

AtBuffalo

The magazine for alumni and friends of the State University of New York at Buffalo **Fall 2017**

Navigating the opioid crisis **p34**
Test your UBIQ **p32**
Cirque's music maker **p21**



An Empowering Education

Students tackle social innovation in
the Mara Region of Tanzania

p22



Architecture students Travis Charles (left) and Lovepreet Kaur take in the view from a structure they helped design.



FIRST LOOK

Photograph by Douglas Levere

Connect and Reflect

By Rebecca Rudell » Ten unusual structures have entered the landscape at Buffalo's Silo City—an abandoned grain elevator site turned event space—courtesy of one of UB's freshman architecture studios. Playing with themes like solar path, wind flow and acoustics, the students designed and built the 8-by-8-foot wooden structures, collectively dubbed "Reflection Space." These thoughtful installations allowed students to experience the design-build process from start to finish, and now encourage visitors to examine the hulking silos from a new perspective—or to just share a quiet moment with a friend. 📍

Check out buffalo.edu/atbuffalo for more photos of Reflection Space.





YOUR GIFT

matters.

Jessica Davis
CLASS OF 2020
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
AND APPLIED SCIENCES

For Jessica Davis, UB was just the right distance from her small town of Bemus Point, N.Y. "It's far enough from home that I am on my own, but close enough that I can go home when I need to," says Davis, who chose to study mechanical engineering so she'll be able to work on "anything that has moving parts." Davis pays her own college expenses by working multiple jobs and taking out loans, so she was grateful to receive financial awards that helped her buy books and school supplies. "The support I received has been a huge blessing," she says. "I would like to say thank you to the generous donors. Every penny counts in helping me achieve my goals."

Gifts to the UB Fund have an immediate impact on students.

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Story by Rebecca Rudell
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Thought your test-taking days were over? Don't worry, this one's just for fun—and UB bragging rights. Professor Bufflesworth returns with another round of trivia to challenge your alma mater chops.

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An impressive career in medicine and public health got Gale Burstein the job as Erie County health commissioner. Five years in, she's emerging as a national leader in the fight against opioid addiction.

Story by Lynn Freehill-Maye

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EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Laura Silverman

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Rebecca Farnham

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Douglas Levere (BA '89)
Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

SECTION EDITORS

David J. Hill
Sally Jarzab
Jeff Klein
Rebecca Rudell (MA '95, BA '91)

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Holly Atkins (BA '16)
Michael Flatt (BA '06)

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Richard C. Klingensmith (BFA '13)

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Patricia McAllister

DIVISION OF PHILANTHROPY AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR DONOR AND ALUMNI
COMMUNICATIONS

Jennifer Boscia-Smith

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Kristin Woods

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Ann R. Brown

DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT COMMUNICATIONS

Barbara A. Byers

VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Nancy E. Paton

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MOVED?

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EDITOR'S ESSAY

Lives Fiercely Lived

As editorial director of At Buffalo, I'm often asked about our editorial choices—in particular, how we choose the people we profile in each issue.

It's an excellent question, and there's no one answer. We look for a certain level of professional success. We also seek out diversity—of gender, age and ethnicity, of course, but also in regard to passions and pursuits. Part of what makes it so much fun to edit a magazine like At Buffalo is the range of people who make up the UB community. Not every alumni magazine can include a leading concussion researcher, a Cirque du Soleil bandleader and “bikeguy” in one issue.

There are other criteria as well, ranging from lofty considerations (impact on society)

to more prosaic ones (willingness to talk to us). But the one thing we look for above all else is an unconventional path: a life trajectory driven by a compulsion to write one's own story, to not be constrained by normative concepts of success, to own one's moral compass and to make choices that would not be obvious to most of us in the moment but are so brilliant in retrospect.



If you look back over our past issues, you'll see that theme again and again. Tziporah Salamon (Spring 2015) became a celebrated model and style icon in her 60s, largely by refusing to prioritize social conventions or even financial stability over her passion for assembling exquisite outfits. Hollis Frampton (Summer 2015) was diagnosed “borderline autistic” as a child, walked away from Harvard as a teen, and went

on to reinvent film and basically invent the medium of digital art. Nnedi Okorafor (Winter 2016) had the implausible strength of character at 19 to pivot from a personal calamity—the end of a promising athletic career due to a surgery gone awry—into a completely new pursuit: creative writing. Now one of the leading science fiction authors of her generation, she was just tapped to write a series for HBO.

The stories of the people who fill the pages of this issue are no different. Gale Burstein [“A Steady Hand in Rough Seas,” p34] was a successful doctor, and then a successful public health researcher, and could have left it at that. Instead she took on the challenge of leading Erie County's health department and is now making national waves for her innovative approach to the opioid epidemic. Sharon Salzberg [“A Mindful Life,” p43] followed her heart and her conscience to the Dalai Lama's doorstep at the age of 18, created her own course of study at UB and became one of the leading teachers of mindfulness in the West. Juanita Hunter [“Intensive Caring,” p39], nurse/educator/activist extraordinaire, is still crafting her career and changing lives at the age of 87.

I could go on, but what's truly amazing is not the number of stories in each issue that reflect this theme, but the number of stories we never get to write because this theme is so common among the people who make up UB. We are a family of independent thinkers, ardent strivers and never-say-never believers, and you should feel proud to be a part of it.

Enjoy the issue!

Laura Silverman, Editorial Director

Great Expectations

For those of us in higher education, the start of a new academic year represents a far more significant transition than the one that takes place when the calendar turns from December 31 to January 1.

Unlike the largely symbolic value of a new calendar year, the new academic year marks a bona fide fresh start for our campus community. That's particularly true for our University at Buffalo students, arriving on campus each August with a different schedule to adjust to, fresh courses

other institutions as transfer or graduate students, or as nontraditional students, perhaps pursuing a postsecondary degree after spending time in the workforce or studying part-time while raising a family.

Although they have taken very different paths to UB, all the students I meet have something in common: a bond of shared excitement for the experiences and possibilities that lie ahead.

This past May, during our commencement season, as I had the pleasure of addressing the members of the Class of 2017—now the newest members of our UB alumni community—that same sense of excitement was palpable. The nerves that often accompany the beginning of an academic journey had long since vanished; in their place, the pride and fulfillment of having worked hard for, and having achieved, one's goal.

Thought of one way, Welcome Weekend and commencement bookend the UB experience. At one end, there is the promise of what a UB education provides you: rich, relevant, experiential instruction, hands-on opportunities to enhance your understanding of your discipline and dedicated mentoring from faculty renowned in their fields.

At the other end, there is the prospect of how you will use your UB education: to deepen your understanding of your field by taking your studies to the next level, to launch the career you'd envisioned for yourself, to engage meaningfully with the world around you, to lead locally and globally.

In between the bookends, our UB staff, faculty and administrators are diligently preparing our students for this, their most promising future. Every year, as Welcome Weekend fades from view, as the seasons change and we progress toward the celebratory milestone of commencement, we remain committed to ensuring that our students—our soon-to-be alumni—seize every opportunity to realize their true potential, at UB and beyond. 📍

All the students I meet have something in common: a bond of shared excitement for the experiences and possibilities that lie ahead.



to tackle and new fields of knowledge to master in pursuit of their dreams.

It is a time of great anticipation—anticipation of discovery, inside and outside the classroom, and of growth, intellectual and personal.

That anticipation is no more pronounced than during our annual Welcome Weekend. A longstanding UB tradition, Welcome Weekend, as many of you know, offers new students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with our campus and to get to know others who, like them, are setting forth on their educational journey at UB.

The students I become acquainted with during Welcome Weekend hail from across New York State, from around the country and from points all over the globe. They come to our campus straight out of high school, from

Satish K. Tripathi

Satish K. Tripathi, President

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.



Food Glorious Food

I loved the latest version of At Buffalo [The Food Issue, Summer 2017]. It really captured the years of UB, Buffalo food and everything else.

Althea Luehrsen
Buffalo, N.Y.

The writer is former assistant vice president for the UB Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations and CEO of Leadership Buffalo.

Each quarter I look forward to the next issue of At Buffalo to help me stay connected to the latest regarding UB news and fellow alumni, and the summer issue truly grabbed me. I was pleased to see the "Party of Twelve" photo of the UBAA Achievement Award winners, featuring my longtime friend and Sigma Pi fraternity brother Dean Seneca, and then happily surprised to read on the very next page about the "superfood" success of another fraternity brother, Dave Friedman. The issue also brought back fond memories of the Wilkeson Pub, where I enjoyed too many evenings to mention, as well as a picture from SA WingFest '85, which I personally organized as Student Association director of student activities.

Wayne Domnitz (BA '87)
New York, N.Y.

The writer is a member of the UBAA Board of Directors.



Wayne Domnitz with Elissa Josephson (BA '88), who would later become Elissa Josephson Domnitz, at the Wilkeson Pub in 1986.

What We Missed

How could you not have included the famous "UB brownie" ["A Smorgasbord of Food Memories," Summer 2017]? It was almost a daily part of my lunch. A 3-inch frosted square of deliciousness, with a walnut half on top.

Paul Rybarczyk (BA '71, BFA '71)
Buffalo, N.Y.

No discussion of food on the Main Street campus or near campus is complete without mentioning the fast-food place in the basement between Clement and Goodyear for great shakes, or Ridge Lea for brownies. And off campus: Parkside Candies for ice cream.

Lynn Goldstein (BA '75)
Monterey, Calif.

Although I have fond memories of my years at UB, food service was not one of them. Greasy pasta, mystery meats, a slap on the wrist if you took more than two slices of white bread. And on the eve of Yom Kippur, we were offered three choices of pork. The upside is that we all utilized the dorm kitchens in Ellicott and thus learned how to cook. And then, of course, there were Duff's, Garden of Sweets, Geppetto's and any beef on weck.

David Glogower (BS '77)
Monroe, N.Y.

Now Make It Kosher

Hail to your food issue. To be able to recognize an alumnus, Todd Mitgang ["The Codfather," Summer 2017], was frosting on the cake. Through your good offices I want to issue a challenge to him: Prepare and present strictly kosher food with your creative skills. In business and professional circles, the Jewish community in NYC contributes greatly to the cutting edge of creativity. We lack only a Mitgang to round out a modern, urban lifestyle. Todd, we need you to help us once again worship at the Jewish table in the style it deserves.

Sanford Rosenblum (JD '62)
Monsey, N.Y.

Shrimpventive!

I have firsthand experience of Lakshmi Ashwin's creativity ["Cooking Up Memories," Summer 2017]. One of my vivid memories is, Lux had found a good recipe for shrimp scampi. Now, the recipe called for wine. I had been given a bottle of wine which I happily gave to her. Next thing I heard, she had created a blushing shrimp scampi, using my red wine instead of white. I wish Meg and Lux happy times in their culinary journey. I can't wait to get hold of their book.

Seema Madhavan
Amherst, N.Y.

From the Editor's Desk Christine Dahill (MA '90) of Akron, N.Y., is the winner of our pop quiz: How many sprinkles on this UB doughnut? Dahill's guess of 450 sprinkles, in a field of responses that ranged from 150 to 1,060, came closest to the actual number: 472 (and yes, someone from our team actually counted them). Dahill will receive an At Buffalo mug.



Bullhorn

Life at UB, on and
off campus

Compiled by Rebecca Rudell

The Color of Difference

A kaleidoscopic microbiome
sculpture reflects the
importance of variety to life

By Rebecca Rudell » “If we don’t have diversity, we don’t survive,” says artist Shasti O’Leary Soudant (MFA ’11). Her sculpture “Gut Flora”—which wiggles its way from floor to ceiling at the metro station underneath UB’s new downtown medical school building—tackles the subject of diversity, both in relation to the bacterial populations in (and on) our bodies, as well as to the people within our communities.

The wildly colorful sculpture, named after the microorganisms that live in our digestive tracts, was commissioned by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. It includes 260 pieces of rigidized, powder-coated stainless steel in 25 different hues, held together by 16,000 nuts and bolts. At more than 15 feet high and approximately 30 feet wide, the massive “marvelous microbes” (as O’Leary Soudant calls them) present a joyful yet thought-provoking introduction to the medical school.

O’Leary Soudant is fascinated by beneficial bacteria, especially because of the “scorched-earth approach” our society often takes: “We do it biologically; we do it chemically; we do it culturally. It’s this amazing, insane thing that humans do.” Which is what helped her choose her subject matter. She wanted the piece not just to represent diversity, but to signify how crucial it is to survival.

“The first job of ‘Gut Flora’ is to be pretty,” she says. “But as deep as you’re willing to look into it, it’s got something to say. It talks about something that’s really important to me—and I hope is important to a lot of people.”

“Gut Flora” sculpture in
the Allen Street station.
Inset: Shasti O’Leary
Soudant.





Dental School 2.0

UB's School of Dental Medicine is getting a makeover: namely, a \$25 million renovation of its preclinical simulation center and patient clinics. Phase one of the simulation center redesign, completed in June, vaulted Squire Hall into the digital age with 110 individual workstations equipped with computer simulators to help students transition to real patients. The second phase, slated for completion by December, will add 30 more workstations, a small-group learning room, a faculty conference room, and a computer-aided design and manufacturing facility. Fundraising continues for the renovation of the clinics, which is scheduled to begin in 2018. Needless to say, these upgrades are sure to make students, faculty and patients smile.



UB Bucket List

(100 things every student should do before graduating)

NO. 31

SA CARNIVAL AND BONFIRE If you're a fan of chicken-wing-eating contests, car smashes or ginormous bonfires, UB's Student Association Carnival is not to be missed. Every year during Homecoming and Family Weekend,* students, families, faculty, staff and alumni gather on the shores of Lake LaSalle for a night jam-packed with entertainment, rides, fireworks, games and treats aplenty to curb those carnival cuisine cravings. ***Slated this year for Oct. 5-8**



Look, Ma! No Driver!

New York Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul got a glimpse into the future when she took a hands-free spin around UB's North Campus during the annual summer meeting of the Council of University Transportation Centers, held this year in Buffalo. The self-driving Cadillac SUV, developed by Carnegie Mellon University, was the highlight of the three-day event, which helped showcase the efforts of UB and New York State to advance autonomous vehicles. Through its development of innovative technologies, including virtual and real-world testing platforms, UB is playing a lead role in making driverless vehicles a reality.

