

At Buffalo

UB alumna/WWII codebreaker p34

Are Americans nice? p13

50 things we love about UB p32

The magazine for alumni and friends of the University at Buffalo Spring 2018



JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

THE BIG REVEAL

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE p22





FIRST LOOK

Photograph by Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

Keep Calm and Plow On

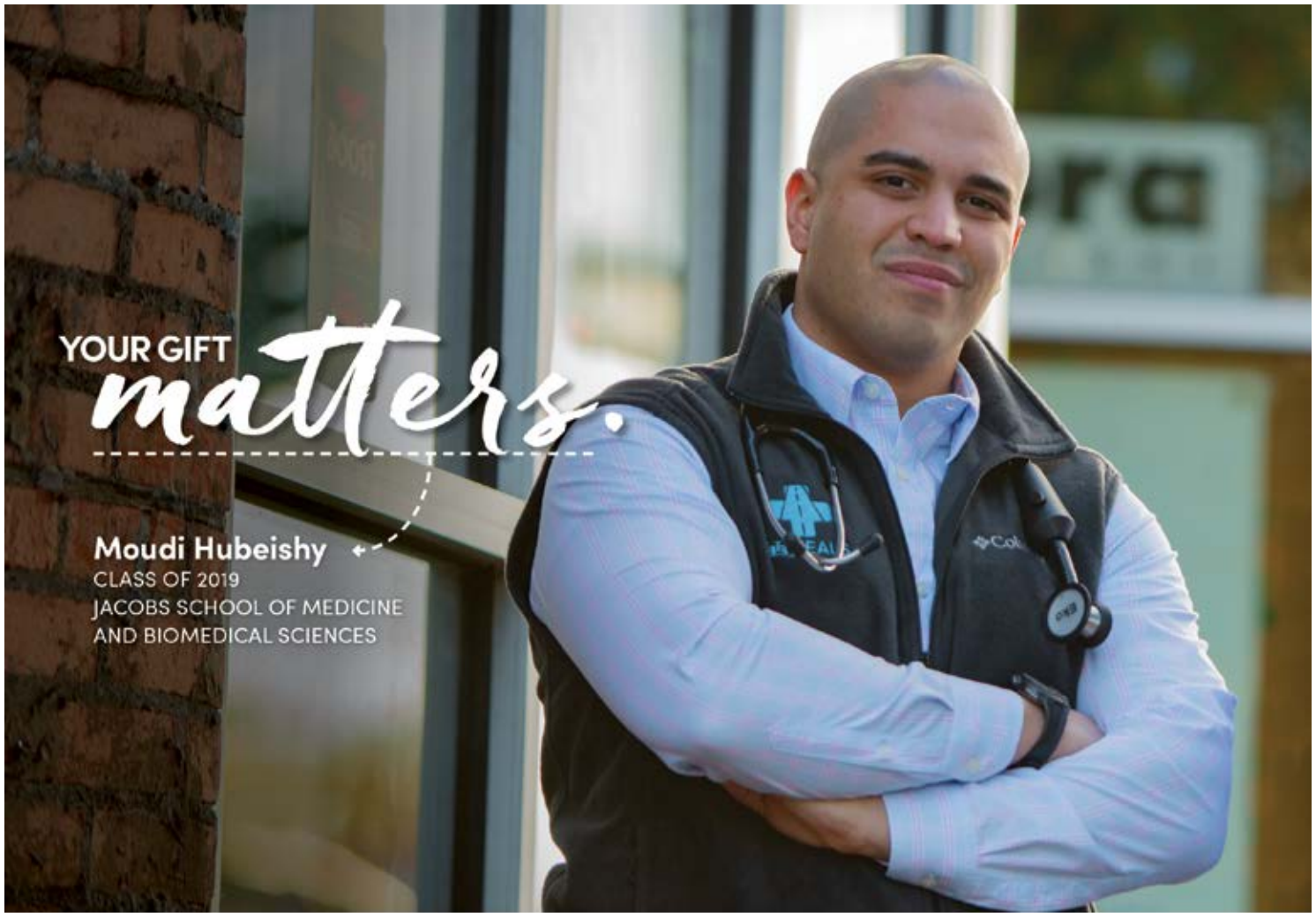
By Andrew Coddington » Buffalo's reputation for blustery winters is a badge of honor for the residents who weather them. The truth is, we know how to deal with the white stuff.

At UB, a detailed plan is in place for just that. As soon as surfaces get slick, the University Facilities team begins salting. When snow cover reaches approximately 2 inches, roadway plowing starts; when parking lots accumulate between 2 and 4 inches, those get plowed as well. In peak season (between January and late March), snow removal crews are on duty around the clock Monday through Friday, and for one Saturday shift too.

This serene shot of the Greiner Hall parking lot in December gives just a glimpse of the frosty weather that disrupted much of the country this winter. Here, we're used to it. When snow covers UB, UB has snow covered. ❄️

SNOW NOTES

- 38 Miles of campus roads to plow
- 155 Parking lots to clear
- 36 Crew members
- 50 Pieces of equipment



YOUR GIFT
matters.

Moudi Hubeishy ←
CLASS OF 2019
JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Moudi Hubeishy knows how critical raising money is to a program's success. He founded UB HEALS, a street medicine program, as a first-year UB medical student. Hubeishy and his fellow volunteers also had to raise long-term funding for the program. Today, with 30 volunteers and a handful of grants, UB HEALS is on solid ground. Now a third-year medical student, Hubeishy knows how much one gift can help ensure the future for those in need, much like your gift to the UB Fund ensures students like him can succeed. "When you support us, you encourage us to make changes for the better," he says.

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

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Table of Contents

Spring 2018 The magazine for alumni and friends of the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York



34

Genevieve Grotjan,
master codebreaker.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

Features

Medical Marvel p22

From the stunning six-story atrium to the advanced surgical simulation center, the new home of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is a perfect fusion of form and function.

Story by Ellen Goldbaum and Sally Jarzab
Photographs by Douglas Levere and Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

The 50 Best Things About Being a Bull p32

If Baird Point and therapy dogs during finals week don't get you looking at the world through blue-colored glasses, we think at least a few of the other 48 items on our unofficial list will.

Illustrations by Michael Gelen

An American Hero p34

During World War II, Genevieve Grotjan (BA '36) brought her mathematical brilliance to bear on Purple—the confounding code Japanese diplomats used to encrypt top-level communications—and uncovered the pattern that cracked it wide open.

Story by Ann Whitcher Gentzke
Photo illustration by Bob Wilder

On the Cover: The downtown home of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences opened its doors to students and faculty in January, ushering in a new era in UB's long and distinguished history of medical education.

- Departments**
- 7 Bullhorn** Sustainability abroad; reassessing Millard Fillmore
 - 11 Eureka!** A researcher's legacy; a monster otter; are we done yeti?
 - 15 Locker Room** B-ball wishes and MAC dreams; mastery on the tennis court
 - 19 Mixed Media** Ramblin' with The Itinerant Printer; "At Buffalo," the musical
 - 39 Alumni Life** Turning garbage into gold; a dance for NASA; Awad finds her voice
 - 43 Class Notes** Heath at the bar; how to pick a horse; spotting pseudoscience



DEPOSITPHOTOS

In Every Issue 4 Editor's Essay 5 The President's Page 14 Objectology 18 Coffeehouse 48 UB Yesterday

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At Buffalo magazine, with a circulation of 115,000, is published quarterly by the University at Buffalo Alumni Association in cooperation with the Division of University Communications and the Division of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement. Standard rate postage paid at Plattsburgh, N.Y. Editorial offices are located at 330 Crofts Hall, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260. Telephone: 716-645-3312; email: atbuffalomagazine@buffalo.edu. At Buffalo welcomes inquiries, but accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or photographs. Opinions expressed in At Buffalo are not necessarily those of the University at Buffalo or the magazine editors.



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

What's in a Building?

Planning our feature package on the new downtown home of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences presented a unique challenge for us. How could we bring a fresh lens to this historic undertaking, one that has been documented and celebrated at every stage since its genesis as an idea a decade ago to its completion this past January?

Including a lot of photos was a no-brainer. It's one thing to write about a six-story light-filled atrium, active-learning classrooms and state-of-the-art lab spaces. It's another to see them. The interiors of the new building are stunning, and while those of us who

write for the university have talked at length about the casual interactions and collaborations encouraged by the building's design, the profundity of that design doesn't really sink in until you see it in action. Everywhere you can possibly stand in the building, the feeling is one of openness, light and transparency, and I think our talented staff photographers, Douglas Levere and Meredith Forrest Kulwicki, conveyed that sense beautifully in these images.

Beyond showcasing the visual impact of the new building, it turns out there was much more to say about it as well. In the end, we had the same challenge we usually have in At Buffalo: more stories to tell than we can fit in our pages. We decided to focus on the less visible



DOUGLAS LEVERE

aspects of the structure—or, more specifically, on some of the possibilities created by moving the medical school downtown and constructing a new home for it from scratch. For example, the ability to ground a course on health disparities in urban communities in the school's very own urban community. The ability to combine pathology, anatomical sciences, surgical skills and computational modeling in a way that redefines education for medical students as well as training for physicians and researchers. The ability to look at sustainability from a broad view that includes not only the features of a building but also how people commute to and from it, and how they interact with the community while they're there.

All of these pieces and more combine to tell the real story of the new home for the Jacobs School. It's not just a new building. It's not just a new location. It's a game-changer—for our students, for our physicians, for our community, for the future of our region, and for all the people around the world who will benefit from the discoveries that take place within those walls.

Laura Silverman, Editorial Director

Returning to Our Roots, Advancing Our Mission

ON FEB. 24, 1847, a group of aspiring physicians walked into a leased Baptist church at the corner of Washington and Seneca streets to report for class in the first decanal unit of the newly chartered University of Buffalo.

Back then, it was known simply as the Medical Department.

Head 2 miles north and fast forward 171 years. On Jan. 8, the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences made history anew when the Class of 2021 attended the first lectures in the school's new downtown home.

our first medical school students answered their calling inside a leased Baptist church.

That mission? To cultivate exceptionally well-trained, civic-minded physicians who are dedicated to delivering exemplary care.

As we celebrate our decade-long dream of returning the Jacobs School to its downtown roots, we also recognize how this 21st-century building empowers us to dig deeper still into a commitment forged during the 19th century.

The move to our downtown campus situates the Jacobs School within steps of many of our key hospital partners, so we can enhance patient care while equipping our students for even greater success in an evolving health care landscape. It will help us further our research innovations as we continue to improve health and wellness for our region and our world. And it has enabled us to expand our class size, allowing us to fill physician shortages in critical specialties while building on UB's longstanding tradition of serving society's most vulnerable.

It is a notable coincidence that UB was founded as a medical school during this region's heyday while, today, the school's return downtown intersects with a dazzling regional renaissance.

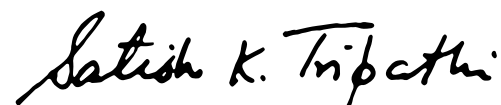
In 1847, Buffalo was an Erie Canal boomtown and the gateway to the West. In 2018, Western New York has refashioned itself into a thriving knowledge-based economy, with UB playing a pivotal role in the metamorphosis—most recently by anchoring the building for the Jacobs School to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Whenever I visit the new building, I recall the first time I saw its architectural renderings.

The world-class design was a sight to behold. Today, to gaze upon the finished product is to fully appreciate just how breathtaking it is.

Truly, this magnificent new structure has redefined Buffalo's skyline.

But much like the medical school's first students and original faculty members—several of whom are considered unquestioned giants in their fields to this day—it is the people teaching, training and conducting research inside who will redefine medicine, for this region and well beyond. 🍌



Satish K. Tripathi, President

It is astounding to consider the advances that have taken place in the medical field from the time of our university's founding, as a private medical school, to today.

Think antibiotics and antivirals. Ultrasound, X-rays and CT scans. The polio vaccine, cancer detection and treatment. The first practical implantable pacemaker, to name a UB breakthrough (see p. 14). Organ transplantation, open-heart surgery, robotic surgery. These are but a handful of the groundbreaking discoveries that have saved millions of lives while contributing to a life expectancy that has more than doubled the world over.

Throughout this extraordinary medical revolution, the Jacobs School has remained as constant to its core mission as the day



Cutting the ribbon to officially open the new home of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. From left: Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, UB Council Chair Jeremy M. Jacobs, New York Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, UB President Satish K. Tripathi, VP for Health Sciences and Dean of the Jacobs School Michael Cain, and UB medical student Laura Reed.

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 Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity. Please include a daytime phone number for verification.



Inspired by Jake

As a graduate from UB in the '90s, I saw UB enter Division I only to sit at the bottom of the conference for ages. It's been fun watching my alma mater get some national attention over the last five, six years in both football and basketball. Articles like these ["Jake Schum's Wild Ride," Winter 2018] are fun and interesting. Great job representing UB, Jake, and for persevering. It sounds like it's been a tough but rewarding adventure. I'll be watching to see how things go for you next year!

Phaelon Silva (MD '00, MS '97 & BS '94)
Ithaca, N.Y.

This is an amazing story that I am sure is not finished yet. I worked with Jake when he was bouncing between Cleveland and the Jets. He was a totally focused man who let nothing get in the way of his goal. His training program was grueling, his commitment unyielding. He did all this while remaining one of the funniest, most positive people I have known. I was not in Jake's close circle of friends, just a co-worker at the gym, but I had abandoned my dream of playing ice hockey at a young age as circumstances and time took hold. Then, at the age of 40, I trained hard for six months and took my first face-off in 27 years. One hundred forty games later and now 45 years old, I am in the best shape of my life. It is stories like Jake's that gave me the stones to get back in the game instead of telling myself that the dream was over. So, thanks, Jake. I never would have skated again had it not been for your inspiration.

Christopher Mackert
Buffalo, N.Y.

Salt Wars

Not so fast ["Worth His Salt," Fall 2017]. Check out the Jane Brody article in The New York Times, Nov. 20, 2017, for a take-

down of [the argument against limiting salt intake]. According to Brody and broad scientific consensus, this UB-trained researcher's claims are "shabby science." And the fact that this shabby science about salt is getting widespread coverage is because media outlets, like this one from UB, are all too happy to publish sensational "man bites dog" stories.

Jeffrey Stadelman
Buffalo, N.Y.

The writer is associate professor emeritus of music at UB.

Editor's response: The more than 350 comments following Brody's article (many pointing to science-based articles in that same publication in support of the pro-salt view) underline the fact that the jury is still out on the debate over salt, even among the experts.

In Praise of Print

I'm a '77 graduate of the School of Public Health and Health Professions. I live in Austin, Texas, these days but always enjoy getting my copy of At Buffalo.

I'm excited to read about the continuing progress at UB and especially all the growth and economic development sparked by the new medical school building. I look forward to receiving the ongoing updates, and even though I'm pretty tech savvy and most of my daily world is online, I still do appreciate tangible media, so thank you for continuing to produce a print edition. If it were only online it would be harder for me to remember to randomly pick it up and read it.

Keep up the good work!

Gail Papermaster (BS '77)
Austin, Texas

From the Editor's Desk

Along with the rest of Western New York, the UB community was deeply saddened by the loss of Robert G. Wilmers, the longtime chair and CEO of M&T Bank, who died this past December. In addition to his numerous civic and philanthropic contributions to the region, he was a staunch supporter of the university, serving as co-chair of UB's comprehensive campaign in the late '80s/early '90s, as chair of the UB Foundation's

Robert G. Wilmers, 1934-2017

Board of Trustees in the early '90s and, most recently, as co-chair of the Build the Vision campaign for the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. In the words of UB President Satish K. Tripathi, Wilmers was a "dedicated advocate and a loyal friend," and will be greatly missed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF M&T BANK

Bullhorn

Life at UB,
on and off
campus

Compiled by Sally Jarzab. Written by Sally Jarzab, Jeff Klein and Andrew Coddington

**“Sustainability is less
about technology
and more about
mindset.”**

JOHN D. ATKINSON

Atkinson (far right) and his students with Javier Álvarez Barquero (far left), operations manager at the Guanacaste Wind Farm.

Dances with lions p8

What's new on South p8

Regarding Millard Fillmore p10

Gone With the Windmills

STEM students learn about
sustainability in Costa Rica

By Andrew Coddington » Hiking a volcano, touring banana and coffee plantations, ascending through a cloud forest, all while spending time in a tropical paradise. It sounds like a perfect getaway, but for the 16 UB students enrolled in CIE 464 Sustainability in Latin America, winter break in Costa Rica was hard work ... mostly.

Faculty director John D. Atkinson, assistant professor of environmental engineering, realized that few engineering and science students were able to study abroad for whole semesters at a time. So he created this shorter winter-session course, focusing on Costa Rica as an ideal destination to observe sustainability. The country has announced plans to become the first carbon-neutral country in the world by 2021 and is well on its way: Today, approximately 98 percent of its energy comes from renewable sources, and more than 25 percent of its land is protected forest.

