

# AtBuffalo

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

UB Boxing's unlikely champs **p28**

Toxic algae in Lake Erie **p34**

How smart is your suitcase? **p11**

Spring 2015

UB alum Tzippy Salamon on  
life and the art of dressing **p22**

***Absolutely Fabulous***



A

D

B

F



## FIRST LOOK

Photograph by Douglas Levere

# From the Ground Up

As night falls over downtown Buffalo, halogen lights shine on the construction site for the future UB medical school on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. Foundations are being set for the 628,000-square-foot building, which is currently the largest medical education facility under construction in the U.S. When complete, it will provide the equivalent of 11 football fields of floor space, while its location will put more than 2,000 students, faculty and staff within walking distance of some of Buffalo's top landmarks, including the Anchor Bar and Shea's Performing Arts Center.

### Birds-eye View

- A** The Roosevelt Apartments are approximately half the height of the future medical school.
- B** The existing Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) station will be integrated into the new medical school building.
- C** The Conventus Medical Office Building will include UBMD and Kaleida Health as anchor tenants.
- D** A future passageway will link Allen Street to the medical campus.
- E** Large support beams, or "rakers," prevent the NFTA Metro subway tunnel from moving.
- F** "Soldier piles"—stacks of many pieces of lumber—form the retaining walls.

# MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE FOR UB STUDENTS



*“Experiencing other countries firsthand is the most direct route to fully understanding our place in the world.”*

Roberta Stevens, MLS '74, BA '70, and George Stevens want to share their love of world travel. No, they won't be showing slides from their latest trip. The couple has made a \$2 million bequest commitment to UB: Half will go toward vision research (particularly macular degeneration, prevalent in Roberta's family) in the Department of Ophthalmology, and half to study abroad for students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Travel competes with their busy schedules: George works for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Roberta, a former president of the American Library Association, recently retired as an outreach officer at the Library of Congress. “Experiencing other countries firsthand,” says Roberta, “is the most direct route to fully understanding our place in the world.”

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

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Cover photograph of Tziporah Salamon by Martin Scott Powell

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**Moved?** Please send address or name changes to Alumni Office, University at Buffalo, 201 Harriman Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214, or email ub-alumni@buffalo.edu.

## EDITOR'S ESSAY

# Taking a chance

Reviewing copy for this issue, I was struck by the number of stories about self-discovery, and what it can mean for an individual to embark on a different path than what he or she first envisioned. The people in these accounts may not have deliberately set out to change their life's direction. But their ability to capitalize on unforeseen opportunities, to take a leap of faith amid uncertainty, has inspired me to take more risks, pursue more adventure—or at least peek out from my comfort zone.

Take Martin Diz (PhD '15), who came to UB from his native Argentina to study drone technology (p. 11). While working toward his degree, he was asked by some friends to help them develop a high-tech carry-on bag. He took the challenge, and the result—Bluesmart, the world's first "smart" suitcase—became an instant success, surpassing its fundraising goals on Indiegogo in two hours and attracting thousands of pre-orders from around the world. Diz now travels back and forth to China overseeing production as co-founder and chief engineer of the company.

Then there's Sandy Cross (BA '92) who didn't even play golf when she took a temporary position with the PGA of America 19 years ago (p. 16). Since that fortuitous hire, she has not only risen through the ranks of the nearly century-old organization, but is helping to shape golf's future as the PGA's senior director of diversity and inclusion. Cross is literally changing the face of a sport that was once the epitome of an old boys' club.

With his sociology degree in hand, Shep Gordon (BA '68) took off for California to become a probation officer and help juvenile offenders get straight (p. 20). That job lasted less than a day, but Shep's openness to possibility, knack for creative problem-solving and deeply felt desire to help people in need soon led him down a career path that, in retrospect, makes perfect sense. As a hugely successful talent agent, Shep has guided so many careers and helped so many people that he more than deserves the title of "supermensch" bestowed upon him by director Mike Myers in his 2013 documentary celebrating Shep's remarkable life.

Finally, consider Tziporah Salamon (BA '72), who didn't so much reinvent herself as realize what she had always been—"a person who dresses" (p. 22). Raised by a tailor father and seamstress mother to appreciate the power of a well-put-together outfit, Salamon persisted through a serpentine job path that always had beautiful clothing—worn with originality and flair—as a central motif. Today her passions have all come together in a marvelous weave, as she combines teaching and her art in a thoroughly original way.

These stories of self-discovery reveal careers realized—but with a twist, an amplification, a deepening of the original dream. Sometimes our passions can be reapplied or reworked to fulfill ambitions merely hinted at when we first left our campus confines. I've learned that it's wise to keep all doors open, because you never know what being an engineer, a sociologist, a teacher, or an editor, for that matter, will truly mean in your life's work.



BARRY FITZGERALD, MFA '90

Ann Whitcher Gentzke, Editor

**Question:** What do you think are the advantages of having a multicultural perspective?

**J**ust a few weeks ago, that question came up when I spoke to the graduating class of the National Institute of Technology, Karnataka in India. I told them exactly what I tell our own UB students—that a multicultural perspective isn't just nice to have but *necessary* in a global age.

Speaking personally, having a multifaceted cultural background is a huge part of who I am and how I think about the world. The fact that I'm an Indian immigrant is just one dimension of that.

Like you, Doris, I love to travel. And I'm lucky to have been able to learn from many different cultures—from my education in India, Canada and the U.S. to my time as a visiting scholar in Germany, Italy and France.

So I can definitely relate to our large population of international students. I know from personal experience how terrifying, but at the same time incredibly exhilarating, it can be to study half a world away from one's home country. Keeping up with your studies is challenging for any student, but it's all the more so when you're also trying to keep pace with a new world where the language, food, customs and landscape are unfamiliar as well.

The trick is to learn to embrace that feeling of unfamiliarity. That's when the world really opens up to you. The ideas and insights I've gained from friends, classmates and mentors from all different cultures and walks of life have become a permanent part of how I think and act. And I hope in some small way I've been able to return the favor.

Whether you study abroad—as you and I have both done—or whether you spend your entire student career here in Buffalo, this is exactly the kind of multicultural experience you can have at UB. Our students come from all 50 states and about 130 countries, which makes for an incredibly vibrant mix of cultures, backgrounds and perspectives. Having that geographic, cultural and ideological diversity in the classroom and in our campus community creates an amazing living and learning environment.

Cultural fluency and global awareness aren't just important for people who travel a lot. They're simply essential tools for living in today's world. When you graduate, you and your fellow alums will be competing in an international market for jobs—whether you stay here in Buffalo or move overseas. I think you'll find that what you've learned at UB will prepare you very well.

But in the end, having a global perspective doesn't really have anything to do with where you come from, or where you've traveled. It's about taking every possible opportunity to broaden your horizons, test your own ideas and exchange viewpoints with people who see and experience the world in a completely different way—whether they're from your own hometown or the other side of the globe.

Doris, my guess is that you've already had hundreds of opportunities like this at UB, and I want to thank you for sharing these opportunities with other students through the mentoring you do. I know many more exciting experiences lie ahead for you—in dental school and beyond! ❖

**OUR STUDENT**

**Doris Baclija**

Baclija, a senior psychology major from Westchester County, N.Y., who will enter the UB dental school in the fall, has been globally minded from the start. A native of Hungary, she studied for a semester at the University of Roehampton in London during her junior year and has mentored two UB international students, one from India, the other from China. Tripathi thanked her for guiding fellow students in a new land, pointing to the individual and collective benefits of cultural exchange. "People who are diverse, when put together as a team, have a much better perspective than they would otherwise."



President Tripathi

Doris Baclija

## We want to hear from you!

Send letters and comments to [atbuffalomagazine@buffalo.edu](mailto: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.



## Living with Asperger's

Alec Brownie's article ["The Life and Thoughts of an Aspie," Winter 2015] was *wonderful*. This articulate, talented, well-spoken young man has done a great service to the Asperger's community. He is most certainly on the right path, and has traversed many obstacles and difficulties to get where he is. He is to be admired and praised, and the article is a gem.

**Jeff Seitelman (MD '77)**  
Long Beach, Calif.

*The writer is a child and adolescent psychiatrist, and president of the New Center for Psychoanalysis in Los Angeles.*

I was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder 10 months ago. I am now 31, and autism/Asperger's explains so many of my earlier life struggles. I am a UB graduate and this article brought me to tears. So much of it I can relate to. Feeling alone in a sea full of diverse students from all over the world, I too connected better with professors than other students. Like Alec, I can appreciate how rough things could be in terms of bullying in high school. I had no idea why people could be so cruel. Knowledge is power. Knowing I'm an Aspie and that there are others out there like me gives me the confidence to move forward in life. I am also learning to see my Aspie-ness as a gift. Thank you for writing!

**Name withheld on request**

Alec Brownie's article was excellent. Please let him know of the book "The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism" by Naoki Higashida. If he isn't already familiar with this title, I expect he will enjoy it immensely.

**J. Peter Gregoire**  
Romulus, N.Y.

## Dylan Thomas remembered

I enjoyed the article about Dylan Thomas and the rare Thomas manuscripts UB sent to Wales ["Priceless Cargo," Winter 2015]. I grew up in Uplands, Swansea, Wales, and played in the same

park as Dylan Thomas (Cwmdonkin Park). I walked on the same beaches (Swansea, Mumbles), watched the same trams (no longer there) and drank in the same pubs. I have now lived in Buffalo for 40 years.

**Jennifer Gold**  
Buffalo, N.Y.

## Identity confirmed!

I can confirm that the person in the background in the photo on page 64 ["1954 Beta Ray Spectrometer," Winter 2015] is the late Walter Wurster (PhD '57, BA '50)—or "Dr. Optics," as he was called. I had the privilege of working with Walter for many years at CAL/Calspan.

**John Lordi (PhD '68)**  
Williamsville, N.Y.

*Editor's response: Thank you, Dr. Lordi! For solving our mystery, we're going to send you an At Buffalo mug.*

## High praise for At Buffalo

There are a number of individuals in our household who regularly receive quarterly publications from their respective institutions of higher learning. I quickly peruse all of these, gleaning important and relevant information for our lives today. However, I recently sat down with the fall edition of At Buffalo and read it in its entirety.

From the photo on the front cover to the "Last Look" on the back, I found the publication to be interesting, well-written, relevant and intriguing, and a feast for the eyes. It underscored the good work of the students and of the university, opening windows into departments and majors and pedagogies. It offered schools of thought which expanded our view of the institution's relevance and impact on the world, while at the same time focused on maintaining the close personal ties with and between those who have had the pleasure to be a part of UB.

**Suzanne Johnston (MA '84)**  
Pittsford, N.Y.

## From the Editor's Desk



**Liquid sky** It seems we're not the only ones blown away by the beauty of staff photographer Doug Levere's snowflake photos. Shortly after we published an example from the series ["Last Look," Winter 2015], a slideshow and short article appeared on The New Yorker blog. Wrote New Yorker staffer McKenna Stayner, "In his photographs, the white of the falling flake is replaced with the translucence of ice, with its etched-in patterns and pathways. Some of his flakes are geometric, with an almost mechanical exactitude. Others are fluid, resembling liquid blossoms."



# On Campus

- » The Doomsday Clock
- » Are you a feminist?
- » Comic book corner

## The Healing Arts

UB's Center for Medical Humanities promotes empathy in physicians-to-be



UB medical school students sketch a live model during life drawing class.

By Ann Whitcher Gentzke » For Nina Paroff, the link between art and medicine is clear. “We not only interpret the images we see,” says the second-year medical student, who visited Buffalo’s Albright-Knox Art Gallery last fall as part of a course called Clinical Practice of Medicine. “We also come to appreciate observation itself as an art and as a subjective practice.”

Paroff participates in UB’s Center for Medical Humanities as a member of its student advisory committee. Established in 2013 as part of a growing trend among U.S. medical schools to encourage more humanistic thinking amid mostly scientific training, the center incorporates arts-related content into the curriculum with complementary activities addressing a range of social and ethical topics. Directed by emerita professor of psychiatry Linda Pessar, the center exposes students to anthropology, ethics, film, history and literature in addition to art, all in an effort to foster greater awareness of patients as human beings.

To impart this awareness early on, first-year students are required to participate in a “Humanities Day.” Last fall, the day included sessions on poetry and medicine, poverty and health, and images of the nude. Students also could attend a life drawing class led by Ginny O’Brien of UB’s Anderson Gallery, to sketch muscle groups and skeletal structures from a live model. “We wanted to give them an opportunity while dissecting in gross anatomy to see what that anatomy looks like in a living body,” says Pessar.

Pessar’s own presentations cover a wide slice of art history from the old masters to contemporary artists. Among the latter is Canadian artist Robert Pope (1956-1992), whose work depicts his 10 years with Hodgkin’s disease, as well as the experiences of other cancer patients. “I say to students, ‘Tell me about this picture. What do you see? What does it make you think about? What would you say to this person?’”

The humanities program has been well received by medical students, many of whom initially lacked formal arts training. The reason is simple, says Pessar. “Medical students, regardless of their backgrounds, are intelligent, curious, well-meaning and well-intended people. That’s being a humanist.” ❖

DOUGLAS LEVIERE



## THE WEIGH-IN

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

**The News:** The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has maintained a Doomsday Clock since 1947, with midnight symbolizing the end of the world. For the past three years, the clock has stood at 11:55 p.m. This past January, based in part on new findings about climate change, they moved the clock to 11:57—the second closest to midnight it has been since 1958, when the U.S. and the Soviet Union began testing thermonuclear bombs. How worried should we be?

**The Expert:** Jason Briner, associate professor of geology and global climate researcher



We should be fairly worried. Obviously, the threat differs from that of an all-out nuclear war, but the ramification of our climate system maintaining its current trajectory will be the end of the world as we know it. The question among 97 percent of climate scientists is not whether the planet is warming, or whether humans play a major role, or even what we can do to stop it. Rather, we are now wondering how fast climate will change, how much sea levels will rise and whether world leaders can implement the necessary changes to soften the blow. It will require a world of effort, including from you and me.



Reichbach during his UB days. Below: Gus' widow Ellen Meyers (left) at the UB Archives.



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

# The Radical Life

Judge Gus Reichbach's papers reflect a life of activism

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard

» As a UB freshman, Gustin “Gus” Reichbach (BA ’67) was a quick-witted kid with a heavy Brooklyn accent and a crew cut. He graduated four years later, during the height of the civil rights movement, with a political science degree (magna cum laude), a thick mane of unruly curls and a head full of radical views.

Reichbach went on to make history. After earning a law degree—and a police record—at Columbia (where he was arrested for disorderly conduct), he built a remarkable career as a respected, yet controversial, lawyer and judge. While awaiting acceptance to the bar, he most famously represented Abbie Hoffman and some of the Black Panthers. He was later dubbed the “Condom Judge” during the AIDS epidemic for providing prophylactics to prostitutes outside his courtroom. In 1999, he was elected to the New York State Supreme Court; he also served on an international war crimes tribunal in Kosovo.

Reichbach died of cancer in 2012, at the age of 65. Controversial to the end, he wrote an op-ed in *The New York Times* shortly before his death in favor of medical marijuana, bravely admitting his own use.



Soon after, his wife, Ellen Meyers, donated his personal and professional papers to the University Archives. Meyers also established a student scholarship in Reichbach's name, first awarded last year to music performance major Michael Tielke.