6million



The age, in years, of the otter jawbone discovered in Central Mexico by UB assistant professor Jack Tseng and his research team, who theorize the fossil reveals a previously overlooked transcontinental migration route for ancient mammals.



(Good news worth sharing)

*In case you missed it

ICYMI

COMMITTED CONSERVATIONIST. The Buffalo Audubon Society presented the 2017 Henry J. Kord Conservation Award to UB's Helen Domske, associate director of the Great Lakes Program, for her career-long efforts to conserve local natural resources.

DELIVERING RESULTS. A group of UB engineering students used advanced analytics to aid two local nonprofit organizations, optimizing the packing and delivery process for Meals on Wheels for WNY and helping to organize thousands of donated school supplies for The Teacher's Desk.

INGESTIVE INGENUITY. SUNY Distinguished Professor and "Traffic Light Diet" founder Leonard H. Epstein received the prestigious Hoebel Prize for Creativity for his research on ingestive behavior and childhood weight control.

WHODUNIT? Associate professor David Schmid did a bang-up job this year, receiving the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association's 2017 Dove Award for his contributions to the study of mystery, detective and crime fiction.



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Instaworthy Our best UB Instagram snaps from around the world. Tag up with #Good2BeBlue or #UBuffalo.



Left: Larkin Administration Building office chair, 1906. Above: The Larkin Building atrium.

Fêting Frank

Buffalo honors the 150th birthday of America's most iconic architect

Together with six local cultural organizations, UB is celebrating the 150th anniversary of Frank Lloyd Wright's birth in style—Prairie style, that is. The community-wide festival focuses on the relationship between Wright and the burgeoning Arts and Crafts movement in Western New York with six months of lectures, tours, parties and other events.

In June, Wright lovers gathered at Hayes Hall for the opening of "Wright's Larkin: Arts and Crafts in Industry." The exhibition, which continues through the end of October, includes several never-before-seen FLW-designed objects from the now-demolished Larkin Administration Building.

The New York State Arts and Crafts Alliance, of which UB is a member, has events continuing into November to celebrate the master craftsman along with several lesser-known but significant artisans of the "Buffalo School" of Arts and Crafts, who collectively bestowed the region with some of the most stunning architecture and artifacts of the early 20th century.



Thinking Caps

Decorated mortarboards have become a staple of commencement ceremonies, as graduating students use humor and creativity to celebrate past achievements and look toward new beginnings. Below are a few of our favorites from UB's 2017 ceremonies.



- That's all, folks!
- Life begins at the end of your comfort zone
- Goal Digger
- I don't know where I'm going, but I'm on my way!
- Adventure is out there
- Once you become fearless, life becomes limitless
- Let the journey begin
- Future Leader
- Passionately smashing every expectation
- The world could always use more heroes
- "If this isn't nice, I don't know what is." – Kurt Vonnegut

ONE-LINER "Very few people, even in the most professional realm, really recognize how central Buffalo was to the development of design in America."

Jonathan Katz, associate professor of visual studies at UB, in a Buffalo Business First article about Frank Lloyd Wright's 150th birthday and the role Buffalo played in the Arts and Crafts movement

Eureka!

Hard times, hard stances p12

Police force fatigue p13

Concussion discussion p13

Worth His Salt

A UB-trained research scientist challenges the long-held view that your saltshaker can kill you

By Jeff Klein » Over the years, salt has gained a bad reputation in nutrition circles. Known variously as the “Silent Killer,” the “Hidden Killer,” the “Forgotten Killer” and even “the No. 1 Killer Worldwide,” it has been blamed for health problems ranging from high blood pressure and heart disease to obesity, diabetes and kidney failure.

But a growing number of medical and nutrition experts are questioning that dim view of salt, as well as federal guidelines that call for sharp limits to salt intake. One of the most visible is James DiNicolantonio (PharmD '10), author of “The Salt Fix: Why the Experts Got It All Wrong—and How Eating More Might Save Your Life.”

“The bottom line is there’s never been a study that proves cutting salt intake reduces cardiovascular events and mortality,” says DiNicolantonio, a cardiovascular research scientist for Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City, Mo., and clinical pharmacist. “In fact, low salt intake can actually be harmful to your health.”

DiNicolantonio, who also serves on the editorial boards of several medical journals, says that prevailing theories about salt are based on studies later shown to be flawed. For example, the massive Intersalt study of 1988, which involved 52 population centers around the world, found that blood pressure increased when sodium intake rose above 2,400 milligrams per day. That figure—the equivalent of 1 teaspoon—helped determine the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s 2,300-milligram recommended daily limit.

However, two decades later, statisticians found that the study’s result was distorted

CONTINUED

by four outlying data points. When those populations were excluded, the data shifted to a clear downward slope for blood pressure as salt intake increased—suggesting that for the vast majority of populations, more salt was actually beneficial.

DiNicolantonio, 30, has been suspicious of low-salt orthodoxy since his high school days, when he discovered that upping his salt intake improved his performance as a wrestler and cross-country runner. After following his great-grandfather, mother and brother into the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and then working in the community, his suspicions deepened.

“Patients were coming to me dizzy and fatigued on salt-depleting diuretics and complaining their doctors were telling them they couldn’t add salt to

“Patients were coming to me dizzy and fatigued on salt-depleting diuretics and complaining their doctors were telling them they couldn’t add salt to their food.”

JAMES DINICOLANTONIO

my career that seriously made me question the low-salt advice,” he says.

That advice includes the American Heart Association’s recommendation of less than 1,500 milligrams daily—an amount which, DiNicolantonio points out, is lost in sweat in one hour of exercise. He recommends anywhere from 3,000 to 6,000 milligrams per day for a healthy person. (The average American consumes 3,200 milligrams daily.)

“Compared to normal salt intakes, low salt intakes are associated with an almost doubling of cardiovascular mortality and around a 40 percent increase in all-cause mortality,” says DiNicolantonio. “We never demonized an essential nutrient before—only salt,” he adds. “Meanwhile, the huge increase in refined sugar in the American diet parallels the rise of chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes and obesity.

“Turns out we demonized the wrong white crystal.”



60 SECONDS WITH Michael Poulin

Interview by Sally Jarzab

Polarized Lenses

A new study reveals that political extremism isn’t always a matter of ideology—it may also be a reaction to events that have nothing to do with politics. Using data from a sample of about 1,600 Americans surveyed three times over the course of three years, the researchers tracked how political attitudes changed in conjunction with life experiences. What they found is that personal hardship can push people toward taking a harder line politically. We talked to associate professor of psychology and study co-author Michael Poulin about these surprising results.

What got your team thinking about this to begin with?

It’s related to a broader theory known as the meaning maintenance model, which suggests that all the different ways that people perceive meaning in life boil down to essentially the same thing: a need to find order in the world. When something happens that they didn’t want or expect to happen, people sense a threat to that order, and they can respond by bolstering their beliefs, even unrelated beliefs.

What counted as personal adversity in the study?

We looked at negative or stressful events that were significantly disruptive to people’s lives—a major illness or injury, the death of someone close to them, job loss, assault. It wasn’t just the regular daily hassles that everyone experiences.

Did it matter whether people were right- or left-leaning?

We found that people became more polarized in their beliefs in both directions, though there was a small but significant trend toward conservatism.

Do people’s views move back toward center over time?

We saw that the effect lasted at least several months, but with the data we used, we can’t say how long it lasted after that. My hunch is that it’s a

relatively temporary shift. If the effects were additive, you would expect to see individuals becoming more polarized across the life span, when, in fact, research shows that younger people tend to be more polarized than older people.

The study report says that becoming more rigid in one’s beliefs in this way can have a palliative effect. Are you suggesting that it’s a good thing?

We didn’t look at the effect this has on interpersonal relationships or societal well-being overall. But given that political polarization is thought to be unhealthy for society, we are interested in knowing more about why it exists. It may be that despite being corrosive to society as a whole, it helps individuals to cope.



Michael Poulin

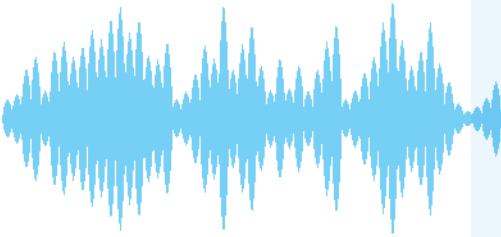


TWEETABLE: An @UBuffalo scholarship program for underrepresented students in biomedical and behavioral PhD programs got a \$2.3M booster shot from #NIH.

Beaker Briefs

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

By Marcene Robinson (BA '13)



Now Hear This

Traditional audiograms, held in a quiet room, often miss a form of hearing loss caused by inner-ear damage. That's because the brain can compensate for this type of loss in quiet settings by "turning up its volume control." More challenging tests, say researchers, would result in better diagnoses.

LED BY: Communicative disorders and sciences researcher Richard Salvi

Badge Burnout

Male police officers working the afternoon shift—typically from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.—are twice as likely to report exhaustion, while fatigue is less an issue for female officers, found UB-led research. One reason: The latter are more likely to support one another to help cope with shift work.

LED BY: Epidemiology and environmental health researcher John Violanti

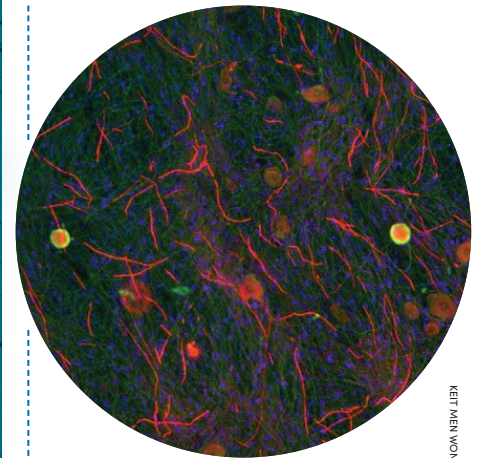
Housing = Health

A UB researcher found that stable housing helped formerly homeless people living with HIV/AIDS strengthen their immune system and fight the virus. With nearly one in 12 HIV-positive people living in the United States in need of housing assistance, rental subsidies and support services are crucial to their survival.

LED BY: Social work researcher Elizabeth Bowen

Heads Up: New Recommendations for Concussion Care

An international panel of experts, including UB Professor of Orthopaedics John Leddy (MD '85), recently updated the clinical guidelines for sport-related concussion. The biggest change, in a nutshell: Prolonged rest is out, guided activity is in. Says Leddy, who first proposed this idea a decade ago: "After two days of complete rest, if your symptoms have stabilized and you are starting to feel better, then it is OK to start to gradually do life activities and get your heart rate up a little." Below, a summary of the guidelines, called **The 11 R's**.

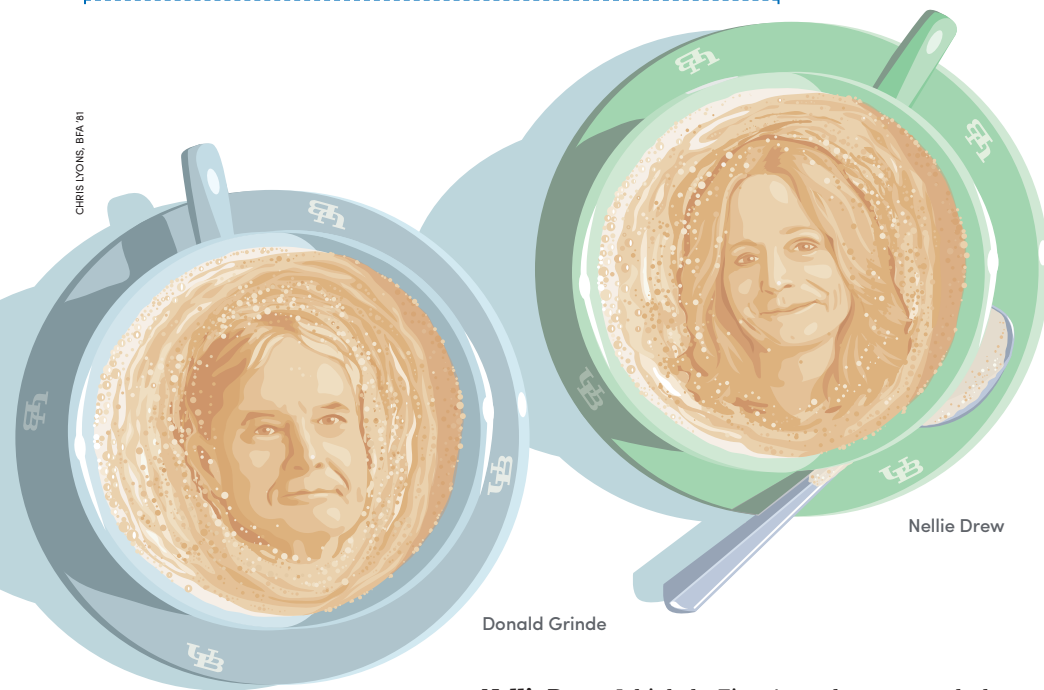


KEIT MEE WONG

Healing Damaged Nerves

Though it afflicts millions, neuropathy has never been well understood. Now, researchers at UB's Hunter James Kelly Research Institute have discovered a key metabolic pathway that induces neuropathy, or nerve damage, when hyperactivated in laboratory mice. They also found that an existing immunosuppressant drug called rapamycin causes affected cells, known as Schwann cells, to heal and rejuvenate, allowing for the formation of protective myelin sheaths (depicted here in red) and dramatically curing the mice. The revelation provides promising evidence of nerve regeneration, a process critical for potentially reversing damage associated with a range of diseases, such as diabetes, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis.

SMALL WONDERS By Sally Jarzab



Are We Free to Offend?

In *Matal v. Tam*, a case deciding the constitutionality of a trademark law banning the use of offensive names, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of an Asian-American rock band called The Slants, allowing them to keep their name as a matter of free speech. Many have seen this as a win for the NFL's Washington Redskins, baseball's Cleveland Indians and other entities that have chosen not to change their names despite decades of protests. We asked Helen "Nellie" Drew, an adjunct professor of sports law in the UB School of Law, and Donald Grinde, a professor of transnational studies who specializes in Native American studies, what this means for the future of free speech and civil rights.

(Any use of potentially offensive language in the following commentary is strictly for purposes of academic discussion. The use of such terms outside that context is not condoned by UB, the discussants or the departments they represent.)

