

A Buffalo

The magazine of the State University of New York at Buffalo

Sending Syrian kids to school **p8**
The rebirth of Hayes Hall **p36**
Checkmate, cheaters! **p13**

Summer 2015

Through the lens of Hollis Frampton **p24**







Dancers take flight in the Filipino American Student Association's interpretation of the festival's 2015 theme, "The Great Journey."

FIRST LOOK

Photograph by Douglas Levere

Flash Dance!

In eight minutes or less, international students tell stories of adversity and joy

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard

Students hailing from around the world leapt and laughed their way onto the Center for the Arts Mainstage Theatre on March 7 at the International Fiesta, the annual talent showcase for UB's international student clubs. The university's most diverse student event drew hundreds of friends and family to the North Campus to cheer on 15 club teams—five of which competed for an enormous trophy and the year's bragging rights.

Performances ranged from hypnotic Korean folk drumming to the Indian Student Association's epic number, which combined traditional Bhangra dance and Bollywood-style camp to bring the story of two star-crossed lovers to life. The winner, the Latin American Student Association, brought down the sold-out house with a "West Side Story"-like retelling of the Latin-American diaspora, using a mix of dance styles from the South American and Caribbean coasts, as well as the urban jungles of Miami and New York City.

Want to see more? Boogie on over to www.buffalo.edu/atbuffalo for more Fiesta photos.



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EDITOR'S ESSAY

Aiming High

I've listened to dozens of commencement speeches while attending family graduations or covering ceremonies on campus. Some are easily forgettable, while others are memorable for their rhetoric or the speaker's renown. Only every once in a while does a speech become truly legendary, reverberating in the collective consciousness for decades after that year's graduates have left the stage.

Such was the case with the commencement address delivered 30 years ago in Alumni Arena to graduates of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. On May 18, 1985, hundreds gathered to hear electrical engineering alumnus Gregory Jarvis (BS '67) talk about how hard work—and a refusal to skate by—can lead to the realization of one's dreams. "No matter how adverse your circumstances or how difficult or easy the task, you can reach for the stars by always giving your best—in performance and in attitude," Jarvis said in his afternoon address. The words may have come off as typical commencement discourse had they been uttered by a different speaker. But the 40-year-old Hughes Aircraft Company engineer had been named a payload specialist aboard the upcoming Space Shuttle Challenger mission, beating out 599 other Hughes Aircraft applicants for the coveted assignment.

Just eight months later, commencement jubilation and Jarvis' core message to "reach for the stars" turned to tears and somber reflection. The Space Shuttle Challenger exploded moments after launching off the coast of Cape Canaveral on Jan. 28, 1986, killing all seven crew members aboard. For Jarvis, it was to have been his first space voyage, after being

bumped from several earlier flights. He remained enthusiastic and resolute despite the delays. "Better late than never," he said, "because it will be an opportunity that few people will have." In a memorable bow to his alma mater, he carried a UB flag on the shuttle, along with one from Northeastern University, where he'd earned a master's degree. Transporting the white silk flag bearing the UB seal was, said Jarvis, "a small token for the way [UB] unlocked my future." In a heartrending detail, the UB flag was later recovered from the Challenger's wreckage.

A week after the explosion, the university paid tribute to Jarvis at a solemn ceremony in Slee Hall. And in what must be one of the most unusual campaigns to name a building, that spring a small group of students nailed a sign reading "Jarvis Hall" to the Engineering East building. The next year, the university made it official, dedicating Gregory B. Jarvis Hall at a ceremony attended by his widow, Marcia (BA '68), who presented the flag to the university. It is now kept in protective storage in the University Archives.

Today, engineering students entering Jarvis Hall can pause to view a mounted display with photographs and memorabilia about Jarvis' life and contributions. While most of this year's graduating engineering students weren't alive at the time of the Challenger disaster, this display ensures they can still benefit, at least indirectly, from Jarvis' inspiring remarks and his determination to reach ever upward.



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Marcia Jarvis and then UB President Steven Sample in 1987 holding the flag that flew aboard the Challenger.

Ann Whitcher Gentzke, Editor

Question: What is UB's future in downtown Buffalo beyond the medical campus?

The university has a central role to play in our city's progress in many ways. For example, we attract young talent and entrepreneurial investment from around the globe, we partner with business and industry leaders to drive economic growth, and we serve as the heart of a vibrant arts and cultural scene. This isn't just our vision for the future—we're doing it right now.

