

UB INTERNATIONAL

SPRING 2019  VOL. XXVIII, NO.1

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UB International

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ONE WORLD CAFE PROJECT ADVANCES

By Michael Andrei

The One World Café project, the third phase of the Heart of the Campus (HOTC) initiative, took a major step toward realization this spring with the launch of pre-construction activities. Construction itself commences later in the summer, with the signature facility due to

community of the inside of One World Café, UB's much-anticipated signature addition.

They also had an opportunity to talk to project designers about what will be a unique space, unlike anything else on the North Campus.

"What I like is the architecture," second-year student Margaret Lowe said



Rendering of One World Cafe from the Founders Plaza side (renderings courtesy of CannonDesign)

open in 2021.

Offering authentic internationally-themed food choices in a multicultural environment with seating for 600, One World Café will also engage the broader goals of UB's HOTC initiative, seeking to serve the diverse UB community and support the university's larger mission.

The new facility will link Capen and Norton halls and create a central meeting place and campus "front door" that facilitates wayfinding and student access to services.

In late April in Silverman Library, students were offered an opportunity to view renderings not yet seen by the university

following one of four slide show presentations in Silverman Library by two members of the CannonDesign project team. "It is so open, with lots of windows and light. The colors are clean and inviting and appeal to everybody's eye."

"Yes, definitely," said Vicky Zheng, a PhD student. "It is not bricked in and I love that."

"I also think with the size of the dining area, it will help with the peak rush period. I like the idea of using all of the fresh ingredients and offering a greater selection of seasonal choices. This will be great for UB."

During the event, students and other
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ONE WORLD CAFE

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Rendering of One World Café from the north side

visitors enjoyed samples of two potential menu items for One World Café: a Mediterranean entrée, Chicken with preserved Lemons & Couscous, and an Indian entrée, Dal Tadka & Basmati Rice.

The central hearth on the first floor will welcome visitors to One World Café.

"From this project's inception, we have continually sought out the benefit of a broad sampling of ideas and suggestions from our campus stakeholders, including students," says Graham Hammill, vice provost for educational affairs and dean of the Graduate School. "One World Café is designed to be much more than a place to eat."

"With the start of construction for this project only a few months away, we are keeping the UB community's point-of-view foremost," added Hammill, who chairs the steering committee.

Ike Lowry, a CannonDesign associate vice president and a 2001 graduate of UB's School of Architecture and Planning, told student audiences gathered for the slide shows, "We know students today care where the ingredients in their food come from and how it is made. One World Café will offer authentic foods, freshly prepared, and students can watch as their meal comes together for them."

"It is nice to offer students more options," said Sasha Shapiro, a third-year student. "It will be especially so for students who are vegetarians."

Emile Seraphin, a second-year student, said, "I like the idea that everyone can study there and get a good meal without leaving Capen. Right now there are not a lot of options to do that."

"I think One World Café will be really great for UB students," said Marnie Mancuso, facilities planning and management officer in University Libraries, after listening to the CannonDesign presentations.

"I think, especially, for a research institution," she said. "It will help students who are so focused on studying and labs to have a place they can go, where they can see other students, study, or just take a break and be with people, in-person. You won't feel you have to eat there to be there. It will be a touchstone for the campus."

During the presentations, students submitted a wide range of ideas for One World Café, including cooking classes; international nights; movie and game nights; live music; performances by UB dance teams; and an outdoor farmers' market.

Luke Johnson, CannonDesign lead designer, and also a graduate of UB's School of Architecture and Planning, told students that improved directional guidance through the North Campus will also result from the construction of One World Café.

"This will do a lot to improve wayfinding around the



Rendering of the café interior from the second level tiered seating

North Campus," Johnson said. "As a UB alum, I know it can be challenging navigating your way through the cen-

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CAMPUS CULTURE SURVEY CONDUCTED

By Michael Andrei

Taking an in-depth assessment of campus culture integrating diversity, equity and inclusion at UB, the Office of Inclusive Excellence (OIX) conducted a wide-ranging survey focused on enhancing and strengthening the variety of initiatives supporting all members of the university community.

The UB Campus Culture Survey is designed to measure the inclusiveness of UB's academic and campus environment. The survey was created by the assessment and benchmarking education technology firm Skyfactor, working in partnership with a committee of the OIX Leadership Council. The survey will be administered by Skyfactor.

In March 2019, UB conducted the student survey, focusing on perceptions of UB as a whole, and campus culture as conducive to a respectful environment in which to learn and work.

In April, UB conducted the survey for faculty and staff, examining UB as a welcoming and diverse work environment.

"With some slight variations, the surveys asked the same questions, thereby making it possible to compare answers across these distinct populations," says Despina Stratigakos, vice provost for inclusive excellence.

"This will allow us to draw meaningful conclusions from collected data without having to compare questions from widely varying survey instruments."

Stratigakos says UB has adopted inclusive excellence as the center of the university's equity and inclusion strategy, adding that without inclusion, diversity is unsustainable.

"As the nation's population grows more diverse, questions surrounding equity and inclusion take on a special urgency as these issues move to the forefront of our national debate," she says.

"You can't measure diversity just by counting numbers. Meaningful diversity—in the student body, on the faculty and in the many unscripted encounters that make up daily life on UB's three campuses—requires a deep and broadly shared commitment," says Stratigakos.

"By participating in the survey, members of the UB community have the opportunity to share their perspectives about the attitudes, behaviors and standards concerning the level of respect for individual needs, abilities and potential at UB."

Students, faculty and staff received a secure, unique link to the survey in an email from Skyfactor. During the time each survey is open, the secure links enabled follow-up

emails with individuals who have received access to the survey, but have not yet responded. Students, then faculty and staff, had three weeks each to take the survey, which requires approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Staff members who do not have ready access to a computer were provided access to computer labs where they can take the survey utilizing their secure email link. Additionally, printed copies of the surveys and pre-approved times and locations to fill them out were made available.

Survey responses are being tabulated independently, outside of UB, by Skyfactor. All data received by UB is anonymous in format. UB did not receive any individualized information from data coming out of the survey.

"This survey is very different than anything that has come before at UB," says Mark Coldren, associate vice president for human resources and committee chair.

"We asked students about their perceptions of UB as a whole," Coldren says. "The student survey also seeks an-

swers to other important questions, such as, 'How does UB let students self-identify?' and 'Is this policy working in the way it should?'"

"We asked all participants, 'Do you see yourself here?'" Stratigakos adds.

"We are seeking to facilitate a culture of self-reflection.

"Honest responses allow data that is gathered to be used university-wide," she says. "The information will not just be for the Office of Inclusive Excellence. It will be shared with all divisions across UB. Transparency is critical to what we want to accomplish.

"We want to create processes that encourage the entire university to work toward inclusive excellence."

Data gathered from this survey could have an impact on prioritizing issues of diversity and inclusion, university policies and the creation of tools to help manage challenges that UB faces.

Stratigakos explains that continuing to define and enhance inclusive excellence requires UB to be honest and clear about identifying challenges and issues related to equity and inclusion, so that the university can come together as a campus community to address them.

"The survey will enable the university to find out what people are thinking. We will be seeking point of view from our UB community," says Coldren. "These points are central to why we are conducting the survey."

Stratigakos says one key goal is to increase facilitated campus conversations related to diversity, equity and inclusion, and encourage participation from a broad range of perspectives. 🌐



UB Campus Culture Survey

FROM THE INTERIM VICE PROVOST

Our university rightly take pride in the diverse campus community that enriches us all. Contributing to that diversity is the large number of international students at UB, representing more than 100 countries around the world.

Most of us agree that our diversity is a strength that positively influences our research, education and service missions in important ways. However, that positive impact does not happen automatically or inevitably.

In fact, the inclusion and engagement of students from diverse backgrounds and experiences, including those from other countries, has been a challenge that UB has sought to address in recent years as part of a broader equity and inclusion strategy—one that might serve as a model for the many other campuses facing the same challenge.

In part, UB's effort has been inspired by a task force convened in 2015 by our Council on International Studies and Programs and chaired by Professor Peter Beihl, which developed recommendations to advance the inclusion and engagement of our international students.

Leading the implementation process for UB's equity and inclusion strategy is the Office of Inclusive Excellence under the leadership of Vice Provost Despina Stratigakos. With the strong support of Provost Zukoski, that office took a major step forward this semester by conducting UB's first-ever Campus Culture Survey in collaboration with the Office of Human Resources.

I congratulate Despina, Mark Coldren and their colleagues on this major initiative, which fulfills a key recommendation of our task force and which promises to tell us a great deal about our campus culture.

The survey comes at a critical time, when the national immigration debate raises questions about the value of hosting international students and scholars, and our fractious political culture creates impediments to equity and inclusion efforts in general.

As the article on page 3 explains, both students and employees have had the opportunity to participate in the survey this spring, addressing many of the same questions, in order to get a sense of how different constituents perceive our campus culture and to what extent they find it to be an environment respectful and supportive of diversity and conducive to their work and growth.

As Despina states in the article, "By participating in the survey, members of the UB community have the opportunity to share their perspectives about the attitudes, behaviors and standards concerning the level of respect for individual needs, abilities and potential at UB."

By better understanding how individual members of our community feel about themselves and their place within the larger UB family, the university can better support everyone at UB while advancing our equity and inclusion strategy with greater confidence and focus.

In keeping with our collaboration with the Office of Inclusive Excellence to support this strategy, the Office of International Education has strongly encouraged international students and employees to respond to the survey and to share their frank views about our campus culture.

We expect their feedback will be an important part of the valuable data that is analyzed over the coming months. We look forward with great expectation to learning what the survey has tell us about our UB community and how we can work together to foster a more inclusive and equitable environment for everyone.—John J. Wood 🌐

ONE WORLD CAFE

continued from page 1

ter of the campus on those really cold winter days. You'll be able to travel The Spine inside once all of this is finished."

"Getting up and down The Spine, while staying inside, will be very good," said first-year student Joshua Hulbert. "I also like the idea of actually having a branded space on campus, offering great new food and lots of space to meet people."

Visitors to One World Café will find tiered seating on the second floor, overlooking the main dining area.

As with any major construction project taking place within a built environment, this also means a significant amount of disruption for members of the UB community.

"While there is no way around this, members of the steering committee, together with Rhonda Ransom, UB Facilities' Design and Construction project manager, and our construction manager, Turner Construction, will be

doing everything we can to communicate what will be happening, when and where, to those who will be directly affected," Hamill says.

"Town hall meetings for all affected groups began late in the spring semester," says Ransom. "We are in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of stakeholder representatives, so we will be in touch with those of you who are located in Norton and ground, first and second floor Capen Hall. "Faculty and staff are our key audiences right now," she says. "Our goal is to address areas that will be immediately impacted this summer."

By late summer, communications will begin with new and returning students. Townhalls captured on video, UB Now articles, and listserv announcements will carry construction updates. "In addition, we are planning to make use of signage and messaging on the construction barriers and fencing, for wayfinding through the campus," says Ransom. 🌐

Michael Andrei is public affairs and internal communications specialist for University Communications.

SEED FUNDING TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

By Chris Dobmeier

With its large international community, UB has sought to promote the intentional inclusion and engagement of international students, as well as cross-cultural exchange shared between international and domestic students.

To this end, the Office of International Education designated seed funding to create opportunities for international students to meaningfully engage with domestic students, and transition into U.S. academic and social culture.

For this seed funding, units at UB were asked to pitch new projects that would promote diversity and inclusion for international students. The seed funding parameters required these ideas to be specifically designed to infuse integration, inclusion, and engagement of students either within the faculty or staff's units, or in collaboration with another unit.

The purpose of this funding was to “kick-start” projects that met these requirements, and that were intended to sustain future iterations beyond the start-up funding.

Three projects received seed funding, which went directly toward the cost of each proposed project. The Asian Studies Program, Counseling Services, and the Community of Excellence in Global Health Equity all received funding.

The Asian Studies Program planned a series of activities under the project name, “Cooperate, Collaborate, and Learn through Social Engagement.” Activities included a UB and Buffalo Area Scavenger Hunt for domestic and international students; “language lunches” to focus on the four major Asian language offered at UB: Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and Hindi-Urdu; and cultural co-sponsorships with UB student groups.

The Asian Studies’ language lunches encourage speakers of the target language, of all levels, to practice and meet up with other learning and native speakers over lunch. These luncheons are open to both domestic and international students, and are typically facilitated by two faculty members who have experience in the target language.

