

AtBuffalo

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

Buffalo brews again **p32**

Gay-rights game-changer **p43**

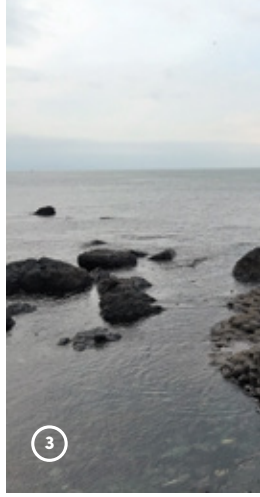
Remembering Willie Evans **p18**

Spring 2017

ASKED AND ANSWERED

A conversation with NPR legend Terry Gross **p22**







FIRST LOOK

Have Camera, Will Travel

Globe-trekking students put their international adventures on view

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard » Anyone who studied abroad in college will remember that rush: packing your bags, getting on what perhaps was your first long-haul flight, hopping strange trains and buses in head-spinning suc-

POP QUIZ!

Where in the World...?

Take your own trip to p. 42 and see how you fare in our study abroad quiz.

cession, and then, BAM! You're in a different world from the one you always knew. For the 600 UB undergraduate students who spend time overseas each year, going abroad means just that—trying new things (camel ride, anyone?), experiencing different cultures, broadening their perspective.

UB's study abroad office helps make those moments happen, offering more than 80 programs in 60+ countries, as well as 600 more through other SUNY campuses. It also holds the annual UB Study Abroad Photo Contest on Facebook, nudging students to capture and share their discoveries. A winner or not, every image shown here illustrates the power of travel to open worlds of possibility. **B**



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Buffalo is bubbling over with craft breweries and distilleries. We talked to UB alumni who are taking their own shot at this potable pursuit. Enjoy responsibly.

Story by Rebecca Rudell
Photographs by Douglas Levere

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MOVED?

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

EDITOR'S ESSAY

The Beer Unopened

My husband, Glenn, has long kept an antique version of a cold one, but until now I paid scant attention to this unopened bottle from a long-vanished Buffalo brewery. It was given to Glenn's grandfather on the occasion of my father-in-law's birth 100 years ago this spring. My husband is understandably proud of this heirloom from his grandfather, who arrived in the U.S. from then-Prussia while still an infant. While I cherish any family artifact, I've fretted about destabilizing fermentation or explosive properties latent in this one. Friends assure me that beer bottled for a century will be ultra-flat, its effervescence spent after a century in family basement rafters. My fears aren't entirely groundless: The beer still bubbles beneath its dusty cap.

I've never been a beer drinker, though there's nothing quite like it for quenching thirst on a hot summer day. There were some well-known Buffalo breweries while I was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, and I recall my parents, who enjoyed beer throughout the year, making mock comparisons of the height of the froth in their respective Pilsener glasses, parked side by side before being raised to their lips.

After reading "Spirited Entrepreneurs" (p. 32) by Rebecca Rudell, I thought about Glenn's vintage bottle and how it connected with Buffalo beer-making and its up-and-down history since the first local breweries arose in the early 19th century. Our 13 oz. bottle is from the Phoenix Brewery, renamed for the mythical bird after the earlier Ziegele Brewery was destroyed by fire in 1887. Remarkably, the Phoenix Brewery building still stands at the corner of Washington and Virginia streets, just steps away from the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences building rising downtown. Recently, the brewery was remodeled as loft-style, luxury apartments. The Phoenix name and the building's suds-making past have been preserved for residents who are encouraged on the developer's website to "enjoy a cold microbrew with friends" amid the historic ambiance.

The question has naturally arisen if we plan to open the 1917 bottle, perhaps on April 2, my father-in-law's birthday. It's my husband's decision to make, of course. Right now, he's inclined to keep the bottle capped and maybe pass it on to our kids, or give it to an archive for venerable brews (if such exists). Certainly, we wonder how the beer would taste if opened. Reactions from our friends suggest its flavor should remain a matter of conjecture. Whatever the decision, we plan to sample a libation from one of Buffalo's fast-growing breweries described in Rudell's article, while toasting our precious bottle that managed to survive a century of storage and achieve a comeback of its own. **B**

Ann Whitcher Gentzke, Editor
whitcher@buffalo.edu



A Note from our Office of Alumni Engagement "Thank you to the thousands of graduates who participated in last fall's alumni engagement survey to help guide our future alumni initiatives. We learned how you feel about UB, how you'd like to stay in touch, activities that most interest you and what factors may prevent some of you from maintaining contact with your alma mater. Results show a deep interest in lifelong education and career services, as well as in connecting with fellow alumni. We at the Office of Alumni Engagement will continue to analyze the findings to better match our programs, activities and events with your expressed needs and interests."

—KRISTIN WOODS, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Preparing Global Citizens and Leaders for a Complex World

Major public universities like UB are in many ways a microcosm of the communities we serve. Through our ideological and cultural diversity, we mirror the complexity of the world around us. We model theoretical and practical responses to the challenges shaping our neighborhoods, our nation and our planet. And we provide a forum where issues and ideas of consequence can be freely and productively examined, questioned, debated and discussed.

Engaging our students as active participants in this intellectual forum is the essence of our educational mission. We seek to prepare our students to succeed in and contribute meaningfully to the world they will inherit as the next generation of leaders in their fields and in their communities. Perhaps we express this role most profoundly by fostering a space for them to openly voice and exchange differing viewpoints.

In an increasingly globalized world, what matters in the sphere of national and world affairs affects us locally, in a critical way and on a daily basis. Within this environment, public universities must be keenly focused on connecting our students to what is happening in our communities, and readying them to be engaged, thoughtful and informed citizens.

At UB, a critical element of the educational experience is helping our students find their own powerful voices in the ongoing dialogue about national and world affairs. And this begins by ensuring that they have a seat at the table


where some of the world's most influential voices lead these conversations.

These conversations start in the seminar room, where our students debate public policy with faculty experts who are actively involved in shaping it. They take place in the lab and out in the field, where students are directly engaged with scholars who are breaking new ground and challenging accepted knowledge in their fields.

And this dialogue grows even richer with the world-renowned artists, scholars, industry leaders and policy-makers who come to campus throughout the academic year. UB has been proud to host leaders and pioneers in every conceivable field, including Nobel Laureates such as the 14th Dalai Lama, Elie Wiesel, Toni Morrison and President Barack Obama—the only sitting U.S. president to speak at UB. We also have had the honor of hosting many other world leaders, including four former U.S. presidents as well as former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, former President of Ireland Mary Robinson and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Tony Blair.

Just this year alone, we have invited a wide range of prominent voices to UB, from former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. to feminism scholar Roxane Gay to astronauts Mark Kelly and Scott Kelly. We hosted then-U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, who cited Buffalo as a model of the positive impact of a vibrant refugee population. And as part of UB's Critical Conversations lecture series, we hosted Theda Skocpol, the noted Harvard political scientist, who delivered a keynote lecture on the future direction of the Democratic and Republican parties post-election.

The communities our students will serve as citizens and leaders will be healthier and stronger for their engagement in this multifaceted dialogue, whether they are bringing a cross-cultural perspective into their workplaces and neighborhoods; collaborating across fields to solve the urgent challenges of the 21st century; or working to ensure equitable access to social, cultural and economic opportunities in their communities and on national and global levels.

And in today's globalized world—and tomorrow's—we need educated citizens and future leaders just like this. 



President Tripathi and his wife, Kamlesh, welcome President Obama to UB.

Satish K. Tripathi

Satish K. Tripathi, President

We want to hear from you!

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



Bridging the gap

As a commuter on the Tappan Zee Bridge when it was new, I am very impressed with the design and construction of the New NY Bridge ["Engineering History," Winter 2017]. I am proud that my fellow UB engineering alumni took such a prominent role in this important project.

Stanley Rosen (BS '51)
Las Vegas, Nev.

Universal healing

I appreciate the soulful steps by UB medical students to help people in the street who don't have the resources to help themselves ["Street Healers," Winter 2017]. I'm thinking about spreading this wave in our town, so the world could be a better place to live in.

Usama Ali
Pakistan

Fabulous program, fabulous students. Thank you, UB HEALS, for your work with these citizens of Buffalo.

Diane Elze
Buffalo, N.Y.

The writer is associate professor of social work at UB.

Historical balance

I look forward to a balancing viewpoint to the partisan comments in your attack on those who exercise their Second Amendment rights ["American Forecaster," Winter 2017]. You write [following a quote from Richard Hofstadter regarding American gun culture in 1970], "As with many of Hofstadter's topics, one can't help but wonder what he would have to say today, in an America where gun-related deaths have become lamentably routine." I remain hopeful for a diversity of viewpoints from a supposedly diverse university.

Tom Reeve (JD '74)
San Diego, Calif.

I wish to congratulate you on your excellent article about Richard Hofstadter. How apropos—his ideas on anti-intellectualism and the paranoid style in American politics could not be more timely! It was inspiring as well to read about UB's heritage of great teaching as illustrated in the lasting influence of the legendary Professor Julius Pratt on Hofstadter.

Shonnie Finnegan
Amherst, N.Y.

The writer is UB archivist emerita.

The romantic inventor

I want to thank Norman McCombs (BA '68) for inventing the oxygen concentrator ["For the Love of Grace," Winter 2017]. My husband uses one every day. I loved the love story, too.

Harriet Bedell Shea (BA '66)
Columbus, Ohio

In praise of Colt Cotten

Like Colt Cotten ["Growing Up Country," Winter 2017], I grew up about 15 miles from Benton, Pa. I was fortunate to get to UB in 1970—Buffalo was the best thing that ever happened to me. With my BS degree I have been clinically educating MS and PhD students for 40 years on how to make a living with their advanced degrees. I am so proud to have read Colt's story. We rural people have many shared experiences, and we know that the way to a better future starts with education.

Vicki R. Yeager Caravelli (BS '74)
Palatine, Ill.

Colt is a guy I'd want in a foxhole with me. He smiles easily, cares deeply and makes those who meet him want to be his friend.

Jack Price
Pottsville, Pa.

Basketball diaries

I was surprised and delighted to see my father, Thomas Syracuse (MD '33), in the photo of the 1930–31 team ["The Clubhouse," Winter 2017]. My dad told the story of how—after he made a basket in a game with Syracuse University—the announcer called out, "Syracuse scores two for Buffalo!" Understandably, this caused some confusion for the fans. My dad was inducted into the UB Athletic Hall of Fame shortly before his death in 1989.

Tom Syracuse (BA '70)
Marietta, Ga.

Your article on 100 years of Buffalo basketball brought back memories. I was an accelerated dental student from April 1944 to February 1947 and a member of the Xi Psi Phi dental fraternity. In 1945–46, three outstanding first-team UB basketball players were also fraternity brothers and dental students. Just a bit of UB basketball history.

Alfred E. Falcone (MD '50, DDS '47)
Jamesville, N.Y.

Prouder than ever

Congratulations on the Winter 2017 issue. My husband and I receive alumni association publications from four institutions. This may be the first time we both read an entire issue from cover to cover. Every article was informative, interesting and made us prouder than ever to be alumni of UB.

Jill Ortner (MLS '93), John Ortner (PhD '90)
Hamburg, N.Y.

Correction: We misstated one of the UB degrees held by Algirdas Gamziukas ["Inside the Cup," Winter 2017]. He received a BS, not a PharmD, in 1956. UB did not offer a PharmD until the 1971 fall semester.

Bullhorn

A photograph of three young men performing pogo stick stunts. They are wearing blue t-shirts with 'XPOGO' written on them, khaki pants, and helmets. The pogo sticks are purple with 'Vurtego' written on them. The background is a bright blue sky with some clouds. The man in the foreground is in a dynamic pose, with one leg raised and the stick angled. The other two are in similar poses behind him.

Life at UB, on and
off campus

Compiled by Lauren Newkirk Maynard

Sticking the Landing

UB sophomore Steven Bennett
takes pogo to extremes

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard » Not many of his classmates know that Steven Bennett, a sophomore computer science major, is also an extreme pogo-sticker. “I keep it pretty quiet,” he says with a grin. Between classes and after study breaks, you’ll find him doing backflips, spins and his signature Bennett Twister and Floppy Ball moves on a pneumatic pogo stick, shooting nearly 10 feet into the air.

Like the BMX, snowboard and skateboard communities, only smaller, extreme pogo-sticking has loyal followers on YouTube and is inspiring a new generation of adrenaline junkies. Bennett, 19, began experimenting on his first stick when he was 8, and became so adept that in 2013, at age 16, he was recruited by a national stunt team. A professional sponsorship supplies him with custom sticks and gigs at halftime shows (NBA games are popular) and at an annual competition called, naturally, Pogopalooza. He’s part time during the school year, full time during the summer, and is still amazed at how far he’s come, performing his first solo demo at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center in 2013 and in a show in Paris the following year—his first time in Europe. He says the best surface to practice on is turf (“It’s easier on the joints”), whether a backyard lawn or at Kunz Field, his favorite campus practice spot.

As he pursues his career goal of becoming a software engineer, Bennett may have the veteran athlete’s aches and occasional broken bones, but he hopes to keep bouncing around into his late 20s and help build the rapidly growing sport. “It’s crazy. The Spectrum did a story on me this spring, and since then I’ve already seen 40 to 50 new people doing extreme pogo on YouTube,” he says. For a sport with only a few dozen pros, that’s quite a lift. 🍌

Bullhorn

The Med-chanic

By Michael Andrei » Former auto technician Russ Pizzo's decision to study medicine at UB was one of the best—and most astonishing—he's ever made.

In his second year at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Pizzo, 36, bearded and tattooed, could be the poster child for non-traditional students. "I don't think there is anyone as surprised as I am," he says. "I mean, I barely graduated high school."

He was, however, a skilled mechanic, working at a Rochester, N.Y., garage during high school, and moving up the ranks at a Porsche/Audi dealership after getting an associate degree in auto

service. But after almost a decade fixing high-end cars, he felt unhappy and restless. When he started hanging out with some neighbors who were nurses, something about their stories clicked.

"Hearing what they were doing planted the seed of going into health care," he says. "As strange as it may sound, I saw some parallels to auto service." The next domino fell midway through Pizzo's second semester studying nursing at Monroe Community College, where he met an internist who would become a mentor. "The very first time I shadowed him, I had a 'eureka' moment. It was just an overwhelming feeling of 'this is the guy I want to be, this is what I want to do.'"

Pizzo went on to earn a BS in microbiology and immunology from the University of Rochester, then entered medical school at UB in 2015. Through all of his unexpected detours, he is relishing the clinical experiences most. "The whole thing for me is working with patients—that's what I really love," he says. 📍



UB Bucket List

(100 things every student should do before graduating)

NO.

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INTERNATIONAL FIESTA Every February, after months of grueling practices and rehearsals, international student clubs take over the Center for the Arts Mainstage Theatre for the popular, student-run International Fiesta talent competition. The invariably sold-out show treats audiences to a night of traditional and contemporary dance choreographies from around the world, with medleys incorporating everything from bhangra and salsa to K-pop.

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



From @universityatbuffalo, a costume shop lion's head (left); an extra-super supermoon over South Lake Village, North Campus.



ICYMI*

(Good news worth sharing)

WIN-WIN. The School of Management vaulted 13 places in Bloomberg Businessweek’s national list of best full-time MBA programs, coming in at No. 47 this year. Among U.S. public universities, the school is ranked 22.

GREEN AND SILVER. “Sustainable Futures,” UB’s 10-week graduate program on sustainable architecture and planning in Monteverde, Costa Rica, celebrated its 25th anniversary last year.

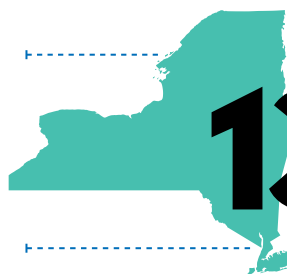
WELCOME, WORLD! For the 14th year in a row, UB placed among the top 25 U.S. schools for hosting students from around the world, according to the Institute for International Education.

*In case you missed it

A Voice from the Past

Award-winning director and cinematographer Sama Waham, who is currently a visiting assistant professor of media study at UB, collected more hardware this past fall, winning top honors at the 2016 Alexandria International Film Festival in Alexandria, Egypt, for her documentary “Sing for Me.” Born in Baghdad and raised in the United States, Waham created the doc as a virtual conversation with her late grandfather, using his voice from a forgotten audiocassette to explore ideas of nostalgia and cultural identity. The film was shown on campus last fall as part of THE SCREENS, a new screening and guest lecture series hosted by media study graduate students.



 **135k⁺**

The number of UB alumni who live in New York State. Around 77 percent of the roughly 8,000 students who graduate from UB each year stay in New York and contribute to the local and state economy.



HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT Ebony G. Patterson’s myth-busting installation “**Dead Treez**” at the UB Art Gallery explores visibility, class, race and gender through Jamaica’s dancehall subculture—a refuge for the country’s more disenfranchised citizens. Patterson uses mannequins wrapped in color-saturated, embellished textiles and gorgeous floor tapestries that, on closer look, depict murder victims from the lower ranks of Jamaican society. In this powerful show, on view through May 13, there is nowhere to hide as audiences bear witness to violent stories that have long been swept under the carpet.