I'll bet you've already noticed a difference from the quieter downtown scene you might have found when you arrived as a freshman last year. Cranes are in the air, and the sidewalks are bustling with people day and night.

It wasn't long ago that every national news story about Buffalo cast us as the stereotypical down-on-its-luck Rust Belt city. But now, it's Buffalo's resurgence that is making headlines. Great things are happening across our city and region, and the world is taking notice.

This is a very exciting time to be in Buffalo, and UB is a big part of the reason. As your question makes clear, the university is already a major player on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, and the new medical school building will bring 2,000 more faculty, staff and students downtown every day.

But the medical campus is just one example. Progress is moving forward in many key sectors all at once—health care, advanced manufacturing and materials science, arts and culture, information technology, and more. As a world-renowned research university, UB provides the intellectual capital and innovation that help drive *all* of this progress.

To me, what is especially exciting about this momentum is how it's changing the dynamic of our city. More young,

talented people like you are flocking to Buffalo—and more students are staying here because they are finding great educational and professional opportunities in the area. That's a major change for our city. After decades of "brain drain," we are now home to one of the nation's fastest-growing populations of college grads.

Buffalo is increasingly a magnet for entrepreneurs, artists and other innovators who recognize the tremendous energy gathering here. And our UB community plays a prominent part in this thriving culture of innovation and creativity—from collaborative ventures like the Science & Art Cabaret event series to Silo City, where UB faculty, students and alumni in the arts and architecture fields are helping to transform Buffalo's abandoned grain elevators into a reinvigorated waterfront center for arts and commerce.

UB is also a key leader in the statewide START-UP NY program, which allows SUNY campuses to designate tax-free zones to foster economic growth. UB's leadership in this venture has attracted dozens of new companies to our region and is creating new internship and entrepreneurship opportunities for our students; more jobs that attract global talent and create new professional avenues for our graduates; and new pathways for our faculty to lend their expertise to industrial research and development.

All this progress is literally changing the skyline and the atmosphere of Buffalo. So, to answer your excellent question, Brenna, I think Buffalo's future is very bright. And I am proud to say that our UB community is a big part of that. ♣

OUR STUDENT

Brenna Riordan

A sophomore Honors Scholar and nursing major from Oceanside, N.Y., Brenna Riordan is leaning toward a career as a nurse practitioner. She is currently studying substance-abuse treatment for older adults with her faculty mentor, Yu-Ping Chang. At the photo shoot, she and President Tripathi were discussing research opportunities when the conversation veered to Parkside Candy on Main Street. Riordan, now living off campus, discovered the vintage candy store as a freshman residing in Goodyear Hall. "You're not living above the store now, are you?" Tripathi asked with a smile, referring to apartments on the second floor. "No," she laughed. "I'd have a lot more cavities if I were!"



President Tripathi

Brenna Riordan

We want to hear from you!

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

The fabulous Tzippy

What a refreshingly different and inspirational article about style icon Tziporah Salamon ["A Singular Sensibility," Spring 2015]. There are more ways to bring peace and joy into the world than seeking political office or accumulating degrees that can't be applied to life situations. Kudos to Ms. Salamon for living her joy and to At Buffalo for sharing her story!

Freda Steward (BA '76)
Lilburn, Ga.

Boxing's 'sweet science'

Regarding "The Ring Leaders" [Spring 2015]: My neighbor Ron Aurit, one of the founders of the National Collegiate Boxing Association, will be delighted to hear that the sweet science has an academic home at Buffalo. Go team!

Ron Bohr (PhD '64, MA '62)
Huntington Valley, Pa.

More accolades for women's soccer

Thanks for the article on the women's soccer team and their 2014 MAC title ["Finding Their Way," Spring 2015]. You should know that the 2000 women's soccer team also won the MAC Conference title. The 2014 team was first to win the MAC Tournament, and the alumni are so proud of them for that. But I know players on the 2000 team are also very proud of their accomplishments. Go Bulls!

Anna-Lesa Calvert (BA '06)
Hamburg, N.Y.

A classmate remembered

Gary Collins (BA '88) might not remember me, but I remember him! ["Going for Broke," Spring 2015]. I graduated a year

behind him and we were part of the growing College Democrats on campus. He was engaging, friendly, kind, sincere, bright and capable. When I got my At Buffalo this week and opened it up, I knew immediately who the man in the story was (he hasn't changed much!). I enjoyed being able to read more about what he did after graduation and the ways he has stayed in the role of advocate and policymaker. Congratulations, Gary, and to UB—I love your magazine and read it cover-to-cover.

