

AtBuffalo

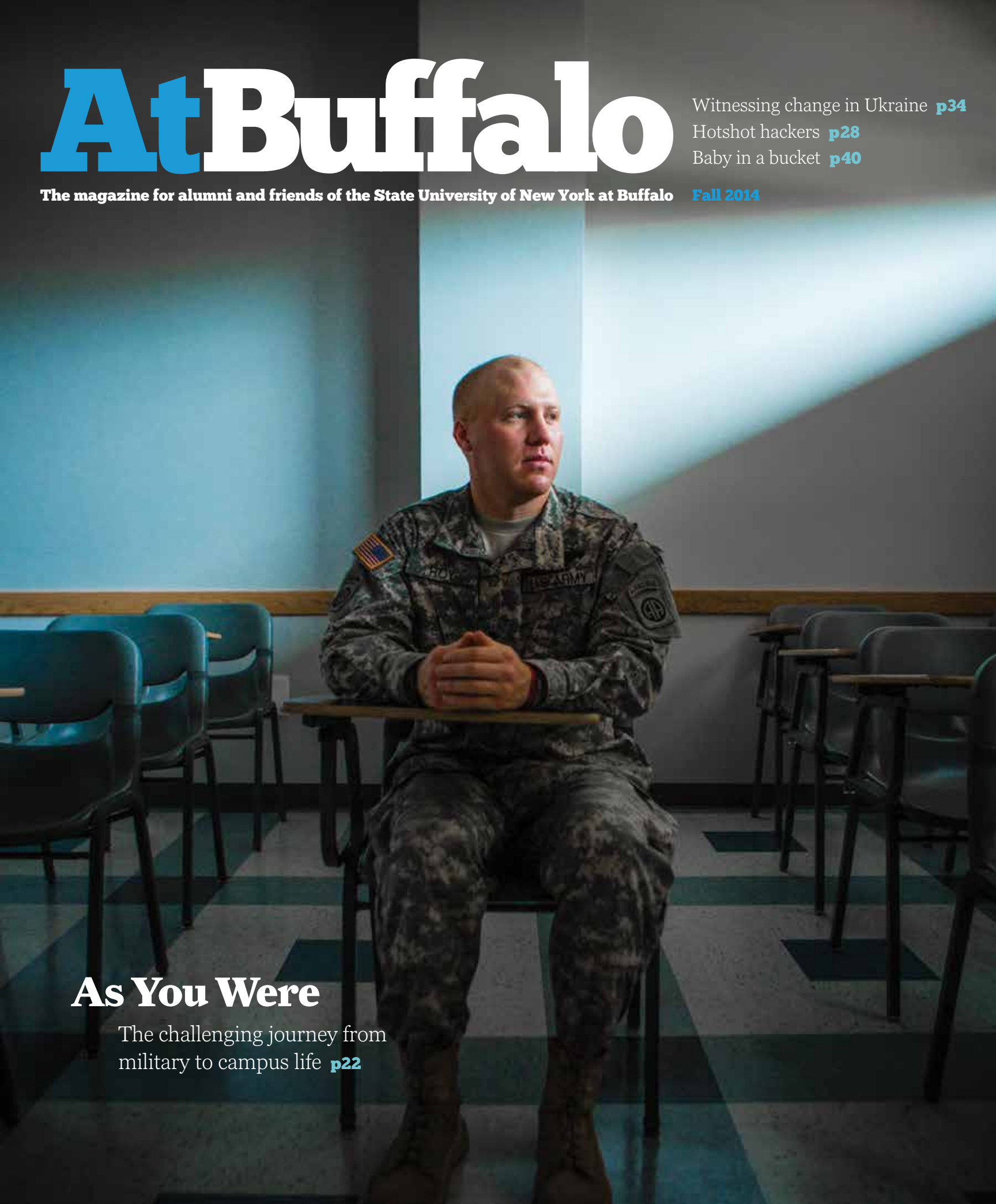
The magazine for alumni and friends of the State University of New York at Buffalo

Witnessing change in Ukraine **p34**

Hotshot hackers **p28**

Baby in a bucket **p40**

Fall 2014



As You Were

The challenging journey from military to campus life **p22**



Fireworks by the Numbers

100+: Hours of work that go into the display before it reaches the site

14: Hours spent preparing the display on the day of the event

30: Minutes of showtime

800: Height, in feet, reached by the display

7,380: Number of fireworks used in the show



FIRST LOOK Photograph by Douglas Levere

Things That Go Boom in the Sky

Thousands of red-, white- and blue-clad revelers descended on UB's North Campus again this summer for the Town of Amherst's Independence Day Celebration, one of the largest Fourth of July fireworks displays in the region. According to Matt Shaw, owner of Skylighters of WNY, the fully scripted and computer-automated show is unique—and more complex than the typical display since it's synced to music.

While spectators gazed into the black canvas above to see the "chrysanthemums," "golden willows" and "salutes" paint the sky, Shaw and his team were preoccupied with every detail on the

ground. "We're so busy looking everywhere else, we don't even get to see the fireworks," Shaw says. "Our enjoyment is hearing the crowd go crazy."



ARIEL NAMDOCA

Top: A foreman inspects the site with a member of the setup crew a few hours before showtime. Bottom: Red fuses are daisy-chained together for the grand finale.



For more pics, browse the [First Look photo gallery](http://www.buffalo.edu/atbuffalo) at www.buffalo.edu/atbuffalo.

GIVING BACK

SO OTHERS GO FORWARD



Steven A. Guttenberg, DDS '69, remembers the challenges of growing up without extras. A longtime oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Washington, DC, Guttenberg and his wife, Diana Winters Guttenberg, are committed to helping future UB dental students receive the same education that propelled him forward into a successful career. "I would like my money to be used for scholarships to help fund their education so they can spring forward like I did," Guttenberg said. The couple significantly increased their bequest commitment to the dental school—once paid, their gift will be the largest ever to UB Dental. Your bequest gift of any amount to the University at Buffalo can change the future for students and the world.

"Without UB, I don't think I'd be where I am."

—STEVEN A. GUTTENBERG, DDS '69

For information about furthering your legacy through UB, contact:

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 **University at Buffalo** *The State University of New York*

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DOUGLAS LEVERE

Water, Water Everywhere

Perusing our pages during magazine production, we discovered that several stories—without any planning on our part—are awash in the theme of water. In one way or another, these stories convey the joys of bounding over Lake Erie in a sailboat, the intensity of hightailing it up a river in a fiercely competitive race and the need to safeguard our precious natural water resources.

More specifically, in On Campus we show you the office of a Great Lakes educator, replete with a mounted Asian carp (a predator now threatening the Great Lakes) and bottled samples of the sea lamprey, indigenous to the Atlantic but now preying on freshwater fish (see p. 9). In Locker Room we report on the UB women's rowing team, which trains and competes on Tonawanda Creek, a tributary of the Niagara River (p. 16). Also in that section, we profile an alum who's mentoring future mariners as part of her work with an innovative sailing school on Buffalo's Outer Harbor (p. 18).

Admittedly, these aqua motifs form only a small part of the issue. But they do bring to mind Buffalo's position on the Great Lakes and what this strategic location means for UB research and the region's economic growth and cultural vitality. Certainly, in a university of UB's size, there are many examples of Great Lakes-related research. These include investigations of the effects of pharmaceuticals lurking in the water supply, restoration of the Buffalo River watershed and addressing massive algae blooms in Lake Erie, to name just a few current projects.

This topic also stirs up more personal reflections of what it means to live near a formidable natural resource containing an astonishing 20 percent of the world's supply of fresh surface water. And how, like any chance gift at our doorstep, we tend to take for granted its power and presence in our lives. Sometimes these thoughts are more about applying the theme of water to my own life, as when I think about my father and husband who by coincidence were employed in different eras as merchant seamen traveling all five Great Lakes. More recently, my proximity to the water brought comfort when a close friend announced her move from Buffalo to Detroit. Although her new home is a four-hour drive from where I live near the Erie Canal, our continued friendship seems more likely because she is merely traveling upstream to the Detroit River and the Upper Great Lakes.

As I finish my work on this issue and we begin planning the winter 2015 edition of At Buffalo, I hope I will not soon forget these stories of water, nor lose my own sense of wonder at the Great Lakes' rippling effects.

Ann Whitcher Gentzke, Editor

Question: Is the graduation rate the number you would like to see? What can be done to increase it?

That's a great question, Billy, and one often on my mind. You've touched on a critical topic in the national conversation about student learning outcomes and higher education success.

Graduation rates are often one of the first statistics students, families and institutional peers look to as an index of a college's quality and commitment to its students. Graduation rates are also a significant factor in total student debt, so the more we can do to help our students graduate in a timely way, the less student loan debt they incur, and the more quickly they are able to enter the job market.

I am happy to say that UB's graduation rates are far ahead of the national curve. Fifty-two percent of our students graduate within four years of entering—substantially more than the U.S. public institution average of 32 percent. Our six-year graduation rate is 72 percent, also well above the U.S. public institution average of 57 percent. This year, Kiplinger's ranked UB No. 3 nationwide among top U.S. colleges graduating students with the lowest debt.

This is no coincidence. We've worked hard at fostering the educational environment that enables our students to attain their ambitious academic goals, and we are building even further on this success.

You might know that in 2012 we launched a program called Finish in 4, through which students work closely with advisers to develop a four-year roadmap toward graduation. This is a two-way commitment: Participat-

ing students pledge to stay on track academically, and the university ensures that students have access to the courses, resources and academic guidance they need to graduate on time. As part of this commitment, we've added hundreds of course sections and created thousands more seats in the highest-demand areas. The first cohort won't graduate until 2016, so it's too early to gauge graduation rates, but in the program's first two years, participating students already show a measurable increase in credit hours completed, GPA, academic standing and retention—all key contributing factors to student success.

So, yes, graduation rates are a key measure of student success. But they are really part of a larger story about educational attainment. As we think about continually improving our graduation rates, I think it's vital to focus on the student experience itself—what happens in those critical years in between entering and exiting college. The aim of higher education isn't simply to graduate more students more quickly. It is to prepare thoughtful, knowledgeable individuals who are prepared to lead, innovate and contribute meaningfully to the world around them. That's really the essence of our academic mission at UB.

Granted, there's no ready statistic for measuring success by this definition. But I believe our alumni are the best testament to our commitment to preparing global leaders for the 21st century. Our graduates around the world are making this difference every day, in every conceivable field, through their ideas, insights and contributions. To my mind, there is no better measure of educational quality and success. ☘

OUR STUDENT

Billy Climaco

Climaco, a junior from Port Washington, N.Y., says he's living the American dream as a first-generation college student whose parents emigrated from El Salvador. Though he struggled academically after transferring to UB with an associate's degree, he has rallied to substantially improve his GPA and hopes to major in marketing with a minor in communication. Tripathi urged him to focus on finding his unique pathway and to persevere toward graduation, rather than be overly preoccupied with his numerical chances of getting into a particular school or program. "What matters is that you do well and progress toward a degree," Tripathi said with a smile, a handshake and a hearty "good luck."



President Tripathi

Billy Climaco

Childhood obesity's global impact

As an obesity researcher and first-generation immigrant from China, I was so pleased to read your cover story about Dr. Youfa Wang's research on childhood obesity in China ["Fast Food Nations," Summer 2014]. This is a significant problem in the most populous country in the world, but the media coverage is still not sufficient. Fortunately, your magazine's in-depth report helps the community to be aware of the excellent studies conducted by a world-famous researcher at your institution. Really impressive job!

Qi (Harry) Zhang, PhD
Norfolk, Va.

The writer is associate professor in the School of Community and Environmental Health at Old Dominion University.

I am a childhood obesity researcher and was very impressed by your recent cover story regarding Youfa Wang's work on the childhood obesity epidemic in the past decade. The story covers a series of Dr. Wang's completed and ongoing work and offers diverse perspectives, especially on fighting childhood obesity in China. We need indefatigable and enthusiastic commitments to find solutions to reducing the obesity burden. Your resourceful information will greatly inform my own insights for better guiding future obesity research.

Liang Wang, MD, DrPH, MPH
Johnson City, Tenn.

The writer is assistant professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, College of Public Health, East Tennessee State University.

In 2001, I adopted a little girl from China who is now 16 and a senior at Clarence High School. When we were in China, we saw the culture shift to fast food restaurants in some of the larger cities like Beijing, where there were over 60 McDonalds at the time. Many of the people we met in China were concerned how that might impact health. I enjoyed the article in At Buffalo.

Mary Anne Cappellino
Clarence Center, N.Y.

The writer is president of Creatively Fit LLC and author of a children's motivational book series focusing on healthy lifestyles.

When homelessness hits home

As a graduate student, I was writing a paper on homelessness on university campuses when the story of Ken Ilgunas' experiment living in a van popped up in the national media ["Several Lives to Live," Spring 2014].

In my research, I found that 4 percent of UB students had been homeless for two or more weeks during the last year (2009) and that the economic downturn had left a funding gap even among those who had scholarships. Parents had lost jobs or the burst real estate bubble had left them without collateral for sufficient loans to cover housing. Yet most schools are not willing to help students find alternative housing solutions.

Learning to become self-sufficient is part of the process of education, and I think Ilgunas' book, "Walden on Wheels," is an important read.

Deborah A. Naybor (PhD '13, MA '10)
Angola, N.Y.

Cover to cover

Although I don't like change in general, I was pleasantly surprised by the redesign of At Buffalo. Not only is it more visually appealing, but I've read nearly every word of the last two issues rather than flipping through it as I used to do. Well done!

Fran Young (BA '69)
Boones Mill, Va.

Ronnie James Dio, the early years

I thought readers and fans might get a kick out of seeing Ronnie James Padavona, as he was known in 1960, before he became Ronnie James Dio [Mixed Media Tweetable, Summer 2014]. If you could get a shot of him as the Black Sabbath frontman and compare the two pictures, it would be difficult to see RJD in the younger ROTC cadet. The old picture was taken by me on the eighth floor of Tower Dorm [now Kimball Hall] in 1960.

Donald C. Spinelli (MA '66, BA '64)
West Bloomfield, Mich.

The writer is retired professor and chair of classical and modern languages, literatures and cultures at Wayne State University.



Hairdo aside, we definitely see the resemblance.

We want to hear from you!

Send letters and comments to atbuffalomagazine@buffalo.edu with the subject heading "Letters." Or mail to Editor, At Buffalo, 330 Crofts Bldg., Buffalo, N.Y. 14260. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity. Please include a daytime phone number for verification.

From the Editor's Desk



New digs for Alumni Office

After nine years of working elbow-to-elbow in the Center for Tomorrow on the North Campus, the Office of Alumni Engagement (previously Office of Alumni Relations) has moved to historic Harriman Hall on the South Campus, with room to grow. Harriman Hall is easily accessible for alumni to visit, and includes ample meeting and event space. Stop in and say hi!

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On Campus

- » Dating app fail
- » UB body art
- » An educator's fishy office



The 2013-14 Space Bulls team in Houston (left to right): Livio Forte, Bill Dell'Anno, Jennifer Zirnheld, Pete Casey and Kevin Burke. Astraeus I is in the foreground.

Move over, Rover

The UB Space Bulls demo a NASA-worthy space robot

By Rebecca Rudell (MA '95, BA '91) » "Lunar craters" and "Mars Hill" aren't phrases one normally hears during college club meetings. But when building a robotic space rover, you cover unusual terrain—and so do your conversations.

The first UB Space Bulls team was formed in 2011 to enter the—get ready for it—Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts Academic Linkage (RASC-AL) Exploration Robo-Ops Competition, an annual event sponsored by NASA and the National Institute of Aerospace. A new Space Bulls team came together in December 2013 to compete for the 2014 title.

Asked why he joined this year's team, Mustafa Celebi, a graduate student in aerospace engineering and the team's mechanical lead, said, "Hearing it was a NASA competition made me very excited. I've wanted to work for them from a very young age. At

the first meeting, I saw a room full of intelligent and capable students, and it was impossible not to join and help Buffalo try to get its first victory."

The UB team, one of only eight chosen to compete this year, included grad students and undergrads from various fields. They created the Astraeus I, named after the Titan god of dusk, from aluminum, PVC, a pan-tilt-zoom camera, an onboard computer, an Xbox and wisdom gained from UB's original rover team. The machine had to perform tasks that mimic real NASA challenges, like climbing steep angles and collecting rocks. There was even an "alien life form"—a small figurine hidden in a crevasse—which, if "captured" by the rover, would result in extra points.

The competition took place in June, with some team members heading to Houston and others staying at UB, since Astraeus I had to be manipulated

NORTH CAMPUS

On Campus

from home base—just like a real space mission. After an impressive start, Astraeus I unfortunately flipped onto its roof, finishing its run.

Returning team members already have ideas about how to improve their rover for next year's competition. Communications lead Kaustubh Vartak, who's pursuing his master's in computer science, mentioned acquiring better cameras and stronger motors, as well as ensuring that the center of gravity is spot-on to avoid a repeat of the 2014 incident.

As for those who have moved on, they can't recommend the Space Bulls club highly enough. "When interviewing for jobs, a significant portion of what I talked about was my experience with this project," says former team leader Bill Dell'Anno (BS '14), who graduated in May with a degree in electrical engineering. "We certainly learn a lot in the classroom, but being able to put it to practice with a true engineering challenge is incredibly rewarding." ♣

POLL POSITION

An unofficial survey of 100 UB students

Do you use a dating app?