Nellie Drew: I think the First Amendment compels the result that the justices reached. Alito, writing for the majority, said, "Our proudest boast is that we protect the speech that we hate." That's probably a pretty accurate description of what we have here. There's also a significant difference between an ethnic group using a name like The Slants to reclaim what has been a derogatory term and the Washington Redskins situation.

Donald Grinde: It's important to make that distinction. The Slants are Asian-Americans. If they want to use the term, that's similar to black rappers using the N-word. The owners of the Washington Redskins are not Native people. One of the fundamental aspects of free speech is that you do not have the right to yell "fire" in a crowded building, because it would create damage to people. The popular use of the term "redskins" creates damage to Native people. I'm concerned that the precedents limiting free speech are being ignored.

ND: Historically, those limitations are very carefully guarded. Hate speech is protected speech up to that line where you have incitement to violence. If it could be argued that the use of the mark might give rise to violence, then you might have the capacity to say that speech is no longer protected, but that's a very high bar. I'd hope people would vote with their feet and their pocketbooks.

DG: In terms of the marketplace, you can get away with the term "redskins" because you're disparaging less than one percent of the population. If you start doing it with African-Americans who are roughly 15 percent, or white people who are about 60 percent of the population, using terms like the N-word and "white trash" won't be commercially viable. As long as that's the case, I feel that the use of racial slurs and offensive images against American Indians will continue.

ND: I'm wondering whether there might be support from the players to change these names. Players have compelled

ownership to rethink aspects of their approach to the game, as when Lakers owner Donald Sterling used racial slurs against African-Americans and was ousted from the NBA.

DG: There have been pitches, but that has not been successful. The players for the Washington Redskins know that most of their fans are completely OK with it, and as a player, you don't want to anger your fans over something like that.

ND: What is your perspective on the Chicago Blackhawks?

DG: It's not disparaging. They're glorifying a leader of the resistance. Abraham Lincoln fought against Black Hawk. So that's not like "redskin." But for us, the Kansas City Chiefs name is almost as bad as the Redskins. If you refer to a Native man as "chief," it's a lot like calling a black man "boy." As a child, I remember the Milwaukee Braves had a teepee behind the wall in center field, and inside the teepee was Chief Noc-A-Homa, as in "knock a homer." Every time the Braves hit a home run, Chief Noc-A-Homa would come out and do a dance in the outfield. Finally, we got them to do away with Chief Noc-A-Homa, but they don't stop the crowd's tomahawk chop and chant.

ND: I would be interested in seeing studies about the impact of those images on Native American children over time. It has to be devastating. I have a question for you, and that has to do with the Florida State Seminoles. The school claims they are embraced by the Seminole nation, and that the Seminoles are proud of the way they use the trademark. Is that something you find to be true?

DG: Well, I'm Yamasee. Some of us became Seminoles. It's not like "redskins." These are Native people in Florida, and we're celebrating that. Our attitude is, yes, it's a caricature, but as long as the Seminoles go along with it, it's OK.

ND: They've endorsed it. In 2005 when the NCAA required the schools with potentially insensitive marks to revise their approaches, there were a small number of schools that appealed based on ongoing relationships with local Native American groups that had endorsed their use. But I was curious about the Native perspective generally, that that was an honor as opposed to a disparagement.

DG: At the University of Utah, where I was the director of Native American studies, the teams are called the Utes. Now that's not disparaging. It's a representation of a tribe within the state of Utah. Actually Utah is named after the Utes, and the Utes then said that's OK.

ND: So that's consent.

DG: Right. That's similar to The Slants using the term "slants." ☺

How do you take your coffee?

Nellie: Black.

Donald: Black.



Go to buffalo.edu/atbuffalo for an extended version of the conversation.

Lock Room

One long hockey game p16

Renewed rivalry p16

America meets the Mathletes p17



Cross-country runner Stephanie Ward hopes to qualify for the NCAA championships this year.

Taking It All in Stride

The reigning MAC XC Freshman of the Year is a globetrotter in more ways than one

By David J. Hill » The day after her last final exam in May, Stephanie Ward headed to Saudi Arabia with her twin brother to visit family for a few weeks. Then it was back to the United States for her sister's wedding in Florida, followed by a cruise to Mexico. Next was New York City for a few days, followed by a stopover at the family lake house in Honeoye—a tiny town near Rochester, N.Y.—and then a jaunt to Belgium before heading back to Saudi Arabia to visit more family. Then back to Buffalo just in time to start training for the fall cross-country season.

Some people won't travel that much in a lifetime, let alone one summer. But that's life in a military family.

The Wards always had a home in Honeoye, but Jay Ward's career in the U.S. Air Force took him and his family around the world. Born in Saudi Arabia, Stephanie lived at various times throughout her childhood in Saudi Arabia, Belgium, and Rome, Ga.

"I loved living outside of the U.S.," Ward, a sophomore, says of her globe-trekking childhood. "It gives you the opportunity to experience things not many other people get to. It's opened up my eyes more."

The Wards are as athletic as they are itinerant. Stephanie's father and grandfather both ran track; her mom, Claude, who is Belgian, used to compete in taekwondo, among other sports. The athletic genes were passed on to Stephanie, who competed in taekwondo and also played soccer, baseball, softball, golf and volleyball. She was a state

PAUL HOKANSON

CONTINUED

Locker Room

champion runner at the Darlington School, a boarding school in Georgia where she completed her secondary education.

To satisfy her hankering for extremely warm running weather (“I prefer to run in 100-degree heat,” she says), Ward initially focused her college search on the American South.

She applied to only one northern school, UB, because she had relatives who had gone here. But after visiting campus and meeting with

veteran Bulls track and field head coach Vicki Mitchell, she was sold. “I felt that Vicki was a great coach and I trusted in her,” Ward says.

“I loved living outside of the U.S. It opened my eyes.”

STEPHANIE WARD

Her trust has paid off. Though Ward broke several records in high school, she really began making strides when she started working with Mitchell at UB. “I’m still shocked by how well her training works,” says Ward, who went from running a 5K in just under 19 minutes during her senior year of high school to breaking 17 minutes in her first year at UB. Last fall, Ward was named MAC Freshman of the Year in cross-country. She continued her progress through the indoor and outdoor track and field seasons.

This year, Ward hopes to set new personal records and qualify for the NCAA championships. As an added incentive, UB is hosting the NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Northeast Regional Championships in November.

While that means one less trip for Ward, she still gets to show off yet another place she can call home. **B**



Top: Mike and Amy Lesakowski (center) and friends are all smiles after the 11 Day Power Play. Bottom left: On the ice. Bottom right: Lesakowski’s dad, Mike Sr., sports a T-shirt in memory of his late wife, Evelyn.

Going the Distance Cancer hit Mike Lesakowski (MS ’08) hard. After his wife, Amy, survived an aggressive form of breast cancer in 2009, his mom, Evelyn, succumbed to brain and lung cancer last summer. So he and Amy fought back by organizing the 11 Day Power Play, a marathon hockey game to raise money for cancer research. Lesakowski and 39 other players, including several UB alumni, played in consecutive four-hour shifts with eight-hour breaks, ultimately shattering the Guinness World Record for longest hockey game. More important, they raised \$1.2 million for Roswell Park Cancer Institute, with Lesakowski alone bringing in \$64,798.

The Clubhouse

Stats from right, center and left field

Compiled by Michael Flatt



Battle for Upstate

Men’s basketball will look to renew a rivalry for upstate dominance when the Bulls head to the Carrier Dome Dec. 19 for their first meeting with Syracuse in 16 years.

16

Swiss Sensation

Selina Von Jackowski finished second in the women’s 100-meter high hurdles at the Swiss National Championships in July, clocking in at 13.73 seconds in the finals. The Pfeffingen, Switzerland, native also competed in the long jump.

13.73

Podium Chase

After an eye-catching freshman year in which she finished fourth in the steeplechase at the MAC Championships, Sylvia Russell earned a spot in the 2017 Canada Summer Games with another fourth-place finish at the U20 Canadian Track and Field Championships.

4th

Go Pro

Three members of the Bulls football class of 2016 signed with NFL teams during the offseason: Roubbens Joseph (Baltimore Ravens), Mason Schreck (Cincinnati Bengals) and Jordan Johnson (Buffalo Bills).

3

Kicking Math on National TV

A UB team of self-proclaimed “nerds” uses brains and brawn to advance to NBC show’s finale



Above: The Mathletes. From left, Captain Kyle “Wooch” Graff and UB students Ellen Lutnick, Trevor Bernard, Zoe Herrick and Chris Komin. Below: Getting a leg up during the competition.

By Jeff Klein » They’re called the Mathletes, four studious yet remarkably fit UB undergrads, and they dragged the school’s name through the muck and mire—nearly all the way to victory on national TV.

The students clawed their way to the finale of “Spartan: Ultimate Team Challenge,” a summertime NBC reality series that pits teams from various walks of life against one another on a monstrously difficult obstacle course. The Mathletes—the youngest and arguably smartest among the 24 teams that competed this season—made it to the show’s semifinals during their improbable run through mud trenches, across tire swings and over 20-foot slip walls.

“We were the nerds,” says Zoe Herrick, a senior majoring in math and biomedical engineering. “People saw us as the underdogs, and we showed them what nerds can do.” Herrick’s teammates were Trevor Bernard, a junior math major; Chris Komin, who graduated in June with degrees in math and film study; and Ellen Lutnick, a senior who switched her major from math to exercise science. Each team was led by an elite Spartan athlete provided by the show; the Mathletes’ captain was Kyle “Wooch” Graff, who has a penchant for stripping down to his thong in the heat of competition.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NBC

It was Bernard’s idea to try out for the show after the four students became friends through UB’s Outdoor Adventure Club and various area rock-climbing gyms. So in addition to carrying heavy course loads, doing research at UB labs and working off-campus jobs, they trained like crazy—and it paid off: NBC accepted their audition video and flew them to Atlanta in April for four nights of filming.

“During the casting process the whole cast and crew named us the Mathletes, and we just rolled with it,” Bernard says. “So we’re these college students, walking around the hotel wearing shirts that say ‘Mathletes.’ And all these former Olympians, MMA fighters and people that do this sport for a living are like, ‘Are you guys here for a huge math competition or something?’ And we’re like, ‘No, we’re going against you guys.’”

The Mathletes won their first race easily; they raced again a few hours later and qualified for the semifinals with a second-place finish. Now down to the final six, they competed again the following night and just missed qualifying for the champion-

ship race. But along the way, they won the respect of their peers. “People came up to us after all the races and said, ‘We were taking bets on who’d be the first team to get eliminated—everyone thought it was going to be you guys,’” recalls Lutnick.

They also won fans across the country. Komin, the subject of a vignette about growing up in a Polish-speaking family on Grand Island, was swamped with new Instagram followers and Facebook friend requests. “I’ve gotten messages from people that say I’m inspiring to them,” he says. “For 21 years I’ve just been a kid growing up, and now all of a sudden people are looking up to me.” The team’s family and fans at the racecourse wore T-shirts that read “There is no $\sqrt{-1}$ in team” ($\sqrt{-1}$ equals “i”).

The Mathletes did UB’s math program proud. Viewers saw them wielding calculators and Rubik’s Cubes in Capen Hall. The play-by-play announcers praised their analytical skills in attacking the obstacles. Lutnick herself waxed lyrical during an in-race vignette: “Math is poetry for the physical world,” she said.

“I have such a mix of feelings—elation that it happened, sadness that it’s over,” says Komin, reflecting on the Mathletes’ transformation from regular UB students to unlikely celebrities. “But I’d have to say the predominant emotions are pride in what inexperienced racers did against professional athletes, disappointment that we didn’t go all the way, and a keen determination to come back and dominate in next season’s show.”



TWEETABULL: Former @UBFootball LB Gerry Quinlivan (BS '85) was nominated for the College Football HOF. Of > 5 million players, 987 have been inducted.

A centuries-old jewel still holds the power to lure new readers

The Fisherman's Bible

“**T**he Complete Angler” (aka “The Compleat Angler”) by Izaak Walton was originally published in 1653; with 460 editions printed over 350 years, it is said to be the second-most-reprinted book, in English, after the King James Bible. Composed of poems, songs, advice, recipes and life lessons, the tome follows the main character, a fisherman, as he schools a companion on the art of fishing. This copy of “Angler,” printed in 1808, is a fifth edition and includes several chapters written by Walton’s friend, a fly-fishing aficionado named Charles Cotton. Thomas B. Lockwood purchased the book in 1916; he had it re-bound in Morocco leather and embellished with lavishly gilt fishing motifs by Riviere & Son, a renowned London bookbinder, before donating it to UB in 1935.

With its technical expertise, reverence for the natural world and delightful chapter titles like “More directions how to fish for, and how to make for the Trout an artificial minnow and flies; with some merriment,” it’s easy to see why the book is beloved by generations of fishermen and women the world over.

Cooking with Walton

“First, scale him; and then wash him clean; and then take out his guts. ... Make clean his throat from the grass and weeds that are usually in it. ... Put some sweet herbs into his belly; and then tie him with two or three splinters to a spit; and roast him, basted often with vinegar, or rather verjuice and butter, and with good store of salt mixed with it.”



A lovely surprise

UB’s copy of “The Complete Angler,” now in the University Libraries’ Rare & Special Books Collection, holds a hidden treat: Fan its pages and a charming scene of fishermen angling among the reeds appears. Known as “fore-edge painting,” the effect is created when the artist fans the book’s pages, clamps them into place and paints. Once the work is dry, the clamp is removed and the edges gilt, adding beauty and protection to the delicate leaves.



Collector's edition

Lockwood, a prominent Buffalo attorney, donated \$500,000 to UB in 1929 to construct an E.B. Green-designed, Georgian-style library on the South Campus (now Abbot Hall). Lockwood also donated his extraordinary rare books collection, which includes Shakespeare’s First Folio, a first edition of Milton’s “Paradise Lost” and this fabulous treatise on fishing.

MixedMedia

Athletic vision p20

The sounds of Cirque p21

Burma's complex crisis p21

Through a Canvas Darkly

Craig LaRotonda discusses his time at UB, his new gallery and the dichotomy of human nature

By Rebecca Rudell » The paintings of Craig LaRotonda (BFA '92) seem as if they're from another era. Some, with their elegant lines, luxurious colors and gold embellishments, evoke medieval illustrated manuscripts, magnified hundreds of times. Others call to mind early Renaissance church frescoes, cracked with age, coolly considering the evils of humankind. Still others portray futuristic, robot-homo sapiens hybrids. But all possess what the artist, 47, refers to as "grotesque beauty."