Over 17 days, students explored some of Costa Rica's energy resources, including the geothermal plant beneath Miravalles Volcano and the Guanacaste Wind Farm, as well as ecotourism destinations, corporate plantations and family farms. They were tasked with considering how methods, scale of production and other factors affect sustainability, and how better practices could be incorporated back home.

To Atkinson, the biggest takeaway was the pride that Costa Ricans have in their country's progress. "You can pull any person off the street and ask them about energy, and they will gush about their wind turbines or how clean their water is," he says, remarking on the irony that a developing country could make such great strides while many advanced ones drag their feet. "Sustainability," Atkinson says, "is less about technology and more about mindset."

To that end, he gave the students one question to reflect upon in a post-trip final paper: "What now?" **B**

DOUGLAS LEVINE

Bullhorn

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

We never get tired of sunsets over campus.



@FSZASDI

Bird's-eye view of a snowy Michael Bietz (MFA '09) bench on the South Campus.



@JIMCIELENCI

Deer on a winter's day on the North Campus.



MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI



MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI

UB Bucket List

(100 things every student should do before graduating)

NO.

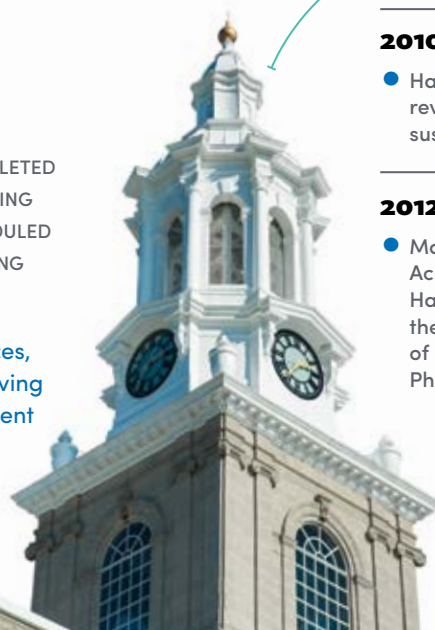
40

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK The traditional Chinese Lion Dance is just one of the cultural customs on display during UB's celebration of International Education Week each year in November. UB's international students hail from more than 100 different countries, so those interested in trying something new—whether it's writing their name in Arabic or learning a taekwondo kick—have ample opportunity to expand their horizons.

A Sense of Place

Long before it was the university's South Campus, it was *the* campus, based on a master plan by E.B. Green. The historic parcel at Main Street and Bailey Avenue has evolved considerably over the years and continues to do so, especially with the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, which had been on the South Campus since 1953, moving into its new downtown home. Here is a timeline of recent developments—and what more may be in store.

- COMPLETED
- ONGOING
- SCHEDULED
- PENDING



Hayes Hall

2010

- Harriman Quadrangle revamped to become a sustainable green space.

2012

- Major renovation of Acheson Hall (now Kapoor Hall) accommodates the growth of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

2016

- Transformation of iconic Hayes Hall—a \$44 million project—ushers in a new age for the School of Architecture and Planning.
- Café and study space added to Abbott Hall.
- Restorative work on historic Crosby Hall begins, and is continuing in a phased approach.

15,000

That's how many student passengers UB's fleet of Stampede buses may move on any given weekday when school is in session. All aboard!



MEREDITH FORREST KILWICKI

**In case you missed it*

ICYMI

(Good news worth sharing)

WELCOME, WORLD. For the 15th straight year, UB is listed among the top 25 U.S. institutions hosting international students. The ranking appears in the Institute of International Education's 2017 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange.

AVERTING VIOLENCE. UB was one of five recipients of the 2017 Prevention Excellence Award from the nationwide Campus Prevention Network, reflecting our outstanding efforts to stop sexual assault, as measured against the highest standards in the field.

INVENTION ATTENTION. UB professor Edward P. Furlani (PhD '82, MA '80 & BS '77), recognized around the world for his pioneering work in microfluidics, inkjet systems, optoelectronics and other areas, has been named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

SUNNYSIDE UP. With help from UB's Regional Institute, the Solarize Amherst campaign—part of a larger regional effort to generate more solar energy across the Buffalo Niagara area—has spurred the installation of 59 new roof-mounted solar arrays, totaling 1,283 panels, on residences in the town.



DEPOSITPHOTOS

ONE-LINER "It's actually from cutting too many ribbons in Buffalo."

New York Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, jokingly, when asked by a Buffalo News reporter about the brace she wore on her arm at the grand opening ceremony of the new home for the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (in reality, she had torn tendons from moving a piece of luggage)

2017

- First phase of a \$25 million renovation to Squire Hall transforms the School of Dental Medicine's preclinical simulation lab.
- 1Diefendorf, a one-stop shop for student services, created.

- Harriman Café gets a major upgrade.

2018

- Second phase of the Squire Hall renovation in progress, with a focus on renovating the dental clinic and creating a welcome center for visitors.
- Starting this summer, temporary buildings that have long since served their purpose—MacDonald, Pritchard

and Schoellkopf halls, and Diefendorf and Hayes annexes—to be removed in three phases.

- Renovations to Townsend Hall to start this summer.

- ADA improvements to Allen Hall, which serves as administrative office space, underway.
- Renovation and reuse of former Jacobs School structures, including Cary and Farber halls, to allow UB's other health sciences schools to expand.

- Renovations and upgrades to Clark Hall.
- Moving the School of Social Work into Parker Hall.
- Construction of a building to house the Graduate School of Education and a new Professional Education Center.



Townsend Hall

On the horizon*

- Sherman Hall to be demolished to make room for future construction.

* In various stages of planning, approval and/or funding



1Diefendorf

DOUGLAS LEVINE

Bullhorn

The wreath-laying ceremony took place in zero-degree cold. Inset: Carole Emberton.



MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI



A Commemoration in CONTEXT

Officials from UB and area institutions gathered at Millard Fillmore's gravesite in Buffalo's

Forest Lawn Cemetery in January for the annual commemoration of the university's first chancellor and the nation's 13th president—but this year's ceremony was different. For the first time, the focus was on Fillmore's signing of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act and the suffering it caused African-Amer-

icans. In her address, Associate Professor of History Carole Emberton noted the "great contributions" Fillmore made to

Buffalo in founding so many civic organizations, but said it was time "to think about aspects of his legacy that we're less proud of." Said William J. Regan, director of special events at UB: "Building an inclusive future requires a nuanced understanding of the past."

Cool Classes

For those students interested in maxing, rather than relaxing, over the break, UB's winter session offered more than 200 courses. Here are a few we think would have brightened up anyone's January doldrums.

- » The Beatles in the 1960s
- » Empathizing With Empathy
- » Aerial Dance and Circus Art
- » Engineering Machine Shop
- » Making Sense of 2016 Pre-Election
- » Classics in the Mediterranean
- » How To Write Like a Journalist
- » Smartphone-Based Art-Making
- » Cinemas of Asia



A student uses a lathe to fabricate a metal hammer in Engineering Machine Shop.

MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI

Eureka!



An otter with bite p12

Niceness unpacked p13

Yeti, we hardly knew ye p13

Volpe's Legacy

A life cut short, a life-affirming grant revived

By Elizabeth Gehrman » Ellen Volpe's sudden death in a car crash last June at age 44 created multiple layers of loss. Volpe, an assistant professor in the School of Nursing, was a devoted wife and mother, a beloved teacher and colleague, a community volunteer who worked with at-risk youth, and a dedicated researcher who was on the cusp of launching an important investigation with real-world implications.

Now, thanks to the efforts of her former colleagues, that work—a pilot study using a treatment called narrative exposure therapy (NET) to help urban teens suffering from violence-related post-traumatic stress—will carry on as a lasting legacy. “It was sad to think that something Ellen was so passionate



Ellen Volpe with her family.

about would end so abruptly,” says Tiffany Jenzer, one of the graduate students on Volpe's research team. “So we brainstormed: What would it be like to continue this?”

Psychology professor Jennifer Read, who

had been Volpe's mentor on the project, volunteered to take over as principal investigator, but there was a snag: The grant, a career development award funded by the National Institutes of Health, was pegged not only to the research but also to the researcher. In other words, without Volpe, there could be no funding. Enter UB's Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), which administered the grant and was also keen to see this important work go forward. CTSI Director Timothy Murphy steered Read toward a different grant; she received it,

JAMES STUBBINS

CONTINUED

Eureka!

says Murphy, with the “unanimous” support of CTSI leadership.

NET is an innovative, short-term form of therapy that encourages patients to talk about their trauma in a way that contextualizes it within the larger story of their life—as opposed to framing their life story around the trauma. “The theory is that by helping people change their beliefs about the trauma and how they understand what happened to them, it helps them move past events,” says Read. “It doesn’t erase what happened, but it helps reduce their symptoms.” It’s known in the field for its successful use with refugees living in or fleeing from war zones; Volpe’s innovation was to test the treatment in urban, at-risk youth, who are exposed to different forms of violence, such as domestic abuse and neighborhood crime.

“It was sad to think that something Ellen was so passionate about would end so abruptly.”

TIFFANY JENZER

Compass House in Buffalo, recruiting young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who have experienced multiple traumas. In each session, an event in the subject’s life is analyzed in depth, and rocks or flowers, signifying traumatic or positive events, are placed upon a rope “timeline” representing the subject’s life. “We talk about explicit details,” says Rodriguez. “What they were thinking, feeling, sensations in the body they might have noticed. When you get to the end of a session, they’re past the worst of it and have reached a safe spot where their emotions are not as intense.”

Though data collection is just beginning, Rodriguez is optimistic the therapy will prove effective. “Anecdotally,” she says, “it seems like some of them are starting to change their thinking about these events and experiencing some relief from sharing with someone they can trust.” Which is just the kind of legacy we imagine Volpe would have wanted. 📍

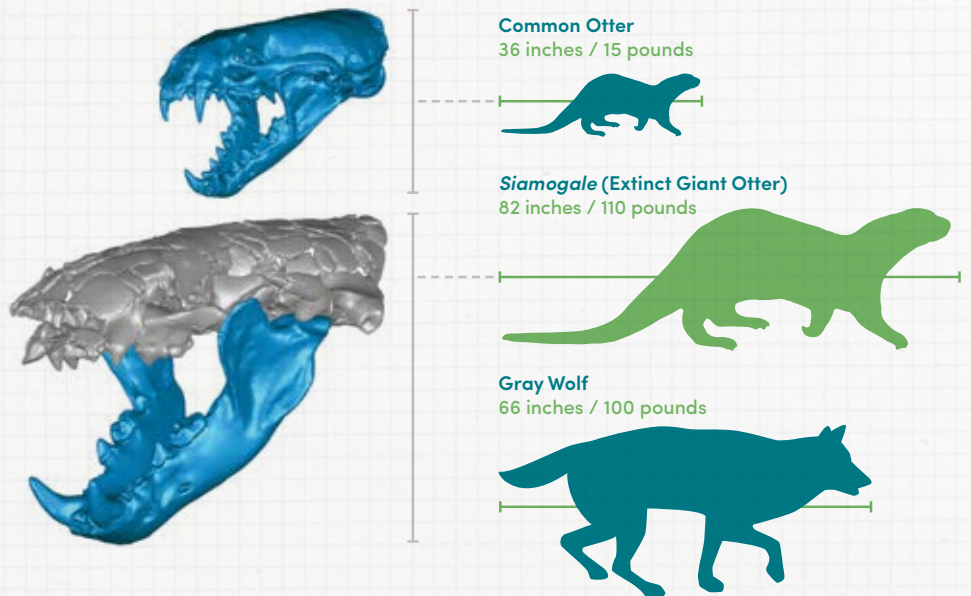


TWEETABLE: A \$1.5 million @NIH grant will help UB startup @Cytocybernetics scale up technology that radically cuts the time & expense of bringing new drugs to market.

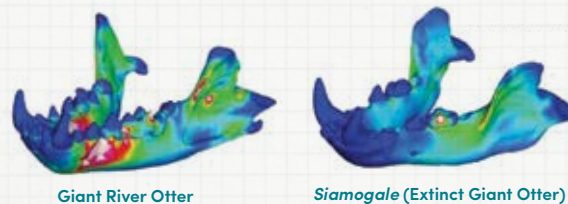


Otters are cute, cuddly critters, right? Well, research by Z. Jack Tseng, assistant professor in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, shows that might not always have been the case. Six million years ago, a gigantic otter named *Siamogale melilutra* roamed the wetlands of southwest China and was likely one of the top predators of its time.

It’s all relative: Sizewise, *Siamogale* was roughly proportional to today’s gray wolf, and its jaws were similarly large. When Tseng and his research team analyzed the jaws of 10 living species of otters, they found that the larger the otter, the weaker the jaw. They assumed that *Siamogale* would follow this pattern—but it didn’t.



Big jaws, bigger bite: These computer-generated models* show the relative strain (indicated in red) put on the jaws of the giant river otter vs. those of *Siamogale* during biting. The latter’s jaws were six times sturdier than Tseng expected, indicating a formidable bite—which, together with the animal’s size, would have made it a fearsome hunter.



* Jaws are scaled to the same size for display purposes only. The giant river otter’s jaw is actually smaller than *Siamogale*’s.



60 SECONDS WITH Carrie Tirado Bramen

Interview by Michael Flatt

Niceness Counts

In her new book, "American Niceness: A Cultural History," Associate Professor of English Carrie Tirado Bramen argues there's a particular kind of friendliness that is distinctive to the U.S. That may seem like a good thing, but according to Bramen, it also has a flip side. Because we see ourselves as nice, we often refuse to believe our country could do bad things, leading us to whitewash our past and present actions.

What do you mean by nice?

The American version of niceness is different from politeness. Being nice eases encounters with strangers without having the class connotations of mastering the protocols of etiquette. It's a democratic sensibility. You can be nice without coming from a class that knows all the right rules. It's very important for maintaining the fantasy that we live in a classless society. Where snobbery or aloofness would typify the elite of a rigid class hierarchy in the Old World, niceness is an expression of what I call a "democratic personality."

Are Americans nice?

It is difficult to generalize about a single person, never mind a nation, but there are certain behaviors that come to characterize a nation. I think, in large part, American niceness functions as a reflex rather than a reasoned response, as natural as saying "have a nice day." That's significant because it excuses us of a lot of sins. The genesis of this project came in the aftermath of 9/11 and the question one heard at the time: "Why do they hate us?" The question assumes there are no consequences for American foreign policy in the Middle East. That innocence—or ignorance—became the origin for this

book. It covers over a lot of atrocities that we're not willing to face up to, like the expulsion of Native Americans and slavery, which traumatized the country in ways that still haunt us today. But the book also documents outrage toward such policies, such as when Benjamin Franklin stopped a white mob called the Paxton Boys from killing more Conestoga Indians outside of Philadelphia in 1763. This illustrates the double-sidedness of niceness.

Did the rise of Donald Trump alter your study at all?

What's interesting about Trump is that he insists he's "a nice person." That insistence on being likable is quintessentially American. Trump always wants to talk about how popular he is, how many people showed up at his inauguration or to his latest rally. But this tendency has a long history. In the 1930s, the psychoanalyst Karen Horney noted that Americans were obsessed with their own popularity for competitive reasons, because it was the key to social mobility. This tendency has only intensified with social media's "likes." That's a product of advertising culture, of selling yourself, which Trump epitomizes. He's a microcosm of what the U.S. has typically represented to the world. 🗣️



Carrie Tirado Bramen

PHOTO: DOUGLAS LEVIERE. BACKGROUND IMAGE: DEPOSITPHOTOS

Beaker Briefs

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

By Marcene Robinson (BA '13)

The Abominable Snow... Bear?

The yeti is no more. A UB researcher analyzed DNA from nine samples of bone, teeth, skin, hair and feces allegedly belonging to the mythological yeti, an apelike creature said to terrorize the Himalayas. The results linked eight specimens to Asian bears. The remaining sample belonged to a dog.

LED BY: *Biological sciences researcher Charlotte Lindqvist*



Start of Schizophrenia

While symptoms of schizophrenia typically appear in adolescence, new UB-led research revealed that the mental disorder forms during early pregnancy. Using stem cells from patients with schizophrenia, researchers created minibrains to simulate brain formation in the womb. The discovery opens the window for development of treatments in utero and thereafter.

LED BY: *Pathology and anatomical sciences researcher Michal K. Stachowiak*

Picture Passwords

New technology developed by UB researchers can trace a single photo back to the smartphone that captured it and reliably detect fake photos fabricated by cybercriminals. Using an invisible pattern unique to each camera, the technology could join PINs and passwords in authentication processes to protect privacy.