MICHAEL GELLEN, JD '88

Nope, I rely on natural charm

82%

Yes, can't live without it

18%

Most popular dating app: Tinder



DOUGLAS LEVIERE

Jackson and Christian in front of the Buffalo Film Seminars' new home.

Feeling the Room

Buffalo's beloved public film series moves uptown

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard » When they were asked by local leaders in 1999 to host a public film class, Diane Christian and Bruce Jackson, UB English professors and longtime film buffs, had no idea what they were getting into. Buffalo Film Seminars

SOUTH CAMPUS

has since screened hundreds of films of all genres for thousands of students and community members.

For the past 15 years, the husband-and-wife team has hosted the Tuesday night series at an independent theater inside the historic Market Arcade building in downtown Buffalo. This fall, spurred by the impending sale of the building, which is owned by the city, the series moved upstream to the Amherst Theatre on Main Street across from the South Campus.

Tied to a public film course the couple co-teaches at UB, the series is designed to entertain as well as teach. Anyone may buy a ticket to watch the film and then stay afterward as the couple distributes their trademark "Goldenrod Handouts"—audience notes photocopied on bright yellow paper—and discusses the movie's plot, cinematography and historical

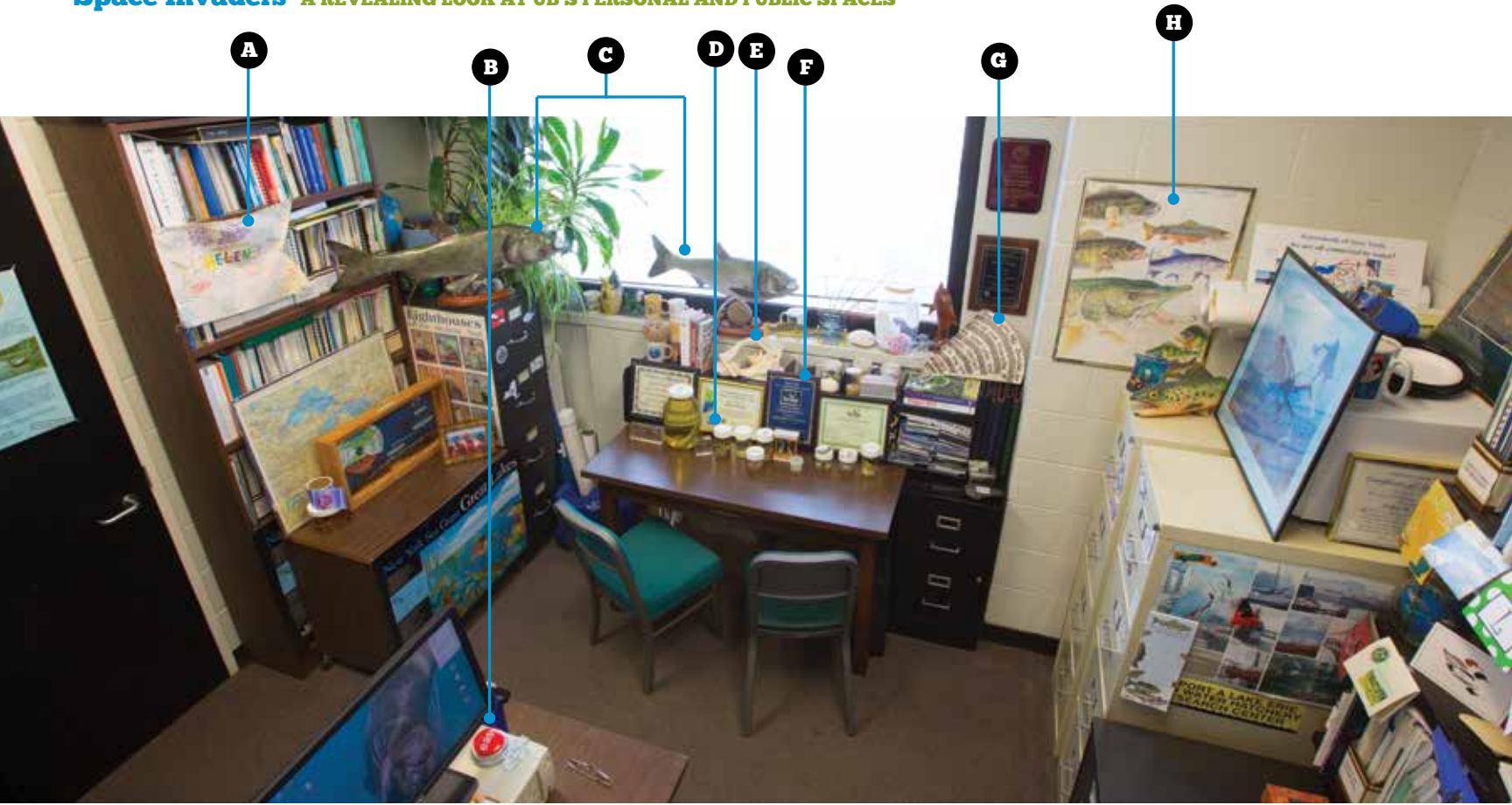
context. The series has featured silent masterpieces from the early days of film, like "Metropolis" and "Nosferatu," and more contemporary classics, such as the Coen brothers' 1996 cult hit, " Fargo," screening later this fall.

What at first felt like a forced eviction from their downtown home, says Jackson, has become a positive new chapter. Dipson Theatres Inc., which operated the theater in the Market Arcade, also runs the Amherst Theatre and remains a close partner with the UB seminars. "Although we are proud to have helped draw thousands of people downtown, Amherst has the added benefit of proximity to public transportation, new suburban audiences and a lot more students," Jackson says.

One of the most satisfying benefits of hosting the series, says Christian, has been "feeling the room" during the films. "Buffalo moviegoers are very sophisticated and knowledgeable, and they react accordingly," she adds. Jackson agrees. "Film is social," he says, "and one of the things you lose when you watch Netflix alone in your house is that sense of shared energy with others." ♣



Tweetable: "Don't trust people who don't laugh." —1998 UB Distinguished Speaker Maya Angelou, who died in May at the age of 86.



228 Jarvis Hall, North Campus

The office of Helen Domske, associate director of the UB Great Lakes Program



An expert in the Great Lakes ecosystem, water pollution and invasive marine species—think hungry Asian carp and clingy zebra mussels—Helen Domske (MS '85) co-teaches a Great Lakes ecology course for UB undergrads and serves as a senior educator for the New York Sea Grant, part of a national partnership between the federal government and local universities. Her office bears witness to her years spent teaching the public how to protect this important natural resource.

A Ship's flag: Last year I took 20 middle and high school teachers from around the state on an EPA research vessel for a week on Lake Ontario. Afterward, they made me this flag with wonderful comments, like how life-changing the experience was.

B "Easy" button: This is from a Sea Grant colleague who once told me, "You always make things look so easy." Trust me, it can be hard work!

C Bighead and silver (flying) carp: Both of these invasive Asian species feed on plankton, which is vital to the Lakes' food web. They haven't entered the Lakes yet, which is a good thing.

D Specimen jars: The big jar contains a lamprey, while the others house gobies, mussels and other invasive species that are now in the Lakes, unfortunately. I use them as teaching tools; even college students enjoy seeing the real thing.

E Mako shark jaw: I got this from a Jamaican biologist. I also have a conch shell, sea urchins and a blowfish that I use to teach students about the ocean.

F Sea Grant plaque: I won this for a project I did with the Pennsylvania and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant. We managed to prevent 3 million [pharmaceutical] pills from entering the Lakes. Many

people don't realize that water treatment plants aren't designed to filter out human medications. So don't rush to flush! Also, take advantage of local "take back" days and return expired medications.

G "Thank you Ms. Domske ...": Oh, this was so well done! It's a zebra mussel thank-you note from some students, designed to look biologically correct.

H Framed fish print: It's from an Environment Canada colleague, of some of the bigger predator species in the Lakes, including muskie, walleye, rainbow trout and bass.

THE WEIGH-IN

Faculty experts shed light on news that makes us go, “wha?”

The News: Is there any health benefit to the current trend of oil pulling? (swishing vegetable oil in the mouth)

The Expert: Sebastian G. Ciancio, Distinguished Service Professor and chair, periodontics and endodontics



Oil pulling is an old concept based on ancient practices in India for treating diseases of the gums and mouth. It was believed that demons caused what today we call periodontal disease, and that oil killed the demons. However, there are no well-designed, controlled studies available to evaluate this concept; much of the data is based on patient testimonials. This is not science. My concern with using this method is that it distracts the patient from obtaining proper treatment that is supported by published studies.



UB's new MRI machine gets a lift.

ANDREA KICMAN

Benevolent Behemoth

New MRI scanner makes a dramatic entrance downtown

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard » Question: What weighs as much as an African elephant and helps detect and treat disease?

Answer: The 7-ton magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner in UB's Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC).

The new machine arrived in April, having been trucked to Buffalo from California on a customized tractor-trailer. It was then lifted seven stories by crane, and, after a specially designed panel on the back side of the UB CTRC was removed, gingerly placed inside the building.

The Vantage Titan 3 Tesla MRI scanner is being used at the downtown Buffalo research facility to produce critical images of soft tissue throughout the human body, including the heart and the brain—

access that, in some cases, was previously available only through biopsies or autopsies. These images will enable UB scientists and their partners to perform groundbreaking research into Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, stroke and other diseases.

Specifically, the machine will be used to help develop MRI biomarkers for diagnosing and managing neurological diseases, and to find the best methods for cost-effectively using MRI technology in patients with a broad range of illnesses and conditions.

“We have unlimited opportunities to do dedicated studies where we can ask specific research questions and get much more informative answers,” says Robert Zivadinov, professor of neurology and director of the center's MRI unit.

Heavy stuff, indeed. ♣

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

UB EMOJI

A look back on our recent past with a smile, a wink or a whatevs



True Blue tattoo

Anton Ivanov, a native of St. Petersburg, Russia, was so overjoyed at his acceptance into UB's doctoral program in management science and systems that he went out two weeks after arriving in Buffalo (soberly, we should add) and got some serious ink. In his words: “This achievement has been one of the most important in my whole life. I knew I would get a UB tattoo to fix it in my memory.” Now that's school pride!



Down with diabetes

D-Link, a support group for teens and young adults with Type 1 diabetes, was founded by UB medical students eight years ago and is still going strong. The group fills an important need in Western New York, where 100 new cases of Type 1 diabetes are diagnosed each year.



Oh, Canada!

Tweeted a disgruntled student during the Canada goose mating season: “Bet your school doesn't have a goose problem.” Wrong! Many campuses deal with this protected species every spring, and we're no exception. Still, we'd all rather avoid the sidewalk calling cards, not to mention getting goosed by territorial males protecting their nests.



Real-world learning

Also overheard on Twitter: “I learn more about people and situations going out on the weekends than I do in any classroom at UB.” Note to tweeter: If you're majoring in people and situations, perhaps you should transfer to Barstool U.

Little Shop of Medical Horrors

UB's collection of vintage medical instruments offers a slice of surgical history

The Boston nerve beater. The obstetrical hook. The scarificator. A journey through UB's Edgar R. McGuire Historical Medical Instrument Collection will delight and repulse you at every turn. Pictured is a four-tier surgical kit crafted by the venerable George Tiemann Company, which was founded in New York City in 1826 and continues to this day to manufacture exceptional surgical instruments. Sets like this one—which contains more than 30 Civil War-era medical tools cradled in soft, purple velvet—once sold for around \$50. Today, collectors pay more than \$6,000 apiece for these elegant boxes of gory gadgetry.



"LIKE I NEED A HOLE IN THE HEAD"

Galt Trephine

Surgeons used the Galt trephine to bore holes into the skull, either to alleviate pressure or to treat fractures. Trephining (or trepanation) dates back to 6500 B.C., and there are still fringe groups today who believe that creating a hole in the skull enhances brain function. Some modern proponents, unable to find a legitimate doctor to perform trepanation, have taken matters into their own hands—and heads.

AMPUTATION NATION

Capital Saw

Capital saws were used during the Civil War to perform anywhere from 30,000 to 80,000 amputations. While some people thought them to be unnecessary surgeries, many doctors at the time claimed that if more amputations had been performed, more soldiers would have survived.

LIFTS AND SEPARATES

Elevator/Raspatory

You've cut a hole with your trephine; now how do you remove that perfect disc of skull? This double-ended tool is known as an elevator and a raspatory. One end lifts out bone fragments, while the other smooths out cut edges for a perfect finish.

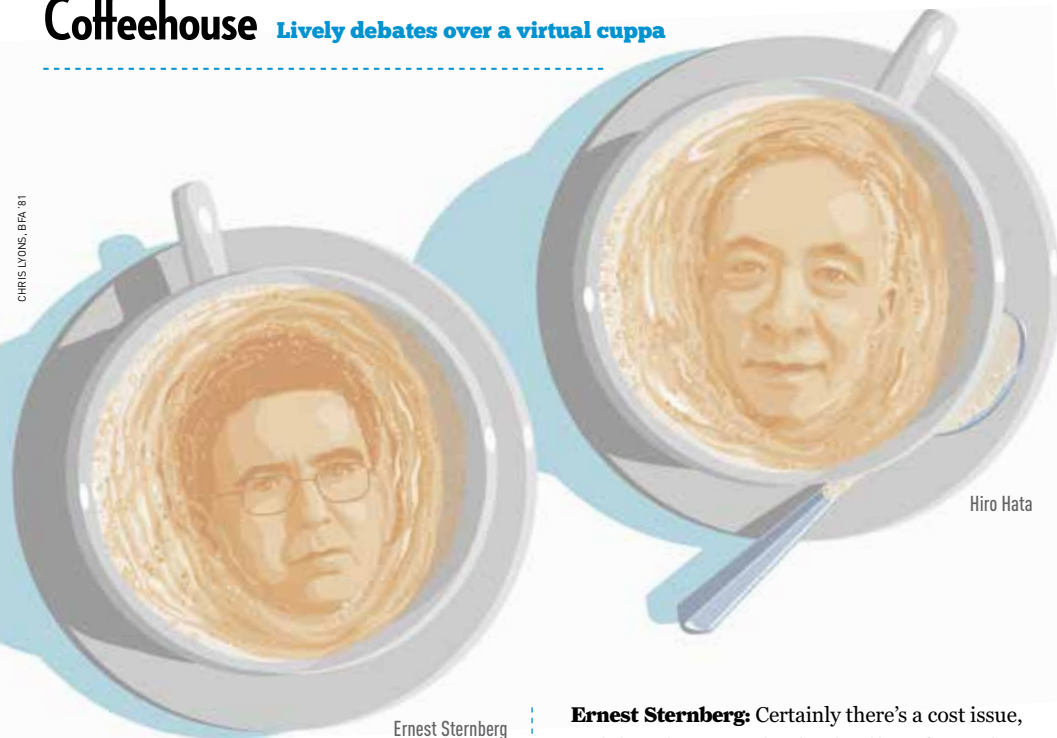
SPEED DEMON

Liston Knife

Anesthesia wasn't always available to surgeons in the mid-19th century. That's when patients truly appreciated the incredible speed of Dr. Robert Liston. The eponymous Liston knife, a straight blade made of quality steel, helped him amputate diseased limbs, sometimes in less than 30 seconds.

DONOUJAS LEVENE

CHRIS LYONS, BEA '81



Ernest Sternberg

Hiro Hata

The great stadium debate

As we go to press, the Buffalo Bills are up for sale. While some suitors are pledging to keep the team in Buffalo, others most likely would not. Meanwhile, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has said the Bills need a new stadium for the franchise to remain viable. That has opened a debate on whether to further upgrade the current facility in suburban Orchard Park, or to construct a brand-new stadium elsewhere, with downtown Buffalo garnering most of the attention.

We asked two faculty members from the School of Architecture and Planning—Ernest Sternberg, professor and chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and Hiro Hata, associate professor of architecture and urban and regional planning—whether building a spanking-new downtown stadium is the right move for the city of Buffalo.

Ernest Sternberg: Certainly there's a cost issue, and then there are what kinds of benefits are being claimed for Buffalo. First, is it good for the economy overall? Will it have a big multiplier effect? Another question is whether it's good for the directly surrounding urban area; i.e., will it support local businesses and bring more people into the streets? Then there's what it does for Buffalo's reputation nationally. Fourth is what it does for the spirit of the people here in Buffalo and for our sense of identity about the place.

Hiro Hata: The economic issue obviously has to do with the sheer cost of constructing a new stadium, which is estimated to be about \$1 billion depending on whether you're going to do an open-air or a dome stadium. An open-air stadium is cheaper but it's still going to require huge public subsidies.

ES: If private parties want to pay for it all, that's their business. But if the government needs to put in a couple hundred million dollars, that's where the public interest really comes in. A lot has been said about multiuse rather than single-purpose stadiums. But how many giant events can you have here in Buffalo?

HH: There are only 10 [Bills home] games per year. So how do you keep it occupied? That's a huge issue.