LaRotonda's work, which also includes sculpture, collage and illustration, is inspired by the human condition—love, war, relationships—as well as more esoteric matters, like the nature of consciousness and our place in nature. "I have a melancholy perspective on mankind, as I believe we are destined to self-destruct," he says. "Because although we are part of the animal kingdom, we fail to understand our place as equal inhabitants."

Primates frequently populate LaRotonda's canvases, but they're often portrayed as royalty, even gods. We share so many commonalities, he explains, both physically and socially, yet we treat them as inferiors and have endangered their very existence. "In many ways, they can teach us how to live in harmony with this planet," he says. "My depictions of them are a reflection of my respect for them."

LaRotonda's artistic calling began when he was young. "All children create art in grade school," he says. "I just never stopped." He was encouraged by his parents to take art classes, which he did throughout grammar and high school, but it was at UB that he really flourished.

LaRotonda at his gallery in Buffalo, N.Y.

CONTINUED

The artist has fond memories of Bethune Hall, a converted factory on Main St. that housed the art department in his day, as well as his instructors—in particular, Harvey Breverman, Kathy Howell, Walter Prochownik and Alan Cober, who was flown in from New York City weekly to teach at UB. “I learned the art and business of illustration, which is super valuable to me now, from Alan,” he recalls. “He taught us how to promote and market our work and how to speak to art directors, so when I got professional jobs, I knew where to go with it.”

LaRotonda learned well. His illustrations have been published in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time Magazine* and countless others. He has participated in numerous international shows, and

has sold paintings and sculptures to celebrities such as Guillermo del Toro, Johnny Depp, Frances Bean Cobain and James Gunn. “The Ascension”—a triptych painted for his senior project at UB—appeared in a scene from the Oscar-award-winning film “Traffic.”

In 2016, LaRotonda and his wife, Maria Pabico, a graphic designer and digital fine artist, opened Revolution Gallery in Buffalo to create a home where “pop surrealist artists” (how he defines himself) can show their work. In addition to exhibitions that change monthly, the couple hosts live bands, yoga nights, wine tastings and more—all in an effort, LaRotonda says, to get people to “slow down, spend time with the art and reflect on it.” In the end, he believes, humans have as much capacity to be beautiful as they do to be monstrous, and art can help tip the balance. **B**



Top: “Soul of Fire,” 2015. Bottom: “Divine Messenger,” 2013.

UB Bookshelf

WHAT WE'RE WRITING

High Performance Vision: How to Improve Your Visual Acuity, Hone Your Motor Skills & Up Your Game

Donald S. Teig (BA '66)

Teig opens “High Performance Vision” by paraphrasing Muhammad Ali: “Your hands can’t hit what your eyes can’t see!” Teig’s objective is to teach athletes to “see,” whether their ultimate goal is a better left hook or a straighter first shot off the tee. He stresses the difference between eyesight, which can be improved with corrective lenses or laser eye surgery, and vision, which can be honed through exercise. The text helps readers assess their athletic vision—determining a dominant eye, measuring depth perception and contrast sensitivity, and much more—and offers dozens of vision-improving exercises. (Square One Publishers, 2015)

Unanticipated Outcomes: A Medical Memoir

Jerome P. Kassirer (MD '57, BA '53)

Kassirer—a Distinguished Professor at Tufts Medical School, UB Distinguished Alumnus and one of the medical profession’s foremost figures of

principle—traces his improbable journey from a Depression-era hovel on Buffalo’s East Side, through medical school at UB, to the editor-in-chief’s chair at the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The memoir’s fulcrum is his forced departure from that esteemed position in 1999—he objected to the marketing of the journal’s name as a revenue-generating tool—and what he sees as the profit motive’s assault on the integrity of his profession. (Self-published, 2017)

Miss E.

Brian Herberger (BA '95)

In this coming-of-age tale, Herberger brings to life the contentious political climate of the late 1960s via Bets, a 15-year-old army brat who develops an unlikely friendship with the town recluse, Miss E. As their friendship grows, questions arise about the true identity of Bets’ new friend, putting the young girl’s political beliefs to the test. Herberger creates a compelling story in his first novel, weaving together history and mystery while exploring the importance of relationships and civic engagement. (Birch Cove Books, 2016)

There It Is: New and Selected Poems

Michael Casey (MA '73)

Casey made waves with his 1972 collection, “Obscenities,” in which he detailed his Vietnam War experiences in raw, sardonic terms. Some of those poems are included here, along with many others in which Casey explores middle-class America, primarily through an excavation of regional dialects that brings out the murky undertones of everyday speech. The poems are deceptively frank, often using a kind of punchline humor that belies the complicated attitudes of his speakers toward colleagues, family members and women in general. (Loom Press, 2017)



CALLING ALUMNI AUTHORS

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Behind the Music

Seth Stachowski creates signature sounds for Cirque du Soleil

By Angelo Ragaza » Cirque du Soleil shows are internationally renowned, not just for jaw-dropping feats of human strength and ability, but also for delivering otherworldly, multisensory experiences. The music—a fusion of genres as diverse as fado, cumbia and West African drumming—plays a crucial role in heightening the drama and mystery of a performance. Seth Stachowski (BA '06), who first watched Cirque on television as a teenager in Clarence, N.Y., recognized it immediately.

“Those first productions I saw were really groundbreaking,” says Stachowski, 39. “How they so expertly fused world music and electronic music. I was completely captivated.” Now, as music director and bandleader, composing and performing for some of Cirque’s best-known shows, he has added his own touches, including orchestral and rock elements.

Cirque has proved a fitting home for Stachowski, who has always nursed free-ranging musical passions. “I wanted to play in a rock band while doing jazz and learning new instruments,” he recalls. His training grounds—first at SUNY Fredonia, then at UB—provided formative experiences for a future music director. He remembers the freedom of the composition program at UB and being introduced to new music and composers that inspired him.

His career with Cirque—now the largest theatrical producer in the world, with thousands of employees across 40 countries—began a few months after he graduated from UB. He’d been working local gigs as a musician and DJ when, in 2006, he sent tapes of himself playing jazz standards and original compositions to Cirque. André Faleiros, head of artistic casting at the company, which fields a thousand applications for music jobs each year, remembers that Stachowski stood out as “extremely versatile, going from classical to rock and jazz, able



Stachowski leads the band and plays banjo for Cirque du Soleil’s “Paramour” at Lyric Theatre, New York City.

to transmit emotions with his art. There are not that many like him in the world.”

Cirque made Stachowski music director, leading the band as well as playing various instruments, on the show “Kooza.” Still in his 20s, he was one of the youngest performers ever to land such a position. Since then, his work for Cirque has taken him all over North America. Most recently, he led their first Broadway show, “Paramour,” which ended a yearlong run in April. He has also composed music for “Kooza,” “Paramour” and Cirque’s charity event, “One Night for One Drop.”

Each performance, Stachowski wears an

astonishing number of hats. He is conductor and bandleader, cueing musicians and singers. He’ll play multiple instruments, including keyboard, saxophone, electric guitar and banjo. He runs the computer playback system. And if all that weren’t enough, he also has to keep an eye glued to what’s happening onstage. No two shows are identical from night to night, and as music leader, he has to be agile. Sometimes a performer’s trick goes awry and has to be repeated, and musicians must respond without missing a beat.

In performance and in his career, Stachowski hasn’t missed one yet. **B**

DEREK GEE/BUFFALO NEWS



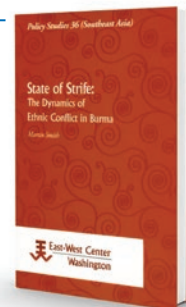
WHAT WE'RE READING

Nightstand

Isok Kim, assistant professor in the School of Social Work

“State of Strife: The Dynamics of Ethnic Conflict in Burma,” by Martin Smith

“I’m reading this book to better understand the complex linguistic diversity and ethnic conflicts in Burma (Myanmar). Burma has been engulfed in one of the longest-running civil wars in the world, which has contributed to political turmoil, sharp economic decline and a refugee crisis. Smith highlights historical interethnic negotiations, greatly influenced by both Eastern and Western powers, which have played out on regional, national and international stages. Smith believes it’s time the international community prioritize conflict resolution to bring this humanitarian crisis to a close.”



TWEETABLE: #UBuffalo professor Paul Vanouse received a Prix Ars Electronica Award of Distinction for his bio-art installation “The America Project.”

African Connections

From Buffalo to Tanzania, a journey that changes lives

STORY BY REBECCA RUDELL | PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOUGLAS LEVERE

On the road to the
Mara Region.



“It was bizarre,” says Mara Huber, associate dean of undergraduate research and experiential learning at UB, describing how the Buffalo Tanzania Education Project (BTEP) was born. “My name is Mara. They were from the Mara Region. I was working on school partnerships. They were looking for a partner to help build a school for girls.”

“They” are Sister Janepha and Sister Agnes from the Immaculate Heart Sisters of Africa, whom Huber met while having Christmas dinner at her in-laws’ house in 2007. The school they wished to build opened in January of this year, with help from UB, Buffalo community groups and the Girls Education Collaborative, a local nonprofit that started as an offshoot of BTEP.

Huber started BTEP in 2009 to unite students, faculty and Buffalo groups in an informal partnership that emphasizes relationships over one-off projects. Its goal: improving opportunities for women and families in Tanzania’s Mara Region. “I have learned that the best partnerships are built on strong relationships that represent mutual respect and trust,” Huber explains. “This vision for collaboration continues to drive me.” She calls UB’s Tanzania course—which also evolved out of BTEP, becoming an official study abroad offering in 2014—a “shining example of all that is possible.”

Indeed it is. Matt Falcone, a senior double majoring in environmental and civil engineering, took the trip in 2015. He is now working on a parabolic solar trough that will provide clean water to people in developing countries, and could also find use in the U.S. in places like Flint, Mich., where clean-water issues continue to make headlines. His passion for this issue crystallized after he witnessed the need for clean water in Tanzania.

Tyler Choi (BA ’17), also touched by the people and places he encountered during his 2014 and 2015 visits, created Hugs for Tanzania, a crowdfunding initiative that raised money for school supplies for children at Kotwo Primary School. Choi also co-founded the UB Rotaract Club with Falcone to “empower local and global communities toward sustainable improvements in health, education and infrastructure across social and national boundaries.” Their mission, which happens to coincide with many of the ideas advanced by Huber and her partners, demonstrates just how strong the effects of experiential learning can be.

Huber has been making the 20-hour journey to Tanzania nearly every year since 2009. She and her colleagues started bringing students in 2011 because they felt that direct interaction with people, places and ideas would provide a powerful avenue for growth. Huber also wanted students to break free from the notion that aid consists solely of donating money.

This summer’s course, titled Community Development in Context: Social Innovation in the Mara Region of Tanzania, explored ideas and strategies for enabling social change through the medium of marketing. To prepare for the trip, students read up on the government, resources and culture of Tanzania while also getting an education in basic marketing from Debbie Grossman of the UB School of Management, who accompanied the students on the trip.

Huber, Grossman and Dan Nyaronga, an associate professor of psychology from Empire State College (who is originally from the Mara Region and has traveled with Huber numerous times), advised students to be active listeners. So often, First Worlders swoop into developing countries and tell

the inhabitants how to improve their lives based on how problems are solved back home—which rarely works. But by listening to local voices, they explained, a visitor can understand different cultures’ needs and goals, collaborate more effectively and contribute to a sense of equality among partners.

Upon arrival in Tanzania, the faculty advisers guided the students through meetings with local villagers, community leaders and educators. Huber’s friends from the Immaculate Heart Sisters of Africa took the students to visit some of the projects run by the Sisters, including Baraki Sisters Farm, a health center, a primary school and the just-opened Kitenga School for Girls. But it wasn’t all business. They went on safari in Serengeti National Park and on their last day relaxed at a beach in Dar es Salaam.

Once they returned to the U.S., however, it was back to work to complete their final projects and transform their learning experiences into social innovation. At press time, among other projects, there were proposals to modernize a dairy farm and to improve Wi-Fi access in rural villages. Another project is already connecting partners in Mara with a U.S.-based foundation that teaches young Tanzanian women to sew reusable sanitary pads (an initiative that builds income for the women while helping to keep girls in school during menstruation). But whether a project comes to fruition or ends up being an exercise in formulating ideas, this is the aspect of experiential learning that can change educational and career paths.

The following photo essay offers highlights from the Tanzania trip, from interactions between UB students and Tanzanian schoolchildren, to the students and their partners tackling the issues faced by women and families in the Mara Region, to the stunning flora and fauna of the Serengeti.



THE STUDENTS

Lyndsey Cifra, senior
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Natasha Clark, senior
COMBINED BA/MA, SOCIOLOGY

Anika Fors, senior
PSYCHOLOGY

Cassandra Hamsher, junior
ACCOUNTING

Regina Jackson, senior
EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

Dylan McCaffrey, sophomore
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Danielle Nerber, senior
ANTHROPOLOGY

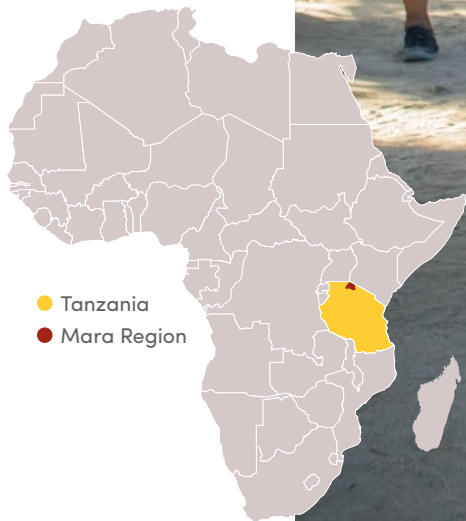
THE ADVISERS

Mara Huber
Dan Nyaronga
Debbie Grossman

CONTINUED

All are welcome in Tanzania

"It was a huge bonding moment for all of us," says Lyndsey Cifra (right) about the dance ceremony at the Village Museum in Dar es Salaam, which welcomed the students to the country on their first full day. "After performing a few dance numbers," says Regina Jackson, "they pulled us out of our seats, dressed us in skirts, necklaces and headpieces, and invited us to dance with them."

