

At Buffalo

3D Objectology **p11**
Hitler: through the curtains **p15**
Escape from Everest **p32**

The magazine for alumni and friends of the State University of New York at Buffalo **Fall 2015**



Our not-so-sleepy summer **p24**

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BIG!
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FIRST LOOK

Photographs by Douglas Levere

Hippie Dipping

UB blue. And green and purple and yellow and ...

By Rebecca Rudell

Warm Weather Wednesdays (WWW) went retro this summer as students, staff, friends and families learned how to make groovy tie-dye T-shirts. Sponsored by UBThisSummer, WWW celebrates the season with a weekly series of free outdoor events and activities, which this year included UB Chalkfest, a disc golf workshop, kite flying and a treasure hunt, in addition to tie-dyeing. For that event, people gathered in the Student Union field to twist, tie, dip and dye plain white T-s, turning them into gorgeous, color-saturated fashion statements. UB provided all the supplies—as well as, most importantly, ice cream.





UB Marching Band at the McKinley Monument, 1920, Buffalo, NY

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Cover illustration by © Betsy Everitt/i2iart.com

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VICTORIA MAXFIELD

Editorial Director

Laura Silverman

Editor

Ann Whitcher Gentzke

Creative Director

Rebecca Farnham

Photographer

Douglas Levere (BA '89)

Director of Constituent Communications

Division of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

Barbara A. Byers

Senior Director of Communications

Division of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

Ann R. Brown

Section Editors

David J. Hill

Lauren Newkirk Maynard

Contributing Writer

Rebecca Rudell

Class Notes Contributor

Katelynn Padowski Brigham (BA '12)

Editorial Assistants

Olivia W. Bae (BA '14)

Michael Flatt (BA '06)

Design Assistant

Richard Klingensmith (BFA '13)

Student Design Assistant

Jacob Schupbach

Production Coordinator

Cynthia Todd

Vice President for Communications

Nancy E. Paton

Vice President for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

Nancy L. Wells

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EDITOR'S ESSAY

The Pace of Summer

I might not have spotted it on a cold, blustery winter day. But in mid-July, a student's ID card in the grass glinted in sunlight as I walked along Flint Road toward the Academic Spine. While it wasn't like finding a lost engagement ring, I knew this proof of identity would be precious to the card-holder. Students use their UB Card almost daily to purchase meals, obtain discounts for campus entertainment, borrow books or ride the Stampede. Replacing it costs \$20, a not insubstantial sum on a student budget.

So I called the number listed on the back and spoke with Julie Homka, supervisor of the UB Card Office. Julie offered to contact the student, Naishal Bhatt. I later learned he's a biotechnology major who emigrated from India four years ago and is now a U.S. permanent resident. Naishal eventually made his way to my building on the outskirts of campus and happily retrieved his property.

I might not have found the card or met Naishal had it not been for summer's more relaxed tempo, and the simple fact that far fewer people are on campus from Commencement to late August. With less frequent shuttle bus service, I typically take long walks at lunchtime with Lockwood Library, a hot dog stand in Founders Plaza and an ATM machine my favorite destinations. With summer, too, there's the opportunity to observe more, to take in sights like the young man climbing atop a huge mound near the Old



DOUGLAS LEVERE

Workers flash brick at Capen Hall.

Stadium to take a picture, high schoolers participating in an engineering camp, or workers on lifts repointing the masonry of Capen Hall, UB's main administration building.

But as our cover story on p. 24 reminds us, summer's gentler pace belies the energy and bubbling activity that may be imperceptible to the casual visitor. This is especially true of the many individuals preparing for the return of 29,000-plus students. In Julie's case, she's busy during summertime helping students sign up for meal plans and get that all-important UB Card. Others are formulating menus, finalizing curricula, counseling students, painting classrooms, repairing roadways, or just finding time to think, as one PhD candidate explained her summer plans to me.

The altered physical landscape played into Naishal's losing his card in the first place. When I met him, he was taking a summer microbiology course at Erie Community College. He explained how, after class, he would commute to the North Campus where his mother picked him up to drive to the family's nearby home. With construction near Flint Loop restricting traffic, Naishal asked his mom to instead pick him up farther down Flint Road—the approximate area where I found the card.

Of course, by the time this is published, Naishal will be fully immersed in his fall semester studies with the UB Card safely tucked in his wallet. Summer's sizzling appeal—we did have two July days in the 90s—will have yielded to fall's quickened pulse and much cooler weather. Still, it's nice to recall summer and all the people who set the stage for autumn's reinvigorated campus life.

Ann Whitcher Gentzke, Editor

Question: How important was your schooling, versus the practical experience you have gained over the years, in getting you to where you are today?

Meagan, your question gets to the heart of the national conversation we are having today about higher education. You have touched on questions about the value and purpose of higher education, and its relevance in terms of preparing graduates to succeed in the “real world.”

But when we’re talking about education and practical experience, I don’t think it’s a matter of “either-or.” In the educational environment at its best, they are two sides of the same coin.

I’m happy to say that has been my own experience. As a young computer science student—between college and grad school—I had the incredible opportunity to work for a government-sponsored industrial firm that allowed me to see some of the concepts I had studied in action. That experience brought to life what I had learned in the classroom, and it gave me the motivation to take my experience to the next level by pursuing graduate study in computer science, first in India and then in Canada.

A strong academic foundation and rich practical experience complement and enrich each other at every turn. To me, what’s really interesting is the give-and-take between the two. An excellent education—one which provides a foundation of knowledge, and an ability to think clearly, creatively and critically—is what allows us to make meaning from experience. Applying that knowledge to practical, concrete problems and to the abstract questions that have challenged humans since the dawn of time—that is what brings classroom learning to life and gives it purpose.

In a nutshell, these are the principles behind the learning environment we aim to create at UB. That is why experiential learning—from study abroad to externship opportunities—plays such a vital role in the curricular transformation now underway. And it is why we have created so many opportunities across the disciplines for students to transform ideas into action—whether it’s internship opportunities, teaching practica, clinical experience for professional students in law and the social and health sciences, or performance and studio experience for students in the arts.

Your experience as a civil engineering student is a great example. You mentioned the hands-on opportunities you have had to apply academic principles to practical challenges—like the floating classroom you and your classmates designed from recycled bottles! Ten years from now, you may look back and see that that experience opened up a whole new world for you.

Indeed, experiences build on each other and configure themselves in unexpected and wonderful ways, so it’s impossible to predict exactly where your UB education will take you. But I am confident you will see the world differently because of what you learned here in the classroom, lab and field—and you will never run out of opportunities to apply those lessons in new and important ways.

I am always awestruck by the amazing projects and groundbreaking ideas our students are working on, and it’s truly exciting to imagine where those experiences might lead them tomorrow. So thank you for sharing some of your own exciting ideas and plans with me today—and all best wishes on the road ahead! ♣

OUR STUDENT

Meagan McCadden

A junior civil engineering major from Clarence, N.Y., Meagan McCadden enjoys hands-on learning; she recently helped design a floatable classroom made of recycled bottles. She spoke to the president about her interests in pursuing either geotechnical or environmental engineering, which led to a discussion about women in STEM. Tripathi noted that while women are gaining more representation in some areas of engineering (environmental and civil, in particular), overall participation continues to lag. “Something is happening at the junior high or high school levels,” he mused, to which McCadden acknowledged she was one of only two girls in an engineering class of 30 during her senior year. “Did the other young woman go into engineering?” Tripathi asked. “Yes,” McCadden replied. “She’s one of my best friends!”

President Tripathi

Meagan McCadden



The late, great Hollis Frampton

Editor's note: Last issue's cover story, "The Infinite Hollis Frampton," stirred strong reaction from readers. One 1973 graduate sent colorful mail art (below), reading, "There are three filmmakers from the media studies department who were taken from us all too quickly. That cover story really brought it all back." Others used more conventional pathways to respond:

I remember when Hollis Frampton walked into my avant-garde film class and asked if anyone knew how to type. I raised my hand and Hollis offered me the job on the spot. He was brilliant to be around; I remember that he was mostly busy creating. How wonderful it was to see him on the cover and to be reminded of Paul Sharits (who lived in an apartment above me), Tony Conrad (one of my professors) and my college years!

Nancy Elder (BS '77)
Millburn, N.J.

I came to UB in the late 1970s for graduate work at the Center for Media Studies. It had been my good luck to already receive much recognition for my film work. Now, many decades later, I remain engaged as a film/DVD maker. However, no thanks to Hollis Frampton or the other arrogant professors. They are/were undeserving of their extreme self-love and did their best to discourage students.

David Lee (MA '79)
Washington, D.C.

What little I knew about Hollis Frampton (other than that he was the late husband of my beloved professor, the late Marion Faller) was that he was an artist so avant-garde that no one quite knew how to categorize him, much less understand his work and its relevance. Thanks to Bruce Adams for an interesting, illuminating and insightful article.

Lynette Miller (MFA '90, BFA '87)
Black Mountain, N.C.

Yo, Bradley "Last Name," thanks!

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.



Long ago and far away, there was a magical place called the Digital Arts Lab (DAL) on the Main Street campus. It was run by a "mad man" named Hollis Frampton. I hung out there and built my first (working) computer from a bare circuit board and components. It had two 8-inch floppy drives that held a huge 250KB each and cost \$400 apiece and it ran CP/M. Others there were working on building a frame buffer from scratch or writing a large image-processing system called Imago (written all in Z80 assembler—I don't believe it was ever finished). A couple of other people were composing music on their CP/M computer using hexadecimal input. They liked it because it corresponded naturally to sixteenth-notes.

Joseph J. Pollock (BA '84)
Williamsville, N.Y.

Beautiful bats

Regarding "Gone batty" ["UB Emoji," Summer 2015], bats occasionally enter human space, but they mean no harm. I hope the one in O'Brian Hall was carefully and humanely removed and released outside.

Amy Hopkins (PhD '95, MD '89)
Guilford, Conn.

Editor's response: Our facilities folks have assured us that bats are always removed humanely and taken to an appropriate location. In this particular case, the bat had removed itself by the time they were able to access it safely.

Sputnik-era film featured UB

I read with interest how decaying films that featured UB were being preserved through digitalization ["Moving Images," Summer 2015]. Apparently not found was a copy of the 1957 documentary "Decade for Decision" that starred both UB and then-UB Chancellor Clifford C. Furnas. The film was a call to action for more science and math education to confront the threat from the Soviet Union after the launch of Sputnik. UB was highlighted because of the science programs it was offering.

Ronald Balter (BA '80)
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Praise for At Buffalo

I need to tell you how much I enjoy At Buffalo over my other alumni magazines. I get eight such magazines—four from the schools I have attended and four from my degree programs. This is the best of the lot.

Alan Ehrlich (BA '63)
Bethesda, Md.

Correction Michael Johnson (BS '02) wrote to correct us on the wrong answer regarding the year when UB became a NCAA Division I-A school ("Do You Know UB?" Summer 2015). The year was 1999 and "C" is the correct answer. Thanks for setting us straight, Michael.



On Campus

- » Helping survivors heal
- » Placenta placebo?
- » Call your mother!

Past is Prologue

Two new architectural programs capitalize on Buffalo's colorful past and bright future

SOUTH CAMPUS

Assistant professor Ashima Krishna admires the interior of a Russian Orthodox church built in 1933 in Buffalo.

By Ann Whitcher Gentzke » Tucked away in Buffalo's Lovejoy neighborhood is a vibrant Russian Orthodox church, a Byzantine beauty still alive with an active congregation. The interior includes gilded murals, copper and stone accents, and a chandelier suspended from a central dome.

Students in UB's new Advanced Graduate Certificate Program in Historic Preservation recently helped draft a nomination to place Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church on the National Register of Historic Places. Designed by Buffalo architect Joseph Fronczak, the church opened in 1933, replacing a turn-of-the-century structure and welcoming Russian and Eastern European immigrants as it had for decades. The students' work to document the church's history, iconography and architecture helped advance the nomination up the chain to the U.S. Department of the Interior, where it was pending at press time.

Students in the recently launched program learn to see preservation as more than saving a building. They're safeguarding a community's heritage and, says Ashima Krishna, assistant profes-

sor of historic preservation in the School of Architecture and Planning, gaining an understanding of preservation as inseparable from modern urban design. "It really gives you a much more fleshed-out understanding of what you're going to be dealing with as a preservation practitioner," she explains. To this end, students delve into topics like the legislative frameworks for preservation and the history of American urbanism.

Also recently introduced is a 48-credit MS degree with a specialization in architectural preservation and urban design—a full-bodied version of the certificate program aimed at generalists. Both programs draw heavily on Buffalo's built heritage, while welcoming a diverse student body with varied backgrounds, including law, archaeology and journalism.

A bonus for participants is the opportunity to explore Buffalo architecture in depth, says Krishna. "As an architect and a preservation planner, it's interesting to be part of a city that's going through such a resurgence, and where preservation is such a big part of that resurgence." ❖



TRAVIS FOSTER

THE WEIGH-IN

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

The News: Famous moms from January Jones to Kim Kardashian have gulped down their own placentas (usually in encapsulated form) after giving birth, pushing the practice of “placentophagia” into the headlines and making us wonder: Are there any benefits to eating one’s placenta?

The Expert: **Mark Kristal, professor of psychology and a noted placentophagia expert (whose research has shown that placenta ingestion is beneficial to non-human mammals)**



There is no valid scientific evidence yet that eating placenta has any health benefits for humans. All of the information so far is anecdotal and is spread primarily by doulas, midwives and placenta encapsulators. The anecdotes and surveys indicate that the method of preparation doesn’t matter, the amount ingested doesn’t matter, and the time it is eaten relative to delivery doesn’t matter. Furthermore, it appears from these reports to help a wide variety of problems and ailments. That puts it into the realm of a placebo, not a medical remedy.”



Griswold (right) and a student conduct a forensic medical exam.



DOUGLAS LEVENE

Bearing Witness

UB helps asylum seekers gain legal status—and heal—by documenting their trauma

By **Rebecca Rudell** » “My work with refugees makes me feel as if I’m part of something bigger,” says Kim Griswold (MD ’94), associate professor of family medicine, psychiatry and public health at UB, and the medical director of the WNY Center for Survivors of Refugee Trauma and Torture.

More than 100,000 men, women and children apply for refuge or seek asylum in the United States every year. Many have suffered devastating experiences, from aggravated rape to seeing members of their family killed. The Survivors Center estimates that roughly 15,000 resettled refugees in Western New York alone were traumatized or tortured in their home countries.

Established in 2014, the Survivors Center is a joint project between UB and four other Western New York social service agencies. In addition to providing medical and psychiatric referrals to refugees, it is one of four centers in Western New York authorized by the U.S government to help asylum seekers gain legal status. Whereas refugees are screened before coming to the U.S. and automatically become eligible for citizenship on arrival, asylum seekers make their way here on their own; to stay legally, they must prove their cases of trauma—and this is where Griswold and her students come in.

Using the Istanbul Protocol, a set of international guidelines endorsed by Physicians for Human Rights and used to document torture and its effects, they conduct extensive forensic medical exams. Each interview entails several hours of gently and sensitively coaxing out the details of the reported physical and psychological trauma. These details are put into an affidavit, later to be used in court. Stories must match any physical and mental scars revealed by the medical part of the exam, or the case could fall apart.

In addition to gaining multicultural clinical experience with an underserved population, the student volunteers—mostly from the medical and law schools, but also from public health and even anthropology—gain essential communication skills through conducting these interviews. The students are, says Griswold, her legacy; she knows some may carry on this crucial work after she retires. Most importantly, she says, “They’ll have an experience that shapes them forever. That’s what it’s all about.”

So far the center has completed 17 affidavits and had one victory. (At press time, one case is currently on appeal, while the other 15 are pending in court.) No matter what the outcome, Griswold says, the process itself is important. “People can tell their stories and we can bear witness to what happened to them.”



Tweetable: #UBuffalo turned off lights and computers for one hour on June 19 to promote energy conservation as part of 2015 #DaylightHour. @BEEexNY



B80 Center for the Arts, North Campus

The office of Donna Massimo, costume shop manager



Interview by Michael Flatt

Donna Massimo (MA '90, BFA '75) has a story for every one of the knickknacks and oddities in her office—paraphernalia accrued over the course of three decades in the costume shop for UB's Department of Theatre and Dance. "If you ask a question, you'll get far too many answers from me," she jokes. Here, she shares some of her favorite conversation starters.