ONE-LINER: “To ban the uncomfortable is to disarm students who must face reality.”

GARY EARL ROSS (MA '75, BA '73), professor emeritus in the Educational Opportunity Center, in an op-ed criticizing a Virginia school district for banning “To Kill a Mockingbird” and “Huckleberry Finn” from classrooms because they contain racial slurs.

Twin Flames

Separated for more than half a century, a pair of historic UB lanterns is restored and reunited

A long-lost lantern will finally be reunited with its mate when the new downtown building for the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences opens its doors later this year.

The two lanterns, which graced the vestibule of the UB Medical School on High Street from 1893 until 1953, will take their rightful place together in the lobby of the state-of-the-art medical school building on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

It's still a mystery how only one of the lanterns made the move to Farber Hall when the medical school moved to the South Campus in 1953. But a bit of happenstance brought the lost lantern back into UB's fold. Now, after years apart, the duo will assume its original role.



HISTORY OF MEDICINE COLLECTION

Something Old

The 19th-century lanterns will be installed only a block away from the old UB Medical School on High Street (left). When they illuminated the medical school lobby of yore, they were gaslights. The newly restored pair will be upgraded with modern LED lights that will mimic the flicker of gas flames.

Something New

Years of exposure to the elements left the formerly missing lantern in rough shape. Using the intact Farber Hall lantern as a template for surface scanning, the restorers are replacing the missing and decaying pieces of steel with exact replicas created on a 3-D printer in the lab of Jack Tseng, assistant professor in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences. The replacement pieces, created from plastic and painted to match the original metalwork, will be virtually indistinguishable from the original steel pieces once installed.



Brian Koyn grinds years of rust off the newly discovered lantern.



Farber Hall lantern.

Something Borrowed

The lantern went missing when the medical school relocated to the South Campus. About a decade ago, a tip from (now retired) UB employee Christina Ehret led to its discovery in a barn in Eden, N.Y. Unaware of its history, the property owners willingly returned it to UB.

Something Blue

The happy ending for the formerly separated pair wouldn't have been possible without Ehret, Tseng and other UB faculty and staff who came together to recover, restore and reunite the errant lantern with its mate.

Brian Koyn, from UB's health science fabrication department, is painstakingly restoring the lantern. Ray Dannenhoffer (PhD '87, MA '82), associate dean for support services, pathology and anatomical sciences, assisted by (now retired) James Mecca Jr., also from UB's health science fabrication department, helped find the lantern and bring it back to UB.

Eureka!



Media mixing [p12](#)

A fluorescent fuel source [p13](#)

Picturing autism [p13](#)

The Real Problem with Killer Robots

How we miss the human factor of this high-tech threat

By Bert Gambini » Killer robots have broken out of the world of science fiction and entered into ours.

Such talk may sound like an exercise in fantasy, especially if you're thinking along the lines of films like "The Terminator." But agencies really are working to build the operative foundation of fully autonomous weapons that seek, identify and attack enemy targets. An \$18 million Pentagon budget line is devoted to developing these technologies, according to The New York Times. Meanwhile, an international coalition, known as the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, has formed to halt them in their tracks.

But even if the campaign is successful, banning these instruments may be a temporary solution. At the root of the problem, according to a UB research team, is the fact that society is entering into a new reality in which weapon systems like these have become possible. Killer robots raise big questions that will define the coming age of automation, artificial intelligence and robotics.

"Are humans better than robots to make decisions? If not, then what separates humans from robots? When we are defining what robots are and what they do, we also define what it means to be a human in this culture and this society," says Tero Karppi, assistant professor of media study, whose paper with Marc Böhlen, professor of media study, and graduate student Yvette Granata appeared in the International Journal of

CONTINUED

Cultural Studies last October.

Governance and control of systems like killer robots need to go beyond the end products, they caution. “We need to go back and look at the history of machine learning, pattern recognition and predictive modeling, and how these things are conceived,” says Karppi, an expert in critical platform and software studies whose interests include automation, artificial intelligence and how these systems fail us. “We have to deconstruct the term ‘killer robot’ into smaller cultural techniques,” he says.

Cultural techniques refer to the elements that give rise to technical developments in the first place. In media theory, the cultural-techniques approach looks at multiple evolutionary chains

of thought, technology, imagination and knowledge production in an attempt to understand how all of these come to generate new systems and concepts. Cultural techniques provide insight into the process of becoming—in other words, how we got to now.

“Cultural techniques create distinctions in the world,” says Karppi, noting that the conceptual

differences between friend and foe, human and machine, life and death pose not only technical but also ethical and conceptual challenges for robot developers. “Previously, humans have had the agency on the battlefield to pull the trigger, but what happens when this agency is given to a robot and because of its complexity we can’t even trace why particular decisions are made in particular situations?”

The realization of killer robots could be a dangerous distraction. The authors argue that we must reconsider the composition of the actual threat. “We shouldn’t focus on what is technologically possible,” Karppi says, “but rather the ideological, cultural and political motivations that drive these technological developments.”

“When we are defining what robots are and what they do, we also define what it means to be a human in this culture and this society.”

TERO KARPPI



60 SECONDS WITH Helen Wang

Interview by Sally Jarzab

Storytelling Across Platforms

“East Los High” is an edgy Hulu original series set in a fictional high school, now streaming its fourth season. It’s also an intervention, designed to address issues of public health and social justice among young Latinos in the United States. According to research led by UB Associate Professor of Communication Helen Wang and her collaborator at the University of Texas at El Paso, this optimistic mix of entertainment-education is working. Key to its success is its innovative “transmedia” approach, which adopts an array of web-based vehicles for getting its message across.

Is transmedia something new?

Many people, especially younger generations, are accustomed to experiencing programming across multiple platforms. The “Star Wars” franchise is a classic example of commercial success in branding, building fan communities and profiting from merchandising. However, it’s a different beast to use transmedia as an intervention strategy for health promotion and social change, to affect hard-to-reach audiences and keep them meaningfully engaged over time.

How does “East Los High” make use of multiple media platforms?

For example, the character Ceci found her life turned upside-down when she became pregnant. Viewers could go through this emotional roller-coaster with her by watching the video blogs released on the show’s website as the storyline unfolded and see her talk about the challenges she faced. From there, viewers would be directed to the “East Los High” resources page, where they could use widgets to check out local health resources.

It must be tricky to balance the engaging with the edifying.

An effective entertainment-education program has to be first and foremost entertaining. No one wants to be told what is right and what to do. But we found that if you bring people on a compelling journey through stories and characters that speak to them, they may be open to looking at things from a different perspective and trying out something they think they could benefit from.

How did you analyze the impact of “East Los High”?

Our research team used multiple methods to capture the viewer experience, including various online analytics tracking, surveying and group viewing sessions followed by in-depth interviews. There was also a lab experiment to distinguish the effects of transmedia from other formats.

What did you find?

Our experiment showed advantages of transmedia over other narrative formats over time. Qualitative insights suggested that the first season, on the theme of sexual and reproductive health, opened up otherwise difficult and embarrassing conversations among peers and within families about sexuality.

What does the future hold for “East Los High”?

The program has tremendous potential for growth in terms of audience-engagement approaches. I would love to see an alternate-reality game component bring fans out in their communities and take action toward common goals while having fun together!



Helen Wang



TWEETABLE: A \$1.2 million @NSF grant has put @UBuffalo in the driver’s seat of research that’s headed toward the safe operation of self-driving cars.

Beaker Briefs

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

By Marcene Robinson (BA '13)



A Microscopic Menace

Researchers are investigating the microbiome's greatest escape artist, *Streptococcus gordonii*. Harmless inside our mouths, the bacterium is a menace to hearts, causing a rare but fatal condition if it reaches the bloodstream. Researchers aim to develop better treatments by unraveling the mystery of how these bacteria evade white blood cells.

LED BY: Oral biology researcher Jason Kay

Glowing Energy

A glow-in-the-dark dye may be the key to powering solar cars and homes overnight. UB researchers found that BODIPY, a fluorescent dye, provides enough juice to recharge liquid-based batteries more than 100 times. Unlike lithium-ion batteries, BODIPY-powered cells can be easily enlarged and don't catch fire if broken.

LED BY: Chemistry researchers Timothy Cook and Anjula M. Kosswattarachchi

Environmental Hazard

College men who frequent bars and parties are more likely to commit sexual assault, suggests new UB research. Although alcohol is believed to play a role in sexual assault, the study reframed the link, finding that drinking environments—and not binge drinking itself—may be what's boosting those odds.

LED BY: Addictions researcher Maria Testa (PhD '89, MA '86, BA '83)

COURTESY OF PROF. DR. RONDEL HZI BRAUNSCHEWIG

Screening FOR Autism

The smartphones parents use to snap adorable photos of their children may soon become a powerful tool for early autism detection, one as effective as it is easy to use.

A new mobile application being developed by UB undergrad Kun Woo Cho will be able to track and analyze the eye movements of a person looking at images on-screen. Because the gaze patterns of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) tend to differ starkly from those of typically developing children, the results provide an immediate and reliable indication of a child's risk. In a pilot study, the analysis had an accuracy rating of 93.96 percent.

Take a look at how it works



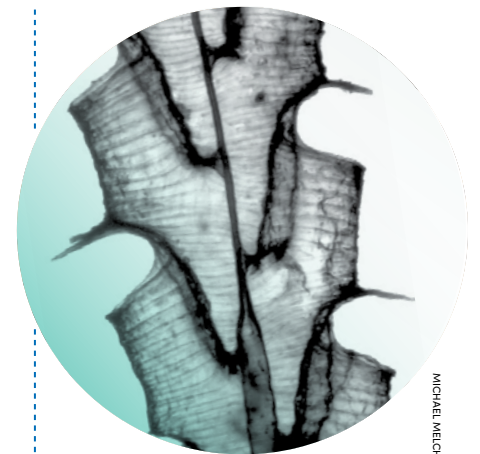
Typically developing children tend to look across key areas of interest that relate to the social scene presented. Here, the gaze pattern, marked in yellow, is concentrated around the faces of the people, as well as on what they themselves are looking at—the candles.



Here, the gaze pattern of a child with ASD is shown to be scattered around the background of the scene, with little or no focus on the people pictured or the social situation taking place.



Kun Woo Cho, a junior majoring in computer science and engineering, and the developer of the application's computational metric, known as Gaze-Wasserstein, grabbed top honors late last year while presenting her work at the IEEE Wireless Health Conference. She has even gained the attention of tech giant Apple. With the help of her research adviser, lab co-workers and study co-authors, Cho continues to work on researching and developing the prototype app, and getting it ready for distribution. Once in the hands of parents, this biofeedback breakthrough will hopefully lead to easier and earlier diagnoses—and better outcomes—for children with ASD.



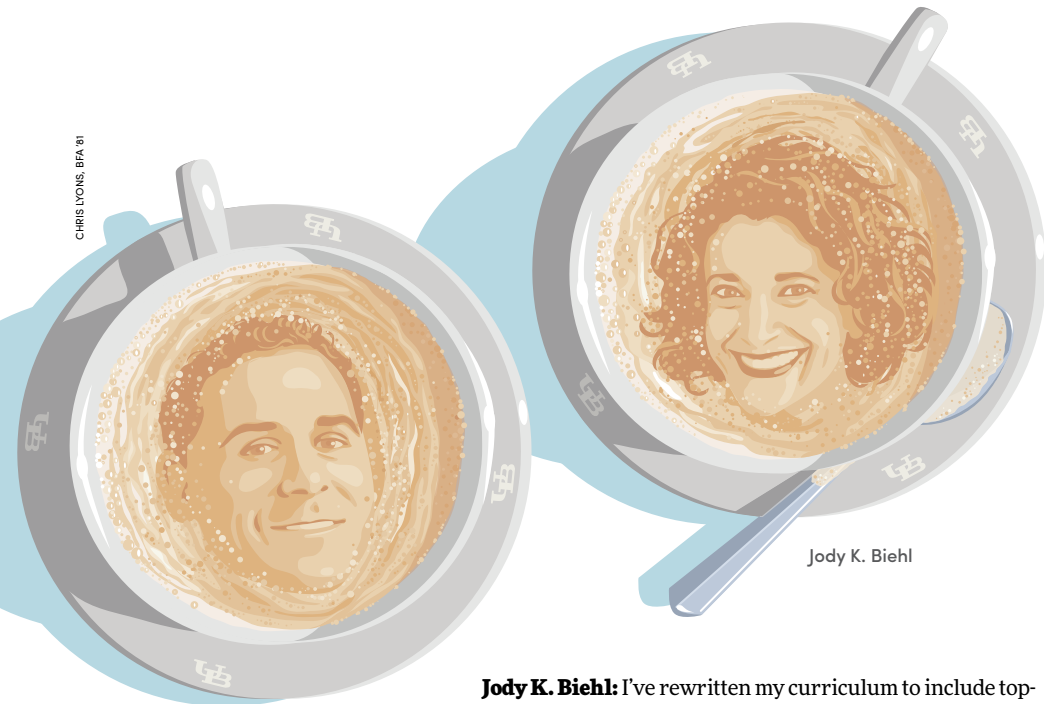
MICHAEL MELCHINI

Ancient clues to impending extinctions

These are the fossilized remains of a colony of *Paraorthograptus kimi* (*P. kimi*), a long-gone species of deep-sea plankton. For UB geologist Charles E. Mitchell, large-scale studies of thousands of such fossils provide a window into what drives extinction. One recent project found that ancient plankton communities started losing their diversity as early as 400,000 years before massive die-offs ensued, wiping out *P. kimi* and many other species. The work suggests that subtle changes may precede dramatic population declines, and Mitchell cautions that we need to be on the lookout for warning signs today as oceans respond to climate change and other pressures.

SMALL WONDERS By Charlotte Hsu

CHRIS LYONS, BFA '11



Michael Stefanone

Jody K. Biehl

How do we get the facts?

Many questions have been raised in recent months regarding the veracity of online information sources. “Fake news” sites are said to have taken hold of social media, spreading politically motivated messages. We asked Jody K. Biehl, director of UB’s Journalism Certificate Program, and Michael Stefanone (BA ’99), associate professor of communication, how users and media organizations should respond to the new ways digital media is interacting with information.

Jody K. Biehl: I’ve rewritten my curriculum to include topics about how students can recognize fake news. That was a huge change, going from talking about journalism ethics to a much more fundamental question of what is real and what is not. I now feel it’s my job to help students navigate this Wild West of the Internet. Many of them get their news from Facebook, so we spend time talking about what it means to live in the information bubble that they do, and whether that’s really the one that they want to be in.

Michael Stefanone: Traditional journalism is just about dead. We have more options for information than we’ve ever had before, and the majority of those options lack any type of editorial quality-control mechanism. People are actively trying to package information in ways that encourage a specific understanding. Meanwhile, we all seek out information that confirms our existing views. The consequence of this is increased polarization. So what is actually in the world, and how can you determine that? I think the best approach is to consume information from as many sources as possible so that you can triangulate the reality, if you will.

JKB: I’m quite an optimist. So much talk is about “journalism is dead,” “we’re in a truthless age now,” and I think it’s just a new age. We have to teach our students how to differentiate, how to move through this new muck, these new places where news is delivered, often unintentionally. Mark Zuckerberg has said he never intended Facebook to be a news platform; he has no editorial humans on board. Facebook is considering shifting that now, but that’s not really its primary interest. Making students aware of that is crucial to me. I want students to question where they get their news and learn how to find quality reporting and information. We talk a lot about the bad news and the fake news, but

there are still organizations doing tremendous reporting and producing excellent journalism.

MS: I think that history is bound to repeat itself, and there’s a constant ebb and flow in terms of the quality of information that we have access to—the ecosystem, if you will. So I’m also an optimist. I think things will change for the better. There are going to be changes in the way these organizations use algorithms and institute some sort of editorial control, and users—you know, us—are adapting and becoming more skillful as well.

JKB: I am hesitant to say the Internet needs to be censored or that we need to get rid of specific websites. Instead, I think we need to arm our readers with information so they don’t click indiscriminately. It’s a question of habit. My son, who is 14, will be much more Internet-savvy than even my students who are 20. It’s a different generation who has grown up with it, and starting to recognize, “Oh, that’s clickbait.” As they grow, we’re going to become, as a nation, savvier about what not to read. So I’d be worried about attempts to clamp down, to censor, to stop news. I’d prefer a mechanism by which we educate people about what news is not news, what the difference is.

MS: That’s a great point. The tendency is for people to sign on to the easiest potential solution to a problem. There have long been companies like Net Nanny, whose products limit your children’s access to the Internet. It strikes me as the same issue. As a parent, do you want to make your kids aware of what’s out there in the world, or do you want to rely on a technological solution to try to protect them, which seems kind of shortsighted.