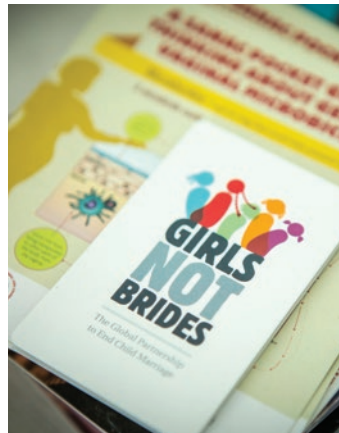


- Tanzania
- Mara Region



One picture, a thousand words

“There was a huge language barrier,” says Cifra, explaining this image of Dylan McCaffrey taking a selfie with local schoolchildren. “Taking pictures helped bring people together.”



Empowering girls

“Children’s Dignity Forum is doing something amazing,” says Danielle Nerber (above left, at right) of the Tanzanian organization’s mission to empower girls by educating families about the damaging effects of early marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). “I left there feeling educated, inspired and with a full heart.”



Social innovation grows here

"Visiting Sister Janepha at Baraki Sisters Farm [above] is always a treat," says Mara Huber. "The Sisters have created a market and supply chain for milk, which they pasteurize and transport within the region. Now they're looking for investment partners so they can purchase milking equipment, increase profitability and provide support for their schools [right], clinics and other community initiatives. This is truly social innovation in action, and our students were highly engaged."





Small gifts with a big impact

LEFT: "I brought stickers with me and put them on all the kids' hands—they were a huge hit," says Cassandra Hamsher. Art supplies were also shared with the children, some of whom had never held a crayon or marker before. "But once they learned, they went to town," says Cifra. **RIGHT:** Bak USA, a Buffalo company that builds mobile computers, donated 25 computers and laptops to UB to distribute on the trip.



Conversations without borders

"We broke down stereotypes," says Nerber (top right corner, facing camera) about their discussion with seminarians visiting Baraki Sisters Farm. "Alexander [facing Nerber] no longer thinks all Americans are wealthy, and he emphasized that practices like FGM don't define African culture—it's the tradition of a small culture within a bigger culture."



Learning by heart

"You can say what you want about the classroom, but the passion within that room is incredible," says Natasha Clark about a preschool in Tarime. "They don't have the things we think are necessary for education, like desks or books, but they still persevere."



Stitching a pattern of independence

"He's such an inspiring and charismatic person," says McCaffrey of Bishop Mwita Akiri (below, addressing students), who founded a sewing project (above) to help girls earn an income and delay marriage. "He helped me figure out how to help people in the best way possible. He said to focus on what I'm passionate about and build connections. Because you can't change things alone—you need support."







Sojourn on the Serengeti

“They said it’s the size of Buffalo,” says Cifra, about Ngorongoro Crater (above). But at 102 square miles, the caldera—a depression formed by volcanic activity—dwarfs the Queen City, which measures in at roughly 50 square miles.

Students also spent time in Serengeti Natural Park (opposite page and top row). “You’re standing all day [in the safari vehicle], dirt on your face, but it was the greatest feeling to be there,” says Nerber. Adds Debbie Grossman: “It was very relaxing after being through some emotional moments on the trip.”





Do you know UB?

Then prove it! Take our second True Blue trivia quiz with Professor Bufflesworth

1

Who played Jeffrey Wigand (PhD '73, MA '72, BA '69), the former tobacco executive turned whistleblower, in the 1999 movie "The Insider"?

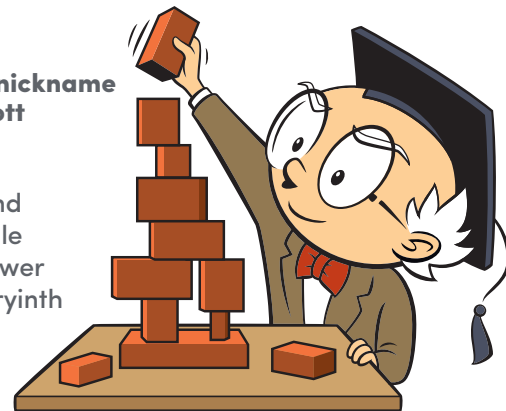
- A) Kevin Costner
- B) Russell Crowe
- C) Al Pacino
- D) Colin Firth



2

What is the nickname for the Ellicott Complex?

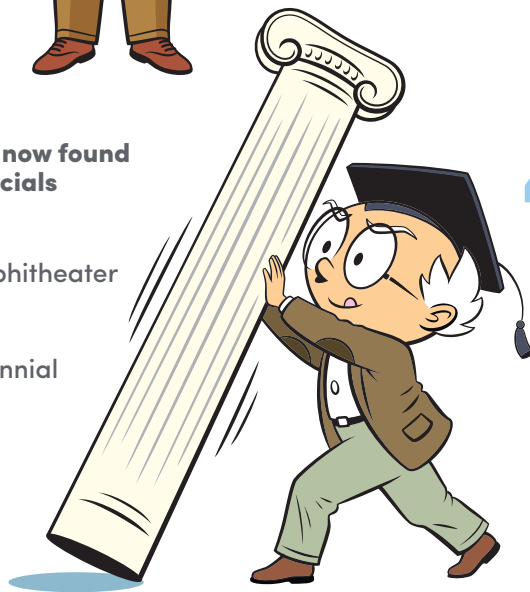
- A) Lego Land
- B) The Jungle
- C) Jenga Tower
- D) The Labryinth



3

When UB obtained the Greek columns now found at Baird Point, what did university officials originally want to use them for?

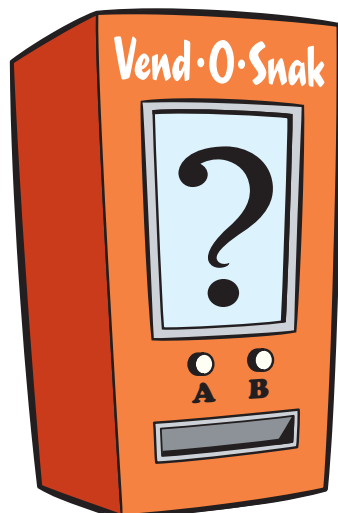
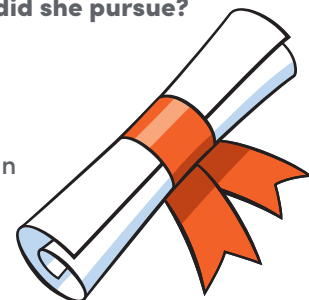
- A) As a backdrop for an open-air amphitheater on the South Campus
- B) As decoration for Foster Hall
- C) As a monument to mark UB's centennial
- D) To be placed at Baird Point, where they are now



4

In 1876, Mary Blair Moody, a mother of six, became UB's first female graduate. What profession did she pursue?

- A) Midwife
- B) Nurse
- C) Teacher
- D) Physician



5

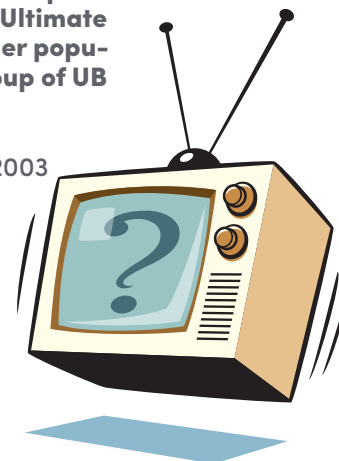
In 1955, only two "refreshments" were allowed to be enjoyed in the main lounge of Macdonald Hall, a residence for female students. What were they?

- A) Coffee and tea
- B) Cigarettes and candy
- C) Chewing gum and water
- D) Soda pop and pickles

6

This summer, UB students competed in the NBC show "Spartan: Ultimate Team Challenge." What other popular program featured a group of UB students, and when?

- A) MTV's "Sorority Life" in 2003
- B) Discovery Channel's "Cash Cab" in 2004
- C) TLC's "Trading Spaces" in 2006
- D) NBC's "America's Got Talent" in 2012



7

What is the annual Life Raft Debate?

- A) A Buffalo Film Seminars screening and discussion of Hitchcock's "Lifeboat"
- B) A meeting about what kind of watercraft should be allowed on Lake LaSalle for the next academic year
- C) A debate among faculty members as to which among them should be allowed to survive in a post-apocalyptic world, based on the importance of their field to rebuilding civilization
- D) A UB Rowing Club-hosted symposium on the suitability of eight-man shells as rescue vessels in case of nautical disaster



8

In 1965, newly hired UB Professor of English Leslie Fiedler appeared on "The Merv Griffin Show" alongside which fellow guest?

- A) Richard Pryor
- B) Charo
- C) Robert Goulet
- D) Orson Welles

9

What was the name of UB's first unofficial mascot, a 175-pound taxidermied bison head?

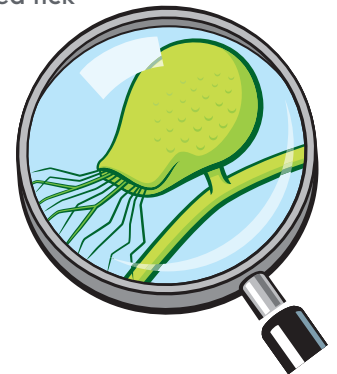
- A) Roycroft
- B) Roscoe
- C) Boscoe
- D) Buster



10

Research conducted at UB helped uncover the genetic anomalies of this tiny but voracious predator. What is it?

- A) An Amazonian fanged snail
- B) A blood-sucking mottled tick
- C) A brown wolf mollusk
- D) A carnivorous humped bladderwort plant



11

What was manufactured in the factory building that later became Bethune Hall (now Bethune Lofts)?

- A) Bricks
- B) Beer bottles
- C) Water meters
- D) Shoes



12

What was the original name of Oozefest?

- A) Yuckfest
- B) Oozeball
- C) Slime Jam
- D) Sludge Slam



Check your score

1. B | 2. A | 3. A | 4. D | 5. B | 6. A | 7. C | 8. A | 9. C | 10. D | 11. C | 12. B

How many questions did you answer correctly?

0-3: Hmm, maybe you just *dreamt* you went to UB.

4-6: Planning a visit to campus soon? Someone needs a refresher course.

7-9: Respectable. You must have been a solid "B" student.

10-12: Congratulations! Now you can tell the other alumni who's boss.

Illustrations by
Michael Gelen (JD '88)





Gale Burstein in her downtown Buffalo office.

DOUGLAS LEBRE

A Steady Hand in Rough Seas

Erie County Commissioner of Health Gale Burstein is a calm yet potent force in the battle against opioids

STORY BY LYNN FREEHILL-MAYE

From her ninth-floor corner office in the Rath Erie County Office Building, Gale Burstein (MD '90) can see storms move over Buffalo, but it's a clear summer morning when she walks in to find six people already waiting for her. They all look up, though not too high. Burstein still has the 5-foot-1 frame of a coxswain, the small-bodied navigator of a rowing-crew boat, which she was as a teen. But now her presence is outsized, and she commands the room from the moment she enters.

"My life is changed," she announces, sounding a bit dazed. She's describing how her older son, Zachary, graduated high school over the weekend, but she could just as easily be talking about her work. Her nearly 30-year career as a pediatrician and researcher had focused largely on providing smarter medical care for teenagers and reducing rates of HIV, chlamydia and other STDs. Now, at 53, she's leading Erie County's Health Department just as a new public health crisis has swept across the country and into Western New York: opioid addiction. Driven by the meteoric rise of prescription opioid and heroin abuse, and compounded by the proliferation of synthetic drugs like fentanyl, drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, and the leading cause of death overall for those under 50. On average, someone dies in Erie County every day.

CONTINUED

Taking On the World Early

As soon as she was old enough to know that women could do it, Burstein wanted to become a doctor. Her parents, raising her in the Buffalo suburb of Kenmore, weren't a bit surprised. Her father, Irwin (DDS '60), was a periodontist; her mother, Marna (EDM '78, EDB '58), a teacher who encouraged science and math. Gale was the assertive eldest of their three daughters. "I was a little feminist," she says. "I didn't want to be a nurse—I wanted to be a physician who called the shots."

At 12, after years of Kadimah School, a Jewish academy providing bilingual education in English and Hebrew, she took charge of her own bat mitzvah. "It was fantastic," Marna remembers. "She did the whole thing in Hebrew and wrote her own speech." The women's liberation movement was in full swing then. Feeling empowered, Burstein began her speech, "As a woman in 1976..." The crowd busted up laughing. The 4-foot-and-change preteen still looked like a child, but she evidently felt ready for the world.

Travel was important to the Bursteins—"I think it's part of becoming a well-rounded person," says Marna—and while a student at Nichols School, Gale piled up experiences like other '70s kids did: record albums, Ecuador to master Spanish, Brazil to visit relatives, Israel to explore Jewish faith. She later lived on a kibbutz, catching chickens for slaughter and enduring a staph infection when they scratched her.

In high school, she joined a West Side crew club, where she was naturally coxswain. She carried the sport into her first two years at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y. Crew was partly social for Burstein, who had always run around Buffalo with packs of friends. She was the loud one, so shouting instructions at the rowers was no sweat for her. But the leadership and discipline the sport fostered would serve her well in the notorious slog of medical school, which brought her back to Buffalo to study at UB.

Med students sat alphabetically in lab, and the group that called themselves the Killer B's included a gastroenterologist-to-be named Peter Bloom (MD '90, BA '85), a Buffalo native with a taste for adventures like mountain climbing in the Dominican Republic. Burstein and Bloom started dating during their first year. He took Burstein horseback riding once and was deeply concerned when she fell and hit her head, but then astounded to see her back in class the next day. Between graduation and residency, they married.

It's a complex issue, yet under Burstein's leadership, the county is becoming a model of how officials can work collaboratively to respond to the epidemic. She helped form the county's Opiate Epidemic Task Force and now co-chairs it with Mental Health Commissioner Michael Ranney (MS '84), working with a range of other agencies. She's also thinking about how to reduce narcotic-painkiller prescriptions and deaths in some of the ways she did STD rates, through better educating doctors and patients. But the transmissible diseases and environmental exposures of most public health crises are one thing. For a widespread addiction like this one, which too often begins with a prescription and ends with heroin, there's no response template. "This is completely different," she says.