A Intercom box I think when they designed these spaces, they didn't know how they were going to be used; they thought I was going to be sitting in my office during a rehearsal, as opposed to sitting in the theater watching it. The intercoms might be ready to go, but we've never used them.

B Blue screen material That was for [theater producer] Doug Fitch's production

here last year. We were matching a color for unitards for this particular dance sequence. I also had makeup mixed to match it from crylon. The blue is the blue they use as the backdrop when you're shooting a movie scene for CGI.

C Puppet This is a gift from [former UB theater professor] Sarah Bay-Cheng. I was a printmaking major, and one of my

friends had done a canvas print of Gertrude Stein. I decided to make a doll out of it. So when I met Sarah, I said, "I have something I think you'll enjoy." When she was leaving, she gave me this Indonesian puppet in return.

D Rogovin Photograph I first met the late Milton Rogovin (MA '72) when I was in my 20s. He photographed miners, workers at Bethlehem

Steel, people on the West Side. The Smithsonian has all his stuff now. He came to me one day and said, "Do you know punk people?" And I knew one, Dotson, a brilliant cutter-drafter. All his clothes were assembled with safety pins. This is Joey, his partner, who was a florist. Milton thought this was awesome, but the punk thing didn't really work out for him, so it was a very small series.

E Apron costume This was a bedspread that I cut and sewed into a working person's apron. It has this weird texture and this dead color. It's in every show that has peasants. I once put a brocade collar on it for the fool in "King Lear." I probably use it once every two or three semesters. I pull it out and say, "How about this?"

On Campus

UB EMOJI

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



Rock-n-rove

When the UB Space Bulls Robo-Ops team was competing in the 2015 National Institute of Aerospace's robot competition, its rover's remote-controlled arm failed. (Did we mention that the robot and its arm were in Texas and the student controlling the arm was at UB?) Within minutes, the UB team repaired the arm, scooped up the rocks needed to complete the mission and took third place overall. Space Bulls, you definitely rock!



We've got game

UB has been getting into the game lately—game shows, that is. Charlotte Miller, a UB softball pitcher and a freshman at the time, attended a March taping of "The Price is Right" and was called up on stage. She made it all the way to spinning the Big Wheel and moving on to the Showcase Showdown. Then, in June, arts director Edmund Cardoni (MA '85) earned an appearance on "Jeopardy" after taking the online test three years in a row. Neither came away with the grand prize, but they won our hearts!



Phone home

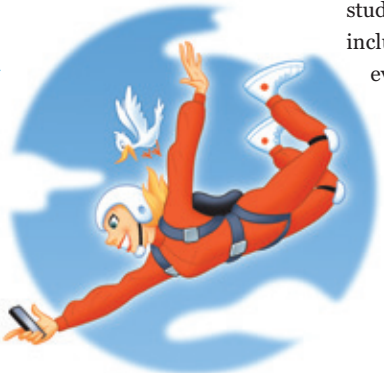
Call your mother—or she may call the police. That's exactly what happened when a UB student's mom hadn't heard from her son for several weeks. She eventually contacted University Police to do what's called a welfare check (basically, making sure someone is OK). One of UB's finest was able to contact the "missing" student and instructed him to give his mother a call ASAP. We think that officer deserves a care package.

POLL POSITION

An unofficial survey of 100 UB students

Do you prefer to spend your money on things or on experiences?

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Recent grad Matt Duggan (right) and his friend, Army veteran Nick Stone, in UB's machine shop.

NORTH CAMPUS

DYLAN BUNSKES/IONION STUDIO

On the Road Again

An engineering student builds a custom ride for a friend in need

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard » When Matt Duggan (BS '14) showed up on the first day of his senior design class in mechanical and aerospace engineering, he knew what he wanted to build: a tricycle for his buddy Nick.

Nick Stone, an Army veteran and Duggan's friend since middle school, lost his lower left leg in May 2010 from an IED explosion in Afghanistan. An avid cyclist, he told Duggan how frustrating it was trying to ride a conventional bicycle. "I wasn't able to keep my balance for very long, and my prosthetic leg kept slipping off the pedal," says Stone.

Duggan lost no time developing a trike prototype for the class, a capstone course taught by Joseph Mollendorf, professor and supervisor of the engineering school's state-of-the-art machine shop in Jarvis Hall.

Using funding from a longstanding NSF grant (now expired), Mollendorf had his students design devices specifically for people with disabilities. Since the grant began more than 20 years ago, UB students have produced more than 500 devices, including modified wheelchairs, knee braces—even a tiny prototype of a human-powered snowmobile. After the grant ended, the course has soldiered on with departmental funding.

Most of the class projects are crude proofs of concept, more to demonstrate feasibility as opposed to polished prototypes. Duggan, though, was determined to make a working trike that Stone could use every day.

At first, it was tough going. With two detachable front wheels, the trike was wobbly and dangerous. Before Duggan's team could solve the design problem, his project partner graduated and Duggan ran out of money (the course budget is \$100). Luckily, Mollendorf gave him an open budget—from a discretionary UB account—and an additional semester to finish up.

Things really fell into place when Stone's uncle, who works at a ball bearing company in Buffalo, donated motorcycle bearings to improve the steering. Duggan also upgraded the tires, added rear disc brakes, and, to solve the grip problem, added a toe clip and strap that lock Stone's shoe onto the pedal.

Finally, he spent hours outside class painting the bike, adding decals and using one of the shop's milling machines to carve a UB emblem for the front. "I wanted Nick to be safe, but I also wanted him to be proud of riding it," Duggan says.

It appears he was. Around Duggan's graduation that May, he, Stone and their families met at the machine shop to tour the facility and unveil the completed trike. Stone took a few spins outside, a big grin on his face.

Duggan, who now works as a technician at Moog Inc., a precision motion controls manufacturer, plans to complete an MBA at UB and then move into engineering management. He says his senior project wasn't really about building his portfolio or getting a job—it was about giving his friend a lift, in more ways than one. ♣

By David J. Hill Photographs by Douglas Levere

DIY on steroids

3-D printing enables UB students and researchers to create amazing things

Imagine performing an operation tailored to a patient's unique medical characteristics—before stepping into the operating room. Or solving an engineering challenge by building exactly the object you need. These are just a couple of the ways in which several schools and departments at UB are using 3-D printing.

Employing computer software, spools of plastic (in lieu of ink cartridges) and a device resembling a mini fridge or microwave, students and researchers can create just about anything imaginable—in intricate detail—in a matter of hours.

The technology itself isn't all that new. As Lindsay Romano (M'Arch '06, BS '03), who manages the digital workshop in the School of Architecture and Planning, explains, "It's not that 3-D printing is so cool; it's been around for 20 years. It's what you can make with it. It allows our students to create things they can't make by hand, just using their imagination."

Students and faculty in architecture, engineering, media study, and medicine and biomedical sciences, among other departments, are using their imaginations to make some remarkable objects. In this expanded edition of Objectology, we take a closer look at some of their creations.

Med School Magic

UB's Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) is using 3-D printing to create complex structures known as vascular phantoms. The structures are a breakthrough tool for surgeons, according to Ciprian Ionita (PhD '05), a research assistant professor in the CTRC, because the material closely resembles human tissue. "Imagine having a department of biomedical engineers in your hospital who within five hours can give you a model of a patient to test on before you see that patient," Ionita says. "For these kinds of complex vessels, we are unique. There are maybe four or five centers around the world that can print what we make here."

Small Wonders

3-D printers can print the tiniest objects with mind-boggling precision. This hand, created at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, is only slightly larger than a dime.

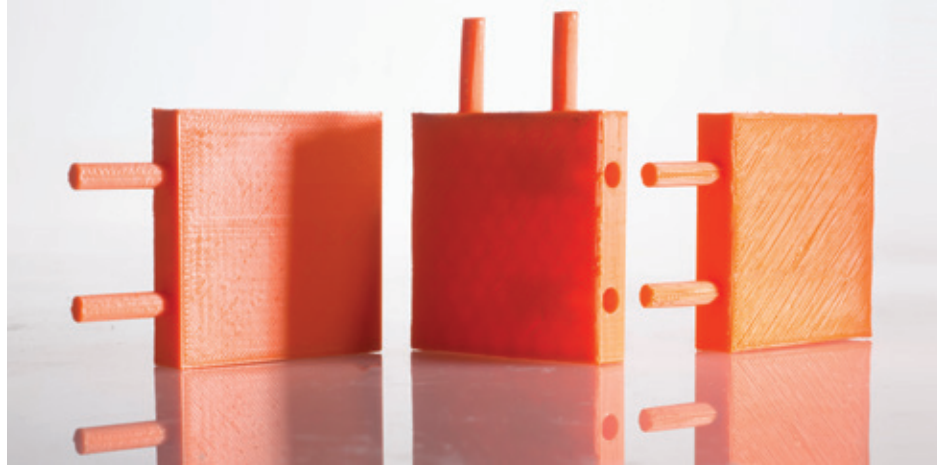


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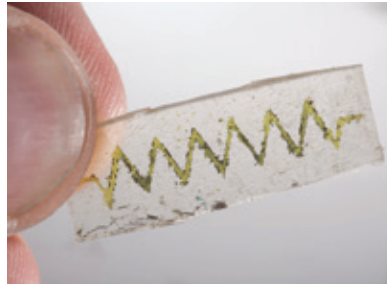
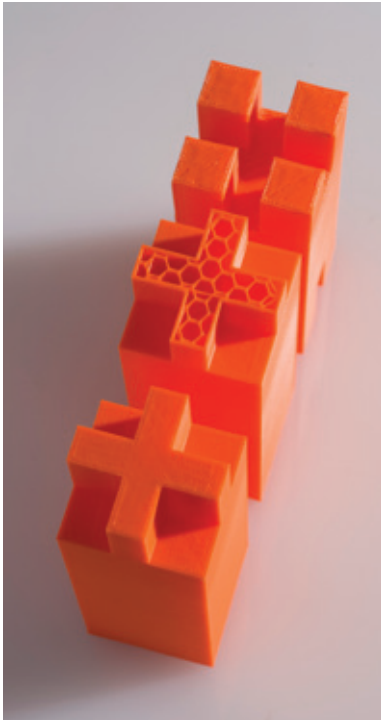
Compact Conductivity

Engineering researchers at UB are employing 3-D printing to blend nanoparticles into materials, like the photopolymer above, to make them self-sensing. "In the future, we may want to print small batteries or capacitors," explains Chi Zhou, assistant professor of industrial and systems engineering. "To make it compact, we can directly print the battery onto the object itself. We won't need the casing and everything else."



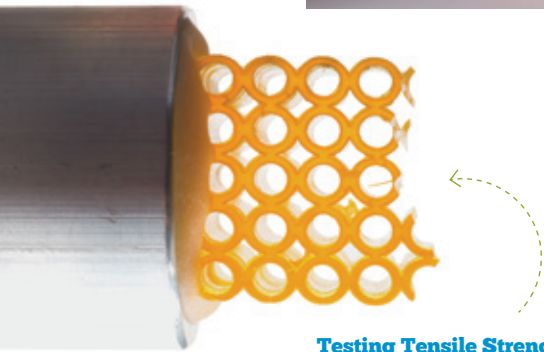
Making Furniture Better

While engineering faculty and students are using 3-D printers to create some pretty technical stuff, they're also conceptualizing and printing things that have everyday applications, such as the objects pictured above and at left. These parts, when connected, make furniture stronger and more durable.



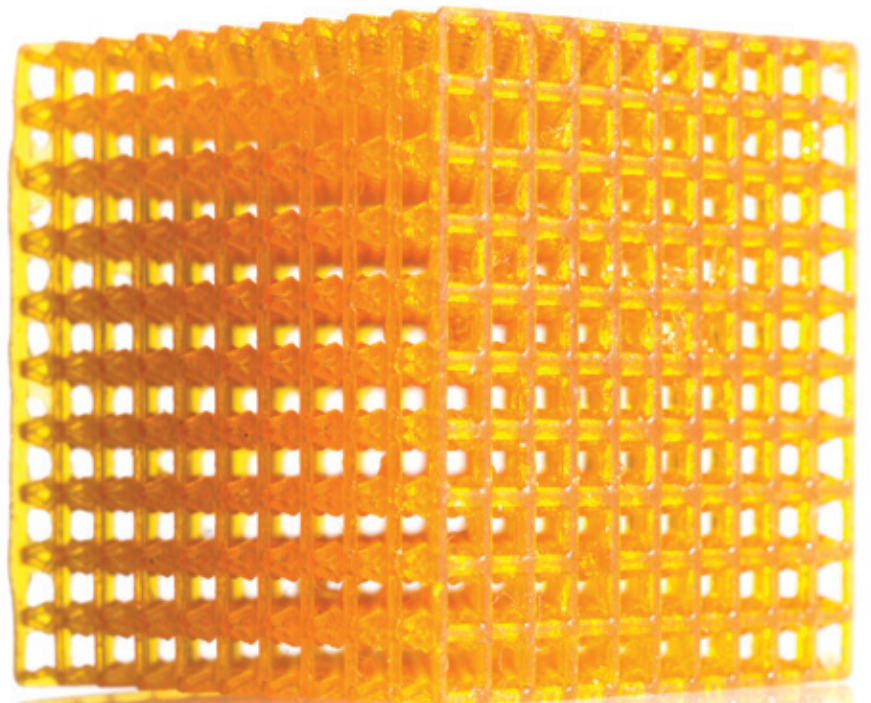
Teeny Tiny Sensors

Zhou and Rahul Rai, assistant professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, are working with local industry to advance 3-D printing of tiny sensors, such as the one pictured at left. The sensors' small size makes them suitable for biomedical and telecommunication devices, wearable electronics and more.

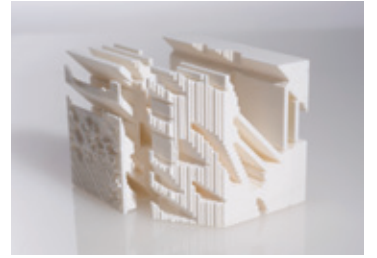
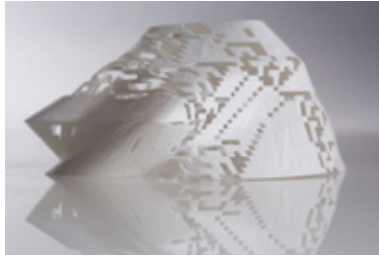


Testing Tensile Strength

Zhou and his team designed their own 3-D printer to create lightweight objects (above and at right) that can be used to test tensile strength, a measurement of the force required to pull something to its breaking point. Such research is especially useful in bridge, automobile and aerospace design applications.



ARCHITECTURE



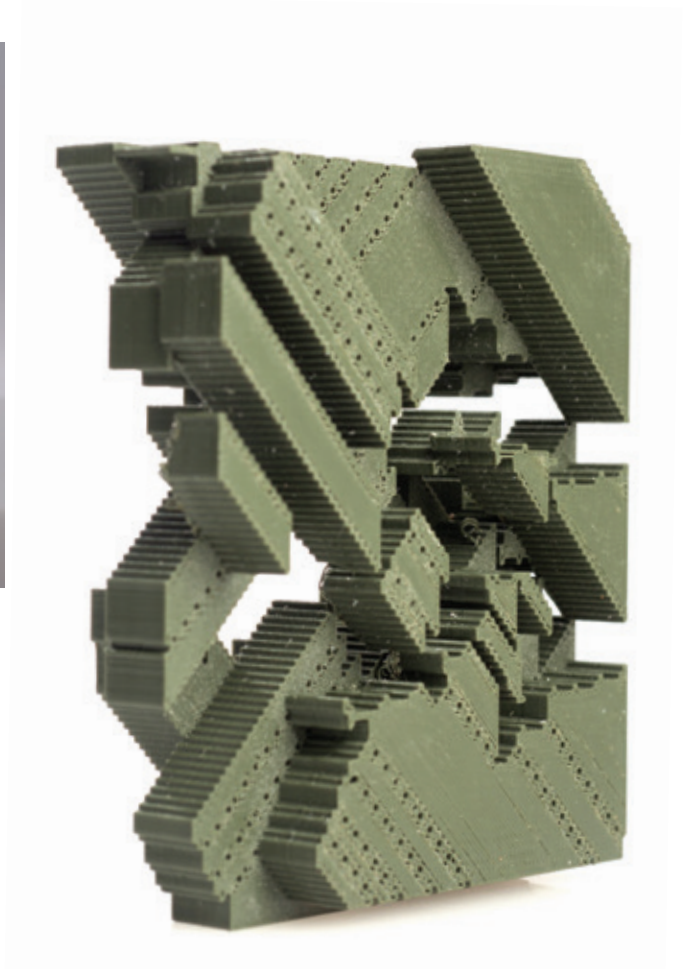
“There’s a huge difference between seeing a model physically versus on the screen.”