JKB: Right. And any kind of censorship, anywhere we’ve seen it, with repressive governments, with parents trying to protect their kids, oftentimes it backfires. Oftentimes when you tell somebody not to look at something, that’s the one thing they want to look at. And in terms of repressive regimes, it leaves that decision-making in the hands of people who may not have the best interests of the populace at heart. So I would prefer that we educate. I think there are things the general public can do when they look at a website. Does this look like a real website? Look at the domain name. Who’s creating it? When you click on the bios of the writers, do they seem real? Do they have information about how you can contact them? Read the whole article. Often, the further you read, the less plausible it sounds. If you’re a savvy consumer, you can start to decode many of these fake news sites. ☺

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

How do you take your coffee?

Michael: I take mine black. No frills.

Jody: Dark roast with a splash of milk.

LockerRoom

Family matters p16

Portland bound p17

They're in control p17

The Wright Path

The nation's first black college hockey coach met adversity with determination and humor

By David J. Hill » Every morning, Ed Wright, 72, walks 5 miles around his suburban neighborhood outside Tucson, Ariz. He does this as much for his mental health as his physical well-being. "I get to reflect," he says. "Not a day goes by where my experiences at UB aren't the first thing on my mind."

Wright's career as a coach, teacher and administrator spanned more than 40 years, beginning in 1970, when the university made NCAA history by hiring him as the first black hockey coach in the country. As such, his path would not be easy, but it was nothing his early life hadn't prepared him for.

Wright grew up in poverty in Chatham, Ontario, about 50 miles across the border from Detroit. His father died when he was 6, and to help fill the void, he threw himself into sports. He played baseball and football, but excelled in hockey.

He was nicknamed "Pebble" because of his small size. He was called far worse because he was black. Still, the 5-foot-3, 138-pounder chose hard work over hatred, ignoring the insults hurled his way in multiple arenas.

Wright played on scholarship at Boston University, among the nation's elite hockey programs, from 1965 to 1969. He stayed at BU for his master's in education and had offers to teach in the Boston public school system when UB came calling. It was 1970 and, having just obtained varsity status, the hockey program needed a full-time coach.

With the campus in protest at the time over racial bias in athletics, the university was eager to hire a black coach. Bulls player Paul Morrissey (BA '71), a former teammate

MARK LITZMAN/SM

Ed Wright
photographed at his
home in Arizona.

CONTINUED

Locker Room

of Wright's in Chatham, suggested Wright for the gig. "The stars aligned for me," says Wright, who was hired as both the hockey coach and a physical education instructor (he was later promoted to assistant professor, then professor and director of recreation and intramural services). "I wanted to teach and coach, and I was able to do that at UB. It was an unbelievably fulfilling dream."

But on the flip side of the dream were the realities of being a person of color in a very white sport. Fans in opposing arenas often chanted racial slurs at Wright, and even mocked UB's players for skating for a black coach.

At a team dinner one night, the server presented the check to each of the players—all of whom were white—before finally handing it to Wright. "I chuckle at that because of the ignorance it shows," he says. "Those things take their toll on you. But you can

overcome all that with hard work and determination, the belief that you can't be denied."

"The stars aligned. I wanted to teach and coach, and I was able to do that at UB. It was an unbelievably fulfilling dream."

ED WRIGHT

Wright brought respect and credibility to UB's fledgling hockey program. As a coach, he took pride in his ability to push his players to be their best.

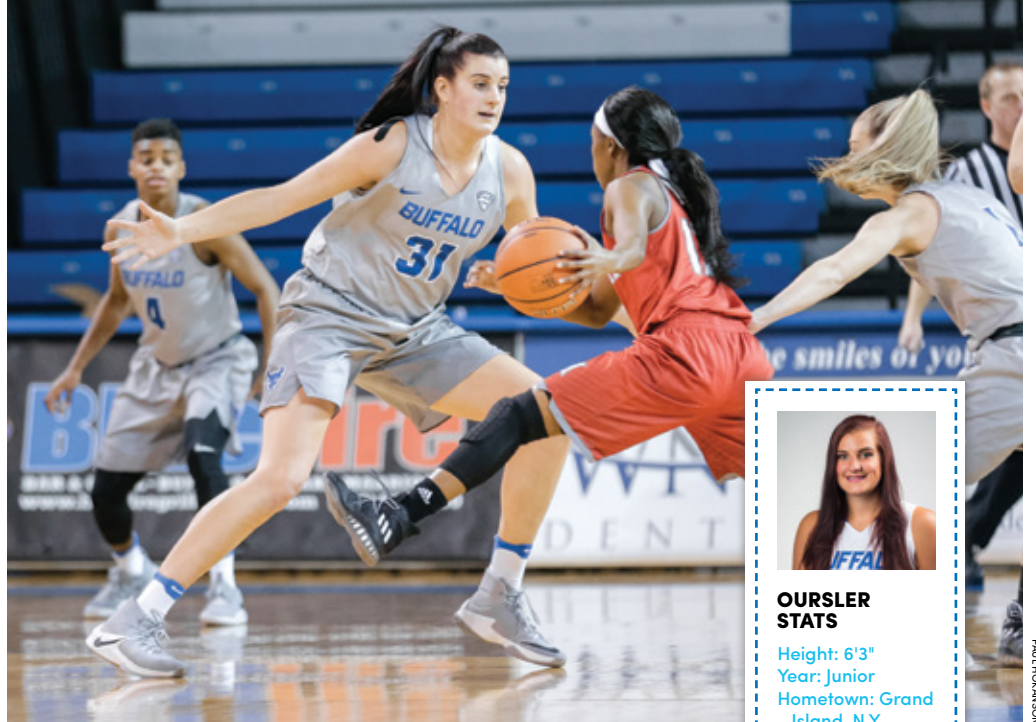
One of those players, Tunney Murchie (MBA '76, BA '75), was so appreciative of his mentor that in 2010 he donated \$220,000 to have the renovated Triple Gym in Alumni Arena renamed the Edward L. Wright Practice Facility.

Wright led UB's hockey program until 1981, when he took a leave of absence to work on his doctorate. He returned for his 12th and final season in 1986. The following year, hockey at UB became a club sport, which it remains today.

Wright's impact at UB extended well beyond the ice, touching countless students' lives through his role as director of intramural programs. He retired in 2012 as head of the academic instruction program for the Division of Athletics and moved to Arizona with his wife, Sheila.

He has made a point of visiting Buffalo for the annual UB hockey alumni game each year since retiring. And despite some of the difficult situations he endured, he remains extremely fond of his time here.

"The university is very much a part of me and will continue to be," he says. "I feel blessed to have had the opportunities I did at UB." ❷



OURSLER STATS

Height: 6'3"
Year: Junior
Hometown: Grand Island, N.Y.
Position: Center
Major: Psychology

PAUL HOKANSSON

Coming Home

Family drew Cassie Oursler back to Buffalo, but an inspiring coach sealed her transfer to UB

By David J. Hill » A week before Thanksgiving 2014. That's when Cassie Oursler knew she needed to come home.

Then a sophomore at Robert Morris University, Oursler was in Illinois for a basketball game when she learned that her younger sister, Layla, who was 5 at the time, had suffered a seizure and been hospitalized back home in Grand Island, N.Y. Layla has since recovered and is doing fine. At the time, though, Oursler felt helpless and heavy-hearted. "She's my best friend. After that game, I talked to my coach at RMU and said I'm transferring. I need to be closer to home," Oursler recalls.

Soon after, she was on the phone with UB coach Felisha Legette-Jack. She was sold on UB before she hung up. "It was her energy. I was like, 'That's where I'm going. I want to play for her,'" says Oursler, a junior psychology major.

So over the break, she packed up and made the four-hour drive back home from the RMU campus in Pittsburgh. Due to NCAA transfer rules, she had to sit out a full year. Her first game in a Bulls uniform was in December 2015.

At 6 foot 3, she's the tallest player on the roster. And she's been central to UB's success in what has been a historic season. The Bulls went on a 10-0 tear, the best start in program history.

As of press time, UB was poised to make a post-season run, with hopes of earning a second-straight

appearance in the NCAA Tournament. If they make it, it will also be the second trip for Oursler, who helped RMU get to the tourney in March 2014.

Indeed, the Colonials were immensely successful in Oursler's freshman season, but it wasn't enough to keep her away from home. Family is everything to her. Her dad, Christopher, is a single parent of four kids: Miranda, 23; Oursler, 22; Josh, 15; and Layla. "It's hard for him, which is also why I wanted to come home, so I could get a part-time job here and help out," says Oursler, who will graduate in May and wants to open her own daycare center.

This was supposed to be her final season of basketball. But the NCAA granted her an additional year of eligibility, meaning she'll be back next year.

As thrilled as Oursler is to play again next season, one of UB's youngest fans is even more excited. That would be Layla, who has come to every Bulls home game this year and has hung out in the team's locker room a few times.

"I like watching her play," says Layla. "We don't have to drive four hours to Robert Morris. Now we can drive 20 minutes." In addition to being a fixture at UB basketball summer youth camps, Layla also plays volleyball and softball—the sports her big sister played.

You can guess where this is headed. "She's going to play for UB," says Oursler. "She and Coach Jack already have a plan." ❸



TWEETABULL: Senior Kaishaun Cathey posted a school-record and #MAC-leading effort of 15.81 meters in the triple jump at the Great Dane Invitational.

The Clubhouse

Stats from right, center and left field

Compiled by Michael Flatt



SuperDrafted

Russell Cicerone became the first Bull drafted in the Major League Soccer SuperDraft when the Portland Timbers selected him as the 10th pick in the fourth round.

10

Big Mack goes bigger

Former UB linebacker and current NFL quarterback Khalil Mack was named Defensive Player of the Year by the Pro Football Writers of America. Mack logged 11 sacks, 73 tackles and five forced fumbles in aiding the Oakland Raiders to their first playoff berth since 2002.

11/73/5

Brainy and brawny

This fall, for the 10th straight semester, UB student-athletes posted a collective GPA above 3.0. Not only that, 20 student-athletes brought home a perfect 4.0.

4.0

They're good, scary good

The women's club hockey team wrapped up the fall semester of its season undefeated, going 11-0-1 to capture the No. 1 ranking in the American Collegiate Hockey Association East region.

1



From our house to yours In 2014, ESPN signed a 13-year deal with the MAC. Since then, UB's basketball, volleyball, football and wrestling broadcasts have been orchestrated right here on campus, in the Alumni Arena ESPN Control Room. A small crew manages the audio and visual content to send a seamless series of images from this small, windowless room into living rooms across the country. We spoke with Associate Athletic Director Daniel "Boone" Enser and his team about how each crew member's contribution ensures that the delicately choreographed process comes off without a hitch.

Director and Technical Director

Xavier Riley (BA '12)

1 Chooses and makes live cuts between 12 available camera angles during a game, ensuring the viewer receives the most relevant view at all times.

Producer

Andy Quinn

2 Works with ESPN broadcasters to build pregame and in-game packages that highlight game narratives featuring star players, rivalries and team development.

Audio Engineer

John Horton

3 Uses mixing board to adjust sound levels from various sources, including on-court/field microphones, the broadcasters' mics and a tablet computer for music.

Graphics Assistant

Alessandro Carusone (senior, communications)

4 Aids expression operator in building graphics, closely watching the game for developments.

Expression Operator

Alex Odachowski

5 Creates all graphics that appear on the ESPN broadcast, updating prebuilt templates with real-time stats while the game is in progress.

Thank you, Willie

On Jan. 4, UB lost a legend. Willie Evans (EdB '60), standout football player, former UB Alumni Association (UBAA) president, and teacher and coach with the Buffalo Public Schools for more than 30 years, died at age 79.

It is difficult to encapsulate in words exactly what Willie meant to this university.

Willie will forever be remembered for his skill on the gridiron—he was a star running back for the Bulls in the late 1950s—and for his devotion to UB long after he received his degree.

On the field, Willie was the Bulls' leading rusher from 1957 to 1959. He was a pivotal figure on the 1958 team that won the Lambert Cup, a trophy awarded to the best small school program in the East. The Bulls had gone 8-1 that year and earned the program's first-ever bowl bid. They were going to play Florida State in the Tangerine Bowl. There was a catch, though. The organization hosting the bowl game prohibited

interracial teams. Willie and fellow African-American teammate Mike Wilson (BS '59) weren't welcome to play.

As a team, and without hesitation, the Bulls elected to turn down the invitation, taking a stand against bigotry that set an example for the entire nation. This was 1958, four years before James Meredith would become the first black student to attend the University of Mississippi—where I spent four years working in athletic development prior to joining UB in 2012—and before the height of the civil rights movement. Buffalo is forever connected to that piece of history, and it's something in which we can take a tremendous amount of pride.

As a person of color, I can't help but try to put myself in Willie's shoes and think about what life was like for a black man in America in the late 1950s. Willie was a fixture at UB sporting events, and I never took my interactions with him lightly. I cherished the opportunity to spend time with this man who suffered for the benefit of people like me. The fact that he was able to navigate through such a turbulent time in history gives me the confidence that I can do the same.

Willie received numerous awards for his accomplishments over the years. He and the 1958 football team received the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal, UB's highest honor, in 2009. He was inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame that same year.

As outstanding as he was on the football field, Willie left an equally indelible mark on the UB community through his commitment to the university, right up until his passing. He was a longstanding board member of the UBAA, serving as president from 1981 to 1982. The Alumni Association renamed a scholarship in his honor in 2009; the Willie R. Evans UB Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship rewards incoming students who share the same principles that Willie so strongly represented.

He was also a super fan. He and his wife, Bobbie, came to tons of games, even more than I've attended. He was passionate about UB, and he wanted to make sure that the legacy of that 1958 team lived on.

Rest assured, Willie, you and your teammates will remain an integral part of UB. You are an inspiration to us all, and we are forever grateful. 🙏



Above: Willie Evans in 2007. Near right: Evans and his wife, Bobbie, at a game. Far right: Evans as a UB football player.



PAUL HOKANSON



Style and Substance

The organic career of Alicia Marván

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard » Alicia Marván's interdisciplinary approach to art is a study in contrasts. Immersed in social practice, or the connection of a project to the social context in which it's created, her work is also grounded by the human form. "I cannot steer away from my deep love towards physicality (of the human body, materials and environments)," she writes in an artist's statement.

Marván (MFA '16) has always been intrigued by the material world and was encouraged to explore it by her parents. Her father was an engineer and her mother, who taught psychology, was an avid gardener and traveler. The family home, she recalls, was always full of artists, teachers and designers, and she began experimenting with photography, dance and other media at an early age.

The Mexico City native moved to San Diego at age 20 (she's now 40), and then eventually headed to New York City, where she earned a bachelor's degree in dance and performance art from SUNY Empire State College. She travels often, having shown her work in more than 100 exhibitions throughout North America, South America, Europe and South Africa. In 2006, she founded the Guapamacátaro Center for Art and Ecology, an interdisciplinary retreat in rural Mexico that supports projects focused on local, sustainable development. While in search of graduate programs, she met several UB art faculty at a 2012 group show in Ontario, Canada. Among them was Millie Chen, who helped sell her on UB and, eventually, became one of her MFA advisers.

Marván's site-specific installations and performances use dance, textiles, found natural objects, food, music and other means to explore flashpoints in the human

CONTINUED

Alicia Marván in her Buffalo studio.

Mixed Media

condition: memory and history, life and death. “I see beauty and pain intertwined,” she says, whether it’s the narrative of her mother’s terminal cancer diagnosis several years ago or the environmentally destructive legacy of Mexico’s gold mines. “I believe art is a powerful tool for transcending human struggle,” she adds.

Nothing of Marván’s work can be called typical, but it has followed some common threads. In two art performances, “Beacon” and “Vita Mina,” both from 2013, she drifts slowly through the post-industrial ruins of Buffalo’s grain elevators and the spooky Dos Estrellas gold and silver mine in central Mexico, respectively. At each site, she wraps herself and the buildings’ rough-hewed beams in boldly colored, draped fabrics. For a 2012 Canadian installation, “A Seed, Inside a Heart, Inside a Dress, Inside a Grave, Inside a Shelter, Inside Water,” she made a shelter constructed with water-soluble fabric and a “live” dress out of landscaping fabric with pockets filled with soil and milkweed seeds (the main food of monarch butterflies, which migrate annually from eastern Canada to Mexico and symbolize the dead in Mexican folklore). After wearing



For one of her art installations, Alicia Marván (right) made a “live” dress with pockets filled with milkweed seeds and soil.



up shop in December. The skirts, tops and dresses in her small but growing collection, which she sews by hand at a lone sewing machine in a sparsely furnished downtown art studio, are made of thick, organic fabrics in neutral colors. Often

the seeded garment in a performance, Marván left it outdoors, revisiting it a year later to discover what had sprouted.

At UB, Marván’s work focused on technology-assisted design, including woven and sculptural forms made with 3-D printing, laser cutting and robotics. Her latest project is decidedly lower tech. She launched Alicia Marván Atelier, a boutique fashion line, last year “for Buffalo women, for Buffalo weather.”

“I’m still getting used to the cold up here,” she laughs, days before Atelier’s debut show and pop-

seamless or without fasteners, the pieces wind around the body to create warm, figure-friendly ensembles.