At UB, Reichbach was president of Alpha Epsilon Pi, a national Jewish fraternity, where he made

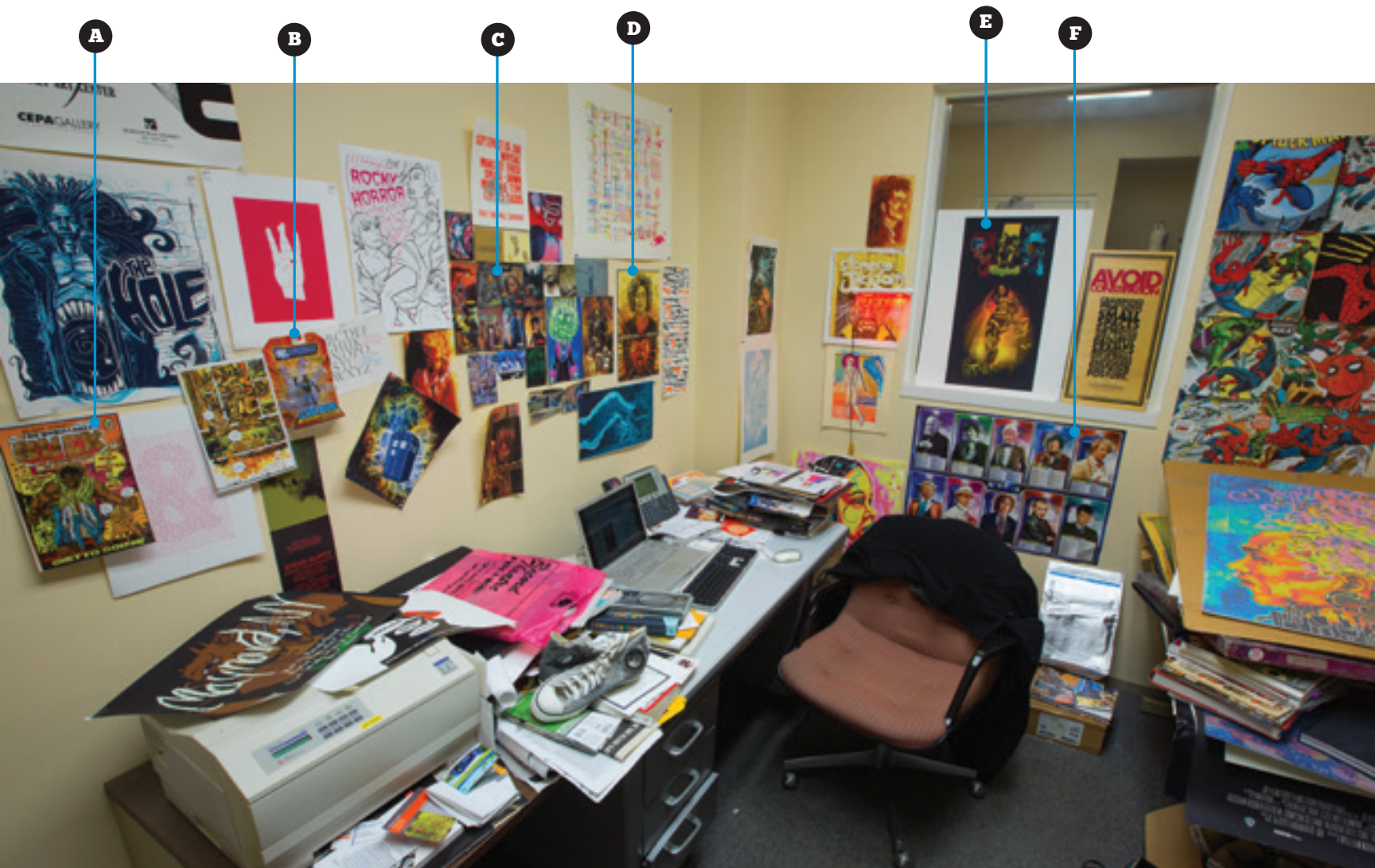
lifelong friendships with two other high-powered alums: international lawyer Allan Gerson (BA ’66) and real estate investor Paul Nussbaum (BA ’67). Last October, they and Reichbach's other college pals and contemporaries joined Meyers, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Special Collections of the University Archives to remember Gus at a campus celebration of the Gustin L. Reichbach Papers.

From a young age, Nussbaum and Meyers recalled, Reichbach displayed a steadfast sense of justice. “He lived by the gut,” Gerson said. Reichbach's words and deeds—captured in letters, election pins and posters, even a bound volume of trial notes from his years on the bench—stand as a rich resource for scholars studying law, politics, history, international relations and more. Like his legacy, the list goes on. ♣

DOUGLAS LEVINE



**Tweetable:** “Most of the killers I’ve evaluated have been pretty ordinary people”—@SUNYBuffaloLaw’s Charles Ewing, as quoted on the hit @Serial podcast.



202 Center for the Arts, North Campus **The office of John Jennings, associate professor of art**

DOUGLAS LEBERER



The office of graphic novelist, designer, illustrator and scholar John Jennings is a comic/sci-fi nerd's fantasy. Jennings, whose work focuses on issues of representation in comic book culture, surrounds himself with images of his favorite characters, work by friends and students, and other ephemera from his career in the world of comics. After a brief visit to his studio space, you may find yourself itching to blow your allowance on a polyethylene-sealed copy of "All-New Captain America #1."

**A Black Kirby** Black Kirby is an Afro-futurist, hip-hop-inspired remix studio, and it deals with [early Marvel Comics artist] Jack Kirby. We didn't like the way his family was being treated by Disney, as far as remuneration for his many accomplishments. So we started doing research on how the comics industry treated people of Jewish

descent, African descent and others.

**B Black Lightning** Somebody gave me that after a talk. Black Lightning is DC Comics' first African-American superhero. Tony Isabella created him. He didn't feel that the other African-American characters in comics were up to snuff, because they were all criminal in one way or an-

other. Black Lightning is an upright guy from the get-go.

**C 'X-Files' postcards** These were made when they were putting out "The X-Files" VHS tapes. They had one of these for every episode.

**D Resistance is critical** That's a portrait I made of Angela Davis, one of the most powerful and influential Civil Rights activists in

the 1960s. These days, she's busy with an organization she helped found called Critical Resistance, a really powerful anti-prison-industrial-complex movement.

**E Genius** "Genius" is a new, really interesting comic because the main character is a tactical genius; she takes over all the gangs in Los Angeles, and they have a war with the police


department. It's gotten a lot of attention because of the stuff that's been jumping off in Ferguson.

**F 'Dr. Who'** They were re-running "Dr. Who" episodes when I was in fifth grade, after school. I just loved the show immediately. I actually created a character who is a hip-hop time traveler, inspired by Dr. Who.


## UB EMOJI

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


### Make mine a water

 To discourage consumption of sugar, the School of Dental Medicine has stepped up, passing a policy this past winter banning sugary drinks at all school-sponsored activities, meetings and other functions. Let's hope the ruling has some teeth to it!


### Heart transplant

 With construction beginning this April, the Heart of the Campus project (a UB 2020 initiative) will give core areas on each of UB's three campuses a fresh ticker. First up are improvements to Capen, Talbert and Norton halls, including a new cybrary, more open, collaborative study spaces and, best of all, an overall friendlier feel to the somewhat imposing façade of the North Campus.

### The Buffalo Bullies

 Following new head coach Rex Ryan's promise to shape the Buffalo Bills into a "bully," UB anti-bullying expert Amanda Nickerson wrote an op-ed gently noting that associating the word "bully" with a winning spirit (when every school in the nation is working tirelessly to foster an anti-bullying culture) may not be the best idea—and promptly got bullied online by several Bills fans for doing so. Guess there's still some work to do.

### Her-story in the making

 Last October, prominent women in UB's STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) community hosted a "tweetathon" to spur dialogue on the subject of women in STEM fields. Using the hashtag #5050by2050, tweeters discussed how to ensure that 50 percent of STEM jobs are held by women by 2050 (currently, women compose about a quarter of the STEM workforce). We'll have come a long way, baby!



Kara Oliver plans to feed a neighborhood in need.



DOUGLAS LEVIERE

# Champions for Change

**The Citizen Planning School connects the dots to create stronger communities**

By [Jana Eisenberg](#) >> Kara Oliver and Paul Perez, 20-something New York City ex-pats who met and became friends in Buffalo, were eager to show their adopted city some love. So last year they applied to One Region Forward's Citizen Planning School.

One Region Forward is a consortium of public- and private-sector organizations promoting smart, sustainable forms of development for Erie and Niagara counties. One of its more recent initiatives is the Citizen Planning School, a free program launched in April 2014 and run by UB's School of Architecture and Planning along with the UB Regional Institute.

The concept: Recruit everyday folks who have compelling ideas to make their community better, and give them the guidance and resources to turn those ideas into reality. "A thousand small changes headed toward a more sustainable future will move the whole region forward," explains project coordinator Cristina Delgado (MUP '13). "We want to help facilitate that move."

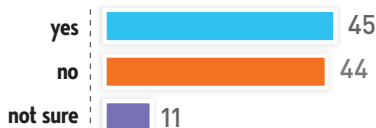
Indeed, the projects from the program's first year run the gamut in both concept and location. For example, there's an educational heritage garden in Wilson, N.Y., and a job skills training program for inner-city residents in Niagara Falls. Perez hopes to create a rainwater garden in Buffalo's Fillmore District, while Oliver is seeking to operate a mobile produce market in an underserved East Side community.

After joining the 200-plus-member 2014 class at the Citizen Planning School, Oliver, Perez and 15 others applied to become Champions for Change, a more intensive track that provides additional support (also for free). Over several Saturdays, School of Architecture and Planning professionals and graduate students gave the Champions one-on-one mentoring and helped connect them to potential partners, including public and private funders.

The first Champions for Change sessions concluded last October with an "Idea Summit," where Champions gathered to recognize each other's work, network and receive feedback on their projects from a panel of local nonprofit leaders. Oliver beamed with exhilaration after the event. "This gave me the opportunity to meet people who are doing great things in Western New York," she said proudly, knowing that she can now count herself among them. ♣

## POLL POSITION An unofficial survey of 100 UB students

### Do you consider yourself a feminist?



MICHAEL GREEN, JD '88

# Eureka!

- » **Gambling takes a loss**
- » **A look at the back of the eye**
- » **Love and anger**

## This Student Has Baggage

Fresh out of UB, Martin Diz starts life as a luggage entrepreneur

By [Cory Nealon](#) » Martin Diz (PhD '15) came to UB in 2011 to study drones.

Now he travels back and forth to China overseeing production of a high-tech suitcase that he and some friends developed to solve frustrating travel problems. The product, called Bluesmart, raised \$1.36 million within 30 days of its posting on the website Indiegogo, making it one of the hottest crowdfunding campaigns ever. The company has orders for thousands of bags and expects to start delivery this summer.

"It's crazy," says Diz, who got his PhD in mechanical and aerospace engineering in January, just before heading east. "We wondered if we'd be able to raise \$50,000, but we exceeded that in two hours. Then we reached \$1 million. Needless to say, we were very happy."

Bluesmart is a typical carry-on—except for its gizmos. A small computer inside the bag connects with a smartphone via Bluetooth. Other features include a battery with two USB ports to charge smartphones and tablets, sensors that track the bag's location, and a digital scale that weighs the bag when the handle is lifted. It also has mobile apps that automatically lock the bag when the owner steps away, and that remind travelers when to arrive at the airport and what to pack based on the weather at their destination.

"The last innovation of the suitcase was decades ago, and it was just to add four wheels," says Diz, one of five co-founders of the company. "Everything today is smart, but there are no smart suitcases. So we set out to think how the carry-on for this century should be made."

A native of Argentina, Diz came to UB because several faculty members specialize in research on unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly known as drones. While studying under Manoranjan Majji, assistant professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, Diz developed expertise with sensors that drones use to gather data.

The knowledge Diz gained at UB proved useful in early 2014 when Alejo Verlini, his cousin and an

Martin Diz shows off Bluesmart, the world's first "smart" suitcase.

DOUGLAS LEVINE

# Eureka!



early co-founder of the company, asked Diz to develop Bluesmart's devices. (Verlino and a few friends had settled on the concept several months before, but they needed a technical whiz to make it a reality.)

At the time, Diz was neck-deep in his dissertation. But considering he had no plans upon finishing his PhD, he agreed to join the team. He made sure Bluesmart's disparate electronics were compatible.



From there, the project took off.

It soon became clear what Diz would do after receiving his degree.

"I came here to learn about drones. Now I'm working with suitcases," he says. "Who knows what's next?"

## SMALL WONDERS

By Charlotte Hsu

**The eye inside** Two UB ophthalmologists have been testing new ways to photograph something most of us have never seen: the fundus, or the back of the eye. Jiaxi Ding and Matthew Pihlblad snapped this image using a device called the iExaminer. The researchers showed that the handheld tool—which marries an iPhone to a lighted eye-exam instrument—is useful for capturing eye problems in patients who have a hard time sitting upright, as conventional fundus cameras require. The premature newborn whose fundus you see here is a perfect example.



DOUGLAS LEVINE



## 60 SECONDS WITH John Welte

Interview by Michael Flatt

In a recent study, Welte, a senior research scientist at UB's Research Institute on Addictions, compared rates of problem gambling in the U.S. between 1999-2000 and 2011-2013. What he found was a surprise: Despite an explosion in gaming opportunities during that period, the percentage of Americans who were problem gamblers remained stable. Moreover, overall participation in gambling actually decreased. We talked to Welte about these counterintuitive results.

### Why didn't the presence of more casinos lead to more gambling?

My best guess is that the economic downturn that started in 2008 suppressed gambling.

### Are there any other explanations?

In the public health model of gambling, there's this controversy between "exposure" people and "adaptation" people. The exposure idea is that the more exposed you are to gambling venues, the more likely you are to be a problem gambler. The adaptation hypothesis suggests that when there's an increase in exposure to gambling venues, the immediate response will be an increase in the rate of problem gambling, but that will trail off and perhaps even decline when people adapt resistance to it.

### How do you know people who took your survey told the truth?

The answer is that you don't. But there's no reason to assume that people were less honest

or less accurate in 1999 or 2000 than they were in 2011-2013. So presumably those inaccuracies would cancel out.

### Does online gambling have an effect on gambling addiction?

Our studies have shown that online gambling is indulged in by a fairly small percentage of the population. We did find that a high proportion of online gamblers were problem gamblers, but those same people were doing a whole bunch of other types of gambling. So it wasn't necessarily that online gambling was causing the problem gambling.

### Will problem gambling rise when the economy improves?

I'm less eager now to assume that more gambling opportunities will lead to more problem gambling, but there's still a large amount of evidence that supports that connection. My data has pointed me in two different directions. My answer to that is a definite "maybe."



**Tweetable:** Bad news for problem drinkers who smoke: #UBuffalo addiction researchers have found that smokers have a harder time quitting alcohol.

# HOW TO GROW A BIG, BEAUTIFUL Crystal

By Charlotte Hsu



No, this isn't "Breaking Bad," but it does have some of the elements of the hit TV show: A chemistry teacher. Disciples ready to learn. And, of course, crystals.

This past fall, in conjunction with the International Year of Crystallography, UB chemist Jason Benedict (pictured at left) organized the first-ever U.S. Crystal Growing Competition. In mid-December, five UB faculty members judged a total of 68 entries, mailed to Benedict's lab by K-12 students and teachers from around the country.