ES: If it's going to be only 10 events a year, it does not have a spillover effect for the surrounding area. Restaurants and other businesses cannot survive on 10 days a year. So you're going to have a giant vacant area for 355 days, and then suddenly it's filled with traffic for 10 days.

HH: I don't think Buffalo should ever build a brand-new, stand-alone stadium surrounded by a sea of parking. This is an obsolete way of thinking for building a major sports stadium in the 21st century. If the construction of a new stadium downtown is to succeed

it must come with the provisions of infrastructure, including new public amenities, public spaces and other facilities, such as housing.

ES: Somewhere downtown within the city, north and east of the I-190, is the best location. The waterfront is a very bad location. For one thing, it is far colder there than anyone appreciates. If you enclose it, you have to spend a lot of money heating it. Also, there's only one highway in and out. It's an impractical location.

HH: There are many residents who are not football fans. They like to have state-of-the-art, high-quality public space, and I think they are vehemently opposed to having the stadium on the Outer Harbor. The Cobblestone District and the northern part of the Old First Ward are potential downtown sites. They offer far better accessibility.

ES: You can take advantage of existing parking. And there are stores already there, so they're not completely dependent on football but they get that extra boost from it.

HH: It's also close to Amtrak service. The Exchange Street station could be modernized and could have great potential for downtown because there are fans from Syracuse, Rochester, Albany, even Toronto. They can come right to the train station and walk to the stadium.

ES: The Ciminelli concept for the Central Terminal [building an open-air stadium as part of a multiuse project that would also restore the landmark train station and the surrounding neighborhood] is kind of pie in the sky. You can get the same kind of effect close to the Cobblestone District, as Hiro just described. Of course, it doesn't have the wonderful concept of reinvigorating the Central Terminal, but it's not clear how you would integrate the terminal into the stadium.

HH: Urban design-wise you can do it, I believe. But the economic issue is mind-boggling, doing both at the same time.

ES: Let's say you're talking about a one-time public investment of \$200 million. The logical way to make that decision is to compare it to other public investments. So let's say we're going to put \$200 million into a major national high-tech research facility, energy research or something. Which would have a higher spin-off benefit for jobs in Western New York? I think the high-tech investment. But economic criteria are not the only ones being discussed here. It's a matter of public spirit and recognition of the city. ☿

How do you take your coffee?

Ernest: Double espresso, cream, no sugar

Hiro: Caffè latte

Eureka!

- » [Super-speedy Wi-Fi](#)
- » [Junk DNA debunked?](#)
- » [Treating addiction in rats](#)

Viral Historians

Researchers at UB trace the ancestry of some of Earth's most dangerous viruses

By [Charlotte Hsu](#) » To study Ebola and Marburg viruses, researchers must don airtight suits and lock themselves in a biocontainment lab, separated from the outside world by decontamination showers. The viruses cause hemorrhagic fevers in humans; victims bleed from the eyes, ears, mouth and other orifices.

Ebola and Marburg belong to a family of viruses called filoviruses. Experts once believed these lethal agents were less than 10,000 years old, but recent UB research pushed the age back—way back—to at least 10 million years.

UB biologists Jeremy Bruenn and Derek Taylor, the study's leaders, investigate "fossil genes": chunks of genetic material, often sizable, that animals and other organisms "steal" from viruses. The partners found remnants of filovirus genes in a lot of small mammals, including a Buffalo

"The viral-host interaction is such an important interaction for all life on this planet, but it's kind of a huge missing area of biology."

Derek Taylor

Zoo wallaby and a bat caught at UB. In mice and rats, the genes appeared in the same spot in the genome, meaning the material was likely acquired in ancient times, before the animals evolved as distinct species.

"A viral gene being inserted independently at the exact same position in different species is highly unlikely, so it must have happened in a common ancestor," Taylor explains. The finding is one of many surprising results emerging from Taylor and Bruenn's work.

Until recently, many researchers—including Taylor and Bruenn—didn't think it was possible for filoviruses to leave their imprint on host DNA at all. That's because filoviruses are non-

The infectious form of a Marburg virus.



Next Steps

Since publishing on Ebola and Marburg in 2010, Bruenn and Taylor have worked with UB colleagues to identify viral remnants in a plethora of organisms, including plants and fungi. The team found that the fruit fly *Drosophila* has fossil genes, a notable discovery because the insects breed quickly and—like fast-replicating yeasts—could be used to study the purpose of amassing viral material.

retroviral RNA viruses, which lack the genetic machinery to produce reverse transcriptase, an enzyme needed for copying viral material into host genomes.

Bruenn changed his thinking in 2005, when he saw fossil genes from a non-retroviral RNA virus in two species of yeasts. “Not only were they there, but they appeared to be functional,” Bruenn recalls. “I was really intrigued: How did they get there, and why were they there?”

Now, he and Taylor are zeroing in on answers. Their research suggests that viral material gets into host DNA because of reverse transcriptase already present in the cells of the host. As for why organisms retain viral genes, Bruenn posits that doing so may confer antiviral resistance.

Moving forward, the researchers will use fossil genes to better pinpoint the age and origin of dangerous viruses. “The viral-host interaction is such an important interaction for all life on this planet, but it’s kind of a huge missing area of biology,” says Taylor. “We don’t have a lot of information about what happened in deep time.” ❖

SMALL WONDERS

No Need for Junk The carnivorous bladderwort snares prey with tiny traps, like the one pictured here. Research on this predator plant has ignited international debate on the purpose of “junk DNA”—stretches of genetic material that don’t contain any genes. Just 3 percent of the bladderwort’s genome is junk, suggesting to UB biologist Victor Albert that this material, prevalent in humans, is not needed for complex life. Albert co-led a project to sequence the plant’s DNA.



Beaker Briefs

Research highlights from the desk, lab and field

WHAT THEY'RE WORKING ON

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, IN 50 WORDS OR LESS

WHO'S LEADING IT

Powerful Portobellos

Good news for diabetics and those trying to lose weight: A preliminary study discovered that mushrooms can aid in regulating glucose levels, reducing rebound hypoglycemia and lowering rapid insulin decreases. The effects are especially pronounced in women. Magic mushrooms, indeed.

Nutrition researcher Peter Horvath

Banking on Social

When it comes to fundraising, the number of Facebook friends a charity has matters more than its size or efficiency. Researchers found that donors on social media and crowdfunding sites are often swayed by the social network effect. In other words, if their friends like it, so do they.

Communications researcher Gregory Saxton

The Wi-Fi Express

Unused radio waves are the key to making wireless 10 times faster. The explosion of smartphones, tablets and other gizmos has created an Internet traffic jam. However, cognitive radio could undo the gridlock. The system would identify untapped radio channels and maximize the transfer of information while minimizing cross-interference.

Electrical engineering researcher Dimitrios Pados

Timing Disasters

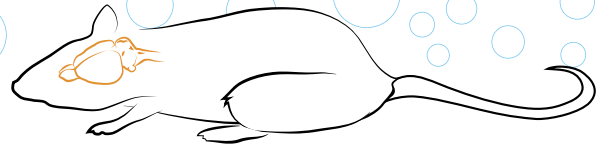
It once took researchers days to predict satellite collisions and natural disasters. It now takes minutes, thanks to Conjugate Unscented Transform (CUT), a method conceived by a student while, ironically, completing a time-consuming homework assignment. CUT maintains the accuracy of conventional methods, but uses structured points to save time.

Engineering doctoral candidate Nagavenkat Adurthi, together with his adviser, aerospace and mechanical engineering researcher Puneet Singla



Tweetable: A UB experiment was among 12 selected by NASA to fly on the first commercial research flight on Virgin Galactic’s SpaceShip Two.

THESE RATS WENT COLD TURKEY



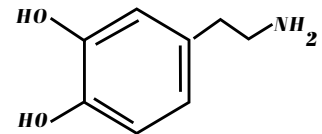
In a recent study, binge-drinking rats lost their taste for alcohol when scientists prompted the animals' brains to release a chemical called **dopamine**.

This got UB researcher **Caroline Bass** thinking:



What would happen if binge-drinkers got a low dose of the neurotransmitter, without consuming alcohol?

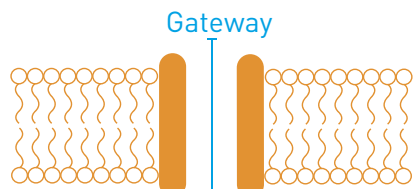
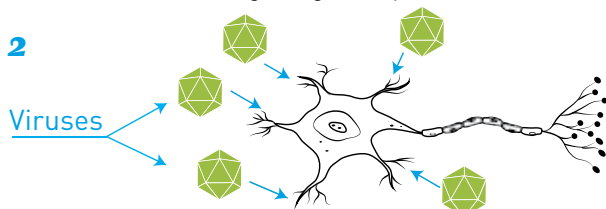
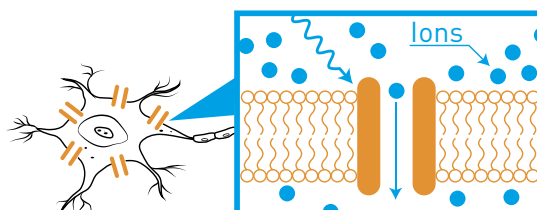
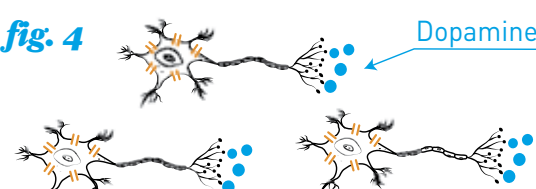
To find out, she and colleagues at Wake Forest University used light to activate brain cells to release dopamine on command. Such light-based stimulation is called **optogenetics**.



Dopamine, a neurotransmitter, plays a role in how we make decisions and form habits. It's also central to addiction; indulging in drugs like cocaine or alcohol causes levels of dopamine in the nucleus accumbens, a region of the brain associated with pleasure and rewards, to spike.



Here's how they did it.

- One of the main ingredients for optogenetics is an algae protein called channelrhodopsin. Channelrhodopsin is a tiny gateway or channel that opens in response to light.
 
- To get neurons to start making the gateways, researchers used a specially engineered virus to feed the gene for channelrhodopsin into rodent brains. The virus targeted only dopamine-producing neurons, which started making the gateways.
 
- Next, the team used a fiber-optic cable to shine light on neurons that had made the gateways. The gateways opened in response, allowing molecules called ions to enter the cells.
 
- The flood of ions caused the neurons to "fire" and release dopamine. After this initial success, the scientists continued stimulating the brain in a pattern that resulted in low but prolonged levels of dopamine release.
 
- The rats stopped drinking. This held true even after the lights went off.

"The treatment was effective," says Bass, "most likely because it broke a conditioned response, suppressing the initial cravings the rats had formerly experienced every time they entered their 'drinking cage,' where they were used to receiving alcohol."

A treatment for addiction?

This study is the first to show that tweaking the levels of dopamine can lead to changes in drinking, says Bass, an assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology. Optogenetics is a new technique, but she believes it may one day be used in humans to treat substance abuse.

LockerRoom

» Bulls to watch » Sailing democratized » Take our quiz!



Tonawanda Creek in Amherst serves as the home water for UB's women's rowing program.

Rowing 101

What everyone should know about crew, including why you don't want to 'catch a crab'

By David J. Hill » When Mackenzie Turpin tells people she's a rower, she can almost lay bets on what's going to follow. "You must have strong arms' is the most common thing I hear," says the junior from Ottawa, Ontario. "And I get a lot of 'Oh, rowing,' with an arm movement as if I'm paddling a boat."

Both responses show how little people know about crew. We asked Turpin, who has been rowing since age 15, and coach Sandy Calfo, now in her third season with the Bulls after coaching Purdue to a number of championships, to shed some much-needed light on their sport.

Water Warriors

You may not be familiar with rowing as a sport, but know this: The Bulls are pretty competitive on the water. In the spring, UB won the silver medal at the Colonial Athletic Association Rowing Conference Championships in New Jersey. The Bulls placed third in the CAA championships in 2013 and 2012, second in 2011, and won the conference title in 2010.

First of all, says Turpin, it's not all arms. "The majority of your power comes from your legs, because the seat's on wheels," she explains. "When you start your stroke, you're in a compressed position called the catch. The first and largest part of the stroke is when your upper body stays static and

you straighten your legs as fast and as hard as you can.”

Secondly, it's the ultimate team sport. To be successful in a race, every person in the boat has to be in sync, with terrific technique, especially during the more intense 2,000-meters, a roughly seven-and-a-half minute battle against water and exhaustion. “It's not a sport where there's an individual star,” says Calfo. “You have to be able to work with everybody else in the boat and use your power along with everyone else's.” The coxswain, who's like a coach on the water (she's even equipped with a microphone and headset), helps keep the rowers in sync by barking out calls like “Hard on port side!” or “Hard on starboard side!”

Finally, rowing is a lot harder, and more dangerous, than it looks. “I can't even describe how painful and hard and mentally exhausting it is. You're basically pushing yourself until there's nothing left,” says Turpin. “Oftentimes, the difference between the boat that wins and the one that loses is who held their technique the longest.”

If just one person's technique is off, not only can she slow the entire boat, but she also runs the risk of catching a crab—which has nothing to do with crustaceans. “It's when your oar gets caught under water and you can't extract it while the boat's momentum is going,” Turpin explains. “The oar kind of comes at you and can hit you, or you have to lie down really fast to get out of the way. There have been cases—I've never seen one—but it's called an ejector crab, where you actually get knocked out of the boat because of it. That's the worst-case scenario.” ❁



PAUL HERRINGTON

Third-year head coach Sandy Calfo came to UB in 2012 after stints at Purdue, Cincinnati and Gonzaga.

Next Bulls In

A look at who to watch this fall as UB football builds on last season's success

On the night of May 8, millions of Americans watched on TV as NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell stepped up to the podium in Radio City Music Hall and said, “With the fifth pick in the 2014 NFL Draft, the Oakland Raiders select Khalil Mack, linebacker, Buffalo.” Just like that, UB football entered the national spotlight.

Now, the next Bulls in are poised to keep that momentum going as Buffalo comes off one of its most successful seasons ever, one in which the Bulls finished 8-5 en route to earning a bid to the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

Below, we shine our own little light on four key players who we think will keep Buffalo football front and center this season.



Joe Licata
Quarterback
Junior

Hometown: Williamsville, N.Y.
High School: Williamsville South

The Scoop: The Touchdown Club of Columbus named Licata a Mid-American Conference player-to-watch in 2014. Last year, in Licata's first full season as starter, he passed for 2,824 yards and 24 touchdowns—one TD shy of the school record. He appears ready to go after having offseason hip surgery.

Fun Fact: Wears number 16 because it's his dad's favorite number. His dad wore #16 while playing basketball at Medaille College in Buffalo. Joe was born on Nov. 16.



Adam Redden
Safety
Senior

Hometown: Amherst, N.Y.
High School: St. Francis

The Scoop: Redden recorded a game-high 17 tackles in UB's marathon overtime win last year over Stony Brook. The third-team All-MAC honoree finished the season with 65 tackles and 4.5 sacks.

Fun Fact: Redden was originally recruited as a wide receiver before making the move to the defensive side of the ball during his redshirt-freshman season.



Kristjan Sokoli
Defensive line
Senior

Hometown: Bloomfield, N.J.
High School: Bloomfield

The Scoop: Sokoli bulked up to 300 pounds at UB after weighing a mere 220 in high school. An athletic lineman for his size, Sokoli is a solid pass rusher who finished second behind Khalil Mack with five quarterback hurries last season.

Fun Fact: Sokoli was born in Albania and immigrated to the U.S. when he was 9 years old.



Lee Skinner
Linebacker
Senior

Hometown: Dayton, Ohio
High School: Fairborn

The Scoop: Skinner will try to fill Mack's shoes as defensive leader. His 79 tackles last season were second to Mack's 100. He also brings experience, having started all 37 games of his career.

Fun Fact: Head coach Jeff Quinn first spotted Skinner at a wrestling tournament in Ohio, where Quinn was watching his son compete. Quinn learned Skinner also played football, and the rest is history.



TweetaBULL: Bengals, Colts and Bears, oh my! A record seven UB Bulls from the 2013 senior class were invited to join or try out for NFL teams.

The Clubhouse

Stats from right, center and left field

Compiled by Kevin Stewart

Prized threads

Khalil Mack donated a game-worn and auto-graphed UB football jersey for auction, with proceeds benefitting the football program. The highest bid for this piece of Bulls history? A cool \$2,500.

2,500

She's got a cannon

Tori Speckman set softball program marks for career wins (48), season wins (22) and season strikeouts (228) as the Bulls won a record 30 games and advanced to their first-ever MAC championship game.

30

Taking it on the chin

Meanwhile, softball's Tori Pettine had the unfortunate distinction of being the player hit by the most balls. Opposing pitchers plunked Pettine eight times, including three times in one game. Ouch!



Numbers guy

In baseball, every stat matters and Tyler Mautner owned just about all of them this spring. The 21-year-old infielder led the Bulls in 20 categories, including hits (65), RBIs (52) and batting average (.337).

