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Architecture faculty member Lynda Schneekloth and three former students have been recognized for a book that tells the story of how the mighty Niagara River was harnessed to produce electricity.

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additional link on Web



Elaine Megna, D.D.S. '78, examines Cameron Allen, age 4, who came to the School of Dental Medicine on Friday as part of the annual "Give Kids a Smile" day. Children from across Western New York who do not have access to dental care receive dental treatment free of charge that day as part of the dental school's community outreach programs. Cameron received a good report—no cavities.

Molecules boost vaccine potency

Proteins developed by UB scientist may enhance production of antibodies

By LOIS BAKER Contributing Editor

WO novel proteins studied by a UB specialist in microbiology and immunology appear to have the potential to enhance the production of antibodies against a multitude of infectious agents.

Terry D. Connell, professor of microbiology and immunology in the Witebsky Center for Microbial Pathogenesis in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, developed and patented the LT-IIa and LT-IIb enterotoxins and their respective mutant proteins as new mucosal adjuvants, or "boosters," that can enhance the potency of existing and future vaccines.

Connell and colleagues published five papers in 2007 describing their advances. Theirs is the only research group in the scientific community investigating the immunology of these adjuvants.

The researchers currently are working to develop a safe and effective method to deliver the immuneenhancing molecules to the body's mucous membranes—the first line of defense against most pathogens—to elicit protective immune responses on those membranes.

"Almost every bacterium and virus that attacks us doesn't bore through the skin," said Connell. "These infectious agents enter by colonizing the mucosal surfaces on the eye, sinuses, mouth, gut lining, lungs and genital tract."

To date, Connell and colleagues have determined, using a mouse model, that the nasal passage is the best mucosal surface on which to apply LT-IIa and LT-IIb as mucosal adjuvants. Mixing a very small amount of LT-IIa or LT-IIb with an existing antigen and dripping the mixture into a mouse's nose subse-

quently produces a strong antigenspecific immune response in the nasal passages, as well as in saliva, the urogenital tract and the bloodstream, their research showed.

In contrast, immunizing the

mouse with only the antigen

generates a much lower level antigen-specific immune response at those sites. This method of application is

particularly suitable for immunizing populations in underserved areas, said Connell.

"If I want to immunize somebody in Uganda with a vaccine that must be injected, for instance, I have to bring needles, everything must be sterile and everything must be kept cold, which means we need refrigeration.

"But if I can vaccinate through the nose, all I have to do is dry the antigen and my adjuvant. When I get to the middle of Uganda, I boil some water, pour in the antigen and adjuvant, stir it up, put it in an atomizer and 'sniff.' The mixture doesn't even have to be sterile because the nose isn't sterile."

Connell began studying the two adjuvants as a postdoctoral researcher at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in Washington, D.C., in 1989. The molecules had been isolated five years earlier by Randall Holmes, his postdoctoral advisor. Connell began his investigations into the activities of LT-IIa and LT-IIb at the USUHS by mapping the regions of the two enterotoxins that were important for receptor binding, toxicity and for assembly of the multisubunit proteins.

LT-IIa and LT-IIb are similar to cholera toxin in 3-dimensional structure and toxic activity. Yet, the amino-acid sequences of the bind-

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Brown new nursing dean

By ARTHUR PAGE Assistant Vice President

EAN K. Brown, professor and interim dean of the School of Nursing, has been named dean of the school following a national search, it was announced Friday by David L. Dunn, vice president for health sciences.

The appointment of Brown, who joined the school's faculty in 1993 and who has served as interim dean since November 2006, is effective immediately.

A specialist in nursing oncology, Brown succeeds the late Mecca S. Cranley, longtime dean of the School of Nursing. She was named interim dean after Cranley became seriously ill. Brown previously had served as acting dean from December 2005 through August 2006.

"Dr. Jean Brown stood out among an outstanding slate of candidates as an academician with an outstanding, extremely productive research track record who has received national recognition, and as a dedicated mentor of students and faculty," Dunn said in announcing her appointment. "She also possesses well-honed administrative skills, having served as both acting and interim dean of the school."

Dunn said Brown "has a clear vision and well-thought-out plan to expand the faculty and staff of the school with the necessary infrastructure to bolster its research and teaching programs, and to increase the number of undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students. She has clearly articulated that the national nursing

shortage must be solved not just by increasing the numbers of baccalaureate nursing degrees conferred, but concurrently



generation of doctoral nurse educators, already an area of considerable strength at UB."

President John B. Simpson noted that "the School of Nursing is of critical significance to UB's longstanding leadership in health sciences research, education and outreach. As is evident from its prominent role in UB 2020 strategic strengths such as Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan, it is

Continued on Page 2

Is UB open?

Faculty, staff and students looking for information about the university's office hours and class schedules during inclement weather can call 645-NEWS or sign up to receive a text message sent to their cell phone and/or an email account.

The telephone line will be available 24 hours a day. The recorded message will be updated and a text messaging alert will be issued as soon as university officials decide to alter office hours and class schedules due to weather conditions or other situations.

To receive text-messaging alerts, go to http://emergency.buffalo.edu/.

Closing information also will be available on WBFO-FM 88.7, at www.buffalo.edu and at MyUB.buffalo.edu.

NEWSMAKERS

Here is a sampling of recent media coverage in which UB is mentioned prominently.

"For some people, medications and dietary changes are the perfect match, but most of our patients—the great majority of patients—have not responded to medications and dietary changes."

Jeffrey M. Lackner, assistant professor of medicine, in an article distributed by **HealthDay** that looks at using cognitive behavioral therapy to treat gastrointestinal symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome.

"At least in Buffalo, the days are gone when you can do a foreclosure and walk away without taking care of the property."

Buffalo prosecutor **Cindy T. Cooper**, who holds a law degree and doctorate in sociology from UB, in the cover story in this week's **BusinessWeek** magazine that looks at cities that are holding mortgage lenders accountable for upkeep and maintenance of homes that wind up in foreclosure and her efforts to force financial-service companies to maintain vacant and abandoned homes in order to prevent the spread of neighborhood and community blight.

"I think that, in general, celebrity culture has reached such a degrading level, and Nipplegate was over the top. Now they want it to be more wholesome and all-American. They're pulling in the reins. The winds have shifted, and now we're getting a more wholesome event. I don't think anybody's gonna tear off Tom Petty's clothes."

Elayne Rapping, professor of American studies, in an article in the *Phoenix New Times* on the Super Bowl halftime shows that have become more conservative following the 2004 breastbaring halftime performance by Janet Jackson.

"It increased even more a month later."

Kenneth Kim, associate professor of finance and managerial economics, in an article in *Florida Today* that reports that according to researchers at UB and Cornell, companies with well-liked Super Bowl commercials typically see their stock prices rise substantially on the Monday after the game, with even larger increases in stock prices a month later.

Reporter

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Susan T. Roberts is clinical associate professor and director of the Speech-Language & Hearing Clinic in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences.

What is the mission of the Speech-Language & Hearing Clinic?

The UB Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic was established in 1949 and has expanded significantly in size and scope of service throughout the years. The clinic is a training facility for graduate students pursuing their master's degree in speech-language pathology and doctorate in audiology in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences. The mission of the clinic is to provide quality, state-of-the-art services to individuals with speech, language and/or hearing impairments to achieve their maximum communication potential. By offering these services, we provide our graduate students with high-quality, clinical training opportunities. The clinic is dedicated to providing quality services utilizing current clinical techniques and technology, while facilitating research in the areas of prevention, education, habilitation and rehabilitation of communication disorders.

What services does the clinic provide?

Audiology services include hearing evaluation, hearing aid evaluation and dispensing, central auditory processing evaluations, tinnitus treatment program, aural rehabilitation and otoacoustic emission testing. Speech-language pathology services include evaluation and therapy for accent differences, aphasia and

related neurogenic disorders, articulation and phonological disorders, autism/asperger syndrome, central auditory processing disorders, cleft palate, disfluency/stuttering, language disorders, laryngectomy and voice and resonance disorders. The clinic also offers several specialty programs, including the Adult Central Auditory Processing Program, the Adult Fluency Program, the Aphasia Program, the Laryngectomy Program, the Tinnitus and Hyperacusis Management Program and the Adult Aspergers Program. We are a 12-month clinic that offers services throughout the year, including the summer. In addition to our usual services, we also provide intensive summer programs that include the Intensive Aspergers Program, the Intensive Fluency Enhancement Program, the Intensive Language and Auditory Processing Program and the Language-Based Preschool Program.

How many Western New Yorkers do you serve every year?

We have approximately 3,000 patient visits a year. In addition to services on campus, we provide speech-language and hearing screenings to our local Head Start program, conducting screenings for 850 children a year.

Can you talk about the clinic's role as a training facility for students?