The Asian Studies Program also presented an Asian Studies Photo Contest as part of their International Student Inclusion Series. Students were encouraged to share photos of the experiences they have had at any of the events hosted by Asian Studies. Popular photos are to be featured on the Asian Studies Program website, and on their annual newsletter.

Counseling Services was funded for their project, “Partners and Spousal Support Group for International Students.” This project implemented a couples’ support group for international students and their partners who may be of international or domestic background. The support group meets year-round, and provides support that is unique to international or intercultural couples in the UB community.

The group themes include but are not limited to dialogues about cultures, intercultural relationships, adjustment and transitions, finding supports and connections, healthy relational patterns, and experiences and challenges in an affirming and safe environment.

Finally, the Community of Excellence in Global Health



Participants in the Global Innovation Challenge

Equity was funded for their project, “Adding ‘Local-International’ Global Health Talent (LIGHT) to CGHE’s Annual Global Innovation Challenge.” The annual Global Innovation Challenge (GIC) is an interdisciplinary, creative problem-solving course for students at all levels of study. This year’s GIC is themed, “Fact, Fiction, and Persuasion in a World of Uncertainty.”

An immersive, week-long workshop, the GIC engages students in deep, critical, and innovative thinking about persistent global health challenges.

With this seed-funded project, four international students—from both health science and non-health science disciplines—will be selected to serve as Local-International Global Health Talent (LIGHT) Fellows, with the goal to enrich the planning and delivery of the GIC. 🌐

PRESIDENT VISITS STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS IN UNITED KINGDOM

In January 2019 President Satish Tripathi and John Wood, Interim Vice Provost for International Education, visited the United Kingdom to conduct site visits to two faculty-led winter session study abroad programs as well as two of the popular partner institutions hosting UB exchange students. At each stop the President emphasized the importance of study abroad and the university's commitment to promoting global learning for UB students.

In London Tripathi and Wood visited two of the most popular faculty-led winter programs—the Cultural Appreciation program, led by Professor Maria Horne of the Department of Theatre and Dance, and the Sociology of Food program, led by Professor Debra Street of the Department of Sociology.

Professor Horne's program enrolled 16 students and featured extensive experiential learning with many cultural institutions and performance venues of the British capital. President Tripathi joined the group at St. Paul's Cathedral for the traditional Evensong service featuring St. Paul's outstanding choir.

President Tripathi met with the students of Professor Street's program at their classroom in the headquarters

of CAPA London, the program's partner since it was established five years ago. Her program, with 26 students, is distinctive in enrolling participants from both the UB home campus and its programs in Singapore. This adds an enriching dimension to the students' cultural experience in London.

From London the President traveled to Swansea, Wales to visit Swansea University, which has conducted student exchange in engineering with UB since the late 1990s.

The President visited Swansea's new campus by the sea, where UB exchange students reside when they are there. This is also the venue for a new faculty-led study abroad program in engineering that will launch at Swansea this summer.

The final stop of the site-visit tour was the University of Sheffield in Yorkshire, one of UB's longest-running and most successful exchange partnerships in the UK. The affiliation goes back nearly three decades and has involved UB and Sheffield students in a wide variety of disciplines, though engineering and the natural sciences have been the most popular. 🌐



President Tripathi visits Professor Street's Sociology of Food class at CAPA London



President Tripathi conferring with senior administrators at the University of Sheffield, including Vice President Mike Hounslow (2nd from l)

SEVEN UB STUDENTS RECEIVE FULBRIGHT AWARDS

By Charles Anzalone

Seven University at Buffalo students have won Fulbright awards, the prestigious national scholarship competition for grants to study, research and teach abroad in 2019-20.

Five of UB's winners received English Teaching Assistantships; the other two won research grants, the traditional award opportunity where recipients design their own proj-

travel to Malaysia. Morgan has worked as a camp counselor for the Saranac Lake Youth Program, a tutor at the Gloria J. Parks Community Center in Buffalo and a writing tutor at UB. Morgan's ultimate career goal is to teach English at the secondary level. She looks forward to spending the year learning Malay and building lasting connections with her host community,

Hanna Santanam, a senior anthropology and English double major with minors in global gender studies and Asian studies. She will spend her Fulbright year in India. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Santanam previously studied in India in the summer of 2017, thanks to a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State.

Jenny Simon, a senior who is studying linguistics, education and English. She will spend her Fulbright year in Mongolia. Simon speaks Mandarin and has traveled extensively in China. She received a Critical Language Scholarship to China in 2018.

Matthew Straub, a senior studying architecture and earth systems science. Straub

has been awarded an English Teaching Assistantship in Germany. He is a UB Presidential Scholar and active community volunteer, who has worked at the Tool Library in North Buffalo and Grassroots Gardens of Western New York. In addition to teaching English, Straub hopes to form a Design Club at his host institution to help students engage with their built environments.

The two students who received research grants are:

Ashley Cercone, a doctoral student in anthropology. She will travel to Turkey to analyze early Bronze Age ceramics from archaeological sites along the caravan route that linked Mesopotamia to the Aegean world. Her project will employ cutting-edge analytical technologies, namely laser ablation inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry and portable X-ray fluorescence, on Bronze Age ceramics in Turkey. She earned a bachelor's degree in classics and anthropology from UB in 2016.

Stanzi Vaubel, a doctoral candidate in media study. She holds an MFA from UB and a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University. She will travel to Montreal to work with Canadian researchers creating large-scale collaborative performances that unite a wide variety of communities into a week-long festival. Vaubel is founder, director and co-producer of the Indeterminacy Fes-



From left: Jenny Simon, Stanzi Vaubel, Paige Melin, Ashley Cercone, Mariangela Perrella, Hanna Santanam and Madeline Elminowski. Not pictured: Haleigh Morgan and Matthew Straub (Photo: Douglas Levere)

ects and work with advisers at foreign universities or other institutions of higher education.

"I'm thrilled that UB had such a successful year," says Patrick McDevitt, Fulbright program adviser, associate professor in the Department of History and a 1993 Fulbright grantee to New Zealand. "The Fulbright is a life-changing program for the grantees."

Sponsored by the U.S. State Department, Fulbrights are awarded to nearly 8,000 students and scholars each year. The scholarship covers airfare to the country one is studying in and a stipend to cover housing expenses. It was proposed by Sen. J. William Fulbright in 1945 to promote peace and friendship among all the nations of the world.

The students who won English Teaching Awards are:

Paige Melin, a 2013 graduate of UB and a member of Phi Beta Kappa who also holds a master's degree from the University of Maine. Melin applied for the Fulbright award through UB's Fulbright program. She works as the education coordinator for Explore Buffalo and as a teaching artist for the Queen City Home School Collective and Young Audiences of Western New York. Melin will travel to Senegal, where she hopes to use her background in poetry and translation to connect with her students.

Haleigh Morgan, a senior English major at UB, will

LUPUS-MICROBIOME CONNECTION IN INDIA FOCUS OF FULBRIGHT RESEARCH

By Ellen Goldbaum

The microbiome—the collective microorganisms that live on and in the human body—and their roles in different diseases is the subject of a rapidly expanding body of research. Less well-studied, however, is how the microbiome may impact specific diseases depending on peoples' ethnicities and where they live.



A University at Buffalo researcher will use a Fulbright scholarship to study how both of those variables affect patients in India diagnosed with the autoimmune disease systemic lupus erythematosus, more commonly known as lupus.

Jessy J. Alexander, PhD, research professor in the Department of Medicine in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, will use her 2019-20 Fulbright award to conduct this research in collaboration with researchers at Christian Medical College in Vellore, India.

While genetic variations and environmental and hormonal factors are known to play important roles in the pathology of lupus, Alexander explained that the exact mechanism causing the disease remains unknown. For that reason, the disease is treated with immunosuppressants and corticosteroids that can have toxic side effects.

"Our hypothesis is that the microbiota vary in different geographic regions, causing wide diversity in symptoms and susceptibility to lupus," Alexander explained. "Few studies have examined the microbiome profile in Indian patients with lupus. We hope our research will bridge this gap and lead to better therapies."

Factors to be studied include RNA sequencing of bacteria in the sputum and feces of about 30 patients and healthy individuals. The research also will involve evaluation of markers, such as complement proteins, kidney function and levels of cholesterol, glucose and insulin during disease flare-ups as well as during periods of quiescence (when the disease is inactive).

"We expect that the results will validate closer monitoring of microbiome variables in specific ethnic groups, which will, in turn, allow clinicians to make more informed decisions regarding appropriate treatment regimens for lupus patients," Alexander said.

"It is our hope that this work will lay the foundation for assessing and comparing the microbiome in patients with lupus from different regions, such as China and the United States.

The ultimate goal is to identify the microbiome landscape of lupus that is common in patients from all regions, in order to identify the best therapies for all patients." 🌐

Ellen Goldbaum is senior science editor for University Communications.

SEVEN STUDENTS

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tival (2016-present). She has been a cellist with Juilliard Pre-College, and has collaborated with the Watermill Center, the Long House and Carnegie Hall.

Vaubel also has earned commissions with the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Burchfield Penney Arts Center, KANEKO, Chicago Public Radio, New York Public Radio, Third Coast Audio Fest, Free City Fest and Public Space 1.

Additionally, two students were named alternates: Mariangela Perrella is an alternate for a research grant to the United Kingdom and Madeline Elminowski is an alternate for an English Teaching Assistantship to Colombia. 🌐

Charles Anzalone is senior editor for University Communications.



FULBRIGHT ENRICHMENT SEMINAR EXPLORES OPIOID ADDICTION

By Cathy Wilde

UB was selected by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) to host nearly 100 Fulbright Foreign Students from around the world in late April for a three-day Fulbright Enrichment Seminar titled "Combating Addiction and Addressing the Opioid Crisis."

The topic is a priority for ECA and the State Department due to the new White House Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse. The program featured lectures and workshops on the origins and extent of the opioid crisis, understanding the nature of addiction, and researching and implementing solutions to the opioid epidemic. The student Fulbrighters represented more than 50 countries.

"The objective was to provide these young international scholars with a broad introduction to the opioid epidemic – including its history, development, current challenges and future directions – so they can return to their home countries with the knowledge and understanding to face this global health challenge," says David Herzberg, PhD, associate professor of history.

Herzberg spearheaded the Fulbright application in his role as education chair of the UB Clinical and Research Institute on Addiction (CRIA), which employs a multidisciplinary approach – integrating research, clinical care and education – to address substance use disorders.

Kenneth Leonard, PhD, CRIA director, and Jennifer Read, PhD, clinical area head and director of clinical training in the Department of Psychology, also were part of the application team.

"Buffalo is the perfect location to impart knowledge about successful strategies for combating the opioid crisis," says UB's Nancy Nielsen, MD, who serves on the Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force.

"In the last two years, Buffalo has shown leadership and innovation in facing this problem, defying national trends and reversing a rise in opioid-related deaths," she added. Nielsen is senior associate dean for health policy in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and CRIA's clinical chair.

The Fulbright Enrichment Seminar program took place

April 25-27 at the Jacobs School on UB's Downtown Campus. It featured a diverse mixture of lectures and panels from prominent scholars, experts, people affected by addiction and local officials; breakout discussions to explore different aspects of the opioid crisis and different research methodologies for learning about it; expert-led workshops to develop strategies to respond to the crisis; and visits to local opioid treatment sites. Numerous faculty members

from UB, along with local health care and addiction experts, took part.

"The program addressed the opioid crisis from multiple perspectives and through multiple dimensions," Herzberg says. "We not only discussed the public health aspects of the epidemic, but also looked at the history of addiction, its impact on health care and its socioeconomic, geographic and cultural dimensions."

The Fulbright Enrichment Seminar is one of eight 2019 enrichment seminars hosted across the United States through funding provided by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. These enrichment seminars are an integral part of the

Fulbright experience for first-year Fulbright Foreign Students and support the overall mission of the Fulbright Program to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Fulbright Foreign Students are enrolled in masters or doctoral programs in the United States in diverse fields related to business, economics, international relations, public administration and public policy.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to build lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

CRIA is a research center of the University at Buffalo focused on addressing the causes, consequences, prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. Its scientists are members of multiple departments and schools within UB, allowing CRIA to explore interdisciplinary methods to address addiction issues. 🌐

Cathy Wilde is communications director for CRIA.



Enrichment Seminar participants introduce themselves

UB RANKS THIRD IN CLIMATE ACTION AMONG 250 INSTITUTIONS

By David J. Hill

The University at Buffalo is ranked No. 3 in climate action among 250 institutions worldwide, according to the first-ever Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings revealed April 3.

