in Clermont-Ferrand, France and Milan, Italy, respectively.

The program provides students from the US and the EU who are interested in volcanology with international training in volcanology and geotechniques, as well as exposing them to the culture and language of the partner institutions across the Atlantic.

As part of the program each institution provides a range of specialized courses closely related to its specific research and professional strengths; students in the INVOGE program have an opportunity to participate in courses at their home institution as well as one or more abroad.

Each student spends at least one academic year (2 semesters, or 9 months) on the opposite side of the Atlantic. US students go to either Clermont-Ferrand or Milan and then spend a few additional weeks at the other EU institution, thus gaining a deep level of experience of the language and culture of one place, and an appreciation of the other.

EU students spend at least one academic year at one of the two US institutions. When they complete the program, students gain two master's degrees—one each from the home and exchange institution, along with an international supplement signifying the dual degree.

Several students who have been through the program agree that learning about a new culture and becoming fluent in a new language was part of the initial incentive to participate in INVOGE.

One of the French students spent her first year in France, but shared an apartment with the two American students that were there for their year abroad. It gave her

the opportunity to make new friends and improve her English before coming to the United States the following year for her year abroad.

Experiencing a different academic system has been eye-opening for many students. In the US, multiple courses are taken at the same time over the course of a semester. In France, multiple professors teach a single subject during the course of one week, with the subjects and groups of professors changing on a weekly basis.

In addition to taking classes, students in the US simultaneously work on their master's theses, while in France the first three semesters are devoted to course work and the final semester is strictly for working on and completing a thesis. The thesis project of each student is co-supervised by faculty from at least one EU and one US institution.

The differing schedules between US and EU universities presented some challenges to the INVOGE students, but part of the

objective was to appreciate the differences in the systems.

In terms of language, some students were more fluent than others in the language of the host country, which posed unique issues for every student. With guidance from their respective advisors and help from new friends, each student overcame these challenges and succeeded in surviving in the distinctive academic systems.

The friendships that formed between students while they were at the host school proved to be one of the most memorable benefits of participating in INVOGE. Some students had the chance to travel in their host country (or others) with the new friends they made and they truly enjoyed seeing and experiencing more of the host country and its culture.

In France, for example, prior to beginning classes, the second year master's students at Clermont-Ferrand participate in a volcanology and metamorphic rocks field trip, where they spend 10 days visiting Italian volcanoes followed by a week in the Italian Alps. Although the field trips precede any classes, they were an incredible bonding experience for the French students and the newly-arrived visiting US students.

Even with the initial difficulties and all of the new experiences, every student who has been involved with INVOGE has grown personally, has a greater cultural awareness, can survive despite language barriers, and



2nd-year INVOGE students at Clermont, France, including Rebecca Leach (2nd from r.)

## STUDENT TEAM DESIGNS BRIDGES FOR RURAL AFRICA

By Brian Kelly

Imagine a project that could bring together engineering students at UB with villagers half a world away in rural Kenya. In spring 2013 the Dept. of Civil, Struc-

Bridging the Gap Africa raises money at various charity events and through both private and corporate donors. Local materials and labor are used to construct the actual bridges. The organization aims at implementing projects that involve the entire community.

They provide technical assistance to the project, and that is where the students at UB come in.

Professor O'Connor developed a plan for students to assist in designing a pedestrian footbridge



*During the rainy season, this ravine fills with water and becomes impassable.*

tural and Environmental Engineering offered an elective course that did just that.

A Civil Engineering Capstone Design class was taught during Spring semester 2013 by Jerome S. O'Connor, P.E., manager of CSEE's Bridge Engineering Program. This class gave students a unique opportunity to apply four years of engineering knowledge and problem-solving skills to a real world dilemma.

Mr. O'Connor identified a client interested in constructing pedestrian footbridges in Sub-Saharan Africa. The client is a reputable not-for-profit organization called Bridging the Gap Africa. Once featured on "CNN Heroes," Harmon Parker's organization aims to improve the lives of marginalized communities of people.


One way they have found particularly helpful is to aid in the construction of footbridges. Impassable rivers and ravines are major obstacles for villagers that make it impossible for them to access educational opportunities and healthcare. They also severely restrict economic opportunity as villagers cannot trade or sell easily in other marketplaces. In addition, the lack of footbridges makes any kind of travel extremely dangerous. Bridging the Gap Africa estimates that 600 people die every year attempting to cross rivers without footbridges in rural Kenya.

in southeast Kenya. All semester long the students worked in teams designing plans for the footbridges.

In addition to design, the UB students are trying to raise funds to help support the actual construction of the project. Bridging the Gap Africa estimates that a footbridge with steel cables can be built for \$20,000.00. It seems like a lot, but it's a small price to pay to save countless human lives.

For most of the students, this is the first attempt at a "real" project that could potentially have a significant impact on the lives of villagers on the other side of the world. It was a sobering realization and they are taking the task seriously.

They realize how fortunate we are to be living here in a country where easy access to roads, shops, doctors, etc, is taken for granted. The class has said that they consider it a privilege to have taken part in a project that may in some small way make life easier for a population that depends on safe walking routes in their everyday lives.

For information about Bridging the Gap Africa, visit <http://www.bridgingthegapafrika.org/>. 

*Brian Kelly is a member of the design team United Engineers for a Sustainable World.*

## UB AND BROCK TO LAUNCH JOINT M.A. PROGRAM

By Patricia Donovan

Satish A. Tripathi, president of the University at Buffalo, and Jack Lightstone, president of Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, have made official a joint Master of Arts degree in Canadian and American studies to be offered in the fall.