Our clinic faculty/clinical assistant professors are responsible for

the clinical training of the graduate students pursuing their master's and doctoral degrees. Faculty are well-trained specialists who guide each student clinician's clinical skills and competencies. They are teachers that seek to motivate and develop future clinicians. Our clinic provides the first-tier training for our student clinicians to prepare them for their externship training experiences and their clinical fellowship training. Our degree programs are New York state licensure eligible, and students require clinical competence to graduate. The clinic and its training mission are part of the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences (CDS) in the College of Arts and Sciences. CDS is accredited by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association. All clinical faculty members have their New York state license in speech-language pathology and/ or audiology, and possess the certificate of clinical competence by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association.

You're involved in a tinnitus research project funded by the National Institutes of Health. Tell me about it.

The clinic is participating in a multicenter study based at the University of Iowa and funded by the National Institutes of Health. This clinical research study involves comparing three different

ways of using background sound and counseling to treat individuals with tinnitus. These three procedures will be studied in a group of people who require hearing aids and a group of people who do not require hearing aids. These services are being provided in the clinic under the direction of Christina Stocking, clinical assistant professor and principal investigator on the UB portion of the grant. The study will examine individual factors that might help to alleviate tinnitus. The verification of an effective treatment would be of great benefit to tinnitus sufferers and clinicians who treat tinnitus

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

We offer discounts to employees, their family members and students who need a hearing aid. We also provide free services throughout Western New York, including hearing and speech screenings to local Head Start centers and senior citizen centers, language and literacy programs in Head Start centers and consultation and training services for the American Heart Association Peer Visitation Program. Clinic faculty members also serve as guest speakers to many health care and educational institutions.

Brown Continued from Page 1

equally significant to our broader academic enterprise.

"Finding a leader to guide this important school at a pivotal point in its evolution is no small challenge," Simpson added. "After a major national search, we confirmed that we have the ideal candidate right here in our ranks. Professor Brown has long played a vital role in developing academic excellence within the School of Nursing. We are fortunate, indeed, to have an administrator and scholar of her demonstrated experience, insight, vision and talent in this important leadership role."

Satish K. Tripathi, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, added: "I am absolutely delighted that Jean will assume the leadership position in our School of Nursing. Over the past few years, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with Jean, first as associate dean and then as acting and interim dean.

"Throughout Jean's tenure at UB, she has distinguished herself as a wise and visionary leader, a consummate administrator, a mentor to students and faculty, and as a renowned researcher. It is

quite rare for one person to possess such a complete complement of distinguishing characteristics. And, I am so pleased that this uniquely qualified UB School of Nursing faculty member emerged as a leader among leaders from our national search."

Michael E. Cain, dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, who served as chair of the search committee, said the national search attracted 39 applicants. He said that four "exceptional" candidates—selected from a larger group of 15 "excellent" applicants who were interviewed—were invited to campus for interviews in October and November.

"Jean rapidly emerged from a pool of highly qualified individuals as the search committee's top candidate for the position of dean of the School of Nursing," Cain noted. "She convincingly demonstrated the vision, leadership qualities, commitment and tenacity to engage the faculty and move the School of Nursing forward, and to work effectively with the other four health science schools to enrich our Academic Health Center and university."

Brown is principal investiga-

tor of a \$1.3 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) designed to fund the nursing school's accelerated bachelor's degree program, which allows individuals holding degrees in other fields to receive a bachelor's degree in nursing in 12 months. She also is principal investigator on an HRSA grant funding an advanced education nursing traineeship program. She currently is principal investigator of a phase 2 clinical trial funded by the National Cancer Institute that is testing the effects of antioxidant dietary supplements on men with prostate cancer during radiation therapy and has had previous grants supporting her research on cancer-related nutritional symptom management.

Brown earned a nursing diploma from the Fairview Hospital School of Nursing in Minneapolis, Minn., and completed bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees and two years of postdoctoral study at the University of Rochester School of Nursing. She held several positions at her alma mater before coming to UB in 1993 as an assistant professor.

She was promoted to associ-

ate professor of nursing in 1999 and to professor in 2005. She was named associate dean for academic affairs in 2002. She holds adjunct professorships in nutrition and rehabilitation sciences in the School of Public Health and Health Professions, as well as Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Brown is co-chair of the SUNY Nursing Education Task Force. A fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, she was co-recipient of the Oncology Nursing Society's Publishing Division Oncology Nursing Forum 2005 Quality of Life Award at its 31st Annual Congress in 2006 for her paper, "Quality of life and meaning of illness of women with lung cancer."

She won the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2004 and the sustained Achievement Award from UB in 2003. In the nursing school, she was recipient of the Dean's Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001 and in 2007 she was named a Distinguished Faculty Mentor.

The author or co-author of more than 40 papers in refereed journals, Brown also has written six book chapters on aspects of cancer nursing, and has lectured widely.

Academic state of the university

Tripathi's annual address inspired by Spitzer's designation of UB as flagship

Reporter Staff Writer

ATISH K. Tripathi, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, delivered his academic state of the university address during Tuesday's meeting of the full Faculty Senate, a talk inspired by Gov. Eliot Spitzer's designation of UB as a SUNY flagship institution in his State of the State address last month.

"This is a tremendous statement," said Tripathi. "Those of you who have been here a long time know that we have been preparing for this sort of statement for a long, long time," he added, noting that UB "rightly took our place among the nation's finest research universities, public and private," as far back as 1989 when it was elected to the Association of American Universities.

An unswerving commitment to academic excellence is one of the chief reasons UB has been designated a flagship university by the governor, he said, a trait reflected in the accomplishments of its faculty and the quality of its students.

"Our UB faculty are nationally and internationally recognized as defining leaders in their respective disciplinary fields," said Tripathi. "And UB today is becoming the number one choice for the most academically ambitious and accomplished undergraduate, graduate, professional and doctoral students."

He pointed out that UB faculty received 16 of this year's SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence and nine of the 2007 SUNY Dis-

tinguished Professorships—"far Development Expenditures at Unimore than any other campus in SUNY"—and that the mean SAT score of last fall's incoming freshman class was 1193-a 60-point increase compared to the mean SAT of freshmen entering UB in 1997. Average scores jump to 1375 among incoming students participating in the University Honors College, he added, of which about 33 percent were also a high school valedictorian or salutatorian.

In addition, Tripathi said about 10 percent of this year's incoming freshman class are participating in one of UB's two Undergraduate Academies, a new program focusing on the undergraduate experience that in the fall will launch a third component addressing global perspectives.

UB's faculty ranks also are increasing —Tripathi reported that 270 new faculty members have joined the university since 2004. A variety of resources have been leveraged to support these new hires, he said, including converting senior faculty lines into multiple lines for new faculty hires, as well as such state sources as the Empire Innovation Program, from which UB received \$1.6 million in 2007.

There also has been an upward trend in the university's research expenditures, which increased from \$226.9 million in the 2002 fiscal year to \$323.4 million in the 2007 fiscal year, he said, citing UB's report to the National Science Foundation (NSF) as part of its annual Survey of Research and versities and Colleges. Among the research funds received by UB in 2007 was a prestigious \$3.1 million grant from the NSF's Integrative Graduate Education Research and Traineeship program (IGERT) that will support local ecosystem restoration through an interdisciplinary doctoral program, he noted.

"In a climate where research funding is not increasing," Tripathi said, "this is really a tribute to the faculty at UB who are trying to compete and trying to get grants."

UB's efforts to establish a campus in downtown Buffalo—as well as its focus on community outreach were highlighted in the provost's annual address as well. The university is working to relocate the Regional Institute, the Center on Rehabilitation Synergy and the pre-K through 16 initiatives to the former M. Wile Co. Buildingnow known as the UB Downtown Gateway—at Goodell and Ellicott streets, which UB purchased in September. He said it also recently celebrated the opening of the Ira G. Ross Eve Institute at 1176 Main St. next to the Olmstead Center for the Visually Impaired on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

"As UB extends its research into the community," he said, "we as a university community contribute exponentially to the lives and the well-being of members of our community. The positive external recognition which UB has received of late—whether from the governor's office, our UB Believers or our alumni business and industry partners—validates our belief that the University at Buffalo is a flagship university."

During a question-and-answer session following the speech, Stephen Dyson, Park Professor of Classics in the College of Arts and Sciences, voiced concern that UB's strong focus on scientific and medical research is resulting in the humanities being overlooked. Tripathi responded that although "it's not advertised as well," UB also plans to hire many new faculty members in the humanities over the next few years.

"I would say that the humanities have great support at the decanal level, as well as the provost and presidential level," he said.

Also voicing concern was Rakesh Nagi, professor and chair of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, who pointed out that poor perception seems to prevent UB from reaching the upper echelons in many national rankings, despite its many upward trends in recent years.

"People have long memories," Tripathi replied. "I don't think there's a magic length of time for changing perception, but I think if we show that we value scholarship, if we show that the excellence is what we really care about, then we're working in the right direction.

"Our goal is really talking about how good UB is and also delivering the goods in terms of how good we are," he added. "It takes time, but perception can change."

BRIEFLY

Collins named associate dean

R. Lorraine Collins, a prolific researcher in UB's Research Institute on Addictions for 22 years, has been appointed associate dean for research in the School of Public Health and Health Professions and a professor in its Department of Health Behavior.