LED BY: *Computer science and engineering researcher Kui Ren*

The implantable pacemaker was invented by a UB professor. Now, a team of UB engineers is about to give it a major upgrade.

In a Heartbeat

Sixty-two years ago, an electrical engineering researcher at UB named Wilson Greatbatch made one of the most important medical breakthroughs of the 20th century when he invented the implantable cardiac pacemaker, an apparatus that has saved millions of lives. But even the greatest discoveries have their drawbacks.

While pacemakers can last a lifetime, their batteries last less than 12 years, meaning patients have to undergo a costly surgery to implant a whole new pacemaker every decade or so. And because the new leadless

pacemakers are impossible to extract (they're inserted directly into the heart, and tissue develops around them), people can end up carrying several pacemakers in their body by the time they're 60 or 70 years old.

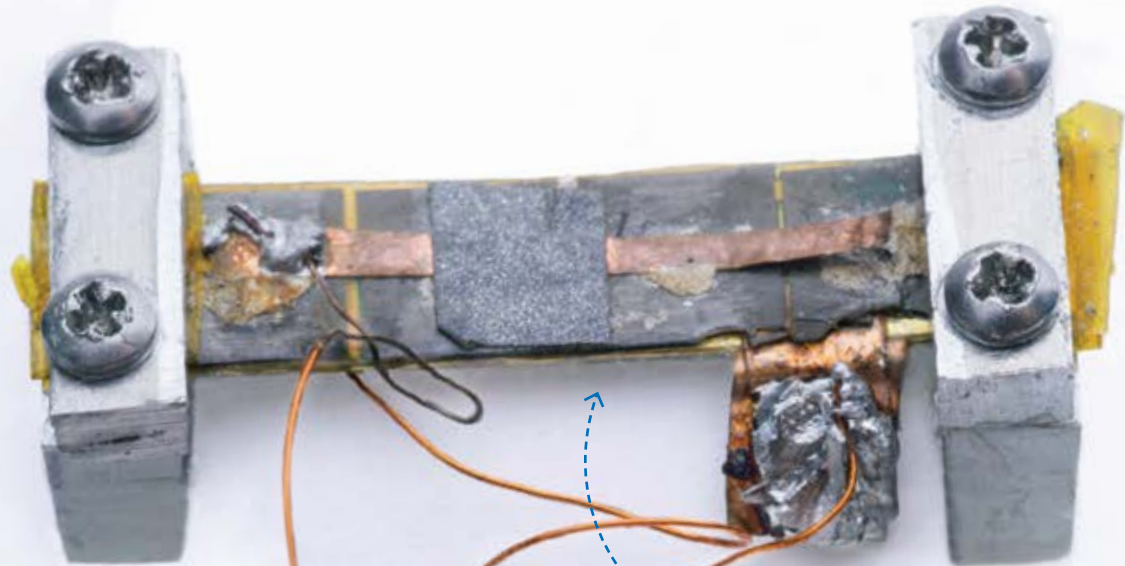
However, at UB's Intelligent Dynamic Energy and Sensing Systems (IDEAS) Lab, mechanical engineer M. Amin Karami and his team of researchers are taking Greatbatch's invention one step further. They've created a device, called an energy harvester, that harnesses vibrations from the patient's heartbeat to power the pacemaker. They hope it will one day make batteries, and repeat surgeries, obsolete.



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Invention by Happenstance

After inadvertently grabbing the wrong resistor for a marker oscillator, Wilson Greatbatch serendipitously invented the first implantable cardiac pacemaker. In the following years, he produced 50 handmade pacemakers in his barn in Clarence, N.Y., which doctors later used for animal and human trials. By 1961, the device was being officially manufactured, and by the time of Greatbatch's death in 2011, more than half a million patients a year were getting the implants.



DOUGLAS LEBER

Straight to the Heart

Traditional pacemakers are implanted in the chest with leads that go into the heart, requiring surgery and hospitalization. In 2013, they were joined by the much smaller leadless pacemaker. These devices require only a 10-minute procedure, in which the pacemaker is sent up through the blood vessels in the leg and inserted directly into the heart.



LEADLESS PACEMAKER AND HEART GRAPHIC REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION OF MEDTRONIC, INC.

Under One's Own Power

One of two prototypes, this energy harvester uses piezoelectric materials (solid materials that generate electricity from mechanical stress) to turn itself into a sustainable power source. While researchers have tried to use regenerative sources to power pacemakers for decades, the combination of design and technical elements in the IDEAS Lab's energy harvester is a novelty—and a promising one at that. It has already gone through some animal testing. The next step is to integrate the harvester into commercial pacemakers, like the one at left, and receive FDA approval.



Leadless pacemakers are about the size of a vitamin capsule.

LockerRoom

Aquatic dominance p17

Lolade is lovin' UB p17

Bulls win at diversity p17

Leading the Charge

UB's basketball teams brought national attention to Buffalo with superb seasons

By David J. Hill » The electricity was palpable inside Alumni Arena this winter as the UB men's and women's basketball teams posted record-setting seasons, generating some pulse-pounding MACtion.

As of press time, both teams were the hottest in the MAC heading into their respective conference tournaments. Felisha Legette-Jack's women's team was eyeing its second trip to the NCAA Tournament in three years, while Nate Oats' men's team was poised to advance to the Big Dance for the third time in four years.

The arena buzzed with excitement as fans filled the stands to check out two of the area's best college basketball teams. But the Bulls' success also garnered attention around the country. For the first time in Legette-Jack's tenure at UB, the Bulls received votes in the USA Today Top 25 Coaches Poll. Meanwhile, ESPN's Joe Lunardi projected UB to be a 13-seed in the men's tourney.

Turn the page for a look at one impact player from each squad, along with a few season highlights.

CONTINUED

Massive attack: Bulls guard CJ Massinburg takes the rock to the rim at Alumni Arena.

PAUL HOKANSON

Locker Room

Men's Highlights:

Nov. 29: Buffalo ties a school record for points in a road game with a 106-87 victory over Big 4 rival Niagara. It's also the first time in UB's Division I history that three players score more than 20 points in the same game.

Dec. 28: Senior Wes Clark, who transferred to UB from Missouri, leads the Bulls with 27 points as UB closes out its nonconference schedule with an 86-81 overtime win over New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Jan. 16: Junior Nick Perkins pours in 26 points and UB cruises past Northern Illinois, 95-67. The win marks the first time the Bulls begin 5-0 in the MAC and ties their best-ever start to conference play; UB went 5-0 in 1997-98, when it was a member of the Mid-Continent Conference.

Feb. 27: The Bulls overpower Akron with an 80-68 victory, clinching the top seed in the MAC Tournament for the first time in program history. It was also the Bulls' 14th conference win, a new program record. The "W" earns UB a first-round bye in the MAC Tournament and an automatic NIT bid if they don't make the NCAAs.

March 3: The Bulls claim their first outright MAC regular-season title after beating Bowling Green, 100-70. The win ties the school record for regular-season victories (23).



Left: Dillard on the drive. Bottom: Coach Legette-Jack explains.



Player Profile MEN'S

CJ Massinburg

HEIGHT: 6-3

YEAR: Junior

HOMETOWN: Dallas, Texas

POSITION: Guard

MAJOR: Sociology

AMASSIN' POINTS:

Massinburg, a scoring machine for the Bulls, became the 20th player in UB history—and seventh-fastest—to reach 1,000 career points. National media took notice of the All-MAC guard's explosive output, with CBS Sports college basketball insider Jon Rothstein tweeting that "Nate Oats and Buffalo have a stud in CJ Massinburg."

Women's Highlights:

Nov. 24: UB clobbers ACC member Clemson, 61-41, in the San Juan Shootout in Daytona Beach, Fla. With the win, the Bulls start the season 4-0 for the third straight year.

Dec. 30: Felisha Legette-Jack notches her 100th career victory as head coach at UB when the Bulls open MAC play with an 89-66 victory over Akron.

Jan. 20: Senior Stephanie Reid surpasses Catherine Jacobs as UB's all-time leader in career assists as the Bulls defeat defending MAC champion Toledo, 87-69.

Feb. 24: Sophomore Summer Hemphill sets a UB Division I record by snagging 23 rebounds in a 70-53 win over Ohio.

March 3: The Bulls blast Bowling Green, 74-38, to cap a regular season in which they set program records for MAC (16) and overall (25) wins, and earn the No. 2 seed in the conference tournament.



Player Profile WOMEN'S

Cierra Dillard

HEIGHT: 5-9

YEAR: Junior

HOMETOWN: Rochester, N.Y.

POSITION: Guard

MAJOR: Communication

DILLY DILLY: A transfer from the University of Massachusetts, Dillard made an immediate impact in her first season with the Bulls. She led the team with 14.5 points per game and finished second in the MAC in steals, averaging nearly 3 per game. Dillard put up a career-best 30 points in UB's regular-season win over defending MAC champion Toledo.



TWEETABULL: @AuburnTigers named #UBuffalo AD Allen Greene their new athletic director in January; search is underway for next @UBAthletics leader.

The Clubhouse

Stats from right, center and left field

Compiled by David J. Hill



Perfect in the Pool

For the first time in program history, women's swimming and diving finished its dual meet season undefeated (8-0). Fittingly, the team's seniors all wore superhero T-shirts for their final home meet.

8

Making a Racket

UB's men's and women's tennis teams were both picked by MAC coaches in preseason polls to win their conference tournament titles this spring for a second consecutive season. Dynasty, anyone?

1

Kickin' It in Florida

Kyle DeWeen averaged nearly 40 yards per punt on five kicks during the SPIRAL Tropical Bowl, an all-star game showcasing college football's top seniors, which was played in Daytona Beach, Fla., in January.

40

By a Staple

Junior Selina Von Jackowski tied a personal best of 19 feet 11 inches while winning the long jump by a mere centimeter, or about the width of a staple, at the Penn State National Invitational.

19'11"

A Good Fit

In her final year of college athletics, Lolade Ogungbesan is having the time of her life

By David J. Hill » Lolade Ogungbesan had one final crack at collegiate tennis.

She had redshirted her senior year at the University of Pittsburgh, which gave her an additional year of NCAA eligibility. After graduating from Pitt with a bachelor's degree in economics last spring, she started looking for a new school to play her final year.

She found what she was looking for at UB, where she's been competing for the Bulls while earning her master's in economics; she's set to graduate in May. "I'm probably having the most fun of my athletic career," she says.

Ogungbesan, 22, has been a key contributor, playing on the Bulls' top doubles team with Chantal Martinez Blanco, on a squad that is flourishing. Buffalo was picked to win the MAC regular-season title and was a co-favorite (with Miami) to win the conference tournament championship. The Bulls won the title last year—and an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament—for the second time in program history.

Ogungbesan grew up in London, England, in a family of high performers. Her father, Tunde, is the head of diversity, inclusion and succession for the BBC; her mother, Pat, works as the director

of performance for the National Health Service. She has two sisters, Fehinti, 19, who is studying at the University of York in England, and Morayo, 17, a talented chess player on the English junior circuit.

Introduced to the sport by her athletic dad, Ogungbesan began playing tennis at the age of 3, won an international singles championship in eighth grade and spent four years at the prestigious Academia Sánchez-Casal in Barcelona, Spain—the same academy that trained former world No. 1 men's player Andy Murray. The regimen of schoolwork, practice and competition at the academy was intense, and by the time she turned 17, Ogungbesan was so burned out she wrote a novel about running away from home.

Her experience at UB couldn't be more different.



Lolade Ogungbesan

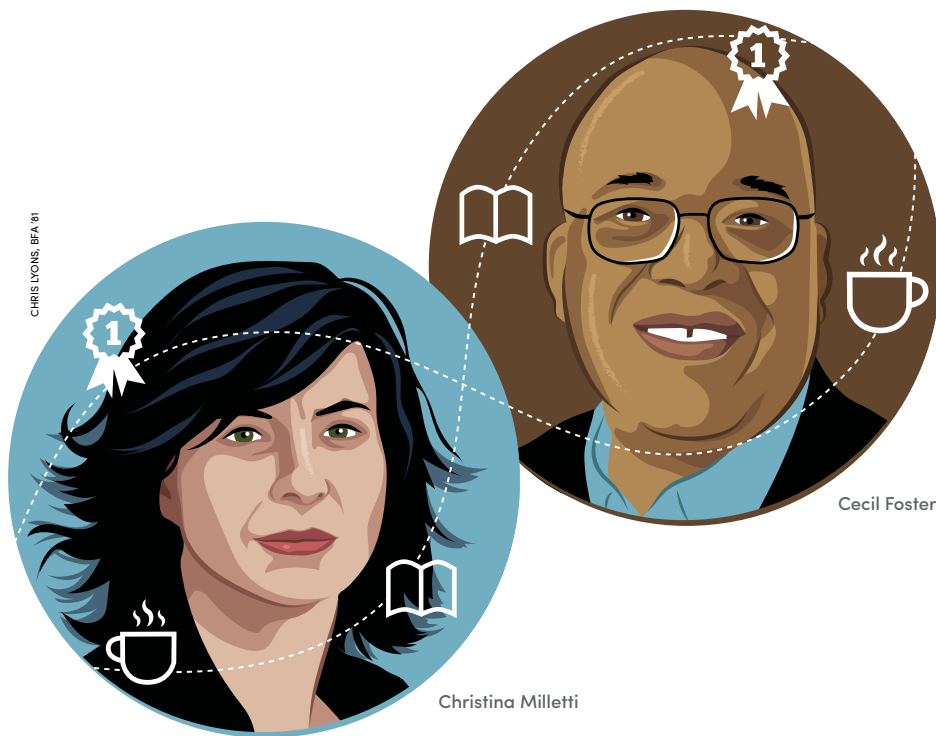
"The atmosphere is really positive," she says. "It's a different mindset." She also has a female coach for the first time in her life (head coach Kristen Maines), a dynamic she says she prefers.

Still, the competitive drive is there. Ogungbesan is hoping that the final chapter of her collegiate tennis career includes a conference championship. "I just want to enjoy my last semester of college athletics, and help the team get to the MAC Tournament and the NCAAs," she says. 🐃



And the NCAA Diversity Award Goes to ... UB!

UB's commitment to establishing an inclusive environment in athletics earned it the NCAA and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association's 2018 Award for Diversity and Inclusion. UB has been "focused and intentional in promoting diversity and inclusion in numerous policies, programs and practices, and has set a high bar with its efforts to drive inclusive excellence," said Katrice Albert, the NCAA's executive vice president for inclusion and human resources. UB President Satish K. Tripathi and interim AD Kathy Twist accepted the award at the NCAA Convention in Indianapolis.



What's in a Book Award?

In recent years, literary prizes have come under heavy criticism from various sources. For example, controversy has flared over a rule change that made American authors eligible for the once Commonwealth-centric Man Booker Prize, which some say has turned the honor into an advertising mechanism for big publishing houses in the U.S. Many readers use these awards as a guide to shape their literary diet. We asked Cecil Foster, a professor of transnational studies who has served on several major prize juries, and Christina Milletti, an associate professor of English, whether readers should take literary prizes at face value or look elsewhere for advice.

Cecil Foster: I think awards are good in the sense that they reward people for the craft. I don't necessarily think that the best book wins. When I've been in those rooms, the dynamics can be fraught, and very often the book that wins isn't necessarily a unanimous choice. But I think the beauty of these awards is that they encourage writers who may dream of someday winning the prize. Being a fiction writer is usually a moneyless task. The guy who won the Giller last year said it's wonderful to go from something like \$100 in his bank account to \$100,000. In that sense, awards are worth something.

Christina Milletti: The prizes that I find the most interesting are the ones that award authors as opposed to a single book, like the MacArthur "genius grant" and the Windham-Campbell Prize. Those two are doing a really good job advocating writers' projects as opposed to one specific work, which can get contentious. Who can say which book is the book of the year? It's also important to look at who's judging them. A few years ago, the National Book Awards changed the nomination process to include nonwriters on the committee. Since then, the perception of the awards has changed; the literary critic Tom LeClair published an article calling the winners "commercial lit." Whether you agree with that or not, I think certainly the books they've chosen appeal more to the general public. That may go too far. But the winners are usually books that are visible to the general public. Books with curb appeal. You rarely see a publisher nominate a deserving book that hasn't caught fire with a broad readership.

CF: I think it becomes commercial lit when a publishing house decides which books to enter based on what is likely to sell rather than the quality of the writing. If you

are a young writer and you don't have a name, you might find that your book has not been submitted, even if it's a great book. Meanwhile, someone who is established might be considered even if the publisher knows it's not that person's best work. The question of representation is also very important. It is a problem that is more symptomatic of the greater structure. The publishing industry is still very much a white man's, and maybe white woman's, world. When you look at the actual number of nonwhite-authored books that are published per year, it is not representative of the wider population. Additionally, the marketing people seem to market all books the same way. When I talk to other minority writer friends of mine, we tend to feel our books don't ever quite get to the market that we are writing to because the marketing team has a certain idea of who is the ideal book-buyer.