The rankings recognize universities across the world for their social and economic impact, based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs. The SDGs are a collection of 17 goals collectively aimed at ending extreme poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and fixing climate change by 2030. They were adopted by 193 world leaders at a UN summit in 2015.

"To rank No. 3 in the world on Climate Action is no small feat and we're proud to lead the way in this regard," said Laura Hubbard, UB's vice president for finance and administration. "It's a testament to the many individuals and units at UB working to create a better campus, and world, every day, whether through their research or innovative approaches to curbing our carbon footprint."

More than 450 universities from 76 countries submitted data for the new THE University Impact Rankings. It's the first global attempt to document evidence of universities' impact on society, rather than just research and teaching performance.

Metrics include universities' policies on academic freedom, their use of secure employment contracts and their share of senior female academic staff. The rankings are based on 11 of the 17 UN SDGs.

UB was ranked in five SDGs, and scored best on SDG 13 (Climate Action), placing third behind the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of British Columbia, which topped this category. The ranking on Climate Action measures universities' research on climate change, their use of energy and their preparations for dealing with the consequences of climate change. It includes more than 250 universities from 58 countries.

UB also was ranked on the following Sustainable Development Goals: Good Health and Well-being, No. 54; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, No. 61; Sustainable Cities and Communities, No. 66; and Partnerships for the Goals, 201-300. The Health and Well-being list included more than 420 universities from 74 countries, and measured each on their research on key diseases and conditions, their support for health care professions, and the health of students and staff. 🌐

David J. Hill is news content manager for University Communications.

CULTURE MATTERS FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

By Kevin Manne

For international manufacturers looking to invest in an efficient supply chain, the culture of the country where you choose to invest can impact the bottom line, according to a new study from the University at Buffalo School of Management.

The researchers found that supply chain integration—or when a company focuses on performance increases with its suppliers and customers—has a positive effect across national cultures, particularly those that tend to be formalized, analytical and focused on the future, in a study recently made available online ahead of publication in *Cogent Business and Management*.

"Manufacturing supply chains, such as the ones for our smartphones, cars and clothing, are increasingly international, spanning many cultures," says Jurriaan de Jong, PhD, assistant professor of operations management and strategy in the UB School of Management. "It's been shown in many studies that supply chain integration positively affects performance, but we discovered that the relationship gets stronger or weaker based on which culture you live in."

For the study, the researchers analyzed surveys of more than 1,000 manufacturing plants from 14 countries around the world to determine the delivery performance of each, and used two frameworks to determine that two cultural factors had an effect on supply chain efficiency: uncertainty avoidance and future orientation.

"Managers should first focus on countries with high uncertainty avoidance—those with formal, analytical cultures such as Nigeria, Taiwan and China—to improve return on investment," says Nallan Suresh, PhD, UB Distinguished Professor of operations management and strategy in the UB School of Management.

"The second step should be to invest in countries with low future orientation, or those that have traditionally focused less on strategic planning and developing and investing in the future."

De Jong and Suresh collaborated on the study with lead author and UB School of Management PhD graduate Torsten Doering, associate professor/director of the International Business program at Daemen College. 🌐

Kevin Manne is assistant director of communications for the School of Management.

ANTIBIOTICS IN WASTEWATER: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

By Charlotte Hsu

In the fight against antimicrobial resistance, wastewater is the battleground where University at Buffalo chemist Diana Aga works.

Her research examines how sewage treatment systems help—or don't help—to eliminate antimicrobial drugs and their remnants, called residues, from wastewater before it's discharged into rivers and lakes.

This science is vital as the world seeks to better understand how bacteria and other microorganisms are becoming resistant to medicines, giving rise to “super-bug” diseases that don't respond to known pharmaceuticals.

As part of her efforts to advance science in this field, Aga is assisting the World Health Organization and NSF International in convening a meeting of global experts in Hamburg, Germany from May 8-9 to discuss the best methodologies for analyzing antibiotic residues in water.

The goal is to generate recommendations on topics such as which antibiotics should be measured and what technologies are available for detection, says Aga, PhD, Henry M. Woodburn Professor of Chemistry in UB's College of Arts and Sciences.

Data on the levels of antimicrobials in wastewater and river water can help scientists understand not just the effectiveness of treatment technologies, but also how the drugs are being used in different parts of the world. This type of monitoring could provide insight into the quantity and type of antibiotics being consumed by humans and animals in a specific region, for example.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is also interested in Aga's work, with Marcelo Galas, a specialist in antimicrobial resistance at PAHO, visiting UB in late April to build a relationship with Aga's lab as the agency develops an action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance in the Caribbean and Latin America.

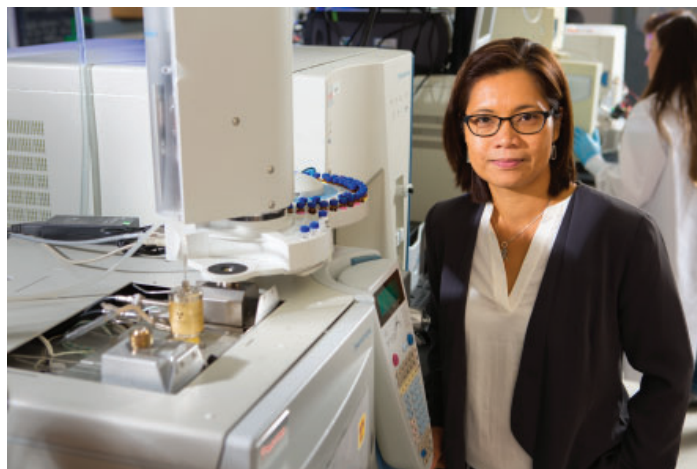
“PAHO is supporting the countries of the Americas region to build capacities to control the problem of antimicrobial resistance in their member states,” Galas said. “Considering that the environment is an excellent vehicle for the generation and dissemination of resistance, the collaboration with Dr. Aga and her group will complement the actions of PAHO regarding the evaluation of the presence of antibiotics, resistance genes and resistant bacteria in the environment. The partnership will advance our efforts to measure the impact of antimicrobial resistance and design strategies to control the problem.”

“While traditional surveillance of antimicrobial resistance has focused on resistant bacteria from hospitals, we need to investigate the role of wastewater treatment plants and large animal facilities as potential hotspots for

antimicrobial resistance,” Aga says.

Her research highlights how wastewater treatment systems worldwide have fallen behind the times.

She explains that sewage treatment has traditionally focused on killing disease-causing bacteria, extracting solid matter such as human excrement, and reducing nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Antibiotics and other pharmaceuticals, which are found in patients' urine, have



largely been ignored, along with chemicals found in personal care products such as shampoo and antibacterial soaps.

When wastewater treatment plants fail to remove antibiotics from sewage, the drugs and their remnants flow into rivers and lakes, possibly contributing to the spread of antimicrobial resistance. In addition, treatment plants themselves may act as a breeding ground for drug-resistant germs, with bacteria and antibiotics mingling in sewage sludge, causing drug-resistant strains to prosper while others die out.

Aga's work looks to fill in important gaps in knowledge of how antibiotics enter the environment, and how resistance spreads. Her current and past research includes:

- Studying how the different advanced treatment processes in municipal wastewater treatment plants reduce or eliminate antibiotics and their residues from water that's later discharged into waterways. This work is ongoing.
- Comparing levels of antibiotics and their residues in river water in Asia (Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, the Philippines) and in the U.S. and Europe (Sweden, Switzerland). This [multi-institution project](#) includes sampling water from upstream and downstream of wastewater treatment plants in different countries. This work is ongoing.
- Investigating how well waste management systems on dairy farms reduce or eliminate antibiotics and their residues from manure. The excrement is often repur-

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ASSESSING THE ROLE OF UN PEACEKEEPERS

By Bert Gambini

United Nations peacekeeping operations can serve as valuable instruments for reducing the duration of civil wars, but PKOs require robust troop deployments to quickly and effectively move combatants in active conflicts toward negotiated settlements such as cease-fires and peace agreements, according to a new study by a team of University at Buffalo political scientists.



While most research on PKOs has measured their influence on maintaining postwar peace, Jacob Kathman and Michelle Benson, both associate professors in UB's Department of Political Science, instead address a largely unexamined dimension: the U.N. peacekeeping operations' ability to increase the likelihood of a peaceful conflict resolution.

"Since the end of the Cold War, U.N. troops have been entering active conflicts, often peacemaking, not peacekeeping," says Benson. "And not all of these operations are created the same in their ability to facilitate faster negotiated settlements.

"Peacekeeping forces in the range of approximately 10,000 troops significantly improve the likelihood of ending hostilities. Failing to meet those numbers will make the effort much less effective."

Kathman and Benson used fine-grained monthly data sets built from Kathman's U.N. peacekeeping troop data and the Peace Research Institute Oslo's Uppsala Conflict Data Program. The findings appear in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

Civil wars can end in a number of ways, according to Benson. One side can emerge victorious. Violence can subside without a clear victor, but with the underlying cause of the conflict remaining unresolved. Then there are peace agreements and other official ways to end the fighting, such as ceasefires.

"That's what we look at in this study: How do you get to a peaceful negotiated settlement and are peacekeepers able to facilitate that," says Benson. "We found that the presence of a sufficient number of peacekeepers decreased the time to a peaceful negotiated settlement."

The U.N. deploys peacekeeping operations when the permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) authorize troop funding, which is then subject to General Assembly approval. The U.N. has no standing army. Member States provide troops for the operation on a voluntary basis.

For their study, Kathman and Benson build on previous research on how the U.N. affects civil war. Their new paper has important policy implications that help validate the effectiveness of PKOs and supports the idea that the U.N. should outfit peacekeeping efforts with sufficient troop numbers required to reduce the hostility and intractability of civil conflicts.

"From prior research on the U.N., we know that U.N. peacekeepers are able to reduce civilian deaths and casualties and sometimes able to reduce the number of battlefield fatalities," says Benson. "But what happens if these troops dampen the active fighting to the point that a low-level conflict remains, what's called a 'hurting stalemate'?"

In the absence of a peaceful resolution, the "hurting stalemate" could mean a reduction in the immediate number of deaths, but the enduring balance of forces might eventually translate to a high number of deaths in the long term.

"That's what we wanted to determine," says Benson.

Kathman and Benson theorize that facilitating a security guarantee and separating combatants are among the mechanisms by which the troops are able to facilitate a settlement. With substantial troop deployments, the U.N. can help separate the combatants, assist with disarmament and provide a clear path for the unobstructed flow of information between sides, allowing the warring parties to move more quickly toward settlements.

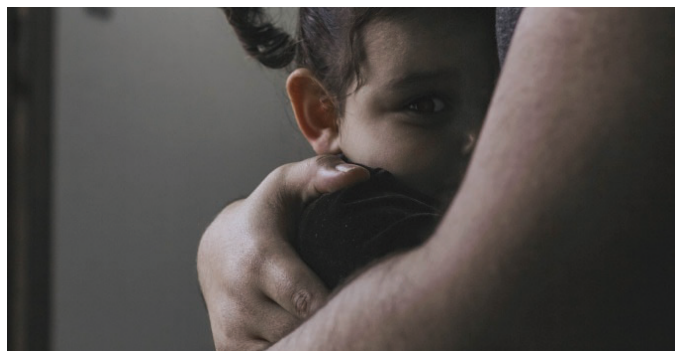
"The U.N. is not only able to improve the conflict situation," says Benson. "It's able to bring conflicts to a conclusion in a peaceful manner." "Considered in its broader context, these are important findings," says Kathman. "The U.N.'s reputation amongst the American public is one of relative impotence, but our findings contribute to a growing consensus of rigorous analyses that U.N. peacekeeping works. In many cases, if peacekeeping operations hadn't been deployed, those conflicts would likely have been much more violent and protracted." 🌐

Bert Gambini is news content manager for University Communications.

LAW CLINIC HELPING ASYLUM SEEKERS IN TEXAS

By Charles Anzalone

A handful of UB law students have been on the front lines of the national debate over immigration policy and the U.S. government's treatment of immigrants as they volunteered their legal expertise to immigrants seeking to cross into the United States from Mexico.



The six students were in Dilley, Texas, in January 2019 at the South Texas Family Residential Center, the largest detention center in the country. They were volunteering their assistance and receiving hands-on experience to help those seeking asylum from Central American countries.