Collins, a senior research scientist at RIA since 1986, also has held an appointment as a research professor in UB's Department of Psychology since 1989. She was appointed an adjunct professor in the School of Public Health and Health Professions in 2007.

A specialist in the study of alcohol and drug abuse, Collins is principal investigator or co-investigator on five ongoing National Institutes of Health (NIH) studies totaling more than \$10 million in research funds.

She is a member of the NIH's Peer Review Advisory Council for the Center for Scientific Review, and has served as an NIH grant reviewer. She was a member of the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse of the NIH from 1994-98.

An author or co-author of numerous book chapters and publications in refereed journals, Collins has served on several editorial boards, most recently as an associate editor of the American Psychological Association's Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology for a three-year term that ended in December 2007.

Collins received a bachelor's degree from McGill University in Montreal, and holds master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from Rutgers University.

Zodiaque spring concert set

The Zodiaque Dance Company will celebrate its 34th year in 2007-08 with the presentation of "Zodiaque 34—Celebration Rising" Feb. 22 and 23, and Feb. 28-March 1 in the Drama Theatre in the Center for the Arts, North Campus.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Feb. 22, 23, 28, 29 and March 1, and at 2 p.m. Feb. 24 and

Two guest artists, supported by the Zodiaque Dance Fund, have created work that will be presented by the company at this concert. Mark Santilliano, a former member of the famed Pilobulus Dance Company who teaches at Mercyhurst College, has created the athletic piece "Off the Deep End" for senior members of the company. "Break Thru," a work by Terri Filips, an associate professor at Niagara University, explores inventive partnering and rhythm layering in a stylized tap piece.

Four faculty members in the Department of Theatre and Dance- leanne Fornarola. Joyce Miller Lichtenberger, Tom Ralabate and Kerry Ring—also are contributing new works to this performance.

The concert also brings two student choreographers—Sarah Kaye and Hayley Sunshine—to the studio and stage. Student technicians will hone their skills in a professional setting as well. Design students Collin Ranney and Susan Zorn have created costumes and lighting, respect-

Tickets for Zodiague Dance Company are \$16 for general admission and \$8 for students and seniors and are available at the CFA box office and at all Ticketmaster locations, including Ticketmaster.com.

'Building UB' posterboards on exhibit

By SUE WUETCHER Reporter Editor

WENTY-NINE different posterboards relating to "Building UB," the university's comprehensive

physical plan, now are on exhibit at three sites on the North and South campuses to provide members of the university community with another opportunity to see the information and offer their feedback.

The posterboards will be on view in the lobby of Hayes Hall, South Campus, through Feb. 14, and in the Undergraduate Library in Capen Hall, North Campus, and in the Health Sciences Library, South Campus, through March 1.

"We want to make sure people get a chance to take a look at them," Bradshaw Hovey, associate director of the Urban Design Project in the School of Architecture and Planning and a staff member for "Building UB," says of the posterboards. "We would like ever more and more focused and detailed feedback on Phase 1 as we move toward Phase 2."

Hovey calls the work in Phase 1 of the plan, formally titled "Establishing Context and Vision," "descriptive and diagnostic."

"We're not talking about what we're going to do," he says. "We're talking about what is, what our assets are and what the problems and challenges are."

Phase 2, "Campus Concepts," is the conceptual development phase of the plan. During this phase, the university's constituents, administration and the public will have the review of current capital projects, and a summary of the project to date, as well as issues related to land and environment, urban design, the learning landscape, and



Cathy Dorman, a graduate student in the occupational therapy program in the Department of Rehabilitation Science, examines one of the posterboards detailing "Building UB" that is on display in the Health Sciences Library, South Campus, through March 1.

opportunity to offer input on different visualizations of how each of UB's three campuses—North, South and downtown—could look in the future.

The posterboards currently on display cover a myriad of topics, including an overview and explanation of the planning process, a

transportation and way-finding.

A PC has been set up near the exhibits so that those viewing the exhibits can offer input on the spot, Hovey says.

The exhibitions are the latest in a series of events designed to gather reaction, ideas and comments on the master planning process from

faculty, staff, students and the greater Western New York community. The first of four public forums on the plan was held Dec. 4 at the UB Downtown Gateway—the former M. Wile Building near the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus that recently was purchased by the university. Prior to that, feedback had been gathered through 115 meetings between UB representatives and individuals and organizations. More than 2,000 people have participated in those meetings.

The second public forum, which will focus on "campus concepts,' will take place on April 22 on the North Campus.

"Building UB" is an integral part of the UB 2020 initiative that will transform UB into a model 21stcentury public university that will rise among the ranks of the nation's public research universities. The plan will accommodate UB's plans to grow by 40 percent, increasing enrollment by 10,000 and faculty and staff ranks by more than 2,300. The goal is to create three distinctive campus environments tailored to their respective suburban, urban and downtown settings, better connecting them with one another and integrating them with their surrounding neighborhoods.

For more information, go to http://www.buffalo.edu/ ub2020/plan/forum_event.

BRIEFLY

Trinity Irish Dance to perform in CFA

The Center for the Arts will present Trinity Irish Dance at 8 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Mainstage theater in the CFA. North Campus.

The artists will give a talk before the performance at 7 p.m.

Founded in 1990 by artistic director Mark Howard to provide professional career opportunities to students who formerly had no outlet for their dance training beyond the competitive circuit, the nonprofit Trinity Irish Dance company is constantly searching for original means of expression while maintaining a high regard for old traditions. A uniquely Irish-American company, Trinity was the birthplace of progressive Irish dance that opened new avenues of artistic expression that led to such commercial productions as "Riverdance."

A majority of the company's dancers came through the ranks of the prestigious Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, the Chicago/Milwaukee-based school that has garnered an unprecedented number of team world titles for the United States at the World Championships of Irish Dance. Many of them have danced together since they were children.

Tickets for Trinity Irish Dance are \$18 for general admission and \$10 for students with valid ID and are available at the CFA box office and at all Ticketmaster locations.

Free screenings for diabetes offered

When a family member is affected by Type 1 diabetes, the risk of other family members developing the disease increases significantly. For example, if a child has diabetes, the risk for his or her siblings increases from 1 in 400-500 to 1 in 100, according to Teresa Quattrin, professor and interim chair of the Department of Pediatrics, and chief of the Division of Endocrinology/Diabetes at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

The Department of Pediatrics and Women and Children's Hospital are sponsoring free screenings for relatives of people with Type 1 diabetes.

Those who should be screened include brothers, sisters, sons, daughters and parents between the ages of 1 and 45, and half siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and grandchildren between the ages of 1 and 20.

Individuals who are at high risk may be eligible to enroll in a multi-center National Institutes of Health trial that is testing if oral insulin can prevent Type 1 diabetes.

The screenings are being held at Women and Children's Hospital and at the Amherst Endocrinology Clinic at Sweet Home and Maple roads.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, contact project coordinator Angela Clark at 878-7268 or aclark@upa.chob.edu, or Quattrin at tquattrin@upa.chob.edu.

Job Listings

UB job listings accessible via Web

Job listings for professional, research, faculty and civil service—both competitive and noncompetitive—positions can be accessed at http://www.ubjobs.buffalo.edu.

Architect López-Piñeiro favors approach that puts power in hands of buildings' users

Finding beauty in 'blankness'

By KEVIN FRYLING *Reporter* Staff Writer

desire to pursue an interest in "architectural blankness," a progressive approach to architectural design that puts the ultimate look and feel of a building in the hands of the people who use it—not the architects who create it—prompted a former member of a top architectural firm in England to join the UB architecture faculty last fall.

Sergio López-Piñeiro, who served as an adjunct UB faculty member as the 2006-07 Peter Reyner Banham Fellow, brings to the university several years' experience as an architect at Foreign Office Architects, a London-based architectural firm whose work includes the master plan for the 2012 Summer Olympics and a proposal submitted to the design committee for the reconstruction of Ground Zero in New York City.

"I've always been interested in undermining the power of architects—power in the social and aesthetic sense," says López-Piñeiro, a native of Spain who holds a position as an assistant professor of architecture. "Blank architecture is about a change in the way architects produce architecture—it's about trying to leave the architectural product open for change and interpretation by citizens."

He and two senior architecture students, Saki Yoshimura and Kin Chun Ma, are participating in three design competitions in which their submissions are prime examples of these principles—the proposed structures will not be "complete" until certain important elements are supplied by the people who will use the buildings, he says. The winners of one of those competitions, the AMD Open Architecture

Challenge—a collaboration between microprocessor manufacturer Advanced Micro Devices and a volunteer nonprofit organization, Architecture for Humanity—will create the structures that house operations for three nongovernmental agencies: Sidarec in Kenya, Nyaya Health in Nepal and Kal-

lari Association in Ecuador. López-Piñeiro says the proposal for Sidarec, which would teach such job skills as Web design to African youth, lays out plans for an open structure in which the side walls will consist of art created by the students. Kenya's tropical climate means traditional walls can be rethought,

"Generally," he says, "architects are responsible for every single aspect of a building. Blank archi-

tecture is seen more as infrastructure, not as much as a finished object. It allows citizens to project their own images onto the object—to appropriate it as they see fit."