Even so, the opioid crisis is just one of the threats Burstein has dealt with over five years leading the county health department's 400 employees. She oversees everything from restaurant inspections to lead-poisoning response. Today key employees are joining her to meet Linda Pessar, professor emerita at UB's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Burstein's alma mater. The team will talk about how to expose more doctors-in-training to real-life patients and the issues they face—refugees, for example, who may have endured unspeakable trauma in their home countries.

In the meeting, each employee takes turns contributing ideas. They are the rowers, the public health area experts who know their populations and outbreaks; their work powers the department's boat forward. Burstein, meanwhile, gazes at Pessar intently through tortoiseshell glasses, chin in hand, mostly silent. "I'm not a micro-manager," she says. "The people who run their programs know more than I ever will." To an unknowing observer, her presence might seem unnecessary. But a coxswain is essential to a crew; she coordinates the rowing and controls the boat's direction. Burstein breaks in every so often to keep the meeting running efficiently.

Near the end, after checking her phone, she breaks news that parts of the Trump administration's select-country travel ban will be upheld for 120 days. "We may not have refugees to help," she says. In public health, there always seems to be a new crisis. True to form, Burstein remains calm, but after the meeting she strides purposefully to her computer. Without the experience and steadiness she brings to meetings like this and crises like opioids, Erie County residents would undoubtedly face more health risks, and with far less support.

**"In medicine
you never
feel
completely
prepared
for a new
position.
You just
figure it
out."**

Gale Burstein



Burstein, 12, at her bat mitzvah



In Kenya as a high school student



Working in a refugee camp clinic on the Thai-Cambodian border during medical school

During their med school and residency years, the young couple took advantage of research and work-service opportunities in rural Cambodia, Zambia and South Africa. Together, they witnessed the traumatic end of the Pol Pot era, the election of Nelson Mandela, the early stages of AIDS. At Shongwe Hospital in South Africa, Burstein was made pediatrics chief. She grimly recalls being told that the country didn't have HIV, when it clearly did. "I had to tell mothers—through a translator—that their children had this terminal disease, and that they did, too," she remembers. "It was tough."

Burstein always had wanted to help vulnerable young patients, especially teens; after her residency training in the United States and work abroad, she pursued an adolescent medicine fellowship at the University of Maryland. There she noticed that whatever teenage girls walked in with, they seemed to walk out with a chlamydia diagnosis. Mentors urged her to study the disease's reach, an idea that appealed to her. All her experience in different countries had begun to spark a more macro-level interest in how entire health systems worked. Epidemics, she saw, weren't just a matter of disease and fate; they could spread or be contained based on the responses of officials. Bloom also noticed the growth in his wife's ambition. "In private practice you're down in the trenches," he says. "In public health you can work on the bigger picture. That's part of what drove her." Burstein followed her expanding interests to Johns Hopkins University, where she began by taking a few epidemiology classes and wound up earning a master's in public health.

A seminal career moment arrived at the same time as her son Zachary. The week after he was born, in the summer of 1998, Burstein published a landmark study on reducing chlamydia rates, which ran on the cover of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The work raised her national profile—Burstein did major media interviews from bed as she nursed Zachary—and gave her a taste of how satisfying it could be to make a major impact on a public health crisis.

Facing Down a New Epidemic

Her stock price high, Burstein was snapped up by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta to help write national guidelines on testing teenagers for sexually transmitted diseases. But by 2005 federal support for sexual health-related work was ebbing, and she and Bloom felt the tug to raise their boys, Zachary and Joshua (born

in 2001), back home in Buffalo. She took a job with the Erie County Health Department but quit in frustration in 2008 when the county, after pulling back support for public health initiatives, began closing clinics and eliminating other important health programs.

Burstein arranged to divide her time between Women and Children's Hospital and working for the CDC from Buffalo. Then, in 2011, Mark Poloncarz (BA '89) was elected Erie County executive, and Bloom suggested his wife apply to serve as health commissioner. She'd never met Poloncarz, but family members and mutual friends thought he'd value her experience. On the application due date, Burstein hit a three-hour delay on a work flight to Florida. Always loving to connect with new people, she figured since she had the time, she'd apply at least as a networking thing. She drafted a cover letter in the airport.

Poloncarz was indeed impressed with her past work, and Burstein landed the position. She remembers being "very pleasantly surprised" in their initial meeting. "We had a lot of the same aspirations for improving health in Erie County, so I was really excited about the job," she says. She started in January 2012 and spent her first three years building up departmental morale, learning the political process, finding her public voice. "In medicine you never feel completely prepared for a new position," she says. "You just figure it out." Yet she scored early wins like the 2014 opening of the Erie County Health Mall, a public-private collaboration where patients could access UB Dental and other health care providers in one spot on Buffalo's often-neglected East Side.

Then opioids flared up in Erie County. Overdose deaths doubled from 2014 to 2015. Channeling Mr. Spock from "Star Trek," whose plastic figure sits among the countless mementoes in her jammed office, Burstein retained her calm—and called upon the work ethic legendary since her med-school days. She hit the pool for 25 laps by 7 a.m., five mornings a week. She grabbed family time in the evenings. She stayed up until 2 a.m. on emails. In between, she began to gather every collaborator she could.

Opioid addiction is biopsychosocial, experts like to say, which is to mean: unusually complex. Doctors overprescribe pain medications. Painkiller addictions turn criminal when users turn to heroin. Addiction treatment options are limited. Burstein took charge last year of helping Erie County form an Opiate Epidemic

"The individuals saved will never know how she made that happen."

Mark Poloncarz

CONTINUED



Taking a snorkeling break from the refugee camp with her future husband, Peter Bloom

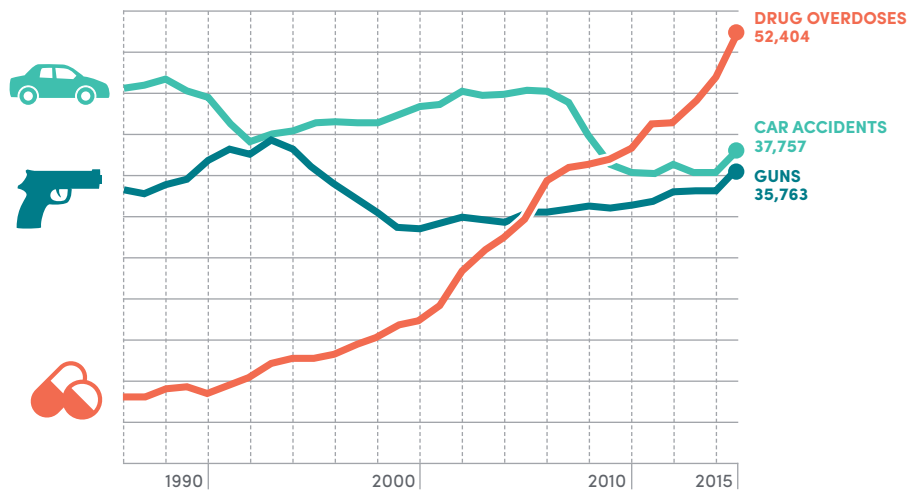


Proclaiming Stroke Awareness Month with Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz



With Bloom and son Zachary at Zachary's graduation

Damage Done: The Surge in U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths



SOURCES: THE NEW YORK TIMES, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS)

Task Force to dig into the issue's multiple aspects. She and Ranney pulled together law enforcement, hospital systems, health insurers, advocacy groups and more to trade ideas and collaborate. "For the first time," she says, "all the competing hospitals and health plans were able to put down their sabers and address this problem in a collaborative way."

Burstein pushed naloxone, the overdose-reversal med often called by the brand name Narcan, into the hands of local police officers, firefighters and EMTs. In 2016 Buffalo first responders applied naloxone more than 3,000 times, reflecting an estimated 1,000 deaths prevented. "That's a pretty nice thing to have on your record, even though the individuals saved will never know how she made that happen," says Poloncarz.

Not every effort tried has been an unqualified success. The 24/7 Addiction Hotline, for instance, has been criticized for receiving an average of only seven calls per day. Yet without a template, and with the complexities of addiction, part of what officials have to do with opioids is simply test different initiatives and see how they

work. Next Burstein is hoping to get more people into medication-assisted treatment, which includes getting more providers certified to prescribe meds like buprenorphine.

That openness to new-and-next ideas has impressed task force members like Emma Fabian (MSW '14), director of substance user policy at Evergreen Health. "Gale's the type of person who will send really interesting articles about buprenorphine and what people are doing with it in other parts of the country," she says. "It's rare that a health commissioner would take such a hands-on, relationship-fostering approach."

Burstein also collaborates with doctors and their professional organizations—for example, working with the American Academy of Pediatrics to push SBIRT substance abuse guidelines (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) among pediatricians. Says district vice-chair Michael Terranova, a Burstein collaborator on this initiative, "If you ask the right questions, you can detect an abuser before it gets to the stage where kids are dying."

Burstein isn't shy about speaking to media, either, knowing that news outlets can reach patients directly. "People need to advocate for themselves," she says. And she walks the talk. When son Zachary needed a tooth extracted recently, Burstein objected to the doctor's suggestion of two weeks of pain medications. Teenagers, she knows, are particularly vulnerable to addiction. Ibuprofen treated the inflammation that actually causes pain, she says, and Zachary reported feeling fine.

Largely as a result of Burstein's collaborative approach, Erie County increasingly is being seen as a leader in opioid response. County offices have been attracting inquiries from Tennessee, Ohio and beyond for help, even as Burstein and Poloncarz, who serves on a national opiate task force, travel around the country presenting about the epidemic. At such times, Burstein draws on the same attributes she did as a teenage coxswain: big voice, huge energy, always looking forward. "She often notes that she doesn't use the microphone because if she could scream loud enough to get those big rowers to row, she can definitely speak loud enough in a room of 50 people," Poloncarz says. "She's not very imposing physically, and people underestimate her. But when she starts passionately arguing on behalf of whatever she's there for, they realize she's the real deal." ■

UB Applies Its Substantial Resources to the Fight



Richard Blondell

Recovering from opioid addiction, sufferers say, is like trying to put together a 1,000-piece puzzle. Experts grappling with the opioid epidemic see it the same way. Thus, six UB schools—medical, public health, pharmacy, dental, nursing and social work—have partnered with the Erie County Department of Health on a comprehensive approach to fighting the epidemic, with the schools of law and management serving as adjunct partners.

Among those trying to put the pieces together is Richard Blondell, a professor of family medicine at the Jacobs School and a national leader in educating primary care doctors about addiction. While under his

direction, the National Center for Physician Training in Addiction Medicine developed curricula and guidelines for addiction medicine fellowships that led to the formation of 40 such programs across North America. Blondell and his colleagues are also working locally with Western New York physicians and UB medical students. "We have to start with young doctors who are training now," he says.

In addition, Blondell is part of an innovative Buffalo City Court initiative. Hailed as the nation's first opiate intervention court, it allows defendants to be sent immediately to an addiction-treatment program, prior to any adjudication. Blondell supervises the treatment program.

Meanwhile, UB's Research Institute on Addictions (RIA) is conducting research on

what drives people to seek treatment after an overdose-related ER visit. It is also hosting seminars and bringing national speakers to campus to talk about issues like medication-assisted treatment. Says RIA Director Ken Leonard, who chairs the Erie County task force's Best Practices subcommittee, "I try to bring what I know about the research literature and frame it in a way that is helpful for the practitioners to take into the community."

Blondell credits the task force with bringing so many people together from different areas of expertise and thrusting opioid addiction to the forefront. But he cautions that the puzzle is far from being solved. "We have just begun to scratch the surface of this epidemic," he says. "We're not going to be able to fix this quickly."

Praise for a special professor p40

Career conversations p41

The bike guy goes viral p42

Intensive Caring

When work is your passion, there's no such thing as calling it quits

By Sally Jarzab » “Eventually, they’re going to have to rethink that word ‘retire,’” says Juanita Hunter (EdD ’83, MS ’74, BS ’71).

The School of Nursing professor emerita, 87, is a case in point for redefining terms. It’s been 19 years since she retired from her teaching position at UB—“transitioned” is her preferred expression—and throughout that time she has worked as relentlessly as ever.

“Retirement is not leaving your passions behind. It’s just moving to other areas where you can use your talents,” says Hunter. For this educator and activist, those passions and talents revolve around health care, learning and community engagement. As a volunteer, she is active in her church and has served on the governing boards for Medaille College, Meals on Wheels for Western New York and the Grace Manor Nursing Home. A few years ago, she spearheaded a successful campaign to change the name of Buffalo Public School 74 to honor local educators Claude and Ouida Clapp, whom she calls her personal mentors. Now she is in the midst of developing an enrichment program for middle school girls there.

Hunter’s tenacity is deep-rooted. Early in her career, she worked as a staff nurse at Edward J. Meyer Memorial Hospital, now the Erie County Medical Center. Then, she says, the hospital primarily cared for disadvantaged people: the poor, the homeless, the addicted. “I was aware that there were some staff who didn’t want to take care of certain groups of people or certain individuals. I would challenge staff on my unit if I saw them not taking care of people appropriately,” she says. “I always felt that these patients deserved the same kind of care that anybody else received.”

Juanita Hunter at home in Buffalo, N.Y.

CONTINUED

Alumni Life

That experience set in motion a lifelong theme for Hunter: the connection between nursing and human rights. “We’re taught to treat human beings equally. Remember, nursing evolved historically from the religious order,” she says. “The broader aspect in my career came when I became interested in community health, and all of the areas where nursing could be effective there—speaking up for these groups of people, encouraging better care for them.”

After working for many years as a public health nurse coordinator at Buffalo Veterans Medical Center, Hunter joined UB’s School of Nursing faculty in 1978. Health care for the homeless was a focal point of interest for her—she edited a textbook on the issue and helped to found the nursing school’s Center for the Homeless, which provided services to the homeless population in the Buffalo area. She chaired both the first New York State Nursing Association Committee on Human Rights and the American Nursing Association’s Commission on Human Rights, also earning the association’s Honorary Human Rights Award.

But Hunter is still not quite ready to sit on her laurels. After accepting the Community Leadership Award from the UB Alumni Association in May, she spent the summer helping to plan a nursing conference on mental health and teens that will take place in Buffalo this fall.

“Once you reach a certain stage in life, many people look back and ask themselves, ‘What could I have done better? What opportunities did I miss?’ And you reach a point where you become self-assured that you did the best that you could at the time. But...” Hunter says, her gentle voice rising ever so slightly, “as long as you have the physical and mental capability, there’s always that opportunity to do more.”