The students were part of faculty member Nicole Hallett's U.S.-Mexico Border Clinic, one of the School of Law's expanding clinical course offerings. Working with the CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project, the students were working under a practice order to advance the cases of detainees — most from violence-plagued Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras — who were seeking asylum in the United States. The CARA project relies on volunteers to provide most of the legal representation.

"The people crossing the border are very different than what you would typically think of as the kinds of people who were historically crossing the border," said Hallett, assistant clinical professor and an immigration law specialist who also directs the Community Justice Clinic. "There are fewer and fewer people being caught at the border coming in for economic reasons.

"Instead, we're seeing a rise in families crossing the border, either couples with children or mothers with children. And we're also seeing many unaccompanied minors crossing the border," she said. "Most of these people are coming from Central America, and they're coming not because they're looking for economic opportunity, but because they're fleeing violence or threats of violence in their home countries. And it continues unabated, despite the various policy measures put into place to try to stop people from coming."

The idea for the January clinic and trip to Texas came

about last summer when students began looking for a way to help families caught in the Trump administration's controversial family separation policy.

"Last summer, when the Trump administration announced the Family Separation Policy — where families were forcibly separated, often without even being able to say goodbye, with children as young as 1 year old placed in foster care facilities and parents kept in detention — I began to get emails from law students who felt very helpless to do anything to help people affected by this policy," Hallett said before leaving for Texas with the six second- and third-year students, two Spanish-language translators and a UB social work student.

During the first two weeks of the course at UB, students learned about immigration law and took part in simulated interviews with Spanish-speaking people assuming the roles of asylum seekers. After arriving in San Antonio, the students visited the detention center and took part in another training session on Sunday night.

On Monday morning, the students began working with asylum seekers, preparing them for asylum interviews or representing them in immigration court so they can be released on bond.

"It's unlikely that the students will see a single case from beginning to end," Hallett noted, "but we'll see a lot of cases at one step in the process. They had cases that other law students and lawyers will have begun to prepare."

The Buffalo law school community rallied around Hallett's project and she was able to fundraise the costs of the students' trips.

"We've had a lot of interest from lawyers in the community who also want to help," Hallett said. "So even though Buffalo is obviously very far from the border, this is our problem, too. And this is really a good way for our community to show support for those people who have been victims in their home countries, and who are trying to come to the United States for the protection of themselves and their families."

One student in the clinic group, Leighann Ramirez, is a JD/MSW candidate who has already done significant work in immigration and asylum law, including serving in a social work clinic at the federal detention center in Batavia.

Ramirez, 25, aspires to become an immigration attorney. After having read so much about the migration of people seeking asylum in the Texas-Mexico border, she recently said that she was looking forward to seeing the situation for herself.

"Ever since the family separations, there are so many families in need, so much miscommunication," she said. "There are a lot of illegal things going on down there, and conditions aren't good at all. I really want to see that firsthand."

But what really inspired her interest is her personal his-

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DENTAL CLINIC SERVES DISPLACED PERSONS IN KURDISH IRAQ

By Marcene Robinson

Othman Shibly did not plan to perform any dental work during his first visit to Iraqi Kurdistan. However, a six-day trip to assess the needs of a Yezidi displacement camp led the UB faculty member to launch the camp's first dental clinic.

The new clinic, established in the Khanke Internally Displaced Population Camp in Duhok, Iraq, provided the area's nearly 16,000 women and children with their first oral health care in five years.

The clinic was established with the support of the Global Motherhood Initiative, the UB School of Dental Medicine, the University of Duhok College of Dentistry, the Henry Schein Cares Foundation and the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS).

Shibly returned to the Khanke camp March 31 to April 4, 2019 with several UB dental school alumni to deliver oral health care to 2,500 children.

"The populations that are most affected and vulnerable during times of war are women and children," says Shibly, clinical professor and assistant dean for diversity and inclusion in the School of Dental Medicine.

"The Yezidis were in desperate need of dental care — dental care that could not only enhance their health, but their self-esteem and create an opportunity for healing."

Three women working at the new clinic interview a patient sitting in the dental chair.

Shibly is no stranger to launching dental clinics with limited time and resources. Since 2012, he has helped open and support more than 20 dental clinics for Syrian refugees in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon.

When representatives from Global Motherhood Initiative, a nongovernmental organization that integrates health care with trauma therapy and psychosocial support, learned of Shibly's efforts, they invited him to Iraqi Kurdistan to assess the oral health needs of the Yezidi community living in the Khanke camp.

The camp is home to 16,000 people, mostly women and children, who became displaced in 2014 after an attempted genocide by the Islamic State destroyed their communities. Thousands of the women are victims of sexual violence.

No dental services have been offered in the camp since its inception. Although care is available in the nearby city Duhok, few of the camp's residents have the money or resources to pay for treatment or transportation.

During Shibly's visit on Jan. 31, he found cases of severe gum disease, tooth decay and broken teeth.

"Some of my friends told me that the work I'm doing to help Syrian refugees is enough, and any more would be

too much. I told them what I always say to my students at UB: We should be like the sun. Anyone under it, human or animal, should feel its warmth," Shibly says.

"I hope that what we at UB did, and will do, for the Yezidi women will be a step toward their healing. No woman in this time and age should suffer these types of abuses and crimes."

To start the clinic, Shibly relied on both previous partners and establishing new connections with organizations in the area.



Othman Shibly (3rd from left) with collaborators in Kurdish Iraq

The Global Motherhood Initiative and Yezidi leaders helped him secure a location in the Khanke camp for the clinic. The group hired a plumber and electrician to supply the building with water and power.

The Henry Schein Cares Foundation supported the mission by providing dental instruments and supplies, and the UB dental school's Miles for Smiles program helped cover the cost of purchasing locally a dental unit, including a chair, sterilizer and amalgamator.

Shibly also partnered with the University of Duhok to gather manpower. More than 100 dental students from the university will support the mission trip at the end of the month.

During the clinic's first weekend, Shibly performed cleanings and extractions for four women. When he returns on March 31, he plans to treat thousands of children. He will be assisted by UB alum Yousef Al Awadhi, a pediatric dentist based in Kuwait.

To establish consistent care in the Khanke camp, Shibly secured funding from SAMS to hire a full-time dentist to work in the dental clinic.

He also aims to train and hire several camp residents as community health care workers. The program would

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RESEARCH TO REDUCE GLOBAL HEALTH INEQUITIES

By Lisa Vahapoglu

In addition to helping to reduce health disparities, pursuing international health equity research can open academic and professional doors for students. Just ask Erin Sweeney (MUP, 2018).

With travel support from the Community for Global Health Equity (CGHE), Sweeney conducted field research related to the health and wellbeing of smallholder farmers in Odisha, India while she was pursuing her Master's degree in Urban Planning at UB.

Under the guidance of her mentor and CGHE Co-Director, Dr. Samina Raja, Erin contributed to a project that explored adaptation strategies of smallholder farmers in Odisha.

"Through this work I have grown to understand the systemic challenges facing farmers, especially how globalization, urbanization, climate change, and policy impact farmers' daily living practices," Sweeney notes.

While in Odisha, Sweeney recollects learning how to "articulate our vision and objectives in a concise and culturally appropriate manner," and "represent the breadth of UB research and knowledge" while she was still a graduate student. Such professional development experiences, in addition to the firsthand knowledge she gained about the challenges, strategies, and daily practices of smallholder farmers ultimately informed Erin's own research interests and global perspective. At the moment

Sweeney is applying perspectives and skills developed in Odisha to her work as a Fulbright Scholar in Singapore, where she is researching the impact of land use policy on food production.

International global health-related travel like Sweeney's trip to Odisha necessitates no small amount of student legwork and preparation.

In addition to medical visits for pre-travel vaccines and prescriptions, obtaining visas, purchasing a ticket, and figuring out what to take, there is the whole matter of identifying a faculty advisor, formulating the scope of work, and making sure that the proposed project is both doable and meaningful for the student researcher, and that it's a project of value to our international partners.

At the moment, three UB students are making these very

preparations in anticipation of applying for CGHE international travel support, and pursuing global fieldwork over the coming summer months. Juniors Elizabeth Schlant and Kennedy George have been working out the details of a project that they will pursue in Uganda while embedded within the Ministry of Water and Environment's Appropriate Technology Centre (ATC), while first-year MPH student Thao-Charline Nguyen aims to spend three months in rural India, working on a public health project under the auspices of Kerala-based Amrita University.

At ATC, which is charged with developing, implementing, and evaluating programs to improve Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) accessibility to people with disabilities, Schlant and George will be helping our partners to assess and improve their use of social media as a tool for disseminating WaSH information. Of the planning process for her work in Uganda, Elizabeth notes

that the research is different from course-based research: "For school, your task is often to research one aspect of something, like the efficiency of different types of water pumps." By contrast, she has realized that in her preparation for a global health project "you also have to research the context (cultural, political, economic, etc.) of the specific questions you are asking."

George finds that working out a research project and organizing an international trip can be "very tricky but also extremely exciting." In terms of brokering agreements with international partners, she has come to the conclusion that the preparation process itself has been a helpful learning experience: "Planning a trip abroad with people who live and work in a different country than you also involves adapting to and learning about how other cultures work and communicate."

Understanding something of the culture and mores of the host country is important, Schlant adds, because it can help to us to identify "otherwise invisible" assumptions and biases that we import from our communities of origin.

Meanwhile, Nguyen, who is early in her process of identifying a research project with Amrita University's Department of Community Medicine in Kochi, India, has found the experience of working with CGHE to help formulate a project to be "very simple" and the staff to be "welcoming." Specifically, Nguyen indicates that she appreciates



Erin Sweeney (left) in Odisha with a local collaborator

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ASYLUM SEEKERS

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tory. Ramirez's mother migrated to the U.S. through the southern border. Although she wasn't detained, her experience traveling through Mexico was a rough one, Ramirez said.

"Growing up, I would always hear my mother talk about her story, her migration story, and I would just be in awe about how she was able to do that because I see her as my mom who's scared of most things," she said.

She expects her fluency in Spanish will help her connect with these women and children seeking asylum. "If I can offer some decent human interaction with them that maybe they are not getting, that, for me, would be huge," Ramirez said. "I'd just like to make it as seamless as possible for them."

Ramirez said it's important to separate herself emotionally from the people she meets, but she knows the stories she has heard and reports she has read can't help but have an impact on her personally.

"Just hearing about what happened over the summer; for example, how the women and children and their families are being separated," said Ramirez, whose family originally came from Bolivia. "Kids were put in boxes and cages. Women and children — before they actually are put in detention — they're in these hieleras, which are basically ice boxes.

"I'm thinking of women and children waiting in ice boxes for three to four days before they can even be placed in detention and then be put into the process. That alone already just gets me upset, as a human being, because I'm thinking about myself in that setting. Especially, I think because I have such a personal connection with my mom," she said.

For Hallett, the U.S.-Mexico Border Clinic is an extension of her work in the law school's Community Justice Clinic, where students learn how to practice law both inside and outside the classroom, as well as represent real clients. She said she's passionate about representing low-wage and low-income immigrants in the U.S., and teaching law students how to represent them.

She traveled to the South Texas Family Residential Center in 2016 with students from another university, calling it one of the most "formative experiences" of her professional life. "And I say that as someone who has been an immigration attorney for over 10 years," she said.

"You are working with people who have just crossed the border days earlier, and you're in a detention center where they're being held with their children. They are under a lot of stress. And many of them have experienced trauma — not only in their home country, but also on the journey.

"It's impossible to leave after a week at the border without understanding how crucial it is that we have an asylum system that works in this country, and that allows people

to get the protection that they need," she said. "It's impossible to talk to these women and children without feeling a moral obligation to help them. But it's also impossible not to feel affected yourself because you're hearing these stories. You're hearing story after story. And it can become very emotional for the volunteers themselves."

Hallett called that week in 2016 at the border facility one of the hardest weeks of her life. "It was also one of the most rewarding weeks of my life," she said. "And I'm really excited to share that experience with students here at UB." She noted there are many misconceptions about the people who are crossing the border.

"There have been statements made that there are terrorists crossing the border, that they're all criminals crossing the border," she said. "In my experience, nothing could be further from the truth. The people that I met were not terrorists. They were not criminals. And they were just simply trying to protect their families."

Hallett said U.S. authorities have done a good job of protecting the country's southern border.

"The numbers of migrants crossing for economic reasons have fallen year after year since the year 2000," she said. "I think when we're thinking about what sorts of policies we want to put into place, we should continue doing what we're doing at the border. But we also have to make sure that we consider the humanitarian objectives of the asylum system, which is the law," she added.