Blank architecture "accepts that blankness is going to disappear when the citizens take over," he adds, noting that emptiness is not "enforced" here as it is in movements such as minimalism. "In a way," he says, "it accepts its own self-destruction."

As the Reyner Banham Fellow, López-Piñeiro spent last year finetuning his thoughts on architectural blankness for an upcoming book, "The Enabler." The title, he says, refers to his belief that the structures architects create enable their users to fulfill their "dreams and desires and needs," but also acknowledges that these goals are frequently accomplished in an ulti-



Sergio López-Piñeiro holds a model designed for a nongovernmental organization in Kenya to help prevent thefts of computers.

mately destructive way. He says, for instance, that too often architects create designs that require construction material from countries that exploit workers—or employ power-hungry technology.

"The built environment created by architects is very responsible for global warming," López-Piñeiro says. "Maybe architects in the past weren't as aware of the problems they were causing, but most architects tend to rely on technological solutions, such as air conditioning—regardless of the context in which they are building—instead of exploring other, less globally damaging solutions that might be available in that particular context."

Two sections of the book will focus on his work and the work of his students, he adds, with a third based on a course he taught last spring entitled, "Architectural Blankness."

This semester he is teaching one of six sophomore architecture studios, as well as serving as course coordinator for the others.

"There are quite a few things I like about this place," López-Piñeiro says of UB. "I'm a real believer in the public university and really want to make a difference in the education of the students here, who come from such a wide array of backgrounds. I also truly believe that the undergraduate program in the architecture department is strong—and getting stronger. The students are very well-motivated and the program is very well-structured."

A resident of Madrid until age 27, López-Piñeiro moved to the United States five and a half years ago, two of which have been spent in Buffalo. He resides in the Elmwood Village neighborhood of Buffalo with his partner, Joyce Hwang, UB assistant professor of architecture.

Although it surprises many people, López-Piñeiro says winter is one of his favorite things about Buffalo. "I love when the snow turns everything white because it looks sort of blank," he laughs. "When the campus is completely white, it's beautiful. People suddenly start walking where they want to—they don't respect the lawn, they don't respect the walks—suddenly the limits have been erased. In a way, my ideas might be influenced by the city."

Focus on immigration in upstate New York

Policy Brief finds that immigrants continue to contribute to economy, society

By RACHEL M. TEAMAN

HOUGH proportionally fewer immigrants have settled in upstate New York in recent years compared to downstate and the nation as a whole—with notable differences in countries of origin—immigrants continue to make significant contributions to the region's economy and quality of life.

According to the Regional Institute's latest Policy Brief, "Upstate's Recent Arrivals," 27,000 foreign nationals received legal permanent residence between 2003 and 2006 in upstate's five largest metro areas. As a proportion of the overall population, Utica saw the greatest immigrant influx of the five upstate areas (9 immigrants per 1,000 residents) during the period, while Buffalo had the smallest foreign-born gain (5.5 per 1,000 residents).

Nationally, Mexico is the dominant immigrant country of origin, while the Dominican Republic leads New York state. Neither group is prominent upstate, where top countries of origin include Canada

(Buffalo), Bosnia (Syracuse and Utica), China (Rochester) and the Philippines (Albany). Indian and Vietnamese also are prevalent immigrant groups upstate.

"Immigrants have long played an important role in shaping upstate New York's culture and fueling its economy," said Kathryn A. Foster, institute director. "Though upstate's concentration of foreignborn have declined, new patterns of immigration present significant opportunities for the region."

For instance, immigrants to upstate New York are younger, on average, than those to the rest of the state and U.S. From 2003 to 2006, 28 percent of upstate immigrants (and 30 percent in Buffalo) were younger than 18, compared to 22 percent statewide and 20 percent nationally. This trend is related to upstate New York's prevalence of refugees and those seeking asylum, which comprise 30 percent of the immigrant population upstate compared to 10 percent in New York state and 12 percent nationally.

"As the region's native population and workforce ages, this

young immigrant population will play an important role in filling key employment gaps in, for example, the health care, service and high-tech sectors," said Peter A. Lombardi, policy analyst with the institute and author of the brief.

Mirroring state and national trends, socioeconomic status is related to the geographic distribution of immigrants across the Buffalo Niagara region. For instance, Buffalo's gateway neighborhoods have concentrations of workingclass immigrant communities, which today include Vietnamese, Somali and Sudanese, as well as Yemeni in Lackawanna. Larger populations of professional-class immigrants, including Indians and Chinese, have settled in the suburbs, especially in middle- and upper-middle class neighborhoods surrounding UB.

In terms of accommodating immigrants, upstate areas provide services such as English language training and legal, job-placement and citizenship assistance. However, upstate metros lack a collective immigration agenda to guide

policy and economic development strategies.

"If upstate hopes to tap the economic development and cultural and social enrichment potential of its immigrant populations, more can be done to bring attention to resource needs and policies that accommodate immigrant communities," Lombardi said.

"Upstate's Recent Arrivals" is the institute's 12th policy brief since it launched the series in August 2006 to inform regional issues with timely, reliable data and analysis. All policy briefs are available online at http://regional-institute.buffalo.edu.

A major research and public policy center of UB, the Regional Institute plays a vital role in addressing key policy and governance issues for regions, with focused analysis of the Buffalo-Niagara region. A unit of the UB Law School, the institute leverages the resources of the university and binational community to pursue a wide range of scholarship, projects and initiatives that frame issues, inform decisions and guide change.

New guidelines for SAB

Study to identify risk factors for complications

By LOIS BAKERContributing Editor

HE Staphylococcus aureus bacterium is one of the most common and most important disease-causing organisms in humans.

S. aureus frequently invades the bloodstream, causing S. aureus bacteremia, or SAB, an infection that attacks the heart valves and other organs with potentially deadly consequences. Even with the best care and antibiotic therapy, the mortality rate of patients with SAB is 20-30 percent, a rate that hasn't changed in 30 years.

Because there currently is no way to rule out with 100 percent accuracy the presence of *S. aureus* endocarditis, or heart-valve infection, even with an echocardiogram, most patients infected with the bacteria automatically receive four to six weeks of antibiotic therapy.

Prolonged use of antibiotics, however, contributes to the development of antibiotic resistance and increases the overall cost of medical care. Patients also may suffer the consequences of unnecessary antibiotic administration ranging from allergy to a potentially lethal form of infectious diarrhea.

In an effort to improve this process and develop new guidelines for antibiotic use for SAB, UB researchers are collecting bacterial isolates and clinical information from SAB-infected patients hospitalized in three area hospitals and following their charted progress through inpatient treatment, discharge and for a post-discharge period. The hospitals participating in the study are Erie County Medical Center, Buffalo General and Sisters.

UB genomic specialists will compare the collected bacteria on a gene-by-gene basis, a process called complete genomic hybridization. Then, in the first time such an analysis has been conducted, the genomic architecture

of the various bacterial strains identified will be compared to the risk factors and outcomes derived from the patients.

The research is sup-

ported by a three-year, \$690,500 grant from the John R. Oishei Foundation of Buffalo.

"One of the principles of infectious disease," said Alan Lesse, a principal investigator on the study, "is that you aren't treating just the patient in front of you, you are treating everyone who comes afterward because you are introducing antibiotics into the microbial ecology.

"Unfortunately, just having *S. aureus* in the bloodstream carries a very high mortality risk," he said. "If there is infection in a heart valve, mortality approaches 40-50 percent. It's a highly lethal complication. There's significant morbidity associated with it, too, because patients with these infections end up with prolonged hospitalizations and prolonged antibiotic administration."

Lesse is associate professor of medicine, pharmacology and toxicology, and microbiology. Joseph Mylotte, professor of medicine, and Stephen Gill, associate professor of oral biology and a member of the Infectious Disease and Genomics Group in UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, also are principal investigators.

The researchers will collect SAB samples from an anticipated 900 patients who will be classified as low-, moderate- or high-risk for developing complications.

Patients who have a removable focus of infection, such as a catheter; a drainable superficial abscess; a superficial, nonremovable focus such as cellulitis; no evidence of endocarditis or deep infection; no known valvular heart disease; a negative echocardiogram; and clearance of bacteria from the bloodstream within 24-72 hours after starting antibiotics will be classified as low-risk

Patients classified as moderaterisk for SAB will have features similar to low-risk patients, but without an identifiable focus of the infection.

Patients at high risk of complications will be defined as having a positive blood

culture for SAB 24-72 hours after starting antibiotics or with persistent signs of infection after 72 hours, whether or not a focus has been identified.

The second part of the study, the genomic analysis, is a critical part of the research. "While a few recent studies have shown a possible association of *S. aureus* strains with the development of complications," Lesse said, "it is not known whether specific strains of *S. aureus* are more likely to cause complications than others."

Gill will classify the SAB strains into clusters based on the DNA sequence of seven key genes found in all strains, using a technique called multi-locus sequence typing (MLST). UB researchers will be able to compare local isolates with strains from all over the world based on this electronic database of isolates, Lesse said.