CM: I think that's exactly right. I did, however, notice that this year, the National Book Awards as well as the PEN/Faulkner seemed to be trying to put together a much more interesting and diverse range of books. The question is, Will they keep doing that? How long this current trend toward diversity will last is something I think everyone's got to keep their eye on.

CF: But there's still the chicken and egg, because if the books aren't published, you can't award them.

CM: I absolutely agree with you. People often say that books are mostly marketed to white women. This is also part of that chicken-and-egg cycle in the sense that editors, mostly men, have expectations of what white women read. Pretty easy, flat books. So that's what they keep producing, and that's what people keep reading because that's what's available. As someone who teaches more experimental, weird books—I'll happily call them "difficult"—I would like to see a lot more risks being taken.

CF: But the main thing is that people are reading. One of the attractions of the literary prize is that it puts the focus on the writers and the industry for that 15 minutes. To me, it's the equivalent of going to a baseball game because you hear of Aaron Judge who is hitting the ball out of the park, and you don't know much about baseball, but in going to see Aaron, you get to appreciate baseball.

CM: That's true. And if for some reason, as a reader, the award-winning book isn't appealing to you, talk to your friends who read a lot of books. You might find that the book you're looking for isn't the one that's going to win the prize. ☺

How do you take your coffee?

Cecil: I don't drink coffee. I will drink tea.

Christina: I take espresso with as much steamed milk and sugar as is humanly possible.

Turn the Page

As 'The Itinerant Printer,'
Chris Fritton presses on

By Sally Jarzab » PRINT IS NOT DEAD proclaims a poster in bold blue ink, serving as both mission statement and memento of Chris Fritton's epic journey to prove just that.

In January 2015, Fritton (BA '00) left his job as studio manager of the Western New York Books Arts Center in Buffalo and struck out to visit print shops, and make prints, across North America. Two and a half years later, with 47,401 miles across 45 states and four provinces behind him, and almost 16,000 prints to show for it, he came home. Now, the lover of all things

letterpress has chronicled his adventures in a book called "The Itinerant Printer," the title he took up for himself upon embarking on this professional and personal challenge.

"It's actually based on a historical notion of 'tramp' printers who used to travel around picking up jobs in different cities," explains Fritton. "All they needed was a

card from the International Typographical Union, and they could work pretty much anywhere." With the union long defunct, and letterpress printing now considered more of an artisanal pursuit, Fritton had to re-envision the model for modern times.

Along with a few commercial sponsorships, a crowdfunding campaign that raised more than \$20,000 was enough to get him started. (Supporters received postcards—all originals, of course—from the road.) To keep going, he gave workshops and presentations, and sold his prints through pop-up shops and an Etsy page. Transport was by plane, rental car and train—once even by skateboard—and lodging varied. "Often I

stayed with the printers themselves," he says. "Other times I picked up a hotel or Airbnb. My



A detail of one of Fritton's original poster prints. Inset: Chris Fritton.

ARTWORK/PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS FRITTON

CONTINUED

accommodations could be lavish, or I could be on someone's 30-year-old couch with their three dogs."

Fritton visited a total of 137 shops, perusing their unique machinery, plates and type, which were often rare or antique pieces, and churning out posters and postcards. His works feature creative composites of text and imagery, sometimes aimed at capturing the spirit of the shop or region. Many are quirky; some a little irreverent. He also created what he calls "inkwipes": layered washes of streaky color that work as abstract art. "They're one-of-a-kind, made by running sheets of paper through the rollers instead of using the press as it was intended to be used," Fritton says. "I'm very interested in what these machines can do besides print, and I think that's where the future of letterpress lies."

With his travels behind him, Fritton has occasion for reflection while he decides his next move. The coffee-table book "The Itinerant Printer," available through his website, includes more than 1,000 images of the places, people and prints from his trek. He describes it as part travel diary, part cultural anthropology, part philosophical musing and part poetic digression—a fitting mix for the UB philosophy grad who also studied in the poetics and art history programs—and it captures both the impressions he made and the lasting impressions made on him.

"I don't know what I expected at the beginning, but as the trip went on, it became a far richer experience than I could have ever imagined," he says. "A friend said to me before I left, 'If you do this and you don't come back changed, you've done something wrong.' He was right about that." 🐦

It Happened at Buffalo

A new musical finds its place in history

By Sally Jarzab

Electric lighting wasn't the only spectacle on display at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. In an equally charged way, race was too.

A new musical in development—with aspirations for Broadway in the not-too-distant future—illuminates how blackness was represented at that famed turn-of-the-century event by vivifying the stories behind such exhibits as "Darkest Africa," "Old Plantation" and "The American Negro." The show's characters and plotlines depict people and events as conveyed in historical records. Even the dialogue is drawn virtually verbatim from letters, articles and other actual accounts.

So when the musical's creative team came to UB recently as part of a Creative Arts Initiative residency, its members seized the opportunity to scour local archives, tour local sites and meet local historians. It was here, after all, that these real stories played out. "Buffalo was a testing ground for so many of the ideas and conflicts that would go on to define the 20th century," says Joshua Williams, one of the writers. "To me, there's just something about saying, 'It happened at Buffalo.'"

The team invited UB students to participate in the work-in-progress, fittingly titled "At Buffalo,"

through class presentations and workshops, site-specific rehearsals, and two staged readings in the Katharine Cornell Theatre.

"There's so much good fruit that came out of this process," says Amma Y. Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin, the founding force behind the show. The core writing team—Williams, Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin and composer/lyricist Khalil Sullivan—was able to refine characters, scenes and dialogue based on the resources found here. They described a new song composed on-site at the Buffalo Museum of Science's archive, with students bearing witness, as "a love letter to Buffalo."

The feeling was mutual. Danielle Johnson, one of three UB student actors cast for the staged readings alongside professionals from New York and Buffalo, played the part of Henrietta, half of a husband-and-wife black-vaudeville duo conflicted about their roles and their goals. The theater major says that what she learned through the project—about the African-American experience of that era and about the behind-the-scenes creative process—was immeasurable. She also notes that Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin was a huge inspiration, as were producer Deadria



A Hole New Look Light/Station, a recently completed project designed by UB architect Christopher Romano (MArch '05, BS '03), has transformed an abandoned gas mart into a dramatic point of interest on Buffalo's East Side. By day, light pours in from two sides through the 72,000-plus holes laser-precision drilled into the stainless steel panels that veil the building's facade. At night, an inversion occurs and light glows from within. The 1,545-square-foot structure is a design studio, green room and conference facility for Torn Space Theater, a critically acclaimed company founded by another alumnus, Dan Shanahan (MA '11).



DOUGLAS LEVINE



TWEETABLE: Praised as "a masterpiece," a book on Emily Dickinson's poems by @UB_English's Cristanne Miller nabs the MLA's biennial Prize for a Scholarly Edition.



DOUGLAS LEBRE

Harrington and director Tamilla Woodard. “Being a person of color in a less-than-diverse program, I was in awe of the wonderful women who headed this project, so much so that upon first meeting them I was brought to tears,” says Johnson. “It’s not often you get to see African-American women doing amazing things like this.”

The musical grew out of research that Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin conducted 15 years ago leading up to her doctoral dissertation at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. She experimented with making a 10-minute dramatic scene from archival materials and tested it with actors. “I immediately knew this was meant to be a musical, one at the Broadway-spectacle level,” she says, “and I wrote it down right then: It will be called ‘At Buffalo.’”

In 2012, official work on the musical began, a process that typically takes about seven years. Now, actually having been at Buffalo (Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin also came to UB through a visiting professorship prior to last fall’s residency), the writers are closing in on a finished piece. That progress is a pride point for everyone involved.

“It’s really cool to know that the musical will always have the stamp of me and my cast mates,” says Johnson. “Things were written in the keys that we sing in—and though they could change, at its core this show will reflect our presence.”



DOUGLAS LEBRE

Top: Amma Y. Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin addresses actors during a public performance at the Buffalo History Museum. Inset: UB theater major Danielle Johnson (right) called the collaborative experience “an inspiration.”



WHAT WE'RE STREAMING

Left to Our Own Devices

David Schmid, associate professor of English

“I’m currently watching ‘Trapped’ on Amazon. It’s an Icelandic crime drama that deals with human trafficking, business corruption and family/relationship problems. The acting is uniformly excellent and the storyline keeps one guessing.”

UB Bookshelf

WHAT WE'RE WRITING

My Next Heart: New Buffalo Poetry

Noah Falck and Justin Karcher, editors

In this imaginative and thought-provoking anthology, a diverse collection of Buffalo’s bright young voices showcase their creative talents. Of the 54 poets featured, nearly half are representatives of the thriving artistic community found at UB, whether alumni or current students. Together they offer up a wide variety of poetic styles and themes that provide insight into the city they’ve come to know and love. (BlazeVOX, 2017)

American Women on the Move: The Inside Story of the National Women’s Conference, 1977

Shelah Gilbert Leader (PhD ’71, MA ’68) and Patricia Rusch Hyatt

The 1977 National Women’s Conference—described by Gloria Steinem as “the most important event nobody knows about”—is brought to life by scholars Leader and Hyatt in their newest book. Based on private and archival papers, this text is both a history and a memoir, detailing the inside story of the women and organizations that made the conference possible, and providing readers a chance to truly understand the national women’s movement, then and now. (Lexington Books, 2016)

In the Name of the Mother: Italian Americans, African Americans, & Modernity from Booker T. Washington to Bruce Springsteen

Samuele F.S. Pardini (PhD ’05, MA ’01)

Don’t let the fact that this is an academic book scare you. Samuele Pardini, an associate professor of Italian Studies at Elon University, provides readers a number of avenues through which to access racial theory. He explores the blurry and constantly shifting lines that define whiteness and blackness in the U.S. through the portrayal of Italian- and African-Americans in film, literature and popular culture. Without discounting profound differences, his nuanced approach finds meaningful similarities in the historical experiences of the two groups. (Dartmouth College Press, 2017)

The Madhouse Effect: How Climate Change Denial Is Threatening Our Planet, Destroying Our Politics, and Driving Us Crazy

Michael E. Mann and Tom Toles (BA ’73)

Maybe do let this book scare you. The collaboration between Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist Tom Toles and Michael Mann, a professor of atmospheric science at Penn State, provides a no-holds-barred assessment of the climate change debate. Toles and Mann call out doubters, dispute spurious claims and double down on the importance of trusting scientists. Recommended for the already converted, in the hopes of moving them from outrage to action. (Columbia University Press, 2016)

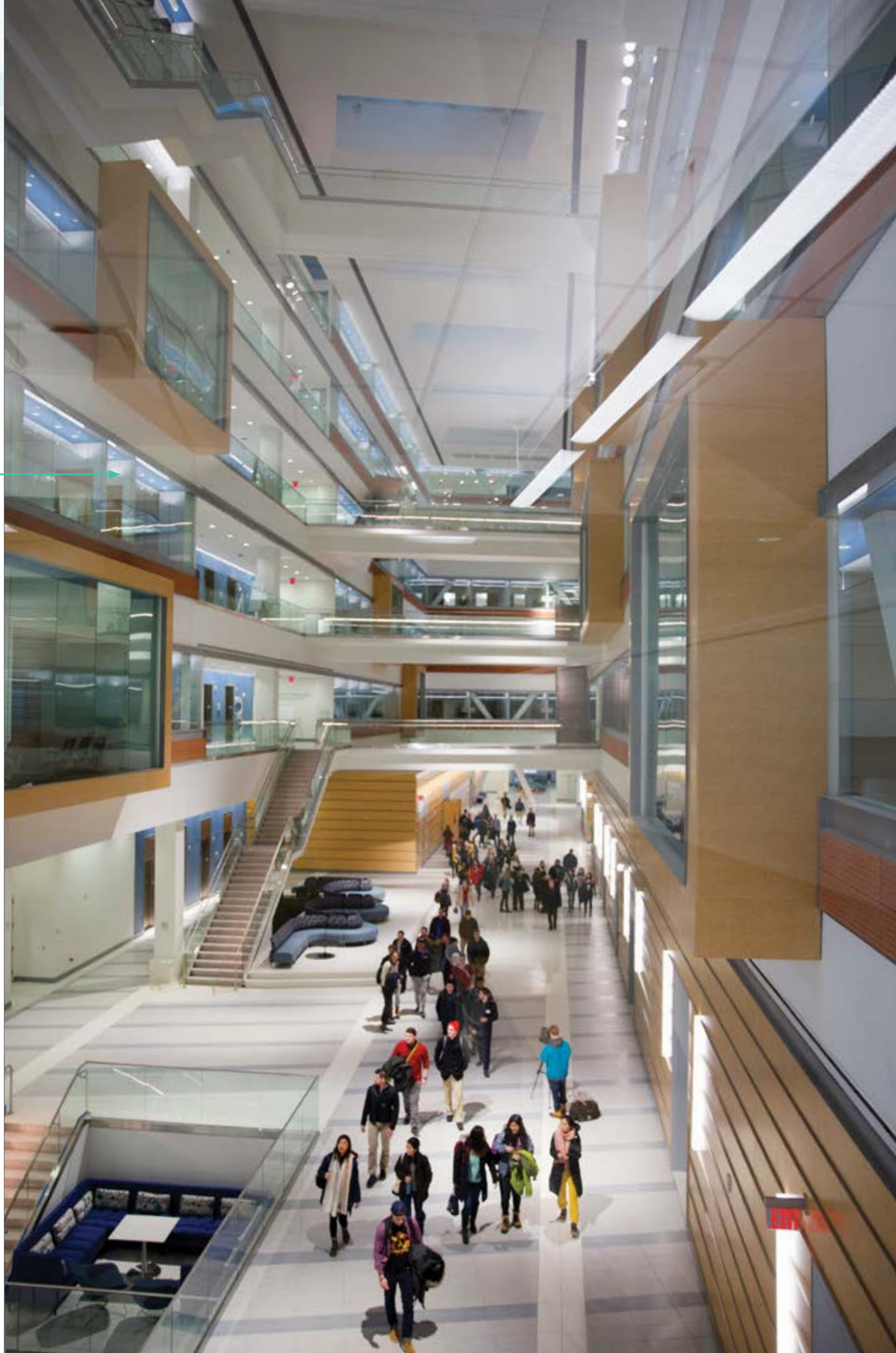
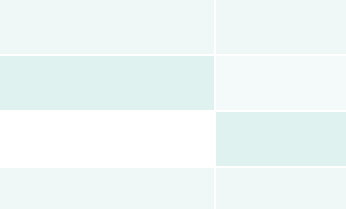


CALLING ALUMNI AUTHORS

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MEREDITH FOREST KULWICKI



UP, UP AND AWAY

The six-story atrium offers views by the mile. This extreme visibility fosters connectivity between the vertical levels, while bridges on floors 3, 4 and 5 make cross-way linkages.

An expansive new vision for a long-standing mission

Medical Marvel

INTRODUCTION BY SALLY JARZAB | PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOUGLAS LEVERE & MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI

SCIENTISTS SPEAK OF COLLISIONS. Educators refer to collaborative learning. Architects use terms like “porosity” and “transparency.” They’re all talking about essentially the same thing: the need for today’s health education environments to be open, accommodating spaces that foster interchange among occupants.

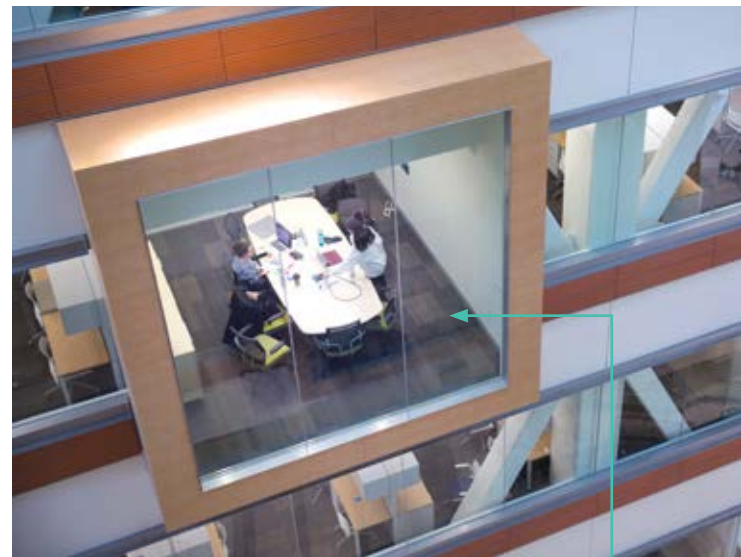
It’s a goal that the new home of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences achieves in spades. “This building is a vessel of collaboration,” says Kenneth Drucker, design principal of HOK, the global design, architecture, engineering and planning firm that created the 628,000-square-foot facility.