"People should be able to seek asylum. It's international law; it's U.S. law. And we shouldn't be putting policies into place that prevent people from doing that. I think there is a way of protecting the border, protecting ourselves, protecting our national interests, and also making sure that we comply with our legal obligations. And also that we act morally and ethically in the larger world." (Image by Ricky Turner on Unsplash) 🌐

DENTAL CLINIC

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provide members of the Yezidi community with jobs and broaden access to basic oral health preventive care treatment, such as filling cavities and delivering fluoride varnishes.

The program is being tested in Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon. Shibly, with the help of SAMS and the Henry Schein Cares Foundation, trained and hired six full-time health care workers from refugee communities to assist camp dentists in providing care. Shibly returned to Lebanon in May to evaluate the quality of their work, and survey parents and children on the workers' performances. If the program is deemed successful, the model will be implemented in Iraqi Kurdistan. 🌐

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

NURSING'S GLOBAL OUTREACH THROUGH SERVICE LEARNING

By Chris Dobmeier

For over 75 years, the University at Buffalo School of Nursing has provided a high-quality nursing education in a dynamic university setting. The School of Nursing strives to deliver innovative nursing education programs that prepare its graduates to collaboratively lead in global research, education, practice and service opportunities for diverse populations.

It values service to the community and to multicultural populations in a variety of settings across the globe. Annually, the School of Nursing presents opportunities to its



students to get hands-on experience in exactly that.

In the 2018-19 academic year alone, students and faculty in the School of Nursing participated in global trips in at least six countries abroad. Three nursing students and three faculty members traveled to Greece to provide care for Syrian refugees.

Two nursing students and one faculty member provided needed health services in Senegal.

A Doctor of Nursing Practice student and an ABS student, along with UB MD, MBA, and pharmacy students, provided vision exams, malaria screenings and other medical services to more than 200 children in Ghana.

Three nurse anesthetist students spent two weeks in the Philippines, where they helped to set up three functioning operating rooms. With the help of translators, they also performed assessments and provided anesthesia care for surgical patients.

Five nursing students trekked to Cusco, Peru, where they joined other students from around the country on a medical mission. They triaged patients at a clinic and assisted in pediatrics, gynecology, medicine, dental, and emergency departments.

Lastly, nursing students and faculty were part of an interdisciplinary team who cared for about 800 patients

over the course of six days in Haiti, for the UB School of Nursing's annual global experience trip.

The Haiti Global Mission Trip was an interdisciplinary humanitarian trip to provide health care in rural settlements lacking medical care and plagued by poverty. The experience was accompanied by an interdisciplinary team with Servants in Fellowship and several Western New York and UB physicians, pharmacists and health care professionals in Galette, Haiti.

Molli Warunek, a clinical assistant professor in the School of Nursing, led the global experience in Haiti, which marked her 15th mission trip.

Warunek recognizes the importance of global experiences in health practice. She writes, "Participants [in these global experiences] better understand and utilize population-based prevention strategies that account for the unique characteristics of specific populations."

Warunek continues, "Global experience changes the attitudes of students to increase their want to work with individuals from other cultures." Not only do these global trips give students more practical experience in nursing, these trips contribute to a heightened understanding of impediments faced by patients from different cultural backgrounds, such as stigmatization. The trips also increase a student's cultural competency, awareness of global health issues, network for interdisciplinary and international

collaboration, perspective, independence, and creativity.

Faculty and students in the School of Nursing also participated in similar trips around the United States, including in Florida, Missouri, New York, and Tennessee. The field training in these trips hone domestic emergency and disaster response skills. 🌐

Chris Dobmeier is a master's student in Communication.

WASTEWATER

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posed as fertilizer or bedding for animals, which can cause the compounds to leach into the environment.

In addition to researching antimicrobials, Aga has also studied how other pharmaceuticals, such as estrogens and antidepressants, may persist in wastewater after treatment. She is interested in how such chemicals may affect ecosystems, with one past study finding antidepressants or their metabolized remnants in the brains of fish in the Niagara River, which connects two of the Great Lakes. 🌐

Charlotte Hsu is news content editor for University Communications.

INTERPROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah and Kim Griswold

Led by Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah, who is the faculty director of global programs in the School of Management, a group of interprofessional students and faculty from UB in January 2019 conducted outreach in Ghana. Goals were to enhance students' global dexterity, connect with Ghanaian partners on the ground, and facilitate interprofessional knowledge and practice.

Disciplines included business, public health, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work and architecture and urban planning.

Ghana experiences high morbidity and mortality from acute infectious diseases such as malaria, typhoid and diarrheal disorders. From the medical perspective, Dorothy who is originally from Ghana, connected the health team to local areas experiencing health disparities – including issues of access, clean water, physician shortages, and supply chain difficulties.

The team formed sustainable linkages to a local health center and hospital, and next year faculty and students from the School of Dental Medicine will provide on-site services there. Medical attendings included Dr. Daniel Sheehan, Dr. Diana Moya and Dr. Kim Griswold and Dr

Kwabena Boakye, MD, MPH. Health professional students were: Kwasi Adusei (NP, 2019) Evelyn Quist, (MD, MBA 2019), Samuel Opoku-Acheampong (MD, MBA, 2020), Ogbonnaya Ogbonnaya (PharmD, MBA, 2021) and Dian Lin (2019). The following from the School of Pharmacy: Devon Coffey (2020) and Lena Kuffuor-Afriyie (2022) also participated.

Ghana is achieving sustainable development goals by focusing on climate change, disaster risk reduction, energy and biodiversity. There were about 20 business students, 2 alumni (Sarah Tanbakuchi and Samantha Podlas) and Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah from the School of Management who participated in this trip.

The team also visited sites such as the largest waste management factory in Africa, a small business chocolate factory and a luncheon with the US-Ghana Chamber of Commerce. A team of undergraduate students designed and taught in two rural schools with curricula on menstrual health and entrepreneurship and coding for kids; led by Danielle Vasquez, MPH, MBA (2019), Keiara Wilson, MSW, MBA (2020) & Sonya Tareke (MBA, 2020).

Business students and health trainees met for several seminars to discuss individual and professional goals – and how by working collectively wellness and economic sustainability can be achieved. 🌐

GLOBAL HEALTH

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the opportunity to discuss her research interests and career goals, both with CGHE staff and prospective international partners.

Launched in 2015 with a mandate to promote interdisciplinary, cross-cutting research and activities to reduce global health inequities, CGHE was also charged with promoting global health educational initiatives and opportunities for UB students irrespective of their degree programs. Students interested in pursuing global health-related work are welcome to meet with me to discuss how their coursework and lived experience might be leveraged to advance global health projects. Nguyen encourages other students to do so, noting that "CGHE is a helpful resource for students to use if they are interested in international research experiences."

CGHE Co-Director Katarzyna Kordas says that CGHE "wants to support research-related travel for both undergraduate and graduate students. Regardless of their degree program, we are open to hearing students' research ideas and, provided that they have UB-based mentors, connecting them to international partners." She adds, "we are particularly interested in supporting research trips of students whose travel will support our Big Ideas teams. We

would like students to have worked with a given team for at least 6 months before applying for CGHE travel funds to gain a better understanding of the team's research and to have time to develop a project abroad."

One of the aims of CGHE's travel support is to provide students with a pre-professional opportunity that will help them chart subsequent career and educational pathways. Case in point, George. In addition to her interest in the topic of her research – "the power of communication and public relations when it comes to bettering a community's health" – George has another set of aspirations for her time in Uganda: "I also hope that my trip confirms my desire to pursue a graduate program that focuses on global health."

Schlant agrees, asserting that "there is no substitute for international fieldwork," which is a priceless gift for students. "The most impactful experiences I've had are the ones where I was fully immersed in different cultural and socioeconomic conditions, as opposed to learning through a book or a lecture," she notes. "It is in the lived experience where I've internalized knowledge as my own, and it's changed the way I see the world." 🌐

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

UB TEAM REPRESENTS U.S. AT PRAGUE QUADRENNIAL

By Bert Gambini

Jonathan Shimon, assistant professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, has been selected as the technical director by the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) for the U.S. entry in the 2019 Prague Quadrennial (PQ), the global showcase for the best in performance design, scenography and theater architecture.

Shimon (BFA '07) is leading a team of faculty, staff and students who will fabricate, build and transport two cutting-edge multimedia exhibits.

Joining Shimon will be Dyan Burlingame (BA '04), clinical assistant professor and director of the Design and Technology Program; Eric Burlingame (MS '18, BA '03), theatrical technician from the Department of Theatre and Dance; Rick Haug (MA '16), scene shop supervisor from the Department of Theatre and Dance; and John Rickus, head carpenter from the UB Production Group.

Their journey began with a display in January in the Center for the Arts as part of the Upstate New York Regional USITT Frank Willard Winter Session Meeting and Jobs Fair, and will include a world premier reception on Jan. 28, also in the Center for the Arts.

From there, the exhibits were taken down, packed up and transported to Louisville, Kentucky, for the USITT National Conference from March 20-23, 2019. Then it was on to the international stage in Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic, for the PQ from June 6-16.

The voyage over land and sea from Kentucky to the Czech Republic requires tractor-trailers, shipping containers — and time. Shimon and his team will have about two days to reassemble the exhibits once they arrive for the PQ. Is that enough time?

"There are 24 hours in day," he says, in a voice familiar with deadlines. "We'll be fine."

The demands on participants and the PQ's four-year cycle evoke Olympic comparisons, but to fully appreciate the analogy is to see those working in scenography as the theater community's decathletes.

These versatile and multitalented artists create the environment in which actors perform. They are responsible for the sights and sounds of the stage, and the accompanying lighting, rigging and electronics that create mood and establish the on-stage world in which actors perform.

For Shimon, the honor of representing the U.S. is "emotionally overwhelming," and for the students who are participating, the opportunity to be involved with the exhibit is a testament to their talents and the education that has prepared them for the experience of working together on a project representing the entire country in what The New York Times called "the most important meeting of theater people in the world."

"Our undergraduates are doing work that has histori-



The UB team working on the exhibits for the Prague Quadrennial (Photos: Meredith Kulwicki)

cally fallen to grad students," says Shimon. "Since the first PQ began in 1967, all the other AAU institutions selected as U.S. representatives have had master's programs in theatre design. At UB our undergrads are equal to the task.

"That speaks volumes to the education they're getting here."

Shimon's student team includes:

- Gina Boccolucci, BFA Theatre Design and Technology '19.
- Joe Crumlish, BFA Theatre Design and Technology '19.
- Katherine Metzler, BA Theatre '19, BS Mechanical Engineering '19.
- Alex Poulin, BS Mechanical Engineering, Theatre Minor '20.
- Emily Powrie, BA Theatre '17, MA Theatre and Performance '19, MFA Studio Art '20.
- Aliza Schneider, BA Theatre, Management minor '19.
- Becca Stock, BFA Theatre Design and Technology '21.
- Madison Sullivan, BFA Theatre Design and Technology '19.

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PRAGUE QUADRENNIAL

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- Luke Tarnow-Bulatowicz, BA Theatre '21, BS Computer Engineering '21.

The interactive exhibits Shimon and company will build and transport — an emerging professional and professional entry — are sculptural homes for the collective abilities and imaginations of the UB team.

A Chicago-based collaborative created the emerging exhibit's aesthetic, and the UB side was tasked with bringing it together.

Imagination, however, doesn't always translate to physical reality, and the Chicago contributors originally gave Shimon the challenge of building a sculpture with a pump and water circulation system, as well as a digitally controlled rain system that created patterns and words in the falling water. Imagine the iconic solo dance scene from "Singin' in the Rain," with Gene Kelly moving along the street in rhythm as the shower above him spells out words. Impossible.



Jonathan Shimon considers one of the installations

"No. It's not. We made it work," Shimon says. "But we couldn't get a definitive answer from Prague granting permission for all the water to be in the Palace of Industry, the event's venue."

But there was no wasted energy from the effort, and the mockup Shimon and team created spawned a mechanical engineering capstone project for one of the students on

his team, who will also present the design as part of an engineering entertainment symposium this summer.

Just as many disciplines contribute to scenography, many people have contributed to making the PQ invitation a reality.

"This wouldn't be happening without the support of the Department of Theatre and Dance and the College of Arts and Sciences," says Shimon.

"Dean [Robin] Schulze has been incredibly excited about this project. We've also had a great deal of help from the Center for the Arts and the UB Production Group.