Courtney Johnson-Woods (BA '89)
Potsdam, N.Y.

At Buffalove

As a recent donor to the UB Poetry Collection Future Fund, I was pleasantly surprised to receive my first [Spring 2015] edition of At Buffalo. The cover photo of Tzippy Salamon was so striking poking out of the pile of mail that I picked it up right away. The entire magazine is beautifully designed and a pleasure to peruse. Thank you for lending me a window into all that's happening in the UB community, both on campus and off, and in such a great format!

Deb Abgott
Clarence Center, N.Y.

Get the fests right

I have to correct an inaccuracy in "Rocking the Casbah" [Alumni Life, Spring 2015]. Cyndi Lauper and Stevie Ray Vaughan performed at Spring Fest 1984, not Fall Fest of that year. As a student, I served in several roles, including Fest coordinator, and was a member of the UUAB Concert Board. So I remember many of these events quite well.

Wayne Domnitz (BA '87)
Merrick, N.Y.

Editor's response: Right you are, Wayne, and thank you for setting the record straight.



From the Editor's Desk

Careful Reader Quiz

Our Careful Reader Quiz ("What am I? Hint: I'm invasive") drew 61 responses by press time, most with the correct answer, "zebra mussel," from our feature story on algae outbreaks in the Great Lakes ["Green Menace," Spring 2015]. The first to respond correctly was Daniel Jacobson (MS '87, BA '84) of Pittsford, N.Y. An At Buffalo mug is on its way.

Sandra Guzdek (BFA '92) of Eugene, Ore., not only answered correctly, but also sent a zebra mussel illustration she did in 1991 for the campus magazine Generation.



Quiz response breakdown



On Campus

- » Robotic writers
- » Batty neighbors
- » Nerdy tunes



Earth Week cleanup on Lake LaSalle.

NORTH CAMPUS

Paddles Up

After 45 years, Lake LaSalle is open for business

By David J. Hill » When sophomore dance major Laura Nasca came to UB two years ago, she gazed across Lake LaSalle and thought, “We should be able to paddle out there.” At the time, the 60-acre North Campus lake was off-limits to recreation.

Nasca’s wish was granted last summer, when the university began renting out canoes and kayaks on Lake LaSalle; a public boat launch was installed in the fall. Russ Crispell, UB’s director of outdoor pursuits, hopes access will encourage students to develop greater appreciation. “It’s a recreational lake now. We need to take ownership of it,” he says.

Dozens of students stepped up at a recent lake cleanup, held in April for Earth Week. Some went out on canoes and skimmed the water’s edge for debris,

while others stayed on shore and picked up trash that had collected on land.

They had their work cut out for them; among the more outrageous finds in the water were an old satellite dish, several orange construction cones and a metal chair. So far, Lake LaSalle’s natural inhabitants seem to be taking the debris in stride. “Loons are showing up here. I’ve seen turtles and blue herons. The place is loaded with fish,” Crispell says while paddling around one of the lake’s two islands, where wild strawberries, grapes and red dogwood grow.

The lake will remain open to all from sunrise to sunset during boating season. “It’s so relaxing to go out on the water,” says Nasca, who clearly appreciates her new view—across the bow. ♣



BARRY FITZGERALD, MFA '90

THE WEIGH-IN

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

The News: The LA Times famously used a robot journalist (i.e., software) a year ago to write a breaking-news earthquake story. Other outlets, including The Associated Press, have also used the new technology, leaving journalists fretting about losing their jobs to machines. Is the end nigh?

The Expert: Jody Kleinberg Biehl, director of UB’s journalism certificate program



Worrying about robotic journalism is a waste of energy; we journalists should cheer its arrival. Robot journalists can do wonderful work—much of which humans have always loathed doing, including writing formulaic crime briefs and generating financial reports. This work is tedious and becoming increasingly necessary given the demand for 24-hour news. What the “robots” can’t do is original reporting or thinking. They can’t write with nuance or context. They can’t recognize a good quote, sense when someone is lying or figure out what questions to ask next. The AP may now be able to produce 3,000 rather than 300 reports every quarter year. But without human time, talent and thought, none of those stories will resonate or matter.



Syrian students in their Damascus basement classroom. Inset: Shibly with a patient.