Michael Silver, assistant professor, School of Architecture and Planning

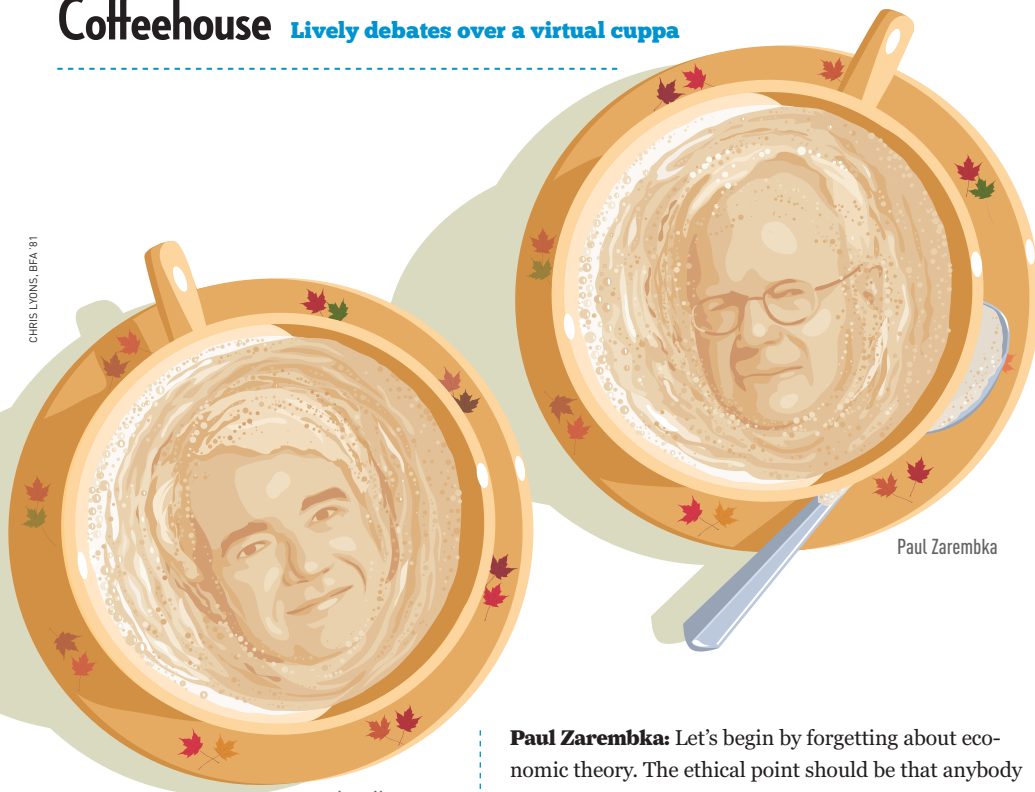


Models of the Imagination

Architecture students at UB use 3-D printers to test their design ideas. “We used to make models by hand, which is very time consuming,” says Assistant Professor of Architecture Michael Silver. “3-D printing allows students to quickly study different variations of forms that would have been impossible to create in the past.” The objects presented on this page are all studies of forms and spaces. They were created in the school’s “Fab Lab” in Parker Hall.



CHRIS LYONS, BFA '81



Jerry Newman

Paul Zarembka

Raising the Minimum Wage

The topic of minimum wage is hotter than the grill at your nearest McDonald's. Should workers earn more money per hour? How much more, and what would the possible ramifications be? To put it into perspective, At Buffalo sat down with Jerry Newman, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor in the School of Management, who worked at seven different fast-food restaurants while researching his book "My Secret Life on the McJob: Lessons in Leadership Guaranteed to Supersize any Management Style"; and Paul Zarembka, professor of economics and an expert in Marxist theory, U.S. labor history and economic development.

Paul Zarembka: Let's begin by forgetting about economic theory. The ethical point should be that anybody who's working at least an eight-hour day deserves more than a living wage.

Jerry Newman: I agree. The minimum wage needs to be considerably more than what it is. The question is, how to do it and who should do it?

PZ: That's a big question. Whatever that number is supposed to be, it needs to be indexed according to some reasonable calculation, like the consumer price index. I'm talking about a real level over the long term, not just a short-term number that gets eaten up by inflation.

JN: I think the highest the minimum wage has been, in terms of the CPI [consumer price index], was in the late 1960s. It was something like \$10.75 in today's dollars. So if we had just kept up in terms of indexing it, as you put it, we'd be at \$10.75 right now, which is considerably more than the \$10.10 that Congress is balking at. As far as whether or not the minimum wage is going to have an impact on employment, it seems that every article you look at, it depends on who they sample, and over what time frame, whether they came to the conclusion that there is no impact or a short-term impact or a long-term impact. It's really got me confused, and I'm supposedly somebody who knows a reasonable amount about this.

PZ: I know where you're coming from. I think the wash is that it's not much either way.

JN: I believe the old CEO of McDonald's said in public he would have no trouble with \$10 an hour as a wage. The new CEO I suspect would be prepared to offer that kind of wage too, and I'm not sure what's keeping things slow, other than the inertia endemic to the government.

PZ: McDonald's wouldn't have a problem if it knew its competitors had the same problem. If there's a law say-

ing it has to be at least this, and it will affect everybody in the industry, then I think they would understand.

JN: Right. It has to be a broad-scale change; otherwise nobody's gonna take that first step. The elephant in the room is calling for a \$15 minimum wage. If you get a huge change like that, we're talking about employers of every size, variety and industry shaking their heads and saying "I just can't do this." We also have to note one of the indirect effects, which hardly anyone speaks about, which is the wage hierarchy in the U.S. If wages go up 2 percent for one group, you can bet they're going to go up 2 percent for another. There's going to be agitation for wage increases all the way up the hierarchy.

PZ: I know somebody working at HSBC making \$14 an hour, and of course they would expect to be making \$20 or \$22 if you have that kind of increase in fast-food wages. It's going to propel expectations that wages in general should be higher, which I have no problem with, to tell you the truth.

JN: I'd be perfectly happy to pay more for my french fries. It's interesting, when I went into the industry for my book, I had this perception of fast-food workers that was diametrically opposite from what I found. They're highly motivated and intelligent, and many wondered how they could get out of what they perceived to be a dead-end job. One young woman who wanted to go to college said she makes \$6 an hour, and she's a single parent paying \$5 an hour in babysitting. She asked me how she could pull it off. For once in my life, I didn't have an answer.

PZ: For this woman, you've got to consider that college isn't free, so you can get in deep debt making that move.

JN: My area of specialty is compensation. In the 1980s the wage difference between an average worker and the CEO was something like 42 to 1. Now it's around 300 to 1. It seems to me it reflects on our value system that there are individuals making \$185 million a year and we're fighting to try to get \$10.10 an hour for our minimum wage workers.

PZ: We have a moral issue.

JN: These are incredibly hard jobs, much harder than I thought they were. I would much rather be speaking at Burger King's national convention again, talking to 1,000 people about what I did undercover, than work in a fast-food restaurant at lunch rush. It's a tough job at \$6 an hour, it's a tough job at \$10 an hour. That goes back to your statement that they deserve it, and I wholeheartedly agree. ☿

How do you take your coffee?

Paul: No sugar, a little cream.

Jerry: I've never had a cup of coffee in my life.

Eureka!



- » [Infographic: the new med school building](#)
- » [Disabling cancer's transportation system](#)
- » [Your brain on noise](#)

The Warm and Fuzzy Führer

A new book illustrates the dangers of fluff media

By [Charlotte Hsu](#) » In November of 1938, when mobs in Nazi Germany burned synagogues, attacked Jewish people in their homes and forced the victims to perform humiliating acts in the streets, the British magazine *Homes & Gardens* ran a three-page feature lauding Adolf Hitler's mountain chalet.

The article commented that the home on the Obersalzberg, a resort town near the Austrian border, was "bright" and "airy," with a jade green color scheme. Meals were often served on a terrace shaded by large canvas umbrellas. The view of the Bavarian Alps was stunning: "The fairest in all Europe," the author wrote.



Despina Stratigakos

In this idyllic setting, Hitler was a country gentleman. He ate vegetarian, "had a passion for cut flowers," and considered his gardeners, chauffeur and air-pilot not as servants but as "loyal friends." He read the news in a sun parlor adorned with chairs of white plaited cane.

Today, it seems surreal that a story like this could appear in a prominent magazine the same month as the pogroms of Kristallnacht, during which authorities rounded up almost 30,000 Jews to send to concentration camps. Though the publication may have hit the stands before the violence started, Jewish rights in Nazi Germany had already been severely curtailed through years of legislation.

But if you trace history, you'll find that the *Homes & Gardens* profile was no fluke; publications worldwide, including *Vogue* and *The New York Times*, ran features on Hitler's private life in the years leading up to World War II, says UB Interim Chair of Architecture Despina Stratigakos.

CONTINUED



Above: This image was included in the 1938 *Homes & Gardens* feature on Hitler's mountain home. The caption reads: "In his hours of ease—the Führer in the garden, with one of his pedigree Alsations beside him." Left: Opening page of the feature. Below: The cover.

Her new book, "Hitler at Home," recounts this forgotten history. Published in September, it details how Hitler's inner circle worked throughout the 1930s to reinvent his public image from solitary rabble-rouser to statesman of fine taste and morals.

"You have this man who is seen as an oddball, with no known lovers and very limited family ties, and yet they manage to completely turn it around and create this new persona," Stratigakos says. "They sell German and foreign audiences on this story of the 'true' Hitler being a caring individual."

Architecture factored deeply into the makeover: The transformation coincided with major renovations of his three residences—the old chancellery in Berlin, his Munich apartment and his mountain

home. The Führer was highly involved in each project, working closely with architects and his designer, Gerdy Troost, to create interiors that evoked the right emotions.

Reporters

were invited to tour the dwellings, where they saw Hitler in a setting that embodied domesticity and warmth. "They were comforting images. They eased people's fears, and they reassured people that it wasn't that bad—that there's this other side, the gentler, homey, good neighbor side, that's somehow going to control the Hitler in the Reich chancellery," Stratigakos says. "I think it was dangerous."

Dangerous because while it was powerful propaganda, it was not seen as such. Even after the war, says Stratigakos, many historians dismissed Hitler's private life as unimportant. In fact, its painstaking construction and packaging were essential to his political ends.

Seeing Hitler at home in these carefully selected settings, she argues, made him likeable; it made readers feel like they knew him personally, and it gave them an out—a reason to look the other way when terrible things were happening.

"We think of this stuff as harmless fluff, but it's not," says Stratigakos, adding that the book is not just about Hitler. "It's about the way that we can get lulled into changing our ideas of someone through very slick presentation of their private lives." ❖

MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE MAKING

The new downtown building for the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is the largest medical education building under construction in the nation. Here are the numbers.



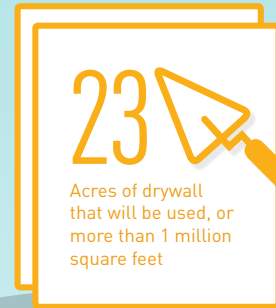
625

Ton capacity of the Manitowoc Crawler Crane that was used to erect steel. The steel columns weigh 705 pounds per linear foot—some of the heaviest pieces of steel made in the world



7,000

Tons of steel used in the framing. Laid end to end, the steel members would stretch for 25 miles—or from the building site at High/Main streets in Buffalo to Lewiston, N.Y.



23

Acres of drywall that will be used, or more than 1 million square feet



4,000

Gallons of paint required for the new building

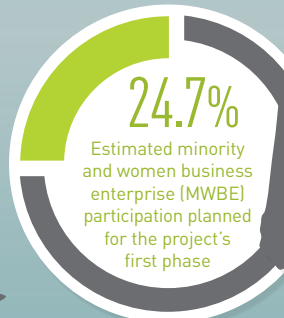


628,000

Square footage of the building, equivalent to about 11 football fields

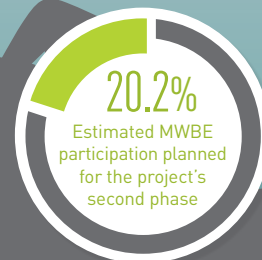


Doors in the interior of the building



40 More doctors who will be educated in Buffalo every year

100 New faculty will be hired



2,000 Students, staff and faculty will call the new facility home



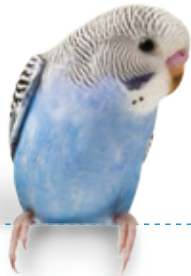
Fall 2017

Date the building is set to open. Construction started in April 2014.

Beaker Briefs

Research highlights from the desk, lab and field in 50 words or less

By Marcene Robinson (BA '13)



The Cocktail Party Effect

A little understood auditory phenomenon, termed the cocktail party effect, grants humans and other animals an amazing ability: Our ears can isolate important sounds and tune out surrounding noise. Using parakeets, UB researchers determined that the more complex the noise, the easier a sound is to distinguish.

LED BY psychology researcher Micheal Dent

Simple Super-Sensors

What do explosives, cancer and fraudulent art have in common? They're all difficult to detect. The gold standard is a sensing technique called SERS (surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy), but it's expensive and complicated. Recently, a UB-led research team developed nanotechnology that makes the process simpler and cheaper. Da Vinci would approve.

LED BY electrical engineering researcher Qiaoqiang Gan and Fudan University materials science researcher Suhua Jiang

Sleep-Inducing Glasses

In an unusual twist, researchers are turning to light as a possible treatment for insomnia in lung cancer patients. The study will examine whether light therapy glasses, which shine green light into the wearer's eyes, can trigger neurotransmitters in the brain and reset the wearer's sleep cycles.

LED BY nursing researcher Grace Dean



60 SECONDS WITH

Matthew Xu-Friedman

Interview by Charlotte Hsu

A study led by UB biologist Matthew Xu-Friedman shows how limber and adaptable the brain is when it comes to processing sound. Put the organ in a loud environment, and it starts receiving information in a new way—a discovery that could impact everyone from city dwellers to truck drivers, frequent flyers and anyone else who lives or works in noisy surroundings.

How does noise change the way the brain receives information?

What we saw is that the auditory nerve cells dial themselves down. These cells, which carry information from the ear to the brain, start economizing resources. They start behaving in ways that conserve supplies of neurotransmitters—chemicals that help send signals to the brain.

Why do you think this happens?

If the cells ran out of neurotransmitters, they would have no way of talking to the brain. So we think they're acting to preserve their resources.

What exactly do the cells do?

We see two kinds of changes. One is that under high activity—in noise—the cells increase their supply of sack-like structures called vesicles that hold neurotransmitters. You don't want to deplete your stock, so it makes sense to have a larger storehouse. The other major change is that each vesicle has a lower probability of releasing its neurotransmitters in response to noise. This helps ensure that cells have chemicals left to alert the brain to new sounds.

What does this mean for people who live in noisy places?

Our study was done on mice. But if I had to speculate, I'd say that what our results might mean for humans is that if you are in loud conditions for some

period of time, as many of us are—people who work in machine shops, etc.—your auditory system may adjust to that level of activity.