Benedict's research focuses on sponge-like crystals called MOFs (metal-organic frameworks) that could one day be used to mop up toxins or deliver drugs to tumors. He dreamed up the contest as a way to get children interested in the science of crystallography, which underlies the development of everything from drugs to airplane parts.

It seems the strategy worked. In the words of sixth-grader Renee Aga of Amherst, N.Y.—winner of "Best Overall Crystal" in the K-8 category—"It was just cool."

**LITTLE BEAUTY:** Because it's easy to grow a perfect crystal that's very small, Benedict created the "Jose Rule," named for a member of his lab who submitted a teeny tiny crystal in a trial contest. "I think I even lost his crystal, it was so small," Benedict recalls. According to the Jose Rule, entries had to weigh at least half a gram.

*All of these crystals were grown by Benedict or researchers in his lab as part of a trial competition.*

**LIKE ROCK CANDY, IN A BAD WAY:** "This is just a mess," Benedict says. The rough, junky edges hint at a hectic history, in which individual units of alum surfaced too fast to gather in a regular pattern.

**TOO MANY, TOO MINI:** One problem with growing a crystal too fast is that multiple miniscule crystals can emerge as the water rapidly vanishes.

**CLOUDY CHAOS:** Crystals grow as bits of alum gather on a central seed. The process isn't clean: If you could view it with a microscope, you'd see alum particles adhering to the seed, then falling off and reattaching. Slow growth enables orderly assembly. Fast growth breeds occlusions, which appear when particles attach at the wrong spot and can't unhitch before others pile on.

**DING, DING, DING!** Or maybe we should say, "Bling, bling, bling!" This big fellow is a winner: It's clear and reflects light beautifully. It also has the right shape: eight primary sides, all glossy.



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

*By Marcene Robinson (BA '13)*

### WHAT THEY'RE WORKING ON

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

### WHO'S LEADING IT

#### Startup Hiccups

For startups, having too many friends can stunt future growth. While established companies have much to offer newcomers in experience and status, a startup that forms too many alliances may crumble under the weight of heightened expectations or a diluted vision. Researchers urge young companies to pace their growth.

*Operations management and strategy researcher Ramin Vandaie*

#### Hammering Stem Cells

With a little tinkering, certain cells can be transformed into stem cells. Researchers discovered that altering mechanical forces in specific cells could reprogram them into "stem-like" cells, which can regenerate or repair damaged tissue. Unlike older techniques that use hazardous chemicals to reprogram cells, the new method is nontoxic.

*Physiology and biophysics researchers Fanjie Meng and Frederick Sachs*

#### Punch-Drunk Love

Can love make us mean? UB researchers think so. A study that explored the link between empathy and aggression revealed that hormones in the brain can harden our heart, causing unprovoked hostility toward strangers who happen to be in a loved one's way. Think a mother sabotaging her child's competitors.

*Psychology researcher Michael Poulin*

# Out of the Shadows

**A stuffed groundhog and his handler are ready for their day in the sun**

On Feb. 2, 1983, UB geology staffer Dave Borden brought two things to work: a barbecue grill and a mounted groundhog. Borden dug a hole outside, propped up the groundhog (later to be named Ridge Lea Larry) and fired up the grill. And so a tradition was born: the UB geology department's annual Groundhog Day cookout, where faculty, students and staff come together to eat hot dogs, check out old photos and—most importantly—see if Larry is going to see his shadow, predicting six more weeks of winter.

## What's in a name?

*Larry's name was inspired by UB's former Ridge Lea Campus (on Ridge Lea Road off Bailey), the location of the geology department from 1975 to 1994. "We were kind of isolated over there," says Borden. "There wasn't much going on." The Groundhog Day celebration gave people an excuse for a party in the middle of winter. After geology moved to the North Campus, a contest to rename Larry was held, but tradition won by a landslide and his name remained the same.*

## How it all began

Ridge Lea Larry likely passed away around 1980. Borden borrowed him from a taxidermist who had preserved him for a client. "That guy never came back, so the taxidermist said, 'Give me 25 bucks and you can have it,'" says Borden. Because Ridge Lea Larry is stuffed (unlike Punxsutawney Phil, Dunkirk Dave and other celebrity groundhogs), Borden usually makes a hole for Larry in the snow, then throws some dirt on it, "to make it look like he just crawled out."

## A ritual with pagan roots

*The tradition has been traced to an ancient pagan celebration called Imbolc that fell midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, and revolved around fertility and weather divination. Some elements of the pagan tradition were later adopted into the Christian holiday of Candlemas Day, including observing a hedgehog or badger to determine how much longer winter would last. When European settlers brought the tradition to North America, the more prevalent groundhog took on the role of diviner.*

## So happy together

Borden keeps Larry on top of his refrigerator at his home in Alden, N.Y. "A long time ago, I used to take him to different places just to take pictures," including out on a boat near Borden's cabin in the Adirondacks. But today, Larry (who, after three decades of service, has lost all four of his teeth) seems content to chill out at home with Borden, who spent 24 years working for the geology department as an instructional support technician, and another six with the Research Foundation, before retiring in 2004.

Though Borden is retired from UB, he and Larry still make the annual trek to campus for Groundhog Day. Larry did not see his shadow this year, portending an early spring. (At press time—buried under snow—that was hard to imagine.)





# Locker Room

» Bringing the PGA to the people » Tennis tantrums » Soccer's MAC-facular season



## Landing Leipold

UB's vision for the Bulls lures one of the nation's top football coaches

By David J. Hill » ESPN College GameDay rarely devotes three-minute segments to Division III programs. But Lance Leipold's success at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater was impossible to ignore. And it was only a matter of time before a larger program took notice. UB Athletics Director Danny White was watching, and he pounced on the opportunity to bring one of the nation's hottest football coaches to Buffalo.

Leipold was introduced Dec. 1 as UB's 25th football coach, taking over for Jeff Quinn, who was let go midway through last season.

Surely you've heard Leipold's story by now. His record over eight seasons in Whitewater was nothing short of astounding: 109 wins—including six national championships—and six losses. He reached the 100-win mark faster than any coach, at any level, in college football. He was named Division III coach of the year six times, including this past season. Shortly after capturing his sixth national title, he flew to Buffalo to begin his new gig as a Division I coach.

At Buffalo sat down with the 50-year-old Leipold during his first full week at UB to discuss his plans for the program.

### **What made the UB job special enough for you to leave Whitewater?**

The first thing was the opportunity and the challenge to coach at the FBS [Football Bowl Subdivision] level. It was also the conversations I had with Danny White. In all his presentations you hear the word "potential." There's a vision and a plan to fulfill that potential, and I wanted to partner with an athletic director who has that.

### **How will you handle recruiting?**

It comes down to evaluation. You have to evaluate to find the best players who are going to help your program—and who fit the academic profile of the university—and then do a good job building that relationship.

### **The competition is different, too. For example, you'll lead UB into Beaver Stadium this fall.**

That'll be exciting, but I didn't take this job because we're gonna play in Penn State's 100,000-seat stadium. I'm more focused on creating an electric atmosphere here, one where opponents won't want to play at UB Stadium.

## Locker Room

### How do you plan to take the success you had at Whitewater and instill it here?

There's not a magic recipe anybody has, or they'd be selling it for lots of money. It goes back to evaluation and recruiting and development of players.

### What are your short- and long-term goals?

We'll worry about today and tomorrow. At Whitewater, we never talked about winning a national championship. If people start calling and asking what hotel you're staying at for the national championship game and it's week three of the season, if you get caught up in that, you're never getting there. I think there's a great foundation at UB. We just have to find a way to become that consistent winner that our alums deserve. ♣

Lance Leipold had a lot more to say. Read the full Q&A at [www.buffalo.edu/atbuffalo](http://www.buffalo.edu/atbuffalo).

## VERY SUPERSTITIOUS

### Pregame Rituals of UB's student-athletes



**Tennis Player Dayana Agasieva** has a laundry list of superstitions. To name two: The line judge must give the balls only to her at the start of the match, and only she can change the score on the scoreboard.

Agasieva, who grew up in Uzbekistan before moving to Queens, N.Y., says her quirks generally aren't an issue. "I do it very smoothly, I guess," says the junior sociology major. But there's an exception to every rule. "I had a girl call me a psycho once. She was losing 6-0, 6-0, so I guess she was frustrated."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Changing the Game

### As head of diversity for the PGA, Sandy Cross is widening golf's reach

By Jim Bisco » The closest Sandy Cross (BA '92) ever got to a golf course growing up in Hamburg, N.Y., was the occasional visit to a driving range with her brother—which makes the fact that she parlayed a 90-day temporary position at PGA of America into a 19-year career especially remarkable. Now, as senior director of diversity and inclusion, a newly created position, she's changing the face of golf, leading women, minorities and disabled populations up fairways across the country.

"I had no golf background," says Cross, who began her tenure at PGA of America headquarters in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., as a licensing administrator. "I never thought I'd be at the PGA for the amount of time that I have been. It's been a tremendous experience."

Over the last 20 years, Cross has led a number of successful initiatives to grow women's involvement in the game. Now, she'll be expanding golf's reach to even more people. For example, a fairly new program called PGA Junior League Golf is introducing kids from all backgrounds to the game in a team setting. "We started this two years ago, and it's taking off like wildfire."

Cross said she owes her success in this traditionally male-dominated field to a few good mentors. "There weren't many women at all in leadership roles at the PGA or in the industry that

I could see, aspire to and/or emulate," she recalls.

So she applied herself, built relationships and took advantage of PGA professional instruction to learn the game. Two of her earliest supervisors, both men, saw her potential and championed her desire to advance. "They were tremendously inclusive and saw that I was coachable, career-minded and hungry to grow," Cross says.

Determined to learn every aspect of the business, Cross did stints in licensing, marketing and sales, business development, player development and women's initiatives. In the latter, she helped create the Connecting With Her program to make the game more inviting to women. She's coordinating the inaugural KPMG Women's PGA Championship in June in Rye, N.Y., which will include a Women's Leadership Summit.

Golf was an unlikely career path for Cross. She was leaning toward law at UB, where she also played volleyball all four years. Then, she took up a work-study program supervised by the athletic department's Peter Bothner, which inspired a shift toward sports management. She went on to earn her master's of sports administration from Kent State University, landed the temp job at the PGA and set about changing the game.

Golf returned the favor, as it turns out, giving Cross not only a fulfilling career but a husband, too. They met on the golf course. ♣

## The Clubhouse

Stats from right, center and left field

Compiled by David J. Hill

### Does she ever get tired?

Senior Jessica Powers swam 1,700 yards—or the length of 17 football fields—over the course of three races in a meet at Canisius College. She won all three events.

**1,700**

### Khalil-ing the competition

ESPN analyst Merrill Hoge called Oakland Raiders linebacker and former UB standout Khalil Mack the best linebacker in the NFL. (He was also a top candidate for Defensive Rookie of the Year.)

**1**

### Easy like a video game

He's money from behind the 3-point arc. Junior Jarryn Skeete sank three 3-pointers over a 67-second span in the Bulls' win over Northern Illinois earlier this season.

**67**

### Grand achievements

Junior Mackenzie Loesing and senior Kristen Sharkey each reached the 1,000-career-point milestone this season, a feat achieved by only 20 other women's basketball players in UB history.

**1,000**

## Finding Their Way

Early losses trigger record run for women's soccer



By David J. Hill >> It was January 2014 and Shawn Burke was meeting with the women's soccer team for the first time since being named head coach. An assistant for five seasons, he knew how much talent the team had. Still, "Can we win a MAC championship today? No," Burke recalls saying then. "But we can start putting all the pieces together from now till November to win it."

That, says Burke, was the last time there was any talk about a MAC title. Instead, it was time to focus on the "million little details"—the small things necessary to become a championship-caliber team.

Ten months after that first gathering, the Bulls weren't talking MAC title—they were holding it, for the first time in program history. After persevering through back-to-back losses to Virginia Tech and Cornell early in the season, UB went on a 14-game unbeaten streak. The Bulls didn't lose again until falling to Penn State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, finishing the year 16-3-3 overall (9-0-2 MAC).

"Cornell was a turning point," Burke says. "The girls conceded three goals in that game, and they weren't happy about it. They held themselves accountable, and they didn't lose the next 14 games after that."

Here are just a few of the many highlights from the Bulls' history-making season:

**Jan. 8, 2014 >> Athletic Director Danny White hires Shawn Burke as head coach.**

**Sept. 26 >> Following back-to-back losses, the 14-game unbeaten streak begins with a 2-0 win at Kent State.**

**Sept. 29 >> The Bulls land their first of two record-setting rankings, coming in at No. 66 in the NCAA Rating Percentage Index. Six weeks later, they climb to No. 32.**

**Oct. 5 >> The Bulls notch their 16th goal of the season, already surpassing the previous year's season total of 14, with seven games still to go.**

**Oct. 26 >> UB captures the regular season MAC title with a 2-0 win over Miami.**

**Nov. 4 >> For the first time in program history, the Bulls garner a vote in the coaches' top 25 poll.**

**Nov. 9 >> Junior Jackie Hall's goal in the 82nd minute clinches UB's first-ever MAC Tournament title as the team defeats Western Michigan 1-0.**

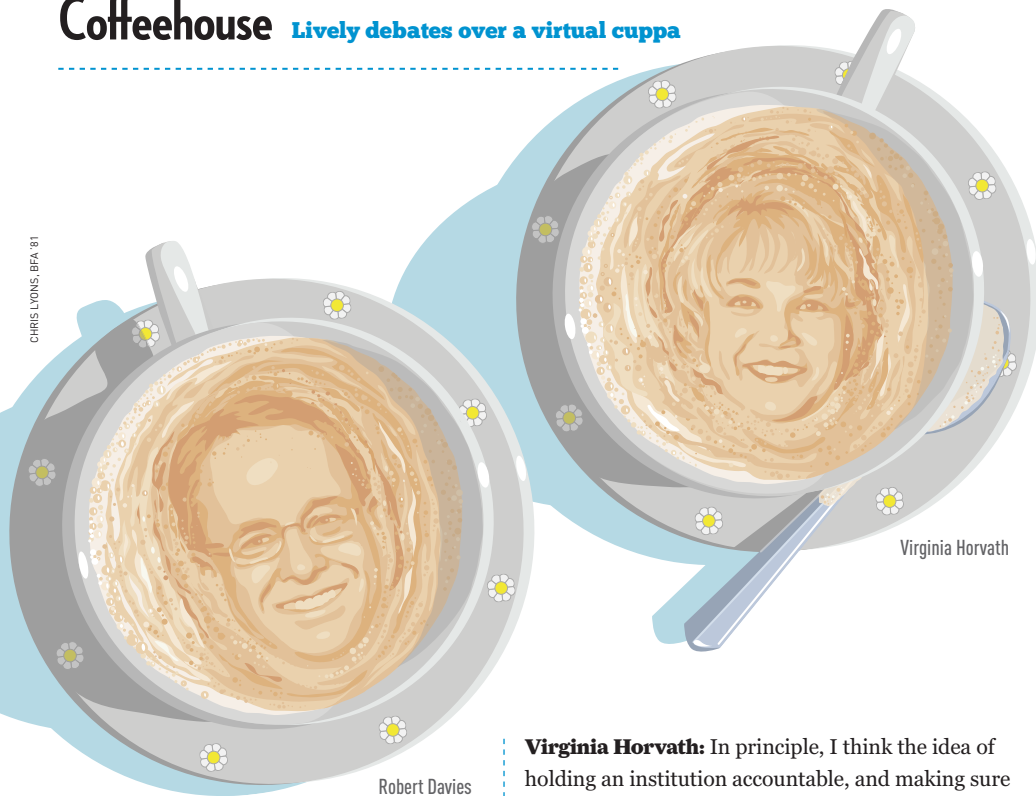
**Nov. 14 >> Making their first appearance in the NCAA Tournament, the 15th-seeded Bulls fall to No. 2 Penn State 4-1 in the first round.**

**Dec. 5 >> Jackie Hall becomes the first All-American in program history, earning third-team honors.**



**TweetaBULL:** Did you know? New Buffalo Bills head coach Rex Ryan's dad, Buddy, was an assistant coach at UB under Dick Offenhauer from 1961 to 1965.