FACULTY
FAVE

One for the Books

Alumni help document a prestigious professor’s impact

Barry Smith. Inset: Gloria Zúñiga y Postigo with the Festschrift she co-edited.

By Sally Jarzab > Gloria Zúñiga y Postigo (PhD ’00) surprised her former adviser Barry Smith on his 65th birthday with cake, bubbly and a tradition particular to academia: a published volume of extolments known as a Festschrift, a word that roughly translates from the German as “written celebration.”

“Barry Smith an Sich,” edited by Zúñiga y Postigo and Jerry Erion (PhD ’00), contains 11 essays contributed by former students and colleagues commending the philosopher, mathematician and scientist who made his mark as a leading thinker in the field of ontology—or, put simply, the study of reality.

Zúñiga y Postigo cites Smith’s exceptional qualities as a professor and the effect they had on her as a student at UB. “His lectures were fascinating. Every class was a unique adventure in the world of ideas,” she says. Now an associate professor of philosophy at Ashford University who specializes in the ontology of economics, Zúñiga y Postigo credits Smith with influencing her own career. “Through his teaching, I discovered the power of ontology for any application of philosophy, and this is the path that I have followed.”

A SUNY Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and affiliate professor in the departments of neurology, biomedical informatics, and computer science and engineering, Smith helped to found the university’s Division of Biomedical Ontology. His work also was chronicled in “The Theory and Practice of Ontology,” a 2016 book edited by yet another grateful student, Leo Zaibert (PhD ’97).



Read more about Barry Smith and the Festschrift at buffalo.edu/atbuffalo.

Tell us about your faculty fave. How did a UB professor make a difference in your life? Email a brief account to facultyfave@buffalo.edu.

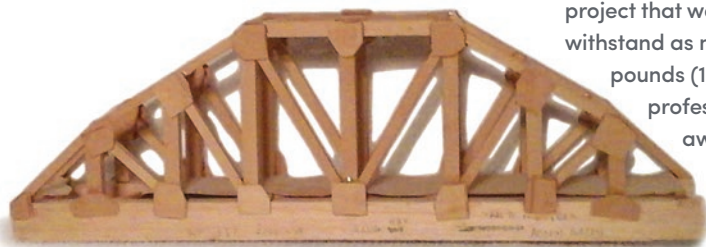
Keepsakes WHAT DID YOU SAVE?

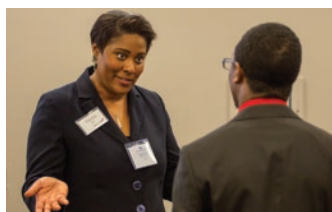
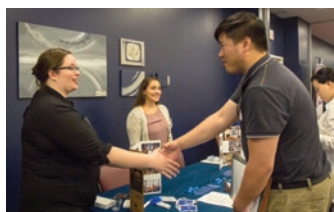
Balsa-wood Bridge

A memento from Jan Metzger’s (BS ’81) time as an engineering student brings new meaning to the term “bridging the decades.”

“Forty years ago, I was paired up with my classmate Rob Burgess (BS ’81) for an EAS 101 class project that was an annual tradition for first-year students: building a miniature bridge that can withstand as much weight as possible. Our 18-inch balsa-wood bridge withstood a load of 405 pounds (1,134 times its own weight), surprising the professor and us! I kept the little bridge safely stored away, and when Rob and I recently got back together in our hometown of Niskayuna, N.Y., we brought it out to find it’s still in one piece after four decades.”

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.





UB's Office of Alumni Engagement helps grads make the connection

INQUIRE WITHIN

The event: UB's first full-scale alumni-to-alumni job fair

The purpose: For UB grads of all ages to recruit or be recruited

The details: June 5, Center for Tomorrow, North Campus

The job-seekers: Nearly 150 attendees, all intent on making an impression

The employers: Reps from 37 different companies, from major corporations to small, local enterprises, in fields ranging from banking to tech to health and human services

The look: Everything from power suits and statement bags to jeans and sneakers

The talk: Eager introductions, fond reunions—amid a continual flow of career-related questions and advice

The swag: Pens, magnets, drink cozies, candy, even the ever-coveted fidget spinners

The testimony: "Applying for a job online doesn't give you everything you want to know about an opportunity. And it's nice just to chitchat. It's as much about networking as it is about finding a job." – Jen Hoffman (BS '02)

Career tip

Gale Burstein (MD '90)
Erie County Health Commissioner ("A Steady Hand in Rough Seas," p. 34)

"Help others out with their goals and initiatives, and you should get payback—they'll want to help you with your goals and initiatives. Plus, it's so much easier to work with somebody who's nice."



TWEETABLE: #UBuffalo alums Gale Burstein and Dennis Schrader, acting health sec'y for Maryland, discuss opioid crisis at #NationalPressClub in Sept.

Mike's* Fall Picks

A selection of UB events, open to all alumni

September

Distinguished Speakers Series: Malala Yousafzai
09.19.17
Alumni Arena

Mike says: "Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai is the first in this year's DSS lineup of inspiring public figures. See the full slate at buffalo.edu/ub-speakers."

November

Alton Brown Live: Eat Your Science
11.02.17
Center for the Arts
North Campus

UB@Noon: Climbing the Adirondacks
11.10.17
Harriman Hall
South Campus

UB Bulls Men's Basketball vs. Syracuse Orange
12.19.17
Carrier Dome
Syracuse, N.Y.

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

*Mike Anderson (EMBA '17, BA '97) is our UB Alumni Association Board president.

October

Annual Buffalo Bills Tailgate
10.01.17
Jimmy's Old Town Tavern
Herndon, Va.

Homecoming and Family Weekend
10.05.17-10.08.17
North Campus

D.C. CHAPTER CAS Scholars on the Road with Professor David Castillo
10.12.17
Hunton & Williams LLP
Washington, D.C.

Young Alumni Night at Hamburg Brewing Co.
10.26.17
Hamburg, N.Y.



It's good to be blue!

All About That Bass

This chemistry grad is in his element onstage

By Sally Jarzab » When Ben Detty (BA '14) was still an undergraduate chemistry major, he was chided by one of his professors for falling behind in lab due to the frequent rehearsals he had with the Buffalo Chips, a UB men's singing group. After all, she asked him rhetorically, did he want to be a chemist or a singer for the rest of his life?

"She's been getting a kick out of my current career," laughs Detty, 26, who, after earning his degree, followed an unanticipated fork in the road and joined Ball in the House, a professional a cappella group. Now, together with his four bandmates, he performs an upbeat mix of old-school R&B and contemporary pop at more than 200 shows a year.

Since his first show with Ball in the House almost two years ago (the band itself has been around for nearly two decades), it's been a whirlwind experience for Detty. In 2016, the group won the Boston Harmony Sweepstakes and advanced to the nationals—the annual (and ultimate) vocal harmony music festival held near San Francisco. That same year, Ball in the House headlined the China International Chorus Festival in Beijing and then toured six Chinese

YOUNG BULL

cities. When not traveling afar, the Boston-based band plays throughout New England and the Northeast at fairs, festivals, colleges and universities, and grade schools.

In fact, Detty remembers Ball in the House playing at his school when he was a kid growing up in Rochester, N.Y. Many years later, he heard through mutual friends that they were looking for a bass vocalist. At the time, Detty was working as a lab technician and pondering his next step—most likely going to grad school. "I've always loved music as a hobby, but I never really saw it as a career," he says. "Both of my parents are chemistry professors, and I've always had a knack for it, so I figured it would be a good path for me

Ben Detty (left) with his Ball in the House bandmates.

to pursue." Still, at the prompting of friends, he auditioned and landed the spot with the band. His parents (his father is lauded UB Professor of Chemistry Michael Detty) proudly support their son's musical pursuits.

Detty is enjoying his adventure and plans to stick with it for at least the next several years. Long-term, he may eventually return to the sciences, still with a song in his heart. "The education I gained at UB positions me well," he says, "and the people skills I'm getting through performing are just going to add to that." **B**

Tell us your stories, young alumni. Are you a UB grad age 30 or under? Have a compelling story or accomplishment to share? Send an email to youngbulls@buffalo.edu.

ATHENA ELIZABETH PHOTOGRAPHY



BILL WIPPERT/NHL VIA GETTY IMAGES

Kill This Bike!

MMA-fighter-turned-strength-and-conditioning-coach Jordan Marwin (MPH '14) became a viral star this summer when he gave prospects at the NHL Scouting Combine in Buffalo's HarborCenter an extreme form of encouragement. As he administered what's called the Wingate bike test—a high-charged, half-minute spin on a stationary bike—Marwin offered participants an extra push by roaring orders like "Kill this bike! Rip these pedals off! Hammer it! Hammer it!" with such intensity that veins bulged from his neck. Video clips using the hashtag #bikeguy quickly spread around social media, gaining the attention of NHL.com, CBS Sports and other outlets.

Marwin's in-your-face and on-your-side approach got members of the Twitter-sphere pondering how he might help them, with, say, finishing their homework, or cleaning their house. Marwin was happy to oblige. In video responses,

Jordan Marwin supplies motivation to a contender at the NHL Scouting Combine in Buffalo.

he frantically shouted tips like "Let's use those pencils! Read those books!" and "Move that mop! Push it! Push it!" Mused one tweeter: "I think everyone needs a #bikeguy in their life." **B**

ClassNotes

When to break up with your job p45

How to write a rocking jingle p46

'09: Willy joins the Alouettes p46

A Mindful Life

Sharon Salzberg changes how people see the world and themselves

By Jennifer Kitses » Sharon Salzberg (BA '72), one of the leading teachers in the West of Buddhist thought and meditation, found her life path almost by chance. Back in 1969 she was a UB sophomore looking to fulfill a course requirement, and a class on Asian philosophy happened to fit her schedule. "I knew nothing about Asian philosophy, but it was sort of in the air," she says. "Sitar music, the Beatles going to India—it was the '60s."

Yet Salzberg found herself connecting deeply to Buddhist ideas, particularly the belief that suffering is a natural part of human existence. She had experienced a difficult childhood. Her parents divorced, and her mother died, when she was very young; by the time she turned 16, she had lived in five different family configurations. "I felt normal suddenly," she says of her first encounter with Buddhism, "not aberrant because my family didn't look like the perfect picture of one. I began contemplating this reality of not always getting what we want, and of loss and change being a part of life. And I wondered if that could actually bring us closer together instead of making us feel so alone."

Salzberg could hardly have guessed how far that one UB course would take her. She has devoted the last four decades to bringing her approach to Buddhism—modern, secular, method-based—to new audiences. She is the co-founder of three nonsectarian meditation centers and retreats in the U.S., a best-selling author of 10 books, and a sought-after speaker and teacher honored by the New York Open Center for her "outstanding contribution to the mindfulness of the West." Though she feels at home within the philosophy's traditional and scholarly contexts, the key to her appeal may be how accessible she makes Buddhist teachings to anyone seeking insight

Sharon Salzberg in Cambridge, Mass.

JASON GROW

CONTINUED

and inner peace. “One of the most attractive things to me about Buddhist teaching is the emphasis that everyone has the capacity to grow in understanding and compassion,” Salzberg says. “This capacity is never destroyed, no matter what we go through in life.”

The class Salzberg took as a sophomore also introduced her to the mental discipline of meditation; she was intrigued, and her journey was underway. “I learned that this was how people confronted their old habits of mind and changed their perceptions and reactions,” she says. “I wanted to learn to do it.”

So she created an independent study project and, at the age of 18, set off for India. (She started college at 16, having skipped two grades growing up in New York City.) It was her first time traveling outside of the United States. With a few fellow UB students, Salzberg took the

then-popular overland route: flying to Europe, riding the Orient Express to Istanbul, then traveling by bus and train through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Once in India, she made her way to the Dalai Lama’s residence in Dharamsala. It was a time when anyone could apply to visit with him.

“I loved the Dalai Lama,” she says. “He was approachable, kind, interested in everything.” Yet this visit wasn’t the end of her search: she was

seeking a simple, practical guide to meditation. “That’s easy to get these days, but it was very hard to find then,” Salzberg says. “I wanted to learn the direct, pragmatic instruction.”

Her explorations led her to a 10-day retreat conducted by the late S.N. Goenka, a renowned teacher of Vipassana, or insight, meditation. It took place in Bodhi Gaya, a sacred pilgrimage spot for Buddhists; it’s where the Buddha became enlightened while sitting under a tree. On the first night, Goenka explained that the Buddha did not teach Buddhism, but rather a way of living. “It was a transformative moment,” Salzberg says. “The rest of my life has spun out of my being there. I knew without a doubt there was something important for me in the practice of meditation, something very truthful, and I have never felt otherwise.”

Salzberg stayed in India for 16 months, then “came back and wrote a humongous paper,” she says. She graduated in 1972 and immediately went back to India to resume her studies. This time she met her mentor, Dipa Ma, an elderly Bengali woman from Burma who had endured considerable suffering in her life. “In the process of learning to meditate, she somehow metabolized all of that grief into compassion,” Salzberg says. “She was an incredible model for me.”

By 1974, when she returned to the United States, Salzberg was herself a teacher of meditation and mindfulness. More than 40 years later, she still is. “When I was younger, if someone asked me what I really wanted to do, I would say that I want to write a book like ‘Uncle Tom’s Cabin’ or ‘To Kill a Mockingbird,’” she says, “a book that would change the way people saw the world and themselves.” Her many students would say she has done exactly that. 📖

“I began contemplating this reality of loss and change being a part of life. And I wondered if that could bring us closer together instead of making us feel so alone.”

SHARON SALZBERG

CLASS NOTES BY DECADE

Person to Person

60

Jerry Hiller, BA 1969, received a lifetime achievement award from Financial Executives International and the Rochester Business Journal in May. He resides in Rushville, N.Y.

Peter Kadzik, BA 1974, former assistant attorney general in the Office of Legislative Affairs in the Obama administration, joined Venable LLP as partner in the government division of its Washington, D.C., office. He resides in Washington, D.C.

70

David Klein, BA 1971, was honored in June by the American Medical Association with the Jack B. McConnell MD award for Excellence in Volunteerism. An ophthalmologist who co-founded the Virginia B. Andes Community Clinic in Port Charlotte, Fla., Klein lives in Punta Gorda, Fla.