An agreement signed by the two presidents on Feb. 1 at Brock University renews a five-year partnership agreement through which the universities will continue to share research and education initiatives. One of those initiatives is the joint MA degree.

UB Provost Charles F. Zukoski said the new program was significant for the university and its students, noting it will be the first international joint degree to be offered in the State University of New York system.

Stephen C. Dunnett, vice provost for international education at UB, said the Feb. 1 event was “a wide-ranging meeting at which the presidents and provosts of the two institutions discussed a number of promising opportunities for expanding cooperation relating to economic development in the bi-national Buffalo Niagara region, cross-disciplinary research in targeted areas of mutual interest and exchange of faculty and students.”

The new 12-month on-campus program is open to students from a range of undergraduate disciplines, and was developed by the Canadian Studies Program in the UB Department of Transnational Studies and the Faculty in Humanities at Brock University.



President Lightstone (left) exchanging copies of the agreement with President Tripathi

D. Munroe Eagles, professor of political science and director of the UB Canadian studies program, was instrumental in developing the new degree, which, he says, recognizes the vital need for citizens on both sides of the border to understand one another.

Eagles, a Canadian citizen, said the program “will focus on interdisciplinary research in the area of borders and boundaries, a field whose relevance is evidenced by the geographical location of the institutions and by the existing cooperation between the two countries. “We have developed as nations in different ways, with unique sensibilities, loyalties and cultures,” he said, “and it is imperative that we understand our differences as well as our shared interests as best we can.

“We are among the most active campuses in the

entire United States when it comes to research and teaching on Canada,” Eagles added, “and the UB faculty has long appreciated the importance of that role.”

The program’s initial cohort will comprise six students from each university in different fields of study. In addition to graduate courses in their specific disciplines, they will be required to undertake comparative analyses of social, economic, political and cultural issues in the two nations through courses taught by faculty members in the humanities and social sciences at both universities. Additional electives covering other aspects of the Canadian-American relationship will also be encouraged. 🌐

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

## INTERNATIONAL MASTER'S

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has formed connections across the world that may be beneficial in terms of career building. Students came out of this program more confident in themselves and their ability to thrive in a global world. Students see the range of possibilities available for their futures and have gained the tools to pursue them.

Participation in the INVOGE program has led students to go on to working at the Smithsonian Institution, continuing their education by applying to and beginning work on a PhD’s, and working at higher education institutions. 🌐

*Rebecca Leach and Robert Dennen are UB students in the INVOGE program; Eliza Calder is UB coordinator of the program and associate professor of Geological Sciences.*

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

*Department of Anthropology*

**Deborah Reed-Danahay**, professor and director of European Studies, spent the fall 2012 semester at Cambridge University (UK) as a Yip Fellow at Magdalene College. While there, she was conferred the permanent status of Fellow at Magdalene College. She was elected to the status of Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute in early 2013. Reed-Danahay's 2012 international publications include: « La notion de 'communauté' à l'épreuve des terrains : des espaces sociaux de la France rurale à la diaspora vietnamienne » [Confronting 'Community': From the Social Spaces of Rural France to the Vietnamese Diaspora] in *Parallaxes Transatlantiques: Pour une Anthropologie Réciproque*. Edited by Anne Raulin and Susan Carol Rogers. Pp. 159-180. Paris: Editions du CNRS; and "The Vietnamese American Buddhist Youth Association: A Community of Practice for Learning Civic Skills," *TSANTSA* [Journal of the Swiss Ethnological Society] 7: 76-85. In December 2012, she delivered an invited lecture on "Writing the Vietnamese Diaspora in France: Cultural Citizenship, Identity, and Memory" at the European University Institute's Migration Policy Center in Florence, Italy. In October 2012, she was invited to speak on "Social Space and Cultural Citizenship: Displays of Civic Engagement among Vietnamese American Youth" at the Department of Anthropology, Brunel University, UK.

*Asian Studies Program*

**Kristin Stapleton**, director; **Wenzhong (Eric) Yang**, executive director; and **Qiaomei Lu**, associate director, of the Confucius Institute attended the seventh annual world meeting of Confucius Institutes in Beijing in December 2012, where they discussed new initiatives to encourage study of Chinese and research on China at UB and around the world. Along with Li Yin and Ernest Sternberg of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, they organized a symposium called "Building Out and Building Up: Understanding Urban Hyperdevelopment in Contemporary China," which brought experts on urban China to UB in April 2013. The students in Stapleton's spring graduate seminar on Chinese urbanism helped run the symposium and participated in the discussions. Stapleton chaired a session on "Urban Development" at the International Conference on Social and Spatial Transformations in Urban China at the Hong Kong Baptist University, December 13-14, 2012. She also gave talks on contemporary China at the Orchard Park and Amherst Senior Centers, as part of Erie County senior services "University Express" program.

*Department of Classics*

**Neil Coffee**, associate professor and chair, delivered a paper, "Claudian's Intertextuality with Lucan in his Historical and Mythical Hexameters" at the conference "Lucaïn et Claudien face à face: une poésie politique entre épopée, histoire et panégyrique", organized by the University of Geneva Department of Classics, sponsored and hosted by the Fondation Hardt, Geneva, Switzerland in November 2012.

*Department of Comparative Literature*

**Rodolphe Gasche**, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Eugenio Donato Chair, published an essay "La fuerza de no tener nada que mostrar. Mis encuentros con Guy Debord," trans. C. Bettoni, *Pensar & Poetizar*, Valparaiso: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Vol. 10, pp.19-22. He delivered the keynote address at the International Conference on Kafka: "Kafka and the Paradox of the Universal" at the University of Antwerpen, Belgium. The title of the lecture was "As High as the Sky: The Village Schoolmaster's Discovery of a Giant Mole."