While Marván plans to enter a PhD program to study fiber science and design, she says the fashion line is a “dream project” that combines several of her loves: the drape and texture of natural fabrics, human connections and community, and exploring the body in relation to its movement through natural and manmade spaces. And, as she figures it, what could be a better juxtaposition than Buffalo winters and haute couture? 🍷

Documenting the Racial Divide

UB student Peter Johnson responds to a film about race with one of his own

By Ben Siegel (BA '07) » Whitney Dow’s 2014 documentary, “Whiteness Project,” made national headlines when the first installment, filmed in Buffalo, was released online. Dow’s experiment—to interview white Americans about their experience being white—had progressive intentions, but was nonetheless met with some pushback. A few critics pointed out that in discussing race and racism only with whites (in historically segregated Buffalo, no less), Dow’s experiment appeared one-sided. Others saw it as the beginning of a sobering discourse. Either way, people talked.

Actor and filmmaker Peter Johnson, a media study graduate student at UB, knew one way he could respond: He made his own documentary. “The Blackness Project” answers Dow’s film with commentary from a cross-section of African-Americans and other people of color in Buffalo and beyond. In the film, which Johnson is producing with local director Korey Green, subjects offer personal stories that shine light on the institutions of racism and discrimination. “We talk about a lot of the hard-to-discuss issues that people don’t want to discuss in the open. The racial profiling: How does

it make minorities feel?” says Johnson.

Johnson and Green share their own experiences on-screen, too. Raised on the city’s predominantly black East Side, Johnson, 36, attended a private Catholic school in predominantly white North



Buffalo—a contrast not lost on him.

“I was exposed to the inner city, but I was also exposed to other races, other cultures. Even though I was the minority, and was very much aware of that, I grew up having white friends,” says Johnson. “I didn’t see [a] racial barrier.”

A graduate of the New York Film Academy, Johnson also works on local stages as an actor and director, and produces film and theatre projects under the umbrella of his company, Xavier Productions. In his 2011 documentary short, “Together We Stand,” Johnson re-visited the 1958 University at Buffalo football team’s decision not to compete in the Tangerine Bowl once they learned that the team’s two black players would not be allowed to play.

Johnson and Green plan to premier “The Blackness Project” this spring and submit it to festivals in hopes of eventual distribution. With more than 80 hours of footage, they’re considering making a second installment. But before that—more refinement, more editing, more work. “We’re going to tell our story in a way that’s going to be captivating, that’s going to draw people in,” Johnson says. And, they hope, that will keep the conversation going. 🍷

Right Here, Right Now: The Buffalo Anthology

Edited by Jody K. Biehl

By Olivia W. Bae » Buffalo is evolving. Trendy restaurants and a thriving waterfront have placed the City of Good Neighbors on the radar. But Jody K. Biehl, director of the journalism program at UB, had a different vision for “Right Here, Right Now,” an anthology of personal essays, poems, illustrations and more. “This is the book I wish existed when I moved to Buffalo,” she writes in her introduction.

It is not a guidebook for the curious visitor, but an intimate look at the best—and worst—of the Queen City. The stories in this collection celebrate the city’s resilience, rich history and diversity, while also taking a hard look at the ugliness of racial divides and a deficient public school system. Contributors hail from different sectors, from Buffalo-born Washington Post cartoonist Tom Toles (BA ’73) to UB’s Center for Urban Studies director Henry Louis Taylor Jr. Not all the writers have UB ties, and not all still reside here, but each story comes with refreshing perspectives—on good chicken wings, struggling sports teams and the residents who make change happen. And with that, we ask ourselves: Where else would we rather be than right here, right now in Buffalo? (Belt Publishing, 2016) 📖



The partially demolished Buffalo Memorial Auditorium (foreground), February 2009.

UB Bookshelf

WHAT WE’RE WRITING

Lessons Learned from Popular Culture

Tim Delaney and Tim J. Madigan (PhD ’99, MA ’98, BA ’85)

Drawing from the ever-widening scope of pop culture, Delaney and Madigan, professors of sociology and philosophy, respectively, have written a series of short essays ideal for teaching teens the value of thinking critically about music, television and social media. They discuss everything from how Cosmo Kramer from “Seinfeld” would have reacted to the Ice Bucket Challenge to whether “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” may have started

the Civil War, with each essay followed by a tidy, one-line summary. (SUNY Press, 2016)

Canyons

James Belflower and Matthew Klane (MA ’03)

In this challenging collection of poetry and visual art exploring the legacy of Manifest Destiny, Klane and Belflower blur the boundaries between the two art forms. Each poem is spread over multiple pages—interspersed with topographic map visuals, full-color collages and a series of imagined letters from the wife of William Gilpin (the first governor of the Colorado territory and a businessman of questionable repute)—providing an idiosyncratically layered trip through the history of the American West. (Flimb Press, 2016)



CALLING ALUMNI AUTHORS

Send us your latest nonfiction or creative work! Last two years only, please. Mail to At Buffalo, 330 Crofts Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260. Please note: Submissions are for consideration only. We do not guarantee publication and are unable to return copies.



WHAT WE’RE READING

Nightstand

Cynthia Wu, associate professor of transnational studies and associate director of the UB Center for Disability Studies

“Not Straight, Not White: Black Gay Men from the March on Washington to the AIDS Crisis,” by Kevin Mumford

“Historian Kevin Mumford provides an extensively researched and thoroughly readable account of the activism and culture-making of mid-to-late-20th-century black gay men. The book refutes the tendency to pathologize African-American cultures for purportedly harboring a more pronounced homophobia or misogyny than can be found among white Americans. It also challenges accompanying presumptions that LGBT African-Americans were marginal in racial liberation movements.”



TWEETABLE: #UBuffalo prof/actor Stephen McKinley Henderson appeared in 2 Oscar-winning films: “Fences” and “Manchester by the Sea.”

WORDS

spoken

Celebrated NPR host Terry Gross talks about discovering radio at UB and why she can't imagine a better job than hosting "Fresh Air" **Story by Lauren Newkirk Maynard // PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARTIN SCOTT POWELL**

In 1972, National Public Radio's founding matriarch, Susan Stamberg, became the first woman to host a national nightly news program, called "All Things Considered." That same year, a senior English major at UB named Terry Gross (EdM '75, BA '72)—who would go on to helm NPR's popular "Fresh Air" talk show for 40+ years—was figuring out what to do with her life.

Gross, a Brooklyn native, discovered radio during her sophomore year, when her roommate suggested she check out UB's WBFO campus radio station—one of NPR's charter member affiliates. Hooked by the medium, she went on to volunteer at the station throughout her undergraduate years. After graduating, she endured a painful, six-week stint as a public school teacher and took on several stifling temp jobs before she realized what was wrong: She missed the radio station.

A master's degree in communication, she reasoned, would get her back on campus and into the station. And it did. While enrolled at UB, she worked at WBFO, helping to produce and host several arts, women's and public affairs programs, including "This Is Radio," a live, three-hour daily magazine program, and a feminist-leaning show called "Woman Power."

In 1975, just a few months after earning her master's, she was recruited by former WBFO program director David Karpoff (BA '72) to join the staff of WHYY-FM in Philadelphia. She immediately began producing and hosting a daily, local interview and music program called "Fresh

Air." Within a decade, her talent for engaging, thoughtful interviewing had turned the show into a nationally distributed weekly program called "Fresh Air with Terry Gross."

Now 66, Gross has interviewed around 13,000 of the world's most interesting household names and up-and-comers, including politicians, authors, inventors, musicians and artists, and the show, which she continues to host and produce four times a week, is broadcast on more than 600 stations nationwide. In 1994, "Fresh Air" won a prestigious Peabody Award. For her part, Gross has received a UB Distinguished Alumni Award, a SUNY honorary doctorate and numerous national broadcasting honors, including the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Edward R. Murrow Award.

In September 2016, one year after celebrating four decades on air, Gross received a National Humanities Medal for what President Barack Obama called "her artful probing of the human experience." He continued: "Her patient, persistent questioning ... has pushed public figures to reveal personal motivations behind extraordinary lives—revealing simple truths that affirm our common humanity."

Terry Gross took a passion discovered in college and turned it into a wildly successful career—arguably the very definition of a life well-lived. And despite reports to the contrary, she asserts she is far from retirement. "I want to do this for as long as I can," she says in her signature velvet-lined voice. Her loyal listeners certainly hope so.

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Terry Gross in the WHY-FM studios in Philadelphia.

Were you especially curious as a child—drawn to books, TV, radio, movies?

I don't know that I was any more curious than anyone else. You couldn't have seen my career coming ... you wouldn't have said, "There is somebody who loves to ask questions, she will grow up to be an interviewer." I actually wanted to be a writer when I was young.

Do you write much now?

Yes, but it's basic writing. I write the intros and promos for the show, and I write and edit bulletins.

Do you do any personal or creative writing, like journaling?

I try not to (laughs). To me, writing is really hard. I kind of dread it.

When you were at UB, a lot of women majored in education.

Did you feel an expectation to teach?

That's a great question. I was an English major and no longer thought that I could be a writer; I decided I couldn't write in a way that would meet my standards as a reader. I didn't have stories to tell. So I abandoned that, and then all I could think to do was teach. It was one of the big women's professions, and this was just before women were really making inroads into all these other fields. So that's what I did.

What was your teaching experience like? It seems you didn't last very long in the classroom.

Right after Election Day in 1972, I was placed in Buffalo's toughest inner city junior high, and before Christmas I was fired. It was a blessing; I hated it, I was totally wrong for that job, wrong for those students. I'd look out my window and see people walking down the street and think, "I wish I was that person today."

Talk a little bit about your time at UB.

I was an undergraduate from '68 to '72, and UB was an amazing place to be at that time. There was the women's movement, the anti-war movement ... The campus was almost like an arts festival, with poetry readings, rock and jazz concerts, avant-garde classical music concerts, repertory cinema and experimental video screenings. And then lounges where people would sit around and talk and argue and have political meetings. The Student Union was this really lively, wonderful place. I got an extraordinary education in the arts and in culture and in politics, but it was largely outside the classroom.

What professors or classes made an impact?

As a graduate student, I took a documentary cinema course—it was watching movies—with James Blue. That was great. The media studies department was really excellent.

But in terms of classes and activities, the most important thing that happened to me was WBFO. It was in the Student Union when I was there, on the same floor as The Spectrum. That changed my life more than anything.

How so?

When I started in public radio, it was very new, and there wasn't much in the way of national programming. We were in the process of inventing this new thing. It was very exciting because NPR was born at a time when there was so much happening, politically and culturally.



Do you see any similarities between the early days of public radio and what's happening now in terms of the explosion of digital media?

Most radio stations at that time, I believe, were on college campuses, so you had students, grad students and former students shaping the sound. These were the people who went on to work at NPR later on. We were redefining how stories are told—what kind of music belongs on the radio, who belongs on it. It was young people talking in their real voices, women as well as men. At the time, radio had defined voices and styles and they were all male. In my opinion, public radio was where people actually got to sound like themselves.

I feel that way now about podcasts. That because of podcasting, the door has been opened to people who ordinarily would have no opportunity to do this. The whole idea of audio has been rejuvenated in a really exciting way. And it's become very niche, but there's so much great stuff, I can't even keep up.

I imagine this is in part how radio has managed to remain relevant in today's media landscape.

With podcasting, you can make every minute count. You're in the bathroom brushing your teeth, and if you have an iPod with apps on it or a phone with a Bluetooth speaker, you can be listening, even over the noise of your electric toothbrush. I take it where I am, and there's never a dull moment.

When did you realize you wanted to do radio as a career?

I had graduated from UB and was working as a typist at Buff State, after I tried my hand at teaching and before I went back to graduate school. I was alone in an office with my Selectric typewriter and



Did you know?

Gross had a guest voice-acting role in a 2008 episode of the hit animated television series "The Simpsons."



Terry Gross (at desktop computer) in the WHY-FM studios.

Could you share any stories about your first experiences on air?

(Laughs) Sure. For “Woman Power,” I wanted to do a show on the origins of

women’s undergarments, to find out who created the bra, the girdle and all that, but it hadn’t occurred to me to find somebody who was an expert in the field. I figured, well, I’ll write a paper and read it; that’s what I knew how to do. So I took out a whole lot of books, and basically wrote a paper and read it on the air. Now, this was terrible radio. It did not augur well for my future. My second show was on the history of early women blues singers. And that was fun, because I could play a lot of records and say a few words about them. I was learning as I was researching.

How have you developed your interviewing style? Have you nailed down the process, or is it still evolving?

There’s no such thing as nailing it down, because every person is different, every conversation is different. I still have to listen as intently as I did when I started doing interviews. I have to make all the same decisions. It’s like when you’re cooking dinner, you still have to buy the vegetables and chop them. Maybe you know the recipe because you’ve done it before, but you still have to make it.

That said, early on, I operated out of curiosity.

Now I have more accumulated knowledge, I’m older. What doesn’t change is that when you’re not covering a beat, when you’re switching subjects every day, you’re inputting all this stuff into short-term memory, and it’s hard to retain it. But at this point in my life I’ve seen a lot more movies, read a lot more books and witnessed a lot more politics and so on, and I can draw on that in my questions as well as my research.

How do you choose whom to interview?

We don’t have a wish list. We did when we first went national, but now I think we’ve had everybody on that list. Some of them didn’t work out very well.

Why not?

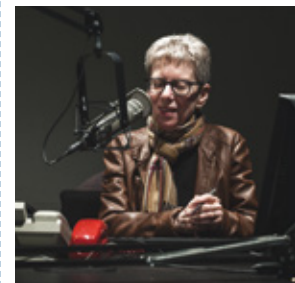
Not everybody who does great art is a great speaker. We do try to choose people who speak well, who have a certain type of voice, of tone, that works well for radio.

Do you have a personal wish list?

I don’t know. I mean, the beauty of this work is that you’re always finding out about new people. You don’t realize you want to talk to them until you see this new role they’re in and realize, “Wow, they’ve really come into their own, and they’re great now.”

I guess if I had to choose, I’d love to talk to President Obama. At the National Humanities Medal ceremony, I asked him and he said yes, he’d like to come on the show after he left office. So if you’re reading this, President Obama, I’ll go down to Washington, I’ll come to you. I’d like to make that happen. 🍷

Lauren Newkirk Maynard is a section editor for At Buffalo.



Did you know?

In 2015, “Fresh Air” was the number one downloaded podcast on iTunes.

my radio. I was listening to WBFO, and it kept me going. I heard great music, I heard great interviews. It was exciting, it was stimulating—it felt like it was my people.

What were your roles at the station while you were a student?

I helped host two programs, “Woman Power” and “This is Radio.”

“Woman Power” was run by a small group of women, and we’d alternate between who engineered, who was on mic and who was editing and producing. So we got to learn everything, from each other. And from other people who would come in and say, “That mix you did was terrible.”

Was it competitive?

There was a lot of peer pressure to be better, which was a good thing. It hurt at the time, because people were very critical. If you were perceived as not holding your own, people would tell you, and you’d better improve.

But we all really prided ourselves on having a great, eclectic station. Classical to the blues to the history of rock ‘n’ roll to jazz to avant-garde music. There was a poetry show, the women’s show, the lesbian show, the gay men’s show, the news show. It was an extraordinarily rich cultural environment, and everybody wanted to make sure that the standards were high.



JOE HRZYNAK

The WBFO “Woman Power” staff (left to right): Judy Treible, Judy Chunco (BA ’72), Terry Gross and Mona Schroeder (MS ’73, BA ’72).

Should We Be Scared of

Superv



STORY BY MARCENE ROBINSON, BA '13

Volcanoes?

AN ERUPTION COULD WIPE OUT A
COUNTRY AND ALTER GLOBAL WEATHER.
BUT DON'T PANIC JUST YET



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arthquakes rattle the ground while cannon-like explosions shoot burning rock and ash into the air at speeds upwards of 600 miles per hour. The burning rocks crash to the earth, setting the grass and trees ablaze, while the ash rises 100,000 feet into the sky, blocking out the sun.

Once the darkness sets in, all that is heard is a rumble. Like a sandstorm, a cloud of scorching gas and rock sweeps across the ground. Temperatures inside the storm reach up to 2,000 degrees.

Everything in its path is incinerated. Carried by the wind, high-altitude ash spreads across the country before falling like snow to coat the land.

Steam erupts from Norris Geyser Basin, the hottest area of Yellowstone Caldera, a supervolcano.

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No, this isn't the opening scene of a new Michael Bay movie. It's a description, courtesy of UB volcanologist Greg Valentine, of what likely occurred during a prehistoric eruption of Yellowstone Caldera, the supervolcano that lies beneath Yellowstone National Park.

The destruction caused by the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980 (57 deaths and \$1 billion in damages) pales in comparison to what would ensue if a supervolcano erupted today. These behemoths have the power to spew more than 250 cubic miles of ash, magma and rock. Indeed, a supervolcano could launch the planet into a new ice age.



UB volcanologist Greg Valentine has long studied the underground plumbing of volcanoes, the nature of eruptions and the legendary supervolcano.

What's more, there are many potentially active supervolcanoes across the Earth's surface, from Bolivia to New Zealand, including three in the United States alone: Long Valley Caldera in California, Valles Caldera in New Mexico and Wyoming's Yellowstone Caldera.

