

UB INTERNATIONAL

SPRING 2026  VOL. XXXV, NO.1

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AN EXCEPTIONAL PRESIDENCY

By Nicole Peradotto

Satish K. Tripathi understands why anyone tracing his journey from a remote hamlet in India to the helm of one of America's leading public research universities might marvel at the odds of his rise. As a statistician and computer scientist, he has spent countless hours contemplating probability—how initial conditions shape outcomes, how unexpected variables can alter a trajectory.

Yet, any analysis of Tripathi's ascendancy to UB's presidency must account for the forces that resist mathematical modeling. The formative guidance of his parents, his singular aptitude for math and science, his willingness to take calculated risks, and perhaps most defining, an enduring conviction in the transformative power of higher education—each of these factors subtly shifted the odds. Taken together, they turned what might have seemed, at first glance, an unexpected rise into one that feels not only plausible but almost inevitable.

One could make an equally compelling argument that Tripathi, who concludes his presidential tenure in July, has done more to advance the university than any leader before him.

Here, the numbers speak for themselves.

During Tripathi's presidency, sponsored research expenditures grew by 65%. Full-

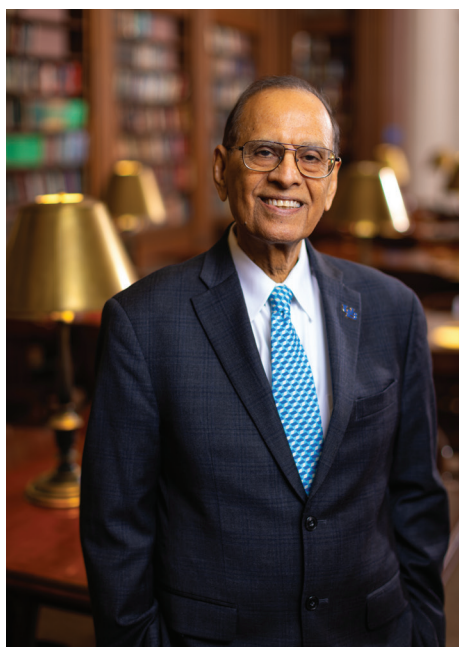
time faculty increased by more than 15%, including the largest cohort of new faculty appointed in more than 60 years. Since SUNY established the Distinguished Faculty Academy in 1963, nearly half of UB's inductees joined its ranks under Tripathi's leadership. The percentage of incoming students reporting a GPA of 3.75 or higher nearly tripled.

UB also cemented its reputation as a global institution, consistently appearing among the top 30 U.S. universities for international enrollment. International research and academic partnerships expanded significantly, strengthening UB's ties across continents and disciplines.

Philanthropy soared to unprecedented levels. The Boldly Buffalo campaign raised \$1.1 billion, and UB received its three largest gifts ever.

Seven academic departments were launched, expanding UB's intellectual footprint and interdisciplinary influence. A dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem was developed, spurring commercialization of UB innovations and encouraging economic development in Western New York and beyond.

At the same time, demand for a UB education surged, even during periods of declining enrollment nationally. For the current academic year, UB received a record number of first-year applications and welcomed the largest first-year class in its history.



FROM THE VICE PROVOST

As President Tripathi concludes his tenure as UB's 15th president, I reflect on the many ways the university's internationalization has advanced under his leadership.

During our recent visit to university partners in France and Türkiye (see p. 3), I was reminded of the president's sensitivity and skill in these challenging cross-cultural situations and the outsize role he plays in fostering institutional cooperation.

Through his own experiences as an international student and faculty member, Satish has acquired a true openness to other cultures, nuanced diplomatic skills and a sophisticated understanding of global higher education.

On a personal level, he puts others at ease, allowing them to be themselves. This is immensely important in negotiations with international partners and collaborators, not to mention working with students and colleagues from around the world.

As I have witnessed firsthand, Satish has elevated UB's visibility overseas and our global engagement across many sectors. In my extensive travels with the president over the past five years, I have seen the impact of his personal engagement with university leaders around the world in strengthening our institutional relations and providing impetus for new collaborative initiatives.

Visiting our new and existing partners in Türkiye, for example, we received a warm and enthusiastic welcome as Satish reinvigorated our working relations with counterparts and explored avenues of mutual interest and benefit

in research and collaborative educational programs. With both Ankara University and Middle East Technical University (METU), our new partners, we signed memoranda of understanding and discussed new Dual-Diploma Undergraduate Programs in Biomedical Engineering and Materials Engineering.

What has also impressed me in our conversations with international partners is the ease with which Satish can discuss a wide range of disciplines and areas of research, calling upon his detailed knowledge of the hugely complex expanse of research, teaching and service at UB.

While the focus is not typically on granular matters, his breadth of knowledge enables a much more informed and productive discussion with prospective collaborators.

Satish always welcomes the chance to meet with UB students who are studying abroad at our partners overseas. He had this opportunity when we visited ENSEA, the Grand Ecole for Electrical Engineering outside Paris that has been hosting UB students for many years.

Familiar with both the challenges and opportunities that education abroad affords, the president enjoyed learning firsthand about the experiences of our students—all juniors in Electrical Engineering—spending a semester in France.

Our latest international trip concluded with a wonderful Alumni Association gathering in Istanbul that featured an update from the president for our enthusiastic audience of UB graduates and an opportunity, in turn, for the Turkish Alumni Network to honor Satish's service and contributions to the university. ♦

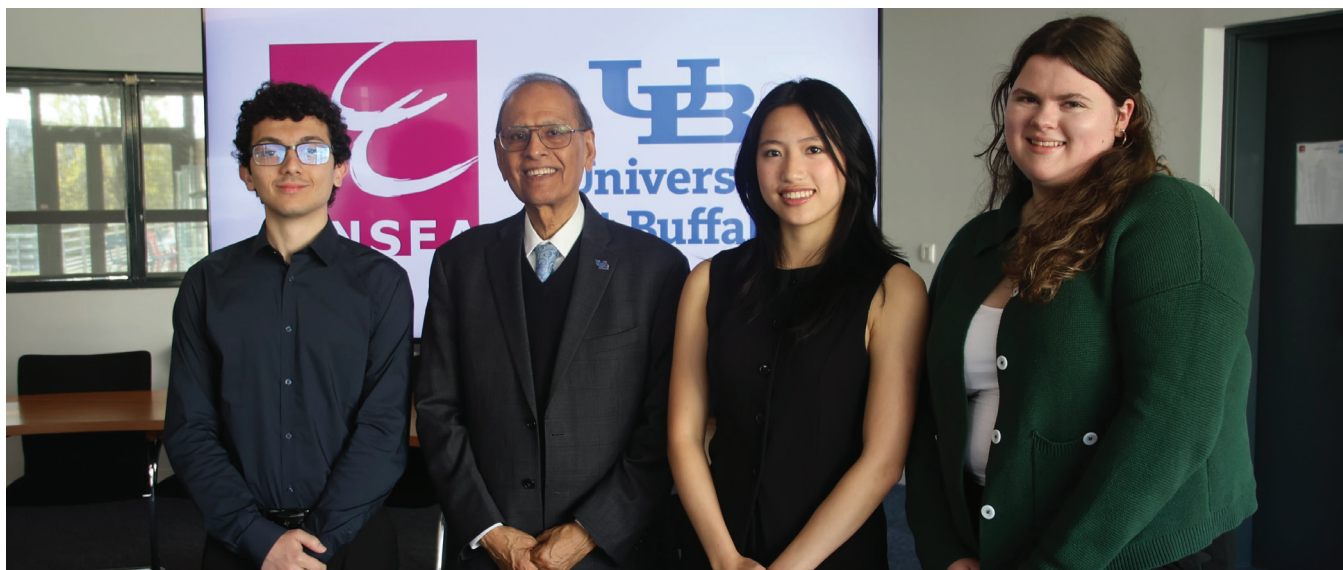


Meeting with faculty and administrators at Middle East Technical University in April 2026 (Photo: Adam Rubin)

PRESIDENT VISITS PARTNERS IN FRANCE AND TÜRKİYE

In one of the last international trips of his tenure, President Satish K. Tripathi visited key partners in both France and Türkiye in early April to sign agreements and expand collaboration. Accompanying him were Professor Nojin Kwak, Vice Provost for International Education, and Adam Rubin, Assistant Vice Provost and Director of Education Abroad.

Program in Biomedical Engineering, expected to launch in 2027. This program, established under the aegis of the SUNY DDP Agreement with Türkiye's Higher Education Authority, will enroll 15-20 Turkish students annually for a program in which the first two years of the degree are completed at Ankara University and the last two at UB. Upon successfully completing the program, students re-



President Tripathi with UB students at ENSEA (l to r): Benjamin Bolotser, Nicole Chen, and Lillian Mangan (Photo: Adam Rubin)

During a brief stop in Paris, the delegation met with counterparts at ENSEA, the National School of Electronics and Its Applications in Cergy, and Telecom SudParis, also a Grand École focused on digital sciences and technology, part of the Institute Polytechnique de Paris. In addition to discussing opportunities for research collaboration, the delegation met with the UB students currently doing a semester of electrical engineering courses as part of a long-standing UB education abroad program hosted by ENSEA.

From Paris, the delegation traveled to Ankara, Türkiye to visit one current and two new partner institutions, respectively—Bilkent University, Ankara University and Middle East Technical University (METU). During these visits, the delegation was accompanied and supported throughout by Busra Cebeci, Director of the SUNY Office in Türkiye.

At Bilkent, President Tripathi and Bilkent Rector Kürşat Aydoğan signed a renewal of the longstanding exchange agreement between the institutions dating back two decades. Fully English-medium and one of the leading foundation universities in Türkiye, Bilkent has been a draw for UB students interested in studying Turkish language, history, society and culture.

During the visit to Ankara University (AU), President Tripathi met with AU Rector Necdet Ünüvar to sign a new MOU in support of ongoing collaboration, centered on a pending 2+2 Dual-Diploma Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

ceive B.S. degrees from both AU and UB.

A new DDP was also part of the conversation at METU, where an initial MOU was signed with Rector Ahmet Yozgatligil. In this case, the proposed program is a 2+2 B.S. DDP in Materials Engineering, which will enroll 15-20 students per intake. METU is one of the leading technical universities in the country and has established DDPs with several SUNY institutions.

The last stop on the itinerary was Istanbul. Here the delegation visited UB's most important partner in Türkiye, Istanbul Technical University (ITU), and met with Rector Hasan Mandal. UB has partnered with ITU for more than 20 years to exchange students and to conduct a B.S. DDP in Civil Engineering. In addition to renewing the exchange agreement between ITU and UB, the two presidents discussed new DDP opportunities, including one in business administration.

The visit to Istanbul was capped off with a UB Alumni Association dinner in Tripathi's honor that attracted more than 70 participants, including many graduates of UB's DDP with ITU.

Tripathi delivered an address updating alumni on developments at UB. Murat Soygenis (M.Arch. 1985), President Emeritus of the Alumni Network in Türkiye, presented a gift in recognition of Tripathi's distinguished leadership and many achievements as president. ♦

AN EXCEPTIONAL PRESIDENCY

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Perhaps most visible to anyone walking UB's three campuses, the physical evolution has been monumental. A combined 25 major renovations and new buildings have reshaped the living-learning environment. Additional construction, planned or underway, totals \$1 billion.

As impressive as each achievement is on its own, their cumulative significance is undeniable. Over the course of Tripathi's presidency, UB has risen 22 spots in U.S. News & World Report's rankings of U.S. public universities and 44 spots among U.S. public and private universities.

And yet, when UB's 15th president delivered his final State of the University address last fall, he deflected personal credit for these remarkable institutional gains.

"All of our successes are shared success," Tripathi said. "We have approached everything we do in the spirit of solidarity. That fact has made my tenure as president immensely rewarding. More importantly, it has made all things possible for our great university."

While Tripathi has consistently highlighted the contributions of the broader UB community, UB's dramatic progress reflects a set of priorities shaped by his leadership. The university's ascent did not simply happen; it unfolded along a course he deliberately charted. And yet, returning to the trajectory that brought him to UB, it becomes clear that his own rise—like UB's—was guided by a confluence of choices, influences and deeply held principles that defy simple formulas.

Tripathi grew up in a farming village in Uttar Pradesh, India, without running water or electricity. While few locals completed formal schooling beyond the 10th grade, his family was the exception. Tripathi's paternal great-grandfather founded a Sanskrit school where Tripathi's grandfather, a scholar of Sanskrit grammar, later taught. His father earned a master's degree in Hindi, became a high school principal and served as a Hindi education officer. After retiring in the early 1990s, he established a girls' school in the family's village—now coeducational and managed by one of Tripathi's brothers. (He has six siblings, all of whom still live in India.)

"In my family, education was a given," Tripathi says. "My father told me, 'If you're number one in the class, I will support you in whatever you want to learn.' That was good for me because he didn't try to push me into one field. Language was his passion. I was the first in my family to go into math and science."

Tripathi's mother was educated through the seventh grade but possessed a strong facility with numbers. "When we would sit down to study, she knew compound interest, fractions—all those things. She was a bit self-taught but also had an aptitude for it. She was really smart in math, and she gave us an education, too."

By 13, Tripathi realized that to grow academically, particularly in math and science, he would need to leave home. He had already attained a level where his math teacher would occasionally turn class over to him to instruct his

peers. The Government Inter College (GIC) in Faizabad, 50 miles away, admitted only the top-ranked students. His acceptance immersed him in a more rigorous academic milieu.

This pattern of calm determination, intellectual curiosity and self-authorship sustained Tripathi through every stage of his education. It helped him thrive at the GIC and earn scholarships to one of India's most elite institutions, Banaras Hindu University, where he graduated at the top of his class with an undergraduate degree in math, physics and statistics, as well as a master's in statistics.

At a time when few from his village considered migrating further than Kolkata or New Delhi, he moved to Canada, where he earned a second master's degree in statistics from the University of Alberta, then a master's and PhD from the University of Toronto in the emerging discipline of computer science.

In addition to the numerous accomplishments he helped orchestrate, Tripathi will be remembered for his steady leadership during difficult periods precipitated by local, national and international events.