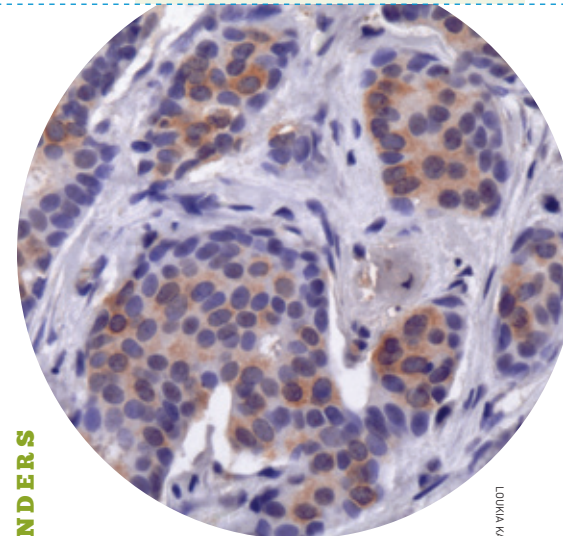
Is that a good thing?

It's good at some level; it's meant to help you hear. But what happens when you go home from work or step off of the airplane? You're left with this hyper-excitable auditory system: Everything is cranked up. Your cells have huge stocks of neurotransmitters, but now they aren't being used because it's quiet. Under these conditions, I think it's possible that cells could become overloaded and trigger inappropriately, causing some form of tinnitus where your brain "hears" things it shouldn't.



"Everything is cranked up."

Matthew Xu-Friedman



SMALL WONDERS
By Charlotte Hsu

Keeping Cancer in

Its Place When cancer cells spread, they use a structure on their surface, called the Thomsen-Friedenreich receptor, to help them get around. So, reasoned UB medical researcher Kate Rittenhouse-Olson, blocking its activity should help prevent metastasis. Her start-up company, For-Robin, is developing a drug that latches onto and disables the receptor. In the image above, the brown regions show where the antibody has bound to cancer cells, while surrounding, noncancerous tissue remains unaffected. As an added benefit, the antibody acts as an SOS signal once it's attached to a tumor, attracting the attention of white blood cells that can help destroy cancer.



Tweetable: At risk for a deadly stroke, Aussie Ronald Cooper traveled across the world for life-saving angioplasty performed by #UBuffalo docs.

LockerRoom

» Mighty Morgan » Set to win » The kings of pong



“It still really hasn’t hit me that I’m a national champion.”

Jonathan Jones

Hot Shot

Jonathan Jones heaves his way to a national championship

By David J. Hill » Check out the results from the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship in men’s shot put and you’ll see some powerhouse programs near the top: Penn State, Florida, Texas, Georgia, Ohio State. Above all of them, however, you’ll find a new king of the mountain: Buffalo.

Jonathan Jones made UB history on June 10 when he won the 2015 NCAA shot put title with a throw of 68 feet, 2 inches—breaking his own school and MAC records, and becoming the first national champion in UB’s Division I era.

“It still really hasn’t hit me that I’m a national champion,” Jones said days after returning to

Buffalo from Eugene, Ore., where the meet was held. “The more I say it, the more it hits home.”

“For our program and for our university, this is monumental,” says Vicki Mitchell, director and head coach of UB’s track and field programs. “Recruiting’s never easy but it’s going to be fun to say, ‘You can come to a school where we’ve had a national champion.’ That’s not something a lot of schools can say.”

The national title qualified Jones for the USA Track & Field Outdoor Championships, the same meet in which he placed fourth—the highest ever for a UB athlete—last summer. Jones took fifth at this year’s USATF meet, despite recording another career

best throw of 68 feet, 7.85 inches. Although he just missed the cut to make the U.S. team for the IAAF World Championships in Beijing in August—the top four finishers qualified—he was the first alternate. And he earned a spot on Team USA for July’s Pan American Games in Toronto.

At the NCAA meet, Jones edged Penn State’s Darrell Hill. Hill also threw 68-2, but Jones won on the tiebreaker since his first throw was better than Hill’s second-best attempt.

A six-time All-American, Jones placed third at the NCAA Indoor Championships in March and swept the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Northeast Region Field Athlete of the Year honors, winning the award in both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

With his collegiate career complete, Jones will look to obtain sponsorships as he begins competing professionally. First, though, he plans to rehabilitate his right knee, which started bothering him late in the season. Once he regains his full lower body strength, “his distance is going to be unreal,” says Jim Garnham, UB’s veteran throws coach. “He is by far the best athlete I’ve ever coached.” ❖

Another Athlete Makes UB History

UB had another fifth-place finisher at the USATF meet as Mike Morgan recorded 7,555 points in the decathlon, a grueling competition in which athletes compete in 10 different track and field events, including the 100-meters, javelin throw, pole vault and high jump. Morgan, a senior this year, became the first UB track and field athlete to earn a spot on the U.S.

National Team. As of press time, he was training to compete with Team USA at the Thorpe Cup, an international track and field competition between the U.S. and Germany, held in August.



DOUGLAS LEVERIE

She’s a Winner

UB’s new volleyball coach was four-time national champion at Penn State

By David J. Hill >> As a teenager, Blair Brown Lipsitz enjoyed playing softball. That is, until a family friend looked at her and suggested a different sport. “He said, ‘You need to play volleyball,’” Lipsitz recalls. “I thought, I don’t know, I like softball, and he was like, ‘Yeah, but you’re 6-foot-1 and 14!’”

That friend had tremendous foresight.

Lipsitz began playing competitively at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, Va., about an hour northwest of Washington, D.C. During her senior year, The Washington Post named her All-Metropolitan Player of the Year after she led the Vikings to a 29-0 record and a state title.

She played four years at Penn State, a powerhouse in women’s volleyball. The Nittany Lions won the national title each of her four years. Only two other individuals have played on Division I teams that won four consecutive national championships, according to Russ Rose, the legendary Penn State women’s coach. Lipsitz was also the Big Ten Player of the Year and a two-time All-American.

She played professionally overseas for a few years after college and co-founded the U.S. Elite Volleyball Camp with her husband, Max, who grew up in Williamsville, N.Y. He also played at Penn State,

although the men’s team won only one national title during his time there. “His brother’s favorite line is, ‘Between the three of us, we have five national championships,’” Lipsitz says with a laugh.

The couple moved to Buffalo in 2013. About a year later, Reed Sunahara, whom Lipsitz met during her collegiate career, accepted the head coaching position at UB. She joined the staff as a volunteer assistant, and when Sunahara left this past March to take the head coaching job at West Virginia, UB Athletics Director Danny White hired Lipsitz to replace him.

She’s hoping to create the kind of excitement around women’s volleyball that has existed at Penn State for decades. The signs of progress are all around, Lipsitz says. “It’s an exciting time to be here. You can feel the buzz within the athletic department. A lot of new coaches are here, and we’re all kind of feeding off of each other.”

Lipsitz is equally enthusiastic about her team. The Bulls conference schedule begins in September, and the team is eyeing a second straight trip to the MAC Tournament. “The girls are fantastic,” she says. “We’re really focused on building a championship culture. It takes time, but a lot of it is having that work ethic and passion. I think the girls have that here.” ❖



TweetaBULL: Football players Joe Licata (QB), Anthone Taylor (RB), Ron Willoughby (WR) and Tyler Grassman (P) were all named to preseason watch lists.

The Clubhouse

Stats from right, center and left field

Compiled by Michael Flatt



Beep-beep, PEW!

Toronto Blue Jays draftee Nick Sinay broke UB's single-season record for stolen bases as a junior, streaking his way to 39 total swipes. Sources report offseason training included evasion of a cartoon coyote.

Straight-up mashing

Versatile infielder Alexis Curtiss' .429 batting average and .696 slugging percentage were each second in the MAC among softball players with more than 100 at-bats. She was not a favorite among pitchers.

Singled out

Freshman Courtney Gilbert was named to the Canadian junior national softball roster for the Junior Women's World Championship in August. She was the only Ontario player to make the team.

Statistical outlier

According to the SPARQ statistic, which compares workout results of NFL prospects, taking into account their size and position, UB grad and Seahawks draft pick Kristjan Sokoli is the most athletic draftee in the last 10 years, at 4.33 standard deviations from the mean.

.429

1

4.33

Pingpong Proficient

UB's table tennis club is on its way up

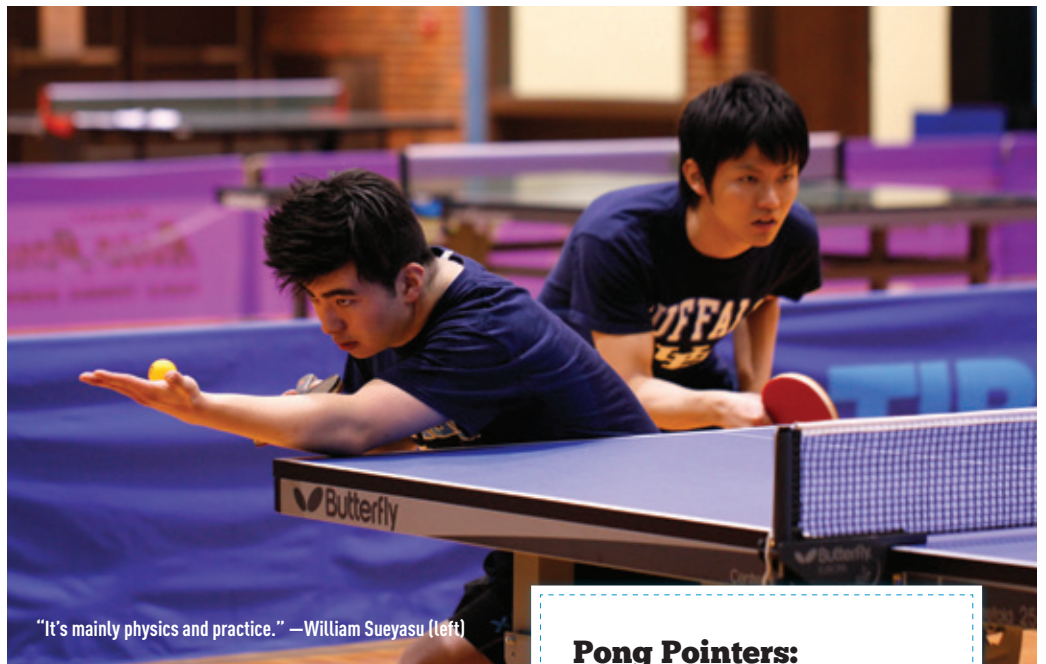
By David J. Hill » There's more to table tennis than most people think.

The sport is a study in concentration, speed, strategy and physics. "People think you just go back and forth like this," says UB Table Tennis Club president Daiki Kamakura, mimicking the leisurely movements of your typical American basement pingpong game. "To play well, you have to move a lot. You get very tired." Kamakura, a Spanish major, began playing in junior high in Japan.

"You've got to concentrate the whole time. It's like an exam," adds William Sueyasu, the club's vice president, who played two years on the Brazilian national team and at one point was ranked third in the country. "We are very precise and can place the ball anywhere on the table because we practice a lot. It's mainly physics and practice."

The third leg of UB's powerful pingpong trio is club treasurer Jian Clemente, who has been playing since high school in his native Philippines.

The three seniors make for a unique international dynamic on the club's e-board. They have also taken UB table tennis to a new level. When Sueyasu joined



"It's mainly physics and practice." —William Sueyasu (left)

in 2013, the club had only two tables and played in a narrow hallway in Alumni Arena. Now, they have seven tables and practice in the triple gym.

As many as 20 people show up for the club's weekly recreational session. The other two weekly meets are reserved for practice to prepare the better players for National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) tournaments throughout the academic year. In 2014, the club won its division, finished second in regionals and placed in the top 12 at NCTTA nationals. But, says Kamakura, "Our biggest focus is just making sure that everyone has fun." ♣

Pong Pointers:

- » Collegiate matches consist of a best-of-five-games format.
- » Each game is played to 11; players have to win by two points.
- » The sport's international governing body in 2014 approved the use of a new plastic ball. The old celluloid balls were flammable and couldn't be transported on planes.



UB Boxing Club women shine at nationals

Wendy Casey (BA '08) and Kristen McMurtree fought in the Women's National Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in July. McMurtree, a D'Youville College student who is trained by Casey, knocked out Kristell Massiotta of Florida to win the national title in the 112-pound Novice division. Casey, fighting for the first time in eight years, took silver in the 132-pound Elite class after being defeated by Rianna Rios of Colorado, who trains with the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program.

Mixed Media

» Juggalo family values » Resurrecting the cassette tape » Gardening on the fly

Droze pictured with her 2012 mural, "Morphos," in Indianapolis, Ind.



Beauty Big and Small

An artist's work takes her around the world—and back home again

By Michael Flatt and Rachael Katz »

Augustina Droze (MFA '15) is capable of both stunning precision and tremendous scale. The former is prevalent in her paintings of geometrically arranged aquatic and avian creatures, which achieve an almost photographic realism, while the latter plays out in her murals, which stretch across walls sometimes hundreds of feet wide and often focus on themes of social justice.

This attention to the particular and the grand seems an apt metaphor for Droze's career. Her talent has taken her around the country and across the globe, from Nagpur, India, to Cali, Colombia, even as she has made her home in Buffalo's cozy art scene.

A mural commissioned by the Olmsted Parks Conservancy originally brought her to Buffalo from Los Angeles; the local art community inspired her to stay. "I felt so welcome," Droze says of her arrival in 2011. "Being an artist is integral to my life in Buffalo."

Since enrolling in UB's MFA program in 2012, Droze has exhibited her paintings in area galleries and kept up her work as a muralist. This past summer, she co-created a five-story, Pop Art-style mural in downtown Buffalo before jetting off to Cali to paint one of her socially

conscious murals—that one, she says, "honoring the strength of women and ethnic diversity." ❖



Left: Arrangement with Pigs. Oil on canvas, 2014. Right: Goldfish in Drop. Oil on canvas, 2014.



A typical still from "Buffalo Juggalos."

NANAN PAN

Filming a Posse **Scott Cummings puts the far-out world of Juggalos in focus**

By Mark Norris (BA '94) >> "My film is not about Juggalos. It is a Juggalo," says filmmaker Scott Cummings (BA '01), adapting Francis Ford Coppola's famous quote about his sprawling epic "Apocalypse Now." ("My movie is not about Vietnam. My movie is Vietnam.")

Cummings' experimental short films have played at selective international film festivals and noted national galleries, like the Museum of Modern Art. His new film, "Buffalo Juggalos," has garnered wide critical acclaim, including winning the 2014 American Film Institute Festival's Grand Jury Award for "Live Action Short" and landing its creator on Filmmaker Magazine's "25 New Faces of Independent Film."

Juggalos are hardcore fans of the long-running hip-hop duo Insane Clown Posse (ICP). Sharing the horror movie-style imagery popularized by their heroes—clown face paint, tattoos and a logo of a man running with a hatchet—they have an anything-goes attitude that values personal freedom and resists labels. While Juggalos passionately defend themselves as a family that accepts people from all walks of life, the penchant of some members for violence and mayhem has gotten the group

classified as a dangerous gang by the FBI.

Inspired by a Village Voice feature on Juggalo culture, Cummings returned to his Rust Belt roots for five months to embed himself in Western New York's tightknit Juggalo community. The NYC-based filmmaker was also eager to make a film in Buffalo. "I think right now independent filmmakers are looking for places that are a bit less obvious than New York and LA," he explains. "I was really inspired by what has happened with Baltimore because of David Simon, Matt Porterfield and John Waters. I hoped maybe I could contribute to similarly mythologizing Buffalo."

While filming, Cummings gained a deep appreciation for his subjects. "They were the opposite of what many see as stereotypes of 'white trash'; they were anti-racist, sex-positive and open-minded," Cummings says. "Mostly, I was surprised at how open and generous they were."



Scott Cummings

ELIZA HITMAN

"Buffalo Juggalos" is not a documentary. There's no dialogue and no ICP music is featured. Rather, Cummings weaves together 30 impressionistic, one-minute scenes to form a potent narrative. Scenes of everyday life—pushing a child on a swing, riding a motorcycle, braiding one another's hair—are vivid and surreal.

The film also stages some of the more shocking activities that Juggalos have been known to engage in, including acts of vandalism and group sex. "Sometimes I just told them to stare at the camera. Sometimes there was complex choreography," says Cummings. "Very few scenes were improvised on the spot, but we were always open."