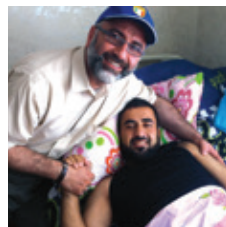


Learning to Survive

A UB dentist strives to change Syria’s destiny through education

By Jana Eisenberg >> Othman Shibly speaks softly as he relates the war-related horrors facing Syria, his home country. “It is beyond imagination. Seventy percent of Syrian refugees are women and children ... what kind of a world do we live in?”

Shibly, associate professor of periodontics and endodontics at UB, was raised in Lebanon by a Lebanese mother (a Shia) and a Syrian father (a Sunni). He attended dental school in Syria before moving to



Buffalo in the 1990s, where he is a prominent member of the Islamic-American and dental communities.

In 2012, he toured a Syrian refugee camp in Turkey while attending a dental conference in Istanbul. He was so moved by what he witnessed—he says 220,000 refugees are currently living in these camps, many with war injuries and without proper health care—that he decided to do something about it.

Upon returning to the U.S., he raised enough money from friends and relief agencies to establish dental clinics in two Turkish refugee camps, staffed by Syrian refugee dentists. A team of North American volunteers visits every few months to pitch in. He has since worked with several nonprofit organizations, the UB dental school and dentists based throughout the Middle East (including some UB alumni) to secure

equipment and space for clinics at other camps.

Shibly, who lectures internationally on how religion can help bridge cultures, has been traveling regularly to the Middle East to visit family in Syria and to work with the local dentists in the Turkish camps. In the course of these visits, he came to recognize an even greater need in Syria: education. “Medical aid heals injuries, but education heals trauma,” he says. “It is for the heart and the soul.”

With the help of a local professor, he converted basements outside Damascus into underground schools, raising money to pay teachers a modest salary. Currently there are more than a dozen schools serving about 5,000 children, who still live under great risk. “Every few weeks,” he says, “one desk in a school will be empty because a child got killed.”

Shibly sees his most important contribution as curricular. Using Syrian lessons as a base, he advises on modifications, such as removing nationalistic ideology and adding world culture and religions, with an emphasis on commonly shared values to demonstrate the unity of humanity.

His goal is to create educational opportunities, and impart a way of thinking, that will move these children away from sectarianism. “If you destroy ISIS, extremist ideas are still alive,” he says. “Through education, we can raise a new generation. These students want to be architects, physicians, teachers. They should have the opportunity.” ❖



Tweetable: A glass curtain wall and other elements of #UBuffalo’s future med school passed stringent wind and rainstorm tests with flying colors.



221F Farber Hall, South Campus

The office of Raymond Dannenhoffer, associate dean for services in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences



Interview by Michael Flatt

One might think a room full of skulls and skeletons could have a gloomy vibe, but the effect here is actually one of cheerful pragmatism—thanks largely to Ray Dannenhoffer (PhD '87, MA '82, BA '79). At any given moment in Dannenhoffer's office, one is likely to find a student, administrator or professor seeking his help. In addition to overseeing support services and IT for the med school, he teaches anatomy, supervises the gross anatomy lab, runs UB's Anatomical Gift Program and serves as the United University Professions union representative.

A CAT scans Starting last year, we began doing full-body CAT scans of the cadavers. We give each student in the class his or her own copy of those scans on a jump drive.

B Urns When we were getting these customized for the Anatomical Gift Program, we were looking

for four things: appropriate size (everybody's cremains are roughly the same volume), reasonable attractiveness, a unique shape and affordability.

C Skulls Most of them are monkeys or apes. I use them sometimes to make a point to a student about the anatomical differences and similarities between apes

and humans—because I also have human skulls.

D O.P. Jones portrait O.P. Jones (1906-1989) was a previous chair of the department of anatomy. He was a revered, and feared, faculty member. This used to hang somewhere in the Health Sciences Library, and when they took it down it ended up here.

E La Specola poster I was in Florence, and there's a museum there called La Specola, which has hundreds and hundreds of wax models of the human anatomy from the 1700s. I bought this print because it's a classic view of anatomy contrasted with the very modern view, circa 1993, drawn by Alan Cober. [See F.]

F Alan Cober illustration Alan Cober (1935-1998) was a UB art professor and a famous illustrator, but to me he was just Alan. He would bring students into the gross anatomy lab to draw, and did a bunch of illustrations as part of that. He gave me a signed print of the poster from a show the Burchfield Penney Art Center did of his work.