CHRIS LYONS, BFA '81



Robert Davies

Virginia Horvath

## Grading the College Scorecard

**T**o help families deal with the soaring cost of higher education, the Obama administration is rating colleges in terms of which ones offer the best value. Cost, graduation rates, ability to repay loans and job placement after graduation are all key metrics in the new College Scorecard.

We asked two UB alumni who are presidents of higher education institutions—Robert Davies (PhD '05) of Murray State University and Virginia Horvath (BA '78) of SUNY Fredonia—what they see as the pros and cons of such a system.

**Virginia Horvath:** In principle, I think the idea of holding an institution accountable, and making sure it provides information about the educational and economic outcomes that result from attending that institution, is a good one. One of my concerns would be that it could be capturing information based on an oversimplified metric, and not really looking at the value of that education in broad terms.

**Robert Davies:** I think you're absolutely right—when you're trying to put simple metrics on a complex situation, it's not always going to measure up. I do agree with you on accountability; especially as a public institution, we must uphold public faith and be transparent in the manner in which we work. For some students, I think the metric is a great starting point, just to maybe weed out some institutions that price too high. But even then, it's important to consider what type of university they would like to attend. What are they expecting out of the university experience? What are the values of the institution? What are the learning outcomes?

**VH:** My university has a strong emphasis on arts and education, and we don't have engineering, so many of our graduates are going into fields that don't have high income. But they know that going in. I think that's one of those things that could make it look as if the institution is doing something wrong, when it's really reflecting the starting salaries of the field one chooses.

**RD:** We're focusing more and more on the private benefits of a public education system. And university presidents are pretty smart people—we'll learn how to game the system. If that's going to be the reward mechanism, are we in fact doing what the ethos of public higher education was to start off with, to transcend socioeconomic status, to answer the big questions of the day and of the future?

**VH:** That public mission is really important when we think about access. All of us could say, "Let's just have fewer students and be more selective so that their success is guaranteed." I always wonder, what is the value added? Couldn't those students have done well on their own? That four-year graduation rate leaves out those people who might be working more, or maybe need some support along the way, so it takes them five years instead of four. I would think an institution that gets that student to succeed has more value than one that has A-plus students coming in and being successful. But the traditional measures don't account for that.

**RD:** I'm reminded of a class I had with Dr. Bruce Johnstone at the University at Buffalo, looking at the straight-A students who spend four years and come out basically having gained nothing, compared to the different kinds of students we take in at public state universities, the diversity we're able to attract—not only diversity in terms of ethnicity, but also in terms of political thought and socioeconomic background—and our ability to really make a difference both in their lives, and in the communities they go back to. Sixty percent of our students are first-generation students. We know that over time they'll be sending their sons and daughters to us, and really transcending and removing those socioeconomic barriers.

**VH:** And then there's the point about traditional liberal arts—that's one of the things that concerns me as well. So many students coming right out of high school may not know what career they want to go into, and they're not necessarily training for a profession. They're looking to be educated. When I'm talking with political leaders and others who say, "You should be producing people in these fields based on what the market needs," I ask them what their degrees are in. Often, they're in things like political science, history, mathematics, French. They're across the range of liberal arts fields, and they found jobs and work as responsible citizens. But our understanding of what an education does has narrowed.

**RD:** The university experience is not a commodity. The scorecard does present transparency, it does address the cost issue, it does bring in the employment issue. It's a good starting point. But I think it's more important for students to jump off that point and say, "OK, what am I looking for, what type of institution do I want to attend, which one will allow me to achieve the goals that I want to achieve?" We need to make sure that students and their families are smart consumers. ☿

### How do you take your coffee?

**Robert:** Straight up.

**Virginia:** I take mine black as well.

# Mixed Media

» Super Shep » Flying lessons » Ukrainian culture



Above: Nate Hodge adds another layer to his live-painting installation. Below: "Semantic Satiation (words become)" by Marissa Caggiano (BFA '14).

## Art in the Open

The inaugural Open CFA offers an insider's view of the creative process

By Mark Norris » Artist and second-year MFA student Nate Hodge is guiding visitors through his live-painting installation, an as-yet-untitled floor-to-ceiling abstract that presents his studio as a single, sprawling canvas. "Am I allowed to come in here?" asks a passerby somewhat hesitantly. "Of course!" Hodge responds enthusiastically. "That's the point."

Hodge was part of the Center for the Arts' "Open CFA," a one-day, building-wide celebration in November of the work—and work-in-progress—of UB's students in the departments of art, media study, and theatre and dance. Combining the annual Master of Fine Arts Open Studios with dance performances, mixed-media installations and video screenings, the free, public event offered both a behind-the-scenes glimpse of artists' studio work and an engaging, interactive exhibition.



"We're trying out variations of the same idea, which is to get people into the center and introduce them to what's going on here," says Natalie Fleming, visual studies resources curator for the Department of Art. "The hope is to get as many of the departments within the CFA involved as possible, just to show people all of the different things that we're doing in our studios and classrooms."

In the first-floor atrium, dancers nimbly improvised alongside mobile light projectors. The Department of Media Study hosted a mini-festival of multimedia works in its second-floor screening rooms that included nonnarrative documentaries, Web code and poetry experiments, looped VHS installations, and more. As a fitting capstone to the student-driven event, works by art department alumni were displayed in exhibitions held in the Lower Gallery and the Project Space. ❖

ARIEL NAMOGA

# The Insider

## Hollywood talent legend revisits his UB salad days

By [Lauren Newkirk Maynard](#) » Shep Gordon (BA '68) was a bit of a goof-off in college. It was the '60s, after all, and Gordon was on a new adventure, far from his not-so-happy childhood home on Long Island.

Gordon wasn't a straight-A kind of guy at UB, but he did excel socially, joining the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity and pulling some legendary practical jokes (see p. 48). He also formed tight relationships with a diverse crew of classmates, now fellow alumni, including Daniel Alterman (BA '66) and Gus Reichbach (BA '67).

What's remarkable about Gordon is how he has maintained those friendships throughout his wildly successful career as talent manager to the stars. According to Mike Myers' 2013 documentary "Supermensch: The Legend of Shep Gordon," Gordon moved to LA a year after graduating to



Gordon speaks to undergraduates at UB last fall.

Enterprises, also went on to produce movies and pioneer the "celebrity chef" genre, launching the culinary empires of Emeril Lagasse, Mario Batali and others.

Gordon is still close to Cooper and many other stars who survived those heady days of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. The Distinguished Alumnus

became a probation officer for juvenile defenders. He lasted one day in that job, but a serendipitous choice of motel led to friendships with Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix, and then to a gig as manager of a then-unknown Alice Cooper.

Gordon did well by Cooper, and in the 1970s and '80s, he helped build the careers of countless other music and film stars, including Anne Murray, Raquel Welch, Blondie, Rick James and Teddy Pendergrass. His entertainment company, Alive

Award winner isn't shy about crediting UB as the place where it all began. "The best years of my life were at UB, where I learned the value of forming friendships," he told a crowd of students during a visit to campus last October, following the documentary's theater run.

The loner from Long Island discovered that, while you couldn't choose your childhood, "you could choose your friends. And college—this is the last time in your life to make real ones." ❖



DOUGLAS LEVERIE

 **Tweetable:** #UBuffalo's archive of documents on the #LoveCanal environmental disaster was featured on the Travel Channel's "Mysteries at the Museum."



DOUGLAS LEVERIE

## Flying High

Attention Peter Pan wannabes: You can learn how to fly—with a few colorful strings attached. Kathleen Golde (pictured at left), an adjunct instructor and professional dancer, teaches two courses in aerial arts at UB. On any given day, "Golde," as her loyal protégés affectionately call her, can be found onstage at the Katharine Cornell Theatre, sending students shimmying up long, drape-like fabrics, or silks, as she barks commands and demonstrates movements. Wrapping the fabrics around their feet, hands and torsos, they twist their bodies into spins or freeze several feet in midair, unraveling into dramatic drops or gentler resting poses. Students run the gamut from dance majors wanting to increase their range to the merely curious. Golde's goal is to nurture the growing demand for this athletic, emerging art. "I hope to teach this full time someday," she says. ❖

J. ADAM FENSTER



FEATURED TITLE

**The Festival:  
Photographs of the St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Arts & Crafts Festival**

Michael Osadciw (BA '93), photos by J. Adam Fenster

Osadciw, a longtime volunteer for the St. Joseph's Day festival in Rochester, N.Y., self-published this slim but gorgeous coffee table book as a labor of love for the local Ukrainian community. As he wrote to At Buffalo, "This book was something I've wanted to do for a few years now to show off all that goes into pulling off the festival and to focus on the volunteers who make it happen." (SSDC Inc., 2013)



**Nightstand**

**WHAT WE'RE READING**

Sarah Bay-Cheng, professor of theatre and dance

"The Technological Society," by Jacques Ellul

"For work and pleasure combined, I'm reading about past and relatively recent predictions regarding technology of the future. From the past, I'm reading Ellul's 1954 summary of predictions about the year 2000 by Cold War-era American and Russian scientists (as translated from the French by John Wilkinson in 1964). From the more recent past, I'm reading the Smithsonian magazine poll from April 2014 regarding Americans' ideas about which technologies will emerge and what they'd like to see. It's fascinating to consider how people's views of the future reflect their contemporary preoccupations and to see which of their predictions come true."

**Stopping the Road:  
The Campaign Against  
Another Trans-Sierra  
Highway**

Jack Fisher (BS '97, MD '62)

Fisher, professor emeritus of surgery at UC San Diego, references history, geology and local narratives as he relates his 50-year battle to stop the building of another road through the wilderness of the Sierra Nevada, the 400-mile mountain range that includes Lake Tahoe, Mount Whitney and the Yosemite Valley. (Sager Group, 2014)

**The Way to Winter**

Amy Aderman (MLS '11)

Aderman's self-published fantasy-adventure novel evokes the wintry worlds of "Narnia" and "The Snow Queen." The tale follows Gerda and her twin brother, Kai, who becomes corrupted by a sinister sliver of mirror glass. (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013)

**The Exceptional Nurse:  
Tales from the Trenches  
of Truly Resilient Nurses  
Working with Disabilities**

Donna Carol Maheady (MS '81)

This collection of true stories features nurses who overcame significant odds on the job as they dealt with their own physical and mental disabilities. Maheady also includes practical tips on how to navigate the vocational rehabilitation system. (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014)



**Calling alumni authors**

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

**Progressivism: A Primer  
on the Idea Destroying  
America**

James Ostrowski (BA '80)

Drawing on 45 years in politics, law and the Liberty Movement for his latest book, Ostrowski aims to expose the "hidden premises" of American progressivism—as well as its main opponent, conservatism—and show how both have led to destructive national policies that ignore "true liberalism." (Cazenovia Books, 2014)

**Modern Rome: 4 Great  
Walks for the Curious  
Traveler**

Dianne Bennett (JD '75) and William Graebner

Hungry to write more about the city they love, Bennett, a prominent Buffalo attorney, and Graebner, a widely published historian, follow up their 2009 travel guide "Rome the Second Time" with new itineraries, along with commentary that digs deep into four Roman neighborhoods. (Curious Traveler Press, 2013)



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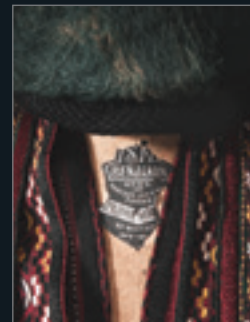
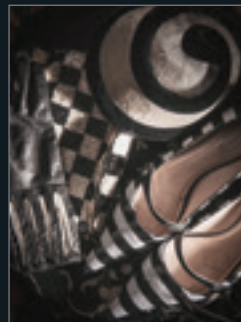
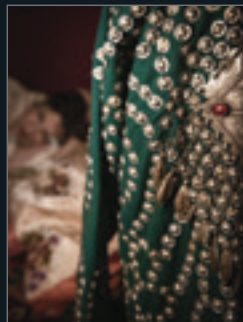


CULT STYLE ICON TZIPORAH SALAMON  
IS HER OWN GREATEST CREATION

## *A Singular Sensibility*

BY JENNIFER KITSSES    PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARTIN SCOTT POWELL

It's a casual day for Tziporah Salamon (BA '72): chic black-and-white striped Comme des Garçons top; vintage high-waisted black pants, tapered at the ankle; mismatched polka dot socks; vibrant red lips. It's her Pierrot look, she explains, and perfect for a winter evening spent in her Upper West Side apartment, walking a visitor through her seemingly endless collection of antique clothes. As she darts around the room, moving between towers of hatboxes—she owns more than 200 hats—and tossing intricately embroidered garments on a daybed, she pauses to look down at her ensemble. “One of my great looks,” she says. “The clown.” ¶ That confidence—and the care that she puts into each of her sartorial creations, some of which can take years to complete—has made Tziporah Salamon, “Tzippy” to her friends, a cult style icon. At 64, she appears regularly in Bill Cunningham’s *On the Street* column for *The New York Times* and in various street-style blogs, often with her turquoise Milano Bianchi bicycle, her primary means of getting around town. She has served as a muse for Diane von Furstenberg and Ralph Lauren, modeled for Lanvin and *Australian Vogue*, and co-starred in Ari Seth Cohen’s 2014 documentary “Advanced Style.” She also teaches a private seminar, *The Art of Dressing*, which she first offered at Parsons design school, and has a one-woman stage show that has been performed at the Dahe Museum of Art in New York and at the Rhode Island School of Design.



Yet all of this recognition came relatively late in life. To pay the rent over the years, Salamon has worked dozens of jobs, from restaurant hostess to hatcheck girl. “It doesn’t matter what I do,” she says, “because what I really do is dress.”

Taking the long view, it seems that Salamon is fulfilling her destiny. Her father was a tailor (he worked in the alterations department of Bergdorf Goodman for many years), her mother a seamstress. Hungarian Jews who survived the concentration camps and moved first to Israel, then to New York, they doted on their daughter and made all her clothes. “They would measure me while I was sleeping,” Salamon says. “I had a wardrobe fit for a queen.” When Salamon left Brooklyn to attend the University at Buffalo, she arrived with a bespoke collection of silk blouses and heavy wools.