Now for the good news: The last supervolcano eruption was more than 76,000 years ago. The most recent Yellowstone Caldera eruption—it has blown its top three times—was the roughly 630,000-year-old explosion that formed Lava Creek Tuff (see p. 30). "The bigger the eruption, the less frequent it is," says Valentine, who also leads the UB Center for Geohazards Studies. "People have heard about supervolcanoes because of things like the Discovery Channel, but such an eruption hasn't actually happened in human memory."

The anti-volcano

When most people picture a volcano, they imagine a large, lava-spewing hill, like the kind found throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Known as shield volcanoes, these can reach heights of more than 30,000 feet above the sea floor, but are not particularly explosive.

Smaller in size, but much more explosive than shield volcanoes, are stratovolcanoes. These cone-shaped mountains rarely reach

higher than 8,000 feet, but what they lack in size, they make up for with power.

In contrast to their tamer cousin, stratovolcanoes erupt wildly, hurling molten rock in all directions and billowing clouds of ash into the air. They also spew lava, but it tends to spread slowly, like toothpaste being squeezed from a tube. Their preferred tool of destruction is a dense cloud of hot gas and rock known as a pyroclastic flow. The pyroclastic flows of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79 were responsible for the destruction of the ancient Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Then there are the supervolcanoes. Like their smaller siblings, supervolcanoes release ash, magma and rock when they erupt; they just do so on a massive scale. To put it in perspective: The eruptions of the lava-oozing shield volcanoes in Hawaii are generally rated either a 0 or 1 on the Volcanic Explosivity Index, a tool used to measure the size of eruptions. The eruptions of Mount Vesuvius and Mount St. Helens (both stratovolcanoes) were each rated a 5. The eruptions of the world's supervolcanoes typically rate an 8, which is 1,000 times more powerful than a 5.

Moreover, supervolcano eruptions can last for days. As such, they're capable of spreading ash 1,000 miles from the site of the explosion and demolishing all life within 100 miles with pyroclastic flows that travel between 5 to 70 miles per hour.

By now you're probably wondering why you've never seen a supervolcano. Shouldn't they be rising up like giant beasts over the horizon? Well, no, because they don't rise up at all. Supervolcanoes are actually calderas, or bowl-shaped craters that form after a volcano explodes and then collapses into its own magma chamber.

Just to make things more complicated: While all supervolcanoes are calderas, all calderas are not supervolcanoes. Supervolcano calderas are mammoth; they can reach lengths of 55 miles and range in depth from 300 to 5,000 feet. In many ways, the supervolcano is the anti-volcano, says Valentine. If you're not careful while driving near one, he adds, falling in is entirely plausible.

Burning questions

Scientists have scratched their heads for centuries over three simple questions related to volcanoes: 1) what causes them to erupt 2) how does magma—a near solid—move so quickly through the ground, and 3) how does the aftermath of an eruption play out.

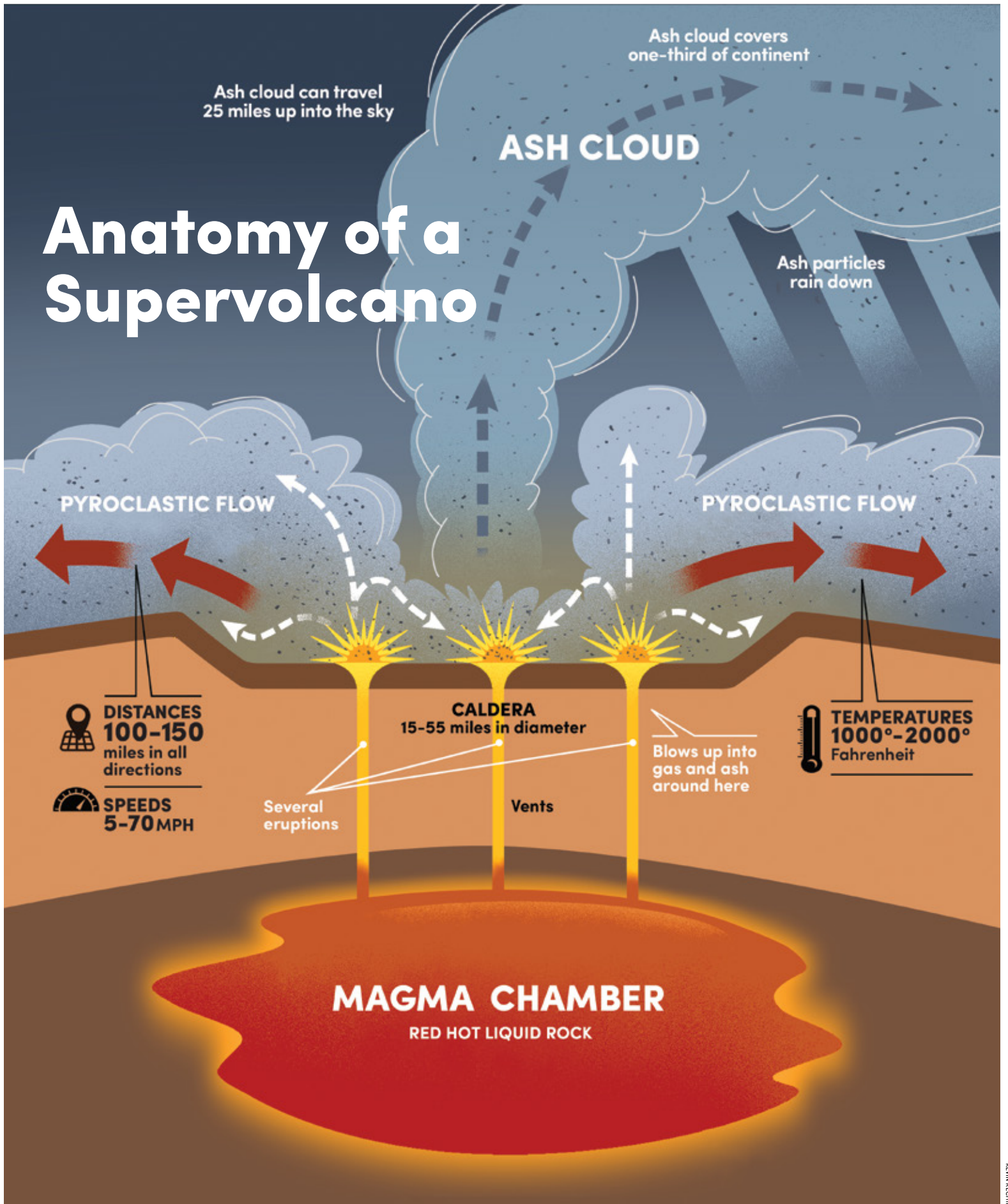
As for the first question, we know that volcanoes need to build up magma before they explode. That's why supervolcanoes erupt so infrequently; they must hibernate for tens of thousands of years, hoarding magma, to spur an eruption. But volcanoes don't simply erupt when their magma chamber is full—and therein lies the mystery. The tipping point has perplexed volcanologists for years. "Why didn't it erupt when it had 20 cubic miles? Why did it wait until it had 200 cubic miles? What's the trigger?" asks Valentine.

Magma's ability to flow like water is even more puzzling. Every substance has a viscosity, or resistance to flow. Water, which flows easily, has a low viscosity, while peanut butter rests on the higher end of the scale. Magma, despite being a liquid, behaves like a solid, with a viscosity 1,000 times greater than the crunchiest brand of peanut butter.

How magma behaves once it reaches the surface, and (in the case of stratovolcanoes and supervolcanoes) becomes a pyroclastic

CONTINUED

Anatomy of a Supervolcano



flow is the greatest mystery of all. How soon after the eruption the dense cloud of gas and rock falls to the ground, how fast it moves and how far it spreads are all topics of active research.

Answering these questions when it comes to supervolcanoes is especially difficult, as the best way to study a volcano is to see one in action. Unable to wait thousands of years for the next supervolcano eruption, volcanologists use the next best source of information: the deposits left from previous ones.

Valentine was involved in a recent study using this approach to tackle the third mystery, regarding pyroclastic flows. Focusing on the extinct Silver Creek Caldera in Arizona, the research team discovered that the pyroclastic flows from a nearly 19-million-year-old supereruption traveled at the modest speeds of 10 to 20 miles per hour, much slower than what scientists originally believed. Their surprising results back up a theory that the pyroclastic flows that poured from this caldera were a dense, fluid-like cloud of pressurized gas rather than a swift but airy sandstorm.

Understanding how quickly pyroclastic flows move can help volcanologists do a better job of forecasting a volcano's behavior when it erupts, says Valentine—which is a critical component of disaster preparedness.

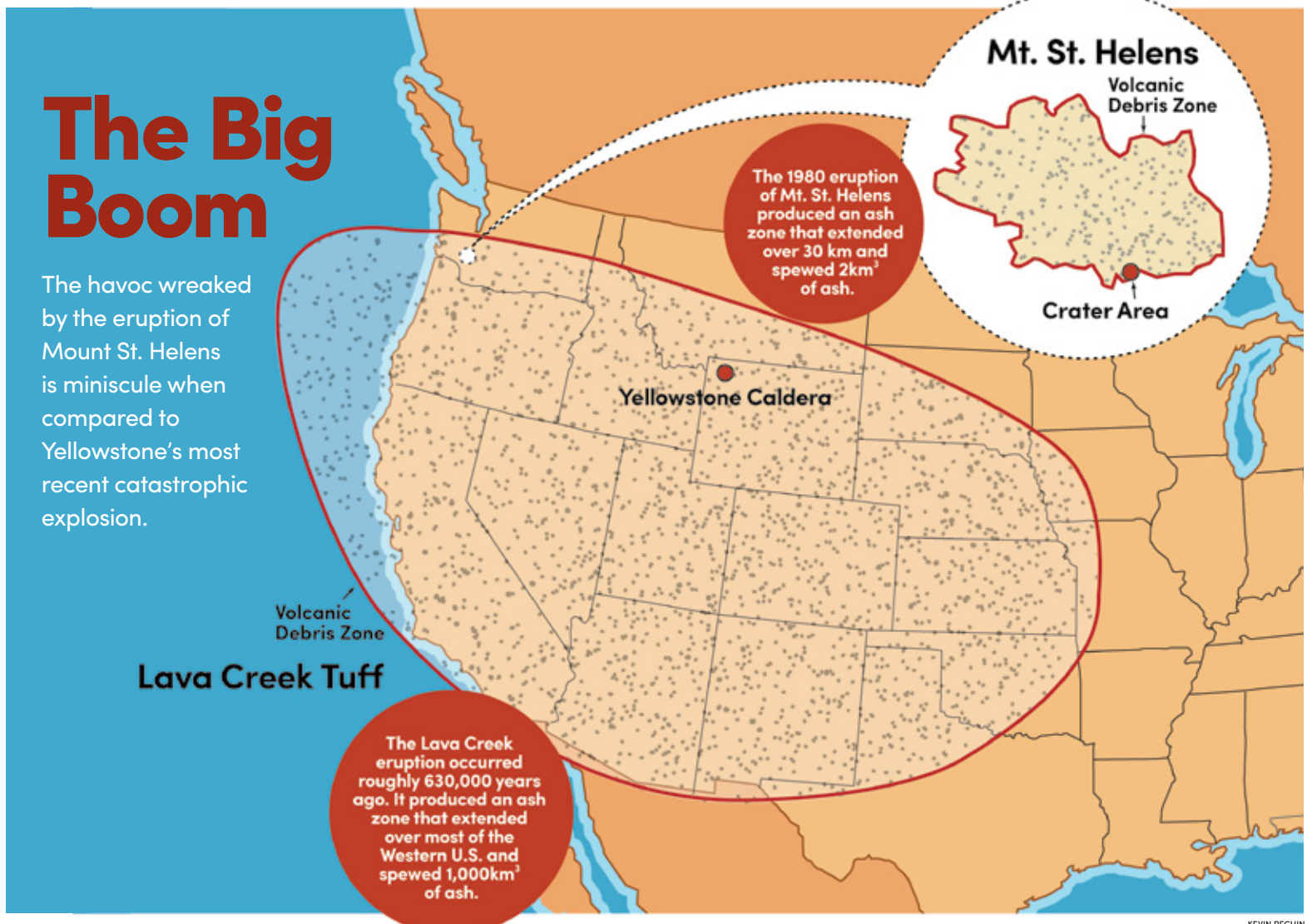
Cloudy with a chance of magma

With all of the uncertainty surrounding volcanoes, it's a wonder volcanologists are able to predict an eruption at all. And yet, they do just that; the U.S. Geological Survey keeps a close watch on all 169 active volcanoes in the country, sometimes spotting early signs of an eruption months in advance.

Much like weather forecasting, volcano forecasting involves studying past and present behavior and using computers to predict how a volcano may act in the future. As above, the secrets behind how a volcano erupted in the past lie in the deposits left after an eruption. The rock can reveal how often a volcano erupts, when the eruptions occurred, how much magma was released and more.

Present behavior is monitored using various gadgets that do everything from tracking changes in pressure of the magma chamber beneath a volcano to measuring whether the ground begins to swell and detecting even the slightest earthquake. These various data points are entered into computer simulations that predict when and how a volcano might wake up.

Volcanologists can typically spot red flags well in advance of an explosion. But forecasts aren't a sure thing and accuracy can



depend on the type of volcano, the number of instruments being used to monitor it and how far into the future a forecast is desired.

“If you want us to forecast what a volcano is going to do tomorrow, we can do that very accurately,” says Valentine. “If you want to know what it’s going to do in 20 years, we can say something, but there’s a lot of uncertainty associated with it.”

At the same time, warning signs aren’t a guarantee of an eruption, and there have been false alarms in the past. This can make a call for evacuation difficult, says Valentine, yet he doesn’t advise against visiting or even living near a supervolcano. Most of them are safe, at least when they aren’t erupting. And Valentine walks the talk—his last home was built near the Valles Caldera.

Ask him what does worry him? “Human-caused climate change,” he says. “It’s happening as we speak and could radically change life on Earth.” 🗣️

Marcene Robinson is news content manager for UB’s Division of Communications.



Sonja Melander at Mount St. Helens.

Between a Rock and a Hot Place

If you find yourself near an exploding volcano, you’re probably doomed. But maybe not! We asked Sonja Melander (MS ’12), science education coordinator at Mount St. Helens Institute in Amboy, Wash.—and former student of UB volcanologist Greg Valentine—what to do if it happens to you.

BEFORE:

Be Prepared with a Plan

- 1 A disaster kit is useful in any catastrophe, including volcanic eruptions. Make sure to stow food, water, blankets and a radio for listening to emergency messages from public officials. If you are told to evacuate, leave immediately.

DURING:

Look Down and Head Up

- 2 Lava is slow moving, so as long as you don’t put your foot in it, you should be OK. Traveling faster than lava are lahars, boiling rivers of concrete created when ash and rock mix with water. Lahars can be avoided if you stay above them, so seek high ground.

Cover Your Mouth

- 3 Ash can spread for miles beyond the site of an eruption, and will coat everything in sight, including your lungs. Use a damp cloth to shield your mouth and nose.

AFTER:

Break Out a Broom

- 4 The ash that falls after an eruption will look like snow. It’s not. If not promptly swept up, these bits of rock can collapse roofs, set like concrete over roads and wash into drains, wreaking havoc on sewage systems.

Volcano Vocab

Volcano: A rupture in the ground that allows magma to escape to the surface

Magma: Rock beneath the Earth’s surface that is so hot it has melted

Lava: Magma that has reached the surface

Ash: Tiny pieces of solidified magma that erupt from a volcano

Pyroclastic Flow: A fast-moving cloud of gas and rock that moves along the ground during an eruption

Magma Chamber: An underground pool of molten rock. When full, the magma forces its way to the surface, causing an eruption

Vent: The hole from which gasses and magma flow out of a volcano

Fissure: A crack in the Earth’s surface. Magma may erupt from here as well

Fault: A crack in the Earth’s crust along which the ground shifts, creating volcanoes, earthquakes and mountains

Hotspot: An unusually hot part of the Earth’s mantle. Causes large amounts of magma to build up in the ground

Active: A volcano that erupts regularly

Dormant: A volcano that hasn’t erupted for years, or even centuries, but will in the future

Extinct: A volcano that is long gone, a result of the magma chamber solidifying

Volcanic Field: A cluster of volcanoes

Tuff: A soft rock made of the volcanic ash emitted from an eruption



Spirited

Entrepreneurs

A GROWING NUMBER OF CRAFT BREWERIES
AND DISTILLERIES ARE RIDING THE
WAVE OF BUFFALO'S RESURGENCE—
MANY OF THEM WITH UB
ALUMNI AT THE HELM

Story by **Rebecca Rudell** Photographs by **Douglas Levere**



Left: A bartender pours a flight of beer at Big Ditch.
Above: Niagara Craft Spirits' Todd Snyder.