The department is hosting a visiting scholar, **Runtuo Xu**, a professor at Ludong University in Shandong province of China. He is co-author of the book *History of Western Literary Theory* (3rd edition, High

Education Press, 2008). He has published articles on new historicism, Heidegger and Wittgenstein. His teaching and research interests include literary theory, especially deconstruction, history of Western aesthetics, modernism and postmodernism. During his stay in Buffalo, Xu is working with **Ewa Plonowska Ziarek**, professor, on his interests in literary theory and translating one of Ziarek's books into Chinese.

*Department of Economics*

**Alex Anas**, professor, was the guest of the Millennium Institute for Engineering Complex Systems of the Universidad de Chile in Santiago de Chile from January 14 through 21, 2013 where he collaborated on a research paper and contributed to the evaluation of a Ph.D. dissertation. From February 15 through the 17<sup>th</sup>, he was a guest speaker at the Leontieff Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia where he lectured on "Congestion and Metropolitan Development" during an international conference on "Geography and Economy" and on February 18 he gave a public lecture in Moscow's New Economic School, titled "What do Chicago, Paris and Los Angeles have in common?"

**Hye Mi You**, assistant professor, presented a paper titled "Wage Volatility and Changing Patterns of Labor Supply" (a joint work with Byoung Hoon Seok (Ohio State University) and Jay H. Hong (University of Rochester)) at three universities in South Korea in December 2012—Seoul National University, Korea University, and Sogang University.

*Department of English*

**David Alff**, assistant professor, delivered a conference paper entitled, "Walkable Futures: John Gay's London and the Itinerary of Intention," at the American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada in April 2013.

**Joan Copjec**, SUNY and UB Distinguished Professor, gave the keynote lecture, "Encore; one more effort to defend sexual difference," at the Center for Interdisciplinary and Transcultural Research conference "Kisses and a Love Letter: Reading Sexed Subjectivity in Anglophone Literature and Visual Arts After Lacan's Seminar XX: Encore" in Besançon, France, March 2012.

**Jerold C. Frakes**, professor, received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship to support his study of the emergence of early Yiddish literature during the 2013-14 academic year. He has also received a fellowship from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris to participate on one of their research teams as he works on his current book-length project, "Cultural Revolution in Ashkenaz: The Emergence of Early Yiddish Literature."

**Walter Hakala**, assistant professor, was awarded grants through the Vice Provost of International Education's Faculty Internationalization Fund and the Vice Provost for University Libraries for travel to India during July and August 2013. Where he will visit University at Buffalo partner institution Banares Hindu University (BHU). In Banaras, he will work to nurture existing connections and establish new contacts at BHU, evaluating future research opportunities and study abroad programs in support of the growing South Asia curriculum at UB.

**Irving Massey**, emeritus professor, is continuing his research with the Medical Research Council Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit at the University of Cambridge on hypnagogia, the transitional state of consciousness from awake to asleep, and will return to work in their lab in June 2013.

**Carla Mazzio**, associate professor, is presenting a paper at Keynes Library, Birkbeck College, University of London for a conference or-

ganized by the Birbeck Early Modern Society in London, "Working it Out: A Day of Numbers in Early Modern Writing."

**Steve McCaffery**, David Gray Chair of Poetry and Letters, has published several essays and poems, including "Day Labour" in *Time in Time: Short Poems, Long Poems, and the Rhetoric of North American Avant-Gardism, 1963-2008*, ed. J. Mark Smith, Canada: McGill-Queens University Press; "Language Writing" in *The Cambridge Companion to American Poetry Since 1945*, ed. Jennifer Ashton, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press; and "Poésies fantômes" in *Viridis Candela* (official journal of Le College de 'Pataphysique in Paris). He will also give talks and readings at universities including University of London, University of Sussex, and Universidad Autónoma in Madrid.

**Cristanne Miller**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, has been awarded the Fulbright-Tocqueville Distinguished Chair in American Studies award to teach for a semester in France at the University of Paris 7, Diderot in fall 2013.

**Alex Reid**, associate professor, will be giving a paper at the Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory (HASTAC) conference in Toronto; the panel is titled "Latour's Compositionism and the Angel of History."

**Marla Segol**, associate professor, will be doing archival work at the National Library in Jerusalem this summer. While in Jerusalem, she will also participate in the World Congress of Jewish Studies.

**Howard Wolf**, emeritus professor, is presenting a paper on "First Person Historical Representations of the Sunshine State: From Eden to Exile" at the July 2013 Borders and Crossings (Travel Writing) Conference at Liverpool Hope University (UK). His memoir-essay, "Farewell to South Florida: A Generational Memoir (1943-2011)," will be published in the Spring issue of *The Commonwealth Review* in Delhi, India. He has also been invited to lecture at Presov University in Slovakia on *The Arts & Crafts of Fiction and Drama* in which some translated examples of his work will be included: a short story entitled "Exiles by Starlight" and a one-act version of the same story.

#### Department of History

**Andreas Daum**, professor, is currently collaborating with ARD television, the joint organization of Germany's regional public-service broadcasters, in producing two documentaries on John F. Kennedy.

In May 2012, **Jennifer Gaynor**, assistant professor, presented her research at a conference on "Community and the Sea in the Age of Sail" in Aalborg, Denmark. During June 2012 she conducted archival research at the Hague and in Leiden, the Netherlands, on 17th century maritime networks and capture in the east Indies.