"I would say the pandemic was the biggest challenge I navigated as president," he says. "But with every challenge, the process is the same. We think about what is under our control—like choosing to pivot to online learning during the pandemic. With all challenges, I consider what information I have in the moment, and I don't get overly concerned about things outside my control."

Tripathi also stands out as the longest-serving president to lead UB since it joined the SUNY system in 1962. This longevity is particularly notable given that average presidential tenures have steadily declined—from 8.5 years in 2008 to 5.9 years in 2022—amid mounting pressures in the profession. How does he explain his staying power?

"I have had a particularly good support system—excellent staff and leadership. I've enjoyed the work and progress we have made. That has always kept me motivated. What more do you need?"

As he prepares to conclude his presidency, Tripathi looks forward to returning to the faculty in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The transition will allow more time with his wife of 55 years, Kamlesh, and more opportunities to visit their sons, Manish and Aashish, and three grandchildren—Ryan, Maya and Milo—in Seattle. It will also give him room to reconnect with the intellectual endeavors such as the ethics of artificial intelligence.

This new chapter marks a homecoming to the work that sparked Tripathi's passion for academia: exploring ideas, collaborating, and immersing himself in innovation and discovery. It is the same possibility Tripathi first envisioned by the light of a kerosene lamp: how education can sharpen a mind and expand a life. Over the course of his exceptional presidency, it is an opportunity he has worked tirelessly to strengthen for generations of UB students. ♦

Nicole Peradotto is senior assistant to the president (adapted from the spring 2026 issue of "AtBuffalo"; photo by Douglas Levere).

UB RECEIVES FUNDING FOR CROSS-BORDER SUPPLY CHAINS

By Jacqueline Ghosen

The flow of goods across the U.S.-Canada border has long shaped the economic identity of Western New York. Now, a new initiative spearheaded by the School of Management's Center for Supply Chain Analytics is positioning the region to compete more effectively in an increasingly complex global marketplace.

Backed by \$1.03 million in federal funding secured by Rep. Tim Kennedy, the Center of Excellence for Cross-Border Supply Chains represents a strategic investment in

"This federal support enables UB to deepen our collaboration with companies navigating complex networks, further reinforcing our region as a hub of innovation in an increasingly competitive global marketplace," Tripathi said.

At its core, the initiative will help small- and medium-sized businesses navigate the challenges of cross-border trade, from shifting tariffs to supply chain disruptions. Faculty-led, student-supported teams will work directly with companies to analyze global supply networks, assess cost structures and develop localized strategies rooted in Western New York's strengths.

By pairing academic expertise with real-world application, the center reflects the School of Management's commitment to engaging for impact and preparing students to solve complex business challenges.

The timing is critical. Trade between the U.S. and Canada remains a powerful economic driver, with billions of dollars moving across the Niagara River each month.

"In today's volatile global supply chains, small businesses face challenges in choosing the best mix of domestic sourcing, imports and export opportunities to maintain profitability while also enabling local economic growth," said Ananth Iyer,

dean of the School of Management. "We appreciate the federal investment in a cross-border center that will provide data-driven insights and practical solutions to help companies make informed decisions while strengthening the regional economy."

This effort also advances several of the School of Management's strategic initiatives, particularly in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship and the application of analytics to real-world problems. By leveraging advanced tools such as UB's Empire AI and drawing on faculty expertise in supply chain management, the initiative transforms research into action. Students gain hands-on experience working with companies facing real constraints, while businesses benefit from cutting-edge analysis that might otherwise be out of reach.

Beyond the classroom, the center underscores UB's broader role as an anchor institution committed to community impact. By helping businesses explore reshoring opportunities and strengthen domestic manufacturing, the initiative contributes to job creation and long-term economic resilience. It also reinforces Western New York's



Representative Tim Kennedy announcing the federal funding (Photo: Meredith Kulwicki)

both regional growth and experiential education.

"Our region's future is intrinsically linked to its relationship with Canada, and we cannot afford to let that opportunity languish," Kennedy said. "With roughly 60% of Canada's population within 500 miles of the City of Good Neighbors, and with tens of billions of dollars crossing the Niagara every year, it's critical that we strengthen our ties with our Canadian neighbors to create good-paying local jobs and ensure the long-term viability of our region's economy."

"I'm excited to see the results that the bright minds at UB can achieve, and I look forward to building more connections with our Canadian friends."

"Thanks to the leadership of Congressman Kennedy, the University at Buffalo is advancing cross-border supply chains that are vital to Western New York's economy," said President Satish K. Tripathi.

"By leveraging our world-class research, advanced analytics and the ingenuity of our faculty and students, we can translate knowledge into practical solutions that enhance manufacturing and foster robust economic growth."

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UB TO OFFER WORLD'S FIRST DOCTORATE IN APPLIED ONTOLOGY

By Bert Gambini

How artificial intelligence (AI) will affect different careers in the future remains a matter of conjecture, but one thing is certain: AI development requires applied ontologists.

Ontology is a foundational philosophical discipline. Applied ontology uses the ideas and methods of its namesake to integrate data and promote interoperability across computing systems. By structuring otherwise unrelated terms and definitions, ontologists make explicit the implicit meanings buried across such systems, drawing out hidden insights and new knowledge.

UB is currently the world's only university offering graduate level degrees in applied ontology, including a new fully online, asynchronous PhD program, beginning in the fall 2026 semester. Housed within UB's Department of Philosophy, the new doctorate program—and the university's existing online master's degree in applied ontology—will prepare students globally to work and research in this high-demand and quickly growing field.

The two degree programs further reinforce UB's standing as a leader in the field of applied ontology, a distinction achieved through the leadership of Barry Smith, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the Department of Philosophy, and John Beverley, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and director of the two graduate programs.

"AI requires a firm and rigorous basis for the data sets used to train its models," says Beverley. "Because of that broad recognition in government and commercial spaces, there has been an outpouring of interest for applied ontology education."

Beverley says the master's and PhD program each fulfill specific needs for prospective students. The master's program suits those interested in standard practices that can be immediately applied in the job market. That master's coursework, for those wishing to obtain a doctorate, all contributes to the PhD program, which is ideal for students focused on greater depth of knowledge and pushing research boundaries.

"We're on the cusp of greatness with the AI movement and achieving greater innovation will rely heavily on applied ontology," says Beverley. "Entering our PhD program will give students the tools needed to push the boundaries of AI research."

In addition to tech and AI employers, finance, banking, defense, health care, biotech, and e-commerce all need ontologists. The work of applied ontologists is partially responsible for the iPhone's Siri app. Applied ontologists were critical to the success of the Human Genome Project. Improved search engine capability, linked website data, and improved product recommendations all owe a debt to applied ontologists, who are also responsible for helping to integrate tech products from different manufacturers.

The PhD program will include opportunities for hands-on and experiential learning.

"This program reflects UB's long-standing leadership in ontology and its commitment to preparing students for the next generation of AI, data integration and knowledge engineering challenges." ♦

[Bert Gambini is a news content manager for University Communications.](#)

CROSS-BORDER SUPPLY CHAINS

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position as a gateway to international trade, where proximity to Canada becomes a competitive advantage rather than a logistical hurdle.

Regional leaders see this as a forward-looking investment in the area's future. Strengthening cross-border partnerships, supporting local firms and building more resilient supply chains all play a role in ensuring sustained economic growth. For UB and the School of Management, the center represents more than a research initiative: It is a tangible example of how higher education can drive meaningful change by connecting knowledge, talent and community needs.

Milind Sohoni, faculty director of the Center for Supply Chain Analytics, and Jennifer Flagg, executive director, give specific examples of this type of engagement.

"We are currently leading initiatives in sea cargo logis-

tics," Sohoni said. "Our team is decoding container pricing across commodities to bring greater transparency and efficiency to global maritime trade."

Added Flagg: "This initiative also aligns closely with our work on the NY SMART I-Corridor Tech Hub project. In both cases, by combining faculty expertise and student talent with the great work already underway by local resources providers, we can elevate awareness of the opportunities available to businesses and better connect them to the broader support network."

As global supply chains continue to evolve, initiatives like this one will be essential in helping regions adapt and thrive. By aligning academic resources with industry challenges, UB is creating a model for how institutions can lead with purpose while delivering measurable impact close to home. ♦

[Jaqueline Ghosen is assistant dean and director of marketing and communications for the School of Management.](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER ISSUES REPORT ON IMMIGRATION

By Charles Anzalone

A report prepared by researchers in the School of Law's Buffalo Human Rights Center found "serious violations" of the rights of Western New York residents as a result of cooperation by local and state authorities with federal immigration enforcement agencies.

The report, "Ending Complicity: The Harms of State and Local Collusion with Federal Immigration Enforcement in Western New York," details how cooperation — even when inadvertent or informal — in immigration enforcement by local and state agencies, such as police departments, or the absence of adequate precautions taken by staff at hospitals and schools, impacts the "rights of individuals living in the region, non-citizen and citizen alike."

"The human rights in question are many, spanning rights to due process and equal protection; family life and privacy; the rights of access to health, employment and education; and the rights to seek asylum and to resettle and integrate as refugees," the report states.

Released in December 2025, the report, which does not represent an official stance of the law school or university, concludes this cooperation is "illicit" and a form of "collusion in an unlawful system of governmental power that ought to end."

Ultimately, the report recommends New York State officials stop such practices and calls on state legislators to pass the New York for All Act, which includes prohibitions on using police officers to enforce immigration laws and on state employees inquiring into immigration status or disclosing personal information to immigration agencies.

"We ask that Western New York law enforcement stop holding or transferring individuals to federal custody for immigration purposes without judicial warrants and that all local authorities train staff to work with the rights and safety of immigrants in mind," says Paul Linden-Retek, associate professor and co-director the Buffalo Human Rights Center and the UB Clinical Legal Education program's Human Rights Practicum, under whose guidance the report was prepared.

UB law students conducted research from late 2024 to

late 2025, stressing their "stake in the health and morals of our community" and their "duty to support the preservation of the rule of law," the report says.

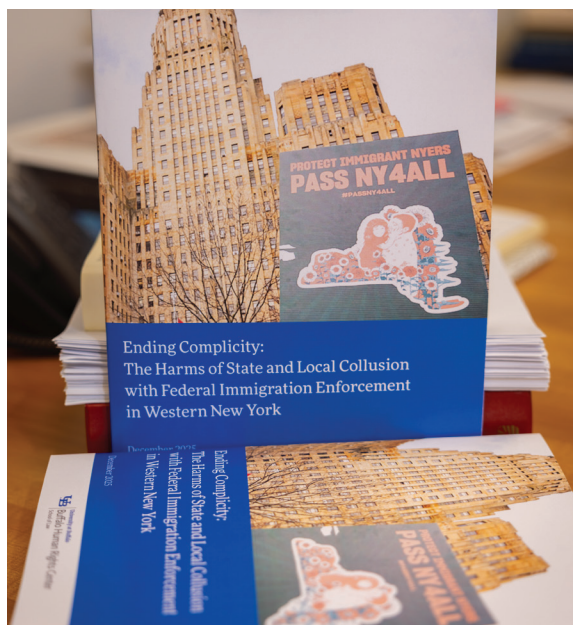
"Ending Complicity" has been well-received in the community, Linden-Retek says. Staff working on Buffalo Mayor Sean Ryan's recent executive order prohibiting city personnel from cooperating with federal immigration actions used the report in their research, and city officials invited the student authors to its announcement. Cheektowaga residents voicing concerns about collusive practices also referenced the report and drew attention to its findings, according to Linden-Retek. And students presented their work before the Bar Association of Erie County, appealing to the profession they hope one day to join.

The report, which applies principles of international human rights law, emphasizes that state and local agencies have obligations to respect, protect and fulfill human rights for all New York residents.

"The harms from collusion destabilize communities and betray the shared commitments made by New Yorkers to promote human rights equally, regardless of immigration status," the report states. "When public institutions systematically deny rights to disfavored groups, they erode the foundations of democracy itself. Equality under the law is not a benefit of democracy but its essential feature."

The report chronicles stories of people in Western New York who have suffered under collusive practices. Drawing on local investigative reporting and dozens of interviews with individuals, attorneys, advocates and public officials, the report details experiences of domestic violence survivors afraid to call the police; a young man suffering from sickle cell anemia arrested for petit larceny and transferred by local police to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol custody; children met at school bus stops by federal agents; dairy workers afraid to resist wage theft and unsafe workplaces; and resettled refugees retraumatized by racial profiling.

"As you begin to use local and state institutions to enforce federal immigration law," says Linden-Retek, "this changes the character for those local institutions. It means the police now are suspicious — in any encounter — of whether a person truly belongs here, even if this has little to do with criminality or keeping a community safe. The



INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION: THE RESILIENT CAMPUS

By Darra Kubera

In February, the winners of the Resilient Campus, an international design competition were announced by the School of Architecture and Planning.

LTL Architects + Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects + Derive Engineers were awarded first place, followed by Stoss Landscape Urbanism + Höweler Yoon Architecture, and MASS + EinwillerKuehl + SITELAB Urban Studio + Second Nature Ecology and Design in second and third place,

site, this work truly advances designing for resilience.”

“The winning project, ‘Field Studies: Growing a Biogenic Campus,’ reimagines South Campus as a productive landscape shaped by geothermal wells, productive forests, and buildings grown from biogenic construction materials,” said Charles Waldheim, chair of the competition jury and professor at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University.

“Their proposal conceives of campus resilience through circular economies of plant materials and their infrastructures shaping a robust public forest landscape.”

Stoss Landscape Urbanism + Höweler Yoon Architecture’s proposal, “Campus Entanglements: Protocols for Learning,” presented an atlas of landscape and architectural types to guide the long-term transformation of South Campus, earning them second place, explains Jason Sowell, associate professor in UB’s School of Architecture and Planning and the competition advisor.

petition advisor.

Third-place proposal “Our Future is a Forest,” developed by MASS + EinwillerKuehl + SITELAB Urban Studio + Second Nature Ecology and Design, reimagined the campus through afforestation, positioning a renewed forest landscape as both ecological infrastructure and an expanded educational resource for human and non-human communities.

The final team submissions were showcased as an exhibition in 116 Crosby Hall through March 13. The exhibition traveled in March to the Aedes architecture gallery in Berlin, followed by other international venues.