20

Sailing for All

Charting a novel course for a community boating center

By David J. Hill » You can be forgiven if the word sailing conjures images of the Royal Family sipping expensive champagne on a yacht. This maritime activity has long been considered a pastime of the wealthy. But at Sail Buffalo Sailing School, founder Pierre Wallinder and board vice president Suzanne Villacorta (BA '87) are making sure that people from all socioeconomic

Point, just south of Buffalo, has been instrumental in helping Wallinder realize his vision. "He's a dreamer and so am I," she says. "Our belief is, if you can think of it, let's try to do it." The two have done a lot of thinking since meeting a few years ago when Villacorta, who stored her sailboat nearby, walked over to see what Wallinder was doing with the property.

While Sail Buffalo offers American Sailing Association certification courses, the bulk of its programming is aimed at teaching children about sustainable living, the physics of sailing and whatever else seems fitting. In 2011, volunteers built and installed an eco-classroom that floats on a bed of 6,400 recycled pop bottles. Last year, with funding from the Niagara River Greenway Commission, Sail Buffalo built a houseboat that serves as an interpretative center.

Recently, another volunteer built a greenhouse on the property so that the school can further its sustainability efforts and incorporate nutrition into its programming. A former Coast Guard pavilion will soon become a science center where kids can do experiments and examine different species of aquatic life in freshwater aquariums.

"It's like, how did this all happen?—and here it is. It's almost a miracle that everything fell into place," says Villacorta, whose day job is with Tetra Tech, a global environmental consulting firm.

Future plans call for Scandinavian-style fishing huts that focus on themes like art and entrepreneurship, and a fitness dome to be used for yoga, Pilates and performances. Soon, Sail Buffalo will start an Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign to raise money for the Buffalo Aqua Bus, a ferry that will make it easier to get to Sail Buffalo from Canalside.

"Access for all. That's what it's about," Villacorta says. "It's about giving these kids hope and opportunity." ❖



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Visionary/sailing nut Suzanne Villacorta.

backgrounds can experience the joy of an afternoon on the water.

Wallinder, a native of Sweden, launched Sail Buffalo in 2004. The school sits on the shores of Lake Erie, across from the recently revitalized Canalside area and adjacent to the U.S. Coast Guard station. In recent years, the organization has expanded its scope and mission to become a community boating center—and much more.

Villacorta, an avid sailor who grew up near Sturgeon

UB SPORTS TRIVIA

Quiz

What were the UB women's sports teams previously named?

- A) She-Bulls C) Royals
- B) Buffaloes D) Bullettes



BARB ROONEY, 1976 UB WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

ANSWER: C) Royals. A 1977 Spectrum contest established the new moniker to replace the previous oxymoronic name, "Lady Bulls." In 1997, the athletic department formalized the name Bulls for both its men's and women's teams. SOURCE: UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Mixed Media

» Faculty bylines » A cutting-edge collective » Dreaming of daytime

Never too far

Literary maverick Ishmael Reed, on coming home again

By [Lauren Newkirk Maynard](#) » Ishmael Reed was born in Chattanooga, Tenn., raised in Buffalo, N.Y., and has resided in Oakland, Calif., for the past 40 years. His work is similarly collage-like: a colorful clash of poetry, humor and dead-serious revolt.

One of America's most controversial writers and pot-stirrers, Reed is admired for his ability to slip into different creative personas without compromising his principles. Over a career that spans more than five decades, including 35 years teaching at UC Berkeley, he has launched underground newspapers, written music lyrics, appeared in films, and authored several dozen books of poems, prose, essays and plays—many under his own imprints that champion authors from the world's underrepresented corners. He has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and was twice a National Book Awards finalist.

At 76, Reed also remains stubbornly unapologetic about his dual roles as both insider and critic of black culture, going back to

his complicated relationship with the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and '70s, and his tumultuous friendship with the late—and even more controversial—Amiri Baraka.

Today, Reed is best-known for his polemical storytelling (his latest book, "Going Too Far: Essays About America's Nervous Breakdown," critiques the conservative backlash following Barack Obama's election) and for his later accomplishments in theater, poetry and jazz (including writing lyrics for Taj Mahal and Macy Gray). But his creative roots go back further than most people realize, all the way to his schoolboy days in Buffalo. On a visit to his hometown in April to headline a National Poetry Month festival, Reed sat down with *At Buffalo* and talked about those early days, starting with his discovery of writing in Buffalo's public schools.

First, Reed recalled, there were the hard-line female teachers, the "secular nuns," who drilled him with grammar lessons. At East High, especially, a "right-wing" teacher named Annette Lancaster



Tweetable: *The career of legendary Hollywood agent Shep Gordon (BA '68) was the subject of Mike Myers' directorial debut, "Supermensch."*

Mixed Media

pushed him to write political essays and study theater. Later, he attended night school at UB's Millard Fillmore College, where one of his professors saw his talent for writing and encouraged him to enroll full time. He did, but never graduated, dropping out for financial reasons. "I was young, in a struggling marriage; it was a tough time financially," he admits, but adds that if it weren't for his literature courses at UB, "I'd never have learned the tradition ... the modernist poets who shaped us all then, like Pound, Joyce and Eliot." UB awarded him an honorary degree in 1995.

During and after college, Reed became immersed in Buffalo's growing literary and theater scene. He wrote a jazz column for a local African-American newspaper, co-hosted a local radio show (it was canceled after Reed conducted an on-air interview with Malcolm X) and played trombone in the clubs along Michigan Avenue, back when Buffalo was in its bebop heyday. "I remember seeing Miles Davis get out of a car on Michigan one evening," he says. "We worshipped him." His affinity for music has led to several collaborations, including the Ishmael Reed Quintet.

Despite having moved decades ago, so far away from those East Side neighborhoods, Reed looks back on his Buffalo years with bittersweet fondness. "Life was tough, in many respects, but the people here, they're good people who made me who I am," he says. In fact, regular visits East over the years have become a family affair. On his trip this spring, for example, he was accompanied by his daughter, Tennessee, a poet and memoirist.

"I am of Buffalo," Reed says. "It doesn't ever leave you." ♣



Wooden Cities performs at Pausa Art House in Buffalo.

Experimental Sounds

Wooden Cities challenges stereotypical notions of classical music

By Devon Karn >> Avant-garde classical group. Improvisational ensemble. New-music collective. Definitions aside, Wooden Cities and its UB-heavy roster of musicians are steadily expanding the boundaries of classical music through their innovative approach to sound.

Formed in August 2013 by director and percussionist Brendan Fitzgerald (MM '11, BA '08), the nine-person mix of composers and performers all play a multipart role in creating and presenting each contemporary piece. The result is a DIY mosaic of sound that might feature haunting, wordless vocals

FACULTY EDITION

UB Bookshelf WHAT THEY'RE WRITING

Ineffably Urban: Imaging Buffalo

This essay collection, edited by UB arts management professor Miriam Paeslack, questions the tired tropes about aging Rust Belt cities and their "inevitable" decline. After moving to Buffalo in 2009, Paeslack was inspired by the city's resiliency and enlisted 14 local artists—including seven UB faculty members—to help chronicle its fascinating urban evolution through photos, video and stories of grassroots activism. Essays in the book are by her colleagues Dorothea Braemer (media study), Michael Frisch (history and American studies), Jordan Geiger (architecture), Carl Lee (media study), Joan Linder (visual studies), Dennis Maher (architecture) and Hadas Steiner (architecture). (Ashgate, 2013)





MEGAN WERTZ

and purposeful stops and starts one minute, then segue into a piece that's the frantic, auditory equivalent of a chase scene.

Equally compelling is their approach to performance. Rather than packing up and heading out after the last note, Wooden Cities invites audience members to participate, ask questions and share feedback after—and sometimes during—a performance. The ensemble hopes the result is a sense of accessibility that helps widen the circle of contemporary music appreciation.

The ensemble's members, all of whom perform regularly as solo artists and with other groups, include Jacob Gotlib (PhD '14), electronics and composer; PhD student Esin Gündüz, voice and composer; PhD student Ethan Hayden (MA '11), associate director and voice; Nathan Heidelberger (PhD/MA '14), horn and composer; PhD student Zane Merritt, guitar and composer; Evan Courtin, violin; Megan Kyle, oboe; and Michael McNeill, piano.

Wooden Cities performs regularly at eclectic venues throughout Western New York, from local churches to Pausa Art House, a performance space in downtown Buffalo. The group embarked on its first multicity tour through the Midwest this past summer. A schedule of upcoming dates can be found at www.woodencities.org. ♣

Days of Their Lives

Soaps are the ties that bind for producer Marika Kushel

By Ann Whitcher Gentske » Soap opera has long been a leitmotif for Marika Kushel (BA '99), simultaneously supporting a 15-year career and bringing her extended family closer. The onetime UB media study major now freelances in Hollywood as associate director/editor for "General Hospital" and as an editor for "The Bold and the Beautiful."

Kushel fondly remembers watching "General Hospital" with her babysitters and, later on, "Days of Our Lives" with her mother. After Kushel's father remarried, she discovered that her stepmother was also an avid "GH" fan. "We bonded over that and would watch together," Kushel says. "My dad even started to pick up on the characters and their stories."

MARIKA KUSHEL, BA '99

By the time Kushel arrived at UB, she was interested in working in television, but a career in soaps felt like a long shot. She remembers thinking, "How does a girl from Long Island who goes to a SUNY school get to work on one of her favorite television shows in Hollywood?"

Her career path began to crystallize when she took a class taught by Mary Cassata, associate professor emerita of communications and—fortuitously—a soap opera researcher. "One of the students gushed about her upcoming summer internship at 'Days of Our Lives' in California. Something clicked for me in that moment.



CASHMAN BROTHERS

Marika Kushel with her 2012 Daytime Emmy.

I wanted that," Kushel says. Armed with contacts from Cassata, Kushel sent out her resume and got two interviews. One led to an internship on Aaron Spelling's "Sunset Beach."

After graduating with a concentration in video production, she returned to California and "Sunset Beach." Soon after that, she got a surprise call from "General Hospital,"

asking if she would interview to be assistant to Julie Hanan Carruthers, executive producer of the "GH" spinoff, "Port Charles." Kushel's experience and passion prevailed, and she was hired, later following Carruthers to "All My Children." She became a member of the Directors Guild of America, and in 2012 won a Daytime Emmy, with Anthony Pascarelli, for multiple camera-editing on "All My Children."

Kushel says that soaps—with their slow-moving story lines revealing the characters' motivations—have helped strengthen her connections with family. Her grandparents became smitten with "All My Children" after Kushel recommended the show to help her grandfather recuperate from heart surgery, and a year later Kushel arranged for the couple to tour AMC's Manhattan set to celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary. "It was such a thrill for my grandparents. They kept saying it was 'one of the best days of their lives!'" ♣

Other recent faculty titles

Farm for Mutes

Dimitri Anastasopoulos, English

Anastasopoulos' second novel is an unconventional narrative about the life and times of an oddball couple—an audio restoration expert and his germaphobic wife—as they negotiate their repressed relationship and the mysteries of existence. (Mammoth Books, 2013)

The Emancipating Death of a Boring Engineer

Michel Bruneau, Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering

Deceased engineer Keene is the main character of Bruneau's second award-winning novel, about the adventures Keene's ex-wife must endure to unravel his quirky funeral request: "My casket shall be filled to the rim with 2005 Saint-Émilien." (CePages Press, 2012)

Schools and Urban Revitalization: Rethinking Institutions and Community Development

Kelly Patterson, Social Work
Robert Silverman, Urban and Regional Planning

This collection of emerging research in community development focuses on new school-neighborhood partnerships that lead today's most compelling policy responses to urban blight. (Routledge, 2013)

« Calling alumni authors

Send us your latest novel, mystery thriller, memoir, poetry collection, non-fiction or other published work! Mail a review copy to At Buffalo, 330 Crofts Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260.

Nightstand



WHAT WE'RE READING

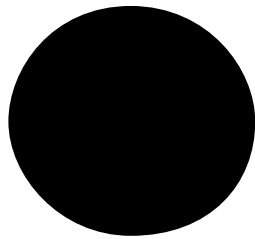
Jeff Quinn, Bulls football head coach

"A Coach's Influence: Beyond the Game" by Grant Teaff

"It showed me that I'm doing things right: being a role model to student athletes, and taking pride in demonstrating how to be successful in the great game of football and in life."

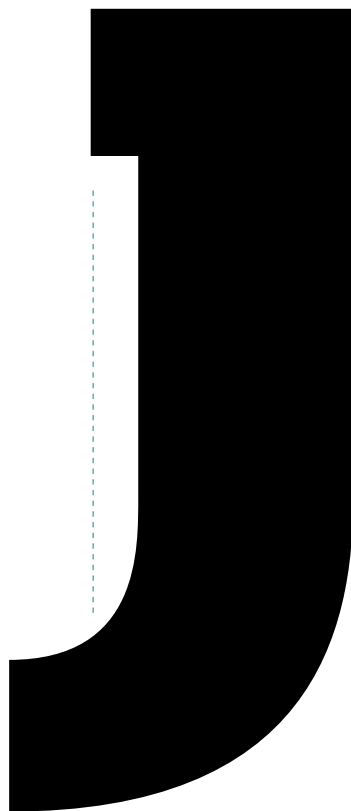
Since the drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan, record numbers of veterans have enrolled in college. While schools like UB are taking steps to ease the transition, the experience of student vets indicates the leap from combat to campus is still great.

Reporting to Class



STORY BY NICOLE PERADOTTO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOUGLAS LEVERE



essica Goodell figured she would make a smooth transition to college.

She had been an “A” student in high school, graduating sixth in her class. She had played saxophone and varsity basketball throughout. But well beyond academics or extracurriculars, Goodell had proven her mettle—under the grimmest circumstances imaginable.

Rather than pursue a college education straight out of high school, she had enlisted with the Marine Corps. Volunteering for its Mortuary Affairs Unit, she was deployed to Iraq, where she recovered and processed the remains of fallen soldiers.

Certainly, she could handle the rigors of community college.

“I was excited to be a student again,” recalls Goodell, now 31 and a doctoral candidate in counseling psychology at UB. “I was completely oblivious to the possibility of there being any sort of difference between me and other students. But I realized, almost instantly, that I was not like the people sitting next to me.”

For one, Goodell continued to follow military protocol while at Jamestown Community College, arriving to class 15 minutes early as her classmates straggled in just as late. While they texted during class, she hung on to her professor’s every word. “I was taking community college seriously, whereas a lot of people at that phase are not necessarily serious about their education,” she says. “When a professor told me to do something, it was comparable to orders: I was given this assignment, and it will be done.”

With that mindset, Goodell thrived academically. She continued to excel after transferring to SUNY Fredonia. While there, she began collaborating with one of her community college professors on “Shade it Black,” a critically acclaimed memoir of her deployment and its aftermath that was published in 2011.

But assimilating into the student body? That was another story altogether.

“I’d dealt with a lot in Iraq, and I did not want to share it,” says Goodell, who continues to experience the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). “As a result, I didn’t connect well with other students. I didn’t have a lot of friends. I didn’t socialize. I didn’t like crowds—and I’m still that way. I show up on campus early, when no one is on my floor. I go right to my office, close my door and work in isolation.

“I never miss deadlines,” she adds, “but if I’m anxious about an assignment, my default is PTSD, and I’ll avoid it. I won’t respond to my research adviser. She refers to it as me ‘going off the grid.’”



“I was completely oblivious to the possibility of there being any sort of difference between me and other students. But I realized, almost instantly, that I was not like the people sitting next to me.”

JESSICA GOODELL

goodell is one of an estimated 300 veterans in UB's student body. Like the Chautauqua, N.Y., native, many of these nontraditional students have started, or resumed, their college studies after deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan or both.

With the recent drawdowns in those war zones, the number of vets using their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits nationwide has skyrocketed. Over the past four years, some 1 million veterans and their dependents have enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In response, academic institutions are stepping up efforts to help vets find their footing. A 2012 survey conducted by the American Council on Education found that about 71 percent of 700 colleges and universities had an office or department dedicated to serving veterans—up from 49 percent before the Post-9/11 GI Bill was enacted in 2008. Student Veterans of America, the nonprofit umbrella organization for student veterans' groups, had 20 chapters when it was formed in 2008. Today, there are 950.

Despite increased resources for veterans, many are still making an uneasy transition from the battleground to the books. The shift is hardest, of course, for those dealing with deployment-related injuries, disabilities and mental illness. Conditions such as PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI), at the very least, compromise one's ability to concentrate, study and learn. At worst, they can lead to depression, substance abuse or suicide.

Even those who manage to come home without injury struggle to adapt. When veterans arrive on campus, they're armed with leadership skills and real-world experience well beyond that of their civilian counterparts. But rather than leverage these traits, many stick to the periphery, detached from

professors and peers. After years in the military's rigidly structured hierarchy, they find their order-following, rank-respecting group mentality at odds with the emphasis in higher education on independent thinking, individualism and informality. Coming to grips with gritty war experiences against an ivory tower backdrop, veterans often find that they can't identify with—much less trust—their younger, unseasoned classmates.

Shaun Boadi, 26, says he feels a lot older than his peers—not so much in years but in experience. The Newburgh, N.Y., native enlisted in the Army in 2010, after being expelled from UB for poor grades. He spent three years with the Army, including an 11-month deployment to Iraq, where he served as a combat engineer.