The second stage of the analysis will use gene arrays, where more than 7,000 genes and intergenic regions know to be present in different strains of *S. aureus* will be "arrayed" or spotted on a tiny chip. The genetic content from the strains in the study then can be applied to the array and a gene-by-gene comparison can be made, creating a genomic map of the infecting bacteria.

A statistical comparison of strains known to cause complication and those without complication will identify genes that may be responsible for more serious outcomes during infection.

"The results will provide the basis for establishing model guidelines to predict whether a patient diagnosed with a particular strain of *S. aureus* will develop complications," said Lesse. "This data then can be used in future studies to determine whether the predictions are correct and whether patients at low risk of complications can be treated with shorter (two weeks) versus longer (four to six weeks) of therapy.

"Such guidelines will spare patients unnecessary medications, identify patients requiring appropriate longer treatment courses and may help slow the progress of the organism's antibiotic resistance," he said.

Silver Siting

A special cake marked the 25th anniversary of the Department of Geology's annual Groundhog Day cookout featuring Ridge Lea Larry, the department's stuffed groundhog. Despite the icy conditions on Friday, Larry made his annual appearance outside the Natural Sciences Building, but, as usual, did not see his shadow.

Electronic Highways

Do desperate times call for desperate economic measures?

When it comes to economic data, forget about inflation, interest rates and stock prices. Big Macs, lipstick and Super Bowls are the true measures of economic activity. Well, probably not, but it's fun to speculate. Here are some alternative ways to make sense of the economy.

Currency exchange is not an easily digestible topic, but "burger-nomics" may go down easier. The Big Mac is the same everywhere (two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce...) and yet its price varies wildly from country to country. As a result, the Big Mac Index (http://www.economist.com/markets/Bigmac/) provides a surprisingly accurate measure of currency values across countries.

To understand the economy, the lipstick theory suggests that increased lipstick sales indicate an economic downturn. The reasoning goes that women look for cheaper ways to pamper themselves when times are getting tough. Another theory ties economic outlook to the length of skirts—the gist of this one is that as the economy brightens, hemlines heighten (http://www.jmrlsi.co.jp/english/mij/r_eye/2004/05.html). Makes you wonder what an equivalent indicator might be for the male of the species—golf balls, goatees or maybe beer guts (http://digbig.com/4whhp)?

Daniel Gross' "Moneybox" column in *Slate* magazine is a great source for fascinating and obscure economic indicators, like the Guns-to-Caviar Index (http://www.slate.com/id/2155445), which compares "how much money the world spends on fighter jets (guns) versus how much money the world spends on private business jets (caviar)."

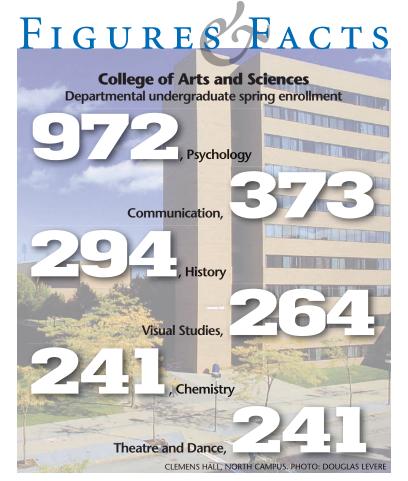
Researchers love linking presidential performance to the economy—one study finds a connection between presidential approval ratings and stock markets (stocks go up when ratings go down) and another connects the third year of any president's term to up-ticks in stock markets. In truth, there's little evidence these are causal connections, as presidents hold little sway on the day-to-day meanderings of markets (http://digbig.com/4whhh). Indeed, this November's election, regardless of who wins, will likely have no predictable market impact (http://web.ebscohost.com/bsi/detail?vid=1&hid=16&sid=5444e8ab-36a2-4ce3-9992-1998a19265db%40sessionmgr9).

The real power to impact economic change lies with the Federal Reserve. However, even Alan Greenspan once said that being Fed chairman taught him "to mumble with great incoherence." Most experts acknowledge that no one fully understands the economy. It's enough to give you a headache... wait, there's an indicator for that: the aspirin count theory (http://www.answers.com/topic/aspirin-count-theory).

The same goes for stocks. Burton Malkiel wrote in his classic book "A Random Walk Down Wall Street" (http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/44957631) that "throwing darts at a newspaper's financial pages could select a portfolio that would do just as well as one carefully selected by experts." Since 1988, *The Wall Street Journal* has held contests inspired by the book, and guess what? The darts generally do as well as the experts (http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1068).

And the Super Bowl connection (http://www.snopes.com/business/bank/superbowl.asp)? The Dow apparently goes up 80 percent of the time when the NFC team wins. Talk about incoherent mumblings. We all know that the only thing the Super Bowl can predict is that if our local team is playing, disappointment surely will pervade Buffalo in the game's wake.

—Charles Lyons, University Libraries





BRIDELY

Graff is next author in WBFO series

Garrett M. Graff, author of "The First Campaign: Globalization, the Web and the Race for the White House," will give a reading from his book at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Student Union Theater, North Campus.

The reading, which will be free and open to the public, is part of the "Meet the Author" series presented by WBFO-FM 88.7, UB's National Public Radio affiliate. The reading also will be broadcast live on WBFO

The 2008 presidential campaign will be like none in recent memory: It's the first campaign in 50 years in which both the Democrats and the Republicans must nominate a new candidate, and the first ever in which the issues of globalization and technology could impact the outcome.

In his book, Graff, an editor at Washingtonian magazine, argues that globalization has made technology both the medium and the message of 2008. The usual domestic issues—the economy, health care, jobs-are now global issues. Meanwhile, the emergence of the Web as a political tool has shaken up the campaign process.

Which candidate will dare to run a new kind of race? Graff contends that the candidate who best meets the challenges of globalization will win the election.

Musical 'Baby' to be presented

The Department of Theatre and Dance will present the musical "Baby" Feb. 27 through March 2 in the Black Box Theatre in the Center for the Arts, North

Performance times are 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

With music by Academy Award-winning composer David Shire and lyrics by Tony Awardwinner Richard Maltby Jr., "Baby" follows three couples' journeys through their pregnancies on a university campus.

Jerry Finnegan, associate professor of theatre and dance, is directing the production. Nancy Townsend, clinical assistant professor of music theatre, is music directing/conducting the production.

The cast of UB students includes Tim Voit, Kelsey Mathes, Louis Napoleone, Lauren Hodsdon, Rob Dunn and Laurel Flynn.

Tickets for "Baby" are \$16 for general admission and \$8 for students and seniors, and are available at the CFA box office and at all Ticketmaster locations. including Ticketmaster.com.

Letters to THE EDITOR

Sending Letters to the *Reporter*

The Reporter welcomes letters from members of the university community commenting on its stories and content. Letters should be limited to 800 words and may be edited for style and length. They must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication in that week's issue. The Reporter prefers that letters be received electronically at ub-reporter@ buffalo.edu. For the Reporter's policy regarding letters to the editor, go to http://www. buffalo,edu/reporter/let-terspolicy.html.

Book by UB faculty member, three students details history of Niagara hydroelectricity

Schneekloth book wins award

By PATRICIA DONOVAN Contributing Editor

ANDSCAPE architect Lynda Schneekloth, professor of architecture in the School of Architecture and Planning, is delighted that "The Power Trail: History of Hydroelectricity at Niagara," which she wrote with three of her former students, has received the Merit Award of Achievement from the New York state upstate chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

This first-of-its-kind book was published in September 2006 by Western New York Wares. Its authors, including Brett Gawronski, M.Arch. '05, B.S. '03; Thomas Yots, M.Arch. '02; and Jana Kasikova, M.Arch. '05, B.S. '03, offer an excellent education on the unique character of the Niagara region and the history of one of its principal topographical elements at a crucial time in American industrial development.

The book will be part of an exibition of recent work on Buffalo Niagara industrial heritage being held from 5-7 p.m. Feb. 15 in the lobby of Hayes Hall, South Campus. The event will feature a book signing, as well as a display of photos from the book.

"The Power Trail" is the dramatic story of how great minds of science and industry harnessed the mighty Niagara River to produce electricity, which, despite our incredible reliance upon it, has been with us for little more than 100

Besides showcasing the impressive power plants they call "temples to the Industrial Revolution," the authors explore the innovations, conflicts and tragedies that arose from the struggle between those with visions of the endless generation of power and those who sought to preserve the landscape of Niagara Falls.

Schneekloth points out that some industrialists of the period argued for a complete halt to water flowing over the falls. For example, Lord Kelvin, who in 1893 headed an international commission on design of the Niagara Falls power

Tuscarora Nation, from which was expropriated 550 acres of land for use as a storage reservoir for a hydroelectric power project and whose subsequent lawsuit was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In text and 250 photographs,



The two Adam Beck power plants on the Canadian side of the Niagara River (left), along with the Robert Moses Power Plant on the U.S. side, create a concrete walled gorge at the Lewiston-Queenston bridae crossina.

station, said he hoped his grandchildren would never see the flow of water over the falls. They didn't win out entirely, but today, the authors remind us, as much as 75 percent of the river's water is withdrawn for power production before it even reaches the falls enough to give every American a glass of water every 12 seconds.