The Rise and Fall, and Rise, of a Buffalo Industry

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ROUND THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY, Buffalo was a brewers' and distillers' paradise. There were many reasons for this. The Great Lakes offered clean, fresh water, considered ideal for brewing. Immigrants from Germany, Prussia and Alsace were pouring into the area and bringing their brewing/distilling knowledge with them. Buffalo was the largest grain storage and shipping center in the country—grain being one of the main ingredients in beer and spirits. And hydroelectric power from Niagara Falls made refrigeration (cool temps are key to the fermentation process) much easier.

And of course, Buffalo itself was a major success story—a thriving and wealthy metropolis, with a large and thirsty population. Between the late 1800s and early 1900s, when enormous stone mansions were rising along Delaware Avenue, there were at least 33 breweries and 55 distilleries in the city.

Then, on Jan. 17, 1920, came Prohibition. While beer and spirits still flowed freely (there were more than 8,000 places where Buffalonians could drink illegally), the city's distilleries and breweries were forced to either shutter their doors or convert their machinery to produce nonalcoholic products like soda and malt extract. By the time the Prohibition era ended in 1933, many of these "new" businesses couldn't afford to convert back.

Those that could do so faced other challenges, both immediately after Prohibition and for decades to come. In the early 20th century, explains Matthew Pelkey (JD '10, BA '07) of Black Squirrel Distillery, "The [federal] government created a system that essentially helped form liquor monopolies for the intention of stomping out organized crime. This produced a high-barrier entry into the business for anyone without considerable resources."

Soon mega-breweries and distilleries took over the industry across the United States, as they were the only companies that could afford to cut through all the regulations and red tape. Adding insult to injury, these beer and spirit monopolies launched massive advertising campaigns, overshadowing the brand names of the small-scale establishments. The little guys

just couldn't compete, and by the 1950s you could count the number of Buffalo breweries on one hand.

Finally, in the early 1970s, the last two breweries standing—Iroquois (1892-1971) and William Simon (1896-1972)—went out of business, ending an era. It was around this time that Buffalo itself hit a sharp decline, as major industries shut down or moved away, and people began deserting the city for the suburbs. For decades, the city and its brewing/distilling industries remained in a slump.

There were a few bright spots. The Buffalo Brewpub opened in 1986 in Williamsville, a Buffalo suburb, and Pearl Street Grill & Brewery opened about 10 years later in downtown Buffalo. Three years after that, the arrival of Flying Bison marked Buffalo's first stand-alone brewery since Simon closed. The new craft beer captured the hearts of local beer drinkers and over the years its production soared to more than 2,500 barrels per year. Though it was sold to Matt Brewing of Utica, N.Y., in 2010, a stipulation of the sale was that production of the beloved brew remain in Buffalo.

By 2012, the city was doing much better with the adoption of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Buffalo Billion initiative, which brought an influx of funds to regional industry. Breweries, too, were on the rise. In that same year, Cuomo signed legislation allowing brewers to serve beer by the glass without an additional permit, bolstering profits. In exchange, breweries were required to use a certain percentage of local ingredients, helping farmers to prosper as well. Recent legislation has also made it easier and less expensive to open distilleries. Pelkey likes to cite the fact that there were 10 distilleries in New York State in 2011. Today there are 107.

As Jason Havens (BS '05) of Rusty Nickel Brewery says: "There's a new life in Buffalo and the breweries and distilleries are a wonderful complement to that." Looks like hoppy days are here again!

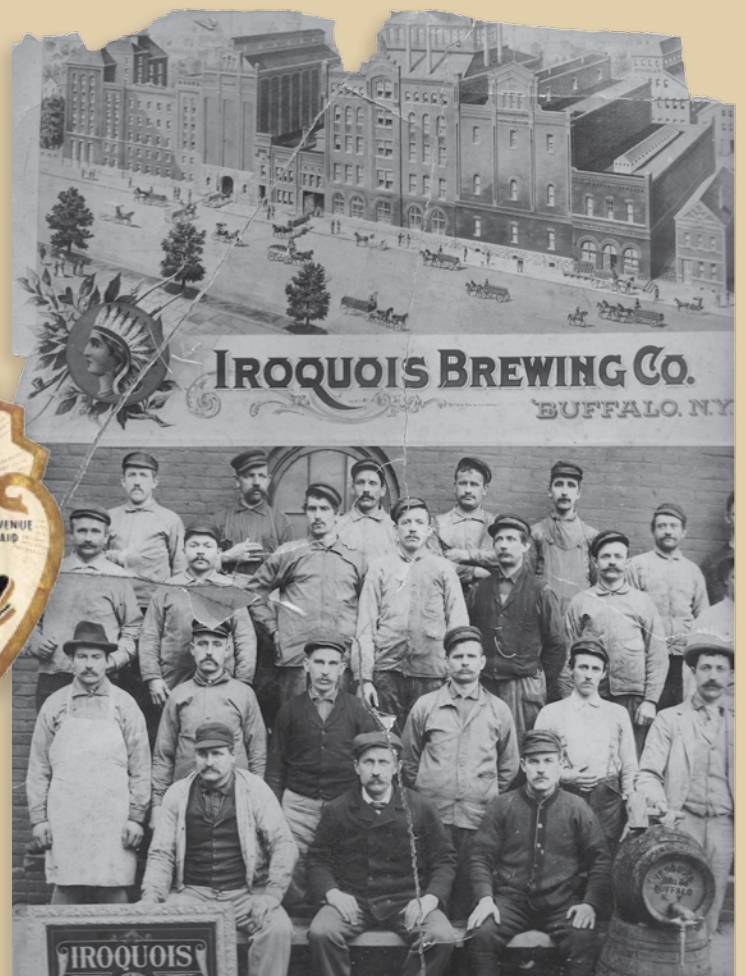


During Prohibition, physicians could still prescribe medicinal alcohol. Visit UB's Apothecary and Historical Exhibits on the South Campus to see what may be some of the original "medication."



Vintage Simon Pure label; the brew crew at Iroquois.

IMAGES COURTESY OF WWW.BUFFALOBREWINGHISTORY.COM





Above: Matt Kahn with Big Ditch's 40-barrel fermenters behind him. Right: Rusty Nickel partners Jason Havens (left) and Dave Johnson.

Matt Kahn (BS '98)

Big Ditch Brewing Company, President

After college, Matt Kahn worked in the consumer products and pharmaceutical/biotech industries, but yearned to start his own business. Fast-forward to 2011, when a co-worker (Corey Catalano, now Big Ditch's VP and head brewer) suggested using a plastic bucket as a fermenter. The pair started brewing beer in Catalano's garage, with said plastic bucket. A few years—and several experiments—later, they opened Big Ditch.

Named after the Erie Canal, Big Ditch is the complete beer-lover's package: They offer three signature beers, as well as seasonal and

Big Ditch won the 2016 Best Craft Brewery in New York State award from TAP New York, the state's largest craft beer festival.

limited-release brews on tap and hearty food that incorporates the brewery's beer. Just recently, they started selling canned craft beer in local stores, so fans can enjoy them anywhere, anytime. The brewery's tagline, "Celebrate beer. Celebrate Buffalo," is the perfect tribute to the city—and its citizens' favorite beverage.

Jason Havens (BS '05)

Rusty Nickel Brewery, President

As a project manager for engineering firm Clark Patterson Lee, an adjunct professor in civil engineering at UB, president of the WNY Beer Club and president of Rusty Nickel Brewery, Jason Havens doesn't get much rest. "I'll sleep when I'm dead," he quips.

Havens, partner Dave Johnson, and their brewer-bartenders (Havens has dubbed them "brewtenders")—all women, by the way—concoct unusual beers like Chai Tea Milk Stout alongside more traditional offerings. And as the only farm-brewery in Erie County, Rusty Nickel can also sell locally made libations in its tasting room, including Matthew Pelkey's Black Squirrel and selections from Niagara Craft Spirits, so you can enjoy a one-stop mini tour of the beers, spirits and ciders Western New York has to offer.

UB's concrete canoes, used in the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) Concrete Canoe National Competition, now reside on Rusty Nickel's patio.



Over the course of the city's history, Buffalo has been home to at least 140 different breweries.



Matthew Pelkey (JD '10, BA '07)

Black Squirrel Distillery, Co-founder, Legal Counsel

In a business plan class at UB, Matthew Pelkey wrote up a plan for a brewery using only organic materials. "It was unique at the time," he says. "And it laid the foundation for what was to come."

After graduating, Pelkey dabbled in home brewing and did some legal work for a brewery before he was recruited by a couple friends to join them in another unique venture: a distillery focused on aged maple spirits. He joined the team as a co-founder, opening Black Squirrel in 2015.

Using maple syrup to make spirits isn't a new concept. According to Pelkey, the colonists used maple syrup to make rum when the British cut off their supply of molasses and sugar leading up to the Revolutionary War. These early Americans took advantage of local resources to create a new alcoholic beverage. More than two centuries later, Black Squirrel is bringing it back, and Buffalonians are loving this delectable blast from the past.

CONTINUED



Above: Niagara Craft Spirits co-founders Joe Nardecchia, Todd Snyder and Keith Curtachio. Right: Chris Sasiadek of Lakeward Spirits displays the company's vodka.



Canal Street, now the site of the Marine Drive Apartments in downtown Buffalo, was once known as “the wickedest street in the world,” as it was home to more than 100 saloons (one every 100 feet).

**Joe Nardecchia (BS '03)
Todd Snyder (ME '94)
Keith Curtachio (BA '87)
Niagara Craft Spirits Distillery and Tasting Room, Co-owners**

Longtime home brewers Joe Nardecchia, Todd Snyder and Keith Curtachio were often encouraged by friends to open their own brewery. Indeed, Snyder and Nardecchia are both national beer judges with the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP)—two of only 830 people worldwide who hold the title of national judge or higher.

But when they were ready to take the plunge, the competition among craft brewers had already grown pretty stiff. So they decided to apply their beer knowledge to distilling, a very similar process. They opened Niagara Craft Spirits in November 2015.

In addition to working at the distillery, which is more of a hobby for these guys, two of the three alumni work at UB: Curtachio, as director of IT for the Faculty Student Association, and Snyder, who serves as an instructional support specialist for the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. Nardecchia, who attended UB later in life, earned a degree in registered accounting and currently works as a revenue auditor for the State of Illinois.

“My education at UB definitely helped me understand the distilling process microbiologically, chemically, and from a standpoint of process control and energy use,” Snyder says. “It helps me figure out the best way to turn 250 pounds of corn into whiskey, while maximizing yield and keeping quality high.”

The men are especially proud to be part of an ecosystem. The corn of which Snyder speaks is sourced from farms that are just three miles away. When they're done with it, they return the waste (corn mash) to the farmers to feed their livestock, who love the sweet taste. “Everything we use comes out of our local community and goes right back into it,” Nardecchia says.



**Chris Sasiadek (JD '16)
Lakeward Spirits, Vice President, Regulatory Compliance**

Lakeward Spirits is a family affair, owned by Chris Sasiadek, his in-laws Steve and Andi Bystran, and his brother-in-law Adam. When working on the business plan for the distillery, the Bystrans realized that having a legal mind on the team would be a boon to the business—and who better to bring on board than your lawyer son-in-law?

The distillery is set in a recently restored 1903 barrel house located in Buffalo's old First Ward, a neighborhood that has recently experienced substantial revitalization. Sasiadek aims to be a vital part of the Buffalo renaissance, noting how Lakeward will help keep money in the area. “If you buy spirits from a big distillery, you're helping a CEO buy a second yacht,” he says. “But when you buy local, you're helping neighbors send their child to Little League or helping to repair their house.”

When original machinery was removed from Lakeward Spirits' facility, a giant hole was left behind. Now in its place is a 5,000-gallon reservoir that's used as a heat exchanger to cool spirits during the distillation process and heat the building, helping to save money as well as the environment.

A botanicals mix of juniper, fennel, coriander, cardamom, and lemon and lime peels gives Niagara Craft Spirits' 1808 Gin its distinctive flavor.



Brewers' Roundtable

Derek Armstrong
(BS '11)

Senior Brewer, CB Craft
Brewers, Rochester, N.Y.

Brian Barrows
(BS '00)

QA/QC Lead Analyst,
21st Amendment
Brewing, San Leandro,
Calif.

Jonas Locke
(BA/BS '07)

Lab Manager, Christian
Moerlein Brewery,
Cincinnati, Ohio

Jim Matt (BA '88)

Head Brewer,
Rhinegeist Brewery,
Cincinnati, Ohio

Beer is essentially four ingredients: water, malt, hops and yeast. Which made us wonder: How do brewers create such a plethora of flavors? We threw the question out to four UB alumni involved in the chemistry of beer, and as you can see, their opinions are as varied as the beers they create.

Barrows: There are so many ways you can play with the four main ingredients to produce different flavors. For example, you can change the water chemistry to make beer sweeter or more bitter.

Matt: I think water can be played with the least. Unless you spend a lot of money you pretty much get what you get.

Armstrong: I feel it should be manipulated the most, since beer is 90 percent water. If your water is bad, it throws everything off. You can add or remove minerals to dictate how hard or soft your water is, which varies in accordance with the style of beer you're making.

Matt: Then there's yeast. Different strains of yeast produce different ester profiles [chemical compounds that give fruit, for example, its flavor] that ferment at different rates. A lager yeast ferments at the bottom of the tank at a cool temperature, which creates a neutral beer. An ale strain ferments closer to room temperature at the top of the tank and produces more esters.

Barrows: Yeast strains produce characteristics reminiscent of bananas, pears, cloves, coconut and more. You're

creating this alchemy—making it seem like there's a banana or clove in hefeweizen because of the chemical compounds produced by the yeast.

Matt: There are also dozens of hop varieties available. So you can play with that to a very large extent.

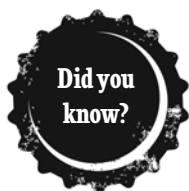
Barrows: And depending on how long hops are in the boil, it can change the flavor immensely. They're used for the bittering aspect early in the boil, and when kept in longer, add a resinous, citrusy or grassy quality to the brew.

Locke: I think the malt or grain is the component that can be changed the most. Even if we stick with barley malt—and most beer contains other grains like wheat, rye, corn or oats—the amount of variation you can get is spectacular. Small changes in the process, like the amount of water used on the grain, even the type of heat—electric vs. gas—changes the character of the final product. These variations are how we can achieve everything from a dark, roasty stout to a crisp pale ale. And when you start bringing other grains to the table, the possibilities are endless.

CONTINUED



Above: Rootlets and acrospires sprout from barley grains. Right: Adam and Bob Patterson proudly display a bag of their finished malt.



Rumor has it that President Millard Fillmore, one-time chancellor of UB, allowed only Buffalo-brewed beer to be served at the White House.

A Toast to Malting

WHEN BOB PATTERSON (MBA '79) retired as owner of a heavy industrial construction firm, he didn't want to stop working. He and his son Adam (BA '04), a real estate agent at the time, briefly considered opening a brewery, but then they had a better idea: malting. A new malt house would fill a void in the area's growing craft beer and distilling industries, and take advantage of the state's new legislation requiring the use of a certain percentage of locally grown ingredients.

So Adam learned the intricacies of the business through the Malt Academy, an intensive training course at the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC). In 2015, the father-son duo opened Queen City Malting in Rochester, N.Y. (UB grad Phil Gigliotti, BA '09, also works with the family.)

"We're reviving an industry that's been dead for nearly 100 years," says Adam, referring to the downfall of Buffalo-area malt houses after Prohibition. Queen City is one of four new malt houses in Western New York.

Malt, he explains, is both a product and a process. The process: cereal grain (in this case, barley) is steeped in water to hydrate the endosperm and activate natural enzymes that break down protein and carbohydrates. Next is germination, when the kernels grow rootlets and acrospires (sprouts), and the enzymes convert starch into sugar. The grain is then dried and heated—aka cured or kilned—to stop growth. This final step gives the grain a nutty, toasted flavor. You then have malt, the product, to use in beer and whiskey. Queen City's finished malt is cleaned, bagged and shipped to breweries and distilleries across the state, from Buffalo to Long Island.

Next up for Queen City Malting? "We're looking to work with brewers and distillers to create beer and liquor that is truly New York, with a taste you can't find anywhere else."

Sounds good to us! 🍷

Rebecca Rudell (MA '95, BA '91) is a contributing writer for At Buffalo.

AlumniLife

Born leader p40

Back to court p41

When Bulls cross paths p42

Air Apparent

This community organizer is breathing new life into neighborhoods

By Sally Jarzab » In 2009, inspections of a Buffalo-area fuel production operation known as Tonawanda Coke found serious environmental violations, bringing about the second-ever conviction under the federal Clean Air Act in 2013 and spurring enforcement actions and the levying of more than \$20 million in penalties. The initial push behind these decisive actions didn't come from scientists, elected officials or industry reps. It came from the residents—or, as Natasha Soto (BA '13) would say, “folks”—living in the sullied shadow of the corporation's two plants.

Affected by strange and pervasive health problems, neighbors started talking to neighbors, eventually joining forces to create what would become the Clean Air Coalition of Western New York. The organization, now known as Clean Air: Organizing for Health and Justice, sustained that momentum to become a small but robust nonprofit pursuing environmental justice and public health campaigns in communities throughout the region.