Today, whenever Boadi notices his classmates skipping lectures or taking their studies lightly, he's tempted to share the cautionary tale of his expulsion from UB. "I want to tell them that it's not going to end up anywhere good," he says. "But they probably wouldn't listen."

Instead, Boadi tends to keep company only with other veterans, though he does make an exception for his roommate. "He's more levelheaded than most of them. With other students it's like we're in two different worlds."

dan Ryan (PhD '97), head of Veterans Services at UB, hears comments like these all the time.

"The mindset of your typical 18-year-old student is very different from the life experiences that these folks have had," he says. "These veterans have seen things that none of us would ever seek out, and they're sitting in class next to somebody who is freaking out because they got hot chocolate on their

Uggs. They're not accustomed to this kind of attitude, so we're trying to help them build patience."

With an ever-growing number of veterans joining UB's student ranks, the university is attempting to build a more nurturing environment for those who have served. The effort began in earnest in early 2013 with a survey of student veterans. The results confirmed what many had already suspected: UB was failing vets on several fronts.

"It was hard for veterans to find the support that is here for them," Ryan acknowl-

edges. "Services were not organized under one roof, and there wasn't a lot of communication, so veterans couldn't easily navigate the university."

In response, UB opened a centralized service center for veterans on the South Campus last fall, in the process moving the veterans' benefits certifying official from an office in the Ellicott Complex—which vets complained was inconveniently located—to its Allen Hall headquarters.

Twice a year, after summer and winter orientation, the center hosts "Veteran's Welcome," a four-hour informational session where attendees learn how to tap veteran-specific campus resources, receive educational credit for military service and maximize their GI bill benefits. As a participant in the VA's Yellow Ribbon Program, UB also began offering in-state tuition cost to up to five out-of-state veterans.

The university's advocacy on behalf of veterans has earned it the label of "Military Friendly School" from the well-regarded ratings company Victory Media, which is owned by veterans. The designation goes to the top 20 percent of institutions in the country that create the best experience for military students. Still, Ryan says, there's more to be done.

"I hope we can offer training to help faculty learn more about who these students are and how they can serve them," he says. "I do feel very good about where we are today compared with where we were a year and a half ago, and we've done a lot in a short amount of time. But we're continually trying to improve services."

Recognizing that student veterans crave fellowship with their own, Ryan and his staff have transformed the waiting room of their Allen Hall office into a comfortable lounge where vets can decompress 24/7. On the wall over a foosball table hangs a world map pierced with colored pins indicating where UB's vets were stationed. As one would expect, most are clustered in the Middle East.

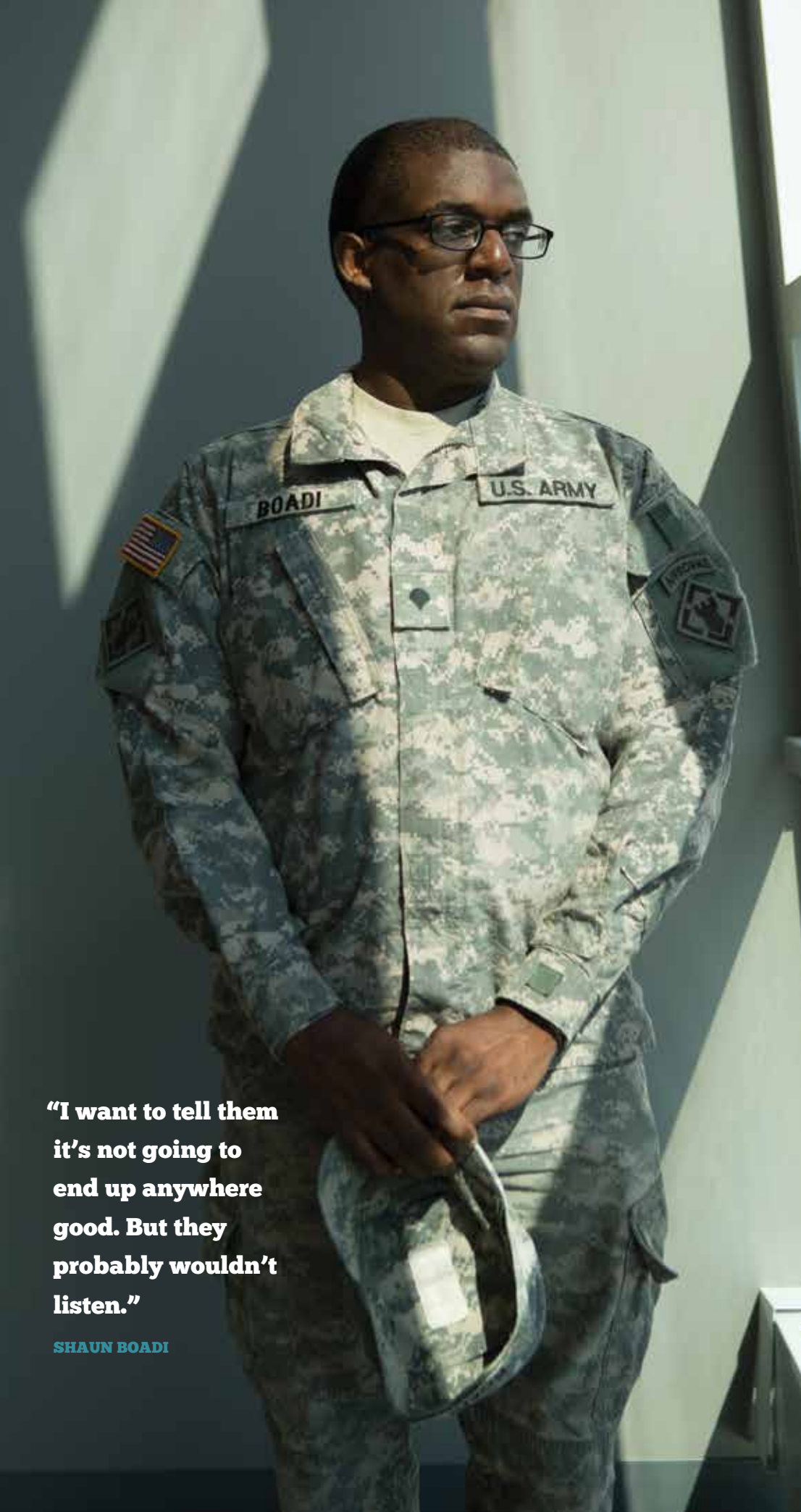
"One of the reasons for having the lounge is to have a place, unlike the Student Union, that's quiet and relatively secluded, where veterans can find each other," Ryan says. "If they're in here connecting with each other, they also feel more comfortable being around us. And that's one less impediment to them reaching out for help if they're having a problem."

The lounge and nearby conference room also serve as home base for the UB Veterans Association, a student group formed last year that's dedicated to camaraderie and community service, particularly service to fellow vets. Projects thus far include a "duty phone" on campus (see sidebar) and the distribution of home-starter kits to homeless veterans transitioning out of shelters.

As if to illustrate the disconnect between military and traditional students, Josh Hays, 25, the group's president during the 2013-14 academic year, explains



Pins on a map in the veterans lounge on South Campus mark the places where vets were stationed.



“I want to tell them it’s not going to end up anywhere good. But they probably wouldn’t listen.”

SHAUN BOADI

how members initially formed as a Student Association club, but ended up breaking ties with the SA.

“Except for a couple of people, we just didn’t see eye to eye with the SA whatsoever,” he says. “We didn’t want to fundraise, and we didn’t want to have mandatory community service, even though we do a lot of it. We just wanted to be a group where we get people together. But when we tried to talk to the Student Senate, they didn’t get it. They’d say, ‘I’m in charge, and this is what it is.’ They said that to very alpha individuals, to put it mildly.”

Soon thereafter, the UB student vets successfully applied for recognition as a chapter of the Student Veterans of America. “Now the SA can’t touch us,” Hays says. “We’re our own association. We don’t take orders from anybody else.”

although the UB Veterans Association maintains a Facebook page, when members recruit, they tend to go about it the old-school way: cruising the campus and finding their own in a crowd.

“I can pick [veterans] out easily,” Hays explains. “They have a certain look, a certain calm demeanor—or it’s in their posture. They might have a pin on their backpack that you’ll recognize. A lot of them have beards because you can’t wear them in the military.”

In the case of Brian Roy, 26, the giveaway was the gray, tactical-looking book bag slung over his shoulder as he shuffled through the Student Union.

“It turned out to be a good thing that Josh found me, because it’s nice to be connected to other people who share your experience. But in general, I’d rather not call attention to the fact that I’m a veteran,” says Roy. “I don’t need people to come up to me and thank me for my service, and I don’t need to get into a discussion where someone doesn’t like the war.”

Another reason Roy prefers to maintain a low profile is that it helps him stay focused on academics. As with Boadi, Roy struggled with his classes the first time he attended UB, in 2006. “There was a transition going from high school to college that I didn’t expect, and I wasn’t mature enough to handle it,” he says. “I didn’t know how to study, and I definitely had too much fun the first time I was at UB.”

With a 2.5 grade point average after three years in college, Roy decided it was no longer worthwhile to continue amassing student debt. Following in his older brother’s footsteps, he enlisted in the Army.

He describes his first deployment, to Iraq in 2009, as uneventful. “It was during the drawdown, so we were mostly picking up garbage. It wasn’t what we were trained to do, which was combat.”

Roy’s second deployment, to Afghanistan in 2012, was anything but. His base was shelled at sunrise

and sunset. When his unit went on truck patrols, he used a metal detector to sweep the ground for improvised explosive devices (IEDs)—a job he says he learned “pretty much on the spot.” Once, the truck he was in was hit by an IED. “It wasn’t major,” he says, “because no one lost limbs or lives.”

While Roy and his unit were engaged in a firefight with insurgents that June, a friend in his battalion was shot and killed. “He was still alive when he got into the helicopter, but we could all tell that he wasn’t going to make it. We still had to carry on with the mission.”

Back at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Roy suffered from headaches, a lingering side effect of the IED blast. He was irritable, had trouble sleeping and lacked confidence. All the same, he was eager to return to UB. “Most people just want to get the heck out of the Army, but I wanted to make sure I was getting all that I could get out of it before I went back to college, so I didn’t end up in the same place I was when I was 18,” he says. “I wasn’t messing around.”

During sessions with a military social worker, Roy played memory games to improve his study habits, learned breathing exercises to help him relax and get a good night’s sleep, and mastered the Cornell note-taking system. “Now I’m locked in my room studying and watching lectures—stuff I didn’t do the first time around,” he says. “I’m getting all As and B-pluses.”

for every student veteran, like Roy, whose military experience gave him the focus needed to succeed in college, there’s one like Justine Bottorff, whose ability to concentrate on her studies was taken away.

A senior nursing major and UB rower who served as an Army medic during two deployments to Iraq, Bottorff, 26, had meticulously charted her academic path while still in the Army, with an eye toward attending medical school. But things fell apart for the Herkimer, N.Y., native soon after she started classes at UB that fall.

“I had always been smart. In high school, I was on the honor roll and in the National Honor Society. I did really well on the SATs. But then I came to college, and I couldn’t focus on anything.”

Although Bottorff was never seriously injured during her deployments, she’d been close enough to several explosions to be jolted by them. Combined with several hits to the head that she’d suffered while jumping out of planes during Airborne training, she was left with a mild case of TBI.

“I was angry at the Army because they’d messed up my brain and I couldn’t learn anymore,” she says. “I was angry because I’d gone from feeling intelligent to feeling stupid every day. I was angry because all of my experience in the Army amounted to 18 general



“I don’t need people to come up to me and thank me for my service, and I don’t need to get into a discussion where someone doesn’t like the war.” BRIAN ROY

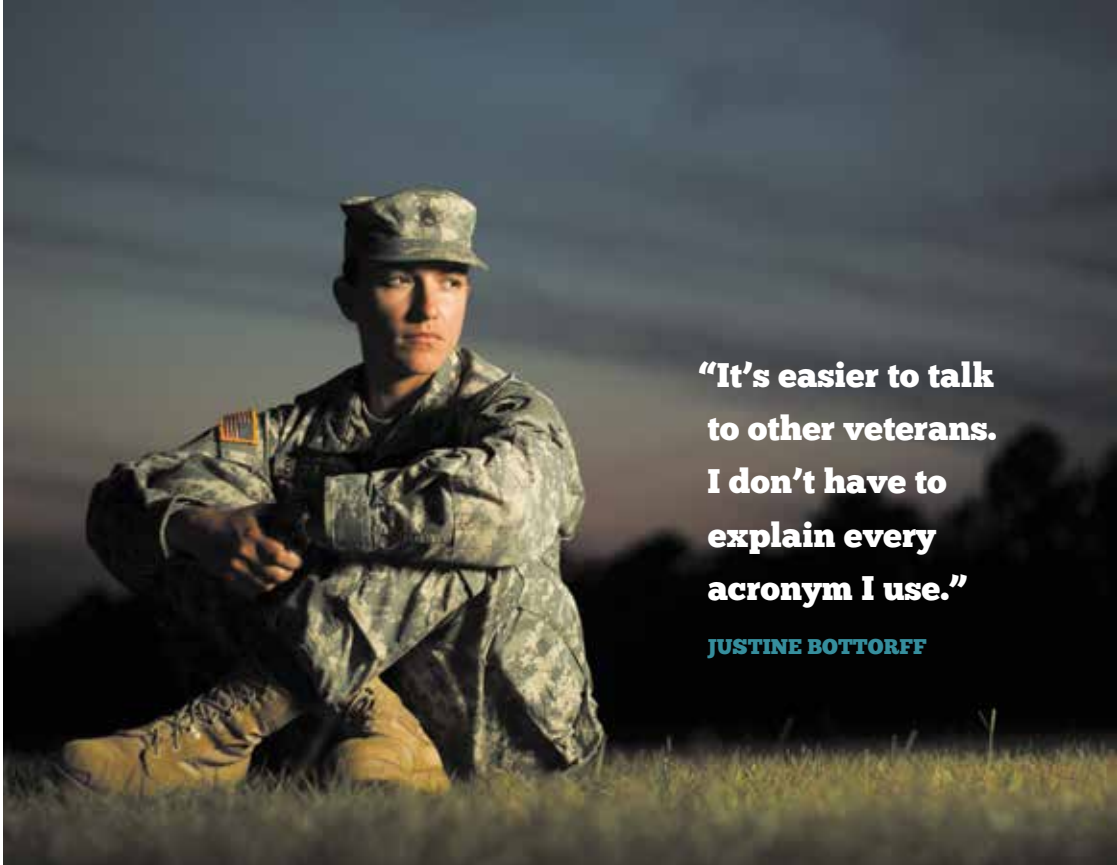
elective credits at UB. And on top of it, after putting tourniquets on bleeding limbs and helping insert chest tubes in Iraq, here I was sitting with 18-year-olds in Chem 101 drawing Lewis dot structures. I thought, “This isn’t interesting. This isn’t what I wanted to do. I hate everything. I hate everyone.”

Bottorff considered dropping out, but her mother and her academic adviser talked her down. So instead, she went about the hard business of reevaluating her dreams. Since her first-semester grades had taken her out of contention for med school, Bottorff set her sights on nursing.

With help from UB’s Office of Accessibility Resources, she’s adjusting to the effects of TBI as well. During lectures, classmates take notes for her. She also uses an Echo Smartpen, a ballpoint pen that records everything she writes or hears, allowing her to replay lectures simply by tapping her notes. To minimize distractions, she takes all of her exams at the accessibility office, and receives extra time to finish them.

To cope with stress and anxiety, Bottorff attends counseling sessions at the Buffalo Vet Center, which is staffed by fellow vets. She’s also in a support group for female Iraqi War vets there. Asked why she doesn’t avail herself of campus counseling, she says, “It’s easier to talk to other veterans. I don’t have to explain every acronym I use or explain why I was frustrated with my first sergeant. They understand.”

It’s a common feeling among the student vets at UB, and also the reason that the most valuable



“It’s easier to talk to other veterans. I don’t have to explain every acronym I use.”

JUSTINE BOTTORFF

resource for most of them has been the UB Veterans Association—the student veterans club run by and for student veterans.

“The first time I even met a veteran at UB was the fall of my junior year, when the student veterans club started,” she says. “It would have been so nice to have people to connect with when I first got here—

people who get what a chow hall is or a first sergeant or a platoon or a company. People who get me.

“With other people,” she adds, “I feel like I have to justify my experiences. With them, I never do.”

Nicole Peradotto is a writer and editor in UB’s School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

TRAVIS BELL

The Duty Phone

For UB’s military students, help is just a phone call away



Josh Hays

UB’S MILITARY students formed the UB Veterans Association last year with the mission of helping their own. So when several members read in the news that some 22 veterans take their own life each day—a suicide rate significantly higher than that in the civilian population—they knew they had to do something about it.

That something took the form of a crisis line for student vets.

The duty phone, as it’s called, is a cellphone manned by six students, all veterans or active duty military personnel. The phone passes hands on a weekly basis, with the designated call taker pledging to keep it close at all times and to abstain from drinking.

“In the military, every company has a duty phone that you can call 24/7 in case of emergency. So we thought, with veteran suicides being what they are, how can we reach out to veterans at UB?” says Josh Hays, the association’s former president.