Cummings is currently developing another film about Juggalo culture and also is working on, in his words, "a top-secret, crazy project with another misunderstood group of people." He won't disclose the topic, but that's okay with us; we're all in for the wild ride. ♣



Tweetable: On Oct. 17-18, @CSPAN will feature #Buffalo culture and history as part of its national Cities Tour.

Raising a Dead Format

Why Randall Taylor made cassettes the foundation of his record label

By Michael Flatt » In the era of cloud-based, streaming audio services, music today can feel a bit, well, intangible. Randall Taylor (BA '07) is doing his part to counter that trend.

Taylor is founder of Graveyard Orbit, a small record label in Austin, Texas, that specializes in cassette tapes. A Web designer for a textbook company by day, Taylor runs the label out of his home office in his off-hours, doing everything from transferring the audio to cassette, to packing orders with stickers and thank-you notes.

A lifelong music fan, Taylor played guitar and synths in Buffalo-based bands after graduating from UB with a degree in media studies. After moving to Austin for work in 2011, he began looking for an affordable way to release music for his new act, Geodesics. He eventually met Chris Gelpi of Ritual Tapes, which operated on a shoestring budget with micro-runs of hand-recorded cassettes. After Gelpi helped him put out his Geodesics album on tape, Taylor realized he could run such a label himself—and Graveyard Orbit was born. Since 2013, it has released 26 LPs, EPs and compilations.

Cassettes today come in an array of dyed colors and appeal to the nostalgic sensibilities of many millennials and Gen-Xers. They're also much more affordable to make than records. "Pressing vinyl is not something you can do yourself," Taylor explains. "You have to send it out to get pressed. You have to pay hundreds of dollars, if not thousands. And that's not really feasible for a lot of people."

This DIY ethos spurred Taylor to organize the inaugural Austin Cassette Fest in 2014; his plan is to make it an annual event that brings together cassette labels and fans. Whether or not this retro medium makes a large-scale comeback, a small but dedicated community is emerging in indie music's savvy pockets, both in the U.S. and abroad.

"It started out when I was just a kid, thinking, 'I love Drive-Thru Records, I love Vagrant, I love Suicide Squeeze,'" Taylor recalls. "I loved all these small, indie labels, and I was like, 'Man, one day I'm going to start a record label.' And now I'm here, and it's all because of tapes." ♣



JACQUELINE TURNER

"I loved all these small, indie labels, and I was like, 'Man, one day I'm going to start a record label.'"

Randall Taylor

UB Bookshelf

WHAT WE'RE WRITING

Secrets of Breaking into the Film & TV Business

Dean Silvers (PhD '81, JD '79)

Award-winning producer Silvers dishes on the film industry with behind-the-scenes stories and advice from his career making such independent films as "Spanking the Monkey" (1994) and "Flirting with Disaster" (1996). (William Morrow, 2014)

Mindful Emotional Eating

Pavel G. Somov (PhD '00)

This self-help volume, the seventh by Somov, posits emotional eating as a legitimate coping strategy in times of distress, while also offering strategies to manage impulses and sublimate cravings into more positive activities. (PESI Publishing & Media, 2015)

Nation as Network: Diaspora, Cyberspace & Citizenship

Victoria Bernal (BA '76)

Bernal, professor of anthropology at University of California, Irvine, examines various uses of the Web among the Eritrean diaspora, including grieving in a digital space and online discussions of wartime violence against women. (University of Chicago Press, 2014)

Apocalyptic Sentimentalism: Love and Fear in U.S. Antebellum Literature

Kevin Pelletier (PhD '07)

Pelletier's discussion of antislavery figures such as Nat Turner, John Brown and Harriet Beecher Stowe deftly reinterprets the abolitionist movement as having fought slavery with not just love and

sympathy, but also the fear of God's wrath. (University of Georgia Press, 2015)

A Different Blaze

Fred Pelka (BA '76)

The first book of poetry by the author of "What We Have Done: An Oral History of the Disability Rights Movement" is a collection of narrative lyrics, detailing experiences such as sharing a bottle of Bacardi 151 with a dispossessed elderly man on a Greyhound bus. Some lines reflect Pelka's experience in disability studies—for example: "Sometimes love needs a wheelchair / to waltz across the floor." (Hedgerow Books, 2014)

Calling alumni authors

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



Nightstand

WHAT WE'RE READING

Molly D. Poremski (MLS '05, BA '02), international languages and literatures librarian



"Garden Anywhere," by Alys Fowler

"I'm a fan of container gardening and growing things wherever I can. Not only is Fowler's 2009 book full of excellent tips and ideas, the photographs are beautiful! Did you know you can grow pea shoots for salads from dried peas you buy in the grocery store?"



Compiled by Michael Flatt and Olivia W. Bae | Illustrations by Betsy Everitt

Prepping for Fall

A lot more happens on UB's campuses between Commencement and Opening Weekend than one might think

Ah, summer. A time for students, faculty and staff to kick up their collective feet and bask in the sun. Right? Well, no, not exactly. For many departments at UB, summer is an extremely busy time, as the university takes stock of the previous academic year, makes structural and curricular changes, and generally gets ready for fall, when the campus population balloons again. We spoke with the people who stick around during the summer to get a sense of what the off-season looks like on campus.

Helping a world of students

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES (ISSS)

ISSS helps students with many aspects of their arrival in Buffalo and their transition to the U.S. According to director Ellen Dussourd, the office receives about 100 walk-ins per day in the summer by students seeking assistance with everything from applying for visas to finding housing.

What's new on the menu?

CAMPUS DINING & SHOPS (CDS)

Summer is taste-testing time. Each year, CDS looks at what students enjoyed most and develops new menu items to reflect those preferences. "Each of our kitchen managers will present different ideas, and we'll bring them to an overall tasting where we'll have some of our staff and students tell us what they think," says Ray Kohl, marketing manager for CDS. This year, Fine Arts Café got a new menu, complete with organic fruits and vegetables, and a juice bar.

Summer is also the time for renovations. The Café received a facelift, as did these other campus food locations:

Perk's: Redesigned interior to serve Starbucks in the fall

Goodyear Dining Center: A brand-new floor, as well as new tables and chairs

Putnam's: Renovated to improve traffic flow



Summer game plan

ATHLETICS

"Football equipment orders are placed early in the summer and handed out to players a few weeks before the season starts. Some changes in equipment include bigger and better helmets."

—MEGAN PRUNTY (BA '98), ASSISTANT MANAGER, STADIUM EQUIPMENT ROOM

Summer icebreakers

ORIENTATION

"Icebreakers" might seem silly, but these orientation games give new students an important jump on socializing. For international students, orientation is often their first taste of Buffalo wings, Loganberry—and the mist off Niagara Falls.

"I love 'two truths and a lie' as an icebreaker. Someone will say, 'I ski, I'm originally from Bulgaria and my uncle is the drummer for Radiohead,' and everyone will say, 'OK, your uncle's not the drummer for Radiohead,' and it will turn out that he doesn't ski."

—RUBY ANDERSON, ORIENTATION LEADER

By the numbers*:

5,675 Total participants

2,676 First-year students

1,127 Transfer students

1,872 Parents/family members

*2014 (2015 figures were unavailable at press time)

Continued next page



To serve and protect—and pop a wheelie

UNIVERSITY POLICE

In addition to manning large UB events over the summer—including the Ride for Roswell, Dragon Boat Races and Fourth of July fireworks—University Police receive specialized training. Members of the Bicycle Patrol Unit plunge down UB Stadium stairs, weave through complicated obstacle courses and maneuver over barriers. The Firearms Training Unit takes advantage of the warm weather by honing their skills outside at nearby firing ranges. But they get a little R&R in, too.

“Since summer is a slower time, we allow our officers to get some well-deserved time off.”

—GERALD W. SCHOENLE JR., CHIEF OF POLICE, UNIVERSITY POLICE

Putting UB students on the map

PASSPORT SERVICES

“During the summertime, many students come in to take their visa photos. I meet people from all over the world, so I started marking where they come from on a map.”

—PEGGY LYONS (MLS '05), TECHNICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATE, LAW LIBRARY



Playing with cultural differences

COUNSELING SERVICES

“We started offering international programs over the summer because we realized a lot of international students don’t go back home. We have a program called Global Fun Day where we try to find an entertaining way to focus on cultural differences. For example, this summer, we played board games that are played in other countries.”

—SHARON MITCHELL, DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING

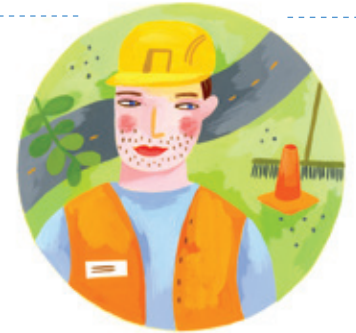
Relationship building

INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS

“Admissions counselors spend a lot of time communicating with all of the committed students to build a virtual relationship with them and make sure they don’t get cold feet over the summer.

“Our International Admissions Student Ambassadors do the same thing: firm up those virtual relationships to get ‘their’ students to campus. The incoming students are incredibly eager to meet their ambassadors when they arrive. It’s so much fun to actually see them meet face to face—it’s like they’re finding a long lost friend at a reunion.”

—STEVEN SHAW, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS



Who’s the busiest of them all?

FACILITIES

Over the summer, the facilities staff puts in long hours revamping the campus. Projects include:

- Stripping and resealing classroom and hallway floors
- Updating classroom furniture and media services
- Repointing and painting building exteriors
- Replacing building roofs
- Painting classrooms and hallways
- Repaving sidewalks, roadways and parking lots
- Restriping campus roads and crosswalks



School’s (not) out for summer

GRADUATE STUDENTS

UB graduate students adopt various approaches to the summer months, from taking it a little easier, to buckling down, to taking it a little easier but with a guilty feeling that they should be buckling down.

“Teaching in the summer is nice. There are fewer students, so there’s less grading!”

—AKANSHA SHARMA, PHD STUDENT IN PHYSICS

“I’m prepping for two comprehensive exam lists. It’s partially about the experience of subjecting oneself to these voluminous philosophical works, like Hobbes’ ‘Leviathan.’ The page count that I estimated for the summer is roughly 4,500.”

—RYAN SHELDON, PHD STUDENT IN ENGLISH

“I often feel guilty for enjoying the summer because I should get back to my research.”

—LAKSHMI MUDIGONDA, PHD STUDENT IN MANAGEMENT



Summer syllabus

FACULTY

“I’m developing two new undergraduate courses for the fall. It involves a lot of reading, re-reading and refreshing, even if most of it will never find its way into the syllabus. It’s like a course I take in order to be able to teach.”

—DAMIEN KEANE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

“As part of training our graduate geology students, we typically spend our summer on the Greenland ice sheet or near volcanoes, wherever we’re doing our geological research. Students collect all the data they’ll analyze over the course of the school year.”

—MARCUS BURSİK, PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY

Swimming in paperwork

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

“We handle dissertation submissions and degree-completion paperwork for more than 500 students who are receiving their master’s degrees, doctoral degrees and advanced certificates. We also process about 190 new and continuing Presidential Fellowships for outstanding graduate students and about 85 Schomburg Fellowships for underrepresented graduate students. These programs are critical in our effort to improve the quality and diversity of our graduate students.”

—JOHN T. HO, THEN-VICE PROVOST OF GRADUATE EDUCATION



Prepping for falls (and sprains and cuts and...)

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

“One thing we spend a lot of time on when we’re getting ready for the fall is searching for the latest health care products. Are there better, safer needles for us to use? Could we be doing better wound care? Right now, we’re using new bandages that are easier to change, which helps people keep the wound clean and protected.”

—SUSAN SNYDER, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES

Tote-ally nice neighbors

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES

The office of Off-Campus Student Services holds Operation Doorhanger every summer. Last year,* 2,300 residents in the University Heights neighborhood received tote bags from students and staff containing information on upcoming events, energy-savings tips and UB Bulls team schedules.

* 2015 numbers were unavailable at press time



Smells like UB spirit

CAMPUS LIVING

Over the course of the summer, residence halls and apartments need to be, shall we say, “refreshed.” We’re talking 3,000 residence hall rooms and 1,000 apartments, plus common areas—an overall area of 2,000,000 square feet to clean and rehab.

To see some of the vacated dorm rooms that kept Campus Living staff particularly busy this year, visit www.buffalo.edu/atbuffalo.

Shhhh...ummer

LIBRARIES

“Our 24/7 Instant Librarian service is open throughout the summer months, so anyone with a general question can chat with a librarian any time, day or night. If you Google ‘library chat,’ the UB Libraries are one of the top three results. Last week, one of our librarians answered a question from someone in London.”

—KATHLEEN QUINLIVAN (MLS '87), SENIOR ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

And the school year begins

OPENING WEEKEND

With a full lineup of events, including movie nights, an aerial dance performance at Baird Point and a midnight cookout, Opening Weekend 2015 gave thousands of new students a chance to blow off the last of their summer steam before plunging into the school year.



The visionary thinking of Erich Bloch revolutionized the computer industry and transformed the National Science Foundation. At 90, he is still chock full of ideas.

Story by Melanie D.G. Kaplan ◉ Photographs by Grant Gibson

AN ENGINEER'S ENGINEER

Last December, Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) hosted an evening in Phoenix honoring Erich Bloch (BS '52), a former board member who was about to celebrate his 90th birthday. During the celebration, science and computer executives praised Bloch as a computer pioneer, an engineer's engineer, an idol and a rock star.

"He stands for mustering the will to make bold investments, to stay relentless in the effort to improve the human condition," said SFAz Chairman Don Budinger. "Think about that. That's the primary purpose of research."



Bloch, a German-born American, studied electrical engineering at the Federal Polytechnic Institute of Zurich, Switzerland, and received his bachelor of science degree in the same subject from UB in 1952. He served as the eighth director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) from 1984 to 1990—the first without a PhD, coming from industry as opposed to academia. Among other accomplishments, he transitioned the NSF Network to a commercialized Internet, established the Science and Technology Centers, and more than tripled the budget for edu-

cation and human resources. He is widely considered to have been the most effective NSF director in communicating the benefits of investing in research and education.

Prior to his appointment, Bloch had a 32-year career at IBM, where he helped develop the STRETCH supercomputer system. He was also lead architect for IBM's System/360, which made possible such conveniences as ATMs, electronic health care records and global travel reservations. Later, Bloch was appointed vice president of IBM's Data Systems Division and general manager of the East Fishkill facility. From 1981 to 1984, he served as the founding chairman of the Semiconductor Research Corporation, which funded advanced research in universities. In 1985 President Ronald Reagan awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation to Bloch and two others for their work on the IBM System/360.

Last year, Bloch donated \$1.5 million to UB to establish the Erich Bloch Endowed Chair for the new Department of Materials Design and Innovation. These days, he works out of the offices of the Council on Competitiveness in Washington, D.C., where he became the organization's first distinguished fellow in 1991. We talked to Bloch there in the spring.



W

hat inspired you as a student?

I was always interested in mathematics. My first idea was to become a professor. Then I decided I wanted something I could get my hands on, so I pursued an area of engineering that was heavily involved in mathematics—electrical engineering, which is now electronics and everything else combined. Mathematics was something that I thought I understood, and it was abstract enough. It wasn't tied to things like screws and power supplies that I wasn't interested in. It was more of a general theory of how the world works.

What did your parents do?

My father was a businessman and my mother was a mother.

Did you have anyone encouraging you in sciences as a child?

I was encouraged by my teachers. I wasn't that encouraged at home, because people thought you really had to do something where you could earn a living. In mathematics you don't earn a living—that was the general point. My parents were supportive but not like parents are today.

How do you think science education has changed from then to now?

I think there used to be a big divide between what were called abstract studies and studies aimed at a particular kind of occupation. Who took mathematics as an undergraduate? Very few people. Today, everybody does. I think it's a different environment—now people look at what is required to be successful in a particular area, and mathematics is an area we focus on.

One thing people talk about now is the dearth of women in the sciences. How can we change that?

I think there's a general understanding today that women can pursue science and mathematics. That was not the case when I grew up. It was, "Oh, she's a woman, she'll take care of the house." We have grown out of that. Can you make it happen faster? Yes, and that's what people are trying to do, and I'm certainly for that. But I'm not for forcing women into science just because it's good to have more women in science. That's a negative, and it's also an exaggeration. Women are not excluded today. I think the worst thing is insisting it needs to be 50-50. That's nonsense. In the end, it depends on the individual—what he or she can do or accomplish, not filling a gap that someone said needs to be filled.