The upcoming fall symposium at UB will critique the work through different disciplinary frameworks — considering climate change, biodiversity loss and human vulnerability, and how these design strategies can be replicable across all scales of the built environment. ♦

Darra Kubera is director of communications for the School of Architecture and Planning.



Dean Czerniak speaking at the opening of the exhibition (Photo: Douglas Levere)

respectively. MVRDV + RIOS received an honorable mention for their experimental visualizations.

The Resilient Campus competition launched in August 2025, with seven teams selected to compete and focus on two scales: campus and building.

At the campus scale, teams had to develop and apply strategies for an ecologically robust, resilient landscape for UB’s South Campus. At the building scale, teams developed and applied an adaptive strategy for a portion of the existing Health Sciences Complex and a schematic approach to a university-assisted public school.

“I extend my sincere gratitude to all of the teams for the creativity and intelligence they brought to this competition,” said Julia Czerniak, competition coordinator and dean of the School of Architecture and Planning.

“The entries represent remarkable use of new building materials, strategies for carbon reduction, prioritization of biodiversity, use of innovative visualizations, and even the development of new tools—all guided by knowledge of UB’s South campus, our city and region. Using UB as a test

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONTAMINANTS IN ASIA

By Tom Dinki

University at Buffalo researchers marked Global Health Day with an international conference examining the health impacts of climate change in Asia and around the world, as well as potential solutions to address them.

"Climate Change and Emerging Contaminants: Risks and Responses in Asia and Beyond" took place April 9–10 on the North Campus, featuring talks, poster presentations, a networking reception and cultural performances. The

environmental risks. They include pharmaceuticals, microplastics, microorganisms, and some per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals."

Climate change can exacerbate the spread of these contaminants. Rising temperatures can alter their persistence and toxicity while intensifying storms can transport them farther through flooding and runoff.

To address these challenges, the conference brought together speakers from across the U.S. as well as Asia who



Conference illustration by Kayla Naas, scientific illustrator

event was free and open to the public.

It was a collaboration between UB's Asia Research Institute (ARI), RENEW Institute, Office of Global Health Initiatives, and the Center for Climate Change and Health Equity. It served as the signature event for both ARI's annual conference series and the Office of Global Health Initiatives' 15th annual Global Health Day Symposium series, as well as RENEW's end-of-the-year poster session.

"The annual ARI conference series has raised the profile of UB as a hub for research collaboration in Asian studies. Now, this valuable partnership with three other UB research centers will advance important interdisciplinary research related to climate change, environmental and health impacts, and solutions for Asia," says Nojin Kwak, vice provost for international education.

Emerging contaminants are unregulated pollutants that are frequently detected by scientists and may pose envi-

ronmental risks. They include pharmaceuticals, microplastics, microorganisms, and some per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals."

The talks were presented in three sessions. The first, "Addressing the Impacts of Water Scarcity and Environmental Justice," included a plenary address by Shane Snyder, José Domingo Pérez Foundation Chair and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Georgia Tech University.

Snyder has been an advisor on water sustainability for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization, and in 2021, was awarded the Clarke Prize, broadly considered as one of the most prestigious awards for outstanding achievements in water science and technology.

"We are thrilled to spotlight an exceptional spectrum of research that highlights both the evolving climate-related

CLIMATE CHANGE IN ASIA

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risks and the innovative responses shaping environmental health across Asia and beyond,” says the session’s moderator, Diana Aga, director of RENEW and SUNY Distinguished Professor and Henry M. Woodburn Chair in the UB Department of Chemistry.

The second session, “Using Omics Approach to Understand Health Impacts of Climate-intensified Pollution,” was moderated by Lina Mu, director of Office of Global Health Initiatives and professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health.

It included a plenary address by David Balshaw, director of extramural research and training at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, who addressed overall advancement on environmental exposome and strategic plans for future years.

“Omics — such as genomics, proteomics and metabolomics — look at an organism’s complete set of biological molecules. We’ll discuss how cutting-edge, multi-omics approaches can integrate multiple omics datasets and help us better understand the complex biological mechanisms related to environmental toxins,” Mu says.

The third session, “Advancing Knowledge on Emerging Contaminants through Population-level Approaches,” looked at how patterns in climate-related environmental threats and associated health risks can be identified across

populations and communities. It was moderated by Kelly Baker, director of the Center for Climate Change and Health Equity (CCCHE) and associate professor of epidemiology and environmental health.

“This conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn from both our researchers at UB and visiting scholars, and explore new ideas and collaborations to address emerging climate threats to global health,” Baker says.

Other speakers included:

- Aimin Chen, University of Pennsylvania
- Yann Boucher, National University of Singapore
- Francis de los Reyes, North Carolina State University
- Haidong Kan, Fudan University
- Ann Kurth, New York Academy of Medicine
- Shelley Liu, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- Randolph Reyes Singh, Columbia University

Speakers from UB included Martha Bohm, associate professor in the Department of Architecture, as well as Joshua Miller, and Zhongzheng (Jason) Niu, both assistant professors of epidemiology and environmental health.

There was also a keynote video address by Leni Robredo, former vice president of the Philippines. ♦

[Tom Dinki is a news content manager for University Communications.](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

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idea that police would capably enforce federal immigration laws is fanciful and distracting. There is compelling evidence it undermines the trust communities have in law enforcement.

“Buffalo prides itself on being the City of Good Neighbors. But when hospitals fail to make clear to their patients they will not cooperate with immigration agencies, people forgo medical care, worried information might be shared with ICE [United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement]. Whether hospital staff or police working in hospitals, there is a responsibility to credibly allay the fear a hospital visit might lead to arrest and deportation.”

A similar concern applies to schools and “a child’s right to education,” Linden-Retek says. “Education is a significant part of the report, with concerns heightened after the Trump administration’s reversal of the Department of Homeland Security’s ‘sensitive areas’ policy, by which the agency had refrained from conducting immigration enforcement in schools.

Without careful protocols implemented in response, parents fear sending their children to school, and children in school are fearful something they say or the accent in which they say it might draw attention to their immigration status or their parents. Under such circumstances, learning, growing, making friends become difficult, often impossible.”

Drafting the report taught UB students practical skills they can apply as attorneys and advocates and to think creatively to promote structural change, Linden-Retek says. It also demonstrates students’ commitment to law’s promise of justice, he adds.

“The stories we share testify to a federal immigration policy that fails those in need, itself becoming a source of persecution and cruelty,” he says. “But they are stories that would never have occurred in the way they did were it not for involvement or neglect of state and local authorities. We all bear responsibility for that.” ♦

[Charles Anzalone is a news content manager for University Communications.](#)

EMBEDDING WATER RESILIENCY INTO RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES

By Lisa Lenker

In recent decades, “buildingscale” energy solutions—for example, installing solar panels on the roof of your house—have shown real promise in reducing the carbon footprint of the built environment, and thereby mitigating climate change.

neering, along with collaborators in Costa Rica, Egypt, the Philippines, Taiwan, and the United Arab Emirates.

The project’s overarching goal is to advance water quality technologies, building designs, and implementation strategies that allow structures to supply clean water independent of centralized delivery and treatment systems—an increasingly urgent objective as climate change intensifies



Martha Bohm (far right), with graduate students (l to r): Dany Escandon, Mountain Carroll and Madeleine McGrady (Photo: Darra Kubera)

With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) program, associate professor of architecture Martha Bohm has determined that the variables that govern building-scale water solutions are much more complex.

Through the NSF-funded Technologies for One Water in Extremely Resilient buildings (TOWER) project, Bohm and colleagues across UB are confronting a harder truth: unlike energy, truly resilient water systems cannot be easily “scaled down” to individual buildings without grappling directly with climatic, spatial, and regulatory constraints.

Led by SUNY Distinguished Professor and RENEW Institute Director Diana Aga, the TOWER project has enabled Bohm to work alongside Aga, a chemist, professor Hai-qing Lin from the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, and associate professor Ning Dai from the Department of Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engi-

neering, along with collaborators in Costa Rica, Egypt, the Philippines, Taiwan, and the United Arab Emirates.

As a co-principal investigator, Bohm, a member of the UB RENEW Institute steering committee, contributes a critical buildingscale and design perspective to this interdisciplinary effort.

While much water research focuses on treatment performance or development of new material (say, for filtration or sorption), Bohm’s work asks complementary questions: What actually works when these technologies are placed inside real buildings, governed by real codes, and embedded within specific climates and cultures? How then should architects and planners design differently in light of effective technologies?

In research conducted as part of TOWER, Bohm has been examining residential-scale water technologies across diverse geographic contexts, with an emphasis on distinguishing meaningful strategies from those that are technically intriguing but practically limited.

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WATER RESILIENCY

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Her analysis has been informed by international fieldwork carried out by TOWER graduate students, who surveyed representative residential buildings abroad—documenting rooftop water tanks, plumbing configurations, airconditioning systems, and available mechanical and storage space. These surveys yielded insights into how everyday design decisions and regulatory requirements shape what kinds of water systems can realistically be deployed.

One outcome of Bohm's work is a clearer understanding of the limits of certain highly visible technologies. For example, harvesting condensate from airconditioning systems—often promoted as a promising solution in hot climates—was found to supply only about one percent of a typical household's water demand, even under generous assumptions.

Similarly, even treating all household water streams equally from a "onewater" perspective revealed that flow volumes, contamination levels, and code compliance do not align to allow "net zero water" through reuse at the residential scale.

By contrast, Bohm found that water storage capacity, rather than treatment sophistication, frequently determines whether buildings can approach water independence. In many regions, meaningful reliance on rainwater would require storage tanks many times larger than those commonly installed, sometimes by more than an order of magnitude.

This raises design challenges related to available space, structural capacity, cost, and neighborhood density—issues squarely within the domain of architects, planners, and policymakers rather than engineers alone.

Regulatory structures further complicate implementation. Bohm's research highlights how building, plumbing, and public health codes—particularly those governing gray water and blackwater—pose significant barriers even

when technologies have been technically demonstrated.

These rules vary widely across countries and cities, reinforcing the need for regional and sitespecific strategies rather than universal prescriptions. Her findings underscore the fact that achieving water resilience will not just require scientific research, but also careful consideration of planning frameworks, permitting pathways, and governance networks.

This perspective aligns closely with TOWER's broader international research and education mission. Graduate students participating in the project gain firsthand experience with water challenges that cannot be fully understood from simulations or literature alone.

In one notable example, a UB student's research visit to the United Arab Emirates coincided with an unprecedented storm that delivered more than a year's worth of rainfall in a single day, causing widespread flooding, sewage overflows, and water quality concerns. Direct observation of such events has already contributed to peerreviewed publications and sharpened the project's focus on climateintensified extremes.

By integrating architectural insight with engineering, chemistry, policy, and lived experience across multiple continents, Martha Bohm's contributions to the NSF PIRE project have helped to ensure that TOWER's solutions are not only innovative but implementable.

The goal of the NSF PIRE grants is to catalyze high-quality, transformative science and engineering research by supporting international collaborations, fostering partnerships that enable projects requiring specialized international expertise, facilities, or resources, ultimately advancing research, educating a globally engaged U.S. workforce, and enhancing international engagement.

Her work reinforces a central lesson emerging from the project: while buildings have made remarkable strides toward energy independence, water resilience demands a different—and more contextaware—design mindset. ♦

Lisa Lenker is the education and outreach director at UB RENEW.

ARCTIC-GLACIOLOGY CONFERENCE

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and helps more people," he said. "I just think that's a vision that is worth carrying forward."

Alley's talk was offered as part of RENEW's "Catalyzing Conversations" series.

"In addition to his award-winning contributions to ice core analysis, sea level rise and our understanding of climate dynamics, Dr. Alley has helped broaden public understanding of climate science by presenting clear, engaging explanations of global warming, as well as practical energy solutions," said Diana Aga, director of RENEW and

SUNY Distinguished Professor and Henry M. Woodburn Professor of Chemistry.

Alley's talk was held in the same lecture room where Prince and other students got a chance to present earlier in the day. That provided plenty of motivation for Prince.

"It reminds us that what we do contributes to a larger community who are also thinking about the same things — including people who are very successful," she said. "It really gives you a lot of drive to continue your work so you can see where it takes you and what you can do with it." ♦

INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC-GLACIOLOGY CONFERENCE LOOKS AHEAD

By Tom Dinki

Karlee Prince came to the International Arctic Workshop and the Northeast Glaciology Meeting on UB's Downtown Campus with research that could improve predictions of sea level rise.

The UB Earth sciences PhD student presented findings showing that sea levels around the Greenland Ice Sheet did not always behave as expected following the last ice age—data that could help refine projections and guide resource allocations under a warming climate.

She's exactly the type of person the event's keynote speaker,

Richard Alley, said he envisions retiring a few decades from now, having finally set the world on the path to a sustainable future.

"Our students today are the first generation in all of human history that knows they can do it," Alley, a renowned climate expert and National Medal of Science recipient, told the crowd before concluding with a final thought for Prince and other young scientists in the room: "Stay with us. We need you."

Hope for the next generation was a major theme of the International Arctic Workshop and Northeast Glaciology Meeting in mid-March. The joint session of the two conferences provided an intimate setting for graduate students to get feedback and encouragement from some of the world's leading climate experts.

One of the event's organizers, Elizabeth Thomas, associate professor of Earth sciences, knows the value of such a conference well. The first talk she ever gave as a graduate student was at an Arctic Workshop held in Iceland and attended by pioneers in the field like Raymond Bradley, John Andrews and Gifford Miller.

"A friendly, low-stress environment that still offers good feedback and the ability to rub elbows with Richard Alley and other leaders is incredibly valuable for students," Thomas said.

Another way the conference centered students was its affordability. Support from the Department of Earth Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, the RENEW Insti-

tute and the Center for Geological and Climate Hazards allowed presenting students to attend for free, while non-presenting students paid a fee of just \$20.

"I want to express appreciation for all the campus institutions that helped make this conference accessible,"

said Jason Briner, professor and associate chair of the Department of Earth Sciences. "I think it's really important that we keep this sort of small conference, nurturing environment alive. We're trying to continue that for the next generation."

Protecting future generations — at a reasonable cost—was a major

part of Alley's talk. He said economic tools, such as Bill Nordhaus' Nobel Prize-winning integrated assessment model, show that relatively small investments today can prevent far greater climate costs in the future.