UB EMOJI

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



Tweet our bull

Emoji madness and March Madness collided this year, when The Washington Post created a cheeky collection of college mascot icons as a free download during the NCAA tournament. From warriors to boilermakers, bulls to badgers, each mascot got a cute mug to text around. Not that we're biased, but we thought UB's Victor was particularly adorable.



Recycle that robe

For the sixth year, UB graduation robes will make more than just a fashion statement (ahem)—they'll make good potting soil, too. Commencement-wear has gone green, with compostable packaging and fabrics made from renewable fibers. While a few students grumble about the cost of a "throwaway" robe (prices range from \$83 to \$94), officials are pleased to offer a new way to reduce waste. UB's composting bin must turn a bright blue this time of year.



Smarty pants

Finally, clean socks are just a click away. Using a Star-Trekian-sounding app called CBORD, UB students can reserve a washer or dryer in the Fargo and Wilkeson quads. Students log in with a special ID on their smartphone or computer, and can check the status of each machine in the building. While certainly more efficient, the new system may sadly portend an end to the age-old tradition of flirting while waiting for clothes to dry.



Gone batty

Seems the North Campus may have a bat problem. This spring, University Police responded to several calls about bats infiltrating campus spaces. An exterminator was dispatched to remove one seen in O'Brian Hall. As for one spotted in Porter Quad, the report said, "Residents were advised to call UPD should it come out from the radiator." We're guessing students steered clear of the radiator.



A Rubens tube lights up a recent Science & Art Cabaret in Buffalo.



Sounds of Science

A mashup of arts and technology provokes and entertains

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard » The buzzing audience hushed as bass lines and the earthy tones of a marimba resonated from the small basement stage at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center. Bill Loudon (BA '13), lead vocalist for the self-described "science nerd" group Inverse Square Trio (IST), manned a keyboard and drum kit as he recited spoken-word lyrics—"And speaking of genetic nomenclature..."—as part of a "quasi-improvisational homage" to Frank Zappa called "3834 Zappaf Frank."

Anything goes at the Science & Art Cabaret, and this performance in March was no exception. Usually held at Hallwalls, the free event series brings creative and scientific experts together every few months to explore a common theme.

Since its launch in 2009 by UB's College of Arts and Sciences, the Buffalo Museum of Science and Hallwalls, the cabaret has featured a dizzying array of experts—physicists, painters, neurosurgeons—discussing everything from brains to black holes.

Says John Massier, Hallwalls curator and one of the cabaret's founders along with UB physicist Will Kinney and Gary Nickard of the Department of Art, "Sometimes it's not about answers, but about lots and lots of questions."

The theme of the March event was sound. IST makes music with typical instruments as well as wacky contraptions straight out of the lab, including dry ice, "wave drivers" (loudspeakers) and an antique physics apparatus called a Rubens tube, whose propane-fueled jets of flame jump to different acoustic wave modulations. Earlier that evening, Buffalo DJ and musician Dave Gutierrez gave tips on how to curate a vinyl record collection, shocking the audience by smashing a rare Pink Floyd record into shards (it turned out to be a copy).

Two UB professors of communication disorders and sciences, Jeff Higginbotham and Elaine Stathopoulos, discussed human vocal chords and speech pathologies, showing YouTube videos shot down the throats of opera singers and rock stars. New York City sound mixer and recording industry veteran Allen Farmelo gave a treatise on the "future of music in the 21st century," explaining that stereo—the foundation of all musical recordings—is "totally wrong"; future recording technologies, he pronounced, must be designed around the anatomy of the human head.

Massier's online notes summed up the evening perfectly: "The end of each cabaret, for me, always has a nice lingering effect, not because anything has necessarily been figured out, but because we've filled the air with the whiff of speculation and dreams." ❖

POLL POSITION An unofficial survey of 100 UB students

Have you ever written a paper on your phone?

No 81

Yes 17

Why would I do that?! 2



MICHAEL GELLEN, '08

Moving Images

Three archived film canisters are opened for the first time in at least 20 years, revealing historic scenes of campus life

UB Archivist Amy Vilz sniffed the telltale odor of vinegar emanating from hundreds of film canisters stored in the stacks. These records of campus history hadn't been seen in decades because of concerns over their fragile state; many were undated or labeled with sketchy titles like "Outtakes." Vilz knew the pungent aroma could mean only one thing: Some films had degraded past redemption, a process that preservationists call the "vinegar syndrome."