**David Gerber**, professor, has been selected to be a participant in the inaugural Chinese Residency Program sponsored by the Organization of American Historians and the American History Research Association of China. In the summer of 2013, he will teach a seminar involving Chinese graduate students and junior faculty at the Northeast Normal University in Changchun along with two other American colleagues in his field, American Immigration and Ethnic History. Three Chinese historians will be resident in American universities as part of the same program.

#### Department of Mathematics

**David Hemmer**, professor and chair, was an invited speaker at the "Gradings and Decomposition Numbers" Workshop at Stuttgart University in Stuttgart, Germany in September 2012. The title of his talk was "Generic cohomology and Frobenius twists for symmetric group modules."

#### Department of Music

**Eric Huebner**, assistant professor and director of the June in Buffalo Performance Institute, is touring with the New York Philharmonic in May 2013 in his capacity as orchestral pianist for the Philharmonic to the countries of Turkey, Hungary, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Certain to be a highlight of the tour will be a performance of Finnish composer Magnus Lindberg's *Kraft* in a Volkswagen car parts factory in Essen, Germany.

#### Department of Philosophy

**Richard A. Cohen**, professor, and director of the Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage, traveled twice to Vilnius, Lithuania. On October 23, 2012, he gave a presentation on "Philosophy and Religion" at the Mykolas Romeris University. On October 24, 2012, he gave a presentation on "The Need for Phenomenology and Levinas" at the Vilnius Educological University. On his second visit to Vilnius, during the winter break Professor Cohen finalized arrangements with the Jewish Culture and Information Center, of Vilnius, to co-sponsor and host the first annual Levinas Philosophy Summer Seminar, to be held in Vilnius, July 8 to 12, 2013. The Levinas Philosophy Summer Seminar, made up of a mix of ten graduate students and professors, will also be co-sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania, as well as by the Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage, and The Levinas Center. The second annual Levinas Philosophy Summer Seminar is expected to be held at UB in the summer of 2014. The IJTH has also invited Chinese scholar Lihong Song, associate professor, Department of Religious Studies, and Deputy Director, Glazer Institute of Jewish Studies, Najing University, China, to give a presentation at UB on "Jewish Studies in China," on April 4, 2013.

**Kenneth Shockley**, associate professor, attended the 18th annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (the annual COP climate change talks) in Doha, Qatar, in early December of 2012. There, as an official observer, he participated in a series of events designed to publicize the ethical dimensions of climate change. During the summer of 2012, Shockley taught a new course, Practical Ethics, at UB's branch campus in Singapore. He was also elected to the governing body of the International Society for Environmental Ethics.

#### Department of Physics

In September 2013, **Surajit Sen**, professor, was an invited speaker in the second workshop on sociophysics in Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, France. Sociophysics is a new area of study in which physics inspired modeling is used to study problems of interest with regard to society. Sen's lecture focused on modeling terrorism using agent based techniques. Professor Huang Decai from Nanjing University of Science and Technology, China visited Sen's research group for 1 year between February 2012 and January 2013. During his stay in Buffalo, Professor Huang worked on problems associated with impulse propagation in granular alignments and on the technological applications of this problem.

#### Department of Theatre and Dance

**Sarah Bay-Cheng**, associate professor, currently serves on the Board of Directors for Performance Studies International and is a member of the Program Committee for the European Collected Library of Artistic Performance (ECLAP) conference in Portugal, April 2013. In January 2013, she lectured to the Shaw Theatre Festival Acting Company and in February, Bay-Cheng delivered the keynote address for the University of Toronto's Festival of Original Theatre, entitled "Great Reckonings on Small Screens: Theatre and Emerging Technologies." In 2012 her recently initiated book series "Avant-Gardes in Performance" released its first title, *Media Parasites in the Early Avant-Garde: on the Abuse of Technology and Communication* written by Arndt Niebisch and published by Palgrave in the US and UK. She

is currently collaborating on a new book project on intermediality and theatre in comparative contexts with colleagues at the University of London's Drama Conservatoire, Utrecht University, and the University of Vienna.

#### *Department of Visual Studies*

**Harvey Breverman**, SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus, received an Award of Excellence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Guangzhou International Print Biennial in 2012, sponsored by the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts and the Guangsheng Art Museum, China. Breverman was invited to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial venue in 2013. By invitation as well, he is exhibiting seven works in the 11<sup>th</sup> Grafici ed Exlibris International Exhibition in Monferrato Castle, Casale Monferrato, Italy in March-April 2013. Other works are included in the 33e Print International de Cadaques, Taller Galeria Fort, Spain from June 29 to September 30, 2013. Thereafter, the exhibit travels to Fundacio Tharrats d'art Grafica, Penada de Mar, Barcelona and Galerie Etang d'art, Bages, France through 2014. Breverman will also be included in the theme-based 9<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition for Koscuizsko Exlibris Prints at the National Museum, Wroclaw, Poland from September through December 2013.

**Elizabeth Otto**, associate professor, was invited to speak at a conference on the topic of photographic self portraiture by female artists and designers of the 1920s that was hosted by the Bergischen Universität Wuppertal in November of 2012. In January of 2013, she was invited to Berlin to participate in a panel on the state of the literature on gender and the Bauhaus at the Bauhaus-Archiv, Museum of Design. She also published an essay on the painting and photography of Marianne Brandt in the period of National Socialism, titled "Der Berg ruft: Landschaften des Exils in Marianne Brandts Malerei und Fotografie in der Zeit des Nationalsozialismus," *Frauen des Bauhauses während der NS-Zeit—Verfolgung und Exil*. Ed. Adrian Feustel, Inge Hansen-Schaberg, and Wolfgang Thöner. Munich: Richard Boorberg Verlag, 2012, 175-96.

#### GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

##### *Department of Educational Leadership and Policy*

**Lois Weis**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, has been elected to the National Academy of Education (NAEd). NAEd membership is the highest honor for scholars in education, and Weis is the first faculty member in GSE ever to be elected to the NAEd. As an honorary society, the Academy consists of up to two hundred U.S. members and up to twenty-five foreign associates who are elected on the basis of outstanding scholarship or outstanding contributions to education. Founded in 1965, the mission of NAEd is to advance the highest quality education research and its use in policy formulation and practice.

##### *Department of Learning and Instruction*

In recent comparative research **Ming Ming Chiu**, professor, showed that more than 91% of the differences in students' reading difficulty occurred at the country (61%) and classroom (30%) levels (ecological), with less than 9% at the student level (cognitive and psychological) in his article "Ecological, psychological, and cognitive components of reading difficulties: Testing the component model of reading in fourth graders across 38 countries" in the *Journal of Learning Disabilities*. Chiu also showed that Native students had weaker attitudes toward school (cognitive engagement) but greater sense of belonging at school (emotional engagement) than immigrant students in his *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* article Immigrant students' cognitive and emotional engagement at school: A multi-level analysis of students in 41 countries.

**Xiufeng Liu**, professor of science education, visited Shaanxi Normal University and Beijing Normal University in China in early January 2013 to give series of talks on science education reforms and re-

search in the United States. He was also appointed as a guest professor by the Beijing Normal University.

#### SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

##### *Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering*

**Marina Tsianou**, assistant professor, participated in the first meeting, held in Athens, Greece in January 2013, of the Steering Committee of the project "Integrated Biotechnological Solutions for Combating Marine Oil Spills", funded by the European Commission 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. Among the 33 partners (universities, research institutions and companies) in this project, UB is the only participant based outside Europe. In the context of her trip to Greece, Tsianou visited and had discussions with colleagues at the Industrial Chemistry Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, University of Athens, and at the Biochemical Engineering & Environmental Biotechnology Laboratory, Department of Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Crete.

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

**Andre Filiatrault**, professor, has been appointed by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for a three-year term as member on the Vanier CGS Selection Committee ending June 30, 2015. Filiatrault was invited as a keynote speaker to the 13<sup>th</sup> International Rose Seminar organized by The Institute of Advanced Studies (IUSS) of Pavia; May 16-17, 2013, Pavia, Italy. Filiatrault has been invited to teach a five-day short course on the Seismic Design and Analysis of Nonstructural Components at the European Graduate School In Understanding and Managing Extremes, April 2-6, 2012, also in Pavia, Italy. He was invited to teach a short course (in French) on the *Supplemental Damping and Seismic Isolation for Civil Engineering Structure* at Ecole Polytechnique of the University of Montreal, Canada, November 30-December 1, 2012. He has been invited to teach a five-day short course (in French) for Practicing Structural Engineers on the *Supplemental Damping and Seismic Isolation for Civil Engineering Structure* at the Carrefour Perfectionnement Polytechnique, March 11-15, 2013, Montreal, Canada; expected attendance: 20 to 40 Practicing Structural Engineers.

Seniors in the Civil Engineering Capstone Design class CIE-416, taught by **Jerome S. O'Connor**, Manager, Bridge Engineering Program, are designing a pedestrian bridge to be built in Kenya by the not-for-profit organization Bridging the Gap - Africa, Inc.. (BtGA). The organization estimates that 600 people die every year trying to cross rivers in rural Kenya that do not have bridges. BtGA's Board Member Kelley Rehm, P.E. sent UB a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the fall of 2012 and is awaiting a bridge designs from four student teams. The student engineering firms plan to submit their best ideas for the bridge design by the end of the spring 2013 semester. The students are also trying to raise funds to help with the construction phase. They and BtGA estimate that a foot bridge suspended with steel cables can be built for \$20,000. The names of the student design firms are : Bridge Builders of Western New York, International Group of Engineering Students, Turkish-American Construction Company and United Engineers for a Sustainable World.

##### *Department of Computer Science and Engineering*

**Shambhu Upadhyaya**, professor, was awarded a Tan Chin Tuan Exchange Fellowship in Engineering to spend one month at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore in summer 2013. He plans to spend four weeks there in July/August. The title of his research project is "Developing a Situational Awareness Framework for Infrastructure Safety and Security." He will be working in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at NTU, UB's longtime exchange partner. It is expected that the collaboration with NTU will lead to some research funding for joint projects in the area of cyber security.



*Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering*

**Carl Chang**, adjunct professor emeritus, received the 2011 Best Book Award from the International Association for Management of Technology (IAMOT) at the association's annual conference in Hsinchu, Taiwan in March 2012. The award honored Chang's book titled *Service Systems Management and Engineering: Creating Strategic Differentiation and Operational Excellence* (John Wiley, 2011).

*Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering*

**Kemper Lewis**, professor, was the invited keynote speaker at the Fourth International Conference on Multidisciplinary Design Optimization and Applications in Xi'an, China, November 6, 2012. His presentation entitled, "Making Sense of Complexity in Multidisciplinary Design" explored the emerging complexity in engineered systems and provided a framework to address complex problems with elegant solutions.

**Zhou Ji**, Distinguished Alumnus, President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and former Minister of Education of China, was elected in 2013 to the U.S. National Academy of Engineering in recognition of his research contributions to numeric control, computer-aided design, and design optimization.