"Basically every single application of these techniques now gives the same answer: We are hurting the economy because we are underinvesting in heading off the damages of climate change," said Alley, the Evan Pugh University Professor of Geosciences at Penn State University.

He noted that protecting major coastal cities such as New York, San Francisco and Houston from sea level rise could cost on the order of \$200 billion. But what if, for just 1% of that cost — a few billion dollars — scientists could determine the exact dimensions of such defenses, or whether they're even necessary in the first place?

Uncertainty in sea level rise, Alley said, should motivate doing more to head off climate change — not less.

"No economist says we should wait because we're not certain. They say, 'We're not certain, so until we get this sorted out, we should do more,'" he said.

Alley laid out his vision for a world powered by clean energy, where solar and wind meet most of our needs, advances in materials science reduce the need to extract resources from the planet, iron batteries help stabilize the grid, and cars run on sodium batteries.

"There are these win-win things all over the place that are going to save money and build something that's better — something that's more resilient, more broadly based



Richard Alley during his keynote address (Photo: Douglas Levere)

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PHD STUDENT MAKES DISCOVERY DURING FIELD RESEARCH IN TÜRKİYE

During her archival fieldwork in Türkiye, Senay İmre, PhD Candidate in Global Gender Studies and Isabel Marcus Research Fellow, made an extraordinary discovery at one of the primary and historic institutions that solely focuses on women's cultural production: a forgotten collection of Anatolian handknitted socks.

These women's knitted objects, over a century old, once belonged to Professor Kenan Özbek (1904–1984), Türkiye's first professor of ethnography and a pioneering collector of women's textile art.

In the spring of 2025, while conducting research on Anatolian women's handcraft traditions for her dissertation, İmre visited a historical women's handcraft school that has been in continuous operation since 1945. During her visit, she expressed interest in any archival materials or artifacts related to sock-making.

After several weeks of inquiry, İmre was informed that two unopened boxes of socks left in storage since a previous renovation, had been found in the institute's depot. However, no documentation accompanied the collection, and its origin remained unknown.

Working with and advising the institution's archivists, upon opening the boxes, İmre immediately recognized the items as matching those documented in Özbek's 1970s collections. Careful examination revealed that the socks corresponded closely with those featured in İş Bankası's publication of Özbek's textile collection, prompting a deeper investigation into their provenance.

Initial institutional records confirmed that the socks had been donated from İş Bankası's Collection to the Institute. While İş Bankası's archives contained no documentation of the transaction, İmre was able to contact Özbek's daughter who confirmed that the bank had purchased this collection from her father, his only financially compensated sale. She explained that this payment ensured careful preservation, distinguishing the collection from others her father had donated to museums or universities.

Textile analyses and testimony from Özbek's daughter indicate that many socks were already approximately 100

years old when collected, meaning several are now well over a century old. Their age, craftsmanship, and material quality elevate the collection to the status of historical artifacts, as textiles exceeding 100 years are categorized as antiques.

The discovery holds exceptional importance. According to İmre's broader research, parts of Özbek's sock collections elsewhere exist only as fragments, and other rumored holdings may have suffered damage over time. As a result,

the Institute's collection may represent the only surviving intact corpus of Özbek's Anatolian socks, a rare and irreplaceable archive of women's creative labor.

The collection consists of 55 socks, 6 gloves, and 5 single unmatched pieces, gathered by Özbek between 1950 and 1970. Cross-referencing with the İş

Bankası catalogue

allowed İmre to positively identify 32 of the socks and verify their connection to Özbek's seminal works—*Türk Köylü Çorapları* (1976) and its English edition *Knitted Stockings from Turkish Villages* (1981) both of which showcased Anatolian women's artistry in international exhibitions from Paris to Helsinki.

İmre has formally recommended that the Institute treat the collection as a 100-year-old textile archive of historical and cultural heritage value and prioritize its preservation, cataloguing, and scholarly documentation. The institution has since invited İmre to assist in identifying, documenting, and cataloguing the discovery.

"This discovery not only revives a forgotten chapter of Turkish ethnography," İmre noted, "but also honors the artistry and resilience of Anatolian women whose work continues to tell stories across generations.

"Recognizing these textiles as art, rather than mere craft, redefines how we value women's creative labor within cultural history." This discovery represents a significant contribution to the study of feminist material culture and Anatolian studies. ♦



Senay İmre with the handicraft collection in Istanbul

LUIS COLÓN RECOGNIZED AS MODEL RESEARCHER AND MENTOR

By Tom Dinki

You can learn a lot about Luis Colón's career by spending time in his University at Buffalo workspace.

On a bookshelf sits his fifth-grade science textbook, which contains a silver sulfide experiment with a spoon and egg that sparked his fascination with chemistry.

Hanging on the wall is a patent on silica hybrids — research that helped lay the groundwork for this specialized material to be widely used in chemical analysis.

But to truly understand the SUNY Distinguished Profes-

sor's career, you have to look elsewhere.

Go to the back wall of his lab, where students sign their names after earning graduate degrees. You may even have to scan his inbox and social media feeds, where those students regularly share updates about their careers in industry and academia.

“Seeing my students being successful tops everything,” says Colón, who is also the A. Conger Goodyear Professor.



Luis Colón to the right of President Tripathi after receiving the President's Medal (Photo: Douglas Levere)

Now, after 33 years in the UB Department of Chemistry, Colón is retiring this semester—leaving behind a career defined as much by the students he mentored as by the research he conducted.

In addition to advising over 50 graduate students, Colón has worked to tap the talents of his native Puerto Rico. He recruited over 30 students from the U.S. territory who went on to earn advanced degrees in chemistry from UB, and brought more than 100 Hispanic-American students

to campus as part of a summer research program model that's been replicated at other universities.

Colón's mentorship of students and efforts to increase representation in the sciences have earned him the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from the Obama Administration, as well as the Lifetime Mentor Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society.

Last year, he received the President's Medal from UB President Satish K. Tripathi.

“Through his commitment to discovery, mentorship and expanding opportunity, Professor Colón represents the very best of the University at Buffalo and our mission,” Tripathi says.

“His impact is measured not only in his pioneering research, but in the students whose lives and careers he has guided. As he has empowered emerging scientists to lead, he has profoundly enriched our university, his field and the broader scientific community.”

A. Scott Weber, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, adds that Colón

“exemplifies the very best qualities of what a faculty member should be.”

“He is an exemplary scholar and university citizen who is deeply committed to the success of the next generation of scholars and his colleagues across UB,” Weber says.

“Luis has made a significant and lasting impact on UB and on countless faculty and students he has supported. We are so grateful for all that he has contributed and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.”

His teachers' encouragement was a large reason why Colón ultimately earned a chemistry PhD from the University of Massachusetts Lowell despite a less conventional path. He hadn't had opportunities to conduct research as an undergraduate student and then spent five years working in industry before returning to school.

So, when Colón arrived at UB for his first faculty job in 1993, he felt compelled to mentor students who had followed a less traditional path like he did.

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LUIS COLÓN RETIRES

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"I wanted to develop students who had the potential but not the opportunity to realize it," Colón says. "And it so happens that many of those students are Hispanic."

It's unclear how many Puerto Rican college graduates pursue advanced degrees on the mainland. But among high school graduates who enroll in four-year colleges, only about 4% leave the island to attend school elsewhere, with the majority from elite private schools.

That's less than most other U.S. territories, and far lower than Alaska and Hawaii, where roughly half of new college students attend institutions outside their home states.

To change this, Colón began by giving lectures at his alma mater, the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey (UPR Cayey). This allowed him to tell students there to consider applying to graduate school at UB.

He later formed a partnership with UPR Cayey to provide their students with the chance to conduct research at UB over the summer break — programs often funded by the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. Several of these students would go on to attend UB for graduate school.

For one of Colón's former students, Brandon Salazar, seeing a fellow Puerto Rican become a professor on the mainland was inspiring.

"Our talks about life were even more inspiring," says Salazar, who received his PhD in 2023 and is now an engineer and scientist at Solstice Advanced Materials. "We talked about our views of life and family, what success means to us, and how to better the world for the next generation. Those talks were as important as anything I did in the lab."

Jose Rivera, who received a PhD in 2008 and is now analytical network strategy lead at Organon, says Colón gave him the best advice he's ever received. It came after he received an offer for a postdoc position in Michigan, while his wife, another former student of Colón's, Glorimar Vicente, was working in Chicago.

"He told me, 'This is a great opportunity, but it does not beat being close to your family. I am sure you will find another great opportunity in Chicago,'" Rivera recalls. "He was right after all."

The percentage of STEM bachelor's degrees going to Hispanics rose throughout the 2010s. But still, Hispanics



Luis Colón with his graduate students (Photo: Douglas Levere)

make up just 9% of science and engineering professions, despite accounting for 18% of the total U.S. workforce, according to the National Science Foundation.

Additionally, the 2023 Supreme Court decision striking down affirmative action and federal funding cuts are assumed to hamper efforts to increase the representation of underrepresented groups. Colón says he's not dismayed. He points to reporting that the number of Hispanic students enrolled in four-year universities increased in the fall of 2024 from the year before.

"Some of the progress that's been made may be pushed back, but not entirely," he says. "I'm really convinced of that."

In retirement he also has a special project in mind: documenting the scientific legacy of Hispanics in Western New York. He notes that many Puerto Ricans settled in Cheektowaga in the 20th century to work at the General Mills plant, and some of their children went on to become scientists and engineers. ♦

PHARMACY STUDENTS PROVIDE PATIENT CARE IN BELIZE

By Samantha Nebelecky

Over winter break, pharmacy students from the University at Buffalo (UB) School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (SPPS) traveled to Belize, where they provided essential patient care services and gained firsthand experience working with underserved communities.

Participating as part of a shortterm global health experience through the school's Global Health Initiatives program, PharmD students and faculty worked collaboratively to address health challenges in Belize. Students on the trip received partial support from the SPPS global health budget, which reimbursed approximately 20% of their expenses.

From Jan. 10-18, Jacob Lymberopoulos, PharmD '28, Mia Muniz, PharmD '28, Shaneka Johnson, PharmD '27, Isha Dhawan, PharmD/MBA '26, and Kalpesh Desai, PharmD, associate dean of inclusive excellence at SPPS, joined students and faculty from the UB School of Nursing for the clinical immersion in Belize.

The multidisciplinary team included pharmacy and nursing faculty, as well as nursing, nurse practitioner and pharmacy students.

The experience began in the Orange Walk district with classroom sessions on Belizean history, culture and the structure of the country's health system. Students learned directly from Belizean health professionals—a nurse, physician and pharmacist—who shared insight into their training and clinical practice.

The next day, the team conducted a community health assessment in the village of San Luis, going door to door to identify health needs and barriers to care. They surveyed medical conditions, access to drinking water and environmental exposures to prepare the team for upcoming clinics.

Over the following two days, the team held clinics in the villages of San Luis and Tower Hill. Pharmacy and nursing students worked collaboratively to interview patients, obtain medical and social histories and perform physical assessments.

They consulted with local physicians to discuss potential

diagnoses and medical treatment options. The group also toured Northern Regional Hospital, where they observed pharmacy operations and inpatient wards, gaining insight into how health care is delivered within the Belizean health system.

"This experience reaffirmed many of my professional desires in pharmacy," says Lymberopoulos. "Viewing health care from a global perspective can have significant impacts, even when practicing locally. Through experiences on this trip, I've seen the meaningful role pharmacy can have on patient care beyond dispensing."

"This interprofessional collaboration in Belize between the UB schools of nursing and pharmacy allowed students to learn from each profession's strengths, communicate effectively with each other as a team, and provide clinical expertise from each other's training to provide better patient outcomes," explains Desai.

"Global experiences further enrich this learning by exposing students to diverse health systems, cultures, and



L to r: PharmD students Lymberopoulos, Dhwan, Johnson and Muniz, with Assistant Dean Desai

differing resources, broadening their perspective and strengthening their adaptability, cultural humility and commitment to health equity."

Throughout the trip, pharmacy students strengthened their clinical skills, deepened their understanding of global health practice and gained appreciation for interprofessional collaboration when caring for diverse patient populations. ♦

Samantha Nebelecky is assistant director, communications for the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

IN MEMORIAM: GEORGE C. LEE, PIONEER OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

By Elizabeth Egan

George C. Lee, SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Samuel P. Capen Professor and longtime dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, died Feb. 21 in Buffalo. He was 93.

During his 17-year tenure as dean, Lee oversaw a period of tremendous growth in the engineering school, fostering advancements in research, education and outreach. In addition, he had a profound impact on the internationalization of UB.

Appointed dean in 1978, Lee played a key role in fostering UB's relations with the People's Republic of China following the normalization of relations between the US and the PRC. In 1980 he led a UB delegation to sign an institutional agreement with Beijing Polytechnic University, the first between an American and a Chinese university.

That agreement was the foundation of a broader agreement the following year with the Beijing Municipal System of Higher Education, positioning UB as a US leader in its engagement with the People's Republic.

That position made possible UB's selection as the US partner for the first American MBA program to be delivered in China, at the Dalian University of Technology from 1984-1989.

As dean, Lee led the effort to make UB a center for earthquake engineering research, and he built strong research collaborations with international partners, including ones in China, Taiwan, Japan and many other countries.

Lee was instrumental in securing the UB contract with the government of Malaysia to deliver the first two years of a US undergraduate engineering curriculum in Kuala Lumpur—a program that continued until 1991, with more than 1200 Malaysian students completing the program and transferring to US institutions to earn their bachelors degree in engineering.

George Lee established key elements of the school's identity. In 1989, he oversaw the change of the school's name from Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences to

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and he guided the school's move to its permanent home on the North Campus.

"George Lee is a cherished member of our School of Engineering and Applied Sciences community," says Dean Kemper Lewis. "His leadership, character, wisdom and commitment to excellence are woven into the foundation of our institution. His legacy lives on in the school he helped

build and the many lives he shaped along the way."

A graduate of Lehigh University, Lee joined the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering in 1961 as an assistant professor and later served as acting department chair from 1970-74 and chair from 1974-77.

As dean, he grew the school's research budget eightfold, to \$20 million, and oversaw the formation of several programs, research centers and partnerships that continue today, including the Strategic Partnership for In-

dustrial Resurgence, the Center for Industrial Effectiveness, and Buffalo Engineering Awareness for Minorities.