As lead community organizer with Clean Air, Soto talks to a lot of folks like those original founders—people exposed to hazards in their own neighborhoods and seeking changes, but unsure of how to bring them about. On Buffalo's West Side, another area plagued by air pollution issues from the thousands of trucks that pass over the Peace Bridge every day, Soto organized with local residents, many of whom suffered from asthma, to compel the state's Department of Environmental Conservation to install air monitors in the neighborhood and make environmental modifications to the truck plaza.

CONTINUED

Natasha Soto
outside Clean Air's
office in Buffalo.

While some would consider that a victory, for Soto it's a first step. "That's how we start the work, with some air quality issue. But then, even if you address that problem, you still have a multitude of other quality of life issues," she explains. "Maybe the streets don't get repaved or the garbage doesn't get picked up, or there's a problem with lousy landlords." That conundrum is at the heart of the environmental justice movement, which fights for equal rights for all regarding the air, water, land and other natural resources that everyone must share.

Soto favors a process called participatory budgeting (PB) as a way to tackle these inter-related issues. Developed in Brazil in 1989 and now being adopted in communities around the world, PB allows members of a community to determine together how to direct public (usually municipal) funds. All too often, such spending is decided behind closed doors, without public input or accounting, she says. PB brings it out into the open and lets everyone take part.

Clean Air implemented PB in directing disbursements related to the Tonawanda Coke and Peace Bridge cases. But then, Soto recalls, "The overall feeling was, why should this stop here? Why can't we do this with the entire city?" So in 2015, she led a successful campaign to establish participatory budgeting as a \$150,000 line item in the City of Buffalo's budget. Though the award was not given in perpetuity, the process proved that everyday people can be capable leaders of their communities.

As Clean Air undertakes new campaigns—currently, there's one related to the residual impact of an industrial fire, another to school bus lots located among homes—that power-to-the-people ethos is all-encompassing to Soto. What confounded her most as a student at UB majoring in environmental science (and what has kept the 31-year-old native New Yorker in Buffalo since graduation) were the disparities she saw between the dreams in motion and the realities in place. Now that it's her job to connect those two things, she feels both energized and overwhelmed by the possibilities. Yes, it's about the air, but the air touches everything.

"Folks are hungry for the world that they want to live in," Soto says. "The real work is building community, something that's not just shallow and surface level, so that when we stand together in front of City Hall—or anywhere—we can't be divided." **B**



Juweria Dahir at Buffalo City Hall Council Chamber.

YOUNG BULL

Model Citizen

How a Buffalo transplant became a Buffalo ambassador

By Julie Wesolowski » Until three years ago Juweria Dahir (BA '15) knew no one in Buffalo other than her husband and his family. Now she is more deeply immersed in the workings of this city, and in the lives and fortunes of its people, than most native-born residents.

Professionally she works for the mayor as external affairs manager in the city's Division of Citizen Services, through which she leads community service programs such as AmeriCorps VISTA, Citizen Participation Academy and Buffalo's Urban Fellows Internship Program. Outside of work, she directs H.E.A.L Women Empowerment of Buffalo, a local program within H.E.A.L International, a nonprofit organization that teaches life skills to socially and economically disadvantaged women, many of whom are refugees. All that she does, whether professionally or in a volunteer capacity, reflects a personal mission to help refugees, women and populations in need.

A former refugee herself, the 25-year-old Dahir is uniquely understanding of their plight. "You become a refugee because something has gone terribly wrong, where your best option is to abandon your home, your job, your loved ones and sometimes your identity," she says. Born in Somalia amid a civil war, she was less than a year old when she fled Mogadishu with her mother and siblings. They first relocated to Switzerland and seven years later settled in Birmingham, England.

She ended up in Buffalo as a result of love—her now-husband grew up in the city and is currently pursuing his PhD at UB in biochemistry. Having already begun

college in England when they met, she also transferred to UB; she graduated magna cum laude with a BA in sociology in 2015 and is now working on her master's in urban and regional planning.

As an undergrad at UB, Dahir received a WNY Prosperity Fellowship, which awards civic-minded students committed to Western New York with funding and networking opportunities. It was through the fellowship that she landed an internship with Buffalo's Urban Fellows; after graduation, she went to work for the mayor part time, eventually working her way up to her current high-profile position.

Dahir finds inspiration in the example of her mother, who would frequently ask her, "How will you take that raw talent of yours and turn it into something real and tangible?" You could argue she has already done that, but she has really only just begun. After receiving her master's, she hopes to lead urban renewal efforts to keep communities intact within Buffalo's most vulnerable populations.

In the meantime, she is diligently working to make the city a better place to live in for all of its residents. "Everybody has their own calling and if we each embrace it, the world might just be a better place," she says. "I think we all have a responsibility to help out on this planet."

Luckily for Dahir, helping people in need, no matter who they are or where she is, comes naturally. "I wake up most days where all I want to do is what I get to do," she says. **B**

TELL US YOUR STORIES, YOUNG ALUMNI! » Are you a UB grad age 30 or under? Have a compelling story or accomplishment to share? Send an email to youngbulls@buffalo.edu.



PAUL HOKANSON

Alumni Hoopla

UB basketball honors its most seasoned players



Players from years past returned to Alumni Arena in February for a weekend celebration of the 100th anniversary of Bulls basketball. Alumni from a range of class years faced off in a friendly “Blue vs. White” competition, with family and friends cheering from the stands. The next day, when the current Bulls took on Miami (Ohio)—winning 71-58, may we add—their predecessors were honored during a special halftime ceremony on court. In attendance were Benny Constantino (pictured above, standing to the left), who played during the 1946–49 seasons, as well as former NBA notable and UB Athletics Hall of Famer Sam Pellom (pictured at left, waving), who played for the Bulls from 1974 to 1978.



ONION STUDIOS

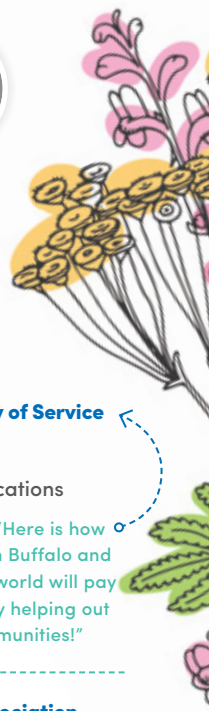
Winning Smile

Recipients of the 2017 UB Alumni Association scholarship awards were honored at a reception at the Center for the Arts in February, joined by the UBAA Board of Directors, Office of Alumni Engagement staff, and members of the Young Alumni Leadership Council and the Future Alumni Leadership Core. Pictured here is sophomore and third-generation UB scholar Paige Gagliardi, one of two winners of the Willie R. Evans Legacy Scholarship, which assists students who are children or grandchildren of UB alumni.

Mary's* Spring Picks



A selection of UB events, open to all alumni



April

School of Social Work Alumni Association Distinguished Awards and Research Awards

04.20.17

Garret Club
Buffalo

UB Night in D.C.

04.25.17

Watergate Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Career Conversations Singapore

04.26.17

Singapore Institute of Management

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Alumni Weekend

04.28.17–04.29.17

Hotel Henry
Buffalo

30th Annual UB Distinguished Speakers Series: James Franco

04.29.17

Alumni Arena
North Campus

May

Young Alumni Night with the Bisons

05.05.17

Coca-Cola Field
Buffalo

Alumni Day of Service

05.06.17

Multiple locations

Mary says: “Here is how UB alumni in Buffalo and around the world will pay it forward by helping out in their communities!”

Alumni Association Achievement Awards

05.11.17

Center for the Arts
North Campus

University Commencement

05.21.17

Alumni Arena
North Campus

CAS Scholars on the Road: Assistant Professor Monica Stephens

05.23.17

University Club
Washington, D.C.

June

Celebration of Alumni Achievement

06.01.17

George Eastman House
Rochester, N.Y.

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

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

Keepsakes **WHAT DID YOU SAVE?**

UB Windbreaker Jacket

San Bernardino City Council Member James Mulvihill (MA '72, BA '68, AA '66) explains how the windbreaker he purchased after beginning his studies at UB symbolizes a critical juncture in his life.

"The year 1963 was a watershed in my life, and the windbreaker jacket that I bought that year, during my first month of the fall semester, is a memento of that seminal time.

"I never expected to go to college. My dad dispatched telephone repair trucks, and my mom was a beautician. In high school, I never took any college prep courses; I was a poor student taking mostly basics, along with all the 'shop' classes. Even before I graduated from Amherst Central High School in 1962, I was loading trailers and railcars at a warehouse (long since closed) on East Ferry Street.

"The initiating factor was my older brother, who at the time had been discharged from the Marine Corps with the GI Bill and was enrolled at UB. When he mentioned me to the veterans' adviser at UB, the adviser volunteered to give me some direction on my future. So, on a day off, I met with him. He said he realized I didn't have any college plans, but pointed out that if I took even one course at UB I could always write 'attended college' on future job applications.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES »

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



If I were asked what degree I was pursuing, he told me to say 'associate.'

"That made sense to me. So in the fall of 1963, I enrolled in night school at UB's Millard Fillmore College, and what can I say? It was a turning point. I earned my AA in liberal arts, then went on to get my BA and MA in geography. The master's degree took four years because I was drafted and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. Afterward, I went on to Michigan State where I received my PhD in 1976. Then I taught for five years at Frostburg (Maryland) State University, and, in 1981, took a tenure-track position at California State University, San Bernardino, retiring as professor emeritus in 2012. I ran for San Bernardino City Council during a 2013 recall election, then won re-election to a full four-year term in November of 2015.

"That UB adviser's suggestion led me to quite a different life than my high school self would ever have imagined, and the UB windbreaker marked the beginning of it all." **B**

Career tip

Matt Pelkey (JD '10, BA '07)

Co-founder and legal counsel, Black Squirrel Distillery
("Spirited Entrepreneurs," p. 32)

"Take full advantage of networking opportunities. And I don't just mean handing out business cards. The key is developing authentic, substantive relationships with people."

Out of the Blue

Chance encounters between UB alumni around the globe

Taipei, Taiwan

UB alumni constitute a network of more than 249,000 people worldwide, so it's no wonder we make some random connections in unexpected places. **Sara DiTursi (PharmD '16)** of East Amherst, N.Y., shared her story of running into a fellow Bull while on a student exchange program.



"While on a student exchange program in the summer following my third professional year in the PharmD program, I was placed in a community pharmacy in New Taipei City, Taiwan, for six weeks.

One day while I was working in the pharmacy, a customer came up to me and said 'Oh my goodness! I thought I recognized the logo on your white coat. Are you from UB?' The customer had received a degree in engineering from UB many years ago and had moved back to her native Taiwan following graduation. We were both very excited to see a fellow UB alumnus in such an unexpected place. We spent a good half-hour talking about UB and our time there as students, and were able to snap a photo. It is great how you can find UB alumni in the most surprising places."

SHARE YOUR STORY » Did you have your own unusual encounter with a UB alumnus? Tell us about it by emailing atbuffalomagazine@buffalo.edu, and we may put it in a future issue.

Quiz

Where in the World...?

This issue's **First Look** (p. 1) shows UB students expanding their horizons through study abroad. Perhaps you noticed that we didn't say exactly where in the world they were. Try to identify the countries pictured in the photos, and email your answers to atbuffalomagazine@buffalo.edu. The person with the most correct answers (or whose name is drawn randomly, in case of a tie) wins an At Buffalo mug!

A serious collector p45

Celestial grandeur p46

'03: Joonoos constructs culture p44

Fighting the Good Fight

This gay-rights champion took his struggle all the way to the Supreme Court

By Sally Jarzab » From the start of his long legal career, William H. Gardner (JD '59) accepted many cases pro bono. The man who once aspired to be a minister but instead followed the family tradition of lawyering always felt a duty to help those in need.

Gardner, 84, is a bit rusty now in recalling the exact details of those early cases, but he's clear as day about the circumstances that prompted his decades-long mission to defend the rights of gay men. As a young Buffalo lawyer in the 1960s and '70s, he saw them getting targeted, harassed and hauled into court; being ostracized and persecuted; having few protections and little or no recourse—and it pained him.

"The law was being used purposefully to abuse this particular crowd of people," he says. "It was horrible, but there seemed to be nothing I could do." There was no shortage of cases for Gardner to defend—same-sex encounters were outlawed at the time—but the targeted individuals typically wished to avoid any scandal and close the matter discreetly, making it impossible to make a real difference. While Gardner understood their predicament, the litigator in him wanted to fight.

Eventually, that fight played out—twice, in fact—in the form of court battles that would challenge the system, change the law books and shape the course of history. The first instance involved two men charged with consensual sodomy, a case like so many others except that these defendants weren't about to back down quietly. "I took advantage of their outrage and willingness to fight," says Gardner, "and I argued that the criminal prohibition of consensual sodomy was unconstitutional." He lost in city court and again in county court. But in the state appellate court, in 1981, his argument was successful, establishing new and powerful protections for the gay community in New York State.

And yet, Gardner recalls, the harassment

CONTINUED

"I took advantage of their outrage and willingness to fight."

William Gardner

continued, with arrests pegged to loitering and solicitation. He noted the inherent contradiction—and injustice—in deeming illegal the pursuit of something that had itself been determined legal, but he needed a case in order to make the argument. When a Buffalo man, nabbed by an undercover police officer while hanging out on a summer night, sought his representation, his opportunity arose. “I said to him, ‘Do you want to fight this? We can go as far as we have to take it.’” As before, the motion was ruled against in city court and in county court, then was successful at the state appellate level. But this time, the district attorney appealed it, and *New York v. Uplinger* was Washington-bound.

“Suddenly, I’m taking this issue to the Supreme Court, and now it’s become major news,” says Gardner, who was worried that he might be out of his league. An unexpected phone call from a representative of a large gay-rights group didn’t reassure him. “They wanted me to give up the case to some nationally known constitutional lawyer with

more experience,” he recalls. “I felt like I was in high school being chided by the principal.” He agreed to present the choice to his client—who was unwavering in his commitment to Gardner.

Of his nerve-wracking Supreme Court appearance, he says, “I had never been in a situation like this before, and I was worried that I would become unhinged, but I didn’t. I handled it well.” Or well enough, anyway. At one

point, he did make an awkward blunder, misunderstanding a technical question issued by then-Associate Justice William Rehnquist. “But the bottom line is that they issued an order dismissing the case,” amounting to a practical victory for Gardner, his client and the gay community.

“For the purposes of our state, I had solved the problem. We did not get any more of these publicity-grabbing arrests, and I had no more need to spend a lot of time going to court for guys who were picked up in the park,” says Gardner. “I went back and put my nose to the grindstone and did my regular caseload. End of story.”

Of course, that’s not really where the story ends, not for the cause or for the man himself. Gay-rights advocacy has come a long way since that 1984 Supreme Court case. Gardner went on to maintain a solid career as a senior partner with the law firm Hodgson Russ, regularly volunteer his service with organizations such as the Legal Aid Bureau, and live out his life as a devoted husband and father. Now retired and widowed, he has the opportunity to reflect on what he saw then—and still sees now—as a crusade for justice. Uncertainties rise up, but regrets do not.

“I was straddling a barbed wire fence, trying to do good and yet hoping not to cause problems in a time and place where it could be very difficult,” he muses. “I’m not sure I always did what I should have. But from the day I started taking free cases, this whole process was, I think in retrospect, simply doing the one thing I could do, which was to fight the oppression. So I did good, and I’m glad.”



CLASS NOTES BY DECADE

Person to Person

70

Joseph P. Esposito, BA 1975, partner at Hunton & Williams LLP, was elected to the board of directors of the Student Press Law Center. Esposito is a UB College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Advisory Council member. He resides in Bethesda, Md.

Tony Formato, BS 1979, joined Marketing Technologies of Western New York LLC (Marketing Tech) as an account director. Previously, Formato was responsible for international business development at Speed Global Services. He lives in Getzville, N.Y.

limousine drivers in the New York metropolitan area. He lives in Bayside, N.Y.

James Kennedy, JD 1988, was named acting U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York. He previously served as first assistant U.S. attorney. He resides in Grand Island, N.Y.

James Pownall, BA 1988, was awarded a doctoral degree in applied linguistics from the University of Barcelona. He is a professor of English as a second language at Universitat Ramon Llull. He lives in Barcelona, Spain.

John Rougas, BS 1988, was promoted to assistant vice president of information services at Albany Medical Center. He resides in Loudonville, N.Y.

Thomas Ostrowski, BA 1989, was recognized as an Ohio Super Lawyer for 2017. Ostrowski is a partner at Tucker Ellis LLP. He lives in Strongsville, Ohio.

Kenmore Mercy Foundation Board of Trustees. Colca is special counsel at Goldberg Segalla and a member of the Erie County Bar Association, American Business Women’s Association and Western New York Chapter of Business Network International. She lives in Amherst, N.Y.

Elizabeth Adelman, MLS 1994 & BA 1992, was elected to the American Association of Law Libraries Executive Board. Adelman works at the Charles B. Sears Law Library at the University at Buffalo School of Law. She resides in Getzville, N.Y.

David Bomzer, BS 1994, joined Cantor Colburn LLP as counsel in the firm’s Hartford office. He lives in West Hartford, Conn.