**LAW SCHOOL**

**David M. Engel**, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, was a participant in inaugural workshop of Centre for Asian Legal Studies, National University of Singapore: "Socio-legal Research on South-east Asia: Themes, Directions and Challenges" in December 2012. Engel's article, "Vertical and Horizontal Perspectives on Rights Consciousness" was the featured article in the *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies* (vol. 19, no. 2, 2012), with responsive articles by Carol Greenhouse (Princeton), Michael McCann (University of Washington), Duncan McCargo (University of Leeds; Columbia University), and Arzoo Orsanloo (University of Washington). Engel delivered a lecture (in Thai) on "Mobilization of Law in Thailand," delivered to History and Law faculties at Chiang Mai University, January 2013. He was invited to deliver keynote address at the Third East Asian Law and Society Association Conference, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, March 2013.

**Mateo Taussig**, professor, delivered several invited presentations overseas: an invited lecture, "Appraising the Sacred: Valuation Issues from the United Airlines Flight 93 Crash Site," at the School of Social Sciences, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa in 2013; "Constitution and Culture in the Postcolony: Letters from Kenya, an invited lecture for the Global Governance Program at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy in 2012.

**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT***Department of Marketing*

**Minakshi Trivedi**, professor and chair of the doctoral program, has received a Fulbright Scholar Award. The Fulbright award will fund Trivedi's academic activities in India in spring 2014. She will spend that semester conducting research and offering a doctoral seminar on the subject of social media in emerging economies. Trivedi conducts research in the areas of quantitative choice models and their use in retailing, pricing and promotion decisions. She has presented her research widely at several international conferences, such as the annual Marketing Science conference, the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) conference, and the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) conference.

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

**Mulchand S. Patel**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, participated in an International Conference on "Diabetes and Its Complications" in

Changa, Gujarat State, India during January 18-20, 2013. The title of his presentation was "Developmental programming of diabetes and obesity: Experimental approaches". This conference was jointly organized by CHARUSAT Healthcare & Research Foundation and Charotar University of Science and Technology (CHARUSAT), Changa, India, and in association with University at Buffalo and Laila Pharmaceuticals Pvt., Ltd., Chennai, India. He also served as Co-chairman on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Conference. He was also invited as the C. V. Ramakrishnan Lecturer for an annual event in the Department of Biochemistry, M. S. University (MSU) of Baroda, Vadodara, India. The title of his talk was "Early life metabolic programming for adult-onset obesity and diabetes". He also participated in a discussion with two MSU administrators on renewal of the Exchange Program between MSU and UB. Additionally, Patel visited three universities (Gujarat University, Ahmedabad; Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar; and Shri Sarvajanic Pharmacy College, Mehsana) and two high schools (Sipor and Palanpur) in Gujarat on this trip to India.

*Department of Medicine*

**Richard V. Lee**, professor, attended the 31<sup>st</sup> World Congress of Internal Medicine in Santiago, Chile, November 11-15, 2012. He delivered three lectures at the Congress and an additional lecture for medical students at the Universidad Andes Bello following the congress. The titles of the lectures were as follows: "Solidarity in medicine: the role of medical students and young physicians;" "The dispute between medicine and subspecialties: can we solve it now?;" and "Closing conference: medicine as an increasingly globalized profession." The lecture for medical students was titled, "Natural history and medicine."

*Department of Ophthalmology*

**Steven J. Fliesler**, professor and vice-chair; and director of research, Ira G. Ross Eye Institute Vision Research Center, gave a presentation at the XVth International Symposium on Retinal Degenerations (RD2012) in Bad Gögging, Germany (July 16-20, 2012), entitled, "Retinal Degeneration in a Rat Model of Smith-Lemli-Opitz Syndrome is Caspase-Independent and Involves Cathepsin D Upregulation." Fliesler also presided over the XXth Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Eye Research (ISER) in Berlin, Germany (July 21-25, 2012), where he also chaired a platform session on oxidative stress and retinal degeneration and presented a lecture in that session, entitled "Oxysterols and Retinal Degeneration." Subsequently, Fliesler lectured in England, both at the University of Liverpool's Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease (July 26, 2012) and at the Institute of Ophthalmology, Department of Cell Biology, University College London (July 30), giving invited lectures entitled, "Retinal Degeneration and Cholesterol Deficiency: Insights from Experimental Studies."

*Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology*

**Paul Kostyniak**, professor, was invited to present a seminar at the Institute for Minamata Disease Research in Mimamata Japan on October 10, 2012. His presentation was entitled "Chelation of Mercurials, Principals and Practice". Other international mercury experts from Germany, Norway and Japan were invited speakers at the symposium.

*Department of Psychiatry*

**Uriel Halbreich**, professor and director of Biobehavioral Research, gave three invited presentations in March 2013 on his going project on stress in the Middle-East: (1) Fulbright Middle-East North-Africa(MENA) Regional Meeting, Cairo,Egypt, March 2-4, 2013: "Impact of Trauma to Pregnant Women on their Babies;" (2) World Federation for Mental-Health(WFMH) International Congress—Crises and Disasters: Psychosocial consequences, Athens, Greece, March 6-9, 2013: "Stress in civilian populations. Operational considerations

of Definitions, Prevention, Management and Treatment," a plenary address; and "Advances, Problems and perspectives in Mental Health — focus on Stress," a plenary roundtable. The initial impact of the project is conveyed by local newspaper coverage: (1) An Interview by the Editor-In-Chief of the *Jerusalem Post* and (2) the Geo-Political background of the project was published in the same paper as a large-page Op-Ed piece.

*Department of Structural Biology*

**Vivian Cody**, professor, visited the laboratory of one of her collaborators, Samantha Richardson, in Melbourne, Australia, and gave a seminar to her department in the School of Medical Sciences, and Health Innovations Research Institute at RMIT University. While there a new collaborative project was initiated involving structure and function studies of transthyretin from various animal species as a model for amyloid diseases. Richardson and Cody recently edited the book, *Recent Advances in Transthyretin Evolution, Structure and Biological Functions*, published by Springer Verlag.

#### SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

*Department of Social and Preventative Medicine*

**Pavani Ram**, associate professor, recently received a grant to investigate the promotion of waterless hand cleansing agents in resource-poor settings. As recipient of a seed grant from the Gates Foundation Grand Challenges: Saving Lives at Birth, Ram and her team are collaborating with investigators from the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) to develop and evaluate (randomized control trial) an intervention that promotes the use of chlorhexidine, a waterless hand cleanser, for hand cleansing during the neonatal period by new mothers in rural Bangladesh. A waterless hand cleanser could overcome barriers to handwashing with soap and water during this critical period of a newborn's life since mothers and newborns are often cocooned after birth and may have restricted movement and access to hand cleansing materials (commonly kept outside the home).

#### ROSWELL PARK CANCER INSTITUTE

A team from Roswell conducted a 'Cancer Control in Resource-Limited Environments' Workshop at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital in Lagos, Nigeria, March 11-13, 2013. Presentations focused on the prevention of common cancers such as Cervical, Prostate, Breast and Colon cancers as well as Tobacco control, Cancer Registration and Collaborative care. This was partly sponsored by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). The team included **Chumy Nwogu**, **Arthur Michalek**, **Grace Dy**, and **Saby George**. The workshop was extremely well received and ongoing collaboration with clinicians and researchers in Nigeria is planned.

#### SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**Ana Niculaes** who is a lecturer at Pedagogical State University in Chisinau, Moldova and a Carnegie Research Fellow is spending spring semester 2013 as an affiliate visiting professor at the School.

**Larry Shulman**, professor emeritus, was invited to consult with the Senior Leadership Team of Catholic Children's Aid Society in Toronto on supervision and management. Shulman made a presentation on Group Work for Lakeridge Health Services in Lake Ridge Ontario. He also made a presentation on Group Work and Working with the Hard-to-Reach Client at Leading Edge in Toronto, Canada.

**Tom Nochajski**, professor, **Catherine Dulmus**, associate professor, together with their colleague **Maria Cristalli**, MPH presented a poster titled "Youth Court as an Intervention to Reduce Recidivism of Youthful Offenders in the United States" at the 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress for Psychosocial Rehabilitation in Milan, Italy.

**Hilary Weaver**, professor, is a Co-Principle Investigator on a grant titled "Indigenizing the Academy" and was a keynote speaker at the conference in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Office of Social Work Continuing Education has developed a 42 hour *Online Trauma-Informed Clinical Foundation Certificate Program* which makes trauma training accessible anywhere there is internet access. To date, inquiries about the program have been received from South Africa, India, Tanzania, New Zealand, Japan, Canada.

**Sarah Nesbitt** is a second year MSW student who is completing her advanced year internship working with Burma Border Projects and the displaced and refugee population in Mae Sot. **Kathleen (Katie) Witmer** is completing her advanced year internship in Seoul, Republic of South Korea and is working with the advocacy and service organization Korean Unwed Mothers Support Network. Both students are blogging about their experiences.

**Mansoor Kazi**, associate professor, together with colleagues L. Bauer, G. Nash, and A. Johnstone presented a paper titled "Implementing Realist Evaluation of Youth Justice Services in England, Scotland and USA: Evaluators Helping Agencies to Regularly Use Their Own 100% Data to Investigate What Works and For Whom in Reducing Recidivism" at the American Evaluation Association 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. He presented a paper titled "What Works and For Whom: Combining realist Evaluation, Effectiveness Research and Epidemiology Traditions in Human Services" at the European Evaluation Society 10<sup>th</sup>. Biannual Conference, Helsinki, Finland. Kazi was invited to present a lecture titled, "Realist Evaluation in Practice: What Works, For Whom and in What Contexts," an invited Methodological Lecture for Postgraduate Students, Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies, Department of Health and Social Management and Department of Social Sciences, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland. Kazi has been invited to serve as a consultant with Viewpoint Organization Ltd (Australia) during which he will survey over a thousand children and young people on Western Australia's National Standards For Out-of-Home Care.

#### OFFICE OF VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

**Stephen C. Dunnett**, professor of foreign language education and vice provost, presented at two panels during the annual conference of the Association of International Education Administrators in New Orleans in February 2013. The titles of the panels were "New Perspectives on the Race for Global Talent," "Global Changes and Challenges: Is the United States Doing Enough to Stay Competitive as a Study Destination?" In addition, Dunnett was a presenter at a roundtable on global mobility at the AIEA Conference sponsored by World Education Services (WES).

**Steven L. Shaw**, assistant vice provost and director of International Admissions, is presenting at the annual national conference of NAFSA: Association of International Educators to be held in May 2013 at St. Louis, Missouri. His NAFSA Region X panel, "The State of Bologna" was selected as one of the best regional conference panels for inclusion in the national conference.

**John J. Wood**, senior associate vice provost, was a presenter for two sessions at the annual conference of the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) in February 2013 in New Orleans. The sessions were titled, "TRANSDOC: Revisiting Doctoral Education in a TransDisciplinary, Transatlantic Context;" and "Perspectives on Comprehensive Internationalization Strategies." Wood was a panelist for the session, "Both Sides of the Border: Fostering Transnational Collaboration, Innovation, Incubation, and Commercialization in Science, Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Math (STEM)—Challenges and Benefits," a roundtable session at the Crossing Borders Conference at Brock University, Canada, March 2013. Wood will be presenting at the annual national conference of NAFSA: Association of International Educators in St. Louis, Missouri in May 2013. The title of his presentation is "Preparing Today's Doctoral Students for the Global Workforce." 🌐

## CUBA

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lated, both its extents and its limits, and the lack of it in Cuba.