What do you think the U.S. must do to stay competitive in research and education?

Get better! Look at countries that are ahead of us, like Israel, Sweden and Finland. You have to bring the whole country along. We have great differences within the United States. Look at the bottom 10 states and compare their performances to the top 10 states. You shouldn't have that type of discrepancy. Look at who are on school boards—people who don't really understand this. They're there because they're local politicians, or for reasons that have little to do with insight into education. I always thought this idea of each city having its own program for education is awfully wrong. You need to have a certain basis and then be able to build. Today it's a political game. We'll suffer from that.

There's also a fine line for us in the United States between staying competitive and sharing research for the greater good. What's the solution there?

That's an old question. You balance by trying to understand what a country has that you don't have and then going after that particular area. If you have to give up something, exchange information. We are much too careful. What's wrong with giving everything to the Chinese? Just make sure you get from the Chinese everything they know. That's a lot more interesting than saying, "I can't let you in here because I can't let you see what we're doing." That's appropriate for a company about to release a product but not for companies doing research.

What did you take away from your time at UB?

I didn't go to the University at Buffalo as a traditional student. I went to evening courses because I had to work during the day to make some money. I worked at Allied Chemical and Dye, a big chemical company that got absorbed by other companies. I was lucky enough to be in their basic research department for three years. So I was going there during the day and to school at night. I had some courses with people who worked in industry in Buffalo. Some of them were really good and could show you the relationship between studying a particular field and working in that field. I always thought if I had gone to the day school I would have gotten more out of university. But I'm not convinced of that today. I think I got more doing what I did. It was tough, though, because I worked 16 hours a day.

Early in your career, did you have any idea how computers would take on the role they play today?

Yes, I did. It was very clear that electronics coupled with computers would be a major development that was required in order to move forward. It was more than an end in itself. When I started at IBM, I was



Eric Bloch in his Washington, D.C., office.

looked at as a screwball. "Yeah, he wants to play around with computers." I didn't want to play around with them—I wanted to put them to use.

What technologies do you use today? Do you have a smartphone?

Sure! I have one computer here, one at home, one in my pocket. That's enough. You have to make sure your technology doesn't take more time to keep up with than to actually use.

Today some people are pushing back on technology, saying we're too dependent on it, or that having a



screen in front of us all the time is bad for focusing or creative thinking. What do you say?

I don't think that's correct. It can overwhelm you, no doubt about it. But I think it's up to the individual to understand what he wants to pursue and keep out the things that are not important from his or her viewpoint.

What puzzles are you still trying to solve?

Big data. People don't really understand what to do with all that information. They have millions of bits of information that they can't possibly understand without the help of computers.

You spent six years at the NSF. One bio says you were a controversial leader. Were you?

I don't know if I was controversial. I think they were surprised I got involved with some of the details I got involved in. The thing I was happy about—I made up my mind I would stay for all six years of the appointment, because no one else except the first two directors were there for six years. I was convinced that if you want to do something, that's about the time it takes to put some ideas into place and make sure that changes are accepted.

Looking back now, would you have done anything differently?

No. I did what I thought at that time was important. Revisiting that now and coming to a different conclusion is not very helpful to anyone, especially oneself. You live a life only once. You don't live it twice. You do what you think is right at the time, and you stand on that. ♣

Washington, D.C.-based writer Melanie D.G. Kaplan writes for The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, National Parks Magazine and Washingtonian.





JAKE NORTON/EDDIE BAUER/FIRST ASCENT

THE DAY THE MOUNTAIN SHOOK

Veteran climber Dave Hahn experienced the Nepal earthquake up close—and blogged about it By Dave Hahn and Rebecca Rudell

“That day,” says Dave Hahn (BA ’84), “planet Earth proved who was boss—shaking Chomolungma as if she were built from Jell-O.” Chomolungma is the Tibetan name for Mount Everest; it means Mother Goddess of the Earth. On the day Hahn is referring to—April 25, 2015—a massive earthquake struck Nepal.

A little before noon, Hahn and some of his fellow climbers had just returned to Camp One after a short acclimatization hike up the mountain. Heavy snow and whiteouts preceded the first quake, which registered a magnitude 7.8 and sent tons of rock and debris falling down the mountain. Several more aftershocks were felt over the next few days. While Hahn’s team all survived unscathed, many others—particularly at Base Camp, which sits in a valley surrounded by Himalayan peaks—were not so lucky.

Hahn is one of the most successful high-altitude climbing guides in history and is the only non-Sherpa climber to have reached Everest’s summit a record 15 times. He is also a professional guide, an EMT who has rescued numerous climbers in terrifying situations, and a prolific blogger who shares his thrilling experiences with the world.

But this year’s disaster had a profound effect on him. “Mount Everest has dished out all I can personally stomach of failure, heartache and death in recent years, and I’m not positive I’ll attempt it again,” he says.

“But that decision can wait a little, just now.”

A B3 rescue helicopter hovers over Camp One on Mount Everest, two days after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Nepal and triggered deadly avalanches in the Himalayan mountains.

Hahn is certainly not leaving the field he has devoted his life to since the early ’80s; in fact, two months after returning from Everest, he was leading a team up Denali (formerly Mount McKinley) in Alaska.

On the following pages are excerpts from the blog he kept from the day of the Nepal earthquake to his last night in Kathmandu.

April 25, 2015

This morning, we completed a good circuit, climbing up to 21,300 feet to Advance Base Camp and back to Camp One, arriving about 11:30 this morning. Shortly after that, at about noon, there was a major earthquake that resulted in avalanches off all the mountains around us. We got dusted, but here at Camp One we're just fine. We don't have the ability to travel right now—good mountaineering sense dictates that we stay put and ride this storm out. We are self-sufficient up here and our concern is with our friends at Base Camp. We're hearing the strenuous efforts that our Sherpa team and Mark Tucker [*Hahn's Base Camp manager*] are going through down there trying to help with the injured and those who haven't fared so well. We'll try to be in touch. We're obviously in a situation where we won't have great communication. It's likely that the earthquake destroyed any cell service around the Base Camp area.

April 26, 2015

This was a day of waiting and watching for us. The weather improved a little bit; this morning it was sunny and clear. A couple of courageous helicopter pilots made use of that time flying out sick and hurt people from Camp Two to Camp One. But the big work they did was trip after trip flying casualties out from Base Camp.

There was a massive aftershock this afternoon at about 1 p.m. local time. It seemed almost as powerful as yesterday's quake. And now we're looking to helicopter out in the next day or two to get down to Base Camp. If it keeps on snowing as it did this afternoon, it will make flying impossible.

April 27, 2015

[At this point, it has been decided that Hahn's team and the roughly 180 other climbers on the mountain—unable to traverse the badly damaged route through the Khumbu Icefall—will be taken to Base Camp by helicopter.]

At Camp One, we were up before dawn, boiling cups of instant coffee and hurriedly packing.

It wasn't going to be an ideal scenario, by any means. It seemed unlikely that 90-plus heli landings and takeoffs could be accomplished without chaos or catastrophe. But sure enough, the first B3 powered on in at 6 a.m. and the great Everest Air Show began.

A fear of the team leaders was a helicopter mob scene, à la Saigon '75, but we'd arrayed our helipads in a way that didn't allow for mobbing, and everybody seemed to understand the need for superior social skills on this day.



PHOTOS BY DAVE HAHN

“We were put down at the epicenter of a disaster and we could barely believe our eyes. Whatever relief each of us felt at being off the mountain was quickly replaced with sadness and awe at the evidence of destructive power all around us.”



Top: Climbing the Khumbu Icefall days before the earthquake. Bottom L-R: Traversing the Khumbu Icefall via ice ladder; helicopter rescue off Camp One; the earthquake-damaged home of a relative of a member of Hahn's Sherpa climbing team.

[Later that day, after landing safely at Base Camp]

We were put down at the epicenter of a disaster and we could barely believe our eyes. Whatever relief each of us felt at being off the mountain was quickly replaced with sadness and awe at the evidence of destructive power all around us.

Hearing on the radio about the quake-triggered avalanche that blasted Base Camp did nothing to prepare us for experiencing the aftermath firsthand. It was as if an enormous bomb had detonated.

When we reached our own greatly altered camp and heard a few stories from neighbors, we finally understood Mark Tucker's heroism of the last few days, helping to stabilize and transport dozens upon dozens of seriously injured, bloody and broken people.

He and our Sherpa team had gone immediately to help others, even though their own camp was largely destroyed. By now, we're not even mildly surprised to learn that they somehow found time and energy to rebuild camp for our arrival.

Our "ordeal" seems trivial by comparison. We had to stay a bit longer in a beautiful and legendary hanging valley and deal with a bit of uncertainty. Now back down to earth, we understand just how lucky we've been and we are sad beyond words to learn how unlucky others have been.

April 28, 2015

We've come to the inescapable conclusion that an Everest summit for 2015 is out of reach for our team. Besides the rather obvious and glaring philosophical difficulties of pursuing a recreational venture in the midst of a national disaster, there are on-the-ground mountaineering realities that will not permit us to look upward again.

We'll put our efforts into an organized and safe retreat from the mountain. Nobody harbors illusions that travel in this stricken and damaged country will be simple, but we'll head for home now in any case.

April 29, 2015

Our expedition is rapidly winding down. Everest Base Camp is becoming empty of foreign climbers. Three of our team—HP, Hao and Hans—were able to catch a heli down toward Lukla this morning. The rest of us have spent the day packing, sheltering from snow showers and reflecting on the surreal situation and surroundings.

We've each taken walks out to icy cyber, where the cell service almost works, and been stunned by the amount of heavy camp gear—tents, barrels, tables, boots, helmets, etc.—strewn hundreds of meters from Base Camp. These sad items testify to the force of the blast that hit Base, fully obliterating the camps along the medial moraine [a ridge of soil and rock formed by glacial drift]. Mark Tucker



MICHAEL BROWN/EDDIE BAUER-FIRST ASCENT

Hahn's Summits and Successes

275+ summits of Mount Rainier—he served as a guide for other climbers for the majority of them

21 summits of Denali—these were also guided climbs led by Hahn

15 summits of Mount Everest—the most for a non-Sherpa climber

35 summits of the Vinson Massif (the highest point in Antarctica)—a record

In 1999, he participated in the expedition that discovered and identified the remains of explorer George Mallory, who died trying to scale Everest in 1924.

In 2006, he guided a team of professional athletes on an expedition to ski Mount Everest.

Hahn shot high-altitude video for the PBS "NOVA" program "Lost on Everest." He also guided a film crew into Antarctica's Ellsworth Mountains that resulted in the Emmy Award-winning film "Mountain of Ice."

He received the Citizen's Award for Bravery from the U.S. Department of the Interior for rescuing an injured climber on Mount Rainier. This rescue was performed following the crash of the helicopter transporting Hahn to the scene of the original accident.

estimated that the blast was perhaps 150 mph. We're all still a bit jumpy, although there hasn't been a recognizable aftershock in a day or two.

We'll start walking out of this place and down toward an easier and safer world tomorrow. But plenty of uncertainty still lies ahead.

April 30, 2015

[Hahn and six members of his group begin a three-day trek toward Lukla, from where they can fly to Kathmandu and then home.]

This morning, we enjoyed a little sunshine for a change, which made it easier to put final touches on our packing. By 10 a.m., we were on the trail, which was very different than what we'd become accustomed to ... no trekkers, no porters, no traffic. Of course, the reason is sobering—nobody has put the dire national situation out of their minds—but the value of a day spent walking peaceful trails through beautiful mountains can't be overstated. We stopped in both Gorak Shep and Lobuche without seeing too much damage from the quake, but things in Pheriche are obviously worse. Many of what had seemed to be the more substantial structures in town are badly damaged.

May 1, 2015

Thankfully, it was another sparkling-sun-and-blue-sky day. We got out of Pheriche by 8:15 a.m.—and out of the alpine zone—and down into the land of the living. Helicopters continued to buzz back and forth overhead.

We took our time, stopping in Pangboche to check on acquaintances and to pay respects to victims, but then we moved on across the river to Deboche and up to Thyangboche, which was abnormally calm and quiet. The classic and grand monastery was visibly damaged and seemed abandoned for the moment.

We found our way back to our favorite place in Namche: Camp De Base. Although damage in Namche seems slight, we've been reminded that the earth isn't through moving yet. There have been aftershocks that we apparently haven't noticed in our tent environments. Here in town, everybody seems much more aware of them in a place where buildings shake.

We'll keep our guard up, but we'll also avail ourselves of some quality 11,000-foot sleep—the kind we haven't experienced in a month.

May 2, 2015

Another surreal day of spectacular hiking and beautiful mountain vistas, mixed with up-close and sad recognition for the cost of lost homes and disrupted lives in the Khumbu Valley. I suppose it's surreal because we would never have chosen to be "tourists" in a disaster area, but here we are.

Many houses and buildings were untouched, but



ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



SUNIL PRADHAN/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES

“People without any form of insurance stood in front of ruined structures, smiling and bidding us ‘Namaste’ as we passed. The ones we knew asked us first if we were all OK before acknowledging that they would need to start over completely.”

Top: Rescuers use a makeshift stretcher to carry an injured person out of Base Camp. Bottom L-R: Buddhist prayer flags frame a rescue helicopter taking off from Base Camp; a Nepalese woman carrying her child walks past collapsed buildings in Kathmandu from a second major earthquake (magnitude 7.3) on May 12.

a significant number were cracked and damaged beyond reasonable repair. Very few had collapsed, and we were told that there had been few injuries and few deaths in these areas. Probably because Sherpas would have been outside and working hard at midday when the quake struck.

People without any form of insurance stood in front of ruined structures, in this fabulously beautiful setting, and smiled and bid us “Namaste” as we passed. The ones we knew asked us first if we were all OK before acknowledging that they themselves would need to start over completely.

May 3, 2015

Rain, thunder and lightning had continued late into the Lukla night, but we all felt pretty confident that the dawn would bring perfect flying weather—and it did. We were up at 5 a.m. and over to the craziness of Lukla International Airport by 6. At around 7 or so, a twin-engine prop plane came in. The flight was blissfully uneventful and by 7:30 we were just another batch of tourists in Kathmandu.

A casual observer could easily go unaware of the tragedy unfolding in the country around us. Things are quickly returning to “normal” for those with means in the capital. The hotel was jam-packed with correspondents, camera crews, diplomats and a few grubby climbers.