"This is a collective effort." 🌐

THREE-MINUTE THESIS

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laser-based cancer therapy. New York native Konstantinos Plakas placed second, and Abdulrahman Hassaballah from Egypt placed third.

Challenging herself to convey her complicated, but important, research cohesively, Falk-Mahapatra competed in the 2019 3MT. "I thought, 'Wow, I can talk about my research in these terms.' I'm still speaking to an intelligent audience, and I have to speak in a manner where the science is not all lost and is still intelligent," she says.

Commending the competition, Flash says, "I think this year's competitors were the strongest ever. We really coached them to go in depth with their research methodologies, how they designed their studies, what their data said."

3MT workshops were integral in preparing the competitors to pitch, whether they focused on organizing

thoughts, selling the ideas, or getting over a fear of public speaking. "Even if [students] want to go into industry or work in nonprofit, when you have a Ph.D., people are going to ask you, 'What was your research on?' To answer that is really a life skill," says Flash.

The Monday following the 3MT competition, Falk-Mahapatra presented her work at the Keystone Symposia on cancer immunotherapy in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada. Also in attendance was Dr. Jim Allison, a Nobel Laureate for his work in cancer care, and a big inspiration for Falk-Mahapatra. "Actually, it was funny because he asked, 'Can you explain to me [your research] in under one minute?' Yes! Yeah, I can explain it in under one minute," she recounts.

3MT competition winners have gone on to give Ted Talks, win other pitch competitions, and even win awards as prestigious as the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. After Falk-Mahapatra graduates obtains her Ph.D., she plans to spend time exploring the world. 🌐

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE SCHOLARS EXPLORE THE WORLD

By Chris Dobmeier

Now in its fifth year of supporting students to study abroad, the President's Circle scholarship is an award funded graciously by UB President Satish Tripathi and his circle of donors. Since its inception in the Winter 2014 term, this scholarship has been awarded to 138 students and counting, with over \$220,548 of support. Undoubtedly, this scholarship has afforded a multitude of once-in-a-lifetime experiences to UB students.

Every year, the President's Circle awards around \$50,000 to UB students that are embarking on study

abroad programs. To be eligible for this scholarship, students must be enrolled full-time, be in good academic standing, and have permanent residency in one of eight Western New York counties (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, or Wyoming), and indicate a need for financial assistance.

The director of the Office of Study Abroad Pro-

grams, Mary Odrzywolski, explains that this scholarship helps "send our local students, who for the most part, probably don't have much experience traveling or studying abroad."

William Illig, a student in Civil Engineering, received a President's Circle scholarship to help fund his study abroad program for the Fall 2017 term at UB's partner institution, Konan University, in Japan.

A Niagara Falls, New York native, Illig had never been overseas prior to pursuing this study abroad program. Further, this was Illig's first experience living with a host family, who he said welcomed him with open arms. "My host mom really went out of her way to make my experience the best," he said.

When asked if he experienced any culture shock, Illig explained, "You walk around and it's a bit weird that you're the minority. No matter what you are, if you aren't Japa-

nese, you are the minority."

Humbled by this revelation, Illig had no trouble making the most of his time at Konan University. "One of my favorite parts about Japan was—I was part of the Wadaiko (Japanese drumming) club. I was actually the one in charge of running the song. It was so great." Illig said that the Wadaiko club was even able to perform a few times for the university.

While Illig was bound to a single semester of study abroad, he ultimately extended his stay an additional semester. When Illig discussed an extension with his host mother, she began to tear up. "She was really happy that I liked Japan and I liked her household so much that I wanted to stay longer."

What began as a directionless stumble into the Office of Study Abroad Programs turned into a life-changing year spent in Japan.

Dominic DiFiglia, who plans to graduate in Spring 2019 with a bachelor's degrees in Spanish, International Studies, and Political Science, received a President's Circle Scholarship to help fund his studies at the Universidad de Sevilla (University of Seville), in Spain, during the Fall 2018 term.

DiFiglia knew going into college that he wanted to study abroad. Still, after applying and being accepted to the Seville program, he had second guessed pursuing a



William Illig in Kobe, Japan



Dominic DiFiglia at the Alcazar in Seville, Spain

studying abroad. It was not until being receiving the President's Circle scholarship and other financial support that DiFiglia felt committed to studying abroad.

Having grown up in Wheatfield, New York, this study abroad program provided DiFiglia his first experience abroad. "I was the only one in the program who had never been overseas," he laughed.

The program began with an exploration of the mountainous Andalusian city of Granada. "Granada was probably one of the coolest cities in Spain," DiFiglia recounted. The program then set its students up in Seville, where

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PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE SCHOLARS

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they would eventually take classes and spend most of their time.

DiFiglia was able to travel more extensively through Spain through the program's Friday excursions, giving him a taste of many different cultures, types of architecture, and historical context. DiFiglia valued his time exploring the cities in southern Spain, which he said have lots of Muslim influence, making for a unique perspective.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity—grateful for the fact that there were so many scholarship opportunities, like the President's Circle, that really enabled me to [study abroad]," said DiFiglia. "All I want to do is go back."

Currently abroad for the Spring 2019 term, at the Isti-

erice knew she wanted to study abroad in Italy upon entering college, even learning Italian during her first year at UB. "It was something I always wanted to do," she remembered. "I just never knew how."

When Federice saw an opportunity to continue practicing Italian in Florence, Italy, she pursued it and never looked back. Like the many other President's Circle scholars, Federice had never experienced an authentic culture overseas. Similarly, she had never lived with a host family until this study abroad.

Besides pursuing the study abroad program itself, Federice said one of the best decisions she has made was staying with a host family, with whom she shares dinner with nightly. "Having grown up in an Italian household, I knew that family is important and dinner is important, so it was an easy transition [into an Italian lifestyle] to make."

Making the most of her time in Italy, Federice says she has been to eight different Italian cities. A memorable trip for her was to Modena, home of balsamic vinegar. "All I did was eat," she laughed. During another excursion, Federice traveled to Lucca with the professor of her Italian cooking course, who owns a restaurant there.

"This program is everything I wanted it to be," she exclaimed. "Florence has the perfect city life, good food, and great people," Federice added. When asked whether she will travel back to Florence after completion of the program, Federice says "it's not a question of 'if'—it's a question of 'when.'"

William Illig, Dominic DiFiglia, and Alexa Federice are just three of a many UB students local to the Western New York area, who were afforded authentic cross-cultural experiences through funding like the President's Circle scholarship—experiences which might not have happened otherwise. Through the continued generosity of President Tripathi and his circle of donors, a handful of UB students will soon pack their luggage and embark on their own life-changing study abroad journeys. 🌐



Alexa Federice in Florence, Italy

tuto Lorenzo de' Medici, in Florence, Italy, is UB student Alexa Federice. Federice, a Buffalo, New York native, plans to graduate from UB in the spring of 2020, with degrees in Political Science and Italian.

While Federice grew up in an Italian household, nobody in her immediate family had ever been to Italy. Still, Fed-

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

School of Architecture and Planning

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Daniel B. Hess, professor and chair of Urban and Regional Planning, was invited to give a presentation in December 2018, entitled "Centralized Planning and Modernist Housing: Exploring International Connections" in the Visiting Lecturer Series at Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University in Hyderabad, India. His recent book *Housing Estates in Europe: Poverty, Ethnic Segregation, and Policy Challenges* (Springer International Publishing, 2018) was the #1 most downloaded volume in 2018 in the Urban Book Series of Springer Publishing.

JiYoung Park, associate professor, had a year-long activity with various Korean institutes and scholars for the climate change in Korea, which was highlighted at the conference for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Park's work focuses on constructing a South Korean economic and environment model that measures future risk including the economic impacts and vulnerabilities of climate change for various sectors in a scientific way.

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Anthropology

Jaume Franquesa, associate professor, was a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany, February 4-15, 2018. During his time at the institute, Franquesa co-organized the workshop "Financialization and the production of nature: New frameworks for understanding the capital-society-nature nexus," where he presented the paper: "Harvesting Wind, Accumulating Value and the Quest for Dignity: The Ecological Regime of Renewable Energy Development in Spain," on February 7, 2018. He was invited to participate in the "Frontlines of Value" workshop at the University of Bergen, Norway, with the paper "Dignity, Value, Waste: Struggles on the Spanish Frontier of Ground-Rent Valorization," September 19-21, 2018, and gave an invited lecture, entitled "Vent, valor i lluites," at the colloquium series Seminari Permanent, of the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the University of Barcelona, October 24, 2018. In Spring 2019, he attended the conference, People, Politics, Participation. Government of Fragile Rural Areas in Italy and Europe, in Rovigo, Italy, March 22-23, 2019, where he chaired and co-coordinated one of the panel sessions of the "Emancipatory Rural Politics Initiative-Europe." Franquesa is also a member of the organizing committee and co-convenor of the environment stream of the Historical Materialism conference, Thinking Emancipation: Radicalities and Social Movements in a Polarized World, to be held in Barcelona June 27-30, 2019.

Department of Art

Reinhard Reitzenstein, associate professor, director of the Sculpture Program, and director of undergraduate studies, will be the inaugural resident artist at the Art Gallery of Hamilton in Ontario, Canada from Spring 2019 to Spring 2020. The residency begins with a solo exhibition of Reitzenstein's sculptures, and throughout the course of the yearlong residency trial program, he will be holding public lectures, workshop events, and educational activities. He will be inviting UB students to participate throughout the year at this gallery, which was founded in 1914. Art Gallery of Hamilton is the oldest and largest art museum in Southern Ontario with a permanent collection that is recognized as one of the finest in Canada. Embracing Canadian historical, international and contemporary art, the collection consists of more than 10,000 works.

Department of Chemistry

John Richard, SUNY Distinguished Professor, travelled to Brazil during November of 2018 where he spent ten days giving talks at a regional chemistry conference and at several national universities, including the Federal University of Minas Gerais, the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, the Federal University of Santa Catarina, and Juiz de Fora Federal University for the 32 meeting of the Minas Gerais Region of the Brazilian Chemical Society. He also visited Sweden and Finland in December of 2018 to renew long-standing collaborations with Lynne Kamerlin, professor at Uppsala University; and Rik Wierenga, professor at the Biocenter in Oulu, Finland. Richard also took the opportunity to attend the 2018 Nobel Lectures in Chemistry, present-

ed in Stockholm on December 9, 2018 by Nobel laureates Frances H. Arnold, George P. Smith and Sir Gregory Winter.

Department of Communication

In November of 2018, **Lance Rintamaki**, associate professor and director of undergraduate studies, received a Nila T. Gnam Junior Faculty Research Award. Designed to support research related to the Southeast Asia region, the Gnam award funds Rintamaki and his team (Master's students Christopher Dobmeier and Erik Tingue) to travel to Singapore in the summer of 2019 to assess Singaporean preferences for discussing sexual health during clinical encounters. Specifically, this project will involve identifying forms and frequencies of patient preferences for how physicians discuss sexual health, as well as factors influencing the likelihood of such preferences. Through the support of the Nila T. Gnam Junior Faculty Research Fund, this study will equip clinicians with tools for better approaching these delicate matters with patients.

Department of Comparative Literature

Rodolphe Gasché, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Eugenio Donato Professor of Comparative Literature, gave three talks abroad, one lecture at the Universität für angewandte Kunst, Vienna, Austria, "On the Sensus Communis as a Feeling of Life," and two keynote addresses: one at the Sophistication Conference and the second at the Technische Universität Wien, Austria titled "Of a Ghost and its Resurrection. Maria Zambrano on the Agony of Europe." At the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, at a conference on Europe as a Philosophical Challenge, Gasché gave the keynote address, "Of a Ghost and its Resurrection. Maria Zambrano on the Agony of Europe."

Department of English

Crystanne Miller, SUNY Distinguished Professor, will give a paper at the International Lyric Society Conference from June 4-7 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Randy Schiff, associate professor, was invited as one of the scholars to participate in a BBC 4 Radio program that explores the significance of Geoffrey Chaucer's dream-vision poetry, entitled, "A Dream Vision for Our Times," which was first broadcast on January 4, 2019.

Department of Geography

Chris Larsen, associate professor, presented his research "Mesophication and Xerophication of Temperate Forests in Western New York: Traits and Drivers Evaluated" in Malaga, Spain at the biennial conference of the International Biogeography Society in January of 2019. This research was done in collaboration with Stephen Tulowiecki and David Robertson of SUNY Geneseo.