A six-story central atrium, glittering with more than 19,000 feet of glass, puts much of the interior space in plain view. That visibility, and the very real sense of interconnectivity it establishes, continues into the laboratories, where the open-concept plan lets researchers, students and staff watch and learn from all that’s happening around them. Classrooms and study spaces—expanded to accommodate a larger student body—got the interactive treatment too, thoughtfully designed for active learning and communication.

The showcase building, located at Main and High streets as a gateway to the bustling Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, is positioned to promote connectivity with partner institutions as well as the surrounding community. The grand opening ceremony in December brought a crowd to celebrate the move downtown, and the class of 180 first-year medical students started courses there soon after.

“The main message for the students is to take advantage of all the technology and space that is provided here, to make use of the fact that we are so closely integrated with our research partners,” said David A. Milling (MD ’93), senior associate dean for student and academic affairs and associate professor of medicine, on the first day of classes. “Also, to understand that they are part of the community. They are embedded in the community as part of the campus.”

Many years ago, from 1893 until 1953, UB had its medical school just steps away on High Street. Now it has returned downtown, to a dramatically changed landscape that integrates education and research with exceptional patient care. On the pages that follow, we offer a glimpse into the future of medicine.



PICTURE THIS

Keeping with the theme of transparency, conference rooms looking out upon the atrium take on the appearance of framed displays.

CONTINUED



Informal seating areas throughout the building foster social exchange.



Over the Top

IN THE WAKE of the \$30 million gift from the Jacobs family, the generosity of thousands of alumni, donors and friends has played a critical role in the completion of the new home for the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Below are some of the notable gifts committed over the last few months as the school surpassed its \$200 million goal for the Build the Vision campaign:

A \$4.5 million bequest gift from the estate of the late **Peter Ayers Nickerson**, a faculty member who spent nearly 50 years teaching in the Jacobs School, established both an endowed faculty position and a dean's fund in Nickerson's name.

Jerald Bovino (MD '71), an internationally recognized expert in retina surgery, and his wife, Ester Bovino, pledged \$1.5 million to establish the Jerald and Ester Bovino Professor and Chair for the Department of Ophthalmology.

Kent Randle (BS '02), of Tiede-Zoeller Tile in Cheektowaga, N.Y., donated and installed 90,000 square feet of wall and floor terrazzo tile in the building.

A \$1.5 million gift from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation established the **James and Judith Marks Family Scholarship Fund** to honor the career of James Marks (MD '73) at the foundation. Marks retired in December.

John and Janet Sung made a second \$1 million gift to support scholarships for Jacobs School students. The former owners of Windsong Radiology Group, PC, the Sungs made their first \$1 million scholarship gift in 1999, which has supported more than 30 students to date.

And a special shoutout to the **faculty and staff** of the Jacobs School—887 in all—who gave a total of \$17,045,763 in support of the project.



Supporters who have made gifts of \$100,000 or more toward the campaign are recognized in a wall display in the main atrium.



STUDY SPOT

Students find a comfortable booth in the second-floor medical library, where a variety of seating arrangements allows for everything from quiet reading to group work.

Floor levels are instantly identifiable by their color schemes.

Advanced Anatomy

A NEW MEDICAL SIMULATION CENTER GIVES STUDENTS AND PHYSICIANS A 360-DEGREE VIEW OF THE HUMAN BODY BY ELLEN GOLDBAUM

SOMETIMES a new building doesn't just change the landscape around it. Sometimes it changes the way things happen inside of it.

Such is the case on the seventh floor of the new Jacobs School building, where a visionary center is at the heart of a radical new approach to anatomy. Called UB RIS²E (Research, Innovation, Simulation, Structure, Education), the center promotes collaboration among pathologists, structural scientists and surgeons—specialists who don't typically interact—to achieve a fuller understanding of how the human body works.

In some ways, the center's focus on pathology and anatomy puts UB at odds with trends in medical education. John Tomaszewski, SUNY Distinguished Professor and the inaugural Peter A. Nickerson, PhD, Chair of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, notes that some medical schools have been dismantling anatomy departments, focusing almost exclusively on digital approaches. "We think that's absolutely wrong," he says. "There's tremendous and important meaning in human structure."

UB recruited two medical giants to develop and execute this concept: Tomaszewski, who has been in the forefront of advances in digital pathology and computational modeling, and Professor and Chair of Surgery Steven Schwartzberg, who has pioneered minimally invasive and robotic surgical techniques. Under Tomaszewski, pathologists and computational anatomists are using experimental methods and digital technologies to generate and analyze biological data. Schwartzberg and his colleagues are applying that data to the development of new procedures, instruments and surgical techniques.

Together, they see UB RIS²E as a multidisciplinary center that educates every level of learner—from medical students to practicing physicians—about the human body in the most comprehensive way possible. "Our facility has this integration of people: surgeons working with anatomists working with computational people and engineers," Tomaszewski says. "It's a whole team approach."

This approach takes advantage of both hands-on and virtual techniques, from advanced imaging

and computational methods to phantoms (organs generated by 3-D printers and biological materials). UB's robust anatomical gifts program, the state's largest, plays a key role, not just in educating medical students but in providing simulation opportunities for researchers and industrial partners. "This is what the future of medicine is all about," says Schwartzberg. "Integrating anatomy and imaging from the cellular level to the whole body."

That integration is already happening in the school's Gross Human Anatomy course, where first-year medical students are receiving high-resolution computational tomography (CT) scans of their cadavers in addition to the cadavers themselves. "To be able to understand something in full 360 degrees, you have to go from visual learning and simulation to phantoms, biological materials and human gifts," says Tomaszewski. "The separation of these has been artificial and not good for the person who's learning."

And it's not only students who benefit. In the center, clinicians and surgeons are learning new procedures and techniques through simulations with virtual or 3-D printed models, which are in turn being generated by computational anatomists who study how musculoskeletal structure affects function.

For example, a partnership with the School of Dental Medicine is yielding answers about how the shape of the jaw correlates with temporomandibular joint disorders (TMJ). And UB orthopaedists



SCIENTISTS AT WORK

Floors 3, 4 and 5 hold a total of 30 "lab neighborhoods," or state-of-the-art laboratory facilities with write-up spaces separated by glass panel walls that allow for observation.



In the surgical skills suite, medical students practice surgery techniques and test their skills on digital simulators.

and bioengineers are looking at how computational models of the way humans bear weight can improve implantable hips and knees in an aging population.

Schwartzberg points out that the integration of so many methodologies gives UB RIS²E major advantages over other facilities striving to do similar things, especially for industries seeking to innovate. “Simulation is an absolute requirement for the future,” he says. “We will be creating anatomical models of the liver and gall bladder so that surgeons can practice their skills, do flexible endoscopy training and become more proficient at screening for colon cancer.”

It’s a complex approach, with a simple goal: “When your doctors are better trained,” says Schwartzberg, “you have better outcomes.”



FIGURE STUDY

Using interactive 3-D anatomy visualization tools, as shown in this image capture from a Sectra display, students can manipulate virtual bodies as an extension of, rather than a substitute for, traditional human anatomy training.



The building's expanded floor plan offers room to grow class size by 25 percent, thus training more doctors to address local and national physician shortages.

INSPIRING CITYSCAPE

Large windows (near right) look out onto the Allentown neighborhood. In the adjacent Russell J. Salvatore Student Commons (far right), students gather for a little R&R.





POWERED UP
This first-floor active-learning classroom contains modular tables that are fully electronic so that any student, even in a class of 180, can contribute or present to the entire group with the touch of a button.

Key Component

It's not all cutting-edge technology. The new building features some decidedly traditional instruments too, such as this baby grand piano that previously graced the Lippschutz Room on the South Campus. Now situated in the atrium near the Student Commons, the piano set a jubilant mood at the grand opening last winter and will be used for the Jacobs School's Music Is Medicine program. Featuring performances by musically talented faculty, staff and students, the lunchtime concert series is just the diversion the doctor ordered for the building's busy occupants.



First-year medical student Andrew Kelly takes a turn at the keyboard.

From the Source

UB MEDICAL STUDENTS ARE LEARNING ABOUT THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF STRUCTURAL RACISM FROM THOSE WHO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES

BY ELLEN GOLDBAUM

MEDICAL STUDENTS often learn that health disparities exist. What they typically don't look into is why. A new course at the Jacobs School, called "Health in the Neighborhood," aims to address that glaring oversight. Developed over two years by an interdisciplinary team of UB faculty along with the pastors from two local Baptist churches, the course pairs medical students with families in the Martin Luther King Jr. Park neighborhood to give them an authentic understanding of the realities of health care in underserved communities.

The genesis of the class was a community immersion program launched in 2015 by the Jacobs School's Center for Medical Humanities. It was a resounding wake-up call, recalls director Linda Pessar, one of the founders of the new course. "What shook us all was to hear the degree of distrust," she says. "Most of us physicians think we are doing good. The intensity of the distrust was shocking. To discuss what health care providers can do to improve that, you need to go in without your white coat."

The aim of the course is to get students to understand how structural racism results from policies that have created segregated, substandard living conditions; how the lack of knowledge about black culture among physicians creates a lack of rapport; how and why widespread bias persists among health care workers; and how health care delivery to these communities can be improved. Or, as urban planning profes-

sor and course co-creator Henry Louis Taylor puts it, "The aim is to ignite a process that teaches incoming medical students about black lives in the hopes that this knowledge and information will inform their growth and development as physicians."

Taylor adds that the participation of the two churches and their congregations has been crucial, an assessment with which first-year student Karole Collier agrees. "Usually in medical school, you have doctors and scientists in the front of the classroom. This course shifts the paradigm; it puts community leaders and the people who will be our patients at the front of the room."

One of those pastors, Kinzer M. Pointer of Agape Fellowship Baptist Church, says he got involved for the sake of his community. "I got tired of burying people at 55," he says, noting that members of his congregation are dying at that age while the average life expectancy of a white woman in the U.S. in 2015 was 79. "We've got to turn that around."

Pointer also hopes that through this program, he can convince Jacobs School students to stay and practice not just in Western New York, which suffers from a physician shortage, but in neighborhoods like MLK Park, where the shortages are far more profound.

Collier, for one, is listening. "It is incredibly uplifting for this course to happen during my first year in medical school," she says. "It has changed my trajectory completely."

COMMUNITY IMMERSION

As part of a pilot program that helped launch the Health in the Neighborhood course, medical students visited surrounding neighborhoods, led here by Kinzer M. Pointer Jr., pastor of Agape Fellowship Baptist Church.





EASY COMMUTE

The NFTA Metro Rail Allen/Medical Campus station is located directly beneath the new building, creating a continuous “coat-less environment” to and from UB’s South Campus.

Taking the Lead

Designed for LEED Gold certification (significant for a research facility, says Ryan McPherson, UB’s chief sustainability officer), the new Jacobs School home also exemplifies how a building project can support sustainable transportation and sustainable communities.

The building is the first and only in Buffalo to be constructed atop a **Metro Rail station**.

A pedestrian passageway with a **bike-share facility** accommodating 100 bicycles extends beneath the building, connecting Main and Washington streets and leading to Allen Street.

Shower and changing facilities are available for those who cycle to school and work.

Construction **remediated an urban brownfield site**, once home to a gas station among other things.

The terra-cotta “skin” was sourced from **natural, local materials**.

The building was designed without a full-service dining facility so **neighborhood restaurants and stores** benefit from the influx of students, faculty and staff.

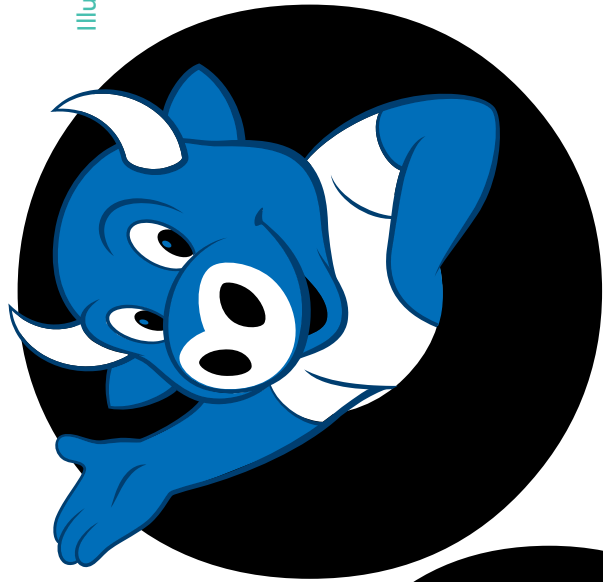
An exterior glass curtain wall system, along with eight enormous skylights, brings **natural daylight** deep inside the building.



A TOWERING ACHIEVEMENT

A 32-foot-tall light tower located inside the entrance lobby at Main and High streets, strikingly visible from outside the building, can be lit in virtually any color but is often seen beaming UB blue.

The B



Illustrations by Michael Gelen (JD '88)

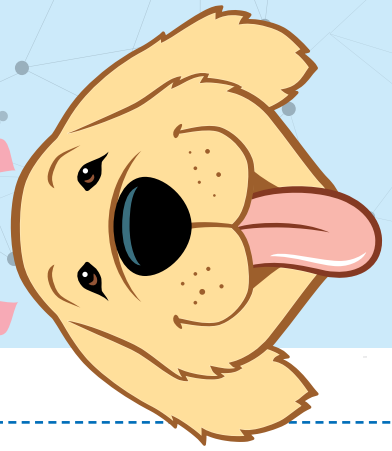
Best Things About Being a Bull

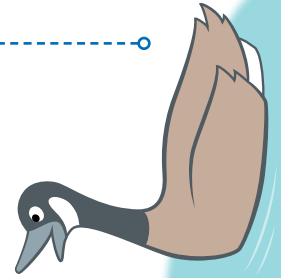
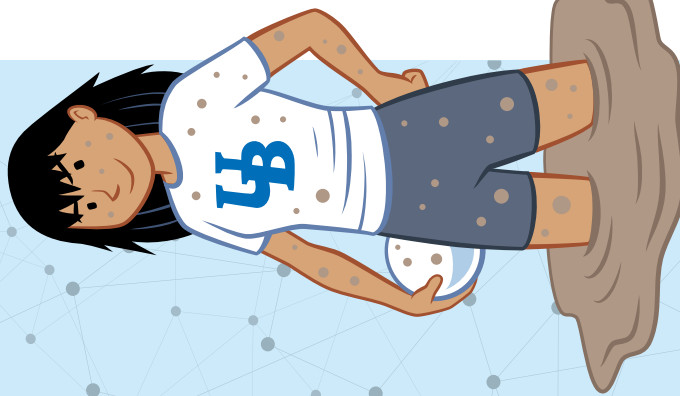
Herewith, our definitive list of all the things students look forward to and alumni miss most about UB*

1. Baird Point
2. UB cookies
3. Mind-blowing performances at International Fiesta
4. Victori
5. Alternative Spring Break
6. Groundhogs, geese and other campus wildlife

17. Getting down and dirty at Oozefest
18. Hundreds of student clubs to choose from
19. Paula's Donuts on campus
20. Basketball teams that crush the competition
21. Spotting buffalo statues
22. Kayaking on Lake LaSalle

34. A Tim Horton's or Starbucks at every turn
35. July 4 fireworks over Lake LaSalle
36. Great films, better talks at Buffalo Film Seminars
37. The Wegmans trek
38. Seeing your professor's name in The New York Times
39. 550 study abroad programs