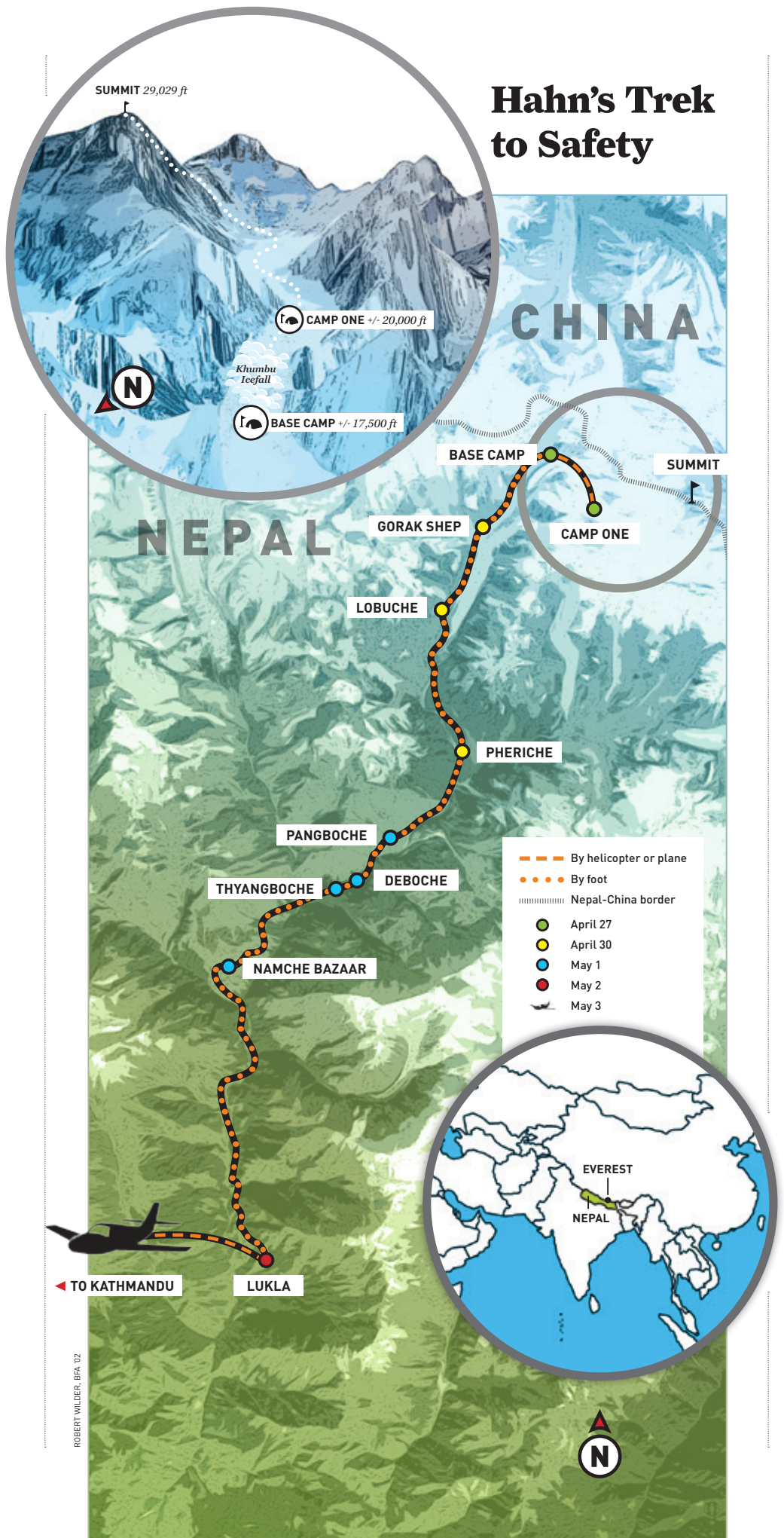
We met a number of our guide friends—some of whom had ambitious and worthy plans to go out to remote villages to do what they could to save lives. Others, like ourselves, intended to get out of the country as soon as possible so as not to require care and feeding from an already over-stressed society.

[Later that evening]

Back at the hotel, our team assembled for one final evening together, with a couple of toasts and a fine rooftop dinner. We weren’t even remotely cold or uncomfortable, we weren’t in danger, and we had a rising and beautiful full moon to entertain us. Tomorrow we’ll scatter to ride a number of bigger and faster aircraft toward our own homes.

We each feel extremely fortunate to have come unscathed through extraordinary circumstances. To this point, we’ve had the convenience and satisfaction of placing cash directly into the hands of those who’ve suffered. From this point onward, we’ll try to match the generosity of those at home, making contributions to responsible aid organizations benefiting all Nepalis. ❧

Hahn’s Trek to Safety





Horns Up for Homecoming!

HOMECOMING WEEKEND FOOTBALL

BULLS VS. BOWLING GREEN
SATURDAY, OCT. 3, KICKOFF 3:30 P.M.
STAMPEDE SQUARE, NORTH CAMPUS



Come celebrate all that UB's Homecoming festivities have to offer in Stampede Square, the **family-friendly destination** for tailgating.

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

Then, join the alumni association at a tailgate party to feast on tailgate fare and beverages while grooving to the sounds of legendary music icons **KC & the Sunshine Band**.



Fall and UB Football: Make it a family tradition!

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



AlumniLife

- » Volunteers rule
- » The best “Batman”
- » Keepsakes: '71 decal



Tom Dee at Canalside, the heart of Buffalo's waterfront revitalization plan.

TOM DEE
EMBA '96
BA '75

Putting Buffalo on the Map

Tom Dee has big plans for his hometown waterfront

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard » “We’re still in our infancy,” says Thomas P. Dee (EMBA '96, BA '75), rapidly sketching his thoughts on paper. When talking about Buffalo’s sparkling new waterfront, he often loses himself in excitement, his pen barely keeping up with his words.

A South Buffalo kid from a blue-collar family, Dee watched his beloved city struggle for decades. Recently, however, he has also witnessed its rapid turnaround, noting the influx of younger residents and new businesses to the downtown core.

Dee is president of the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC), the state-run agency managing the rehabilitation of Buffalo’s waterfront and, at its center, the popular Canalside district at the mouth of the Buffalo River.

“Buffalo deserves this. Buffalonians deserve it,” Dee says of the re-envisioned Erie Canal Harbor, whose turn-of-the-century nickname as the western terminus of the Erie Canal was America’s “Gateway to the West.”

The first in his family to attend college, Dee worked in construction before heading to community college to further his prospects. Eventually he transferred to UB to study business.

After graduating, he landed a job as a project manager at CannonDesign, a Buffalo-based global architecture firm that took him across the country on several high-profile building projects. In 2009, he was tapped to lead the ECHDC, which was beginning to tackle the mammoth job of transforming a former

continued

DONALD S. LEVINE

industrial wasteland into what he calls “a world-class tourist destination.”

With a small staff, Dee juggles the agency’s day-to-day operations, including overseeing all design, engineering and construction plans for what has become one of Buffalo’s largest urban redevelopment undertakings to date. The projects—which must follow the ECHDC’s guiding principles to provide public access and activities, four-season friendliness and partnerships with private development—include historically correct canals that extend the waterway into the heart of the larger \$249 million Canalside entertainment district project.

The going hasn’t always been easy, he admits, but building such large-scale infrastructure for the future is incredibly fulfilling. “This is my legacy,” he says proudly.

At Canalside, progress can already be seen and experienced. Nearly 15,000 people attended

music concerts there last year, and another 60,000 have gone ice skating on the new canals. This summer, a bike ferry began shuttling cyclists between

“Buffalo deserves this. Buffalonians deserve it.”

Tom Dee

the Inner and Outer Harbor, and thousands more tourists have visited to walk the pedestrian bridges and kayak amid the looming granaries of Silo City.

Dee’s agency is also involved in redeveloping the Outer Harbor, just south of Canalside. He is particularly fond of the new Ohio Street Corridor—what he calls “the yellow brick road” running along the Buffalo River. Once a forgotten access road, the repaved street now connects the public to a new Buffalo Harbor State Park—the city’s first state park—and the rest of the Outer Harbor, some of which has already been renewed with bike paths, beaches and historic signposts celebrating the Erie Canal’s shipping legacy.

Up next, the ECHDC will oversee the blueprint for additional mixed-use development along the Outer Harbor. In and around Canalside, projects include new entertainment offerings, residential villages and a major mixed-used public attraction (recent plans for a children’s museum complex are, Dee says, in progress).

What used to be only sketches of a prosperous future for Buffalo are now becoming reality, Dee adds. “People are already saying they’ve never seen anything like this in their lifetimes.” ❖

SHOW YOUR AGE* Alumni proudly date themselves

Who’s your all-time favorite Batman actor?



“West.”

Patrick Cappola, BA '89
Buffalo, N.Y.

“Ben Affleck because, much like Bruce Wayne, he dedicates his time and resources to humane causes.”

Zohair Qureshi, CAS '12, MS '12, DDS '09
Pittsford, N.Y.

“Michael Keaton.”

Erick Szczap, BA '05
Charlotte, N.C.

“Adam West. Most ‘comic-’ like!!!”

Dan “Grampy” Matychak, BS '68
Ithaca, N.Y.

“Christian Bale. He added a whole other level of dark broodiness to Batman. And that’s all good!”

Dinesh Sivapragasam, BA '14
Joo Seng Heights, Singapore

“Kevin Conroy all the way. This is where the true beginning of a darker Batman began ... and it also gave us that deep, gravelly voice.”

Justin J. Listwan, BS '99
Piscataway, N.J.

“Kevin Conroy is by far the best.”

David Yvan Ross, BA '10
Long Beach, N.Y.

“Conroy!!! I recently have been rewatching this show, and it’s just as good as I remember it!”

Angela U. Núñez, BS '09
Seattle, Wash.

“Kevin Conroy without a doubt.”

Mitchel Ragan, BA '10
Seaford, N.Y.

Kevin who? Conroy was the voice behind Bruce Wayne’s anti-hero in “Batman: The Animated Series” (1992-1995).



A selection of campus events, open to all alumni

Mary's Fall Picks

Mary Garlick Roll (MS '88, BS '84) is our Alumni Association president.

October

UB Homecoming and Family Weekend

10.02.15–10.04.15

UB vs. Bowling Green
North Campus

All-Alumni Celebration in Rochester

10.07.15

Rochester Yacht Club

29th Annual Distinguished Speakers Series

10.14.15

Liz Murray, UB Reads Author
Alumni Arena, North Campus

David Sedaris

10.17.15

Center for the Arts, North Campus

CAS Scholars on the Road: Why Zombies, Why Now?

10.27.15

NYC Chapter

November

UB Scholarship Gala

11.06.15

Edwin L. Wright Practice Facility
North Campus

Distinguished Speakers Series

11.18.15

John Legend
Alumni Arena, North Campus

Mary says: "NYC alums, come learn why zombies are trending, with UB expert David Castillo!"



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



OUR GILDED AGE

Million-Dollar Mile

True story: At the turn of the last century, Buffalo had more millionaires per capita than any other U.S. city. Earlier this year, Explore Buffalo and the College of Arts and Sciences Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement office hosted several sold-out walking tours of Delaware Avenue's "Millionaire's Row," a strip of opulent mansions built for the Queen City's wealthiest denizens. The executive director of Explore Buffalo, Brad Hahn (BA '13, pictured above with the lanyard), led the excursions, which were open to all alumni and other history buffs.

KEEPSAKES

What did you save?

"Vintage" UB Decal

Writes John V. Kopalek (BA '74) of Binghamton, N.Y., about his UB treasure: "This decal is from the Norton Union Bookstore, purchased in the fall of 1971. It is from the first third of my life. The decal cost a quarter and, at the time, the school colors were Buffalo Blue, Flame Yellow and Accent Red. It went into storage and became 'collectable.' It still gives me enjoyment." We're glad to hear it, John!

Share your memories » Still holding on to a memento from your UB years? Tell us why, and attach a photo, in an email to keepsakes@buffalo.edu.



MARK MULVILLE

JOHN DYKES

We Are the CHAMPIONS

Alumni form an army of UB boosters at inaugural Volunteer Leadership Summit

This spring, more than 150 alumni gathered in the same room for the first time ever for the inaugural UB Volunteer Leadership Summit. Hosted by the UB Foundation, the UB Council and the UB Alumni Association Board in the Center for the Arts, the two-day event brought volunteers together with administrative leaders to network, learn about significant campus programs and progress on major UB initiatives, and discover how much the university benefits from their hard work.

As President Satish K. Tripathi told the gathering, alumni and friends are valued partners critical to the university's success, whether they serve as donors, teachers, mentors, event volunteers or policy advisors.

Leaders of all stripes

In his keynote address, "Leadership and Public Service," Vice Adm. Robert B. Murrett (BA '75) stressed the importance of civilian leadership—not just in government, but in the community and at UB. An impressive leader himself, Murrett has served as the director of naval intelligence and director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and is currently deputy director of the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the UB Alumni Association in 2006 for his exceptional career accomplishments.



"The summit is a wonderful idea because it allows so many people who care deeply about this university to feel like they're a part of it as UB charts its next big move."

Bridget Niland (JD '98, EdM '98, BA '95), athletic director, Daemen College

More than a dozen UB organizations attended the event, including:

- » UB Council
- » UB Foundation Board of Trustees
- » UB Alumni Association Board of Directors and chapter leaders
- » Deans' advisory councils
- » UB Parents Advisory Board
- » Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Advisory Board
- » UB Medical Emeritus Faculty Society

"The key question is, how do we keep a college education affordable? Not one of us can solve it alone. Our alumni and volunteers are a key strength and a powerful resource for us. We need your involvement, and your thoughts and insights to meet this challenge."

UB Council Chair Jeremy M. Jacobs ('60), chairman of Delaware North Companies and owner of the Boston Bruins



ClassNotes

- » The power of poetry
- » Just for laughs
- » '04: Scibetta says aloha

Behind the Lens

An engineering grad's unusual path leads to journalism's top honor



A home destroyed by a massive landslide sits in a field of debris near Oso, Wash.



DAMON WINTER

MARCUS
YAM,
BS '06

By Cory Nealon » Marcus Yam (BS '06) came to UB to study engineering. He left besotted by photojournalism.

Now, just nine years later, he can claim a Pulitzer Prize—widely considered the highest honor in the United States for journalism—for his role in The Seattle Times' coverage of the Oso mudslide, which killed 43 people in rural Washington.

The honor, awarded to the Times' staff under the breaking news category, was one of 14 journalism Pulitzers announced in April. "It has been a very humbling experience," says Yam. "You don't expect to win anything like that in your lifetime."

Yam was the only Times photographer on duty when reports of the mudslide surfaced on the morning of March 22, 2014. He was in Ballard, a neighborhood

in Seattle, when his editor called. Information was scant, but Yam was told to drop everything and head north toward Oso, a remote town of roughly 200 people about 60 miles from Seattle.

Before reaching the town, he encountered a roadblock. Emergency responders would not let him drive through. So he parked his car and walked into the woods, past the authorities, toward the mudslide. About that time, his editor called.

"I told him I was walking to the slide. He said that was a terrible idea. What if there's another slide?" Yam froze. His editor was right. He turned back. They came up with a better idea: Photograph it from the sky.

Within an hour, Yam was hanging out of a helicopter

CONTINUED



Rescue workers dig through debris near Oso, Wash., looking for potential victims.

MARCUS YAM/THE SEATTLE TIMES

taking pictures showing how the mudslide, at roughly 15 football fields wide, had engulfed an entire neighborhood.

He continued to pursue the story after landing. He spent days operating out of Darrington, where the emergency operations center was based, capturing images of residents, rescue workers and the landscape—all of which were distributed worldwide.

“We hiked four hours through the mountains—there was no trail—to reach the slide,” he recalls. “Each step we would sink a little bit. The ground was like quicksand. The smell was just awful.”

The Pulitzer is bittersweet, Yam says, because so many people died. However, he is proud of the work that he and his co-workers did.

A native of Malaysia, Yam came to UB in 2003 to study aerospace engineering, specifically unmanned aerial vehicles and the engineering design process. It wasn’t until his senior year, needing to fulfill a requirement to graduate, that he signed up to shoot photographs for UB’s student newspaper. At the time, he didn’t own a camera. “I bought my first camera ever thanks to

The Spectrum,” he says. “I shot student government elections, football games and other events.”

His work caught the attention of John Davis, then-design director at The Buffalo News, who offered him an internship. After a few weeks in the newsroom, Yam knew that he had found his calling. “I had so much fun there. It was one of those rare moments in life when everything seemed to come together. Things were just clicking. That’s when I realized that this is what I wanted to do,” he says.

He went on to study photography at Ohio University and now works for the Los Angeles Times. The engineering skills he learned at UB, he says, influence his work. “I take a very analytical and technical approach to everything that I shoot,” he explains.

What does the future hold for Yam? He is not sure. He cites the Robert Frost poem “The Road Not Taken” as a guide:

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took one the less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference. ❖*

“Each step we would sink a little bit. The ground was like quicksand. The smell was just awful.” **Marcus Yam**

CLASS NOTES BY DECADE

Person to Person

50

Herbert Lubick, BS 1958, retired from his career in pharmacy. He now volunteers with the San Diego Police Department, working with motorists involved in driving infractions. He lives in San Diego, Calif.

80

Bruce Heine, BS 1981, was promoted to senior vice president of National Fuel Resources Inc., the energy marketing segment of National Fuel. He lives in Silver Creek, N.Y.

Scott Tromanhauser, BA 1981, was appointed to the board of directors of New England Baptist Hospital. In addition to serving on the board, Tromanhauser is the hospital’s chief medical quality officer. He resides in Belmont, Mass.