Unfortunately, this was 1968, when students were taking over the administration building and boycotting classes. Salamon quickly found that her sense of style was out of synch with the political climate. “I would come to class all dolled up, and people would

say, ‘Where do you think you’re going?’” she recalls. Her roommate wore men’s clothes; Salamon, caving under pressure, experimented with dungarees. “But I still had my days of culottes and capes,” she notes. In some respects, her desire for a traditional education was also at odds with her classmates. “I was a good girl and really wanted to attend classes,” she says. “But that was very politically incorrect.” In the end, she took a limited part in the protests, while also managing to graduate with honors.

**W**ith her English degree and a secondary teaching credential, Salamon enrolled in the graduate program in English literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She later switched to education, but still found herself looking for something more. “It was another beautiful day, every day,” she says. “You need ugly to appreciate beauty.”

In the mid-’70s, “turned on” by Gestalt therapy, she enrolled in a PhD program in family and marital therapy in San Rafael, but soon learned, through her fieldwork, that she had too soft a heart to be a therapist. “I was seeing couples and families, and it would kill me to say, ‘Time’s up!’” she remembers. “So I would stay with them for hours.”

She then made a radical decision: She quit. And, for the first time, she didn’t know what to do next. “This was a big crisis in my life,” she says. But she did know she loved clothes; at least twice a week, she would go to the shops on Berkeley’s Telegraph Avenue, though she couldn’t afford to buy anything. Fortunately, her mother was still making her clothing. “I was an arty hippie,” she says. “I had the best Mexican peasant blouses, with the best embroidery.”

At 29, she returned to New York with hopes of entering the fashion industry. Held back by her inability to sew—her parents, who wanted a better life for their daughter, had never taught her—Salamon nonetheless took

a class at Parsons, only to leave in tears when she couldn’t operate a sewing machine. She had stints at vintage clothing boutiques and department stores. Though she was learning that she didn’t want to be a designer or buyer, she was acquiring a deep education in fashion and style.

Then she received a tremendous gift from a friend: a large collection of antique clothing that she had outgrown. “They were prime vintage,” Salamon says. “All killer pieces.” One night in November ’84, wearing a Yohji Yamamoto jumper, she happened to go to dinner at Jezebel, one of the city’s hottest restaurants at the time. It was her kind of place: piano shawls on the tables, beaded dresses hanging from the rafters. Salamon wandered into the kitchen and was spotted by the owner, who asked what she was wearing. Impressed by the answer, the owner shortly offered her a job as a waitress, with the stipulation that she wear her own clothes.

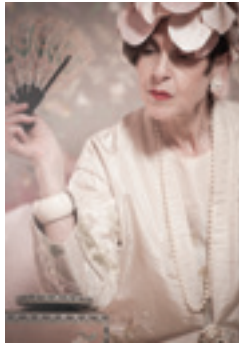
This and other odd jobs funded Salamon’s expanding wardrobe for the next 15 years. Every spare cent was funneled toward her collection. “I’d say, ‘Con Ed can wait; I have to have this,’” she recalls. She wouldn’t wear an outfit until she had acquired every necessary component—hat, jewelry, shoes—to make it perfect. Her dedication and enthusiasm won her discounts and credit. “The vendors at the antique clothing shows loved me,” she says. “They knew their pieces would be part of a work of art.”

But it wasn’t until 1999, when she attended a spiritual retreat taught by rabbis active in the Jewish Renewal movement, that her art took on a greater meaning. A rabbi praised Salamon for the creativity and energy that she put into her clothes. “I felt blessed for this gift that I had been ashamed of,” Salamon says. The experience changed the way she looked at herself. “It was a huge boost for me,” she says. “What I do—changing buttons, paying attention to every detail—it makes dressing holy. This is how I make the world a better place.”

On the cusp of 50, Tziporah Salamon had come into her own. “Instead of making myself *less*, I gave myself permission to be the peacock that I am,” she says. As an artist and teacher, she says, her criteria for a job “is to use my heart and wear my clothes.” This night, as she searches through those clothes, she locates her latest find, an Israeli coat bought in a thrift store in Chelsea. She studies it on the daybed. “I already have a hat with a black tassel,” she says, satisfied. That hat, of course, coordinates perfectly with the tassel on the coat. “And I already saw the right sandal. They’re Valentino, but I’ll have to get them.” As she admires the fabric, she seems, as she sometimes calls herself, like the luckiest girl in the world. ❖

*Jennifer Kitses is a freelance writer based in New York City.*





*“What I do **MAKES DRESSING HOLY.**  
This is how I make the world a better place.”*

*—Tziporah Salamon*

# A Painterly Ensemble

BY JENNIFER KITSSES PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN SCOTT POWELL

*In the 1970s, when Salamon was studying to be a therapist, she bought copies of several Matisse paintings in a shop on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. Perhaps not surprisingly for a woman who seems to have kept almost every item she's ever worn, those same reproductions hang on the wall of her apartment today. This ensemble was inspired by Matisse, whose paintings Salamon still "dives into" for inspiration and meaning. "He loved textiles as much as I do," she says.*

**Coat** Turkish, cotton. Late 1800s to early 1900s. "It's very Matisse," Salamon says. "I bought it for \$60, but the lining cost \$400." She bought the fabric for the lining at Mood Fabrics, New York's Garment District emporium. The coat was purchased in an antique store in Topanga, Calif.

**Pants** Rayon. "I had them made by a tailor when I was 42." (Yes, they still fit perfectly.) "Shadow stripes. I love shadow stripes."

**Hat** Likely made from an Indian fabric that was turned into a cloche, one of Salamon's favorite styles of hat. 1920s.

**Shawl** Silk. Approximately 15 years old. Dries Van Noten. "It was cream, but I dyed it black. I wear black a lot more than cream." A gift.

**Sandals** Silk satin. Prada. She bought them half-price for \$630 two years ago, and is still paying for them. "They're kind of like an ice-cream sandwich," she says, referring to the layer of built-in cushioning between the platforms that adds extra height. "They go with all of my Chinese and Japanese clothes."



**Earrings** Resin. 1930s. Purchased at a vintage show.

**Bracelet** Silver, gold and carnelian. Bought in Israel in the 1980s. "I had to pay my rent back home. It was \$407. I had the money, and I was going to the post office to convert it to a money order. Across the road from the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, I saw this bracelet in the window of an antique store. The shop owner wanted \$500. I said I had \$400 and gave it to him. So I didn't pay the rent that month."







★★★ THE ★★★  
**RING**  
**LEADERS**

*From humble beginnings,  
the UB Boxing Club emerges  
as a serious contender*



**I**f it weren't for boxing, Michael Christopher might be dead.

The sport transformed the life of this self-described punk teenager from suburban Buffalo who often settled disputes with his fists rather than words. Had that trend continued, he may well have ended up in prison, or worse. Instead, Christopher's story is one of overcoming the obstacles of a tough childhood to become a champion. And it's not yet finished.

Christopher is one of many athletes, past and present, whom UB Boxing Club trainer Dean Eoannou loves to talk about with anyone willing to listen. Like Christopher, the club itself has come a long way over the past decade. As it celebrates its 10th anniversary of official competition this year, it boasts several fighters, Christopher included, who are poised to thrust UB into the national spotlight with the force of a Sonny Liston jab. Their stories are remarkable, and, for the most part, they haven't been told.

**STORY BY DAVID J. HILL**  
**PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS LEVERE**

Carrie Acosta  
1<sup>st</sup> round tko.  
3/24/06 Irving, NJ  
Carrie Acosta  
won decision  
4/7/06 Syracuse



### ★ THE CLUB ★

**T**he UB Boxing Club is housed in Clark Hall on the South Campus. From the dingy basement of this nearly 80-year-old building, champions arise—more than 30 so far, and counting.

In 2002 Chris Colt (EdM '06, BA '04) contacted Ed Michael, the legendary wrestling coach who was then director of recreation and intramurals, about establishing a boxing club at UB. Someone suggested that Colt reach out to Eoannou, a well-known amateur trainer in the area, to coach. Eoannou was so intrigued by the proposition, he retired from his job as a production manager at Ford Motor Company's Buffalo stamping plant to helm the new club.

Early on, the club had little equipment—a hodgepodge of punching bags, weights and medicine balls that Eoannou and club members bought or brought in. Fundraisers helped pay for additional materials, including a boxing ring they set up in an old racquetball court down the hall from the training room.

According to Eoannou, it takes 18 months to two years to get a new club going. You can't just put two inexperienced boxers in the ring and let them swing away. "They'll kill each other," he says. During the club's infancy, Eoannou worked to build up a system in which the more experienced fighters help train the less knowledgeable ones.

In 2005, Heanyi Bob-Nwachukwu (BS '05), who had boxed previously, broke new ground for the club, traveling with Eoannou to Kentucky for a bout with a member of the U.S. Naval Academy, which had one of the best college programs at the time.

Thinking it would be an easy fight, Bob-Nwachukwu's opponent didn't bother warming up. "Heanyi beat the crap out of the kid—two eight counts in the first round," Eoannou recalls. He laughs now, but the coach didn't find the lack of respect funny then. "Nobody took us serious. Nobody thought we were going to stick around," he says. "Well, 10 years later we're still banging, and we've got 31 champions. It's pretty impressive to see how far we've come."

### ★ THE COACH ★

Eoannou learned the sport the hard way. As an 18-year-old in the early 1970s, he heard a radio ad promoting the Golden Gloves, a nationwide amateur tournament. It piqued his interest, so he headed to Singer's Gym in Buffalo, whose owner, the late Johnny Sudac, trained some of the city's finest fighters. There, Eoannou spotted Al Quinney sparring in the ring and demanded that Sudac let him take on the pro fighter from Lackawanna, N.Y. "I thought I was the toughest guy on the planet," Eoannou recalls.

Sudac wouldn't allow it, but Eoannou persisted. He got his chance, and Quinney walloped him. "I missed two punches by a mile. Finally, Al looks at me and says, 'This one's on your nose, tiger.' BAM! He breaks my nose," Eoannou says, laughing. "My face was a mess. And that's when I decided I wanted to learn how to box."

Eoannou learned several different styles at Singer's, which he says helped him later on when he began training other fighters. Eoannou himself never had any official bouts. He went on to earn a teaching degree from Cornell University, then worked at the Ford plant and continued to train boxers in his spare time.

Then came the call from Colt. "I retired at 53 just to do this," says Eoannou, now 61, who also teaches a one-credit course in boxing at UB and co-authored an e-book ("Boxing: Essential Skills") with Eugene Kern, a world-renowned otolaryngologist who taught at UB. "This is the most rewarding thing I've ever done. This is my passion, to watch these kids go through this program and come out as different people."



DEAN EOANNOU, CLUB TRAINER

## ★ QUICK ★ JABS

**ONE:** While there is a college boxing circuit, UB's fighters instead compete in higher level amateur bouts, such as the Golden Gloves. Muhammad Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard and Mike Tyson all won Golden Gloves championships before turning pro.

**TWO:** Also unique to college clubs, the UB Boxing Club is open to the public and caters to all skill levels, even children. Each semester, between 30 and 50 people sign up, some looking to get in shape, others to learn self-defense. Only a handful go on to fight.





**“Once I got back  
into boxing,  
everything just  
fell into place”**

**—MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER**



### ★ THE STREET FIGHTER ★

Christopher, the former street fighter, is one such kid. “It was a mixture of anger, fun and the people surrounding me,” he explains, pointing out that most times, he was not the instigator. “I still have scars from fights that started with throwing rocks as a kid. I remember knocking a kid out cold with a left hook once when he tried pulling a knife on me.”

Christopher grew up in Kenmore, a suburb of Buffalo. When he was 13, he watched the “Rocky” films, which sparked an interest in boxing. His parents signed him up to train with Eoannou, but he quit after about a year and a half. When he was 16 his family moved farther out to Wheatfield, and that’s when the trouble really began. He was still getting into fights. He crashed a friend’s car while driving without a license. He dropped out of high school. “I just never liked getting up in the morning because I would be up too late the night before,” he says.

By chance, he reconnected with Eoannou at 18 when he moved into an apartment with his girlfriend at the time; the place happened to be owned by Eoannou’s sister. “Once I got back into boxing, everything just fell into place,” Christopher says. “Boxing made me a more disciplined person.”

At 19, he obtained his GED so he could attend Erie Community College. After receiving his associate degree, he enrolled in ECC’s School of Dental Hygiene, where he was awarded a scholarship for students who “beat the odds.” He graduated with a second associate degree last May—as class president and a recipient of a prestigious SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence. He gave the commencement speech. Eoannou was there. “Dean’s like a father to me. Nobody, including my own parents, believes in me more than he does.”

Now 24, Christopher works full time with the Western New York Dental Group. In the fall, he’ll enroll at UB for a bachelor’s degree in science. Before that, he’s hoping to add a third New York State Golden Gloves title to his resume.

And when he’s done with his own boxing career, he hopes to develop a program to expose other troubled kids to the sport that saved his life.



**“I feel like it was fate that I came to Buffalo, to train with Dean and this club.”**

**—“TIMI” AKEREDOLU**



OLUWATIMILEHIN “TIMI” AKEREDOLU

### ★ THE TRAVELER ★

Oluwatimilehin “Timi” Akeredolu’s parents moved to Brooklyn from Nigeria when he was a young boy. Once they had settled into their new life in the States, Akeredolu (BS ’14) made the journey himself, at the age of 12. Six years later, in 2010, he chose UB for college, specifically for its business and economics program. “My plan was to work for a Fortune 500 company as a financial analyst.”

Then, as a sophomore, Akeredolu heard some friends talking about the UB Boxing Club. He decided to check it out, and ended up discovering his true passion. “To this day, I feel like it was fate that I came to Buffalo, to train with Dean and this club,” says Akeredolu, who became a Golden Gloves champion in 2014. “Boxing changed my long-term plans from wanting to work 9 to 5 to becoming a professional boxer.”

Given his meteoric rise, it’s tempting to call Akeredolu a natural—tempting, but wrong. “What we’re teaching is totally unnatural,” Eoannou explains. “If two people were fighting naturally, they’d square up. That’s the kiss of death in a real fight, because you’ve got no base. You can’t transfer weight. There are boxers that are naturally tough or fast, but I’ve never seen a natural boxer.”

Boxing demands hard work and commitment. That’s why the sport so often transforms nearly every facet of a person’s life. As Akeredolu says, “My lifestyle changed. I changed my eating habits to maintain my weight. I don’t drink anymore. I can balance my time better.”

At press time, Akeredolu was training with Christopher for the national Golden Gloves in Las Vegas. If he wins, he hopes to qualify for the U.S. Olympic team for the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. And then he wants to turn pro.

Of course, he’ll need a lot of help along the way. Most people think of boxing as an individual sport, but all fighters have a whole team in their corner. Coaches and club mates become more like surrogate dads and siblings. That’s definitely how it is with the UB Boxing Club.

“Everybody supports each other here,” says Akeredolu, who looks up to both Eoannou and assistant trainer Billy Copeland as father figures. In fact Copeland, who had his own successful amateur career in the 1950s and ’60s, used to drive Akeredolu to practice each day.

## ★ THE COMEBACK KID ★

As far as Wendy Casey (BA '08) was concerned, her boxing career was over. Her last fight was May 17, 2008, when she defeated Ashley Barnett, a former national champion. Afterward, Casey decided to hang up the gloves and focus on her teaching career. But early last year she got a call from Eoannou asking her to help him train a promising young fighter named Hannah Krueger. She agreed—and soon found herself back in the ring.