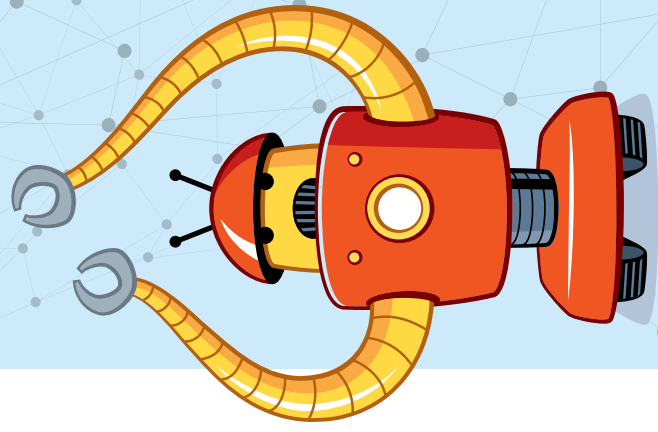




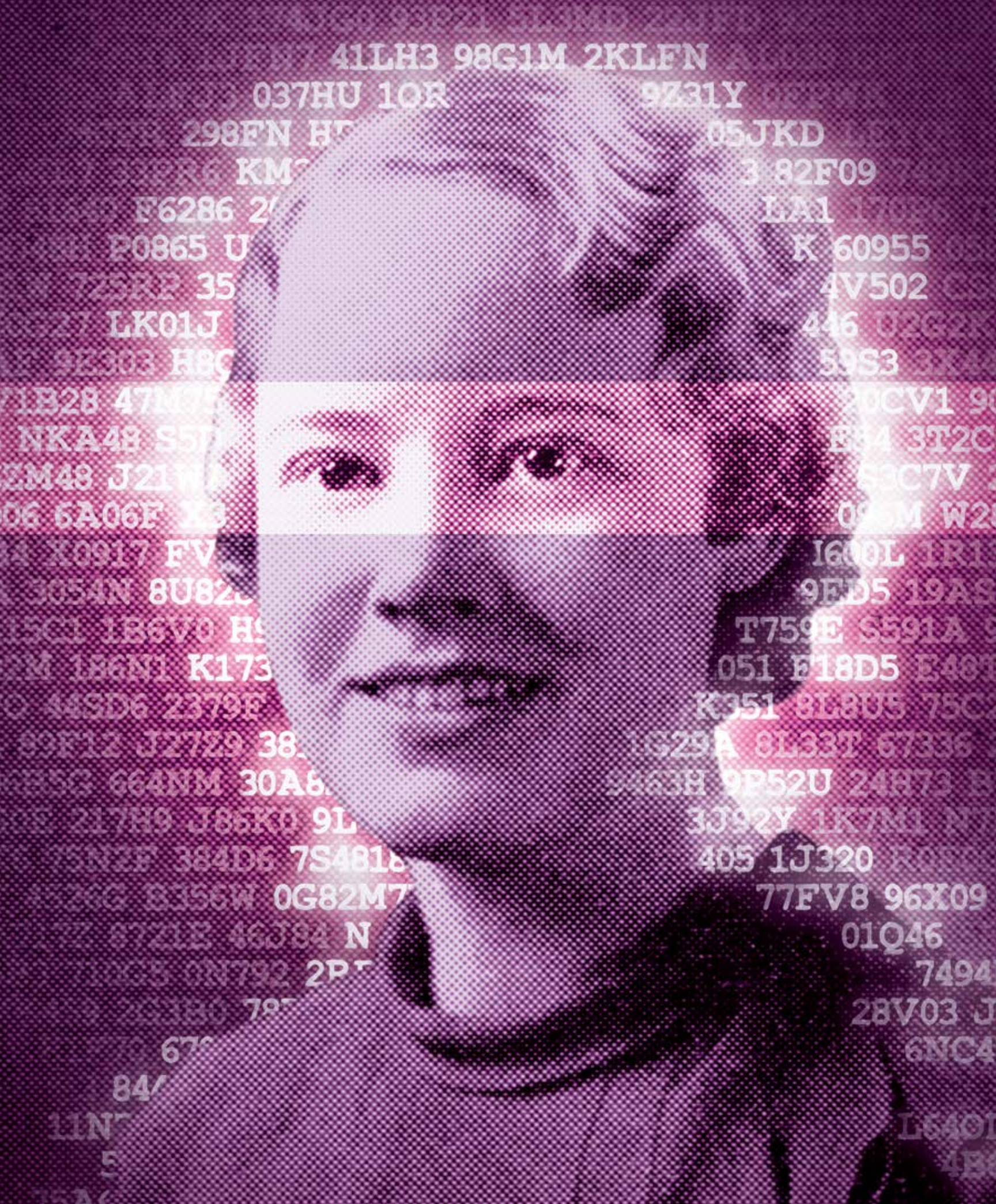
- 7.** Hot chocolate in the Union atrium
- 8.** Robot Wars
- 9.** Getting scared out of your socks at the Haunted Union
- 10.** The SA carnival and bonfire at Homecoming
- 11.** Being in lockstep with your class in the Interlocking UB
- 12.** Studying/socializing in Silverman
- 13.** More cowbell!
- 14.** Strolling through the Solar Strand
- 15.** Wings night at C3
- 16.** The Distinguished Speakers Series

- 23.** Catching an open booth in Club Capen
- 24.** A sloppy kiss from a therapy dog when you need it most
- 25.** Falling in love with (or on) a UB carriage ride
- 26.** Veggie cream cheese from Seasons
- 27.** Sledding down the Kunz field hill in winter
- 28.** Buffalo love
- 29.** Marching with the Thunder of the East
- 30.** The peacefulness of a campus blanketed in snow
- 31.** The Art Hallway at the CFA
- 32.** The Hayes Hall bell tower
- 33.** Late Night UB

- 40.** Running into friends on the Spine on the first day of classes
- 41.** Cruising the bike paths around campus
- 42.** Finding out if Ridge Lea Larry saw his shadow
- 43.** Get Blue Fridays
- 44.** Loaded tater tots from Little Blue
- 45.** The UB Art Galleries
- 46.** Horns Up!
- 47.** Getting involved at the Involvement Fair
- 48.** Snow football
- 49.** Looking good in blue
- 50.** The most brilliant sunsets on Earth



*Did we leave out your favorite UB memory?
Email us at atbuffalo@buffalo.edu.



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An American Hero

Genevieve Grotjan applied her dazzling mathematical skills to unraveling enemy codes during World War II

Story by Ann Whitcher Gentzke | Photo illustration by Bob Wilder, BFA '02



IT WAS SEPT. 20, 1940, a hot, sticky day, and Genevieve Grotjan (BA '36) was calmly scrutinizing the enciphered messages spread out before her on a plain wooden table—as she had been doing on a near daily basis for the past year. The pressure was unrelenting on members of her small U.S. Army Signal Intelligence Service (SIS) team to unravel the Japanese cipher known as Purple. But Grotjan showed no outward stress other than to occasionally scratch her head.

Her composure notwithstanding, Grotjan knew the stakes were high. As long as Purple remained impervious to American codebreakers, the U.S. had almost no access to top-level Japanese diplomatic messages distributed by the country's machine-generated cipher. As a result, American military intelligence was severely hampered in preparing for the mounting Pacific conflict. So Grotjan pressed on, laboriously analyzing the garbled text and looking for repeated sequences of letters. Despite the team's many months of arduous work, the code's secret remained frustratingly elusive. And then, at about 2 p.m., Grotjan spotted an unmistakable pattern.

Grabbing her worksheets, she rushed to the next room and told senior officers she had something to show them. "We could see from her attitude that she must have discovered something extraordinary," Frank Rowlett, the former math teacher who headed the Purple team, wrote in his memoir. After examining her work, he exclaimed: "That's it, that's it! Gene has found what we're looking for!" William Friedman, the legendary cryptanalyst, came over to check, and slumped with amazement and relief at what he saw. As the group erupted in cheers, Grotjan stood silently, her elation mostly hidden as tears glistened behind her rimless glasses. The brilliant 27-year-old mathematician, who'd joined the Signal Intelligence Service only the previous year, had just achieved what Friedman predicted that day would "go down as a milestone in cryptologic history."

CONTINUED

When one door closes...

ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON, D.C., in 1938 to begin work as a statistical clerk at the Railroad Retirement Board, Grotjan could not have foreseen her historic role in American military history a bare two years later.

She had graduated from UB summa cum laude in February 1936 with a mathematics degree and hopes of landing a college teaching position. But she couldn't find a school willing to hire her, so she accepted a position at the Railroad Retirement Board calculating pensions. Though it was work she enjoyed, she must have been pleased when her high score on a routine math test taken for a pay raise brought her to the attention of Friedman, who headed the SIS (a forerunner of the National Security Agency). At the time, Friedman was busy building a corps of talented codebreakers, many of them women, who possessed unusual acumen in math and foreign languages. He also was on the lookout for those, like Grotjan, who had keen powers of observation and the patience to stay focused on seemingly insurmountable tasks—often mind-bendingly tedious in their execution.

Following her successful math test, Grotjan was offered a job in what was obliquely termed “the code section.” She said yes without knowing what the work entailed (recruiters could not reveal the true nature of the employment), and the government authorized her transfer in 1939. She began as a junior cryptanalyst and civilian employee, and it was as such that she made her big breakthrough in September 1940, when she somehow identified patterns in random sets of Roman-alphabet letters that allowed them to be rearranged as Japanese words. Soon after her discovery, Rowlett's team was able to construct an analog Purple machine that broke the Japanese code. The implications were huge.

“The solution of PURPLE reopened access to Tokyo's high-grade diplomatic communications and significantly improved America's bargaining position in any exchanges with Britain,” explains David Alvarez in his book “Secret Messages: Codebreaking and American Diplomacy, 1930-1945.” The impact was even more dramatic after the U.S. entered the war in 1941. Information gleaned from Purple contributed to the American victory at Midway in 1942, and Army



COURTESY OF NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

Chief of Staff George C. Marshall, writing in 1944, said recovering secret Japanese intercepts contributed “tremendously to the saving of American lives, both in the conduct of current operations and in looking towards the early termination of the war.” (Because Purple communicated diplomatic messages and not military plans, solving it was not sufficient on its own to prevent the attack on Pearl Harbor.)

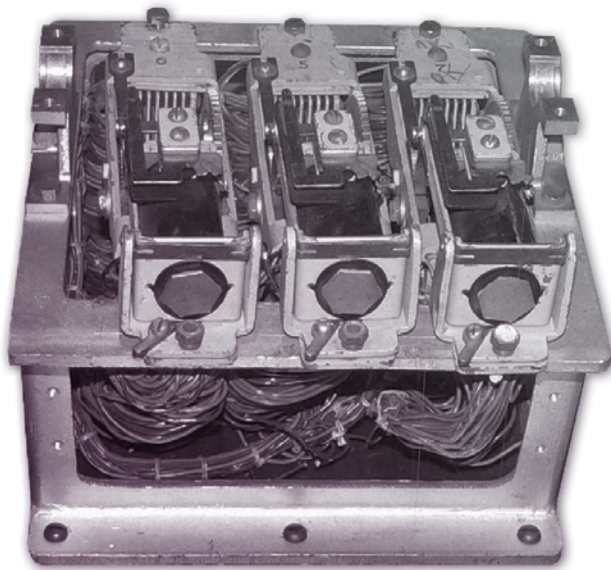
But Grotjan viewed her role in the Purple breakthrough and its aftermath with typical modesty. “Maybe I was just lucky,” she said in a 1991 interview with historian David Kahn. “I was excited and interested [and] looking forward to working on the mechanism. I regarded it more as just one step in a series of steps.” The agency clearly felt otherwise. In 1941, she was promoted within the SIS, given a \$300 annual raise and assigned “exceptionally difficult” cryptographic and cryptanalytic responsibilities, according to a War Department description of her new position.

An early bloomer

THERE WERE PLENTY OF CLUES in Grotjan's early life that she was bound for distinction. Born in Buffalo in 1913, she was the only child of Frederick, a pharmacist whose parents had immigrated to the U.S. from Germany, and Lillian, a homemaker with various civic interests. By the time Grotjan was a sophomore at Bennett High School and living with her family on Tacoma Avenue, she was already racking up honors for her scholastic performance. A photo of a serious-looking 14-year-old appeared in a 1927 Buffalo Evening News picture page along with four classmates who'd also scored top academic honors; Grotjan placed first with a 97 average. Indeed, Grotjan's name crops up repeatedly in news clippings of the period reporting on Bennett's leading students. She excelled not only in math but also in Latin and other subjects, and was chosen as the

WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Fragment of an original Japanese Purple cipher machine recovered in 1945 from the wreckage of the Japanese embassy in Berlin. In 1940, the U.S. Signal Intelligence team created a facsimile apparatus that broke the Japanese code.





Left: Genevieve Grotjan (center) with Buffalo friends Fay Griffin (left) and Pauline Miller. Below: Receiving the Exceptional Service Award from Brig. Gen. Paul Everton Peabody in 1946.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES, RG 457

1930 salutatorian. She delivered the salutatorian's address in the required Latin and was one of three winners of the Jesse Ketchum Medal for scholastic achievement at graduation exercises that June.

Enrolling at UB in September 1930 with a Regents Scholarship, Grotjan continued to soar academically, though she sometimes took courses part time, perhaps for economic reasons. A photo in the 1931 *Iris* yearbook shows her posed formally with other members of the Pi Kappa Phi sorority. Despite her shyness and reserve, she was active in undergraduate organizations, belonging at various times to the German, international relations and music clubs. On the academic side, she took substantial credits in physics and education, but math was clearly her forte. In 1934, she captured the William H. Sherk Memorial Prize "for the best paper submitted in any branch of mathematics, pure or applied." Her prizewinning paper explored the seemingly mystifying topic of "Involutions in Pencils of Rays." She also served as secretary of the campus mathematics club and in 1935 authored a report on club activities that was published in *The American Mathematical Monthly*. Serving as a likely role model was Harriet Montague, a UB math professor who was the club's adviser and author of a popular college math textbook of the period.

For a year after graduation, Grotjan worked as a substitute teacher and tutored students in math and science in area schools. She was then hired as a graduate assistant in the UB math department, where she taught trigonometry and analytic geometry while working on her MA. She continued to widen her pedagogical and professional network: In 1938, she lectured on algebraic equations and mathematical theories at a Buffalo banquet of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and she was elected to associate membership in Sigma Xi, the national research honor society for scientists and engineers. With all these factors propelling an academic career, it's puzzling that she didn't finish her master's

thesis at UB. The reason may have had to do with the discouraging reaction to her quest for a college teaching post, although she later did graduate work in Washington, D.C.

In any event, Grotjan would soon embark on her codebreaking career in Washington, where her intellectual gifts, humble personality and a dash of serendipity all came together with auspicious results for national security. She also found happiness in her personal life. She met Hyman I. Feinstein, a chemist at the National Bureau of Standards, and the couple married in Washington in 1943. Feinstein, the son of Russian immigrants, grew up in Brooklyn and earned his MA at Columbia. During their early marriage he was working on the Manhattan Project; hence husband and wife were simultaneously enmeshed in top-secret projects that had to remain absolutely confidential, even at home. "We didn't know much of what the other was doing," Grotjan said of this era.

Four years after her codebreaking coup with Purple, Grotjan scored yet another cryptanalytic achievement in November 1944 when she helped decipher Soviet cables sent by agents of the KGB and the Soviet military agency known as the GRU. Here, too, her ability to spot a coincidence in the coded traffic helped advance what became known as Venona—a top-secret project established to halt Soviet espionage in the U.S. and other allied countries—that began in 1943 and continued until 1980. Venona's decryption efforts ultimately unmasked a host of KGB activities, including espionage aimed at the U.S. atomic program.

Meanwhile, in 1946, Grotjan and her husband welcomed a son they named Ellis. That same year, Grotjan, by now Genevieve Grotjan Feinstein, received the Exceptional Service Award from Brig. Gen. Paul Everton Peabody for her wartime service.

CONTINUED

Life after cryptography

GROTJAN RESIGNED from her government position in 1947, and the details of her life are somewhat sparse after that. We know she taught math at George Mason University, where her husband was

a chemistry professor, from roughly 1957 to 1961. And we know that in 1969, her son, Ellis, then 22 and a recent graduate of Swarthmore College with a degree in mathematics, died tragically in the family's living room from a previously undiagnosed cardiac problem. One can only imagine Grotjan's heartbreak at losing her only child, who had poignantly followed in her footsteps. A photo in the

1968 Swarthmore yearbook shows an earnest young man wearing horn-rimmed glasses—the caption indicates his status as an honors math student.

Along with three other Swarthmore seniors, Ellis was awarded a National Science Foundation fel-

lowship for graduate study. He was slated to attend MIT, although records indicate he was at Yale in the fall of 1968.

Somehow the couple soldiered on after Ellis' death, going about their customary activities from their home in Fairfax, Va., until Hyman Feinstein's death in 1995 (before which he established the Genevieve Feinstein Award in Cryptography within the GMU math department; the prize continues to be awarded today to an outstanding undergraduate mathematics

major). Joan Craun, a next-door neighbor from 1962 to 1975, now living in Manassas, Va., remembers holiday dinners spent with the quietly brainy couple in their house filled with books. After Ellis died, Craun recalls, Grotjan enjoyed watching Craun's children play outside; she later gave her piano to Craun's daughter. With the in-home care her husband had set up before his death, Grotjan was able to remain at the family home until her own death in 2006 at age 93. Meanwhile, the couple had set up a bequest in their son's name, and in 2007, George Mason announced what was its single largest cash gift from a former faculty member—\$1 million from Grotjan's estate to establish a scholarship endowment in Ellis' name.