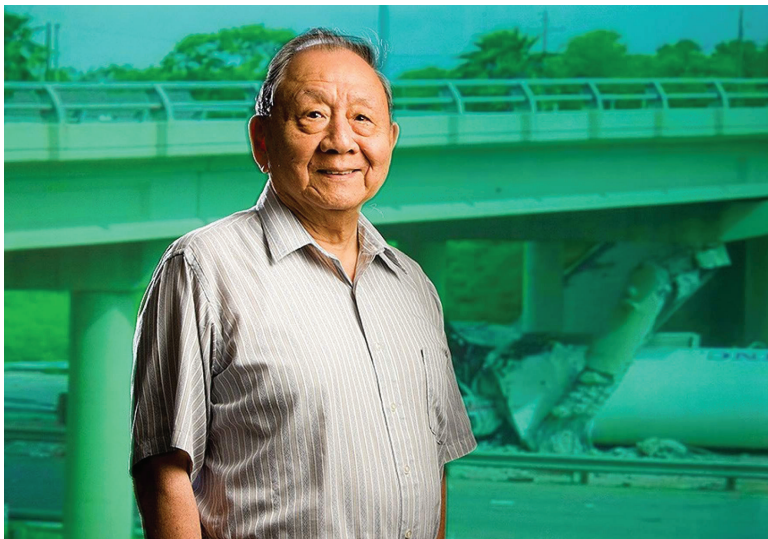
"Lee touched many lives, professionally and personally," says Andrei Reinhorn, professor emeritus in the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. "He was a scholar first, with a great vision on how to steer activities, students and other scholars, leading innovation not only in his professional field but in multiple areas of science and engineering."

After his tenure as dean, Lee turned his focus to his role as director of the National Center for Earthquake Engineering Research, now called MCEER. Lee and former President Robert Ketter had a vision to establish UB as a national leader in earthquake engineering.

The center was established in 1986, and Lee played a significant role in securing federal and matching state funding, which included a \$25 million grant from the National Science Foundation, making UB home to the first NSF-sponsored national center of earthquake engineering research. T.T. (Larry) Soong, Emeritus SUNY Distinguished Professor in the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, notes that the NSF grant at the time "was the largest research award ever received by the State University of New York system."

Lee led MCEER as director from 1992 to 2003, and conducted extensive research and reconnaissance work to

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REMEMBERING JANINA BRUTT-GRIFFLER, INTERNATIONAL EDUCATOR

By Danielle LeGare

Janina Brutt-Griffler, longtime UB faculty member, professor in the Graduate School of Education and leader in language and international education, died April 17. She was 59.

Brutt-Griffler joined the UB faculty in August 2005 as an associate professor and was promoted to professor in 2009. Before arriving at UB, she taught at the University of Cincinnati, the University of Alabama and the University of York in England, where she directed the TESOL program.

Over the course of Brutt-Griffler's career, she held several leadership roles across the university, including associate dean for curriculum and global initiatives, director of the Center for Comparative and Global Studies in Education, chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy,

and associate dean for international education and language programs. Most recently, she served as a professor in the Department of Learning and Instruction and director of the language education and multilingualism PhD program.

Her scholarship focused on language education, multilingualism, sociolinguistics and educational policy, examining the global spread of English, multilingual identities, biliteracy and the experiences of language learners in varied educational contexts.

A native of Poland, she brought a personal understanding of language, culture and identity to her work. She was a prolific and internationally recognized scholar in her field and served for many years as editor of the *International Journal of Applied Linguistics*. Her 2002 book, *"World English: A Study of Its Development,"* received the Kenneth W. Mildenberger Book Prize from the Modern Language Association in 2004.

Beyond her scholarship, colleagues say Brutt-Griffler played a significant role in advancing international education at UB. Through her leadership and service, she helped strengthen the university's global engagement, supported international students and scholars, and built programs

that connected UB to academic communities around the world.

She joined the Council on International Studies and Programs in 2009, and remained an active contributor to its work for years, including serving as chair of the selection committee for the Office of International Education's Research Grants Program for four years.

She was still actively engaged in that work shortly before her death.

"Janina Brutt-Griffler brought together scholarly distinction, thoughtful leadership and a deep commitment to students in ways that left a lasting mark on the Graduate School of Education and the University at Buffalo," says Suzanne Rosenblith, GSE dean and professor. "She was deeply respected within our school and in her field, and her work advanced international and multilingual education in ways that will continue to shape our community."

"We will remember not only her many contributions as a scholar and administrator, but also the care, generosity and sense of purpose she brought to her work and to the people around her."

John J. Wood, senior associate vice provost for international education, says Brutt-Griffler brought both intellectual depth and humanity to that work.

"As a faculty colleague and administrator, Janina was a passionate and dedicated leader, advocate and practitioner of international education and engagement," he says.

"She demonstrated impeccable scholarly acumen and unfailing professionalism while always elevating the human and relational dimensions of international collaboration."

Brutt-Griffler's contributions were broad and often interdisciplinary. In addition to her work in GSE, she served as director of Polish Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences from 2006-15 and helped establish an undergraduate minor in collaboration with other CAS departments.

She also helped create study-abroad and exchange opportunities in Poland. Moreover, her international work included a major grant from the Erasmus Mundus Programme of the European Union for transatlantic doctoral training, as well as academic collaborations with institutions of higher education in Saudi Arabia and Dubai.

Brutt-Griffler's international work also included a long affiliation with the UB Confucius Institute, where she served on the executive board, supported Chinese language and culture programming, and helped advance initiatives related to Chinese language teacher education.



GEORGE C. LEE

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better understand the impacts of earthquakes on infrastructure and identify solutions.

He infused aspects of the social sciences and public policy into the research agenda of the center, marking a significant departure from prior work in the United States, which had focused on the geotechnical and structural engineering of earthquake-resistant buildings, bridges and infrastructure.

"George Lee was a true visionary, establishing UB civil engineering as an international leader in the field of earthquake engineering," says Alan Rabideau, professor and chair of the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering.

According to Mark Karwan, former SEAS dean and SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Lee's impact stretched beyond engineering into areas many people didn't see.

"When I was dean, he was truly amazing. He brought UB into the Association of American Universities, essentially," Karwan says, noting that Lee's work with MCEER elevated

the school and UB onto the international stage.

By the time he retired in 2014, Lee's research funding as a principal investigator over the course of his career had totaled \$116 million.

He mentored 20 postdoctoral fellows, supported more than 30 international visiting scholars and guided nearly 50 PhD students and 75 master's students. Lee co-authored four books and published more than 250 papers on structural engineering and mechanics, steel structures and earthquake engineering.

A few of his numerous accolades include the UB Presidents Medal, the Nathan M. Newmark Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from the NSF and the W.P. Yen Award for Lifetime Achievements in Bridge Earthquake Engineering from the International Association of Bridge Earthquake Engineering.

A celebration of life service will be held in July in Buffalo. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the George and Grace Lee Scholarship Fund. ♦

[Elizabeth Egan is content coordinator for the Office of Communications in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.](#)

JANINA BRUTT-GRIFFLER

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Stephen C. Dunnett, GSE professor emeritus and former vice provost for international education, remembers her as a benevolent and trusted colleague. "Janina was an outstanding university citizen who was remarkably generous to her colleagues and extraordinarily dedicated to her students, both international and domestic," he says. "Janina was a colleague I could always count on for advice and support. She was always willing to assist with university international activities and programs."

Brutt-Griffler's work reflected a rare ability to connect international and multilingual scholarship with the needs of schools, students and communities close to home, including ongoing collaboration with the Buffalo Public Schools on dual-language education. That work reflected her longstanding commitment to multilingual education and to applying research to support local schools and communities. "A highly respected applied linguist, Janina made lasting contributions to the study of World Englishes," said department chair Erin Kearney.

"Just as importantly, she was a passionate advocate for international students and for cultivating global perspectives in education. She will be deeply missed by colleagues and students alike, and we will honor her legacy by continuing to advance the values she championed."

Brutt-Griffler advised and mentored many students over the years. Lois Weis, SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeri-

tus, described her as a "distinguished language education scholar, sought-after graduate student mentor and administrator who put into practice the value of inter-decennial collaboration." Weis also noted her deep investment in international graduate education and ability to attract and support highly accomplished master's and doctoral students from around the world, many of whom went on to academic careers and leadership roles of their own.

"During my doctoral studies, she was not just an adviser who guided me through my dissertation and academic research. As a Confucius Institute board member, she also cared about my work, offering valuable advice and constant encouragement whenever I needed it," says Qiaomei "Maggie" Lu, director of the Confucius Institute of Hong Kong and a former doctoral student of Brutt-Griffler's. "I owe so much of my achievements today to her guidance and support. She has left an indelible mark on both my academic and professional life."

Her contributions were formally recognized in 2023 when she received the Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education at UB. The honor reflected years of work across research, teaching, mentorship, service and institutional leadership.

Brutt-Griffler is survived by her husband, Keith Griffler, associate professor in the Department of Africana and American Studies, and family in Poland. ♦

[Danielle LeGare is director of content for the Graduate School of Education.](#)

ANNETTE LECUYER CHAMPIONED GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

Annette LeCuyer, professor in the School of Architecture and Planning, a beloved teacher and mentor to undergraduate and graduate students alike, and an architect renowned for her contributions to contemporary architectural practice and design research, passed away on March 20.

"This is a profound loss for our community," said Julia Czerniak, dean of the School of Architecture and Planning.

"Many of us knew Annette not only as a beloved colleague, but also as a guide, collaborator and friend. Since joining the School of Architecture and Planning in 2003, her impact on our school has been indelible."

LeCuyer graduated from the University of Colorado with a BFA, studied weaving in Finland and subsequently worked as a journalist in Europe before moving to London, where she received professional and graduate diplomas from the Architectural Association.

After graduating from the AA, LeCuyer joined Foster Associates, worked with Sir Jeremy Dixon on the

design of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and went on to become an associate at Allies & Morrison Architects, where she led design teams for award-winning projects in London and at Cambridge University.

She was appointed professor of architecture at the University of Michigan in 1993 and joined the UB faculty in 2003. In 2016, LeCuyer received the UB President Emeritus & Mrs. Meyerson Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring in recognition of her outstanding commitment to and participation in the undergraduate creative experience.

She designed and taught the architecture program's core construction technology course, initiated senior studios that continue to focus on the design of urban housing, taught graduate studios and directed seminars on material culture. She also worked closely with UB's International Education office to advance global study abroad programs for UB architecture students.

LeCuyer was "a mainstay of our department — an incredible guide, role model and mentor to many of us," said Erkin Özey, chair of the Department of Architecture, adding that "she was one of my most generous mentors."

In addition to her faculty role, LeCuyer served on numerous task forces across campus and was a member of the Faculty Senate.

LeCuyer was appointed as a guest critic at the Royal Academy of Copenhagen and, in 2017, served as International Architect in Residence at the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

That same year, she and her husband, Brian Carter, pro-

fessor of architecture and former dean of UB's School of Architecture and Planning, were inducted as Honorary Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

She was the author of notable books on contemporary architecture and construction technology, including "Radical Tectonics"

(Thames & Hud-

son, 2001), "New Strategies for Metals in Architecture" (Birkhäuser, 2003) and "ETFE – Technology and Design" (Birkhäuser, 2008).

In addition, she co-authored "All-American: Innovation in American Architecture" (Thames & Hudson, 2002), was a frequent contributor to international professional journals including Architectural Review and AD, and served as an editor of Michigan Architecture Papers and buffaloBOOKS.

"Annette exemplified our highest values through her outstanding teaching and research, as well as her leadership, mentorship and generosity," Czerniak said.

"Her teaching in housing, integrated design, materials and construction technology was a formative touchstone for countless students, distinguished by both rigor and compassion. Her prolific body of books and articles both emerged from and advanced thoughtful architectural practice, reminding us of the enduring power of design." ♦



Annette LeCuyer working with students in a senior studio

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Department of Architecture

Nicholas Bruscia, assistant professor, welcomed visiting scholar **Lukas Kirschnick** from Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, to work with graduate students in their design research studio through a grant received from UB's Office of International Education. The group is testing mixed-reality fabrication techniques for architectural applications. Using a wide array of digital and analog tools in the School's Fabrication Workshop, this group has worked to develop a set of custom, cast aluminum connections for the timber using 3D scanning, computational modeling, and a variety of digital fabrication tools and methods.

Julia Czerniak, dean and professor, and **Jason Sowell**, associate professor, launched "The Resilient Campus," and international design competition, exhibition, and symposium that brought together international minds to boldly envision designing for resilience. The exhibition will travel in March to the Aedes architecture gallery in Berlin, followed by other international venues. Seven teams were selected to work across two scales; they developed and applied strategies for an ecologically robust, resilient landscape—advancing South Campus as an intellectual, cultural, and social asset for multiple constituencies and surrounding communities. The exhibition design team included Director of Exhibitions **Maia Peck**, Julia Czerniak, Manager of Shop Services **Wade Georgi**, Clinical Assistant Professor **Stephanie Cramer**, Associate Dean **Bruce Majkowski**, **Zachary Izzo** (MArch '25, BS Arch '23), and **Edwin Sanchez Rodriguez** (MArch '27, BS Arch '25). Faculty team liaisons included: Director of the Building Environment Visualization Lab **Mohamed Aly Etman**, Associate Professor **Martha Bohm**, Assistant Professor **Nick Bruscia**, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Student Professional Development **Elaine Chow**, Adjunct Instructor **Randy Fernando**, Associate Professor **Hiro Hata**, Professor **Joyce Hwang**, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Exhibitions **Maia Peck**, Adjunct Instructor **Jon Spielman**, and Assistant Professor and Director of the Design with Resilient Environments Lab **Kristine Stiphany**.

Miguel Guitart, associate professor, led *City Life*, this year's senior housing studio. The top 10 projects - shortlisted from 43 total teams - presented to an international jury of architectural professionals and scholars. Five sections were taught with additional instructors including **Hiro Hata**, associate professor; **Annette LeCuyer**, professor; **Gregory Serweta**, adjunct instructor; and **Kristine Stiphany**, assistant professor—all of whom are licensed architects.