On her sabbatical leave, **Marion Werner**, associate professor and co-director of UB's Center for Trade, Environment and Development, has been making regular trips to the Dominican Republic, including close coordination with the School of Geography of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) and its affiliated research institute, the University Geographical Institute (IGU). Late last year, they co-published a report in English and Spanish on Dominican rice farmers, "Adaptation strategies of smallholder rice farmers in the context of trade liberalization." Additionally, the UASD approved a small joint research project, also on rice farmers. Werner also worked with two UASD geography students to complete their undergraduate theses on topics broadly related to her own.

Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies

During the 2019 centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus, **Elizabeth Otto**, Associate Professor and Executive Director of the Humanities Institute, opened her co-curated exhibition in Erfurt, Germany in March, "4 Bauhausmädels: Gertrud Arndt, Marianne Brandt, Margarete Heymann-Loebenstein" (funded by the Siemens Foundation, the state of Thuringia, and the city of Erfurt), for which she also co-edited the scholarly catalogue (Dresden: Sandman Verlag). She published *Bauhaus Women: A Global Perspective in English and German editions* (co-authored with Patrick Rössler) and two further co-edited books, *Art and Resistance in Germany and Bauhaus Bodies: Gender, Sexuality,*

and *Body Culture in Modernism's Legendary Art School* (both Bloomsbury). Otto was an interview subject for documentaries on German television (ARD), BBC television, BBC radio, and Swedish National Radio. She spoke on the topic of "Queer Bauhaus" at the Bauhaus colloquium in Weimar in April, and gave talks and keynote addresses at locations including the Museum of Modern Art, Bowdoin College, and SUNY Purchase. In May, she will serve as the keynote speaker for a conference in Hong Kong titled "Women and Art, A Challenging Emancipation: From the Bauhaus to Today." Her book, *Haunted Bauhaus: Occult Spirituality, Gender Fluidity, Queer Identities, and Radical Politics*, will be published by MIT Press in the fall of 2019. During the 2019–2020 academic year, Otto will work on her next project, *Nazi Bauhaus*, as the Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Department of History

Andreas Daum, professor, has been awarded the Humboldt Research Prize by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, with additional support by the Carl Friedrich von Siemens Foundation. The Humboldt Prize is a lifetime achievement award granted to international scholars in recognition of their academic achievements and impact on their discipline, allowing scholars to spend one year in Germany. Daum will be researching in 2019–20 at the Institute of History at the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich. His biography of Alexander von Humboldt was published by C. H. Beck in Munich in February 2019. In March 2019, the *Journal of Modern History* published his article on "Social Relations, Shared Practices, and Emotions: Alexander von Humboldt's Excursion into Literary Classicism and the Challenges to Science around 1800."

Hal Langfur, associate professor, published "Cannibalism and the Body Politic: Independent Indians in the Era of Brazilian Independence," *Ethnohistory* 65, no. 4 (Oct. 2018): 549–73. Comparing Brazilian and U.S. frontier and borderlands historiographies, Langfur delivered the keynote address at the annual International Meeting of Colonial Historians in Natal, Brazil. He also presented new research on indigenous peoples and racial violence in Portuguese America at Brown University's Watson Institute and at the Early Modern Violence Symposium, hosted by the Early Modern Research Workshop and UB's Humanities Institute.

Department of Jewish Thought

Richard A. Cohen, professor, was a visiting research professor in the Department of Political Science of the University of Rome, La Sapienza, from March to May 2019. Cohen was also invited to give a keynote address on "Levinas and the Ethical-Political" at a conference in Hong Kong on "Phenomenology and the Political" sponsored by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, May 2019.

Sergey Dolgopolski, associate professor and chair, was invited to give two lectures: "Talmud and Philosophy: A Counter-history," at the University of Latvia, Riga, and Jewish Museum, Riga, Latvia, July 25, 2018; and "What is Talmud?" at the Rzeszow Institute of Technology Department of Cognitive Science, Poland, July 23, 2018. He also gave presentations at two conferences: "Displaced and Redone: Are the Rabbis in the Palestinian Talmud Marranos?" for "The Marrano Phenomenon: Jewish 'Hidden Tradition' and Modernity," at the International Conference at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland, September 17–18, 2019; and "Ground without Place? Basic Legislative Topoi in the Palestinian Talmud Today," at the conference, "Basic Concepts in Jewish Thought: Sources and Contexts," hosted by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Saint Petersburg University in Saint Petersburg, Russia, May 30, 2019.

Department of Music

Derek R. Strykowski, clinical assistant professor of historical musicology, recently published a study entitled "The Negotiation of Nineteenth-Century Style: A Case Study in Composer–Publisher Relations" in vol. 49 of the *International Review of the Aesthetics and Sociology of Music*, a journal sponsored by the Croatian Musicological Society in Zagreb, Croatia. The research addresses the role of music publishing houses in the stylistic development of European art music during the nineteenth century.

Department of Political Science

In June 2018, **Donald Munroe Eagles**, professor and chair, was elected to the Presidency of the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS), an Ottawa-based umbrella organization with membership from 25 national and regional Canadian Studies associations around the world. His term as President begins in June 2019 and lasts for two years.

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

David Castillo, professor and director of the Humanities Institute, presented an invited talk and was interviewed for a related podcast as part of a summer institute seminar, "Learning to Hate – Pluralism in an Era of Echo Chambers," at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, in June 2018.

Graduate School of Education

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

Melinda Lemke, assistant professor, traveled to Costa Rica with UB colleagues last summer through the Office of International Education's incubator, designed to assist faculty with creating study abroad programming. She published three articles on the politics of forced movement at the southern U.S. border and public education including, "Trafficking and immigration policy: Intersections, inconsistencies, and implications for public education" in *Educational Policy*, 2017; "Educators as the 'front line' of human trafficking prevention: An analysis of state-level educational policy," in *Leadership and Policy in Schools*, 2018; and "The politics of 'giving student victims a voice': A feminist analysis of state trafficking policy implementation," in *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 2019. Lemke also co-authored an article with Educational Leadership Policy graduate student Lei Zhu titled, "Successful futures? New economy business logics, child rights, and Welsh educational reform," in *Policy Futures in Education*, 2018; and co-authored an article with Huriya Jabbar and colleagues titled, "Gender, markets, and inequality: A framework for examining how market-based reforms impact female leaders," in *Educational Policy*, 2018. Most recently, Lemke is the primary investigator on a study with Amanda Nickerson, professor of Counseling, School and Educational Psychology, funded in part by the Community of Excellence in Global Health Equity and supported by the Graduate School of Education titled, "Understanding the Global within the Local: Educational Policy and Programmatic Supports for Displaced Youth."

Department of Information Science

Christopher Hollister, interim head of Scholarly Communication, presented the paper, "The Desire for Global Engagement in Independent Library-Published Journals: A Case Study" at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Special Interest Group on Library Publishing midterm meeting in Dublin, Ireland.

Amy VanScoy, associate professor, presented a keynote on March 15, 2019 at the First University of South Africa Biennial International Conference on Library and Information Science Research in Africa conference in Pretoria, South Africa entitled, "Values-based Practice and Scholarship: Re-framing our Work for the Digital Age." She also presented a public lecture in the Department of Information Science at the University of Pretoria entitled "Student Surveillance in the Age of Learning Analytics: An Analysis of Library Information Science Syllabi." While in South Africa, she conducted a research study about librarians' orientations toward reference and information service.

Department of Learning and Instruction

Janina Brutt-Griffler, professor and associate dean for International Education and Language Programs, was awarded a competitive Saudi's Ministry of Education Fellowship to join the International Exhibition and Conference on Higher Education (IECHE), April 10–11, 2019 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The conference brings senior administrators from Saudi universities and international guests to engage in dialog about international trends and good practice in higher education. Brutt-Griffler was also invited to give a keynote address on "Developing bilingual literacy among young learners in the era of global English: Research and policy implications" at the Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching International Conference and Exhibition, Dubai, United Arab Emirates on March 7–9, 2019.

Sarah A. Robert, associate professor and director of the Social Studies Education and Teaching and Leading for Diversity programs, was

selected as a SUNY Teaching Partner as part of the SUNY-Venezuela Higher Education Engagement Initiative. She will be partnered with a Venezuelan colleague with similar expertise and courses to co-plan and co-teach. Robert hopes this opportunity will enhance UB students' transnational experiences and knowledge, as well as cultivate her expertise as a scholar of gender and education policy at the global level and, more specifically, in the Americas. Additionally, Robert chaired a panel, "Intersectionality and Transnational Education Policy in a World Turned Upside Down," for the International Research Council of the American Education Research Association's annual meeting in Toronto, ON, Canada in April. Her edited compilation, *Neoliberalism, Gender, and Education Work* (Routledge, 2018), bringing together research from around the globe, was released in the fall.

Karen Mac Cormack, adjunct professor, did a series of readings in the United Kingdom in 2018 to launch her new book of poetry, *RECH-ESSE PRATTICQUE* (Chax Press, Tucson, Arizona; formerly Victoria, Texas; May 2018). Throughout June, Mac Cormack read at Xing the Line Reading Series, Iklectik, in London; at the Poetry Club in Glasgow; at Peter Barlow's Cigarette Reading Series, Waterstone's Deansgate, in Manchester; and again in London at University College London. Mac Cormack had more readings in Toronto, Canada, September 28, 2018 at knife/fork/book, Darkside Studio; in Dublin, Ireland, at University College Dublin, for the Text/Sound/Performance: Making in Canadian Space Conference (April 25–27, 2019) as organizer/panel chair of the round table "The Architectures of Steve McCaffery's CARNIVAL (Verbi/Voco/Visual)," April 25. She will also participate in a poetry reading on June 13, 2019 at the Université de Sorbonne, Paris, part of the conference, *Passages: The Robert Duncan Centennial* on June 12–14, 2019.

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Javid Bayandor, associate professor, received an Invited Honorary Professorship from Tampere University and the Finland Aeronautical Engineering Society in March 2018. As a result, Bayandor has contributed to a new international collaboration between UB, and Tampere University and Aalto University in Finland. In this collaboration, graduate teams are working on advanced aerospace structural topics. The first Finnish visitor is currently working with Bayandor's CRASH Lab in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Also resulting from this collaboration are plans to send UB students overseas in the not-too-distant future. Additionally, Bayandor has been honored through the award of the Theodore von Karman Fellowship by Aachen University, Germany. This award requires invitation and collaboration on a topic involving several professors from a variety of disciplines, and will be yet another opportunity to involve research teams in exciting international research collaboration and programs.

Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering

Nirupam Aich, assistant professor, is working with colleagues in Bangladesh to investigate e-waste and its effect on people's health. His goal is to one day find a solution to the problem in Bangladesh and other developing countries.

Cemal Basaran, professor, has appointments as a formal Faculty Advisor to PhD students in the Applied Mechanics Department at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India. He currently has one PhD student, Noushad Bin Jamal, whom he meets with every other week on Skype. Basaran also gave an invited lectures at Kuwait University and at the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research, on "Unified Mechanics Theory: Unification of Laws of Newton and Laws of Thermodynamics," Kuwait, on December 18 and 19, 2018.

Michel Bruneau, SUNY Distinguished Professor, gave a Keynote Lecture on April 10th, 2019, at the Global Resilience Research Network Summit 2019, in Freiburg, Germany, organized by Fraunhofer EMI, an institute of the Fraunhofer Society, Europe's largest organization for applied research. Bruneau was invited as a "Thought Leader" for the opening session of the summit on "Creating Benefit through Resilience." The summit brought together many of the world's top academic, applied research, public policy and distinguished practitioners who have recently been on the front lines of managing and studying some of the 21st century's most catastrophic disasters, to exchange the latest ideas and solutions for informing and advancing resilience on multiple scales.

Department of Material Design and Innovation

Jung-Hun Seo, assistant professor, received a Young Investigator Award from the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA).

School of Management

Department of Management Science and Systems

Haimonti Dutta, assistant professor, gave a series of talks on Optimization Methods in Machine Learning at the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems at BITS, Pilani, Goa, India on August 7–9, 2018. The talks demonstrate the entwining of machine learning and optimization, the study of which can lead to the development of scalable algorithms for mining big data. During her visit, she also collaborated with colleagues to develop scalable machine learning algorithms — a recent article about this research has appeared in the *Machine Learning Journal*.