Grotjan and her husband, Hyman Feinstein (above), enjoyed dinners with neighbors and friends in Fairfax, Va.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOAN CRAUN

In 2011, Grotjan was posthumously inducted into the National Security Agency's Cryptologic Hall of Honor. Sadly, she died without a living descendant and the NSA could not locate a relative to attend the ceremony. "We ended up inviting a member of the [GMU] math department," says NSA historian David Hatch. Of the seeming delay in affording her this recognition, Hatch says the process is time-consuming, "with a field of about 65 annual nominations from which only a few inductees are chosen from among many related fields—not just codebreakers, but linguists, engineers, computer specialists and a host of other skills."

While it may have taken many years for this national honor to be conveyed, Grotjan's place in the pantheon of wartime cryptanalysts has been furthered by mentions in two recent books: Liza Mundy's "Code Girls," about the unsung World War II codebreakers in the U.S. Army and Navy; and Jason Fagone's "The Woman Who Smashed Codes," about Elizebeth Friedman, wife of William Friedman and a dazzling cryptanalyst in her own right.

Yet even as recognition increases for the estimated 10,000 female codebreakers who served during World War II, postwar references are all too scant with regard to Grotjan, a true star of this field. Indeed, the comparative obscurity of her later life may be partially attributable to longstanding secrecy rules barring former codebreakers from discussing their wartime work. And, too, her natural reticence combined with the blow of her son's death may have pushed Grotjan into an increasingly private existence.

But even with a limited biography available, we can gain important lessons from Grotjan's life about what she and other female codebreakers gave to their country, and how their experiences are relevant to young women today. For her part, Liza Mundy of "Code Girls" describes the benefits to society when women are treated equally and their full potential unleashed. "World War II is a reminder that, when freedom hung in the balance, inclusion left us safe," Mundy asserts in a recent New York Times essay championing World War II's female codebreakers.

In another sign of Grotjan's continued relevance, Highlights, the 72-year-old magazine for children, focused on Grotjan in 2017 with a colorful article that broke down her Purple achievement for young

readers, zeroing in on the pivotal moment when "she pointed out how some symbols stood at a certain interval from one another" to the three men standing nearby who quickly exulted in her discovery. It's gratifying to think that budding mathematicians, reading about Grotjan's historic breakthrough, may seek to emulate the shy, shining student from Buffalo who embraced learning at every turn. **B**

Ann Whitcher Gentzke is the former editor of At Buffalo and is now, among other post-retirement activities, freelance writing and editing

In 2017, Highlights portrayed Grotjan's codebreaking achievements for young readers.

Cracking Code Purple

U.S. cryptanalyst Genevieve Grotjan cracked a secret code during World War II.
By Anna Quenby
Art by Adam Goodbrand

On a warm afternoon in September 1945, a young woman sat at her desk on the second floor of the Machine Building in Washington, D.C. Her hazel eyes peered through zinked eyeglasses at strings of letters and numbers. She had been looking at symbols like these for more than a year and they still didn't make sense.

All of a sudden, something jumped out at her, and she became very still. All finally, her co-workers, noticed her concentration and walked over. The woman shared her discovery and they went to fetch their boss, Frank Rowlett. Another man joined them. All three crowded around the woman's desk as she pointed out how some symbols stood at a certain interval from one another.

Rowlett jumped up and down. They'd cracked several of the room's secrets. Their cries of "That's it!" "Whoops!" "Hoovey!" broke the silence of the room, which was usually as quiet as a library. To celebrate, the team went out for Coca-Cola. It was the first one the woman had ever tasted.

The Purple Solution
The woman's name was Genevieve Grotjan and she was a code breaker, or cryptanalyst, with the U.S. Army's Signal Intelligence Service (SIS). Many cryptanalysts were people who

34 Highlights [magazine](#)

Photos courtesy of the National Cryptologic Museum.

“Signature” volume p41

Public radio rising star p42

Name that course p42

Going for the Gold

A socially conscious grad finds value in waste

By Mara McGinnis » In 2008, Cuthbert Ayodeji “Ayo” Onikute (BA '07) was a recent college graduate living in the midsize West African city of Kankan, Guinea. There was no running water or electricity, and he recalls having to climb a tree to get a strong enough signal to use his cellphone. But it was the memory of enormous piles of garbage he walked by daily on his way to teach English at the University of Kankan that would later serve as inspiration for the company he launched in 2015: Dechets à l’Or (or DaIO), from the French for “waste to gold.”

“A lot of people fail to understand the basics of waste collection,” says Onikute, whose company aims to set the standard for socially responsible waste management across West Africa. “Many people forget that there is a cost for collection—and in some countries, it just doesn’t happen.” According to Onikute, approximately 60 percent of solid waste currently goes uncollected in Africa. DaIO works not only to remove this public health hazard, but also to convert it into economic growth, community empowerment and environmental mitigation—the “gold” of the company’s moniker.

DaIO employs a team that collects waste by truck door-to-door from households that pay a fee for the service. The team then separates and processes the waste. Organic materials get composted for fertilizer; most of what remains is recycled. In both cases, the system creates valuable resources as well as new jobs. It also protects public health and the environment by preventing harmful accumulations of waste where people live and by reducing trash burning. The company currently has approximately 750 customers in Kankan and aims to expand to 30,000 customers in five West African cities by 2020.

CONTINUED

Waste not, want not: Cuthbert Ayodeji “Ayo” Onikute.

JOHN EMERSON

Alumni Life

The journey to establishing DaIO began when Onikute was a senior at UB completing a double major in history and African-American studies. Born in Nigeria to Nigerian and Grenadian parents, he knew he wanted to work in West Africa but was still trying to figure out an exact career path. So he stayed at the university for two more years to learn French and add an international studies degree.

After spending some time in Guinea post-graduation, Onikute decided to pursue a degree in urban planning at Columbia University. His “aha moment” came in a sustainable futures course while learning about the circular economy—the concept of maximizing the value of

Onikute’s “aha moment” came in a sustainable futures course while learning about the circular economy.

resources by reducing and reusing waste. “I suddenly remembered the piles of waste I saw in Kankan,” he says. He developed the business idea for what

would become DaIO and shared it with fellow UB graduate and friend Bernard Blake (BS '07). Blake loved the concept and now serves as the company’s finance director.

“Ayo is a bold, ambitious and innovative businessman,” says Blake. “Waste on the African continent is not a new problem, but it’s becoming a larger issue with the rapid growth of populations and cities. To come up with a sustainable idea on how to tackle it and then implement that idea takes courage and determination.”

Onikute is now focusing on fundraising to scale up the business. Last year, the company was selected as a MassChallenge Switzerland Gold cash award winner, based on its capacity for high impact and potential. It was one of only seven startups to be named a finalist out of 75 internationally.

Onikute is gratified by DaIO’s alignment with his lifelong focus on community empowerment—and is inspired by the pride that the service brings to the residents of Kankan. “One customer told me that she appreciated our service because it allowed her to invite friends over to hang out in her yard without having to worry about smelly garbage,” he says. “Our work makes cleaner places with brighter futures.”



One Giant Leap

Two friends find common ground in space

BLUE BOND

By Sally Jarzab » While disciplines are typically kept separate in schools, in dorms they often collide. A friendship formed in Governors Hall brought about an unusual fusion of art and science: a modern dance performance celebrating the 2017 centennial of NASA’s Langley Research Center.

To Amy VanKirk (BA '05, BFA '05), who choreographed the work with the encouragement of her former UB suitemate Ann Martin (BA '05, BS '05)—a NASA staffer at the time—the conjunction seemed natural.

“I’ve always had an interest in astronomy, and Ann and I would talk about how I should do a dance for NASA,” says VanKirk. When the 100th anniversary of the facility known as NASA’s “mother center” was approaching, Martin seized the opportunity.

“They were planning a big tribute event with different arts performances,” says Martin. “So I introduced Amy to the people who were organizing it.” The resulting piece—an interpretive work titled “Remember the Future”—evoked NASA’s scientific endeavors as well as the human perspectives of those who work there. As part of the development process, VanKirk interviewed employ-

ees from NASA’s various divisions.

“All people think of with

NASA is space, but they do a lot more. Ann helped to make sure I covered everything,” says VanKirk.

Martin, then a project evaluator for the education and outreach team charged with “telling the stories of NASA,” notes that there are people working in every discipline at NASA, and there are connections between every one of them.

That boundary-blurring orientation is characteristic of both pals. Martin was an English and physics major at UB, and VanKirk, a dance and psychology major. They met on Martin’s first day on campus, became quick friends and then suitemates, and continued to stay in touch post-graduation. By happenstance, the two ended up in Virginia, although at opposite ends of the state. “We’re five hours away, but it’s a lot closer than I am to my other close friends or family,” says VanKirk. “Ann is like my family here. I’ve gone to her house for Thanksgiving five years in a row.”

Martin, who recently left NASA for a role with Oak Ridge Associated Universities, reports that all of their Governors suitemates have remained close. In fact, when a sneak peek of the NASA composition was set to take place at Radford University, where VanKirk is an assistant professor of dance, Martin hatched a secret plan with VanKirk’s former roommate, Samantha DeMart (BA '05), for a mini-reunion. “We made her cry!” Martin says. “It was awesome.”

Dancers perform Amy VanKirk’s original composition on the grounds of the NASA Langley Research Center. Inset: VanKirk (left) and Ann Martin.

NASA/HAREN CARMEN



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANN MARTIN

Tell us your Blue Bond story. Did you start a lifelong relationship at UB? Email a brief account to bluebond@buffalo.edu.



How Striking What's more Buffalo than bowling? So asked the UB Alumni DC Metro Chapter, host of a UB alumni-and-friends bowling party held at Pinstripes restaurant and bowling alley in Bethesda, Md., in January. Twenty guests gathered for the group's first event of 2018, including (from left) Gregory Hartman (DPT '12), his wife Deanna Hartman, Vanessa Wallace (BA '05), John McGreevy (MS '14, BS '12), Michelle McGreevy (MS '13, BS '12), Loren Petersen (BS '06) and Brittany Casino (MS '14, BS '14). You can find this fun-loving group on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/ub.alumni.dc.metro.

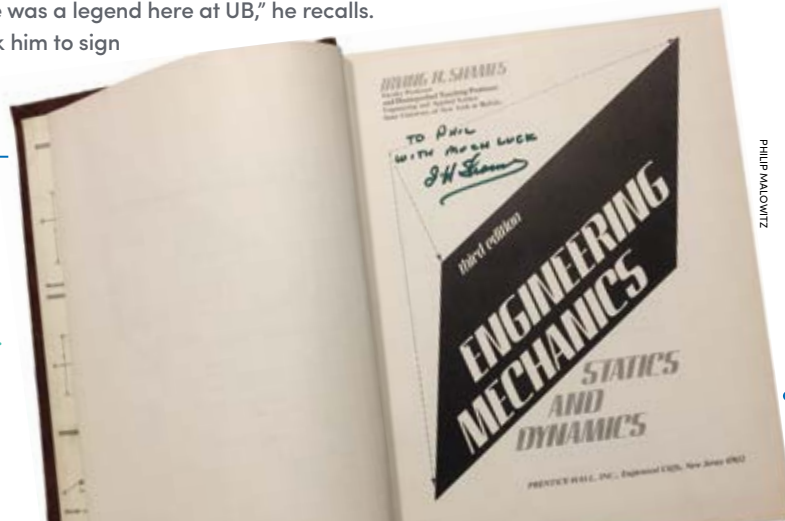
Keepsakes **WHAT DID YOU SAVE?**

Engineering textbook

The late Irving H. Shames, a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and a UB faculty member for more than 30 years, wrote several highly regarded textbooks, which became known as "bibles" by those who studied from them. **Philip Malowitz (BS '91) of Grapevine, Texas**, now a supplier quality engineer with Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, turned his bible into a memento. "After sitting in this man's class for the first real departmental course for mechanical engineering, I realized he was a legend here at UB," he recalls. "So I thought, why not ask him to sign the book he wrote for the class?"

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.



Mike's* Spring
Picks

A selection of upcoming UB events, open to all alumni

April

UB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UBAA)
Singapore Chapter Annual Meeting
04.13.18
The Penny Black Boat Quay, Singapore

UB LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Dinner and Distinguished Alumni Awards
05.08.18
Hyatt Regency Buffalo, N.Y.

June

UBAA YOUNG ALUMNI Business and Brews
04.26.18
North American Breweries Buffalo, N.Y.

Alumni-to-Alumni Job Fair
06.12.18
Center for Tomorrow North Campus

UB Giving Day

04.30.18
Worldwide givingday.buffalo.edu

Mike says: "Support your alma mater during this 24-hour challenge—this is our day to shine!"

UBAA CANADA CHAPTER Alumni Reception
06.15.18
Peller Estates Winery Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

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

May

Senior Brunch
05.02.18
Center for the Arts North Campus

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

JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
Alumni Weekend
05.04.18
Multiple locations Buffalo, N.Y.



#GoodzBeBlue

Drop the Mic

Ann Marie Awad reports on her path to success in public radio

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard » Looking back on her journey to becoming an award-winning radio journalist, Ann Marie Awad (BA '11) says she wouldn't change a thing, despite a botched first attempt at radio as a graduate student ("I was terrible!" she confesses), a grueling first job on air and other bumps she's faced along the way.

Awad, who comes from an academic family (her dad is a retired UB professor of nutrition), studied English at UB and wrote for *Generation* magazine, eventually becoming editor. Her interest in reporting ultimately led her to UB's journalism certificate program.

What it taught her—how to conduct interviews, not take things personally and ask all the questions, even if they make you look dumb—became invaluable. Awad began freelancing in Buffalo while an undergraduate, and then moved to New York. She laughs, remembering how she lugged a print portfolio and an inflated ego around the city. "I

marched into offices like Hearst and The New York Times, in this bad suit and terrible shoes, thinking I'd land something immediately." After further studies at

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

YOUNG BULL



Radio head: Awad at Colorado Public Radio in Denver.

STEPHEN COLLECTOR

CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism, Awad scored internships that included the legendary NPR affiliate WHYY in Philadelphia.

She also earned her stripes: Her first professional radio job, at WRKF in Baton Rouge, La., was a trial-by-fire experience, involving hosting the daily morning show while juggling the myriad needs of a short-staffed newsroom. Somehow she found time to do some reporting, earning a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for Hard News for a story she produced on the illegal distribution of Narcan, the opioid overdose antidote, in Baton Rouge.

Her goal of becoming a full-time radio reporter brought her to KUNC in Greeley, Colo., in 2016 to cover education. Often considered a tedious beat,

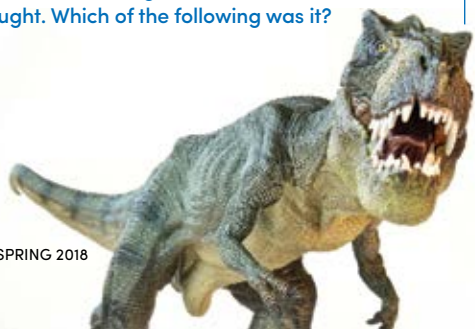
it reminded Awad of what she loved about "nuts and bolts" civics news from her time freelancing in Buffalo. She tackled such issues as statewide achievement gaps for people of color and Colorado's teacher shortage. For her efforts, she received a New Voices Scholarship from AIR (Association of Independents in Radio), which brings together diverse, young radio talent for networking and support.

Now a general assignment reporter for Colorado Public Radio, Awad is modest about her success. Working in radio is about "being a messenger, a conduit," she says. "One of the big reasons I'm in public media is for its empathy. I've realized how important it is to cast light on problems facing people who don't have a voice." **B**

Career tip Chris Fritton (BA '00) The Itinerant Printer ("Turn the Page," p. 19)

"Stop thinking of your heroes as heroes, and start thinking of them as talented peers you can learn from. It will give you back that energy you lose longing to be them or just like them."

In a Class of Its Own The beloved Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences professor Peter Nickerson (see p. 25), who died in 2017, is remembered fondly by many of his students for an offbeat undergraduate honors seminar he taught. Which of the following was it?



1

The Science of "Jurassic Park"

Students examined the real principles of cellular biology taken up in the popular book and movie.

2

Name That Cell

Students competed game-show style to identify various cells by their physical and chemical characteristics.

3

Pathological Liars

Students were tasked with discerning falsehoods from facts regarding common diseases.

4

What Did They Die From?

Students explored the nature of injury and disease by delving deep into the deaths of famous figures.

Submit your answer to atbuffalomagazine@buffalo.edu. The winner, to be drawn randomly from correct responses, will receive an At Buffalo mug.

Pop Quiz!

ClassNotes

He's got the horse right here [p45](#)

'92: Ellis heads the food bank [p45](#)

Who you gonna call? Ghostbuster! [p46](#)

People's Lawyer

From Attica to Standing Rock, a long career fighting injustice

By Jeff Klein » Joe Heath (JD '74) was standing at his locker in the old UB Law School building on Eagle Street when he heard the news. The Attica Prison uprising was over, ending in a hail of gunfire as the authorities retook the prison at the cost of more than three dozen lives.