After working with Krueger one night last spring, Casey, at Eoannou's urging, sparred with Akeredolu. Despite the 30-plus-pound weight difference, she nearly broke his nose. "She lit Timi up, and I said, 'That's it, you're fighting again!'" Eoannou recalls.

Casey began training hard last summer and says she's ready to take another shot at boxing's best. "I'm back to where I was. My style's a little different, but I still have the same general mauling-bear fight that I used to," she says. "I've always thought of myself as a bear: I like to eat, sleep and fight."

Casey, who teaches math in the Buffalo Public Schools, is still working with Krueger, a junior political science major at UB, and also with Kristen McMurtree, a club member who attends D'Youville College. But she's laser focused on her own career. She aims to win a title at the Women's National Golden Gloves tournament in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in July, and to earn a spot on the 2016 U.S. Olympic roster. ♣

*David J. Hill is a section editor for At Buffalo.*

## TRAINING ★ WITH THE ★ BEST

**Not many amateur fighters can say they've sparred with one of the world's best boxers. Michael Christopher can. He stepped into the ring with Puerto Rico's Orlando Cruz in the summer of 2013 when Cruz was training in Buffalo for his HBO-televvised world title fight in October of that year (he lost). UB coach Dean Eoannou is friends with Cruz's longtime trainer, Juan DeLeon, who at the time was based out of the Northwest Buffalo Community Health Care Center. "[DeLeon] brought him here to spar with one of our guys, which says a lot about our club," Eoannou says proudly.**



WENDY CASEY (BA '08) AND HANNAH KRUEGER



KRISTEN MCMURTREE



# GREEN MENACE

TOXIC ALGAE  
OUTBREAKS ARE  
WREAKING HAVOC  
ON LAKE ERIE,  
SENDING SCIENTISTS  
SEARCHING  
FOR A FIX

Algae bloom in Lake Erie, September 2011.



BY DANIEL ROBISON

It was summer in Toledo, and Lake Erie was pea green with a type of algae so toxic it could kill a dog. This was not unusual.

In fact, nearly every summer thick mats of toxic algae—known as harmful algal blooms (HABs)—emerge in the lake near Toledo. Winds tend to blow the blooms east toward deeper waters, breaking them apart and keeping the microscopic organisms confined to the lake.

But in August 2014, something unusual happened: Strong northern winds pinned a bloom against the shore—and in direct contact with intakes for the city's water supply, which serves nearly a half-million people. Neurotoxins released by the algae entered offshore water intakes in such high levels that normal treatment processes failed to remove them below one part per billion, the cutoff at which the World Health Organization deems water unsafe.

Concerned that the toxin could end up in faucets and fountains in and around the Toledo metropolitan area, officials put out the call: Don't drink or cook with the water. Doing so, people learned, could lead to vomiting and diarrhea, skin irritation, even liver damage. Boiling the water wouldn't help, and could make it more toxic. Soon the National Guard was unloading bottled water from the back of trucks to the thirsty and frustrated, thousands of whom crossed state lines in a desperate bid to stock up,

clearing shelves in stores up to 50 miles away.

“For the people of Toledo, this was a call to arms,” says Helen Domske (MS ’85), associate director of UB’s Great Lakes Program, which educates the public and policymakers about the lakes’ ecosystem.

Many strains of algae are beneficial to lakes, forming the base of intricate food webs. Other strains are harmful and can severely disrupt habitat, wildlife populations and the balance of ecosystems. Summer conditions in Lake Erie have become the perfect setting for a particularly toxic strain, known as *Microcystis*, to thrive and form blooms so large they’re visible from space.

Toxic algae in Lake Erie are particularly acute in the western basin around Toledo—where the waters are shallow, staid and pumped full of outside nutrients, primarily phosphorous and nitrogen, that help algae grow—but they are an increasing problem in inland lakes around the country and throughout the world. Their presence is largely a result of human activity: increasing fertilizer runoff from agriculture and raw sewage from wastewater plants, compounded by climate change.

Moreover, the impact of toxic algae blooms goes beyond the risk of a tainted water supply. Even when the water running from our taps is clean, toxic algae in the lake are outmuscling strains of good algae and expanding dead zones that affect fish populations and habitats. Algae also can wash up on public beaches and harbor the growth of salmonella and *E. coli*.

The threat is real, and multifaceted, and likely to worsen without significant changes to human habits.

## History on repeat

“Lake Erie is dead” was a common phrase in the 1960s, when algae blooms contributed to a severe disruption of the lake’s ecosystem. In response, the U.S. spent \$8 billion over the next two decades to improve wastewater treatment, and state and local laws reduced phosphates in laundry detergents; these steps significantly reduced levels of the minerals that fed toxic algae growth in the lake.



Satellite image shows an algae bloom in Lake Erie, 2011.

Lake Erie’s health noticeably improved: Wildlife returned, algae blooms became manageable or disappeared altogether, and recreation in the region, which had all but died in the 1960s, flourished into a multimillion-dollar industry by the ’90s. Lake Erie’s comeback was celebrated as one of the largest environmental cleanups ever seen and became a case study in reversing human-driven damage, says Joe Atkinson, a professor of environmental engineering at UB, and director of the Great Lakes Program. “Now,” he says, “the situation is trending the other way again.”

This time around, the brunt of the blame for oversized algae blooms is largely directed at farmers, who, in a chase for higher yields, have been accused of overloading their fields with fertilizers, such as manure, that naturally contain phosphorous and nitrogen. Farmers were not affected by state and local

laws to reduce phosphates in common products, and they face few limits to the amount of fertilizer they can apply to their fields.

“It’s human nature,” says Domske. “We think: If one scoop is good, then two scoops must be better. That’s not necessarily so with fertilizer.”

To be fair, it’s not all the farmers’ fault. Other factors, which were not in play in the ’60s, are making our current toxic algae problem more complex—and more severe. One, says Atkinson, is climate change, which, in addition to trapping more heat in the lake (helping algae to grow), is causing more intense and frequent rains in northern Ohio. Heavy downpours pick up fertilizers from farms, lawns and golf courses and dump them into rivers; rivers discharge this runoff into the lake.

Meanwhile, surges of water from large storms periodically overwhelm smaller wastewater treatment

Not all algae are a menace

## The Good Guys



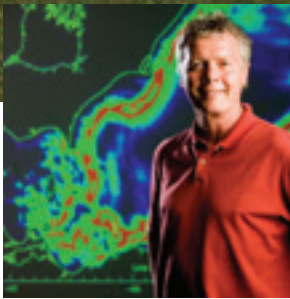
Environmental engineering PhD student Luke Scannell.





DOUGLAS LEVINE

Helen Domske, associate director of UB's Great Lakes Program.



Environmental engineering professor Joe Atkinson.

NASA/EARTH OBSERVATORY

plants, allowing untreated sewage to flow directly into the lake. Like fertilizer, urine and solid waste naturally contain phosphorous and nitrogen, providing a ready-made food supply for algae.

Muddying the waters even further are invasive species. Domske has been diving in Lake Erie for decades. Where plants and sand used to be, she now sees thick clumps of zebra and quagga mussels—invaders that were introduced to the lake in the late 1980s and mid-1990s, respectively. She has seen firsthand how these unwelcome critters aid algae blooms and threaten biodiversity.

Specifically, the mussels filter nutrients, use up

oxygen and expel phosphorus as waste, increasing concentrations near the lakeshore where toxic algae thrive—and where water enters the public supply. Mussels also reject toxic algae as food, feasting instead on beneficial algae—removing competition to harmful algae for nutrients—and upsetting the base of the food chain.

### The way forward

Last fall, the EPA announced a billion-dollar strategy, called the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Action Plan II. A holistic approach to improve the health of the entire Great Lakes system, the plan is funding state and local entities to clean 10 of the most polluted rivers and harbors in the system, restore habitat to protect native species, and encourage certain plant species to thrive in wetland

attempt to forecast weather conditions and prevent unnecessary runoff from entering waterways to begin with. “If we can better predict weather patterns to anticipate heavy rains, then it may be possible to convince farmers to apply fertilizers on different schedules,” he says. “Fertilizers absorbed by soil won’t be in our waters giving algae a free meal.”

In late 2014, the Ohio legislature considered the nation’s first ban on the application of fertilizer under conditions that could impact runoff: recent precipitation, when the ground is frozen, or when forecasts call for a half-inch or more of rain or snow. Though the measure was defeated, its supporters pledge to resurrect the bill in 2015.

On the wastewater side, UB chemistry professor Diana Aga also is looking to head off a problem at its source—in this case, by cutting down the amount of nitrogen waste heading to treatment facilities. Using

areas now warmer because of climate change.

It’s the sequel to a 2010 plan that has spent \$1.2 billion so far on more than 2,000 projects to restore coastlines, clean toxic areas and improve water quality. The new plan also establishes more holding tanks for the improvement of sewage treatment.

In the meantime, researchers at UB and elsewhere are doing their part to find solutions.

Atkinson is studying the movement and mixture of water in Lake Erie’s basins in an

**While toxic algae** threaten Lake Erie’s ecosystem and the public’s water supply, UB students are finding that some algae strains can be put to good use: as a source of sustainable biofuel, for example, or to aid in the cleanup of wastewater from the natural gas-extraction process known as hydrofracking.

Some algae strains produce lipids, or oils, that can be processed into gas, diesel or jet fuel. “The technology has been proven. We want to make it more cost effective on a larger scale,” says environmental engineering master’s student Mohsen Ghafari, who—finishing a study begun under former assistant professor of environmental engineering Berat Haznedaroglu—is looking at the effects of adding different nutrient concentrations to water where algae live to improve lipid production. The more lipids, the more potential for efficient biofuel production, he explains.

Meanwhile, Luke Scannell, an environmental engineering PhD student who also began his research under Haznedaroglu, is working with strains of algae to remediate wastewater from hydrofracking, which generates significant amounts of contaminated water that is difficult to treat. Several algal species are capable of removing metals and some carcinogenic substances from wastewater through natural processes.

In tests at UB, six species showed promise in purifying wastewater ponds that collect near gas wells. Using algae as a form of pretreatment for wastewater can reduce the costs and the amount of treatment needed for water to be reused.

“Creating a financial incentive never hurts to pave the way for technology that’s environmentally positive,” says Scannell.

funding from the EPA, she is helping to develop technology that treats human urine at the household level, diverting it from treatment plants and using it to fertilize crop fields.

“Urine separation at the source reduces the cost of treatment and the amount of nutrients that goes into the receiving surface waters,” says Aga, who also serves as a project leader of a seed grant from RE-NEW (Research and Education in eNergy, Environment and Water), a new interdisciplinary research institute at UB that was formed to address complex and urgent environmental issues.

Minimizing the flow of nutrients into the lakes from fertilizer and wastewater would not only reduce algae blooms, but also help alleviate some of their scarier side effects, like dead zones in the water and heightened bacteria levels on land.

When algae are allowed to thrive, decaying clumps from blooms wash up on beaches. According to a 2014 study co-authored by UB engineering master’s students Aubrey Beckinghausen and Alexia Martinez, these clumps shelter dangerous bacteria, like *E. coli* and salmonella, which are particularly threatening to children and the elderly. Dozens of Lake Erie beaches have posted warnings or have closed down to swimmers in recent years because of high levels of bacteria and toxins.

Dying algae that don’t wash ashore drift to the bottom of the lake, creating dead zones. Bacteria and fungi decompose the dead algae, consuming enor-



Chemistry professor Diana Aga

mous amounts of oxygen in the process; lack of oxygen means bottom-dwelling fish and other wildlife cannot survive. While dead zones shift in location and size from year to year, they have been known to stretch across the central basin—Lake Erie’s largest area. Some years have seen severe reductions or shifts in habitat and wildlife that populate the lake’s cold bottom layer, upsetting the balance of the ecosystem throughout the lake, says Domske.

Dire as all this sounds, researchers are optimistic about the lakes’ future. “Natural lake processes can deal with many of these issues,” says Atkinson. “We just need to ease the pressure.”

This is especially true in Lake Erie, which holds

the least volume of all the Great Lakes and can flush out completely in about 2.6 years. In contrast, Lake Michigan has a retention time of 99 years, while Lake Superior’s is 191 years.

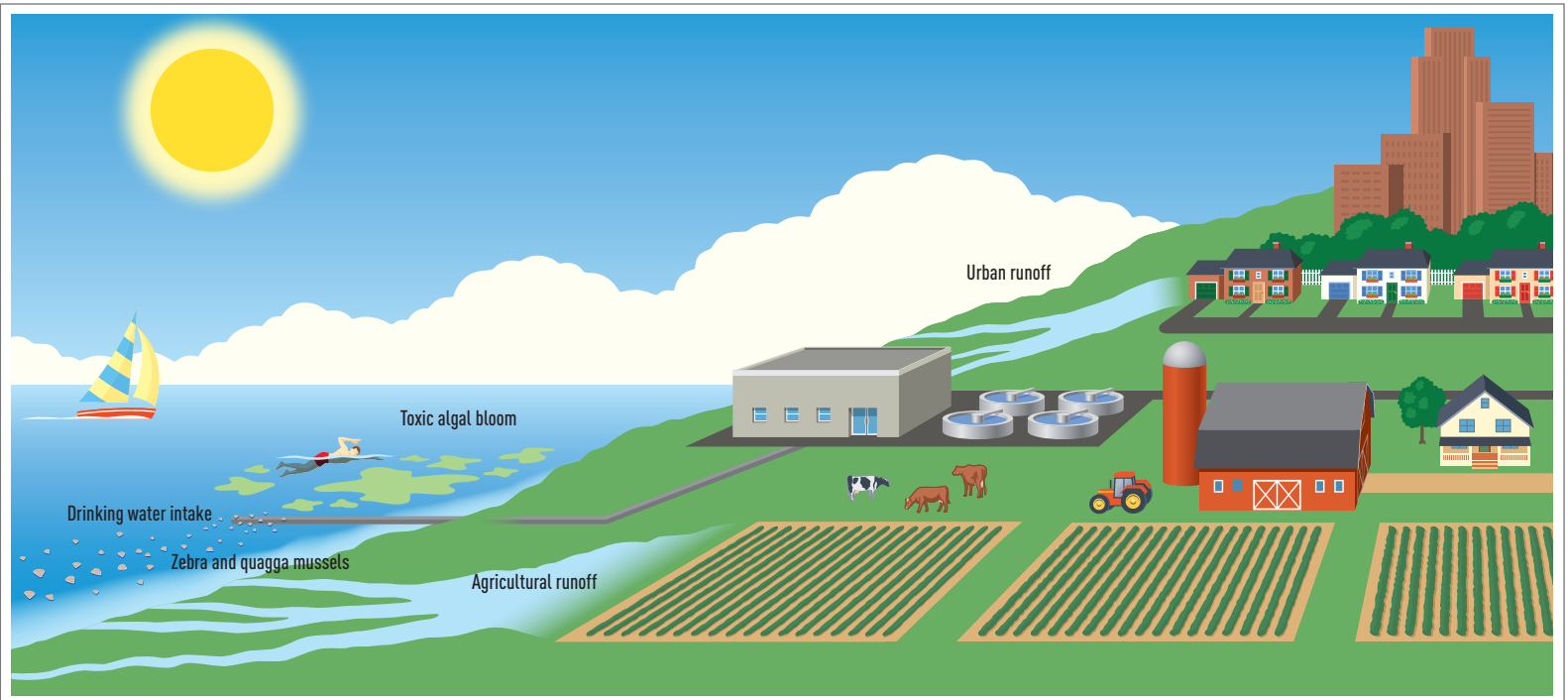
“Since water is replenished frequently in Lake Erie, remediation efforts can be accomplished quicker,” says Domske. However, she adds, some of the newer problems facing the lakes are not reversible, like zebra mussels. “Killing [them] is not practical; each female can lay a million eggs. We are adapting to

a new reality.”