Molly Harrington, BA 1995, accepted a position with Vatica Health as a clinician. Harrington is also an adjunct professor of psychology at Erie Community College and serves as new member adviser for the UB chapter of Alpha Sigma Tau-Epsilon Mu. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jon Stauff, PhD 1995 & MA 1990, was appointed vice provost for global education at Monmouth University. Before entering college administration, Stauff was a professor

80

Mark McAnany, BS 1983, was elected chair of the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York. He resides in Spencerport, N.Y.

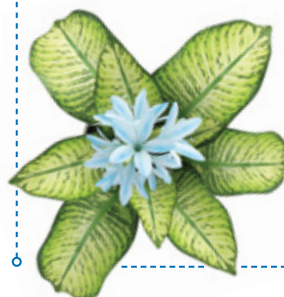
Ira Goldstein, BA 1985, was honored by the Simon Wiesenthal Center at its 9/11 Commemoration Honoring Heroes for Tolerance. Goldstein is the executive director of The Black Car Fund, a workers’ compensation fund for more than 19,000 independent contractor black car and

90

Todd Wegerski, BS 1990, was named clinic director for six offices of The Joint Chiropractic in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area. He resides in Cary, N.C.

Laura Colca, JD 1993 & BA 1990, was named to the

Jehan Joonoos, BS 2003, was promoted to senior project manager in the arts and culture division of E.W. Howell Construction Group. He has worked on a variety of projects with the company, including the New York Botanical Garden, Century Association, Brooklyn Museum and Waldorf Astoria. He lives in Staten Island, N.Y.



of history at St. Ambrose University. He lives in Toms River, N.J.

Laura Sulem, BA 1995, was named director of litigation at Practical Law, a Thomson Reuters company that provides legal resources to practicing attorneys. She resides in Brooklyn, N.Y.

William Boltrek III, BA 1997, was elected a stockholder at the law firm of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt PA. Boltrek joined the practice as an attorney in 2013. He lives in Fort Myers, Fla.

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Jennifer Insalaco, BS 2000, was named partner at the accounting firm Brock, Schechter & Polakoff LLP. Insalaco has 16 years of experience in public accounting and has worked with the firm for 10 years. She resides in Amherst, N.Y.

Kevin Majchrowicz, BS 2002, was named partner at the accounting firm Brock, Schechter & Polakoff LLP. He is the assistant treasurer of the Lancaster-Depew Baseball League and a past board member of the Family Justice Center of Erie County. He lives in Lancaster, N.Y.

Jessica Wolfrum, BA 2002, starred as the Lady in Green and Olga Mara in Marriott Theatre's production of "Singin' in the Rain." She resides in Chicago, Ill.

Dan Weinstein, BA 2003, was promoted to director, strategy and competitive intelligence, at BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York. Most recently, Weinstein served as manager, competitive intelligence. He resides in Amherst, N.Y.

Joel Thompson, BA 2004, was named director of

budget and operations at Rice University's Moody Center for the Arts. He lives in Kingwood, Texas.

Shafiq Jalal, MBA 2005, was promoted to senior manager at Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP. He lives in Clarence Center, N.Y.

Susan Mund, MBA 2005, joined Hamister Group LLC as SharePoint administrator. She resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

Meagan Fitzgerald, BS 2006, was promoted to senior manager at Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Peter Ruocco, MBA 2009 & MS 2009, principal at the accounting firm Brock, Schechter & Polakoff LLP, was named a board member and treasurer of the Buffalo Shamrocks Hockey Club Board of Directors. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

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Andrea Patterson, BA 2011 & BS 2011, was honored as a distinguished alumni member by the Niagara Falls City School District. A cancer researcher, Patterson is pursuing her doctoral degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology at The Ohio State University. She resides in Columbus, Ohio.

Jennifer Eldridge, MLS 2013, was promoted from youth services supervisor to director at Longview Public Library. She lives in Tatum, Texas.

Joseph Elhage, MS 2013 & BS 2012, joined Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP as a senior accountant. He resides in Amherst, N.Y.

Adam Cardinal, MS 2014 & BS 2013, was promoted to senior accountant at Chiampou Travis Besaw

CONTINUED



DAVE MURRAY

How-to with Gregg Philipson, BS '73

Founder, Gregg and Michelle Philipson Collection and Archive

Interview by Michael Flatt » Whether it's rare books, ceramic cows or baseball cards, it seems almost everyone has a collection of some sort. The Philipsons, however, are no hobbyists. With artifacts numbering in the tens of thousands, their collection draws curators from museums like Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Rotating among various museums and the Philipsons' home in Austin, Texas, the collection tells the stories of individual lives, primarily those affected by World War II and the Holocaust.

Philipson discovered his passion for collecting while researching his own family's history. "I was trying to figure out how they came to the U.S., why they came, and find artifacts to support that," he says. In the process, he learned that a large portion of his and his wife's families had died during the war, either as soldiers or victims of the Holocaust. The items he found became some of the first artifacts in their collection.

The parameters of the Philipsons' archive are loosely defined. "My wife would argue that there are none," Philipson says, chuckling, "but that's not exactly true." The focus is Holocaust-era materials, but the collection also includes items related to other forgotten actors in history, like Jewish and African-American figures of the American Revolution. Some of their most sought-after pieces are original works by satirical artists like Arthur Szyk and Dr. Seuss, who was a political cartoonist during World War II. "We're trying to tell not just the story of the Holocaust, but the story of specific people," says Philipson. "You want to understand what drove people, like these artists, to do what they did."

We asked Philipson what it takes to become a serious collector.

How to build an important collection:

Do your homework

Sit down and research the environment of your subject. You have to understand what's out there before you delve into it, otherwise you end up buying forgeries or counterfeit items. I made that mistake myself.

Build a network

Some of the best material I find comes from people I've previously done business with. If you just go

to the online sources that everybody goes to, you're going to pay higher prices and only find the common stuff.

Negotiate with care

I'm sure there are people who haggle, but I don't. Sellers can take stuff so personally, it's unbelievable. I may tell someone what I think the fair market value is, and go from there, but that's it.

Know what you want and don't dillydally

One item I tried but failed to acquire was a baseball cap designed by Dr. Seuss while he was drawing ads for Esso Oil Co. The first time I saw it I bid too low and I lost it. Just a few days ago, another one appeared on eBay and I snagged it. I was not about to let it go a second time.

Class Notes

& Kershner LLP. He lives in Lockport, N.Y.

Augustina Droze, MFA 2015, joined BoxHeart Gallery's presentation "Emergent Patterns," an art exhibition that celebrates the concept of wise conservation, in particular, the impact of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

David Harary, BA 2015, founder and executive director of the Center for Development and Strategy, was named a Top 30 Under 30 Leader in Sustainability by Corporate Knights, a Canadian magazine and company. Harary is working toward a master's of science in sustainability management at the University of Toronto. He lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Kylie Arcara, MS 2016 & BS 2015, joined Brock, Schechter & Polakoff LLP as a staff accountant. Arcara will work on accounting and taxation engagements. She resides in Amherst, N.Y.

Diana Emran, BS 2016, joined Schunk, Wilson & Co. Certified Public Accountants PC as a staff accountant. She lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Zhi Ting Phua, BA 2016, was hired by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy as a marketing and communications coordinator. She resides in Amherst, N.Y.

Aimee Plante, MArch 2016, joined the Phinney Design Group, a multidisciplinary architecture, interior design, green building consulting and construction management firm. She lives in Watertown, N.Y.

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JOHN JAY CABRANA

Top Five *with* Charles Fulco, BA '90

Education Committee Chair, American Astronomical Society's 2017 Total Solar Eclipse Task Force

Interview by Sally Jarzab » Charles Fulco has had some intriguing titles to go with his lifelong interest in astronomy: planetarium director, NASA solar system ambassador, dark sky advocate. Now, as part of the American Astronomical Society's 2017 Total Solar Eclipse Task Force, he's traveling the country to spread information and excitement about the celestial event that on Aug. 21 will briefly turn day into night in 14 U.S. states. Another one, due in 2024, will have UB right on its centerline, and Fulco couldn't be more thrilled.

Total solar eclipses offer an opportunity to interact with our universe in a way that is both indescribable and unforget-

table, says Fulco. "It's the most incredible sight—you can't even imagine it until you've seen it—the sun's corona surrounding the black disc of the moon, and stars appearing in the daytime sky. The wow factor is huge."

There's no need to wait for an eclipse, however, to look up into the wild black yonder and expand your mind. In fact, as Fulco sees it, we should all be doing this now, before it's too late. "When you lose the night sky," he warns, "you lose the universe." He wishes everyone would cultivate regard for the vast reaches above us, which are obscured as much by unawareness as by light pollution. We asked for his advice on getting started.

Five tips for appreciating the night sky:

Find the darkest dark you can

1 Light is public enemy No. 1 when it comes to night-sky viewing. To escape it, head to a remote park or other location, preferably up high. Then let your eyes adjust to the darkness by avoiding artificial illumination of any kind—unfiltered flashlights and cellphones included.

Learn the fundamentals

2 As a science educator, I'm often surprised at how much even adults don't know about Earth and what lies beyond. Refamiliarize yourself with some of the basic facts about the moon, planets, meteors, comets, stars and galaxies—all of which can be

visible to sky gazers using just their own eyes or binoculars.

Get creative

3 Keep a written journal of your observations, take a shot at astronomical photography or explore things within our galaxy as they exist in literature. In anticipation of this August's event, I recommend James Fenimore Cooper's autobiographical vignette, "The Eclipse," with all his glorious imagery describing a total eclipse over his hometown in 1806.

Expand your horizons

4 I go all over the world to put myself within the path of total eclipses, most recently to Argentina, but there are plenty of

places closer to home to see astronomical wonders—including more than 30 certified International Dark Sky Parks across the United States. Work one into your next vacation.

Go digital

5 Obviously, the best way to connect with the night sky is live and in person, but it's not the only way. You can go to stellarium.org anytime to download a great planetarium program right on your desktop or check out the Astronomy Picture of the Day. And be sure to check out GreatAmericanEclipse.com and my Facebook page [Totality2017](https://www.facebook.com/Totality2017) for everything you need to know about this summer's rare treat.

I AM

How

UB helps students build their futures.

"My love for UB brought me to the New York chapter and my passion for the people kept me involved."

Donna Cheifetz, BA 2007,
College of Arts and Sciences

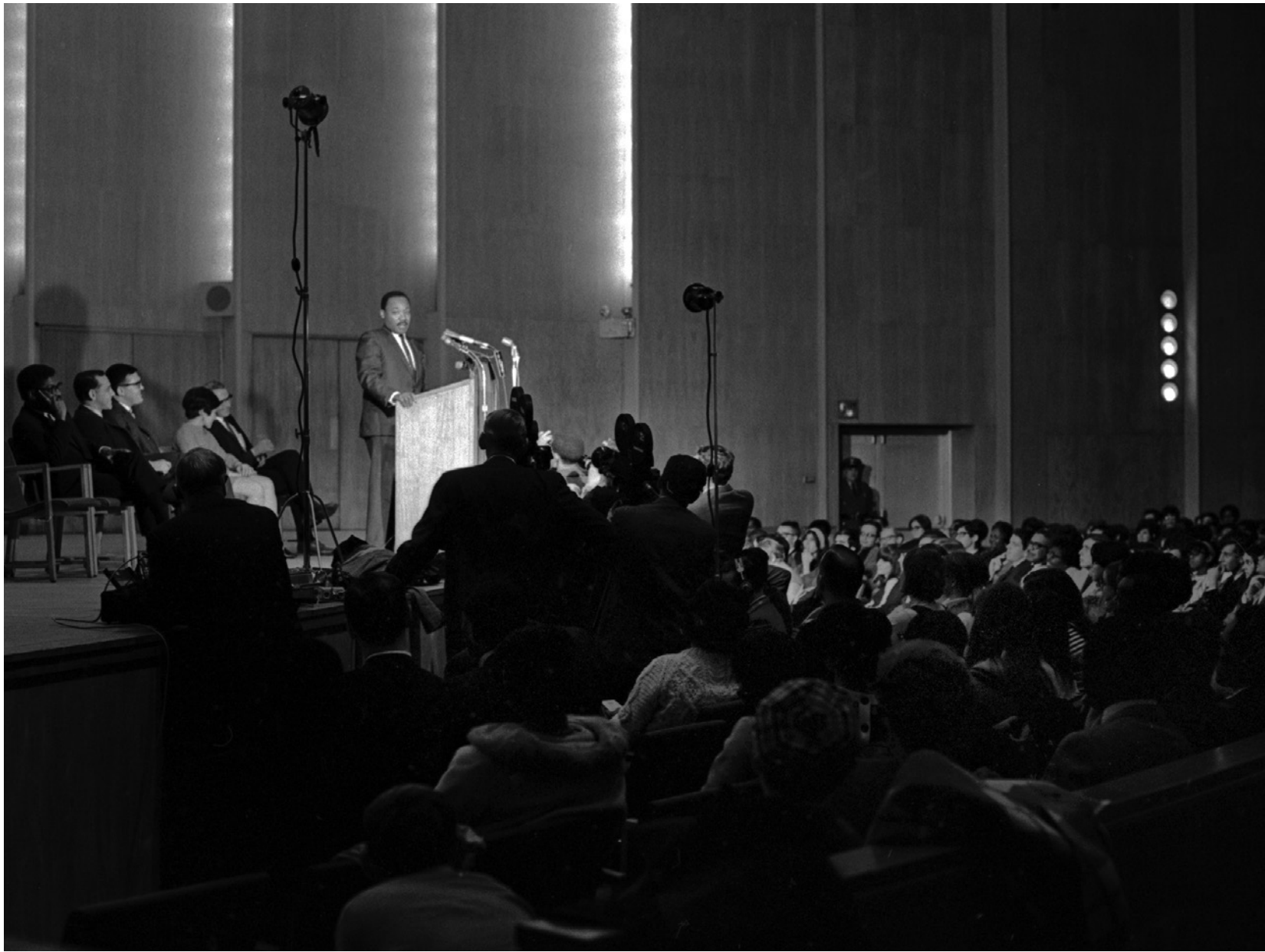
Donna Cheifetz, BA '07, was a theatre major at UB, so her current title at LinkedIn seems fitting because it offers her three roles to portray: Employee Advocacy Expert, Culture Champion and Evangelist for Inclusion. A frequent UB volunteer and co-president of her NYC alumni chapter, Cheifetz says she participates because the students and her fellow graduates inspire her. "We have students from all over the world, speaking every language and studying every major. I'm so proud of the diversity of UB alumni and students."

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OVER THE GLOBE.

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UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

UB YESTERDAY

Nov. 9, 1967

Let Freedom Ring

By Sally Jarzab

As Martin Luther King Jr. saw it, three forces surreptitiously hold back social justice. They are the myth of time, the myth of the heart and the myth of the “bootstrap philosophy.”

The first makes people believe that things get better naturally with time and leads them to complacency. The second suggests that positive change must occur within people’s hearts and not, as is really necessary, within the codes of law. And the last supports the false notion that the oppressed can pull themselves out of oppression if they simply try harder. The illustrious civil rights leader—and grandson of slaves and sharecroppers—felt that the progress the nation had achieved was threatened by these misbeliefs, which created a “dangerous optimism” among those dreaming of true equality for all.

Fifty years have passed since King’s appearance in Buffalo, organized by the UB Graduate Student Association and held just five months before his assassination, during a time of burning churches, raging riots and an escalating war that he opposed. Still, his closing words to the audience of more than 2,000 students, faculty, staff and community members at Kleinhans Music Hall that night were steadfast, even hopeful, and met with a standing ovation.

“I haven’t lost faith, even though the days ahead are still difficult, and the problems are very real, and the moments are very frustrating,” King said. “I will not yield to the politics of despair. Our goal is freedom, and I still believe that, somehow, we’ll get there.” **B**



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



YOUR GIFT

matters.

Chimere Alozie ←

CLASS OF 2018
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Chimere Alozie was born in Brooklyn, NY, and moved to Nigeria as a teenager. "I claim both countries, depending on where I am and who asks," says Alozie, who chose to attend UB to study civil engineering. This past summer, he was one of a group of UB undergraduates investigating microbial pollution at Western New York beaches. UB RENEW (Research and Education in eNergy, Environment and Water), an institute that focuses on the social and economic ramifications of complex energy and environmental issues, funded the project. He was thankful for a donor-funded scholarship he received, which helped him support himself while gaining valuable research experience. Alozie, who says he is most interested in skyscraper construction, hopes to someday work at a firm with a sustainable development focus.

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LAST LOOK **Benchmark** Big ideas are born at UB, now with a little encouragement from artist Michael Beitz (MFA '09). His second campus installation—a 40-by-20-foot question-mark-shaped picnic table aptly named “Why?”—sets an inquisitive tone on the lawn of Diefendorf Quad on the South Campus, giving faculty, staff and students a space to gather and ask questions. According to Beitz, there’s nothing more crucial at the present moment than for communities to engage critically and creatively and find points of unity. At UB, “Why?” is one place where that dialogue can begin.