It was Sept. 13, 1971, Heath's first week of law school. He didn't know it at the time, but he would spend the next 29 years working the Attica case, representing some 1,300 inmates and prison guards in a tortuous series of trials and civil suits before emerging at last with a final, bittersweet victory. And all of that work, pro bono.

"It's what people's lawyers do," says Heath, 72, at his office in Syracuse, surrounded by the photographs and mementoes that mark an enduring career as an activist attorney.

Heath, his long hair pulled back in the same ponytail he wore as a student, has done tireless legal work for a variety of progressive causes over the decades: civil rights, inmates' rights, environmental rights. For 36 years he has been general counsel for the Onondaga Nation. In 2016 he served as a legal observer at the Standing Rock protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

On Heath's third day at UB, prisoners at Attica, the maximum-security prison 35 miles east of Buffalo, rioted in reaction to brutal conditions. One guard was severely injured and died soon after, and some 40 staffers were taken hostage. Four days later Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller ordered the prison retaken at all costs; 10 hostages and 29 inmates died. A corrections official told reporters that the inmates slit all the hostages' throats, but within days autopsies revealed that every one of the 39 fatalities was due to police bullets, some fired from close range.

MEREDITH FORBREST KULWICZ

Activist attorney: Joe Heath at his law office in Syracuse, N.Y.

CONTINUED

In his first semester Heath volunteered for the legal team that obtained a court order to halt guards' retaliation against recaptured inmates, which included burning them with cigarettes, forcing them to crawl naked over broken glass and making them run gauntlets of baton-swinging officers. "The beatings didn't stop," he remembers. "So my first research was, if someone's doing something that he's ordered not to do, is that civil contempt or criminal contempt?"

From there Heath began interviewing inmates inside Attica, as well as wounded hostages and witnesses on the outside—families, National Guardsmen, corrections officers. He worked on trial teams, crashed on couches between all-night research sessions and traveled all over Western New York interviewing witnesses, a process that took years. He still gets choked up recounting what he learned from the survivors, inmates and guards alike. "I have traumatic stress from interviewing people for so many years," he says.

Heath was two years out of law school when all criminal charges against the inmates were dismissed in 1976. In 1980 the class action suit seeking damages for the inmates began and

would drag on for 20 years. "That's one class action case for all of the brothers, 1,300 people," Heath says. "By the time we settled we could only find about half of them. The rest had passed."

The settlement was for a relatively modest \$12 million. But for the former inmates, perhaps the more important victory was the opportunity to tell their stories in court and to be heard by a respectful judge. "To a man they broke down and cried," Heath says.

For Heath, the Attica story didn't end there. He assisted Michigan State historian Heather Ann Thompson as she undertook the 13-year-long process of writing the first definitive history of the uprising and, says Heath, of "the multiple levels of cover-up that occurred from the day they retook the prison."

Thompson's book, "Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy," begins with her accidental discovery of an entire room full of long-sealed grand jury evidence about the Attica homicides after an Erie County clerk told her about it and said she could have a look. Worried that writing about the evidence would be unlawful, Thompson turned to Heath for advice.

"I told her secrecy rules apply only to people who were in the grand jury, and she was free to use it," he says. Heath ended up vetting almost the entire book. It won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for history—and it gave him the chance to look back at what he'd helped to achieve.

"For us to be able to get out the true story of Attica, the brutality and the cover-ups, is really a great accomplishment. It's something I will take to my grave with pride." 📍



ASSOCIATED PRESS

State troopers in riot gear outside Attica Correctional Facility on Sept. 13, 1971.

CLASS NOTES BY DECADE

Person to Person

60



Stay connected!

Visit the alumni website to read more about alumni impact and achievements, and to submit your own class note.

» buffalo.edu/alumni

Robert Vince, PhD 1966, BS 1962, director of the University of Minnesota Center for Drug Design, was elected to the rank of fellow by the National Academy of Inventors for inventions that have improved "the welfare of society." Vince and two colleagues developed an antidote to cyanide poisoning that converts cyanide in the body into a less toxic compound in under three minutes. Vince also helped develop a method designed to detect Alzheimer's disease at an early stage through a non-invasive eye test. He lives in Mendota Heights, Minn.

70

Francis X. Daumen, BA 1971, was inducted into the Western New York Softball Hall of Fame after playing for nearly 20 years as a fast-pitch pitcher. A special education teacher in Buffalo schools for more than three decades, Daumen now works as a licensed financial planner in East Amherst, N.Y.

Randy Simon, BA 1977, of Montclair, N.J., a former executive coach, now works as a clinical psychologist. Simon, who also worked as a human resources executive for Fortune 500 companies, said she changed careers in order to help



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SURGEONS FOR CAMBODIA INC.

Elliott Brender, MD 1970, founder of Surgeons for Cambodia, Inc., completed his seventh trip to Cambodia, where he and his team of seven surgeons and two nurses performed 57 surgeries in two weeks. They also brought new equipment to donate to area hospitals and established a rotating, year-round residency program. Brender lives in Villa Park, Calif.

individuals as opposed to organizations.

Michele Softness, BS 1979, of Miami, Fla., joined the Carlton Fields real estate and commercial finance group, which includes more than 70 attorneys. Softness previously worked for the Miami law firm Isicoff, Ragatz & Koenigsberg. She also serves as a fundraiser for various civic and health organizations.

80

Christopher Tirabassi, BS 1980, was named CEO of Medical Health Associates of Western New York, the largest pediatric primary-care practice in the 17-county area. He lives in Getzville, N.Y.

Francis J. Carey, MLS 1989, is the new curator of the Historical Association of Lewiston and its museum. Carey previously worked for Daemen College in Amherst, N.Y., for UB's Lockwood Library and for Duke University in Durham, N.C. He resides in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

90

Tara A. Ellis, BA 1992, is the new president and CEO of the Food Bank of Western New York. She previously was president and CEO of Meals on Wheels for Western New York. Ellis serves on the board of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs. She lives in Derby, N.Y.

Jonathan Loew, BA 1993, was appointed CEO of AppGuard, a cybersecurity company, after it acquired KeepTree, a secure video messaging service for which Loew was CEO. Loew also now serves as CMO

and board director of Blue Planet-works, of which AppGuard is a subsidiary. He lives in Merrick, N.Y.

Michele Alfano, MArch 1994, owns Michele Alfano Design, one of four firms selected to the 2017 DXV Design Panel. Alfano created DXV's Modern campaign for luxury bath design, featured in such magazines as Elle Décor, Vanity Fair, Metropolitan Home and Architectural Digest. She resides in Montebello, N.Y.

David Lundvall, BS 1994, published his first novel, "Squish the Fish," a comedy about Buffalo, under his pen name, Dave Lundy. Though his degree is in computer sciences, Lundvall credits UB with providing him "the tools to accomplish something outside my primary study focus." He lives in San Francisco, Calif.

Michael McManus, BS 1996, won an Oticon Focus on People Award, which celebrates the contributions of outstanding individuals with hearing loss. McManus, a lieutenant commander in the Navy, served with the Marines in Kuwait during the Gulf War and was deployed multiple times with the Navy Seabees during the Iraq War. Today, he campaigns to reduce the stigma of hearing loss in the military. McManus is currently assigned to U.S. Pacific Command headquarters and lives in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Michelle Kiec, BA 1996, MusB 1995, was named dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Kutztown University. A clarinetist, she has performed with the Harrisburg, West Virginia and Kentucky symphony orchestras. She also previously taught music at

CONTINUED



DAN ZANCORZENSKI

How-to with Dan Summers, BS '10

Facilities/Operations Manager, New York Racing Association

Interview by Rebecca Rudell » Dan Summers knows a thing or two about picking horses: Mind Your Biscuits, a thoroughbred his family bought in 2014 for a mere \$30,000 (racehorses often sell for seven figures), took home the grand prize of \$1.2 million in the Dubai Golden Shaheen race at the 2017 Dubai World Cup. "To have a horse that's good enough to compete there—and then to win against the best sprinting horses in the world—was really amazing," he says.

Born into a horse-loving family (his brother, Chad, is Mind Your Biscuits' trainer), Summers, 28, grew up going to the races. In 2010, while a student at UB's School of Management, he placed a cold call to the New York Racing Association (NYRA). He was hired as parking supervisor the same month he graduated and moved quickly up the ranks to become operations analyst, then facilities/operation manager. In this position, which he has held for the past five years, he supervises the administrative planning, financial management and daily operations at New York's three major tracks: Aqueduct Racetrack, Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course.

Summers admits he was worried about taking a job in the business. "Horse racing is my No. 1 hobby," he says. "I thought that if I was around it for 40-plus hours a week, I'd lose my love of the sport." On the contrary, he says, "my love of racing grew even more."

We asked Summers to provide a few pointers on how to choose the next Mind Your Biscuits.

How to pick a winner at the track:

By the numbers

Learn to read the Daily Racing Form. It provides everything you need to know about a horse and its past 10 races, including distance of race, running and finishing positions, and what's known as its speed figure, which is the easiest way to differentiate between two horses. You can also compare info on jockeys, trainers and owners. For example, if two horses are equally talented, I choose the more successful jockey.

Going the distance

A horse might be running at a different distance than he's used to. They all have preferred distances they like to run, and just one-eighth of a mile can make a

difference. This is an overlooked angle in racing.

Check that pedigree

There are only a handful of good sires producing good offspring each year. Do a little research on who the sire and dam are—that will also tell you if a horse runs better on turf or can race a longer distance. Usually these things run in the family.

Believe your gut

Sometimes beginner's luck pays off, so just pick a horse you think looks good. And keep in mind that a happy horse—one that's prancing and has its head held up proudly—always runs better!

Class Notes

the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D. Kiec resides in Kutztown, Pa.

Nicole Gavigan, EdM 1997, BA 1993, is co-owner of the new interior design firm Gavigan & Gruppo in Williamsville, N.Y. Gavigan, who left a career in higher education, will oversee all management and business practices for the firm and will also be part of the creative process. She lives in Amherst, N.Y.

00

Ryan Renshaw, BPS 2000, has joined Foit-Albert Associates architecture group as a project manager. Renshaw has 18 years of experience in projects involving commercial buildings, hotels, casinos, and single- and multi-family dwellings. He resides in Kenmore, N.Y.

Melissa Franckowiak, MD 2003, BA 1999 & BS 1998, an anesthesiologist at several Western New York hospitals, won \$5,000 in The Pitch business competition as part of 43North Week. Franckowiak will use the money to market her company, PneumaGlide PC, which provides gentle airway solutions to surgical communities. The holder of two patents for airway devices, Franckowiak is a volunteer faculty member at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She lives in Grand Island, N.Y.

Greg Bohall, MS 2007, a graduate of the UB rehabilitation counseling program, published the manual "The Psychologist's Guide to Professional Development." Bohall lives in Bellflower, Calif.

Mark Ziemba, BS 2008, has opened Thoughtful Plan, a financial advisory firm that donates a portion of its profits to nonprofit programs and services that benefit disadvantaged Buffalo residents. Ziemba resides in Blasdell, N.Y.

10

Hannah E. Borden, MS 2011, BS 2010, was promoted to manager of the accounting firm Brock, Schechter & Polakoff LLP in Buffalo. Borden's work focuses on international tax, multistate businesses and construction contractors. She resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

Dominic Sellitto, MS 2014, BS 2013, co-authored a white paper, "Identifying Security Weaknesses in Your Enterprise," that was published by ISACA, an international professional association focused on IT governance. Sellitto is a consultant at Loptr, an information security company in East Aurora, N.Y. He lives in Lancaster, N.Y.

Brigid E. Purcell, MS 2015, BS 2014, was promoted to senior accountant at the accounting firm Brock, Schechter & Polakoff LLP in Buffalo. Purcell prepares corporate, individual and estate income tax returns. She resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

Alyson Sion, MS 2017, BS 2016, joined the accounting firm Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP in Amherst, N.Y., as a staff accountant. Sion lives in West Seneca, N.Y.



MARK HOFFMAN

Top Five *with* Sharon A. Hill, EdM '11

Geologist Supervisor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Pseudoscience Debunker

Interview by Rebecca Rudell and Jeff Klein » Millions of Americans believe in ghosts, space aliens and countless other forms of pseudoscience and the paranormal, and eagerly consume all the books and TV shows that tout them. Then there's Sharon Hill, who, in addition to her career as a geologist with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is a leading debunker of pseudoscience. Her websites (Doubtful News, Spooky Geology) and podcast ("15 Credibility Street"), as well as her articles for other sites, use real science to puncture questionable claims involving psychics, money-making schemes, alternative medicine, Bigfoot, the anti-vax movement, yetis and anything else you can shake a dowsing stick at.

Hill, who lives in Harrisburg, Pa., believed in haunted houses and the Loch Ness Monster as a child, but those beliefs burned away under the bright light of education. Now she describes herself as "a skeptic who has not found compelling evidence for the paranormal, yet remains fascinated by these subjects." That fascination found expression most recently in Hill's new book, "Scientifical Americans: The Culture of Amateur Paranormal Researchers." It was based on her master's thesis for the EdM degree in science and the public she earned through UB's Graduate School of Education online program.

Hill is someone who knows science from "sciencey," so we asked her for five tips on how to separate fake from fact.

Five ways to spot pseudoscience:

1 It's too good to be true

Beware any claim in which a simple fix solves complicated problems. For example, a "revolutionary" diet pill or supplement won't transform your body; losing weight requires hard work and discipline.

2 Secondhand emotions

If someone's using the testimonial of a layperson—"my child was injured by a vaccine"—rather than a scientist, it's not science-based; it's emotion-based. Beware.

3 Says who?

If information isn't coming from a professional, that's a red flag. There's a fuel-saving device that claims it increases gas mileage—but mechanics aren't telling you about it and auto manufacturers aren't putting it in cars. There's a reason: It doesn't work.

4 It's all a conspiracy

Think Kevin Trudeau, whose books offered health and financial advice that "they" (doctors and bankers) didn't want you to know. He

made millions playing into people's suspicion of the medical and financial industries—and now sits in federal prison for fraud.

5 As (not) seen on TV

Many people see TV series like "Ghost Hunters" as science. But has it ever shown an actual ghost? Any lack of verifiable evidence—on a ghost show or anywhere else—is a dead giveaway. By the way, did you know there are around 2,000 DIY ghost-investigating groups in the U.S. alone?



Foster Hall lab, 1950

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UB YESTERDAY

Approximately 800 faculty members teach at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences today, but back in 1861 the faculty numbered just 10. Seven of them sat for this portrait.

1861 Medical Men

By Jeff Klein

James Platt White (obstetrics and gynecology, seated first on left) was on UB's original faculty in 1846, when the university was founded exclusively as a medical school. In 1850 he conducted America's first "demonstration of clinical midwifery," the examination of a pregnant woman and delivery of her baby in front of medical students. It scandalized a puritanical segment of Buffalonians at the time, but eventually became an essential part of medical education.

Edward Mott Moore (surgery, seated second left) taught at UB for 25 years. In an 1896 edition of the *Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal* he was remembered for the "clearness and elegance" of his instruction.

Sandford Eastman (anatomy, seated second right) was an alumnus of the college and a founder of Buffalo General Hospital. For four years he served as Buffalo's chief medical inspector.

Charles Alfred Lee ("materia medica," or drugs and phar-

maceuticals, seated first on right) was also on UB's original faculty. Noted by one former student for his "uniform kindness," he wrote and edited extensively on forensic medicine, practical medicine, wartime field hospitals, alcoholism and other subjects.

George Hadley (chemistry, standing left) was an original faculty member. Mary Blair Moody remembered him as "friendly to my work" en route to her becoming UB's first female graduate in 1876.

Thomas F. Rochester (clinical medicine, standing center) taught at UB for 29 years and was also a founder of Buffalo General. During the Civil War he served as a government-appointed medical inspector of military hospitals.

William H. Mason (physiology, standing right) graduated from UB in 1859 at age 37 and went on to teach at the university for a quarter-century. He had just joined the faculty when this photo was taken.

“Valued.”

“Proud.”

“Amazed.”

“Fulfilled.”

“Joy.”

These are the words of alumni who volunteer for UB.

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DOUGLAS LEVERE

LAST LOOK **A Murmuration of Starlings** Darkening a late-afternoon sky, a vast flock of European starlings takes wing over the North Campus. One of 159 bird species found at UB, according to Education and Linguistics Librarian Christopher Hollister (MLS '00, BA '87), who has been keeping count since 1999, starlings thrive in Western New York and pretty much everywhere in North America. Yet they are newcomers, introduced in 1890 when 60 were set loose in Central Park—part of an eccentric New York City millionaire's mission to bring every type of bird mentioned in Shakespeare to this continent. Today, North America is home to some 200 million starlings, which usually fly in gigantic flocks called "murmurations," wheeling and plunging as one, like a huge undulating flag.