Comparing the racial situation in the United States on the eve of the US Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954 declaring the doctrine of separate but equal unconstitutional with both the great advances which have been made since then in the realm of civil rights and the continuing inequalities today with the schools almost as segregated as they were in 1954, I tried to give a balanced picture.

I strongly feel that both the concerted efforts by voices in the United States to declare the achievements which have actually been made in health, education, housing, and crime prevention as total shams and the picture which the official Cuban media paint of American imperialism are gross distortions.

One thing of which I became increasingly aware after Dan and I left Cuba is how anachronistic the situation in Cuba is today. I already mentioned above that the Cold War which ended globally in 1989 is still very much alive between Cuba and the United States. But Cuban socialism is anachronistic too.

Cuba has been largely cut off since its Revolution of 1959 from the globalization which since the 1990s has affected most of the world. I briefly touched on this when in my talk to the students I compared my impressions of two Latin American metropolises, Santiago de Chile, which I had visited the month before, and Havana.

At every step I was aware how global interests, from Walmart to McDonalds, had taken over Santiago de Chile and were totally absent in Havana. I saw some positive aspects in this regarding Havana which led one of the students to remark that she would sometime have the opportunity to eat at a McDonalds.

But Castro essentially took over the form of state socialism as it had existed in the Soviet bloc and had failed.

Except for minor revisions in recent year this anachronistic model is still alive in Cuba today. Reading the Cuban press, you have the feeling that you are reading the Pravda or the Neues Deutschland of long ago.

Castro's socialism has not developed since 1959. It is badly outdated and in its present form doomed to fail. If socialism is to have any chance and not to succumb totally to global capitalism it has to move to greater openness and democracy on the political and economic level. Although I was encouraged by the openness of our discussions with Cubans, I am not very optimistic. 🌐

*Georg Iggers is SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History.*

## STATE DEPARTMENT VISIT

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fice of Global Educational Programs report through Ms. Curtis.

The highest ranking U.S. government official to visit the UB programs in Singapore, Ms. Curtis toured the SIM campus, and met with the senior leadership of SIM and the UB programs. She participated in a meeting that included faculty, students and administrators organized by Kevin McKelvey, UB's Resident Director; Christopher Kohler, Assistant Resident Director; Kuan Meng Lim, Director of Higher Education at SIM; and Lee Keng Hay, Manager of Higher Education at SIM. Lim and Hay have major roles in administering the UB programs at SIM.

The visit afforded Ms. Curtis the opportunity to learn about the nature and development of UB's programs at SIM and the role of such programs in the higher education landscape of Singapore. "We are delighted Ms. Curtis could visit our programs and see the outstanding work of our colleagues and students there," noted Stephen Dunnett, Vice Provost for International Education and overall director of the UB undergraduate programs at SIM. 🌐

## DIRECTORY

### Office of the Vice Provost for International Education

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

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

### International Enrollment Management

(716) 645-2368, 645-2528 (Fax)  
intiem@buffalo.edu

Joseph J. Hindrawan  
Associate Vice Provost and Director  
Raymond Lew, Associate Director

### International Admissions

(716) 645-2368, 645-2528 (Fax)  
intadmit@buffalo.edu

Steven L. Shaw  
Assistant Vice Provost and Director  
Amy Matikosh, Admissions Advisor and  
Outreach Program Manager  
Sherene Cheah Milizia  
Admissions Advisor/Office Manager  
Jennifer A. Gammell  
Admissions Advisor  
Jessica M. Kane  
Admissions Advisor

### International Student and Scholar Services

(716) 645-2258, 645-6197 (Fax)  
intlservices@buffalo.edu

Ellen A. Dussourd  
Assistant Vice Provost and Director  
Jessica Ereiz, Assistant Director  
Amy Cleveland, SEVIS Coordinator  
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Coordinator for Student Programs  
Chris Bragdon  
International Student Advisor  
Darla Maffei  
International Student Advisor

### Immigration Services

(716) 645-2355, (716) 645-6197 (Fax)  
Oscar E. Budde, Esq.

Associate Vice Provost and Director  
Mary Jean Zajac, Paralegal

### Study Abroad Programs

(716) 645-3912, 645-6197 (Fax)  
studyabroad@buffalo.edu

Mary Odrzywolski, Director  
Olga Crombie, Assistant Director  
Krista Pazkowsky, Study Abroad Advisor

### Council on International Studies and Programs

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

### Fulbright Program

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

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

## STATE DEPARTMENT VISIT TO UB PROGRAMS AT SIM

**M**eghann Curtis, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

In her role at the State Department, Curtis oversees all academic programs sponsored by the Department, including the Fulbright Pro-

gram around the world. ECA's Office of Academic Exchange Programs, Office of English Language Programs, and Of-

*continued on page 27*



*Meghann Curtis (6th from l.) joins faculty, students and administrators of UB's undergraduate programs at SIM, including Kevin McKelvey (2nd from l.); Christopher Kohler (5th from l.); Kuan Meng Lim (6th from r.) and Lee Keng Hay (7th from r.)*

at the U.S. Department of State, visited the UB programs at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) on March 7, 2013 as part of a tour of U.S. programs in Singapore.

UB's six undergraduate degree programs have one of the largest enrollments of any U.S. program in Singapore. Some 1,500 undergraduate students are currently enrolled.

gram, the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, Teacher Exchange Programs, and English Language Programs.

Ms. Curtis is also responsible for international student advising and marketing of American higher education resources through EducationUSA's network of offices

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John J. Wood, Editor