"Many colorful characters played key roles in the unfolding drama," she says, "and we profiled them as well."

Among them are battling entrepreneurial rivals Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse; Serbian inventor, physicist, mechanical engineer and electrical engineer Nicola Tesla; Jacob Schoellkopf, the "King of Electricity," whose Niagara Falls Hydraulic Power & Manufacturing Co. was the first to produce electricity using Niagara Falls; and the chiefs of the

many never published before, the authors recount many milestone events related to the hydroelectric revolution, including the horrifying collapse of the Schoellkopf Power Plant on the American side of the river in 1956. A contemporary newspaper account describes the destruction:

"The roar was awesome. It looked as if the whole gorge wall had opened up like the side of a skyscraper, and down it came. Rocks and masonry burst into the air splitting into thousands of pieces and pelted the river like shrapnel. And a few fell on the Canadian side. A jet stream of water was unleashed. Three violent blasts followed. The river turned a sickly brown. White smoke poured upward from the gaping gorge mouth and the resounding echo died."

Thirty-nine workers escaped,

but one was killed in the collapse.

"The book is an attempt to bring to the general public the illumination and excitement we experienced as we uncovered the extraordinary history of hydroelectricity at Niagara Falls embedded in the story of people, buildings and ruins," Schneekloth says.

"Alongside the past and present celebration of the technological achievement of power are the efforts of a series of 'Free Niagara' movements to conserve one of the most beautiful places on earth, Niagara Falls."

She points out that the first phase of the movements originated with such notables as Hudson River school artist Frederic Edwin Church, landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted and architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Their work, plus exhaustive efforts by many other preservationists of the late 19th century, finally led to the 1885 establishment of the Niagara Reservation, New York's first state park.

Her education on the history of hydroelectricity at Niagara, Schneekloth says, was a crash course received during the Niagara Power Project relicensing effort in 2003-06, for which she served as a representative of Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, negotiating on behalf of the Niagara River.

The book itself, she says, had its origins in the substantial research produced in a design studio called "The Power Trail," which she taught in fall 2003. Students in that studio, including two of the co-authors, prepared historic documentation on the various power plants, followed by proposals for how this history might be made more visible to the residents and visitors to Niagara Falls, New York and Canada.

Schneekloth also is the author of "Reconsidering Concrete Atlantis: Buffalo Grain Elevators," which will be part of the Feb. 15 exhibition in Hayes Hall.

Breaking ground on language-thought link @

NSF funding study of space representation in 15 Mesoamerican languages

By PATRICIA DONOVAN

ÜRGEN Bohnemeyer, assistant professor in the Department of Linguistics, College of Arts and Sciences, has received a 42-month \$250,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to fund a comparative study of the representation of space in 15 indigenous languages of Guatemala and Mexico, many of which are severely under-documented and endangered.

Bohnemeyer says his team will focus on two unusual traits of spatial language in Mesoamerica: its highly productive terminology for object parts defined in geometric terms, and its preference for allocentric, or non-observer-based, frames of reference.

He notes that, from a cognitive perspective, the way people describe an object by using comparison (for instance, talking about the "front" and "back" of a car) is metaphorical

and that this project will address to languages will tell you with great fixed, if arbitrary, direction in space spatial metaphors they use and how and nose and the butt of the object, relative to the geometry of other they use them.

"For example, when English speakers talk about the 'front' and 'back' of a car or TV set," he says, "what they have in mind are parts that are determined not so much in terms of shape, but in terms of function: the front of the car is the first part in the direction in which the car canonically moves, and the front of the TV is that part through which the appliance delivers its 'output."

Mesoamerican languages have been reported to be different in this respect, Bohnemeyer says, in that they use precise geometrical algorithms for labeling the parts of even the most complex or unconventional objects on the basis of body-part metaphors.

"What this means in practice," he says, "is that even if you create a weirdly shaped novel object, native speakers of Mesoamerican

and speakers of the same language will converge on pretty much the same solutions.

"We're trying to work out how they do this," Bohnemeyer says, "and our most important clue is going to come from comparisons across the different languages of the region to see to what extent they apply the same strategies and to what extent they differ from one another."

The research team also is interested in what makes Mesoamerican languages so different from English or Dutch or Russian or Japanese in terms of their descriptions of the location of an object in space.

"Whereas the other languages mentioned describe an object's location relative to the location of the speakers' own bodies in space (e.g., 'The ball is left of the chair'), that is, egocentrically, Mesoamericans locate objects relative to some

what extent languages differ in the confidence which parts are the ears ('The ball is north of the chair') or objects ('The ball is at the back of the chair')—allocentrically."

> This linguistic difference is of interest to cognitive scientists. It has been shown that speakers of different languages prefer to use the same strategies for memorizing a given spatial configuration that their native languages mandate for talking about it. The question is whether this alignment is due to language influencing cognition or rather of cultural biases influencing both language and spatial memory.

> Bohnemeyer's team will test the hypothesis that the ability to label the parts of arbitrary objects based on their shape favors allocentric over egocentric reference in Mesoamerican languages. If confirmed, this would lend support to the view of language, rather than culture, as the "prime mover" in determining strategies of spatial reference.

Sharing health info

UB study finds way to increase use of technology

By PATRICIA DONOVAN

Contributing Editor

LOW diffusion of patientmanaged electronic health information record technologies, or PHRs, has limited the development of an interoperable health information infrastructure that will greatly improve health-care quality and cost, and save lives.

For this reason, increasing PHR diffusion has been called a top priority by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

A PHR is a personal health record initiated and maintained by an individual that ideally provides a complete and accurate summary of the medical history of that individual. It makes this information accessible online to anyone who has the necessary electronic credentials. The platforms by which a PHR is delivered can be paper, personal computers, the Internet or portable devices.

PHRs can contain a wide range of data, but usually include information regarding an individual's allergies and adverse drug reactions, medications, illnesses and hospitalizations, surgeries and other procedures, vaccinations, laboratory test results and family medical history.

A new study by UB communication researcher Arun Vishwanath has found that framing communication to emphasize the personal benefits of PHRs to users is likely to increase their purchase and use by "early adopters" of technological innovations.

Later adopters, he found, are greatly influenced by communication that emphasizes the benefit of the technology to the collective

The study findings, to be published in an upcoming issue of the journal Health Communication, are important, says Vishwanath, assistant professor in the Department of Communication, College of Arts and Sciences, because electronic information-sharing systems promote a greater awareness in patients of changes in their health conditions.

PHR programs are structured in the same basic way as a consumer credit report in that consumers may obtain a PHR from various sponsoring organizations. Some PHRs are marketed directly to the

consumer by the product vendor. The systems generally allow for traditional data storage within a consumer-controlled portal through which doctors, clinics and hospitals can, with patient permission, also view the PHR and communicate information and test

results back to the patient.

"Diffusion and integration of health-information systems will lead to early detection of diseases and earlier, potentially more effective interventions, and are likely to increase disease-survival rates, lower medication costs and lower the overall costs of health care for payers and providers," Vishwanath says.

The American College of Medical Informatics says use of PHRs is low because patients resist using and paying for the devices. They are most effective when connected with electronic health-record systems, or EHRs, software systems designed for use by health-care providers whose data include legally mandated notes on the care provided by clinicians to patients. In ideal form, EHRs encompass data in the computer systems of all health-care organizations or providers who care for a patient—be they hospitals, physical therapists, pharmacists or consulting physicians.

Although companies like Microsoft, Intel and Google are beginning to enter the market, Vishwanath says, "EHR penetration remains dismal because, like the general public, physicians resist the technology." He discussed the reasons for this in a 2007 study reported in Health Informatics Journal.

"The current study suggests, however, that proper framing also could be used not only to increase diffusion of PHRs, but to enhance the penetration of EHRs among physicians," he says.

"Framing" is a type of persuasion in which the information source manipulates the content of a text, defines the essential problem underlying a particular issue and outlines a set of considerations relevant to that issue. A framing effect occurs when the receiver uses this manipulated content as a framework to make sense of the issue and decide on a course of action.

The study hypothesis holds that if framing of information affects cognition, then frames that emphasize the positive attributes of a technology should positively influence behaviors related to that technology.

Vishwanath says he set out to

learn which positive attributes were most effective in this regard and his results regarding personal and social benefit have a number of important implications.

"First," he says, "is that policymakers and technology implementers should be conscious about communicating the value or usefulness of a new technology to its end users.

"Second, framing is a cost-effective and easily implemented intervention," he says, "and unlike traditional marketer-dominated advertising and promotion, any high-credibility information source can frame a relevant message using a multitude of media vehicles.

"Third, the framing effect is not limited to consumers alone. Other stakeholders, such as physicians, who presently see no direct benefits from the PHR, might be persuaded to share the costs through a communication program aimed at emphasizing its benefit to them."