And who might that “we” include? Approximately 37 million people live in the Great Lakes basin. More than 26 million rely on the lakes for drinking water. It begs the question: Could what happened in Toledo last summer happen in Buffalo? Chicago?

Given the colder, deeper waters near those cities, says Domske, it’s not likely—but not impossible. “Ultimately, it could depend on what we do next in the coming years,” she warns. “Continue down the same path, or make changes.” ♣

*Cleveland-based writer Daniel Robison has written for media outlets such as NPR and The Oregonian.*



## Factors influencing the growth of harmful algal blooms (HABs)

Most harmful algal blooms (HABs) flourish when elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorous are present. Urban and agricultural run-off as well as overflow from septic systems and other sources of wastewater drain into shallow, stagnant water, creating an environment for toxic algae to thrive. Zebra and quagga mussels selectively feed and filter out other algae, which further enables HABs to flourish.



# Alumni Life

- » Designing woman
- » Rubbing elbows with art
- » When big hair attacked



The Johnson Nkosi HIV/AIDS Orphan Primary School in Mpoma, Uganda, is a grass-roots project organized by seven village women. Goshin provided a nurse, a dispensary, bed nets, safe water, latrines, athletic fields and all expenses for some of the kids, including those in this photo.

## On a Mission

For the unstoppable Arthur Goshin, retirement is but a launchpad for his next big ideas

By Julie Wesolowski » When Arthur R. Goshin (MD '70, BS '66) was 13, he decided he wanted to be a doctor. "I believe it was a combination of the book 'The Microbe Hunters' and the life of Albert Schweitzer [a noted medical missionary] that motivated me," he says. "I had no family members involved in health care. My life image then was that I would be a clinician in some isolated global setting."

But the year before starting med school, Goshin got a job working for the Commonwealth Service

Corps in Springfield, Mass. There, while doing follow-ups on the health of 400 families relocated out of slum housing, he learned the basics of applied community-based public health. "Visiting with these families was a critical revelation for me," he says—and one that changed the course of his life.

After completing his medical degree, Goshin became assistant health commissioner for Erie County, where he developed three clinics in underserved Buffalo communities. While serving in this role, he also managed to obtain a degree in public health from the University of Michigan and, having become interested in the then-relatively new concept of HMOs, to secure a federal grant that helped him start Univera Healthcare. After 27 years as president and CEO of what would ultimately

become a giant health care and health insurance program serving more than a half-million members in New York State, he retired in 2003.

Most people, following such a busy and successful career, might tend to focus on hobbies and family (Goshin, who lives with his wife of 48 years, has two sons and three grandchildren). Not Goshin. "I knew that I was intending to shape my third career," he says. "I felt there was additional meaningful work that I needed to accomplish to fulfill my personal sense of social obligation."

Goshin describes his "third career" as a three-fold enterprise, composed of global work, academic initiatives and community-based foundations. Shortly after retirement, he became a board trustee for Freedom from Hunger, a global nonprofit organization that focuses on self-help services for women, the primary caretakers of children, to fight chronic hunger and poverty. He

then started an affiliate program in Uganda and, a year later, helped secure a \$6 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to assist Freedom from Hunger projects in India, Bolivia, Benin, Burkina Faso and the Philippines.

In 2006 Goshin created his own organization, HealthyWorld Foundation, to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in India and Uganda lead healthier lives. He personally provides all the funding for projects ranging from establishing clinics to running programs for disabled children, implementing cancer screening initiatives and more. He has also supported urgently needed interventions

for cholera outbreaks and projects for dealing with local impacts of environmental hazards.

Meanwhile, he continues to be active as a clinical professor in the School of Public Health and Health Professions, and is an adjunct professor of oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

“I knew that I was intending to shape my third career...I felt there was additional meaningful work that I needed to accomplish to fulfill my personal sense of social obligation.”

**Arthur Goshin**

In 2011, Goshin founded UB’s Office of Global Health Initiatives, which serves as a connector between students interested in developing careers in global health and UB faculty doing related research in the field.

Goshin also became the trustee of two community not-for-profit entities, the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York (HFWCNY), a \$100-million foundation that works to improve health care outcomes in vulnerable communities in upstate New York; and Metropolitan Jewish Health System, a New York City-based geriatric care organization and foundation, where he now serves as the parent organization’s board chair.

These days, Goshin divides his time between Santa Fe, N.M. (where HealthyWorld is based) and New York, spending about one month a year in Uganda and India, and making periodic visits to Buffalo to check in at UB and HFWCNY. When he’s not addressing the needs of others, he can be found writing poetry; he has completed a book of poetry a year since turning 60, and is currently working on his ninth book. ❖



Linsey Graff with fifth-graders at Buffalo Public School 33.

YOUNG BULL

DOUGLAS LEVENE

# Building a bright career

**A passion for design and community drives an aspiring architect**

By Devon Karn >> One thing Linsey Graff (MArch '10) learned while studying interior design at the University of New Haven is that she did not want to be an interior designer. She thought there must be a more meaningful way to use her artistic skills than decorating rooms for prosperous clients. She considered becoming an art teacher, or perhaps an architect.

When the Niagara Falls, N.Y., native came back home to pursue a master’s degree in architecture and design at UB, she found herself in a position to do both through the Buffalo Architecture Foundation’s Architecture + Education (A+E) program. Established in 2007, A+E sends architecture students and professionals into the Buffalo Public Schools to enrich standard curricula with hands-on learning activities through the lens of architecture and design. For example, Graff, who has maintained her involvement with the program since graduating from UB, will help students design and build an 8-foot-tall Greek temple this spring as a way to learn about mathematical concepts along with Greek history and culture.

Getting involved with A+E, Graff believes, was one of the most important parts of her Buffalo education. “UB understands that you can’t do this job well when you don’t know what real people are like,”

she explains. “They really encourage every student to get out into the community instead of just sitting in the bubble of the classroom.”

Her passion for community outreach and education won Graff, now 30, the 2014 American Institute of Architects New York State (AIANYS) Intern-Associate Award, and earned her the role of chairperson of the A+E program and vice president of the Buffalo Architecture Foundation. Graff has since helped raise enough money to extend programming to community centers on Buffalo’s East and West sides, and to offer architecture tours designed for children and families.

A self-described architectural activist, Graff also serves on the American Institute of Architects’ national diversity committee and frequently gives talks around Western New York about how the profession can attract more women, people of color and people with disabilities. Additionally, she holds a full-time position as an architectural planner with the University at Buffalo’s Capital Planning Group.

What’s perhaps most remarkable about Graff: She has yet to earn her architect’s license. “I still have seven exams to go,” she says. “Sometimes becoming an architect feels like its own full-time job, but it’s absolutely worth it.” ❖

**Tell us your stories, young alumni!** >> Are you a UB grad age 30 or under? Have a compelling story or accomplishment to share? Send a brief email to [youngbulls@buffalo.edu](mailto:youngbulls@buffalo.edu).

THE YEAR THAT WAS...

84



**They've Got "The Look"** Nothing says the '80s like legwarmers—and jelly bracelets, shoulder pads, parachute pants, jean jackets and neon everything. Preppies sport penny loafers and wear their polos with collars up. So rad, so bad!



**UB Milestones**

- » The first Oozefest is held in April by the Student Alumni Board. (By 2004, it is known as one of the largest collegiate mud volleyball tournaments in the United States, involving more than 1,000 players and volunteers.)
- » UB is awarded the contract for the first MBA program to be offered in China.

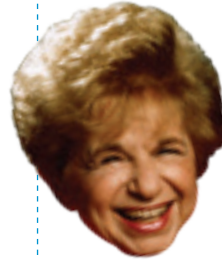


**Cost of Doing Business**

- » A photocopy in Baldy Hall: \$.08
- » A copy of the 1984 Buffaloan yearbook: \$15 (pricey!)
- » A Big Gulp at 7-Eleven: \$.49

**Seen and Heard**

- » Present-day social media maven George Takei visits UB with fellow Trekkie Walter Koenig, who played Chekov.
- » Sex therapist "Dr. Ruth" Westheimer answers students' pressing questions during a campus lecture in February.
- » Campus Gumby Festival features Gumby's creator, Art Clokey.



**World News**

- » AT&T Bell Labs splits following a federal antitrust ruling.
- » NASA launches the Challenger, its 10th space shuttle mission.
- » U.S. President Ronald Reagan calls for a global ban on chemical weapons.

**Sports and Entertainment**

- » "Terms of Endearment" wins the Oscar for Best Picture.
- » The Soviet Union leads 14 countries boycotting the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.
- » The Boston Celtics beat the Los Angeles Lakers in a legendary seven-game NBA championship.



**Rocking the Casbah**

Last fall, rare photos of the Clash's final North American tour were uncovered by UB archivists, showing the seminal punk band's performance in Alumni Arena on April 28, 1984. Also found: pics of The Police's 1980 tour with XTC, along with shots of the Talking Heads, Peter Gabriel, the B-52s and other acts, as part of the UB Libraries' Special Collections exhibit "Prominent Visitors."

**Other music makers who visited campus in 1984:**

- » Black Uhuru
- » Dizzy Gillespie (with Steve Landesberg)
- » Cindy Lauper (Fall Fest)
- » Graham Parker (with DFX-2)
- » Stevie Ray Vaughan (Fall Fest)



DAVID S. OTTAWO, BA '85



## ROCHESTER CHAPTER

### Fun in the Flower City

“Meet me by the mannequins and the champagne tower.” It’s a sentence one might overhear at ArtisanWorks, a funky nonprofit arts incubator/event space in Rochester, N.Y., that claims a whopping 500,000 items in its eclectic collection. Last fall, UB alumni happily mingled in one of the many themed rooms with UB President Satish K. Tripathi and chapter president Matthew Prock (BS, BA ’11). An official Victor E. Bull bobblehead also showed up, and made the ideal icebreaker and selfie-generator.

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

## EVENTS

### Carol's Spring Picks

A selection of campus events, open to all alumni

#### April

##### Russian National Ballet Theatre in “Sleeping Beauty”

04.15.15

North Campus

##### All-Alumni Celebration in D.C.

04.21.15

Smithsonian Castle

##### Volunteer Leadership Summit

04.30.15-05.01.15

North Campus

#### May

##### Oozefest

05.10.15

North Campus

##### University Commencement

05.17.15

North Campus



#### June

##### Rochester Chapter: A Celebration of Achievement

06.04.15

Casa Larga Vineyards

Fairport, N.Y.

##### All-Alumni Celebration in NYC

06.18.15

Madison Square Garden



Carol says:

“East Coasters, don’t miss our fun venues in Washington, D.C., and New York City!”

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

# Class Notes

- » How to go solar
- » Battling Internet addiction
- » Super Lawyers galore



GARY COLLINS, BA '88

MIKE A. ROSS

By Robert L. Kaiser » Heading into the big game, basketball coach Gary Collins' Portland, Conn., Highlanders were undefeated.

A perfect record only made them a prime target, though, especially to this opponent: archrival Valley Regional. Amped by the prospect of saddling the Highlanders with their only loss, the Warriors came out playing like it was the seventh game of the NBA Finals. Nevermind that the average height of the players was about 4 feet 6 inches.

## Going for Broke

For Gary Collins, every moment counts—some more than others

This fourth-grade matchup is no mere basketball game, ever. Portland's a predominantly working-class community; Valley is mostly affluent. "That always adds an undertone to the game," says Collins (BA '88). But this installment of the rivalry figured to be even more ferocious than most.

Collins, a lawyer, political activist and writer whose 20-year legal career includes a stint as an assistant U.S. attorney under

Eric Holder, is no stranger to heated contests. In the early aughts he made a run for Congress (it was thwarted by redistricting). And as an undergrad at UB, he quarterbacked the football team.

As challenges go, however, Collins' latest might be his greatest: He's switching careers, from law to literature. In 2014 he published his first book, "The Last Election: A Novel of Politics," the story of a reluctant politician who runs for office because he believes elected officials can help people if they can tolerate the scandals and corruption long enough.

Collins still takes pro bono cases. And he runs the country's oldest civil rights agency, the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. But his dream right now is to be a successful novelist.

Rising every morning at 4, Collins works out and then hunkers down at his computer keyboard. Here, amid myriad photos of his wife, Amy, and their two boys, 9-year-old Harrison and 12-year-old Grant (named for Ulysses), Collins finds the psychic space to write. "There's a stillness and a serenity I just really like about the early morning hours," he says.

CONTINUED

“The Last Election” was inspired by Collins’ father’s experience as a young man seeking a career. In his early 20s and recently discharged from the Air Force, Huwelett B. Collins was driving a cab because he couldn’t find work as an airplane mechanic. Then one June day in 1963 he picked up a fare that changed his life—and not only his but also those of his children, and of their children yet unborn.

A man named Hobart Taylor Jr. climbed into Collins’ cab outside the U.S. Capitol, requested to go to the White House and, settling in for the ride, asked the cabbie his story. Invited to vent, Huwelett Collins did—all the way down Pennsylvania Avenue.

He loved his country. He’d served in the Air Force. But he couldn’t find a job in his field. There were jobs to be had, but every interview ended abruptly when prospective employers discovered the color of Huwelett Collins’ skin.

Taylor, recently appointed by John F. Kennedy as executive vice chair of the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, gave Collins his card. “Come to my office on your day off,” he said. Collins did, and ended up getting hired as a mechanic at Grumman Aircraft Engineering on Long Island.

The Grumman job effectively rerouted the fortunes of the Collins family for generations, charting the sort of middle-class course through life that affords more choices and greater opportunities. Without it, the cycle of poverty that had constrained the Collins family since the days of the Civil War may not have been easily, if ever, broken.

Though coaching affords the opposite sensory experience of writing—a gym full of fourth-graders and their parents is far from serene—this, too, Collins likes. And he’s pretty good at it.

In the Valley game, though, he messed up.

By the third quarter Portland had built a 14-point lead, primarily on the narrow, bony shoulders of No. 1—Gary’s son Harrison. But the lead quickly evaporated after Gary instructed his charges to slow the game down to protect their advantage.

With two minutes left, Portland’s lead down to one point and the place going nuts, Gary Collins signaled for a timeout. His decision to slow down was costing the Highlanders this game. So, now what? Sometimes what you do in one moment impacts all those that follow. That’s how you think when you’re the son of Huwelett B. Collins.

Gary launched his team back into attack mode, and the Highlanders held on to win by a point, 31-30.

“Don’t ever forget what you were supposed to learn today,” Collins told his players afterward as they gazed up at him, wide-eyed. “You can never let up. The moment you decide to play it safe, you give up every advantage you have.” ♣

## CLASS NOTES BY DECADE

# Person to Person

60

**Neil Grossman, BA 1969**, was honored with lifetime membership in the New Jersey Dental Association. A full-time dentist for more than 41 years, Grossman continues to practice part time. He lives in Cherry Hill, N.J.

70

**Jeffery Palumbo, BS 1977**, was elected to Damon Morey LLP’s management committee. As partner, Palumbo specializes in environment and real estate issues. He resides in Clarence, N.Y.