Anahita Khodadadi, assistant professor, and **Yunjeong Chang**, associate professor in the Department of Learning and Instruction in the Graduate School of Education, presented a paper titled: "Enhancing Learning in Structural Engineering for Architecture Students: Addressing Learning Barriers, Adaptive Strategies, and Equity Considerations" at the International Association of Shells and Spatial Structures (IASS) Annual Symposium, Mexico City, Mexico in October 2025.

Conrad Kickert, associate professor, and **Kelly Gregg**, assistant professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, convened the Symposium of Urban Design History Theory (SUDHT) at University at Buffalo in September 2025. This symposium welcomed over 100 urban design scholars from across the globe to the UB's School of Architecture and Planning, with representation from 28 countries on every continent (excluding Antarctica). The symposium has prompted new research collaborations with UB faculty and national and international scholars. The next SUDHT will be hosted at UB's longstanding partner, the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, in 2027. Gregg and Kickert recently presented their research on the pedestrianization of the urban core of Antwerp, Belgium. This research, prompted by Gregg's Fellowship at the Urban Studies Institute at the University of Antwerp in the Summer of 2023 and supported by the Office of International Education, traced Antwerp's pedestrianization to a fascinating transatlantic exchange of design and economic concepts. Gregg and Kickert were invited back to Antwerp to present their findings in the summer of 2025. This presentation led to engagement with Antwerp city officials and Sweco, Europe's leading design and engineering consultancy, to have this research inform their redesign plans for Antwerp's primary pedestrian shopping street. Their findings feature in the design and planning framework for this street, released in March 2026.

Erkin Özay, professor and chair, collaborated with the SOM Foundation to form a new scholarship named after Gordon Bunshaft for Lafayette International High School students interested in architecture. Lafayette International High School is one of over 20 secondary schools operated by the Buffalo Public Schools. Serving about 500 immigrant and refugee students who speak over 40 languages, about 80 teachers and staff work diligently to prepare this diverse body of students with highly varied educational backgrounds for college and beyond. By supporting Lafayette International High School students who wish to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree at UB, the Gordon Bunshaft Award seeks to honor the legacy and influence Bunshaft had on the profession while providing a path of entry and support to Buffalo students. The funds of this scholarship are meant to support non-tuition costs, which are critical for college students.

Maia Peck, clinical assistant professor and director of exhibitions, is organizing "What We Did Last Summer." This exhibition highlights student work produced during UB's School of Architecture and Planning summer programs, both domestically and abroad in Buffalo, New York City, Costa Rica, Ireland/Scotland, Italy, Spain, Europe, and Japan. Across studios, workshops, and seminars, students engaged new cultural, material, and environmental contexts, translating lived experience into design thinking. Peck is organizing an Open Studio Alumnus Spotlight. On Wednesday, April 8, 2026 during Open Studio, **Safdar Abidi** (MArch '91), Principal at Perkins&Will in Toronto, Canada, will be the inaugural Alumnus Spotlight Speaker. The event will feature a Fireside Chat and exhibition.

Jin Young Song, associate professor, in collaboration with Adjunct Instructor Gregory Serweta and Clinical Assistant Professor Maia Peck, along with academic partners from Pusan National University in Busan and Japan Women's University in Tokyo, held an international symposium and exhibition, "Cram Urbanism And Vertical Learning Space." Bringing together researchers, architects, urban planners, and students from diverse backgrounds, this symposium examined the architectural and urban impact of cram schools (Hagwons) in dense urban contexts. The accompanying exhibition featured architectural models and drawings, fostering critical dialogue not only among the organizing team but also with invited guests. The graduate option studio Vertical Paradox, led by Song and Serweta and supported by DeSimone Consulting Engineers, also participated in the exhibition.

Despina Stratigakos, SUNY Distinguished Professor, collaborated with Elana Shapira, an architectural historian at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, to write *Finding Ella Briggs: The Life and Work of an Unconventional Architect*, about Austrian architect Ella Briggs. Developed with a team of 15 collaborators, the book was named by The Financial Times as one of the best architecture and design books of 2025. *Architectural Record* and *Mas Context* featured excerpts, and it was reviewed by ORF, the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation. Stratigakos established a visiting fellowship within the School of Architecture and Planning. Its purpose is to support research on the built environment as a vehicle for the creation of more inclusive communities, with a focus on gender and sexuality in architecture. This year, **María Novas Ferradás** has been selected as the 2025-26 Despina Stratigakos Fellow. Novas holds a Ph.D. in Architecture from Universidad de Sevilla and has spent more than a decade exploring the interdisciplinary intersections of architecture, urban design, and feminism with a particular focus on comprehending the social and political theory and history that shapes the built environment. Her book based on her post-master thesis in gender studies, *Arquitectura y género: una introducción posible*, was honored at the 16th Spanish Architecture and Urbanism Biennial in the category of Research and Dissemination. She currently works as a senior lecturer and researcher at the Chair of the History and Theory of Urban Design at the ETH Zürich. Students will travel to Zurich later this semester for a workshop with Ferradás.

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Daniel Hess, professor, was invited to Toronto Metropolitan University to deliver the Hemson-Simpson lecture and speak about his book, *The Shoup Doctrine*. The book features 37 city planners, economists, journalists, and parking professionals who analyze three major parking reforms proposed by Donald Shoup, the late Distinguished Research Professor of Urban

Planning at UCLA. Hess published several articles with European co-authors based on research stemming from his 2023-2024 Fulbright Scholar Award in Poland. They are: (1) "Identifying urban development clusters in Southern Poland using the DBSCAN algorithm for spatial analysis" in *Town Planning Review*; (2) "Demand for and development of greenery in historic town squares: the case of Zakliczyn" in *Technical Transactions*; and (3) "Education programs for climate change: a study of pro-ecological awareness of youth in small towns in Poland" in *Miscellanea Geographica: Regional Studies on Development*.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Anthropology

Colin Quinn, associate professor, has been active in conducting research and giving talks across Europe. In the summer of 2025, Quinn and UB graduate student Sophie Chorek used OIE grant support to conduct 4 weeks of analyses of archaeological collections from his excavations in Transylvania (Romania). Quinn also gave an invited lecture "We're not so different, you and I: Towards a holistic archaeology of inequality" at the CAU Kiel (Germany) Wealth and Inequality in Prehistory seminar. Quinn was also invited to give a talk on the deep history of Transylvania, titled "The Land Past: Transylvania and the Transformation of Bronze Age Europe" at the University College Dublin in March 2026. His recent works on Bronze Age mortuary practices, chronologies, and artifact analyses have been published in *World Archaeology*, *Radiocarbon*, and *Apulum*.

Department of Art

Noah Breuer, assistant professor, had a solo art exhibition, "Return to Austria" on view from January 29 - February 25, 2026 at the Austrian Cultural Forum in Prague, Czech Republic. An opening reception and discussion by the artist and Dr. Konstantina Hlaváčková, head of the textile, fashion and toys collection, Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague was held January 29, 2026. Noah Breuer is an American artist with personal ties to Austria and the Czech Republic. His grandparents lived in Vienna, while most of the family was settled in Bohemia. The family owned the company "Carl Breuer and Sons", which operated a textile factory in Dvůr Králové nad Labem. During World War II, the company was confiscated by the Nazis, and most of his Jewish family perished in the Holocaust. In 2016, Breuer discovered the archive of a family business at the Textile Museum in Česká Skalice, which inspired him to create a series of printed artworks on textiles, paper and glass, in which historical motifs blend with contemporary design. Breuer is currently applying for Austrian citizenship for himself and his two children. The title of the exhibition, "Return to Austria," is a kind of aspirational leitmotif for him, an acknowledgement of his own Austrian heritage and the fact that his source material comes from the archives of his ancestors' textile factory.

A research article by **Berín Golonu**, assistant professor, "Hyphenated Subjects, Hybrid Species and Transplants: The Deroín Family's Horticultural Network in Late Ottoman Istanbul and Beyond" has been published online first in the open access, peer reviewed, international journal *Yillik: Annual of Istanbul Studies*. The article will be published in print in December 2026 to appear in the eighth issue of this journal. Golonu also traveled to southern Spain in June 2025 to participate in a writing residency at Joya: arte + ecología, where she worked on her monograph *Naturalizing Modernization: Urban Greenspace and Public Memory in Late Ottoman Istanbul*. Her writing residency was supported by an Office of International Education Rapid Grant for Global and International Research.

Arts Management Program

Katja Praznik, associate professor, published a chapter, "How to Move Things with Unions: Labour Organizing of Art Workers in Post-Yugoslav Context," in *Creative and Cultural Work in Europe*, edited by Bård Kleppe, Jaka Primorac, Miikka Pyykkönen, and David Wright (London: Routledge, 2026). She will give a guest lecture, "Comrades or Colleagues? The Class Challenges of Participatory Research and Policy Advocacy for Cultural Workers," for the Culturelink Guest Lecture Series at the Institute for Development and International Relations in Zagreb, Croatia in May 2026.

Department of Chemistry

Diana Aga, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Director of UB RENEW Institute, was the Plenary Speaker at the ANALÍTICA 2026 Conference, held at the University of Aveiro, Portugal. Her talk, "Mind The Fluorine Gap: Analytical Methods for Unmasking PFAS and Closing Fluorine Mass Balance in Environmental Samples," highlighted her innovative work to

unravel a broad range of "Forever Chemicals" in complex environmental matrices. The conference brings together researchers and recognized experts from diverse areas, covering a wide range of topics in modern Analytical Chemistry, including the Environment, Food, Pharmaceuticals, Health, Forensics, and the Chemical Industry.

Department of Classics

Roger D. Woodard, the Andrew v. Vranken Raymond Professor of the Classics, was a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy in Rome during November 2025. Following his residency at the AAR, he visited at the Centro AMA (Antropologia e Mondo Antico) of the Università di Siena, where he presented a lecture in the Centro's seminar series, Seminari del martedì. Subsequently, he took part in an international symposium at the Institut national d'histoire de l'art de la République française in Paris. At the symposium, which was entitled "Les récits d'origine de <la> femme en comparaison différentielle: Mythes de fondation et approches modernes de la sexualité," organized by the Centre AnHiMa (Anthropologie et Histoire des Mondes Antiques), he presented the paper "In Search of a Common Indo-European Myth of the Creation of Woman."

Department of Earth Sciences

Sophie Nowicki, Empire Innovation Professor, and **Beata Csatho**, professor, are part of an international team chosen for a NASA satellite mission designed to improve predictions of environmental change and help mitigate natural disasters. The Earth Dynamics Geodetic Explorer (EDGE) team was one of two teams selected out of four finalists for NASA's Earth System Explorers (ESE) program, which conducts Earth science missions based on key priorities laid out by the scientific community and national needs. The selected missions are expected to launch no earlier than 2030, with the total estimated cost of each mission not to exceed \$355 million, not including the launch.

Led by the University of California San Diego, EDGE will be the first global satellite imaging laser altimeter system. Laser altimetry is a technology that sends laser pulses to Earth's surface and records the time it takes them to return to the spacecraft. This will allow EDGE scientists to make high-resolution, three-dimensional observations of the structure of terrestrial ecosystems like forests and the surface features of glaciers, ice sheets and sea ice. EDGE builds on two NASA space laser altimeter missions that first launched in 2018: Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2) and Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI). EDGE advances the technology on ICESat-2 and GEDI through an increased density of laser beams that will map the planet using five 120-meter-wide strips. This first-of-its-kind swath-mapping lidar in space provides much higher resolution and accuracy, enabling a more comprehensive view of the dynamics of the Earth's surface. This resolution of the depth, height and structure of terrestrial, polar and coastal systems will bring Earth's features into focus to enable understanding of the processes driving change.

Department of Economics

Todd Pugatch, associate professor, was part of ongoing evaluations of international education interventions. He visited India in December 2025 to observe two interventions to improve school management in secondary schools and report preliminary results to government and NGO partners. He also delivered a virtual presentation of preliminary results of an early-grade Arabic literacy intervention based on principles of cognitive science to government representatives of the United Arab Emirates, including a member of the ruling family.

Department of English

Carrie Tirado Bramen, professor, presented a paper at the International Symposium on "Maps in American Literature" at the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France on April 3. The title of her talk was "Reading the Stars: Astrological Maps from the Declaration of Independence to Wounded Knee."

Walter Hakala, associate professor of English and Asian Studies, has just completed a two-year term as the chair of the South Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies. In July 2026 he will assume a new role as treasurer of the American Institute of Indian Studies.

Cristanne Miller, SUNY Distinguished Professor Emerita, received the Distinguished Service Award in June 2025 from the Emily Dickinson International Society during its annual conference in Taipei, Taiwan. Miller is a past president of EDIS.

Department of Environment and Sustainability

During her sabbatical leave in Fall 2025, **Barbara Wejnert**, professor, established a research connection with the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS), where she and her collaborators have begun developing a new research project titled “The Impact of Eroding Democracy on Population Well-Being and a Sustainable Future.” Wejnert will also be giving an invited talk in Rome at the World Congress on Inclusive Peace Education: Intercultural Perspectives Toward Sustainable Futures, organized by Roma Tre University (April 9–12, 2026). Wejnert has edited a new book that explores the intersections of democracy, climate change and gender that was launched with a panel discussion at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held in March 2026 in New York City. The volume, *Democracy in Retreat and the Climate Crisis: Challenges and Strategies for Adaptation in an Evolving Political Landscape* included chapters by **Senay Imre**, a PhD candidate in the Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies, and **Soe Win**, who received a PhD in global gender studies from UB and is now an adjunct lecturer at SUNY Brockport. Published in January 2026, the book brings together scholars from around the world to examine how environmental crises intersect with democratic governance, political change and gender equality.

Department of Geography

The research of **Adam Wilson**, associate professor, is credited in a new United Nations report on World Heritage Sites and other protected landscapes. Published by the U.N.’s Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the report assesses how UNESCO-designed sites contribute to climate stability, human well-being and biodiversity conservation. “People and Nature in UNESCO-Designated Sites: Global and Local Contributions” is the first global assessment of more than 2,260 World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks — a network supporting around 10% of the world’s population in more than 175 countries. The report shows that UNESCO-designated sites are delivering tangible results for both people and nature. On average, monitored wildlife populations there have remained stable, in stark contrast to the 73% global decline in monitored species since 1970. Wilson is credited as a technical contributor to the report, which uses a method from a 2023 study he co-authored to estimate species’ exposure to extreme temperatures.