UB Veterans Services foots the bill for the duty phone, which is believed to be the only one of its kind on a college campus. (“Stars and Stripes” magazine recently reached out to the association, having never heard of a duty phone in a university setting before.) Students advertise its number on business cards that they pass out at meetings and at other campus gatherings for vets.

Those responsible for taking calls receive peer-counseling training through UB Counseling Services if they’re veterans, or through the military if they’re active duty.

While vets tend to balk at sharing their struggles with civilians, these students say they’re more apt to open up to like-minded individuals who can relate to their experiences, both in the military and at UB.

“This phone lets them know that if you need somebody to meet with or talk to, we’re always here,” says undergraduate Shaun Boadi, who served in the Army for three years and is now the Veterans Association’s vice president. “We’ll come find you on campus if you need help. We don’t want anyone left behind.”

The Big

Student hackers hard at work in the lobby of Davis Hall.

Hack

Inside UB's not-so-secret hacker community

Story by Julie Wesolowski :: Photographs by Ariel Namoca

THE LOBBY OF DAVIS HALL on UB's North Campus looks like a makeshift computer center filled with folding tables, power strips and a tangled mess of electrical cords. Teams of student hackers barely take focus from their laptops and mobile device screens while talking in hushed voices about their hacking plans. It's only 30 minutes into UB Hacking, a 24-hour student hackathon, and concentration in the room is almost palpable.

But wait, aren't hackers bad guys? Not exactly. Unlike what's portrayed on TV, hackers generally aren't nefarious cyber geniuses creating malicious computer programs that invade our PCs and tap into our private information. (That's another story—see sidebar on p. 33.) Rather, most hackers are merely putting their skills to use in an unprecedented way. Nearly anything, whether it's a computer program, a mobile game or even a musical instrument, can be adapted or changed with an idea and some skill. And the resulting product, whether it's a tangible object or a novel digital application, is called a hack.

At hackathons, including the one held at UB, groups of hackers (typically computer programmers, designers and developers, but it's never limited to those skill sets) get together for a designated amount of time, share ideas and collaborate on a project. Sometimes hackathons are for the benefit of a humanitarian cause, aimed at creating an application or product to solve a real-life problem or issue. Other times they are competitions pitting hacker against hacker, or hacking team against hacking team, in a judged competition for money and/or prizes, free food and T-shirts, in addition to bragging rights and major cred among fellow hackers.

With a never-ending supply of students armed with fresh ideas, coding skills and programming know-how, college campuses across the country and around the world

are a breeding ground for hackers, and often serve as a tightly knit network of support. UB has been right in there, cultivating its own community of hotshot hackers.

One of UB's fiercest competitors is Rohan Shah. A computer science junior with a minor in business, Shah has entered only three hackathons, but they were big ones. Amazingly, he won in his chosen category at all three—including the world's largest hackathon, MHacks, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He also won first place at Purdue University's prehack, which gained him a spot at the BoilerMake hackathon. At the latter, he won the iOS App award from Apple, despite a travel situation that would likely have unnerved a less focused competitor. "I took the bus from Buffalo to Purdue University, traveling almost 12 hours just to compete," he recalls. "The event started within one hour of my arrival."

Computer science junior Nate Burgers has placed in the top 10 at five or six hackathons. "At this point I can't keep track of them all," he says. "I've been to at least a dozen, plus or minus three." His proudest hack lives on as a solo project today. In the course of the 48-hour hackathon MHacks, Burgers created a programming language called Lark that lets iPhone and iPad app developers edit applications without having to rebuild the entire program from scratch. With Lark, Burgers placed in the top 10 out of 1,200 competitors, and took home \$2,000 for "Most Technically Impressive" hack. He's now considering making his Lark hack into a business.

According to Burgers, a lot of the skills hackers use at hackathons are self-taught. And while it is typically a competition, the camaraderie among hackers runs deep. "We celebrate each other's successes and joke around constantly," he says. "The premise of hackathons is to have fun building things with your friends." ❖



Rohan Shah

Major League Hacking

:: As of press time, UB ranked 23rd nationally in student hacking—thanks to Rohan Shah, Nate Burgers and others. Rankings are determined by points given for attendance and merit. See www.mlh.io for the updated list.



UB Hackathon sponsors and organizers gather around Nate Burgers for a closer look at the progress on his hack.

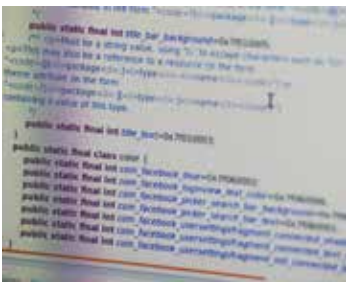
Using a combination of above-average wits and a youthful ability to stay awake for an extended period of time, 70 students participated this past April in an all-night marathon of technical skill and problem solving in UB's Davis Hall.



UB's 24-Hour Hackathon: The Good,

Piles of pizza were consumed, mountains of Mexican food munched and late-night snacks washed down with gallons of highly caffeinated beverages. Teams gathered steam or spiraled into despair. Some hackers attempted to grab a few moments of sleep on cramped lobby sofas while others killed the monotony through random hijinks.

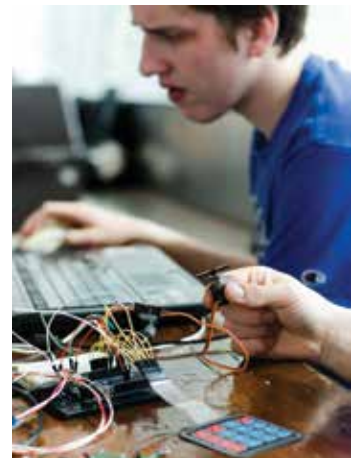




the Bad and the Ugly



Some teams never made it to the morning, self-destructing as the night progressed. Others rallied as the sun began to rise. As the last few hours ticked away, final tweaks and tests were implemented. Bleary-eyed and unwashed, hackers appeared to be running on fumes as they assembled to present their hacks to their peers.





UB Hacking founder Nick DiRienzo in front of a fireplace video that has become a signature at UB hackathons—and has since been coopted by fellow hackers at other schools.



Twenty-four hours after it began, 13 hacks were demo'd. Some elicited awe, others laughter and yet others sympathy. All were given a rousing round of applause for effort.

And the winners were....

1ST PLACE

Redtooth Nate Burgers

According to Burgers the actual hack is pretty complicated. Simply put, he says, "It makes all the iPhones and iPads in a room connect to each other and act like one big supercomputer."



2ND PLACE

AGNEW Secure Shelf Garrett DeFilippis, Kevin Rushlow

Their catch phrase was "Check Your Shelf Before You Wreck Your Shelf." If a book is removed from the smart shelf without the passcode, an alarm is triggered and an alert sent to an email address or phone.

3RD PLACE

Let's Get Flappy Andrew Hughes, Anand Nandugudi, Nils Wisiol

The multiplayer version of the popular online game Flappy Birds gives users the ability to join the game using personal devices, such as smartphones.



Additional Awards:



MOST OUTRAGEOUS HACK

Awesome Guitar

Joe Materski, Tomasz Pietruszka, Kyle Thompson, Scott Will

The plan was to integrate a guitar with a computer program, which would write the music as it was played. An ambitious hack the team wasn't able to finish within 24 hours.



BEST MOBILE HACK

Monorail Madness Ronnie Bar-Kochba, Evan Slimak

This online game follows monorail cat on his mission to complete a journey during the apocalypse.



Joe Peacock, right, giving advice at the UB hackathon.

Meet Joe Peacock Student hacker/CTO

We've all heard a version of this story by now—tech-savvy college student creates an Internet start-up, quits school and becomes a huge success. Current UB computer engineering junior Joe Peacock is following that path, with one difference: He aims to achieve his dreams with degree in hand. As co-founder and chief technology officer of start-up Gradfly, he's balancing coursework with client meetings while managing a team of four engineers, all UB graduates.

Peacock's company created a project documentation and collaboration tool for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) students that helps potential employers find a good match in prospective employees. As one of the sponsors of UB's hackathon (other sponsors included Facebook and Bloomberg), Peacock had the distinction of being the only teenage CTO giving hackers advice in the room.

Prior to Gradfly, Peacock was making a name for himself at hackathons, most notably placing second at a Princeton University hackathon and at Startup Weekend Buffalo, as well as winning Hack Upstate in Syracuse. According to Peacock, attending those hackathons helped him grow as a developer. "If it hadn't been for all of the time I spent working on projects at hackathons, I would not be anywhere near where I am now," he says.

Ultimately Peacock hopes that Gradfly, which employs seven people in addition to himself, will connect students with good jobs in Buffalo, including more positions within his company. "Watching the tech industry explode in places like Silicon Valley, New York City and Boston is so exciting. I would love to be a part of making that happen right in my backyard," he says. ♣



UB's first-ever Cyber Security Competition pitted undergraduate student teams against graduate students in a real-time hacking simulation.

Hacking a Course

Molding UB's next generation of cyber security experts

THE OTHER TYPE OF HACKERS, the bad ones, are still out there. And they are attempting to steal our identities and threaten our cyber security every second of every day.

Some industrious UB students are learning how to combat the ill-intentioned hackers through unique study of the topic, guided by three UB alums. While the university offers a graduate-level program in cyber security and information assurance—with a National Science Foundation Scholarship for Service (NSF SFS) grant—a similar curriculum for undergraduates doesn't exist. So Chris Crawford (MS '09, BS '07), together with Management Information Systems (MIS) adjunct professor David Murray (MBA '97, BS '97) and Computer Science (CS) lecturer Kevin P. Cleary (MBA '05, BS '03), hacked together a solu-

tion with the Network Defense independent study.

The guided course mixes an official class with free-form independent study, bringing undergraduate and graduate students together in one room. The students are a blend of CS majors, who primarily work with programming languages, and MIS majors, who determine how to use technology environments to solve problems. The area where their studies overlap is the cyber security sweet spot.

The class also serves as a feeder for the master's program in information assurance, enticing students to enroll in the NSF SFS program where, in exchange for scholarship assistance, they promise to work for the federal government after graduation.



Crawford, a D.C. resident and contractor with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security, was the driving force behind the independent study class and does much of the lecturing remotely. "After I got some experience, I started thinking about how I could channel what I had learned in the real world back to students at UB," he explains.

According to Murray, "It's one of the most organic learning experiences I've ever been involved with." Spring semester's final project was the first-ever UB Cyber Security Competition, which was designed and implemented by the students. The timed competition simulated real-time security breaches, utilizing graduate students as the hackers and undergraduates as the cyber security specialists trying to prevent and fix the breaches.

Like hackathons, cyber security competitions are becoming more widespread, popping up at universities across the country. At Alfred University's 2013 competition, hotshot hacker Rohan Shah led one UB team to second place while another UB team came in first. ♣

Julie Wesolowski is a Buffalo-based writer and digital communications professional.

Seven Days in Ukraine

ВОЛЯ АБО С

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ВОЛЯ

ВОЛЯ

me Peter Straton Bejger, a first-generation American with deep roots in Ukraine, was invited to monitor the presidential elections in May. An insider's look at a country in the crucible

Story by Peter Straton Bejger (BA '75)

Photographs by Peter Straton Bejger & Marijana Grandits



WHEN I LOOK BACK on my childhood, one of the things I feel most thankful for is the privilege of sitting in a chilly schoolroom in Buffalo's Broadway-Fillmore District on Saturday mornings and mastering the Cyrillic alphabet. Learning Ukrainian seemed a quixotic endeavor at the time—the USSR was mighty and Ukraine “did not exist” as an independent actor—but studying the language enabled a lifelong engagement with the land of my ancestors.

As an adult, one of my continuing links with Ukraine has been observing elections through the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Committed to democracy and human rights, the OSCE allocates considerable international resources sending monitors to assess elections in member states.

This year the OSCE faced a particularly challenging crisis. On Feb. 21, the pro-Moscow President Viktor Yanukovich fled the country following mass protests and the massacre of demonstrators on Kyiv's (Kiev's) Independence Square, popularly known as the Maidan. The following day, the Ukrainian Parliament voted to remove him from office.

Soon afterward, a revanchist Russia went on the march, refusing to acknowledge the legitimacy of change in Ukraine, seizing Crimea and arming groups in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk who proclaimed “independent republics.” The Ukrainian government launched antiterrorist operations against the separatists, resulting in protracted clashes. The situation was volatile and alarming. It seemed the post-Cold War order in Europe was being overturned.

An early presidential election was called for May 25, with confectionery tycoon Petro Poroshenko and Orange Revolution firebrand Yulia Tymoshenko as the two leading candidates. The international community considered this election an essential step toward stability. The OSCE rallied to send its largest-ever team of more than 1,000 election observers to bear witness to a crucial turning point in Ukraine's history.

I was one of those election observers. Below are some personal notes from the field.

Day one: Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Kyiv is at its most alluring in May. The chestnut trees are in bloom, the cafés and restaurants are packed, and the streets are jammed with traffic. At its very heart, however, is a lacerated cityscape.

“The worst day was when we heard the shooting,” remarks my former employer and good friend Michael. An American with a Ukrainian wife and children who built a business and a family life in Kyiv, Michael lives



Graffiti on a building in the city center reads “Liberty or Death.”



Top L-R: A regional briefing for OSCE observers; a friendly cow in the countryside. Bottom L-R: Banners on the Maidan commemorate the “Heavenly Hundred”; counting votes after the polls close.

in a glorious, high-ceilinged prerevolutionary flat a couple of blocks up the hill from the Maidan. “They let loose thugs to smash car windows, and then the guns ...”

My pilgrimage to a suddenly rain-soaked Maidan is unsettling. The personal accounts, the memorials to the martyred “Heavenly Hundred,” the charred husk of the Trade Unions building, the explosive graffiti, as well as the square filled with detritus from those who may have stayed at the revolution a bit too long, all challenge my rosy nostalgia for the city. I feel like an awkward visitor to an old friend whom you discover has been badly mutilated.

Dinner with a group of Kyiv friends offers another perspective. Young, urbane and accomplished, Anatoly, Andriy, Sarah and Roma want to leave the drama of the Maidan behind and see a fresh start. They seem willing to give the chocolate king Poroshenko, who is heavily favored, a chance. They dismiss, and resent, the Eastern unrest as a Machiavellian ploy by oligarchs from the former regime to restore political influence and regain national subsidies for their rustbelt industries.

Day two: Thursday, May 22, 2014

At the OSCE briefing for observers, João Soares of Portugal, special coordinator for the mission, defines the moment. “We are facing a very special situation

... Portuguese sailors used to call the southern tip of Africa the ‘cape of torments.’ It became the Cape of Good Hope. We will transform torments into good hope.” We scatter to the provinces.

My train arrives in the late evening in Ternopil, a provincial center in the West. Heavily damaged during World War II, the bleakly rebuilt Soviet-era Ternopil I encountered on a visit during the height of the Cold War in 1984 was particularly memorable. Our Intourist minders herded our group of American sightseers into a lighting factory. Two grim-faced middle-aged women in beehive hairdos came into the ill-lit conference room, locked the doors, and proceeded to harangue us about Reagan and American foreign policy.

Day three: Friday, May 23, 2014

Ternopil reveals a much kinder and friendlier face this hot and sunny morning. Bustling terrace cafés and restaurants lining a lakefront promenade, as well as the pedestrian zone around the restored baroque cathedral in the center, soften the Soviet architectural legacy.

A Swedish observer joins me at breakfast. She lives in Bosnia and tells me her friends there watch

developments in eastern Ukraine with dread, recognizing the precursors to the disaster they experienced. A young Polish colleague sits down and offers a slightly more encouraging assessment. Ukraine faces a stark choice: radical reform or Balkan abyss.

Day four: Saturday, May 24, 2014

Our driver casually mentions that a car has been following us ever since we drove out of Ternopil. Even though OSCE personnel have gone missing in

Our driver casually mentions that a car has been following us ever since we drove out of Ternopil.

the East, and Donetsk and Luhansk have now been ruled off-limits to observers, this is not necessarily sinister; the rest of the country is calm. That said, the wary authorities are determined to prevent any provocations.

We spend the day visiting precincts preparing for the election in the towns of Pidvolochynsk and Zbarazh and neighboring villages. The gender imbalance of the election workers is striking. They are nearly all “women of a certain age,” often schoolteachers, who work long grueling hours for low pay. And yes, some beehives are still to be found. They are all delighted to see foreign observers.



Top: The burned-out Trade Unions building in Kyiv. Bottom L-R: A view of Zbarazh, north of Ternopil; Maidan martyrs commemorated in the castle above Zbarazh.

Day five: Sunday, May 25, 2014

We return to Pidvolochynsk at the crack of dawn to observe preparations for the opening of one of the precincts. Observation is a delicate dance. You try not to be intrusive but you can bring irregularities to the attention of officials. Our mandate is to observe, not to instruct.

I hover behind the group of female officials to allow them to enter the polling place. They hesitate and insist I enter before them, for it is considered good luck when a man crosses the threshold first. Patriarchy rules. The ladies, dressed in their Sunday best, recite a prayer and sing the national anthem before the official opening of the poll.