**Jeffrey Seitelman, MD 1977**, was elected president of the New Center for Psychoanalysis. He lives in Long Beach, Calif.

80

**Christopher Tirabassi, BS 1980**, was appointed practice administrator at Eye Care & Vision Associates. He resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

**Linda Walsh, MD 1980**, was awarded the 2014 Humanitarian Award by the

American Academy of Family Physicians for her work as medical director of the Dominican Republic Medical Mission. Walsh is a physician at Jarrettsville Family Care. She lives in Glen Arm, Md.

**Mehdi Ahmadian, MS 1982 & BS 1980**, received the 2014 Society of Automotive Engineers’ International L. Ray Buckendale Lecture Award. Ahmadian is professor of mechanical engineering at Virginia Tech University. He resides in Blacksburg, Va.

**Shane Farolino, BA 1985**, a partner at Roetzel & Andress LPA, was named one of Ohio’s top attorneys in the field of environmental law for 2015 by Ohio’s Super Lawyers. He lives in Canton, Ohio.

**Thomas Ostrowski, BA 1989**, was selected as one of Ohio’s top attorneys for 2015 by Ohio’s Super Lawyers. Ostrowski is a partner at Tucker Ellis LLP. He resides in Strongsville, Ohio.

90

**Adam Edelson, BA 1993**, was named executive director of Doylestown Health Physicians. He lives in Marlton, N.J.

**Edward McClenathan, BA 1993**, joined Tully Rinckey PLLC as partner. He will practice in the firm’s Rochester office. He resides in Rochester, N.Y.

**Darren Swetz, BA 1993**, joined Tully Rinckey PLLC as a partner in the firm’s Buffalo office. He lives in Clarence Center, N.Y.

**Stephen Hadjiyane, BS 1994**, received the New York Water Environment Association’s Long Island Chapter Achievement Award. Vice president of Gannett Fleming’s Woodbury, N.Y., office, Hadjiyane resides in Syosset, N.Y.

**Michael Otfano, MBA 1994 & BS 1992**, was promoted to chief executive officer of PCA

## KEEPSAKES What did you save?

### 1970 UB NCAA Football Poster

This framed “vintage” poster is a hot commodity, according to Gene Elizabeth Verel (BS ’73). “My cousin begs me to give it to him,” she writes. Nostalgia aside, it also serves to document that season’s Bulls game schedule—the last season before the football program was suspended, mainly due to lack of student funding. (The program was reinstated, as Division III, in 1977.)

**Share your memories** >> Have you held on to an interesting trinket or tchotchke from your years at UB? Email a photo and a brief description to [keepsakes@buffalo.edu](mailto:keepsakes@buffalo.edu).



Technology Group. Olfano previously served as chief financial officer and operations manager. He lives in Lewiston, N.Y.

**George Chamoun, BA 1997**, has joined the board of directors for LaunchNY, a nonprofit venture development corporation. Chamoun is president of sales and marketing for Synacor. He resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

**Lisa Felix, EdM 1998**, joined Klasko Immigration Law Partners LLP as senior associate. Before practicing as an attorney, Felix worked in higher education, providing immigration services to students, faculty, researchers and administrators. She lives in Philadelphia, Pa.



**Maria Angelova, BA 2000**, joined Chiamppou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP as human resources director. She resides in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

**Jennifer Insalaco, BS 2000**, was promoted to principal at Brock, Schechter & Polakoff LLP. She resides in Amherst, N.Y.

**Megan Herstek Wolfinger, JD 2000**, was promoted from counsel to vice president of legal at Health Care REIT Inc. She lives in Perrysburg, Ohio.

**Meghan Fay Zahniser, BA 2000**, was promoted from director of programs to executive director of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. She lives in Philadelphia, Pa.

**Jason Harshman, BA 2001**, an assistant professor in the College of Education at the University of Iowa, graduated from The Ohio State University with a PhD in social studies and global education. He resides in Iowa City, Iowa.

**Rebecca Dalpe, JD 2002**, was recognized as one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers of Massachusetts for 2014 by Massachusetts Super Lawyers. Dalpe is a partner at Foster & Eldridge LLP. She lives in Nahant, Mass.

**Michael Klanac Jr., BS 2004**, CEO and co-founder of Gripe0, closed a \$200,000 fundraising round of seed capital for the company. Gripe0 is a website and mobile application that gathers consumer complaints for feedback. Klanac resides in League City, Texas.

**Anthony Kurdziel, MUP 2004**, joined Hodgson Russ as business development analyst for the firm's Buffalo office. He lives in East Aurora, N.Y.

**Ryan Lucinski, JD 2005 & BA 2002**, was elected partner at Hodgson Russ. He resides in Clarence Center, N.Y.

**Jonathan Moscato, MS 2005 & BS 1994**, founder of Programmable Equipment Company LLC, received \$250,000 from 43North, the world's largest business idea competition. Moscato's company is housed in UB's technology incubator. He resides in Alden, N.Y.

**Drew Celestino, BA 2006**, joined Quinlan and Company as senior Web developer. He lives in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

**Jessica Teichs Black, BA 2007**, was promoted to manager of studio services at Eric Mower and Associates. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

**Jamie Prisco, BA 2007**, accepted a position at Goldberg Segalla as an associate. She lives in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Atasha James, EdM 2008, EdM 2002 & BA 2000**, received the 2014 Rubenstein Award for School Leaders. James is the principal of Leckie Elementary School. She resides in Upper Marlboro, Md.

CONTINUED

## Adam Rizzo, JD '03

Co-founder and President/CEO, Solar Liberty



### HOW-TO

Adam Rizzo became interested in solar energy while studying environmental law at UB's law school. He graduated in 2003 and founded Solar Liberty with his brother Nathan (also a SUNY grad) that same year.

Five years later, the Williamsville, N.Y.-based firm was named the fastest-growing solar energy company in the U.S. by Inc. magazine. Today it has 50 employees and \$25 million in revenues, and is the largest solar electric installer in New York State.

But the Rizzo brothers' vision extends far beyond the state. Their company donates funding and equipment to the Solar Liberty Foundation, a nonprofit whose mission is to bring renewable energy to developing countries. "Most of us take electricity for granted," Rizzo says. "But electricity poverty is one of the most devastating and easily solvable problems of our generation."

We asked Rizzo for advice on harnessing the sun's energy to power up our homes.

## How to solarize your house:

### Look up

Ideally, you want a south-facing roof with a good pitch and no shade obstructions. An east or west roof also will work. Solar panels can even be placed on the ground—if you have enough space.

### Count your kilowatts

Look at the graph on your electric bill and find out what your kilowatt-hour (kwh) usage is each month. Add these numbers up to calculate your

annual usage. This will help determine the number of panels you'll need.

### Get incentivized

State and federal incentives, including tax credits, are available for those who qualify. There's also an up-front incentive from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) if you have a NYSERDA-certified installer put in your system.

### Contact a reputable installer

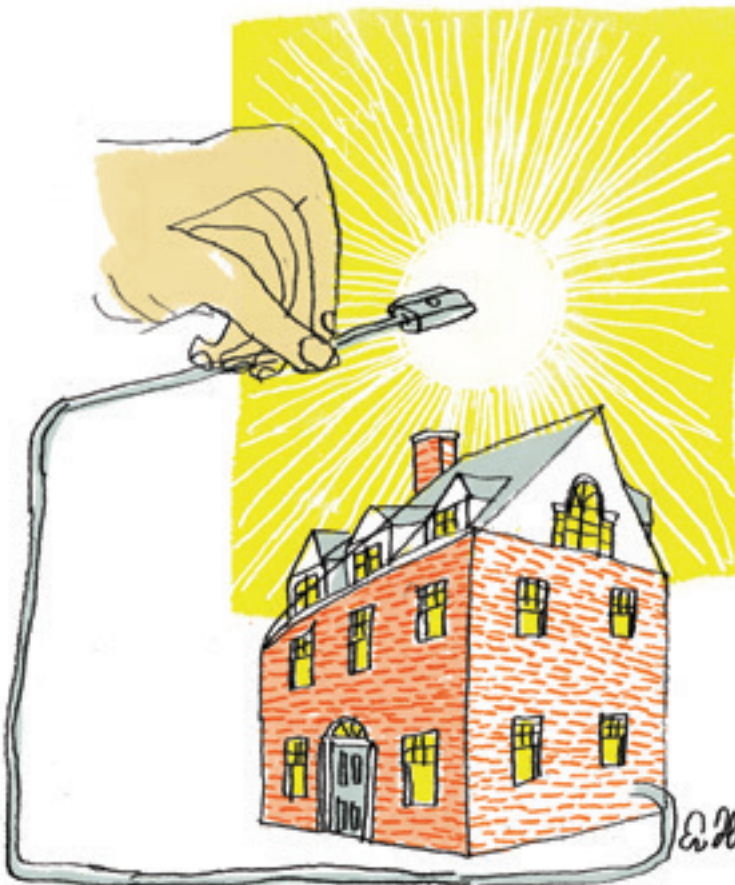
You can find a list of certified installers at [www.nyserda.ny.gov](http://www.nyserda.ny.gov). Most will come to your home and give you a full evaluation and a detailed proposal.

### Sit back and relax

Solar systems are basically maintenance free. There are no moving parts. There are also warranties for the equipment and through the installer if anything goes wrong.

### Don't sweat the snow

You aren't losing much when the panels are snow-covered. We take that into consideration when estimating the system's production.



ERIC HANSON

# Class Notes

**Monica Merritt, BA 2009**, was promoted to dealer support representative at Rapid Response Monitoring Services. She lives in Liverpool, N.Y.

10

**Joseph Kessler, PMBA 2010, ME 2000 & BS 1993**, received the 2014 Professional Engineer in Government Award from the New York State Society of Professional Engineers. Kessler is senior vice president of power generation at the New York Power Authority. He resides in West Seneca, N.Y.

**Kellie Barbato Cliver, MLS 2011**, accepted a position at the University of Memphis as library assistant for the music library. She lives in Memphis, Tenn.

**Katelynn Padowski Brigham, BA 2012**, is communications assistant for the University at Buffalo Office of Donor and Alumni Communications. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

**Colin Karnes, BA 2014**, accepted a one-year position with WorldTeach on the American Samoa island of Ta'u. He currently lives in Faleasao, American Samoa.

**Rebecca Rake, BA 2014**, joined EFP Rotenberg LLP as human resources assistant for the Rochester office. She resides in Marcellus, N.Y.

**Ariana Young, PhD 2014 & MA 2008**, was appointed assistant professor of psychology at California Lutheran University. She lives in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

## Kimberly Young, BS '88

Founder of the Center for Internet Addiction



TOP FIVE

You might call Kimberly Young a Web-junkie junkie. A licensed psychologist, she founded the Center for Internet Addiction in 1995—before Internet addiction was widely recognized as a problem—and has since become an international expert on the condition. She is the author of four books and dozens of journal articles, serves on several editorial and advisory boards, has been a keynote speaker at numerous international conferences, and founded the nation's first in-patient clinic to treat the condition, in Bradford, Pa.

While it's unclear how many Americans suffer from Internet addiction, there's no doubt it's a problem. "People have gotten divorced over it," says Young. "They've been kicked out of school."

Of course, most of the people Young sees in her clinic have less severe cases. "It's a spectrum," she says. We asked the expert for five key markers of an online obsession run amuck.

### Five signs you may be an Internet addict:

#### 1 You're a virtual chatterbox

For addicts, online games, social media and discussion forums become their social life. Take note if you find you're often wishing you were on Facebook rather than talking to the person in front of you.

#### 2 You've lost control

While many of us are online a lot these days for legitimate reasons, addicts often spend their time looking at pornography, gambling or indulging in other vices.

#### 3 You fear disconnection

If being separated from your phone for even a few minutes fills you with anxiety—so much so that you text and drive, perhaps—that's cause for concern.

#### 4 It's all 'net, all the time

While some of us might occasionally use the Internet at work for non-professional purposes, addicts can become so consumed, they end up losing their jobs.

#### 5 You lie to loved ones

Have you ever been dishonest about your time online to avoid upsetting someone you care about? That's a key sign of addiction.

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



### AT BUFFALO'S CAREFUL READER

## Quiz

What am I?

Hint: I'm invasive!



First reader to submit the correct answer to [atbuffalomagazine@buffalo.edu](mailto:atbuffalomagazine@buffalo.edu) wins an At Buffalo mug.




Last issue's winner was Sharon Brennan (EdM '97, BA '93) of Pittsford, N.Y. We asked her to send a selfie with her new mug. And her dog Daisy kindly obliged!

**And now that we've grabbed your attention, how about sending us your class note? Visit [alumni.buffalo.edu](http://alumni.buffalo.edu).**



MARK BREWER





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UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

UB YESTERDAY

## 1964

### The Thallus of Marchantia

UB's most infamous student spoof began innocently enough. In late 1964, friends were studying for a botany final when they came across the odd term "thallus of Marchantia." They looked it up to find it refers to the stem of a liverwort plant—but by that time Shep Gordon (BA '68) was already hatching a crazy plan.

"I said, 'That sounds like the head of a country. Let's see if we can pull off a spoof on the city and send a letter to the mayor that this sultan of Arabia is visiting Buffalo,'" Gordon recalled in a Miami Herald interview late last year. "One guy had a friend who worked at the U.N., so we had him send the mayor a telegram. Next day [the visit] is on the front page of the paper. We flew in a guy wearing a sheet. People start protesting; there was a mob. That was

when I realized you can create history."

The "guy wearing a sheet" was Gordon's pal, fellow UB student Arthur Schein. According to UB Today, which wrote about the escapade in 1996, the pranksters booked Schein a round-trip ticket to Newark, N.J., and sent a press release to the Buffalo Evening News. On Dec. 16, Schein stepped off his return flight in a traditional kaffiyeh, posing as purported Arabian monarch Aveillugd Urubod. The police snatched him from the tarmac and rushed him to safety, as hundreds of UB students ran wild through the airport in a mock protest of the supposedly nefarious leader. Needless to say, local authorities were not amused by the prank, although they did drop all charges against Schein after students raised funds to pay for damages.



*I'm thankful.*



***Amaris Borges-Munoz,***

a first-year PhD student in chemistry, is following in the footsteps of her mentor—UB analytical chemist Luis Colon. They both earned bachelor's degrees from the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey. And when Amaris graduates, she will join Colon as an expert in analytical chemistry. Then she can complete the journey: to teach at the university level, have her own lab and, like Colon, help students with stories similar to her own reach graduate school. Amaris was the first Hispanic and third woman to receive a UB donor-supported fellowship for PhD chemistry students. Amaris has learned more from Colon than how to be an analytical chemist: she's learned to be a caring mentor, too.

When you support UB, you help students like Amaris get ready to influence the future.

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DOUGLAS LEVERRE

**LAST LOOK** **Love at First Lick** "I am the happiest person in the world right now!" exclaims senior sociology major Sydney Appelbaum after this sloppy smooch with Lucy, a 4-year-old black lab. Lucy was among more than 20 certified therapy dogs brought to campus at the end of the fall semester for UB Libraries' Stress Relief Days. Begun on the South Campus in 2011 to help students cope with finals-week stress, the program has since expanded to the North Campus. "It's become an eagerly anticipated tradition," says UB Libraries communications officer Kathleen Quinlivan (MLS '87).