Finally, Vishwanath says, change agents and policy-makers need to constantly scan the media and track how the PHR is being presented on various media outlets like blogs and other interactive news outlets, and attend to negative information presented there. Negative cues, he writes, will have an enduring effect on the early adopters' beliefs, and such beliefs could spread to later adopters through interpersonal contacts.

Today's PHR systems are in their infancy, Vishwanath says, but a health-communication system that integrates PHRs and EHRs would become a conduit for improved sharing and transfer of medical records and would increase accurate and clear communication between patients and health care providers.

"The study and its findings with regard to framing can be applied to other health IT issues besides promoting adoption of PHRs and EHRs," Vishwanath says, citing ERx, or electronic prescribing systems, among others.

In fact, a National Health Service technical panel suggested many potential uses of EHRs: storing and sharing lab reports and imaging results, maintaining disease registries and medication records, and providing continuity-of-care data exchanges, quality data submission, public health disease surveillance, secure patient-physician email, administrative data exchange and clinical guideline prompts.

Molecules

ing subunits of LT-IIa and LT-IIb are significantly different from the amino-acid sequence of the binding subunit of cholera toxin. These amino-acid differences underlie the specificity of LT-IIa and LT-IIb for ganglioside receptors, which are different from the ganglioside bound by cholera toxin. (A ganglioside is a complex molecule that contains both lipids and carbohydrates, and is found in the outer membrane of many

kinds of cells.)

Connell hypothesizes that it is these different ganglioside-binding activities that contribute to the unique immunological activities of LT-IIa and LT-IIb.

"Basically, LT-IIa and LT-IIb are molecules you can add to any vaccine candidate to augment the immune response to that protein, whatever it may be," Connell stated.

The one problem researchers may encounter and on which they are working currently is to ensure that their vaccine booster doesn't travel to the brain via the olfactory nerve, or if the booster does traffic to the brain, that it doesn't have harmful properties. Connell said some of the mutant LT-IIa and LT-IIb adjuvants they have developed appear to exhibit no toxicity in cells, and thus have the potential to exert no harmful effects on neuronal cells. His molecules may be ready for human trials in a year, he said.

SportsRecap



ATHLETES OF

Andy Robinson of the

men's basketball team

averaged 22 points in UB's

two games last week, both

going to double overtime.

Tiffany Maskulinski of

the women's track-and-field

team won the women's pole

vault at Penn State's Sykes-

Sabock Challenge Cup.

Basketball

Western Michigan 100, UB 90 (2 OT)

Central Michigan 100, UB 96

UB dropped a heartbreaking doubleovertime decision to Western Michigan, 100-90, in Alumni Arena on Jan. 29. The loss denied the Bulls their first conference win of the season.

Four days later, the Bulls fell in another double overtime thriller, this time 100-96 at Central Michigan, .

With the loss the Bulls fell to 6-14 overall and 0-8 in the Mid-American Conference.

WOMEN'S

Northern Illinois 77, UB 63

UB 73, Ball State 62

UB cut a 20-point, first-half deficit to six in the second half, but was unable to complete the comeback, falling to host Northern Illinois, 77-63, on Jan. 31.

On Sunday, the Bulls led wire-to-wire, downing the host Ball State Cardinals, 73-62. During the game senior guard Stephanie Bennett became the 17th player in school history to go over the 1,000-point mark for her career.

With the win, the Bulls improved to 11-10 overall, 4-4 in the MAC.

The Bulls will return home Saturday to host Toledo at 2 p.m. in the "Think Pink" game to raise breast cancer awareness.

Central Michigan 32, UB 3

Powerhouse Central Michigan, ranked fifth in the latest NWCA poll, scored a 32-3 MAC victory over the Bulls on Saturday in Alumni Arena. It was the Chippewas' 26th consecutive MAC dual-meet victory.

Central Michigan took nine of the 10 bouts with a lineup that boasted six wrestlers ranked in the Top 20 nationally, including four in the Top 10.

The Bulls' lone win was by junior Joe Wilson at 133 pounds.

The Bulls, who had won six of their previous seven dual matches, fell to 8-5-1 with the loss and 1-3 in the MAC. UB will travel to Kent State for its final MAC dual match of the year on Sunday.



WOMEN'S

UB 164, Bowling Green 127

UB closed out its MAC schedule Saturday afternoon with a 164-127 victory over visiting Bowling Green. The Bulls improved to 6-4 overall and 3-4 in MAC

Sophomore diver Meili Carpenter swept both springboard competitions, breaking her own school record on the three-meter board. Ashley Schaffert swept the breaststroke races and also was part of a winning

relay squad. Schaffert won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:07.16 and followed with a victory in the 200-yard race in 2:26.43. She also swam the breaststroke portion of UB's victorious 200-yard medley relay as the foursome of Jessica Ballard, Schaffert, Sam Palma and Jessie Koltz finished in 1:48.27.

Koltz and Palma also scored individual wins in their specialty events. Koltz took the 100-yard freestyle in 53.77 while Palma won the 100-yard butterfly in 59.34.

Other individual winners for the Bulls included Kim Dale, who scored a season-best mark in the 1,000-yard freestyle. Dale turned in a 10:30.33 clocking, shaving 10 seconds off her previous best mark.

Other season-bests were turned in by senior Meghan Lafferty, who posted a season best in winning the 50-yard freestyle in 24.78, and Caitlin Reilly, who took the 200-yard backstroke in 2:08.98. Renae Sharkey won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:55.99 and Andrea Lehner won the 500-yard freestyle in 5:02.22.

Tracksters win three events at Sykes-Sabock meet

UB had a solid showing at the Sykes-Sabock Challenge hosted by Penn State. The UB women finished seventh in a 13-team field with 36.50 points, while the men finished 10th in an 11-team field with 31 points.

Tiffany Maskulinski, Caitlin Godin and Ezekiel Porter all won individual titles. Ryan Zillmann and Iohn Bauman also set new school records in the 600-meter dash as Bauman broke Zillmann's record moments after he set it.

Maskulinski dominated the field on the women's side, claiming first place in the pole vault with her NCAA provisional qualifying standard and indoor college best mark of 3.95m. Godin won the high jump with a leap of 1.71m.

On the men's side, Porter claimed first place in the 200-meter dash with a season's best time of 21.58, while Bauman grabbed second place in the 600-meter dash with a time of 1:20.42. Zillmann finished the same event in sixth place with a time of 1:21.13.

The Bulls will return to action this weekend at the New Balance Collegiate Meet in New York City.



MEN'S

Cornell 4, UB 3

UB lost a tough 4-3 decision to host Cornell on Saturday afternoon. Although the Bulls scored victories at the top three singles positions, they were unable to score a point in the doubles competition to pull out the team win.

The Bulls (0-5) will open their home schedule tomorrow with a 5 p.m. match against Niagara at the Village Glen Tennis Center.

WOMEN'S

UB 7, Niagara 0

UB opened the 2008 dual season by sweeping Niagara, 7-0, at the Village Glen in Williamsville on Saturday. The Bulls won every match in straight sets and didn't allow their opponent to win more than three games in any set.

The Bulls will host Syracuse at I p.m. Saturday at the Village Glen.



listings for events taking place on campus, or for off-campus events where **UB** groups are principal sponsors. Listings are due no later than n the Thursday preceding publication. Listings are only accepted through the electronic submission form for the online UB **Calendar of Events at** http://www.buffalo.edu/ calendar/login. Because of space limitations, not all events in the electronic calendar will be included

in the Reporter.

Thursday, February

7

Computing Workshop

SPSS for Windows. 142 Park. 9 a.m.-noon. Free; registration required. For more information, it-workshops@ buffalo.edu.

Learning and Development Course

Introduction to Visio 2003/ Introduction to Microsoft Publisher 2003. 320 Crofts. 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. \$89 per person for both half-day sessions. For more information, 645-7777.

Safety Workshop

Personal Safety Awareness Workshop. Kathy Zysek, Univ. Police. 330 Student Union. 10 a.m. Free.

Library Instruction

EndNote Basics. Media Instruction Room, Health Sciences Library. 10-11:30 a.m. Free; registration recommended. For more information, 829-3900, ext. 112.

Teaching and Learning Center Workshop

Constructing Your Teaching Philosophy and Portfolio. Gayle Brazeau, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. 212 Capen. 10 a.m.-noon. Free; registration open to faculty, staff and graduate students. For more information, 645-7700, ext. 0.

Open House

EOC Open House. Educational Opportunity Center, 465 Washington St., Buffalo. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free.

Informance

Jesse Blumberg, baritone. Baird Recital Hall, 250 Baird. Noon. Free. For more information, 645-2921.

Teaching and Learning Center Workshop

PowerPoint Presentation
Tips for Faculty. B2C Abbott.
1-2:30 p.m. Free. For more
information, 645-7700, ext. 0.

Seminar

Chemoprevention of Breast Cancer by PEITC. Urvi Telang, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences. 201 Natural Sciences. 4 p.m. Free.