Day six: Monday, May 26, 2014

We have been up for more than 24 hours—first touring impeccably organized local precincts, and then ending up at the district electoral commission in Zbarazh watching local returns, laboriously handwritten on paper protocols, being delivered throughout the night. We learn that Poroshenko is a decisive winner nationwide with nearly 55 percent of the vote compared to Tymoshenko's approximate 13 percent. The OSCE issues a preliminary report calling the election "genuine" and "largely in line with international commitments." We collapse for a couple hours of sleep.

I had one more stop to make later that day. Misha, a vet and former sniper, talks about the alarmingly heavy weaponry the Russians and their allies are using in the East. He is driving me through postcard scenery outside Ternopil: a landscape of churches perched dramatically on hills overlooking forests and carefully tended valleys. The countryside is dotted with newly constructed houses and businesses—often financed by remittances from migrant workers in the European Union—that would not look out of place in central Europe.

We arrive at a shuttered manor house. Once a grand residence of a local aristocrat and his Italian wife, the building is battered but proud. The bones are good, as elegant as any of the châteaux in a more fortunate Europe. Country house living ended here in 1939 with the arrival of Soviet troops working in conjunction with Nazi Germany to carve up yet one more borderland. My father's life in Ukraine also ended here. And another life in exile began. He was a cabinet-maker, responsible for the estate's furniture collection. His services were no longer required. He would never return.

On the drive back Misha points out the remnants of roadblocks set up by citizen self-defense units to check cars for pro-Russian saboteurs. "There will be a mass uprising here if they ever come," he notes defiantly. On a bleaker note, he mentions conscrip-

tion has been reintroduced and he may be called up to serve in the East, where the news is horrifying.

Day seven: Tuesday, May 27, 2014

At our final debriefing two observers are overcome by emotion and start crying when relaying their encounters with the stalwart election precinct ladies of Ukraine. The women's tenacious dignity in the face of a national crisis has impressed our multinational contingent. The unspoken question: What happens next in this country?

While awaiting a final copy of the official election protocols from the district commission, we visit a restored 17th-century castle above Zbarazh. An exhibit of instruments of torture, including a spiked chair for witches, is fascinating. The most startling encounter, however, is with a memorial to two heartbreakingly young men from the area—Ustym Holodniuk, aged 19, and Nazar Voytovych, 17—who were killed on the Maidan. A large boisterous tour group of very young schoolchildren enters the hall. They suddenly fall silent and gather around the memorial. ☘

Peter Straton Bejger (BA '75) is a San Francisco-based documentary filmmaker and writer who lived in Kyiv for nearly ten years and visits Ukraine regularly. He graduated from UB in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in history.



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Alumni Life

- » **A smokin' hot keepsake**
- » **Inside Twitter's nest**
- » **Japanese lessons**

By Christopher Schobert (MA '04, BA '02) »

It's rare that an oncologist-actor (yes, you read that right) gets to audition for a part tailor-made for an oncologist-actor. So it was a bit of a shock for Roy Vongtama (MD '00), who is a board-certified radiation oncologist and working actor, when a 2007 casting call for such a role ended with him not getting the part.

"The casting director said, 'I'm not buying it. When a doctor tells a patient she has cancer, the doctor should get emotional,'" recalls Vongtama, a Buffalo native who has since landed roles on screens both big ("The Bucket List") and small ("Scandal," "The Shield," "NCIS: Los Angeles"). "I replied, 'Well, I *am* a cancer doctor, and if I did that, it would be pretty scary for the patient.'"

The rejection was a minor hiccup in an unorthodox yet successful career that began shortly after Vongtama's graduation from medical school. While completing a medical internship in Philadelphia, he began taking acting classes on a whim at a well-known regional theater, and found he enjoyed it. Then, during a meeting with UCLA's radiation oncology department to explore residency options, he discovered a kindred spirit. "The chairman at UCLA asked me why I wanted to move out West, and it just came out of my mouth: 'I want to be an actor,'" Vongtama says. "He replied, 'I *also* wanted to be an actor.' So it was settled. I went to UCLA and did both—cancer training during the day, acting training at night."

Vongtama's first paid acting gig, playing the best friend of the main character in a movie called "The Wrath," came while he was at UCLA. Since then, he has portrayed doctors, morgue attendants and detectives, among other characters. One of his biggest roles was playing an MD in Rob Reiner's 2007 comedy,

The many sides of Roy Vongtama

He's a real-life doctor *and* plays one on TV

MARIA TORNERO



“The Bucket List,” in which he appeared in separate scenes with Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman. More recently, he starred as a detective in Lifetime’s “Death Clique” (2014) and shot an episode of “Sex Sent Me to the ER,” which at press time was set to air on The Learning Channel. He’s also behind the camera as a producer and director for his film company, Resonant Entertainment.

As for medicine, it’s in Vongtama’s blood. His mother is an anesthesiologist, while his father and brother are fellow radiation oncologists. But it was the patients, he says, who really drew him to oncology. “[They’re] individuals who are motivated to change. There’s a spirit about them, a freedom of mind. It’s hard not to appreciate those lessons.”

Vongtama learned similar lessons while growing up in a Buddhist household, and he now follows the late Hindu yoga master Paramahansa Yogananda. He says he taps these spiritual layers to help drive his dual careers. “Yoga encompasses the basic tenets of all religions, which essentially have the same underlying truths in them: that humans make the difference.”

Vongtama continues to make a difference as a doctor, an actor and, most recently, by promoting his ideas about holistic health care for cancer prevention. He gives frequent talks on the subject and hopes to publish his ideas in book form next year. “The more I learn about cancer,” he says, “and get out the message that there is a way to heal before a word like ‘cancer’ is used, the more I feel like my time here has been worthwhile.”

It has certainly not been wasted. ♣

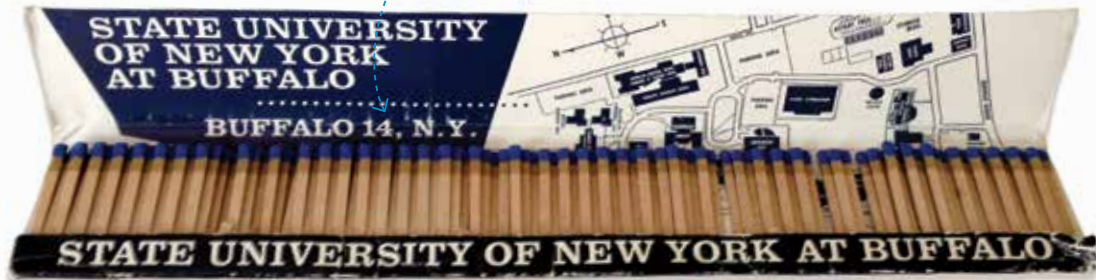
“It was settled—I did cancer training during the day, acting training at night.”

Roy Vongtama

KEEPSAKES

What did you save?

Check out the old-school Zip Code



Main Street Matchbook

Keith Safian (BS '72) graduated from UB with double majors in industrial/systems engineering and electrical/computer engineering. Today he is president and CEO of Phelps Memorial Hospital Center in North Tarrytown, N.Y. He sent *At Buffalo* the following note along with a unique college memento:

“I never smoked in college, but I have this book of matches from my undergraduate days. It is over 12” long and has a map of the Main Street campus inside.”

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES >>

What have you saved from your years at UB? Email a photo and brief story to keepsakes@buffalo.edu.

BLUE BOND



TWO BEES PHOTOGRAPHY

AWW... True Blue from birth

Hallie Schneider Sherman (BA '05) and Geoff Sherman (BA '05) are the proud parents of tiny Ella Brielle—photographed here at just nine days old. Writes Jenifer Christie Levinson (BA '99), owner of Two Bees Photography in Long Island, N.Y., “Having gone to UB with my now husband, Scott [Levinson, BA '00], this shot was especially fun for me. This little princess’ parents met there and asked me to incorporate the school in their session.”

TELL US YOUR BLUE BOND STORY >> Do you have a lifelong relationship that started at UB? Email a brief account to bluebond@buffalo.edu.

Ahead of the Herd

Twitter developer Max Bileschi on how he got his start

By **Kevin Stewart** » In the spring of 2013, 22 years old and fresh out of UB, Max Bileschi (MA, BA, BS '13) was looking at graduate schools when he received the offer every young techie dreams of: an internship at Google.

So Bileschi spent that summer at Google Boston in Massachusetts, working on a program to

YOUNG BULLS

maximize airline travel efficiency. No sooner did his internship end than he landed a job just a few miles away as a software

engineer at Twitter's Boston location. He's currently working on a project called Amplify, which allows content providers to post videos that condense entire broadcasts down to Tweetable length.

"The two companies have similar environments," Bileschi says. "Everyone works really hard, but we have a lot of fun." The guy who sits next to Bileschi, for example, has been known to fire off Nerf gun rounds when he sees people slacking on their code reviews.

Before jumping headlong into the professional world, Bileschi distinguished himself at UB, graduating from the Honors College with dual bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics, along with a

bachelor's degree in computer science. It isn't easy to stand out at a school with nearly 30,000 students, but Bileschi wasted no time getting himself noticed.

By the end of his freshman year, he had sold the rights

to an educational computer game, which he began designing in high school. His professors placed him on the URGE to Compute team, a rigorous, year-long research apprenticeship awarded annually to 12 undergrads. Bileschi, the only freshman on the team, dove into cryptography (encrypting sensitive information) and began to realize just how far the university could take him.

"It was one of the first stepping stones for me," he says. "It opened everything up."

Another research project—using theoretical math

to explore questions in genetics—helped Bileschi win a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship in 2011. He relished the work, having always been fascinated by what he calls the "cross-pollination between disciplines."

Bileschi isn't too concerned with where to go from here; he's far too busy enjoying the present. "It's like a dream," he says. "My fiancée is going to school at Northeastern University, so we're in the same city. I like my boss. I like my team. It's wonderful." ♣



MAX BILESCHI, MA, BA, BS '13

Max Bileschi at Twitter's Boston "nest."

TELL US YOUR STORIES, YOUNG ALUMNI! » Are you a UB grad under the age of 30? Have a compelling story or accomplishment to share? Email a brief account to youngbulls@buffalo.edu.

EVENTS

Carol's Fall Picks

A selection of campus events, open to all alumni



Carol Gloff (BS '75) is our Alumni Association president.

JOHN DWYER

September

UB Distinguished Speakers Series (DSS): Cheryl Strayed
09.10.14
North Campus

UB Homecoming and Family Weekend
09.27.14
UB vs. Miami of Ohio
North Campus

25th Annual Linda Yalem Safety Run 5K
09.28.14
North Campus

October

UB DSS: Wes Moore
10.15.14
North Campus

November

UB Scholarship Gala
11.07.14

Edward L. Wright Practice Facility
North Campus

UB DSS: John Oliver
11.18.14
North Campus

Carol says:
"A fun way to support undergraduate education at UB!"

At Buffalo goes to press before many event dates are set, so please make sure to check www.alumni.buffalo.edu/events for updates.



Tokyo Travels

UB hosts a special gathering for Japanese alumni

On April 19, Wei Loon Leong (MBA '05, BS '03), director of international alumni relations, hosted an alumni reception with President Tripathi and other UB officials for more than 140 alumni and friends in Tokyo, Japan. The gathering was held at Meiji University, UB's newest international exchange partner and one of the largest and most prestigious universities in the country. The trip also marked the first official visit to Japan for Tripathi, who discussed key points of the UB 2020 strategic vision. The audience was multigenerational, with degrees earned over a period spanning from the 1970s to 2013.

Props for traveling the farthest Professor Nobuhiro Igawa (MLS '97, MA '92, BA '90) journeyed seven hours by high-speed train from his home in Kagoshima to attend the event.

Memory lane Japan chapter member Eri Ota-Kostova (BS '02) delighted the crowd with a slide show that set the stage for much reminiscing, and promised to return to UB for a visit.



Protocol prevails Though English was the primary language spoken at the gathering, Japanese tradition dictated the program. Respect for elders meant that speeches were presented from oldest to youngest.

All-ages event Among the guests were approximately 10 children of UB alumni, aged from about 10 months to nine years. Their behavior was flawless.

SEE MORE PHOTOS >>

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Hot topic The developing Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus was the most talked-about subject of the evening by far. UB Bulls football was a distant second.



UB swag Hats, messenger bags, T-shirts. Best of all? The grand prize was a bottle of Anchor Bar wing sauce!



Wei Loon Leong with Akira Suzuki (MBA '05) and his wife, Yukiko.

An American in Japan Attendee and Kenmore, N.Y., native Peter Kaufman (BS '04) moved to Tokyo immediately upon graduating to work for T-Mark, an IT firm with offices in Tokyo and Buffalo. (The firm was launched by another Buffalonian, Greg Norton.) Kaufman and his Japanese wife are now raising their two children in Tokyo.



No burgers or Bud American staples found at many alumni events were replaced by sushi and shouju, a Japanese wine.



That's Stephen Dunnett, vice provost for international education.

Class Notes

- » Make peace with your money
- » Combat grocery store gluttony
- » '76: Happy retirement, Marilyn Massaro!



Fighting the Good Fight

After four decades in environmental legislation, Scott Slesinger remains optimistic about our stewardship of the planet

By Tress Klassen » In 1997, Scott Slesinger (JD '75, BA '72), then an environmental aide to Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., was approached by members of a chemical workers union trying to establish a Chemical Safety Board. "We were told that it would never get funded," Slesinger recalls. "Over three days, with the senator's help, we got the board up and operating, and now it's done significant investigations of chemical facilities that have led to safer operations and probably saved many lives."

SCOTT SLESINGER, JD '75, BA '72

It was a major victory, but it's probably not insignificant that Slesinger, currently the legislative director for the D.C.-based Natural Resources Defense Council, reaches so far back in time to come up with one. In a long career devoted to environmental legislation and regulatory reform, with stints at the Environmental Protection Agency, the Senate and the House of Representatives, Slesinger has witnessed a steady increase in the political turbulence surrounding environmental legislation, and a hardening of battle lines.

"The system has so calcified that most regulations take a minimum of five years, often 10," he says. "The politics on environment have changed; now we have one political party that is

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pretty much anti-environment. We're playing a lot of defense right now."

Obstacles aside, Slesinger loves his work. He first got a taste for politics as an undergraduate at UB, where he devoted much of his time to student government. It was the late '60s, and between the Vietnam War, the killings at Kent State, the push for more student involvement in campus academic decisions and so on, it was, he says, "a very interesting time." He went on to get his law degree from UB, and then to work at the EPA, where he helped draft some of the regulations for the 1977 amendments to the Clean Water Act.

Slesinger remains hopeful as he recalls past successes and looks toward the future. "I think it's important to be optimistic," he says, citing the EPA's new carbon rules as a "major step forward."

"The leadership we show will encourage other countries to do more," he adds, "and that's critical going forward." ♣

"The politics on environment have changed; now we have one political party that is pretty much anti-environment. We're playing a lot of defense right now."

Scott Slesinger

Made you look

Now that we've grabbed your attention, how about sending us your class note? Visit alumni.buffalo.edu.



CLASS NOTES BY DECADE

Person to Person

Look for the little blue asterisk, which denotes an Alumni Association member!

60

Robert Miske, BS 1961, a Western New York-based scout for the New York Yankees, was elected to the Buffalo Baseball Hall of Fame in the steward category. He resides in Amherst, N.Y.

Anthony Capozzi, BA 1967, owner of the Law Offices of Anthony P. Capozzi, was appointed to a second term on the California Commission on Judicial Performance. He lives in Fresno, Calif.

70

Donald Bain, PhD 1974, MA 1972 & BA 1969, will retire as the sixth president of St. John Fisher College after a 40-year career there as a faculty member and administrator. He resides in Rochester, N.Y.

Howard Smith, EdM 1974 & BA 1972, vice president and wealth adviser at Morgan Stanley, joined the Santa Barbara Symphony Planned Giving Committee. He lives in Ojai, Calif.

Ronald Mitchelson, BA 1975, was named interim provost of East Carolina University. Mitchelson previously served the university as interim vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. He resides in Greenville, N.C.

Marilyn Massaro, MA 1976, retired after 25 years as curator of Roger Williams Park Museum of Natural History and Planetarium. She lives in Richmond, R.I.

Barry Mukamal, MBA 1977 & BS 1976, formed the consulting and accounting firm KapilaMukamal LLP where he will act as co-managing partner. He resides in Hollywood, Fla.

Mary Carnes, MD 1978, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was awarded the inaugural Linda Joy Pollin Heart Health Leadership Award from the Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Center. She lives in Madison, Wis.

Peter Gal, PharmD 1978, was named associate dean for academic affairs of High Point University's School of Pharmacy. He resides in Kernersville, N.C.

80

* **René Lerer, MD 1980**, was appointed president of Florida Blue and the GuideWell group of companies. Lerer previously served as chairman and CEO of Magellan Health Services. He lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

William Prenevau Jr., BA 1981, retired after a 40-year career with General Motors Corporation. Prenevau most recently served as senior manager of global security operations. He resides in East Amherst, N.Y.

* **Thomas Madejski, BS 1982**, was re-elected assistant treasurer of the Medical Society of the State of New York. Madejski is an internist at Greater Physicians Medical Practice in Medina. He lives in Albion, N.Y.