Department of Organization and Human Resources

Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah, clinical assistant professor and faculty director of Global Programs, led global experiential learning trips to Ghana, Winter 2019, and Costa Rica, Spring 2019. She also helped coordinate an alumni engagement event in Bangalore, India in February, 2019. Wei Loon Leong, director of International Alumni Engagement and member of the Global Programs, led global experiential learning trips to China, Winter 2019. Kara Lanuti, assistant director of Global Programs, and Annie Hayes, assistant director of internships, led global experiential learning trips to Costa Rica, Spring 2019.

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Department of Family Medicine

Kim Griswold, professor, was invited to give a talk in January 2019 on the Sequelae of Torture to the Ghana Psychological Society, Military Hospital 37, Accra, Ghana. The physical and psychological after-effects of torture were discussed, with particular emphasis on refugee and asylum seeker trauma. Griswold is the faculty advisor for the UB Human Rights Initiative.

Department of Medicine

John Canty, SUNY Distinguished Professor, Albert and Elizabeth Rekate Professor, and Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, is a member of the expert committee organized by the European Society of Cardiology that was integral to the publication of "The 4th Universal Definition of Myocardial Infarction" that was published in *European Heart Journal* (2018) 39, 3757–3765 doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehy655.

Ajay Chaudhuri, clinical professor and Clinical Chief of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism traveled to Ahmedabad, India January 12–13, 2019 as an international advisor and faculty member to attend the Swasthyacon – 1st International Metabolic Conference of Metabolic Disease in Indian. While there Dr. Chaudhuri received the Dr. RM Shah Oration Award for his presentation titled "Adjunct Therapies in Type 1 Diabetes- Role of GLP-1 Agonists and SGLT2 Inhibitors."

Anne Curtis, SUNY Distinguished Professor and chair, spoke at CardioEgypt 2019, the annual meeting of the Egyptian Society of Cardiology in February, 2019 in Cairo, Egypt. Her talks were: "Update on the Management of Syncope 2019 – State of the Art Lecture," "Role of Ablation in Patients with AF: Patient Selection and Outcomes," and "Sudden Cardiac Death: Overview 2019."

Richard Quigg, Arthur M. Morris Professor and chief of the Division of Nephrology, will travel to Rhodes, Greece from June 12–17, 2019, for the Aegean Conference on Complement Therapies where he will speak on Complement Activation in Hemodialysis – Are There Therapeutic Opportunities."

Department of Neurology

Bianca Weinstock-Guttman, professor and director of the Jacobs Medical School Center for Treatment and Research and the Jacobs Pediatric Medical School Center of Excellence, was invited to participate in the 13th World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONy), in Madrid, Spain, from April 4–7, 2019. CONy is an exclusive forum for international experts to discuss controversies in neurology. The World Congress hosts debates which enable these experts to focus on unresolved issues with other leading world experts, and aims to provide

clinicians the most recent, up-to-date data to benefit everyday patient care. Weinstock-Guttman conducted two round-table debates: the first focusing on whether evoked potentials still have a role in diagnosing and monitoring MS, and the second on whether cognitive dysfunction is amenable to MS-specific DMD. Weinstock-Guttman has also collaborated with faculty of the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Department of the Public Health School, of the Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS), in Tehran, Iran, resulting in two publications. The first is entitled "Medical History and Multiple Sclerosis: A Population-Based Incident Case-Control Study," published in *Neuroepidemiology*, 2019;52(1-2):55-62. The second publication, entitled "Stressful Life Events and Multiple Sclerosis: A Population-Based Incident Case-Control Study," published in *Mult Scler Relat Disord*. 2018 Nov;26:168-172.

Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences

Jack Tseng, assistant professor, was invited to give the paper "Simulated evolution suggests selection-mediated generation of complex structure-function mapping in the primate cranium" at the 2019 International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology, in the Prague, Czech Republic, from July 21 to 25, 2019. His paper is part of a conference symposium titled "The evolution of skull form and function: finite-element solutions to infinite problems?" organized by researchers from the Natural History Museum and Royal Veterinary College, London, UK.

Department of Pediatrics

Matthew Barth, assistant professor, participated on the international scientific committee for the 6th International Symposium on Childhood, Adolescent and Young Adult Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, from September 26-29, 2018. Barth moderated a session on Novel Therapeutics and gave an oral presentation on targeting the PI3K/mTOR pathway in Burkitt lymphoma. Additionally, he was given an award for the Best Poster Abstract for his poster "High miR-17-92 Expression is Associated with in vitro Chemoresistance in Burkitt Lymphoma."

School of Nursing

Yu-Ping Chang, professor, received funding from Jilin Province, China for the project, "Prescription Drug Misuse in Older Adults in Jilin Province, China."

Adrian Juarez, assistant professor, published "HIV Risk and Substance Abuse in Trans-Latinas on the Texas-Mexico Border," with funding from the National Research Mentoring Network - University at Buffalo Civic Engagement and Public Policy: Community-Based Health Disparities Research Mentoring Fellowship. Juarez also worked on "Suicide Ideology in Trans-Latinas on the Texas-Mexico Border," funded by Civic Engagement and Public Policy. He is currently leading an unfunded project, "HIV Transition of Urban Mexican Immigrants in a Global City."

Lana Pasek, clinical professor, presented her qualitative research entitled, "Venturing into Nursing Qualitative Research; Utilizing the Grounded Theory Method to Study Surrogate Decision Makers Caring for Parents with Cancer." This was a poster presentation at the 17th Qualitative Methods Conference, Brisbane, Australia, from April 27-May 4, 2019, sponsored by the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology. From July 24-30, 2019, she will travel to Calgary, Alberta, Canada to present her research, "Venturing into Nursing Qualitative Research, the Grounded Theory Method," at Sigma's 30th International Nursing Research Congress, sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Cynthia Stuhlmiller, was elected co-chair of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, Education Subproducts committee. Additionally, Stuhlmiller, is working with Barry Tolchard, professor at the University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom; Cheryl Porter, assistant professor at Florida State University; and Kim Usher, professor at the University of New England, on a study, "Population Health Outcomes of a Student-Led Clinic in an Aboriginal Community in Australia," funded by the Commonwealth of Australia - New South Wales Health Department.

School of Public Health and Health Professions

Department of Rehabilitation Science

Kimberley Persons, clinical assistant professor and academic field-work coordinator for Occupational Therapy, presented at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. She presented a paper, "Occupations of Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: From Their Perspective," and a poster, "The Effects of an Intraprofessional Education Among Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy Assistant Students" with colleague and UB alumnae Debra Battistella. Persons also traveled to Miragone, Haiti to volunteer at the Helping Hands and Beyond clinic with the intention of establishing a study abroad opportunity for occupational and physical therapy students.

School of Social Work

Annahita Ball, assistant professor, presented two papers as a Visiting Faculty Scholar Presentation to Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. The papers were titled: "Teachers, positive youth development & schools: Connecting the dots" and "Intergroup dialogue in schools: Connecting school mental health and intergroup relationships."

Dana Horne, assistant dean for Student and Academic Affairs and director of Student Services, presented a paper titled "Practitioners – Do we practice what we preach?" at the National Academic Advising Association International Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

Laura Lewis, clinical associate professor, assistant dean for Global Partnerships, and director of Field Education, was a recipient of a Fulbright Scholar and travelled with a delegation of U.S. administrators to France and Belgium as part of Fulbright's International Education Administrators (IEA) Program. The delegation visited seven universities in France and several in Belgium. The IEA program allows administrators to learn about systems of higher education in host countries, and aims to promote international exchange. Lewis was tapped to present on models of virtual exchange, and examined approaches to promoting campus environments that value international and inter-cultural perspectives.

Katie McClain-Meeder, clinical assistant professor, supervised an independent study for a social work student involved in the UB Law clinic to assist asylum seekers in detention facilities with their asylum claims in Dilly, Texas.

Yunju Nam, associate professor, presented a paper titled "Financial Capability & Asset-Building (FCAB) for Young Adults at the Age of Artificial Intelligence" at the International Symposium on Self-Sufficiency in Seoul, Korea.

Larry Shulman, professor and dean emeritus, presented a workshop on supervision for staff supervision for staff at McGill University Student Health Services, Ontario, Canada.

Mickey Sperlich, assistant professor, and an international team of scholars were awarded a contract from the National Health Society England for £25,000 to develop, publish, and disseminate a best practice guidance (principles and recommendations) and care pathway on trauma-informed care in maternity and perinatal mental health services. This will guide staff—including non-clinical staff, obstetricians, sonographers, anesthetists, midwives, psychiatrists, psychologists, nursery nurses, mental health nurses and maternity support workers—to deliver high-quality care that supports the mental health and psychological wellbeing of women who have had traumatic experiences in maternity and perinatal settings. This may include adverse childhood experiences, sexual assault and abuse, and/or domestic violence. Sperlich also co-presented a workshop titled, "Trauma Matters: Understanding the Impact of Early Adversity" in Blackpool, UK.

Office of the Vice Provost for International Education

John J. Wood, Interim Vice Provost, was a panelist for "Canada-US Cross-Border Innovation Corridors: Cascadia & the Great Lakes Region: A Dialogue," held at Niagara College in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada on May 16, 2019 and organized by the Cross-Border Innovation and Prosperity Initiative. Wood was part of a panel that focused on the Buffalo-Niagara-Southern Ontario Region. 🌐

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHINE AGAIN IN THREE-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

By Chris Dobmeier

This year marked UB's third annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, which challenges UB doctoral students from any discipline to present their dissertation research to a general audience for cash prizes. Ultimately, 3MT helps cultivate students' academic, presentation, and communication skills by allowing these students to celebrate their complex and diverse research in a meaningful and entertaining way.

the following year because it takes so much preparation, but we were determined," she says. With a grand effort by the Graduate School and Blackstone Launchpad powered by Techstars, the competition took off.

In its short tenure at UB, 3MT has already garnered lots of interest from graduate students, and especially from those with diverse backgrounds. In fact, the 2018 3MT competition was noted for its three finalists all coming from international backgrounds: Philip Odonkor from Ghana,



UB 2019 3MT winners, from left: Abdulrahman Hassaballah (3rd), Riddhi Falk-Mahapatra (1st), Konstantinos Plakas (2nd) (Photo: Meredith Kulwicki)

The 3MT competition first ran in 2008 at the University of Queensland, Australia. In spring 2016, Dr. Sandra Flash, Associate Vice Provost for Educational Affairs, went to a regional conference in Ontario to see a 3MT final competition for herself.

"I was totally blown away by the competition. To be able to hear grad students present their research in succinct and clear way that I could understand, even though they were in incredibly diverse and complex fields was amazing."

With that, Flash was determined to bring 3MT to UB. "We were a little worried if we could pull it off in

first place; Naila Sahar from Pakistan, second place; and Camila Rosat Consiglio from Brazil, third place and People's Choice award winner.

Students from abroad have continued to excel in the 2019 3MT competition, which boasted an attendance of 30 graduate students participating in the preliminary round, and 12 advancing to the live final, which was hosted at UB's Center for the Arts.

Taking first place and the People's Choice award was Riddhi Falk-Mahapatra from India, with her presentation, "War Against Cancer: Drop the Knife and Grab a Laser," which examines ways to improve the efficacy of

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TAKING ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Seven teams of UB students were selected as finalists to compete for the honor of representing UB at the World's Challenge Challenge in June at Western University, UB's partner institution in London, Ontario.

Each team had developed a pitch for an innovative solution to a compelling global challenge aligned with one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Organized by UB Sustainability and co-sponsored by the Office of International Education and Blackstone LaunchPad, the UB competition began in February with the submission of video pitches from fourteen qualifying teams.

Each three-person team was expected to be diverse in terms of discipline, gender and cultural background. Such diversity would add to the quality of the thinking behind each team's



The seven teams at the UB finals competition in April 2019

pitch. From this initial round the seven finalists were selected for the live competition in the Buffalo Room on April 3. The top three teams in UB's final round received awards of \$2000, \$1000, and \$500.

UB's winning team—Anish Kirtane and Abdulrahman Hassaballah, both of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering; and Olivia Burgner of the School of Management—developed a pitch for a meat alternative called “Numu,” which is made of mealworms and has a texture and

taste similar to beef. Such a product would not only help address global hunger but also reduce the climate impacts associated with raising beef and other meat products.

In addition to the \$2,000 prize from the UB competition, Kirtane, Hassaballah and Burgner qualified for the finals at Western University in the first week of June, to compete with teams from Western and 18 of Western's other university partners around the world. The top prize is CA\$30,000. 🌐

UB INTERNATIONAL



is published twice yearly by the Office of International Education of the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York.

John J. Wood, Editor