Clarence Sundram, JD 1972, received the President’s Award from the American Network of Community Options and Resources Foundation at its annual conference in San Antonio, Texas, in May. ANCOR is an organization serving more than 600,000 people with disabilities nationwide. Sundram resides in Delmar, N.Y.

80

Wayne Neu, PhD 1981, MS 1981 & BS 1977, associate professor of aerospace and ocean engineering in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, has been conferred the title of associate professor emeritus by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. Neu lives in Blacksburg, Va.

Shane Farolino, BA 1985, was named a leading lawyer in the field of natural resources and environmental law by the Chambers USA guide to the legal profession. He lives in Canton, Ohio.

David Rose, BS 1985, was promoted to senior vice president at Marsh Risk Consulting, where he provides ergonomics and workplace safety consult-



Derek Nichols, MUP 2010, BA 2007, featured in the summer issue of *At Buffalo* as the director of education and outreach for Grassroots Gardens WNY, has now rejoined the UB family as sustainability engagement coordinator. Nichols works with students, faculty and staff to reduce UB’s environmental footprint and enhance quality of life. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

ing services to Fortune 500 clients. He resides in Holland, Pa.

Michael Mistriner, BPS 1986, a member of the American Institute of Architects, joined Clark Patterson Lee as principal and vice president. His primary focus will be on business development and growth of the higher education practice in the Buffalo Niagara region and across New York State. He resides in Youngstown, N.Y.



STAY CONNECTED!

Share your news, photos and stories on UB Connect, the online community for alumni.

Virginia Vanderslice, PhD 1986, faculty member at the Center for Organizational Dynamics at the University of Pennsylvania, was honored with the life service award from the Employee Stock Ownership Plan Association. She lives in Philadelphia, Pa.

Gregory Lisi, BA 1989, a partner with the Uniondale, N.Y., law firm of Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana LLP, was recently selected as a Top Ten Legal Eagle by LI Pulse Magazine. The annual Legal Eagle issue highlights top-rated lawyers from Nassau and Suffolk counties. He resides in Uniondale, N.Y.

90

Christopher B. Fisher, BA 1990, was appointed managing partner of Cuddy & Feder LLP. He is also chairman of the firm's telecommunications group, a practice he founded. Fisher lives in Ridgefield, Conn.

Daniel M. Laufer, BS 1991, just completed a three-year term as head of the school of marketing and international business at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in that country. He resides in Wellington, New Zealand.

Mark Steiner, JD 1991, has received a lifetime achievement designation among America's Top 100 Attorneys. He is founder of Law Offices of Mark F. Steiner LLC, and his practice focuses solely on injured workers at the NYS Workers' Compensation Board. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Leigh Feuerstein, BS 1994, has been elected to serve on the Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) Board of Directors. FARE is the nation's leading nonprofit organization working on behalf of the 15 million Americans with food allergies. Feuerstein resides in Manalapan, N.J.

William H. Dresnack, JD 1997, is serving a three-year term as a member of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants Board of Directors. Dresnack is an associate professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology, and he resides in Brockport, N.Y.

David Serra, MD 1998 & BS 1994, has been appointed associate medical director for Catholic Medical Partners. He is a

CONTINUED



ANNA CODERASSI

Top Five *with* Wendy Braitman, BA '73 Career-Change Coach

Interview by Jeff Klein » Work sucks, according to the tagline of the cult movie "Office Space." It shouldn't, of course, but sometimes it does and you just want to quit. But should you? What if the next job is just as bad? Or what if there is no next job?

Wendy Braitman can help you make that call and, if quitting is the answer, help get you to what's next. She knows because she did it for herself. The L.A.-based Braitman was a successful film producer who lost her job and found that no one wanted to hire a film exec in her 50s. So, by the time she turned 60, she had reinvented herself as an independent career coach. She now has a nationwide client base through her website, loveyournextcareer.com.

Many of her clients are mid-career professionals dissatisfied with their job situations; she advises them against acting on impulse. "It's a decision best made with forethought, particularly given what it means to be without a paycheck for an unknown amount of time," she says.

We asked Braitman how to know when it's time to formulate a job-exit strategy and what to do before activating it.

Five tips for knowing when to give notice—and when not to:

1 Beware toxic shock

Your performance is being sabotaged because of a toxic work culture. Ask yourself two questions: Is the toxicity systemic or localized? Is there anyone at the company who can set things right? If it's systemic and there's nowhere to turn, get ready to move on.

2 Assess the stress

You're in a high-stress job that provides no work-life balance. Before you bolt, gauge whether you might be enabling a situation that could be rectified if you created stronger

boundaries. If that's not the case, start shopping your résumé.

3 Watch out for burnout

You've been in your job a long time and you're burned out. Consider: Have you been using all your sick days? Could a beach vacation be the remedy? If time away doesn't change your attitude, prepare to cut the cord.

4 Control job creep

You were hired for your expertise in, say, creative marketing, but your job morphs into data analy-

sis. Before jumping ship, talk to your boss about the situation. Can duties be reshuffled within the team? Can you transfer to another team?

5 Don't be a worker bee

You've stopped growing in your job and there's no opportunity for advancement. Maybe you can coast and seek fulfillment outside of the job. But if you're the kind of person who needs a sense of purpose at work, and you're not getting it, it's time to chase your dream. Career reinvention is possible at any age—I'm living proof!

Class Notes

founding partner of Buffalo-Niagara Hospitalists LLC and is in private practice as a hospitalist at Kenmore Mercy Hospital. Serra lives in Clarence Center, N.Y.

00

Sherry DelleBovi, CEL 2001 & BS 1983, a partner with Lumsden McCormick CPA, received a distinguished service award from the Buffalo chapter of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA) at its annual dinner in April. She is a past president of the Buffalo chapter of NYSSCPA and also served at the state level. DelleBovi resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Janet O'Leary, BA 2001, a Realtor who specializes in second homes and condominiums, has joined the Sarasota office of RE/MAX Alliance Group. She was previously with Wagner Realty, where she earned a 2017 Rising Star award. She lives in Sarasota, Fla.

Jennifer Weidner, JD 2002, was sworn into admission to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Weidner is now eligible to legally represent cases that come

before the Supreme Court and to attend oral arguments in other cases. She resides in Victor, N.Y.

Drew Willy, BA 2009, signed a one-year deal with the Montreal Alouettes to become their newest quarterback. Willy is a former UB quarterback playing his sixth season in the Canadian Football League. He lives in Tampa, Fla.

10

Edward A. Rick, PMBA 2012 & BS 2008, has been promoted to director, consumer and digital/interactive marketing for Tops Friendly Markets. Rick also will oversee all Tops sponsorships and sports marketing efforts. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Steven D. Briggs, EMBA 2014, was appointed vice president of sales for Dynabrade. Previously he served as the company's territory manager, product manager, international sales director and global key accounts manager. Briggs lives in East Amherst, N.Y.



Padraic Walsh, JD 2017, served as chair for the 2017 Continental Youth Championships Gaelic Games, held for the first time in Western New York. Walsh participated in

securing Buffalo as the host of the 2017 Gaelic Games, as well as organizing, marketing and financing the event. The games brought in 3,000 athletes, an estimated 18,000 visitors and nearly \$2 million in economic impact to the area. Walsh resides in Buffalo, N.Y.



KALEY WHITMAN

How-to with Craig Israel, BA '56

President, Del Mar Music Group

Interview by Michael Flatt » If you've ever caught yourself humming a tune from a commercial, then you know the power of the jingle. The right combination of words and melody can take a company's message and imprint it deep in the listener's memory. As the motto for Craig Israel's company, Del Mar Music Group, states: "Cause you can't hum a newspaper ad."

Del Mar, located in San Diego, Calif., has helped a lot of organizations get people humming their tune, from Air New Zealand to the Miami Heat. While Israel's primary role at Del Mar is to find clients, he knows an effective jingle when he hears one. A violinist and singer earlier in his life, he says that a good tune evokes an emotional response, just like a good ad.

"Some jingles have gone on for 25, 30 years," Israel says. "We may hate them, but obviously if they're running that long, a client is getting a response to them."

We asked Israel how to create a jingle that can break through the clutter.

How to write an effective jingle:

Get to know your client

Once we get a client, we try to find out who they are and who they're trying to reach. We ask them, what are some of your strengths? What makes you different from the competition? If they have a slogan, we'll want to emphasize it in the lyrics.

Anticipate your audience

You have to develop a sense of who is going to hear the ad. The musical taste and worldview of a Midwesterner are likely going to be different from those of the people in Buffalo or San Diego.

Make your own music

We don't use songs by popular artists, and we're not making a song to go on the hit parade. We're making a piece of marketing music to make people want

to know more about that business. You have to do that yourself.

Be evocative

Everything that we buy, whether it's a pack of gum or a ticket for a cruise, always comes down to emotion. Words and music are nothing but color and emotion and feeling. If we're dealing with a motorcycle dealer, they're selling power and sex and wind and noise and freedom, and we want to call up those feelings in a listener.

Give it time

Often we have a client who worries that the spot has been playing for three weeks and their phone hasn't rung. In this attention-deficit world, you have to let things build. It takes time for marketing music to penetrate in the midst of so much competition.



A lesson you'll want to learn.

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- ② Earn a charitable deduction and save on your taxes
- ③ Create a UB scholarship or other legacy initiative in your name



www.giving.buffalo.edu/planned

Contact Wendy Irving, Esq., Associate Vice President for Individual and Planned Giving, by calling toll free 877-825-3422 or emailing dev-pg@buffalo.edu.

Rehearsal of Morton Feldman's "Pianos and Voices" in Baird Hall, 1972. Morton Feldman at piano, with, from left, Julius Eastman, Jan Williams, William Appleby (student), David Del Tredici.



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

UB YESTERDAY

1972 Composing the Future of Music

By Rebecca Rudell

Between 1964 and 1980, Buffalo, and in particular UB, was an international hub for avant-garde music. The world's most talented and provocative composers and musicians—including John Cage, Elliott Carter and Steve Reich—were lured to the university by the opportunity to work with Lukas Foss and his Center of the Creative and Performing Arts, whose members were known as the Creative Associates. Foss, music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra from 1963 to 1971, founded the center with then-UB music chairman Allen D. Sapp using a \$200,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation (equivalent to \$1,563,000 today) to develop a music program focused on contemporary composition and performance.

Each of the men pictured here (except the student, second from right) is a 1972 Creative Associate who taught at UB and helped shape contemporary music in his own way. The late Morton Feldman, a center director, founded June in Buffalo, the internationally renowned new-music festival, in 1975. The late Julius Eastman, a visionary composer and performer whose revolutionary output is only now getting the recognition it deserves, was among the first to combine minimalism with pop music. Jan Williams, who drummed on everything from piano strings to coffee cans, founded UB's Percussion Ensemble in 1964. And David Del Tredici, who conducted one of his first "Alice Pieces" (based on "Alice in Wonderland") with UB musicians in 1972, received a Pulitzer Prize for a composition from the same oeuvre just a few years later.

By 1980, funding for this unique musical program had dried up and the center ceased operations. But not before nearly 120 Creative Associates shared their minds and souls via more than 1,100 musical works and 300-plus performances. Their legacy continues today through UB's Center for 21st Century Music, the Slee Sinfonietta and, of course, June in Buffalo, which is still going strong after 42 years. **B**

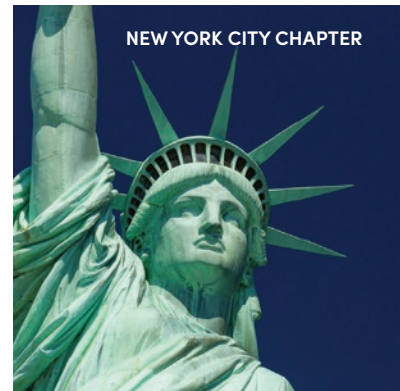
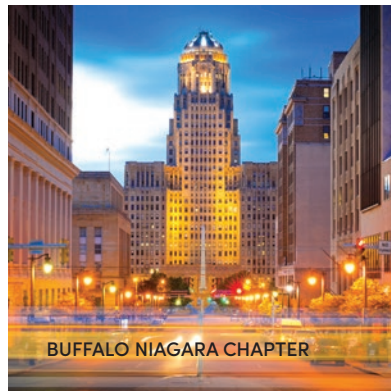
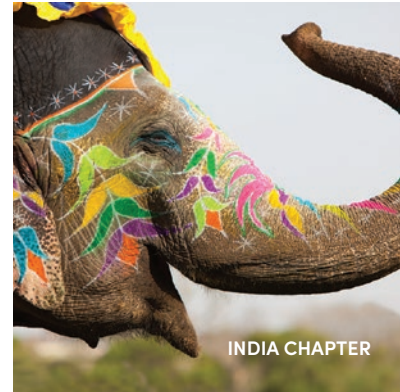
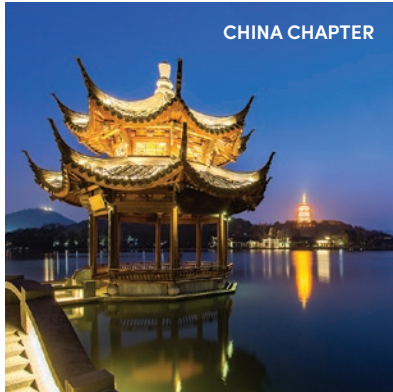
Lukas Foss in 1968.



JIM TUTTLE / UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO MUSIC LIBRARY

GOOD TO BE BLUE

AROUND THE WORLD!



Congratulations
and welcome
CLASS OF 2017!



UB ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

Your alumni-powered global network.

You'll find UB graduates in your neighborhood, across your state, and all over the world. Discover an event in your region.

Or watch a webinar without leaving town. buffalo.edu/alumni/events

If At Buffalo is sent to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please clip the mailing label and return it with the correct address to the Office of Alumni Engagement, University at Buffalo, 201 Harriman Hall, Buffalo, NY 14214.



LAST LOOK **Border Patrol** They arrive in droves; can be bothersome, even aggressive, at times; and invariably leave behind a huge mess. More than 600 Canada geese “enroll” at UB each spring. Now, a group of specially trained border collies, like Bogey (above), is making regular visits to UB to greet these unofficial guests. Using PETA-approved methods, the wildlife management company that employs the canine commandos allows the dogs to chase—but never touch—the birds, always under the close watch of a handler. The goal is to drive them away from the people-populated places. The folks who use the sidewalks every day, as well as those who clean them, appreciate it.