60

Albert Wertheimer, MBA 1967 & BS 1965, was elected a fellow of the International Pharmacy Federation. He resides in Blue Bell, Pa.

Paula Ciprich, JD 1985, was promoted to senior vice president of National Fuel. She will also continue in her role as general counsel and secretary for the company. Ciprich lives in Eggertsville, N.Y.

70

Donald Rowe, PhD 1971 & BA 1966, was awarded the 2015 New York State Public Health Association Biggs Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in public health. Rowe serves as the director of the Office of Public Health Practice and the public health liaison for the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions. He lives in Churchville, N.Y.

David Miranda, BA 1985, a partner at the Albany intellectual property law firm of Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti, was named the 118th president of the New York State Bar Association. He will serve a one-year term. Miranda resides in Voorheesville, N.Y.

Richard Glennon, PhD 1973, was inducted into the American Chemical Society’s 2014 Division of Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame. He also received the society’s fifth annual Philip S. Portoghese Medicinal Chemistry Lectureship Award. Glennon is a professor at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy. He resides in Midlothian, Va.

Norma Nowak, PhD 1986 & MS 1980, received the Amherst Chamber of Commerce’s Sponsors Award. Nowak is executive director of UB’s New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences and the founder and chief scientific officer of Empire Genomics. Nowak and her company were chosen for their outstanding contributions to the region. She lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

James A. O’Connor, BS 1986, was named vice president and senior relationship manager of commercial banking for KeyBank’s Central New York market. He resides in Clay, N.Y.

90

Kelly O'Neil, BA 1990, was promoted from executive assistant to communications and donor relations supervisor at the Food Bank of Western New York. She lives in Lancaster, N.Y.

John Craik, JD 1994, was named executive director of the P2 Collaborative of Western New York. Craik most recently worked as outreach coordinator for Fallon Health Weinberg. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Monique Drucker, EdM 1995, was promoted from associate vice president of student affairs to vice president and dean of students at Quinnipiac University. Drucker joined Quinnipiac in 1996 as the assistant director of student activities. She lives in Wallingford, Conn.

Paul Smokowski, MSW 1995, BA 1991 & BA 1990, was appointed dean of the School of Social Welfare at the University of Kansas. He resides in Lawrence, Kan.

Scott Lavis, MSW 1996, joined Kline Galland Community Based Services as a hospice and palliative care liaison. He lives in Seattle, Wash.

Andrew Hawkins, BA 1998, joined CNL Commercial Real Estate as senior vice president. He resides in Jacksonville, Fla.

Tracy Panzarella, MA 1999 & BA 1997, was honored by the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association with the Distinguished Service Award. Panzarella is the director of clinical services at Autism Services Inc. She lives in Amherst, N.Y.

00

Monique Stays, MSW 2001 & BA 1998, joined the Evergreen Association as a supportive counselor. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Laurie Oltramari, MArch 2003, was named executive director of the Batavia Business Improvement District. She previously served as assistant director for the organization. Oltramari lives in Batavia, N.Y.

Kimberley Zittel-Palamara, PhD 2003 & MSW 1994, an associate professor in the SUNY Buffalo State Department of Social Work, was promoted to chair of the department. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Leana Scibetta, MSW 2004, joined the Hawaii State Department of Education as a district social worker. She lives in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Zachary Benjamin, JD 2005, joined the law firm of Costello, Cooney & Fearon PLLC as a partner in the

business law practice group. He resides in Skaneateles, N.Y.

Frank Conjerti, BA 2005, was promoted to creative director at Quinlan, a full-service advertising agency. He lives in Tonawanda, N.Y.

Jeremiah Yourth, BA 2005, was selected for inclusion in the 2015 edition of Virginia Super Lawyers Rising Stars. Yourth is an attorney at the law firm of Owen & Owens. He resides in Midlothian, Va.

CONTINUED

Michael Castro, BA '67

Poet Laureate, St. Louis



TOP FIVE

Can poetry heal? Michael Castro believes so. He's using his appointment as the first-ever poet laureate of St. Louis to help bring comfort to an area still reeling from the August 2014 shooting death of a black teenager by a white police officer in nearby Ferguson.

"The appointment came with a thinly veiled challenge: How can poetry and the arts play a prominent role in healing efforts being initiated on multiple fronts in the St. Louis area?" says Castro, who has published 10 collections of poetry during his four-decade-long career as a writer and professor. A resident of

St. Louis since 1967, he taught one of the nation's first courses in Native American literature at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in the late 1970s and later taught at Lindenwood University in St. Charles. In 1975, he founded the acclaimed literary journal River Styx.

At UB in the 1960s, Castro learned from such greats as John Barth and Robert Creeley. "Barth emphasized keeping alert to fresh approaches that renew literary forms. Creeley, in both his poetry and speech, conveyed the importance of not being satisfied with anything but precisely the right word," says Castro, who began his two-year term as poet laureate on Jan. 1.

Five ways poetry can heal:

1. It builds community

As poet laureate, I initiated a Unity Community reading series, bringing together poets and audiences of different ages, races and ethnicities to foster communication and solidarity.

2. It connects us with our higher self

"Myself" is different than "my Self." We have a higher Self. Poets try to write from it and connect with others there.

3. It reveals our common humanity

Poetry reflects human sufferings, joys, aspirations, dreams and the truths of our inner and outer lives. There is an "and yet, and yet" experience in a great poem—hinting at the ineffable

dimension of awe, mystery and spirit behind all realities and at the center of our individual beings.

4. It allows us to become one with the other

Reading or listening to a poem intently takes us outside our own mental boundaries to unite sympathetically with the consciousness of another.

5. It provides a momentary escape from our everyday lives

Poetry takes us outside of time, to experience what William Blake referred to as "eternity in an hour"—or it could be just a few moments. I think of these transcendent journeys as a kind of refreshing immersion in paradise.



VICTORIA MAXFIELD

Class Notes

Christina Barone, BS 2006, joined Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP as a tax manager. Barone also serves as the Buffalo chapter president of the Accounting & Financial Women's Alliance. She lives in Lancaster, N.Y.

Scott Sobieraj, MD 2006 & BS 2002, joined the Cardiology Group of Western New York PC. Sobieraj is a cardiologist specializing in clinical diagnostic cardiology, cardiovascular disease and internal medicine. He resides in Clarence Center, N.Y.

Chrissy Casilio-Bluhm, BA 2008 & Cert 2008, owner of Casilio Communications, was elected president of the Clarence Rotary Club. She is the youngest person to hold the position in the 55-year history of the organization. Casilio-Bluhm lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

10

Lisa Petronio, BS 2010, joined Walsh Duffield Companies Inc. as vice president of retirement plan solutions. She resides in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Kerry Atlas, EMBA 2011, was named vice president of finance and information technology at NetPlus Alliance, a buying group for industrial and contractor supplies distributors. She lives in Wilson, N.Y.

Kathleen Murphy, EdM 2011 & MBA 1993, service manager for network and classroom services at the University at Buffalo, was honored with the 2015 Emerging Leader Award from the Western New York Network for

Women Leaders in Higher Education. She resides in Lancaster, N.Y.

Edward Wilczynski, MArch 2011 & BS 2008, received his professional license to practice architecture in Maryland. He works at Studio Z Design Concepts, an architectural firm that serves the D.C. metro area. He lives in Bethesda, Md.

Paula A. Madrigal, MSW 2012, joined SUNY Buffalo State's Weigel Health Center as a wellness and prevention coordinator. Madrigal also serves as a national board representative for the National Association of Social Workers. She resides in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Bradley Lotiger, JD 2013, MSW 2012 & BA 2009, is an attorney with Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled and Disadvantaged of Western New York. He previously worked for the organization as a social worker. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jill Baszczynski, MSW 2014, joined the New York State Child Welfare Court Improvement Project as a senior court analyst. She resides in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Gregory Koopman, PharmD 2014, was promoted to pharmacist-in-charge at CVS Pharmacy in Laurel, Md. He lives in Silver Spring, Md.

Andrew Couche, BS 2015, joined Foit-Albert Associates as a junior engineer. He resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

Sara Heron, MPH 2015 & MSW 2015, joined the University at Buffalo Department of Prospect Research as a research analyst. She lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Daniel Greenstein, BA '79

Dentist-comedian



HOW-TO

For most of us, a visit to the dentist is the stuff of nightmares, but for patients of Daniel Greenstein, it's like having front row seats at the Laugh Factory. In addition to operating a successful practice in Boca Raton, Fla., Greenstein—aka “Dr. Dan”—is fairly well known in the comedy world. The dentist-comedian began the comedian part of his career in 1989, doing stand-up at local bars. “[It] was a lot cheaper than playing golf or buying a boat. So I thought, “This will be my new hobby!”” he recalls.

Since his big break on “America’s Funniest People” in 1992, Greenstein has performed at local and national dental conventions, sold more than 1,000 of his parody song CDs, and landed an interview on NPR’s “All Things Considered.” His routine consists of a combination of parody songs and laugh-out-loud health care jokes, like this one: “I don’t understand why everyone is so nervous when they come to the dentist. I’ve got headphones, nitrous and valium ... I’m having a great time!”

We asked for his tips on reeling the audience in with a good joke.



DANIEL GUIDERA

How to tell a joke:

Know your audience

What you find funny and what someone else finds funny may be completely different. The trick is to find something that the audience can relate to.

Set them up

Every good joke needs a setup and a punch line that makes the audience howl with laughter. The setup is usually one or two lines that provide the background information needed to understand the reference of the joke. Then you surprise them with the punch line.

Practice, practice, practice

Jokes don't always come easily, even to the professionals. Practice in front of the mirror, a friend—heck, even your dog. Some jokes rely on comedic timing, while others rely on the tone.

Then test, test, test

Find an open mic night and test out your material at your local comedy club or bar. Add a little flavor (a dash of wit or a hint of confidence) and keep trying it out until you get it right—or toss it if it's a lost cause.

STAY CONNECTED! Share your photos and tell us your story on the [UB Alumni Association Facebook page](#), [facebook.com/buffaloalumni](https://www.facebook.com/buffaloalumni), or follow us on [Twitter @UB_Alumni](#).



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UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

UB YESTERDAY

1977

The North Campus takes shape

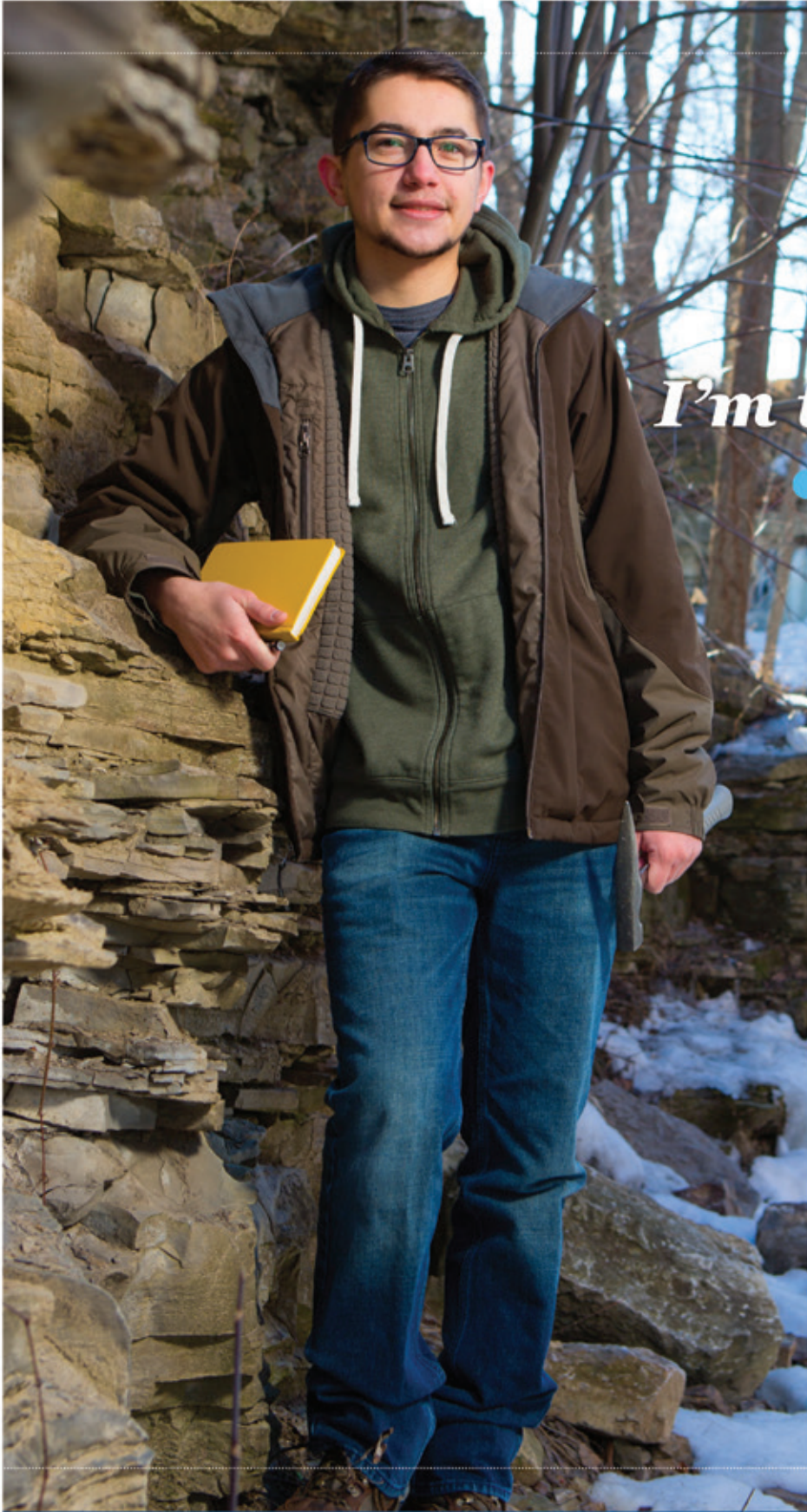
Back in 1977, the Amherst Campus, as it was known then, was just a scruffy toddler. Now that it's all grown up, we thought it would be fun to have a nostalgic look back.

Pictured is most of the campus looking due west, with Ellicott Complex and Lake LaSalle out of frame. Most of the core buildings that make up the current Academic Spine are here, including, clockwise from Furnas Hall (B) and traveling along Putnam Way (A): Clemens, Lockwood Library, Baldy, O'Brian, Capen, Talbert and the Cooke/Hochstetter towers. However, Knox Hall, Student Union, the Commons and the bookstore were just twinkles in UB's eye, as were Baird and the Center for the Arts (the former came along in 1981, while the CFA opened in 1994). With the football program on hiatus, Alumni Arena wouldn't be built until 1978, nor would UB Stadium until the "Run to Division I" push in the early '90s.

On the far right, the white half-dome is the "Bubble," a temporary, inflatable structure built to house tennis and basketball for UB students. According to our facilities folks (some of whom were here in '77), the bubble had to be reinflated after that year's blizzard knocked it down, only to collapse again in a 1984 storm—at which point it was deemed too costly to repair.

PHOTO KEY

- A** Putnam Way
- B** Furnas Hall
- C** The "Bubble"
- D** Governor's Residential Complex



I'm thankful.



During a hike in Chestnut Ridge Park near Buffalo, **Ryan Till** accepted geology as his destiny. While others pointed out tree and bird varieties, Ryan says, "I was just looking at the rocks." Last summer, Ryan, an Honors College student, conducted research to help assess the risk of eruptions at an active volcano field in Arizona and presented his findings at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting. This summer, he's getting hands-on experience in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming with UB's geology camp. He was able to afford to travel thanks in part to UB scholarships. "It was a huge relief to have these expenses taken care of," he says.

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LAST LOOK

If These Columns Could Talk You probably recognize this landmark, but do you know its history? The columns of Baird Point were once part of the façade of the Federal Reserve Bank in downtown Buffalo. When the bank was slated for demolition in 1959, UB music department founder Cameron Baird and civic-minded Air Force Major A. Burt Hamilton proposed acquiring the columns for UB. According to University Archives, the idea was to incorporate them into an open-air Greek amphitheater on the South Campus. Instead, they sat unused until 1978, when they were spruced up and transported to their current home, standing sentry over Lake LaSalle.