Eric Altman, BA 1983, joined Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton's New York office as a partner in the firm's real estate, land use and environmental practice group. He resides in Columbia, N.J.

* **Ronald Marcus, MD 1983**, was named chief medical officer at Spinifex Pharmaceuticals. Prior to Spinifex, Marcus was executive director of neuroscience global clinical research at Bristol-Myers Squibb. He lives in Hamden, Conn.

James Wild, MD 1983, medical director of the TLC Health Network and president of Tri-County Family Medical Associates, received the 2014 Health Care 50 award from Buffalo Business First. He resides in Angola, N.Y.

* **Kathleen Bennett, PMCRT 1984 & DDS 1983**, was appointed president of the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine's board of directors. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ronald Solarz, BS 1984, rejoined Eastern Consolidated as executive managing director and principal. He resides in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Douglas Williams, PhD 1984, executive vice president of research and development at Biogen Idec, was appointed to Ironwood Pharmaceuticals' board of directors. He lives in South Boston, Mass.

Michael Orlovsky, BS 1985, was named 2013 outstanding engineer by the Orlando Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. Orlovsky is a senior program manager at

Lockheed Martin. He resides in Orlando, Fla.

John Q. Doyle, BS 1986, chief executive officer of Global Commercial Insurance for AIG Property Casualty, was honored by the Spencer Educational Foundation for his contributions to insurance educational opportunities. He lives in Rye, N.Y.

Jonathan Pullano, BA 1986, was named marketing communications manager at Weaver, a large accounting firm in Dallas, Texas. Pullano was previously marketing manager at Thomson Reuters. He resides in Bedford, Texas.

Daniel Figter, BS 1987, was promoted to vice president of finance at Mountwest Community & Technical College. He lives in Huntington, W.Va.

Michael McRae, BA 1988, was promoted from executive vice president and chief operating officer to president and CEO of St. Ann's Community. He resides in Honeoye Falls, N.Y.

Dawn Mirand, EdM 1988 & BA 1982, was appointed superintendent of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District. Mirand was previously superintendent of Mount Morris Central School District. She lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

Donna Gorney, MA 1989, was promoted to administrative vice president at M&T Bank. Gorney previously served as vice president and manager of data center and network operations. She resides in Tonawanda, N.Y.

90

Debra Torrence, EdM 1990, executive director of the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals, received the Karen W. Ponder Leadership Award from the North Carolina Partnership for Children. She lives in Bath, N.C.

Zhijian Chen, PhD 1991 & MA 1990, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Chen is a professor of molecular biology and the George L. MacGregor Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He resides in Dallas, Texas.

Mary Jean Jakubowski, MLS 1991, was appointed to a second three-year term as director of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. Before being named director, Jakubowski was the library's chief operating officer. She lives in Lancaster, N.Y.

Amy Kimmel, BA 1991, an English teacher at Canisius High School, received Business First's 2014 Teacher of Merit Award. She resides in Lockport, N.Y.

David McKibbin, PhD 1991, was awarded the 2014 Outstanding Senior Volunteer Award by the Larimer County Office on Aging. He lives in Fort Collins, Colo.

Julie McGuire, MBA 1992, was promoted to administrative vice president and systems manager at M&T Bank. She resides in Getzville, N.Y.

Paul Lipton, BA 1994, a professor in Boston University's College of Arts & Sciences and director of the undergraduate neuroscience program, was named director of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. He lives in Brookline, Mass.

Jacqueline Mozrall, PhD 1994, senior associate dean of engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology, was appointed interim dean of RIT's Saunders College of Business. She resides in Pittsford, N.Y.

Diane Vinch, BA 1994, senior vice president of Sudler & Hennessey, was recognized as a 2014 Rising Star by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association. She lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Cleatus Hunt Jr., BA 1995, was appointed area port director at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He resides in Carrollton, Texas.

Thomas Schenk, MD 1997, was named senior vice president and chief medical officer of Health Now New York. Before joining Health Now, Schenk was managing partner for Delaware Pediatric Associates. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Kim Tillery, PhD 1997, chair of the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences at SUNY Fredonia, was awarded the 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award from the New York State Speech-Language Hearing Association. She resides in Snyder, N.Y.

James Lohrey, MA 1998 & BA 1996, joined Mercyhurst University as assistant professor of communications. Lohrey was previously assistant professor of communications at Mansfield University. He lives in Rochester, N.Y.

Lynn Pullano, EdM 1998, was named CEO of the Child Care Resource Network. Previously, she was director of education for the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County. She resides in Hamburg, N.Y.

Daniel Sucato, MS 1998 & MD 1991, chief of staff at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, received the Memorial Award from the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America. He lives in Dallas, Texas.

Yunte Huang, PhD 1999 & MA 1998, received a Guggenheim Fellowship in the area of creative arts, general nonfiction. Huang is a professor of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He resides in Santa Barbara, Calif.

CONTINUED



BARRY FITZGERALD, MBA '90



Christine Mathieu

BA '91

Owner/Founder,
Mathieu Center for
Financial Wholeness



After the market crash in 2008, Christine Mathieu realized something: The conversations she was having with clients at her job with M&T Securities were changing. It wasn't about investments and planning anymore; it was about fears and survival. She decided to branch out on her own to combine the calculations of economics with the introspection of psychology and life counseling.

In 2011 she opened the Mathieu Center for Financial Wholeness in East Aurora, N.Y. Her new role helped her rethink her own relationship with money, and she's been helping her clients do the same ever since.

How to have a healthy relationship with your money:

Acknowledge the reality

When I ask people, "What is your relationship with money?" they look at me like I have nine heads, but money is more than just a piece of paper. You have thoughts and beliefs about money that shape your behavior, which affects your overall experience in life.

Find out where you stand

Now that you've accepted that you *have* a relationship, it's time to analyze it. Who wears the pants? If you find yourself buried in bills and buying

things that don't really make you happy, then adjusting behavior isn't enough—you need to change the way you think.

Jog your money memory

Our childhood memories of money have just as much impact as our experiences with young love and other monumental "firsts." Understanding what made you frame that dollar bill or blow your allowance on trading cards can be a vital step in changing the way you think about money.

Rewrite your life

Take some time and write down your ideal relationship with money. Get creative with it. The process will help you figure out what you really want from your money, and writing it down will help make any decisions real.

Financial empowerment

Change isn't going to happen overnight. Yeah, we're making peace with our money, but this is really about self-transformation. Once you've made the decision to start the process, don't forget to enjoy every day on the path to becoming the ideal you.

Class Notes



Eric Waffner, MD 2000, a member of Buffalo Medical Group's primary care division, was elected a fellow of the American College of Physicians' Society of Internists. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

***Samantha Clark, BA 2001 & BS 2001**, was promoted to senior vice president of career development at Alliance Advisory Group. She resides in Elma, N.Y.

Brian Goldwater, BS 2002, was promoted to administrative vice president at M&T Bank. Goldwater was previously vice president at the bank and will maintain his role there as senior audit manager. He lives in Orchard Park, N.Y.

Cynthia Leung, DDS 2002, a clinical instructor at Columbia University Medical Center, expanded her practice, Riverview Dentistry. She resides in Bloomfield, N.J.

Shaun Maciejewski, BFA 2002, joined Blue Bridge Financial as a marketing manager. Maciejewski was previously lead marketing designer for New Era Cap Company. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Timothy Altieri, BA 2004, opened Altieri Law Firm in Cape Coral, Fla. Before forming the firm, Altieri was an assistant state prosecutor and personal injury defense lawyer in Florida. He resides in Cape Coral.

Emily Lamb, BS 2004, an attorney at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, was selected for Leadership Louisville Center's Ignite Class of 2014. She lives in Louisville, Ky.

Lindsey Clark, MD 2005, joined Wyoming County Community Hospital as an orthopedic surgeon in the Orthopedic Specialty Services Clinic. She resides in Hamburg, N.Y.

Robert Davies, PhD 2005, was appointed the 13th president

of Murray State University. Davies previously served as president of Eastern Oregon University. He lives in Murray, Ky.

Roseane Santos, PhD 2005, joined the organizing committee of the second International Summit on Clinical Pharmacy. Santos is an assistant professor in South University's Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. She resides in Savannah, Ga.

Kevin Rush, BA 2006, was promoted to senior project manager at Eric Mower & Associates. Rush joined the agency in 2010 as a traffic manager. He lives in Kenmore, N.Y.

David Marcoux, MArch 2007 & BS 2005, an associate at Foit-Albert Associates, earned his architect's license in New York State. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y.



***Sandra Sheppard, PhD 2010 & MSW 1997**, joined West Side Community Services as executive director. She lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Philip Cortellucci, BS 2011, graduated from the Marine Corps Officer Candidates School and was commissioned to second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Michael Valerio, PhD 2011, a postdoctoral fellow at the Medical University of South Carolina, won first place in the American Association for Dental Research's Johnson & Johnson Healthcare Products Edward H. Hatton Awards competition. He lives in Penfield, N.Y.

Julian Renz, MS 2013, joined HEIDENHAIN Corporation as a TNC product specialist and liaison to the corporate headquarters in Traunreut, Germany. He resides in Chicago, Ill.



PENELOPE DULLAGHAN



TOP FIVE

Mallory Whipple MS '09

Nutritionist, Buffalo division, Wegmans Food Markets



At 28, Mallory Whipple already has her dream job. An outdoors enthusiast and self-proclaimed veggie, she gets to spend her workdays spreading the gospel of healthy food to others as the Buffalo-division nutritionist for Wegmans Food Markets. Among her responsibilities: making sure that Western New York's iconic supermarket offers its customers healthy and convenient alternatives to the, well, not-so-healthy offerings just a few aisles away.

We asked Whipple to share her top tips on how to avoid the siren call of soda and snacks when shopping at your neighborhood supermarket.

Top 5 ways to beat grocery store gluttony:

Plan a week's worth of menus

There's enough to think about in your day without worrying about what you're going to do for dinner. You know what your family likes, so why not plan ahead and give yourself one less thing to stress over during your week?

Make a list

A plan of attack is important to any operation, and shopping is no different. When you're staring down an aisle

of chips, "that's not on my list" is your first line of defense against temptation.

Don't betray the list

You've got your list and a healthy menu planned out; now stick to your guns. If it's important, add it to the list, but don't let a sugar craving get the best of you.

Stay fresh

An empty cart seems like an invitation to temptation. Start in the produce section and take up space

with apples, baby carrots and other produce instead of those crinkle cuts you love so much. Your waistline will thank you and your wallet will too.

Eat around the edges

Fresh meat and produce are usually located around the edges of the store. From there you can head to dairy and finish strong in the frozen section without having a standoff with the bulk candy.



We think the best fall color is actually blue.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND FOOTBALL

UB BULLS VS. MIAMI OF OHIO
SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, UB STADIUM
GAMETIME TBA (Anticipated afternoon game)



Join us in Stampede Square, THE destination for pregame tailgating for UB fans! Located right outside the stadium, Stampede Square has something for everyone. Bring the family for games, picnicking and activities, or register for the **alumni tailgate tent package** featuring food and adult beverages.

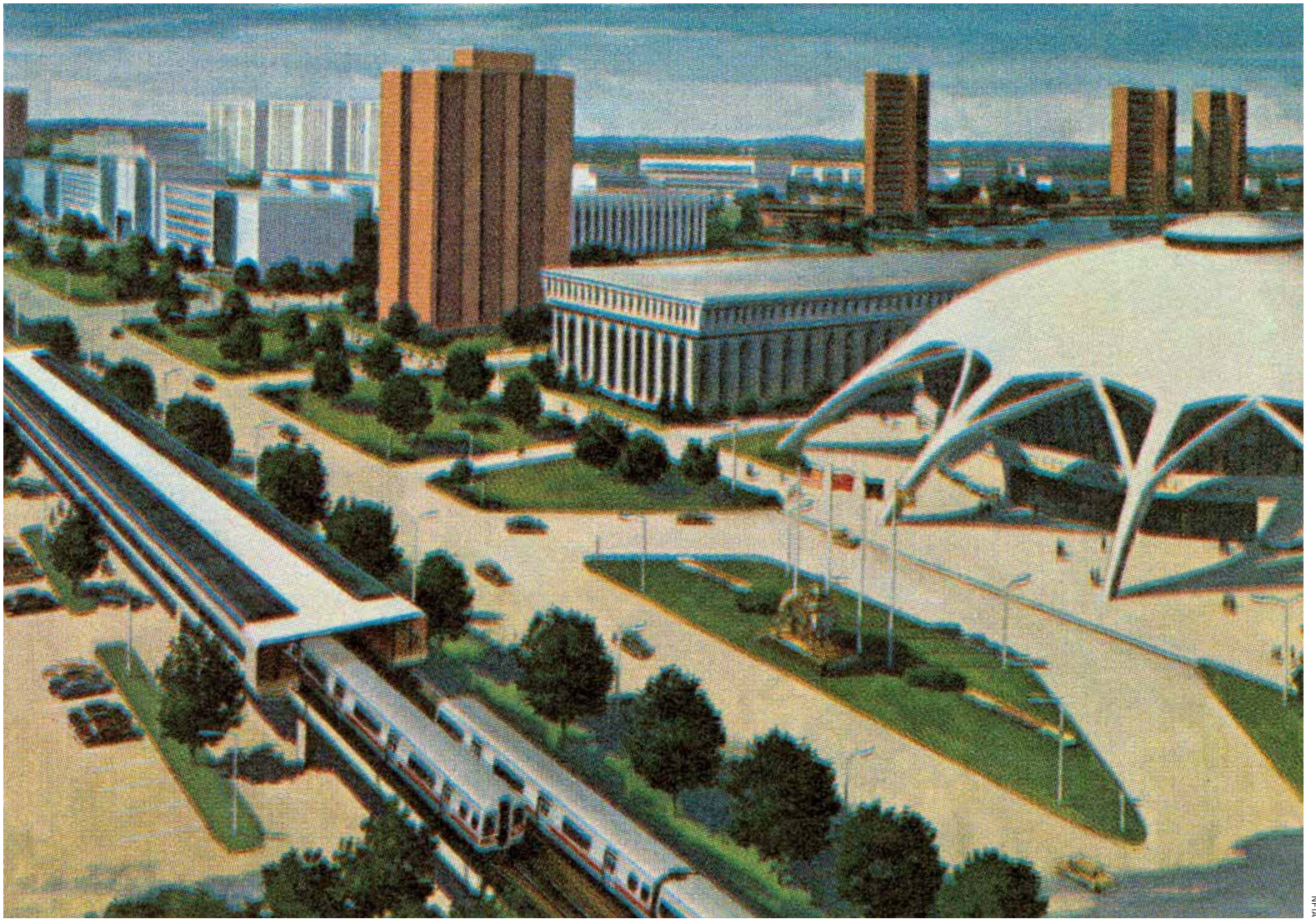
Two hours before game time, help the players, coaches and cheerleaders get psyched to beat Miami of Ohio as they head into the stadium during the **Walk to Victory**, accompanied by the Thunder of the East marching band.

Then, rock out to "Joy to the World," "Mama Told me Not to Come," and other hits from **Three Dog Night**, as they take the stage for the pregame tailgate concert.

Fall and UB Football, make it a family tradition!

For ticket information, visit alumni.buffalo.edu/events





UB YESTERDAY

1973

“Metro station on new SUNYAB campus”

In 1973, UB’s two campuses were academic islands, connected only by car and public bus. That same year, what was then known as the Niagara Frontier Transit System published a report imagining how a newfangled light rail system might look and operate in the future.

The plan called for 10.7 miles of track, running from Cathedral Park (a pocket park in downtown Buffalo) north along Main Street and past the South Campus to not one but two North Campus stations, with stops along the way at Sweet Home, Maple and Sheridan. The report projected that the complete line would be operational in six years, with trains running every two minutes during peak hours. In reality, the 6.4-mile single line took seven years to complete and ends at the South Campus.

But there’s light at the end of the tunnel. Buffalo’s public transit system is back in the news as community leaders call for more funding, and the NFTA (Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority) studies how that money can and should be spent. Perhaps one day rail service will connect all three of UB’s campus communities, linking the bustling suburbs to the exciting developments downtown.



Thanks to you,

I found the subject to
build my career around.

Anthony Hilbert is exactly the kind of undergraduate the geography department's McConnell/MacPherson Award in International Trade was designed for. The donor-funded stipend of \$500 changed his future. One of his professors offered to mentor Anthony in a research project and encouraged him to apply for the award. He set out to discover how much the so-called "warm-glow utility" affects decisions to buy fair trade coffee. He says he learned as much about how to frame a research problem as he did about the problem itself. Anthony used his stipend to present his findings at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in New York City. After that he was hooked. He's now in his final year of studies for a master's degree in geography—**thanks to the boost from donors.**

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all it takes is a
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UB SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Friday, November 7, 2014

Edward L. Wright Practice Facility
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North Campus, Amherst, NY

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and entertainment

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Gala proceeds support UB students

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LAST LOOK

Sidewalk Skills. Media study student Lewuga Benson dusts off his artistic side at Chalkfest in late May. The free, public event kicked off UB's first-ever Warm Weather Wednesdays, a series of outdoor activities on the North Campus that also included canoeing on Lake LaSalle, Frisbee golf and a treasure hunt.