Biological Sciences Seminar

Land Plant Embryos: Developmental Mechanisms and Evolutionary Speculation. Todd Cooke, Univ. of Maryland. 215 Natural Sciences. 4 p.m. Free. For more information, 645-2363, ext. 102.

International Women's Film Festival

"Close to Home/Karov la Bayit." Market Arcade Film and Arts Centre, 639 Main St., Buffalo. 7 p.m. \$8.50, general; \$5, students/seniors. For more information, 829-3451.

Distinguished Speakers Series

Harold Ford Jr. Mainstage theater, Center for the Arts. 8 p.m. \$14, \$18, \$24; free to UB students while supplies last.

Friday

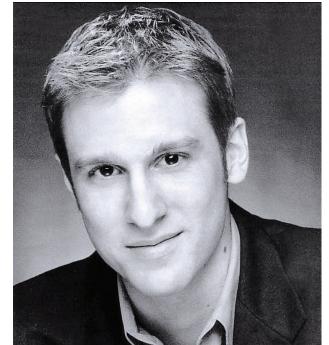


Baldy Center Seminar Series: The Immigration Crucible

The Fragmented Model of Immigration Law: Localism as Second-Order Immigration Regulation. Rick Su, UB Law School. 509 O'Brian. Noon-2 p.m. Free. For more information, 645-2102.

International Student and Scholar Services Workshop

International Students in the Classroom: Tips for Faculty. 120 Clemens. 1-2:30 p.m.



International Student and Scholar Services Workshop

Your Immigration Status: Rights, Responsibilities and Consequences. 120 Clemens. 3-5 p.m.

Foster Chemistry Colloquium

Development and Applications of Hydrovinylation Reactions. T. V. Rajanbabu, Ohio State Univ. 200G Baldy. 4 p.m. Free.

Philosophy Colloquium

George Dicker, SUNY-Brockport. 141 Park. 4:30 p.m. Free. For more information, 645-2444, ext. 133.

Men's Tennis

UB vs. Niagara. Village Glen Tennis Center, Williamsville. 5 p.m. Free.

UB Women's Club Wine Tasting

Food and Wine of France. Buffalo Launch Club, 503 E. River Rd., Grand Island. 7 p.m. \$60. For more information, 626-9332.

Organ Recital

Eastman Organists Day. Lippes Concert Hall, Slee. 8 p.m. \$5. Sponsored by Dept. of Music. For more information, 645-2921.

Saturday



Accounting Services

Free Tax Preparation. 109 Allen. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. For more information, 829-3099.

Women's Tennis

UB vs. Syracuse. Village Glen Tennis Center, Williamsville. 1 p.m. Free.

Women's Basketball

Think Pink! UB vs. Toledo. Alumni Arena. 2 p.m. \$5; UB undergraduates free with ID.

Library Instruction

Maximizing Google's Potential: Assessing Your Bibliography. Media Instruction Room, Health Sciences Library. 2-3:30 p.m. Free; registration recommended. For more information, 829-3900, ext. 112.

Sunday



Accounting Services

Free Tax Preparation. 109 Allen. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. For more information, 829-3099.

Men's Tennis

UB vs. St. Bonaventure. Village Glen Tennis Center, Williamsville. 11 a.m. Free.

Editor's Pick

Jesse Blumberg

Baritone Jesse Blumberg will present a formal recital of art song at 8 p.m. Saturday in Baird Recital Hall, 250 Baird Hall, North Campus.

Men's Basketball

UB vs. Eastern Michigan. Alumni Arena. 4 p.m. \$18; \$16; \$14; UB undergraduates free with ID.

Monday



Computing Workshop Introduction to Microsoft

Introduction to Microsoft Excel. 201 Capen. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free; registration required. Sponsored by CIT. For more information, it-workshops@buffalo.edu.

Library Instruction

LIB 116: Utilizing the Electronic Library in Your Research—Hands-on Tutoring in Effective Library Skill Usage. Undergraduate Library, 127 Capen. 3-4 p.m. Free; registration recommended. For more information, abwagner@buffalo.edu.

Jewish Studies Lecture

Rabbis, Romans and Ritual Baths: Jews and Their Neighbors in Ancient Sepphoris. Stuart Miller, Univ. of Connecticut-Storrs. 280 Park. 5-7 p.m. Free.

Tuesday

12

Teaching and Learning Center Workshop

EndNote Basics. 212

Capen. 9-10:30 a.m. Free; registration open to faculty, staff and students. For more information, 645-7700, ext. 0.

Safety Workshop

Personal Safety Awareness Workshop. Kathy Zysek, Univ. Police. Allen Hall Theater, 106 Allen. 10:30 a.m. Free. For more information, 645-5347.

Library Instruction

LIB 106: EndNote for Scientists. 212 Capen. 1-2:30 p.m. Free; registration recommended. Sponsored by Arts & Sciences Libraries. For more information, abwagner@ buffalo.edu.

Life and Learning Workshop

Ask a Question, Save a Life: Suicide Prevention Training. 210 Student Union. 1-3 p.m. Free.

Library Instruction

Cinahl via Ebsco. Media Instruction Room, Health Sciences Library. 2-3 p.m. Free; registration recommended. For more information, 829-3900, ext. 112.

Jewish Studies Lecture

Sages and Commoners: New Perspectives on Roman Palestine and Rabbinic Judaism. Stuart Miller, Univ. of Connecticut-Storrs. Goetz Library, 320 Fillmore, Ellicott. 2-4 p.m. Free.

Library Instruction

Web of Science. Media Instruction Room, Health Sciences Library. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free; registration recommended. For more information, 829-3900, ext. 112.

Biochemistry Seminar

Targeting Major Stress Response Pathways for Cancer Treatment and Tissue Protection. Andrei Gudkov, Roswell Park Cancer Institute. 144 Farber. 4-5 p.m. Free.

Buffalo Film Seminar

"Witness for the Prosecution." Market Arcade Film and Arts Centre, 639 Main St., Buffalo. 7 p.m. \$8.50, general; \$6.50, students; \$6, seniors.

Wednesday

13

Safety Workshop

Personal Safety Awareness Workshop. Kathy Zysek, Univ. Police. 330 Student Union. 9 a.m. Free.

International Student and Scholar Services Workshop

Applying for a Green Card: Outstanding Professor/ Researcher Petitions, Adjustment of Status and Consular Processing. 31 Capen. Noon-1:30 p.m.

Teaching and Learning Center Workshop

Faculty Survey Says . . . 212 Capen. 1-2 p.m. Free; registration open to faculty, staff and students. For more information, 645-7700, ext. 0.

Cognitive Science Colloquium

Rehabilitating Representation. Brian Cantwell Smith, Univ. of Toronto. 280 Park. 2 p.m. Free.

Library Instruction

EndNote Basics. Media Instruction Room, Health Sciences Library. 2:30-4 p.m. Free; registration recommended. For more information, 829-3900, ext. 112.

Organic Chemistry and Chemical Biology Seminar Series

Structure and Function of Hsp90 Chaperones. Daniel Gewirth, Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute. 220 Natural Sciences. 4 p.m. Free.

Research Lecture

The New Growth Theory and the Prosperity of U.S. Cities. Barry Bluestone, Northeastern Univ. 147 Diefendorf. 5-6:30 p.m. Free

Men's Basketball

UB vs. Ball State. Alumni Arena. 7 p.m. \$18; \$16; \$14; UB undergraduates free with

Thursday

14

Teaching and Learning Center Workshop

Less Is More: Creating Effective Presentations. 212 Capen. 1-3 p.m. Free; registration open to faculty, staff and graduate students. For more information, 645-7700, ext. 0.

Computing Workshop

SAS for Windows. 450 Park. 2-4 p.m. Free; registration required. Sponsored by CIT. For more information, itworkshops@buffalo.edu.

Computer Science and Engineering Lecture

Solving the Halting Problems (and Other Skulduggery in the Foundations of Computing). Brian Cantwell Smith, Univ. of Toronto. 330 Student Union. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free.

Physics Colloquium

Seeing a World in a Grain of Dust: Dust Secrets Revealed. Michael Ram, Dept. of Physics. 220 Natural Sciences. 3:30 p.m. Free.

Seminar

Parameter Estimation in Nonlinear Models. Leonid Khinkis, Canisius College. 201 Natural Sciences. 4 p.m. Free.

International Women's

Film Festival
"Dunia, Kiss Me Not on the
Eyes." Market Arcade Film
and Arts Centre, 639 Main St.,
Buffalo. 7 p.m. \$8.50, general;
\$5, students/seniors.



Sunday, Feb. 10, 6 a.m. and 10 a.m.

WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME, with Peter Sagal and Carl Kasell News quiz show featuring writers, journalists and NPR personalities

who are guided through a series of games that test their knowledge of the week's news, as well as their wit.

Sunday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m.

BEBOP AND BEYOND with Richard Judelsohn
A retrospective of legendary musicians.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m.

LIVE IN ALLEN HALL with Bert Gambini

to the public.

Live broadcast-concert featuring local musicians. Featured band: Babik. The concert in Allen Hall, South Campus, is free and open



waitwait...

don't tell me!