Department of History

Andreas Daum, professor, was awarded the Senior Award for Excellence in International Exchange by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Alumni Association USA in 2025. In December 2025, he gave the Annual Excellence Awards Lecture on “Science and Emotions: A New Look at Alexander von Humboldt.” Daum published articles on “Ambiguity as Principle: Alexander von Humboldt in the Revolution of 1848,” in *HiN: Alexander von Humboldt in the Net* (2025), and “A ‘Temple of Liberty’? Alexander von Humboldt and the French Revolution,” in *Annals of Science* 83 (2026). His biography of Alexander von Humboldt, published with Princeton University Press in 2024, is under contract for a Chinese translation and will be published as a paperback this year.

Department of Mathematics

Adam Sikora, professor, co-organized an international workshop at Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach (Germany), one of the world’s leading centers for collaborative research in mathematics. The workshop brought together experts from around the globe to explore connections between topology — a field that studies shapes and spaces — and number theory and physics. By fostering dialogue across disciplines, the workshop contributed to understanding how abstract mathematical ideas can intersect in unexpected ways and to advancing fundamental knowledge and its applications.

Department of Sociology

Sampson Lee Blair, associate professor, published “The Retreat from Marriage and Childbearing in China: Examining the Aspirations of Young Women and Men” with Timothy J. Madigan (Commonwealth University, Pennsylvania) in *Sociological Inquiry*. Blair and Madigan also published “Risk-Taking and School Performance: An Examination of Family, Peer, and School Contexts” *Lubelski Rocznik Pedagogiczny*, a Polish research journal which is sponsored by the Polish Ministry of Science and Education. In collaboration with Christina L. Scott (Whittier College, California) and Yiqing Gan (Fudan University, China), he has a forthcoming book (2026), *An Examination of Mate Selection in the Online Realm: Dating, Sex, and Marriage*. He is currently working on several additional book proj-

ects. In collaboration with Milad Bagi (Bu-Ali Sina University, Iran), he is working on *Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Families: Structures and Relationships amidst Societal Change*. In collaboration with Olufemi Adeniyi Fawole (University of Ilorin, Nigeria), he is working on *The Evolving Nature of Intimate Relationships and Family Structures in Sub-Saharan Africa*. In collaboration with Rosalina Pisco Costa (University of Évora, Portugal), he is working on *Technology and Families: Digital Dynamics, Entanglements, and Perspectives*. At the annual meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society, he will be presenting “Gender Ideology and the Desire to Marry in China: Examining the Gender Attitudes of Young Women and Men” with Timothy J. Madigan and Sha Luo (University of Wisconsin, Madison). At those same meetings in Washington, D.C., he will be presenting “Dating and Intimacy in the Philippines: Gender Differences among Young Adults,” in collaboration with Louie Benedict R. Ignacio (University of Santo Tomas, Philippines) and Clarence M. Batan (Polytechnic University of the Philippines). In March 2026, he has been invited by the Gender & Sexuality Research Center to speak at the National University of Singapore, where he will present “Dating and the Initiation of Intimate Behaviors among Young Adults in the Philippines.” This summer, Blair will be presenting “Academic Performance, Academic Aspirations, and Risk-Taking Behaviors among Adolescents” at the World Congress on Education in Helsinki, Finland.

Department of Physics

Surajit Sen, professor, presented an invited lecture in the combined session of the Conference on Complex Dynamical Systems and Applications in Gandhinagar, India on January 24, 2026. This biennial event is one of very few conference with focus on both complex systems and their dynamics. The title of his talk was, “Infrasonic acoustic amplification in Driven Architected Granular Chains or Playing with Granular Chains or Surprises in Soil Acoustics.” On January 29th he presented a colloquium at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Physics Department, on the “Dynamics in strongly granular systems.”

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Marco Faini, assistant professor of Italian, will host art historian **Ilenia Pittui**, who has been awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions postdoctoral fellowship to conduct research at the University at Buffalo on the iconography of the Ottoman and Safavid worlds. Pittui, a postdoctoral researcher from the University of Venice, will receive \$470,000 from the program, which is the flagship fellowship of the European Commission. Faini is himself a former Marie Curie fellow. Both Faini and Pittui are scholars focusing on Mediterranean history and culture, with a focus on how cultural artifacts — such as books, paintings and illuminations — shape the perception and construction of cultural and ethnic identities. Pittui will analyze images from the Ottoman and Safavid worlds, from 1400–1762, to reconstruct the iconographic legacy of both cultures by collecting, labeling and systematizing a representative sample of a larger data set.

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND TEACHING TRANSFORMATION

Mara Huber, senior director of instructional innovation and transformation, has been named a Fulbright Specialist. The Fulbright Specialist Program complements the Fulbright Scholar Program by providing opportunities for U.S. faculty and professionals to engage in project-based exchanges at institutions around the world, but for a shorter duration — typically two to six weeks. Huber travels in May for a three-week placement at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro, Tanzania. While there, she will focus on introducing and strengthening experiential learning through an institute and symposium, lectures, workshops and studio-style sessions that support course design and curricular integration. This work builds on the framework she shared in her recent book, *Experiential Learning and Community Partnerships for Sustainable Development: A Foundational Model for Climate Action*. It is also tied to her ongoing efforts to bring about basic education reform in Enugu, Nigeria, with colleagues **Ndubueze Mbah**, associate professor in the Department of History, and **Cathleen Morreale**, assistant vice provost for curriculum and educational effectiveness, through a Spencer Foundation Vision Grant.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION*Department of Counseling, School and Educational Psychology*

Jaekyung Lee, UB Distinguished Professor, is the lead author on an international comparative study titled “Asset-based pathways to academic resilience in Korea and South Africa: A comparative study of TIMSS math achievement gaps based on risk and protective factors,” published in

Large-scale Assessments in Education (2026). Lee was a session organizer and presenter at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in Los Angeles in April 2026 for the following: “Reframing Global Education: Internationalization and Transnational Perspectives;” “Language, Culture, and Citizenship: Global Education for Diverse Communities;” “Leadership and Faculty Development in International Education;” and “What works where? Identifying Pedagogical Practices to Optimize Data Literacy Learning in Singapore and America.”

Yilang Zhao, assistant professor, chaired a session at the American Educational Research Association conference in Los Angeles in April 2026: Reimagining Rural Schools Worldwide: Policy, Community Engagement, and Student Development.”

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

Ryan Creps, assistant professor, authored a book chapter entitled, “International student enrollment in the U.S. and Canada: An elite subsystem within universal systems of higher education,” which will appear in T. O. Soetan, O. S. Umukoro, O. O. Odeh, & D. H. K. Nguyen (Eds.) *Identity, inclusion, and career pathways of international students in North America: A multidisciplinary examination*, to be published by Routledge in June 2026.

Song Won Han, associate professor, presented at a session at the American Educational Research Association conference in Los Angeles in April 2026: “Socioeconomic Inequality in Digital Learning Skills: Cross-National Evidence from Home and School Digital Environments.”

Melinda Lemke, associate professor of Educational Policy, is first editor of and first author in the fall 2025 *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education* (QSE) special issue, “Beyond Now: Feminist Politics, Policy, and Research Futures in Education.” The special issue examines plural feminisms, solidarities, and struggles in international and domestic educational research and praxis; the citation is: Lemke, M., Miles Nash, A., Mackey, H., & Young, M. D. (Eds.) (2025). Beyond now: Feminist politics, policy, and research futures in education. QSE, 38(8), 1095-1291. The UB Gender Institute held a well-attended “Beyond Now” virtual panel dialogue between special issue editors and authors in February 2026. Lemke also recently published the following co-authored publication with Ph.D. student Ngo Hna: Lemke, M. & Hna, N. (2025). Human trafficking and exploitation in Southeast Asia: Applying AsianCrit to context, policy, and educational possibilities. In M. K. Kapardis, C. Clark, A. Warria, & M. Dion (Eds.), *The Palgrave handbook of modern slavery* (pp. 111-136). Palgrave Macmillan.

Department of Learning and Instruction

Erin Kearney, professor and chair, presented at a session at the American Educational Research Association conference in Los Angeles in April 2026: “Weaving Relational Approaches in World Language Teacher Learning: Embodiment, Creative Expression and Connection.”

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Amit Goyal, SUNY Distinguished Professor and SUNY Empire Innovation Professor, received the ICSM 2026 International Industrial Career Achievement Award in Superconductivity—at the 11th International Conference on Superconductivity and Magnetism (ICSM), which was held jointly with the 4th International Conference on Quantum Materials and Technologies (ICQMT) in Türkiye from April 19-26, 2026. The ICSM and ICQMT bring together worldwide experts to address grand challenges and converging themes in superconductors, magnetic and quantum materials. The honor, one of two industrial lifetime achievement awards given at the conferences, recognized Goyal for his “transformative contributions to superconducting technologies through the development of advanced coated conductors.” The other was awarded to Masato Sagawa, inventor of NdFeB (neodymium, iron and boron) magnets.

In June 2025, **Ashlee N. Ford Versypt**, professor, attended the American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada where she served as the Awards Chair for the Chemical Engineering Division and co-presented a poster titled “Work-in-progress: Evidence-based scope and selection of threshold concepts for the design of computational notebooks in undergraduate statistics courses for chemical engineering.” She also attended the Society for Mathematical Biology Meeting in Edmonton, Canada. She attended a workshop on computa-

tional modeling of human tissues, organized a session titled “Systems Approaches to Cancer Biology,” and presented two oral presentations: “Agent-Based Modeling As a Digital Twin for the Transwell Migration Assay to Inform Tumor-Immune Microenvironment Simulations” and “A Multi-Cellular Network Model Predicts Changes in Glomerular Endothelial Structure in Diabetic Kidney Disease.”

Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering

Between January 1 and 12, 2026, **Cemal Basaran**, professor, had the honor of delivering the Plenary Lectures for the Workshop on Unified Mechanics Theory and its Applications. Organized by the Indian Society for Applied Mechanics, this multi-city engagement spanned six premier institutions across India, including IIT Madras, IIT Roorkee, IIT Palakkad, NIT Warangal, MANIT Bhopal, and Christ University, Bengaluru.

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

James Chen, associate professor, delivered invited seminar lectures at National Taiwan University, National Chung-Hsing University and Taiwan Tech, all in Taiwan, during the Fall semester in 2025. He also received the Outstanding Alumni Award from his alma mater, National Chung-Hsing University in Taiwan.

Deborah D. L. Chung, SUNY Distinguished Professor, coauthored a peer-reviewed research journal publication in collaboration with colleagues in Saudi Arabia and Jordan: Mohammad A. Al-Qaralleh, Qusay Al-Kaseasbeh, D.D.L. Chung, “Inductance-dominant impedance of steel wire rope and its change upon elastic tension, with relevance to strain sensing,” *Sensors and Actuators A* 403, 117685 (2026). Al-Qaralleh is associate professor, University of Tabuk, Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, and Al-Kaseasbeh is associate professor at Mutah University in Karak, Jordan. In collaboration with Sumon Sarkar, visiting scholar from the College of Aviation Technology in Bangladesh, Chung coauthored: “Alternating-current electrical behavior of carbon fiber tows exhibiting inductive reactance and resistance-dominant impedance,” *Carbon* 254, 121476 (2026). Chung presented a Caltech Together Webinar, “Smart Structures—Self-Sensing, Energy Generating, and Shielding” on Feb. 19, 2026.

Mostafa Nouh, professor and director of the Sound and Vibrations Laboratory, gave an invited lecture at the 659th Colloquium of the European Mechanics Society titled “Metamaterials in Fluid Flows and Beyond.” The special colloquium brought together world-leading experts from the fields of acoustic metamaterials and fluid mechanics to provide a platform for boosting international collaborations and developing novel metamaterial solutions for controlling fluid flows, with major implications for aerodynamic efficiency and fuel cost savings. As a follow-up to the colloquium, a review article with the title “Metamaterials and Fluid Flows” co-written by 23 research experts in both fields, including Nouh, surveying the state-of-the-art and describing the interplay between fluids and elastic solids, with a focus on contemporary work and emerging concept, was accepted for publication in *Nature Communications*. Separately, Nouh was also recently invited to give a talk at the inaugural MetaMAT conference on acoustic, mechanical, and thermal metamaterials, to be held in Ajaccio, France from 20 to 24 July, 2026. Supported by prestigious institutions including Imperial College London, the UK Acoustics Network and the Université Marie et Louis Pasteur (Besançon), MetaMAT pledges to be a hub for scientific exchange in the metamaterials community.

SCHOOL OF LAW

David A. Westbrook, Louis A. Del Cotto Professor and director, NYC Program in Business and Law, gave the keynote address “Threats and Legitimacy” at the conference *Global Threat Scenarios* at Maynooth University in Ireland on December 5, 2025.

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Department of Accounting and Law

Michael Dambra, associate professor of accounting and Kenneth W. Colwell Chair of Accounting and Law, was an invited speaker to National Taiwan University’s campus in Taipei, Taiwan in November 2025. He presented his paper titled “From Restatement Risk to Reporting Rigor: Evidence from the SEC’s Clawback Mandate” and met with faculty and Ph.D. students from the National Taiwan University following his presentation. His paper studies the economic consequences of a new rule from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission requiring all firms listed on

major stock exchanges to have a written policy in place to recover compensation awarded to executive officers in the event of an accounting restatement. He was also an invited participant to conferences hosted by the London School of Economics (London, UK) and the Indian School of Business (Hyderabad, India) in the Fall of 2025.

Department of Finance

Dominik Roesch, associate professor, was invited to serve as a Visiting Research Scholar at the University of Melbourne in Australia. In November 2025, he spent four weeks at the University of Melbourne conducting research, meeting with faculty members, and delivering a seminar to PhD students. During his visit, he also presented his paper, "Market Quality of Informed Trades," co-authored with UB faculty member Cristian Tiu and PhD student Wan Soo Choi. While in Australia, he was invited to present at Macquarie University in Sydney. In summer 2025, he was invited to serve as a discussant at the FIRS Conference in Seoul, South Korea, and at the Northern Finance Association (NFA) Conference in Calgary, Canada.

JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Department of Medicine

Jessy J. Alexander, research professor and associate director of the MD-PhD program, delivered a talk entitled, "Macrophage derived complement factor H restrains kidney inflammation and fibrosis in immune complex-mediated disease," co-chaired the sessions, "Complement in Disease" and the "Rapid Fire session" and was elected councilor of the International Complement Society at the International Complement Workshop held in Brisbane, Australia, 2025. She is a member of the organizing committee for the International Complement Workshop 2027 to be held in New Delhi, India.

Department of Neurology

Amit Kandel, associate professor, has been actively advancing international neurology and stroke-systems engagement across Nepal, India, and the U.S. through invited lectures, grand rounds, hands-on training, and national-level policy contributions. In Nepal, he presented "Health Economics of Stroke-Nepal" at the Himalayan International Stroke Summit (HISS) in Kathmandu (8/16/2025). He also contributed as a co-author to Nepal's first "National Stroke Management Protocol, 2025," presented at HISS by the Ministry of Health. In July 2025, he delivered invited Grand Rounds titled "Think Fast, Act Faster: Stroke Systems and Neuro Care that Work When Seconds Matter" at Nepal Police Hospital and Armed Police Hospital in Kathmandu. He conducted a stroke workshop and simulation-based training for physicians and nurses at Dhulikhel Hospital and Kathmandu University Medical School, also in July, strengthening team-based acute stroke readiness and workflow reliability. In India, he shared the Buffalo Stroke model and systems-based workflow through an invited presentation, "Stroke System of Care," at Sarvodaya Hospital, Sector 8, Faridabad on July 7. He also supported broader neuro-education through a virtual medical student lecture in Nepal, "Changing Paradigm of Traumatic Brain Injury," delivered to Birat Medical College, Biratnagar in April 2025. Beyond invited teaching, Kandel has contributed to Nepal's national strategic planning in neurology. He served as the international committee member for the National Neuro Center Feasibility Study, a committee established by Nepal's Minister of Health to plan a tertiary-level neurology center and submitted the final committee report in 2025. In the U.S., he delivered a CME presentation, "Neurological Care in Nepal," at the 29th Annual General Meeting of American Nepalese Medical Foundation: Uniting Diaspora to Advance Healthcare in Nepal in Washington, DC (June 13–15, 2025). Reflecting his global leadership in stroke systems, he was also selected as a member of the World Stroke Organization Taskforce for Prehospital Care (WSOTPC) in September 2025. Collectively, these activities highlight UB's expanding international footprint in stroke systems of care, prehospital and acute workflow design, simulation-based education, and national capacity building.

Department of Neurosurgery

Elad I. Levy, SUNY Distinguished Professor and chair, has been invited to speak/serve as faculty at international neurosurgery conferences. In 2025 Dr. Levy was invited as a speaker in June at the Live Interventional Neuroradiology, Neurology & Neurosurgery Course (LINNC) in Paris, France and in October at the 87th Annual Meeting of The American Academy of Neurological Surgery in Athens, Greece. During the present year (2026), Dr. Levy has been invited as a speaker in March to the 15th Annual Minimally Invasive Neurosurgical Society (MINS) Meeting in Los Suenos, Costa

Rica. He also will be speaking in June, again at the Live Interventional Neuroradiology, Neurology & Neurosurgery Course (LINNC) in Paris, France, and in October at the World Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology in Busan, Korea.

Department of Ophthalmology

Steven J. Fliesler, SUNY distinguished professor, was a visiting professor at the Institute of Molecular Physiology, Johannes Gutenberg University (Mainz, Germany), September 12, 2025, where he presented a lecture entitled, "Keeping an Eye on Cholesterol Pathway Defects: Lessons from Animal Model Studies."

Department of Structural Biology

Alex J. Vecchio, assistant professor, was invited to give a plenary lecture in December 2025 in Berlin, Germany as part of the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) funded Tight Junction-Train Research Training Group Winter School hosted by Charité University Hospital. His presentation, "Molecular tools to probe, alter, and determine the structures of claudins", took place at the Max Planck Society Harnack Haus and was part of a larger student-centric program that focused on the biology of tight junctions.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Amy Hequembourg and **Jennifer Livingston**, associate professors, will be traveling to Toronto, Ontario, April 15–18, 2026 to attend the biennial meeting of the Society of Research on Adolescence (SRA). SRA is an international organization dedicated to advancing research, resources, and policies to enhance the well-being of youth around the globe. Drs. Hequembourg and Livingston will be presenting findings from their NIH-funded study of risk and resilience factors associated with peer victimization and substance use among LGBTQ+ adolescents. The title of their presentation is, "Daily Outcomes Associated with Peer Victimization among Sexual Minoritized Youth." They will also be co-leading a roundtable discussion focused on advancing research to promote health among LGBTQ+ adolescents in the current funding climate. The discussion is entitled, "When Science Becomes a Target: NIH Grant Terminations of LGBTQ+ Research."

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

Gloria Aidoo-Frimpong, assistant professor, received an Office of International Education award in 2025 to support international research in Ghana for the project *Co-Developing a Women-Centered HIV Prevention Intervention to Reduce Stigma, Increase HIV Self-Testing, and Improve PrEP Awareness and Uptake in Ghana (WISE WOMAN)*. In the same year, she launched *Innovative Tools to Expand Youth-Friendly HIV Self-Testing and Long-Acting Injectable PrEP Uptake in Ghana (Y-FIT GH)*, a nationwide, youth-driven HIV prevention initiative focused on innovation, digital engagement, and access to youth-friendly services. Aidoo-Frimpong also led the Ghana Health Improvement Access Network (GHAN) webinar, which highlighted community-engaged HIV prevention strategies and was featured by national media outlets, including [MyJoyOnline](#) and [Angel Online](#). In January 2026, she presented her work at the Ghana Public Health Association meeting. Her presentation, *From Ghana to the Diaspora: Community-Driven Public Health Research*, highlighted her research with youth and women in Ghana and African immigrant communities in the United States, emphasizing culturally grounded, community-led approaches to HIV prevention, digital engagement, and health equity. On February 26, 2026, Aidoo-Frimpong served as a panelist in the Diversity and Equity Committee Conversation Series hosted by the Dalhousie University School of Social Work, Canada, to commemorate African Heritage Month. The panel discussion, *African-Centered Approaches to Black Health*, brought together scholars and community leaders to examine African-centered frameworks for advancing Black health. Her contribution focused on African-centered ways of knowing in Black health research, drawing on her community-engaged work in Ghana and with African immigrant communities in the United States.

In January 2026, **Kristen Cowan**, assistant professor, attended The Swiss Epidemiology Winter School in Wengen, Switzerland where she participated in the Advanced Methods in Climate Change Epidemiology course.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Amanda Aykanian, assistant professor, was invited to join the Editorial

Board of the *International Journal on Homelessness*.

Enoch Azasu, assistant professor, co-authored the following journal article: Azasu, E. K., La-teef, A., Zulu, G., Ali, E., Obeng, Y. A., Abubakar, A. T., Kpeklu, S., & Aidoo-Frimpong, G. (2026). "It's a sin against God": understanding how Ghanaian adolescents frame suicide as sin, taboo, and crime. *International Journal of Adolescent Medicine and Health*, 38, 1-9. He was the sole author of Azasu, E. (2025). Using a machine learning analysis of socio-ecological and psychological factors to predict suicide risk among a nationally representative sample of Ghanaian adolescents. *Cambridge Prisms: Global Mental Health*, 12, e125.

Stephanie Clark, doctoral student, authored the upcoming conference presentation: "Applying the COM-B model for sustainable behavior change in social work education and professional practice" for the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2026.

Jo Ann S. Lee, associate professor, coauthored: Mackey, B.J., Appleton, C., Phillips, L.C., Peled-Laskov, R., Lee, J.S., & Taxman, F.S. (2025). Institutional myths of the probation field: An inhabited institutionalist approach to understanding probation condition-setting and violation practices. *British Journal of Criminology*; and Kelly, B., Gimm, G., Oterholm, I., Venables, J., Baker, C., Bennwik, I., Lee, J.S., Ellem, K. & Cheatham, L., (2025). Disabled youth transitioning from care: An international policy analysis. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*.

Laura Lewis, clinical associate professor, co-authored the forthcoming article: Zhang, Y. & Lewis, L. Embedding the sustainable development goals in social work education: The role of experiential learning in *The Journal of Social Work Education*. In June 2026, she will present "Decolonizing social work education: Lessons from a transnational immersion in Costa Rica" at the Social Work Social Development Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Nadine Shaanta Murshid, associate professor, is co-co-principal investigator on a Gates Foundation funded project on women's digital safety and risk based in Bangladesh. Work on that project began in February 2026. In 2026, she co-authored a peer-reviewed article, "Dhaka Film Songs from the 1970s: Negotiating Sexual Norms and Class-Based Sensibilities in Post-Liberalization Bangladesh," published in the *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*. She also co-authored an invited contribution to *Affilia* titled "On thin ICE: In Solidarity with Immigrant Communities" (2026), addressing transnational immigrant rights. In 2026, Murshid served as Moderator at the State of Governance Conference: Rupture, Reform, and Reimagining Democracy--Navigating the Agony of Transition, hosted by the Brac Institute of Governance and Development in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Her panel addressed the "Dynamics of Solidarity," reflecting her sustained engagement with governance and democratic transition in South Asia. In 2025, she presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin,

where she participated in a Roundtable titled "Bangladesh's July Biplob: Gender, Politics, Culture," which examined the significance of the July 2024 uprising in Bangladesh through lenses of gender and political culture. In 2026, Murshid delivered an invited talk titled "The Production of the VAW Complex" at the Cha Chokro series hosted by the Brac Institute of Governance and Development in Dhaka. In 2025, she was a Speaker at the Jatiyo Shonglap/National Conference on Equity hosted by the Press Institute of Bangladesh and served as a panelist at a Feminist Alliance of Bangladesh event on Rape and Sexual Violence in Bangladesh. Both engagements reflect her role as an internationally recognized voice on gender-based violence in South Asia. Murshid holds a Visiting Fellowship at the Brac Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), Brac University, Bangladesh, for the period 2024–2026. Murshid has been a regular columnist for *The Daily Star*, Bangladesh's leading national English-language newspaper, since 2015. Her 2026 piece "You Won! Now What?" (published in the Slow Reads section) and her 2025 essay on Begum Rokeya reflect sustained public intellectual engagement with Bangladeshi audiences. Her 2025 article "Our Sentimental State," published in *The New Age Bangladesh Special Issue on the July Uprising*, reached a broad national and diaspora readership.

Yunju Nam, associate professor, coauthored the forthcoming article: Kim, S., Nam, Y., Birkenmaier, J., & Cosey, C. "From Financial Exclusion to Collective Stability: Worker Cooperatives and Precarious Immigrant Workers' Financial Capability," *Journal of Consumer Affairs*. Nam co-presented Kim, S., Birkenmaier, J., Nam, Y., & Cosey, C. "From Financial Exclusion to Collective Stability: Worker Cooperatives and Precarious Immigrant Workers' Financial Capability," for the Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference in January 2026 in Washington, D.C. At the same conference, Nam was part of a roundtable: Lopez, B. (Organizer), Nam, Y., Gutierrez, M., Espitia, N., & Rodriguez-Newhall, A. (2026), Enhancing Immigrant Participation in Research and Activism amid Extreme Hostile Environments. She co-presented with S. Kim, "Cooperative Insurance and Social Welfare" at the Korean Academy of Cooperative Insurance (KACI) Conference, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea in December 2025. Also at KACI, Nam co-presented Kim, S., Birkenmaier, J., Nam, Y., & Cosey, C. "Precarious Immigrant Workers in Worker Co-ops: Financial Capability Pathways." Nam delivered an invited virtual presentation, "U.S. Retirement Economic Security Policy in a Rapidly Changing Society," for the Korean Society of Gerontological Social Welfare, "Small Talk, Think Big!" Lecture Series in February 2026.

Katie Stalker, associate professor, co-presented a virtual session: Wilkinson-Lee, A., Brown, M. E., Stalker, K. C., Hunter, D., Redondo-Martinez, F., & Marsiglia, F. "Amplifying Community Health Workers' voices: The power of digital storytelling" at the 4th International Community Health Worker Symposium in Thailand in November 2025. ♦

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UB NAMED A TOP FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PRODUCER

By Cory Nealon

The University at Buffalo is among the nation's colleges and universities with the highest number of scholars selected in the 2025-26 academic year for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program.

The distinction—being named a Fulbright Top Producing Institution—was announced in February by the Fulbright program. UB is one of 25 institutions nationwide to receive the designation.

Six UB faculty members – Shermali Gunawardena, Barbara Prinari, Bina Ramamurthy, Adrian Rodriguez-Riccelli, Hua "Helen" Wang and Hao Zeng – received Fulbright awards to study and teach abroad this academic year.

"UB's standing as a top-producing institution of Fulbright scholars is a testament to the exceptional caliber of our faculty and our steadfast commitment to international engagement," said UB President Satish K. Tripathi.

"Through research and education,

our Fulbright faculty scholars address consequential issues shaping global society. We are immensely proud of our Fulbright scholars — past and present—for their enduring contributions to our students, our communities and the world."

The Fulbright program, established in 1946, is the U.S. government's premier international academic exchange program devoted to improving intercultural relations, diplomacy and competence between the people of the U.S. and other nations through educational exchange.

UB has increased its efforts to inform and prepare faculty to successfully apply to this prestigious program. This includes workshops, outreach and networking programs led by the Office of Faculty Affairs to help participants fully explore award opportunities, learn more about the application process, and prepare a strong application.

Since 2020, 19 UB faculty, including the six from this year, received the Fulbright U.S. Scholar award. An additional six faculty participated in

the U.S. Fulbright Specialist Program during the same time period.

Fulbright alumni work to make a positive impact on their communities, sectors, and the world and have included 44 heads of state or government, 63 Nobel Laureates, 93 Pulitzer Prize winners, 83 MacArthur Fellows, and countless leaders all sectors and industries across the United States and around the world. UB faculty interested in learning more about the program can contact Maria Almanza, director of faculty recognition and UB Fulbright liaison. ♦

Cory Nealon is director of media relations for University Communications.

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