Unwilling to risk rolling the films through a projector, Vilz piloted a restoration program, sending three samples to a Philadelphia firm that digitizes vintage celluloid. When the films, all silent, came back earlier this year, Vilz was treated to a surprise screening of everything from 1930s' automobiles darting by the downtown med school to a co-ed fashion show from the '60s.

What's next?

Vilz hopes these digitized versions will engage alumni who might recognize moments or people from their past, and also attract donations to fund restoration of more films. Priority titles include "Cops on Campus" and "Frank Lloyd Wright."

Newly minted queen Marilou Thompson, now Marilou Mabe (PhD '76, BA '65) of Charlotte, N.C.

Caught on camera



Spring Weekend (Moving Up Day), 1963
8:09

Various scenes of students celebrating Moving Up Day, including a parade of elaborate floats and a surprisingly sexy fashion show



Main Street campus and downtown buildings, 1930s
2:30

Campus scenes, including footage of legendary chancellor Samuel P. Capen



Western New York Nuclear Research Center, c. 1964
2:51

Eerie footage of the recently decommissioned nuclear research center on the South Campus

To see all three films, go to www.buffalo.edu/atbuffalo.

Eureka!

It's in the Genes

A breast cancer survivor's hunch leads to a game-changing study

» [Greenland's shrinking ice](#)

» [Keeping chess real](#)

» [The narcissistic sex](#)

By [Patricia Donovan](#) » In 2007, Veronica Meadows-Ray of Buffalo became the sixth of eight women in her family to be diagnosed with breast cancer.

In her case, it was triple negative breast cancer, an aggressive and frequently recurring type that is most likely to occur

before the age of 50, in African-American and Hispanic women, and in women who carry a mutation of the tumor-suppressor gene BRCA1. Meadows-Ray met the first two of those criteria—she is African-American and was 47 when diagnosed—but she tested

negative for the BRCA gene. Her one cousin who also underwent genetic screening also tested negative.

“It seemed unlikely that coincidence alone would produce seven cases of breast cancer in two generations,” Meadows-Ray says. “I just felt that something else, maybe an unknown genetic mutation, might be affecting my family.”

There were no answers to her questions, however. The pioneering BRCA study, conducted in the 1990s, had found that mutations in the BRCA1 and 2 genes accounted for 20 to 25 percent of hereditary breast cancers, and 5 to 10 percent of all breast cancers, in the study population—but that population was composed of 5,000 women of European heritage. No one had ever conducted a genetic study of breast cancer in African-American families, despite the fact that African-American women have the second-highest incidence of breast cancer in the United States, and the highest rates of mortality from the disease.

Meadows-Ray is active in the Buffalo/Niagara Witness Project, one of more than 30 programs nationwide that work to educate African-American women about early detection for breast cancer. She took her questions to Witness Project co-founder Deborah Erwin, director of the Office of Cancer Health Disparities Research in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences at Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI). Citing her family's breast cancer history, Meadows-Ray proposed a study that would look for new genetic mutations



Meadows-Ray (left) and Ochs-Balcom.

DOUGLAS LEVERRE

SAMIRIA DONOVAN

related to breast cancer common in, or even unique to, African-American families.

Erwin proposed the idea to genetic epidemiologist Heather Ochs-Balcom of the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions, and Ochs-Balcom (PhD '04) turned it into "Jewels in Our Genes," a nationwide research project conducted between 2009 and 2014. Led by Ochs-Balcom and funded by Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the study involved 106 families from across the U.S. and researchers from UB's school of public health, Roswell Park, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

The team recently announced its first discovery: Study participants with breast cancer carry segments of DNA that were previously unknown and that are not carried by their female relatives who don't have breast cancer.

"This is a very exciting finding," says Ochs-Balcom, who published the results in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention* in February. "Now that we've found the new genomic regions, we can search them for chromosomal mutations that cause the disease and try to learn if the mutations are unique to African-Americans."

Ochs-Balcom points out that young African-American women are at higher risk of premenopausal breast cancers than others in their age group. Early-onset cancers and aggressive, difficult-to-treat cancers (like triple negative) are also much more common in African-American women than in other groups. If a genetic mutation is responsible, its discovery would facilitate early detection and treatment for women in at-risk families, which would go a long way toward improving outcomes for those with the gene.

Part of the reason this research hasn't been done until now, says Ochs-Balcom, is that family studies—the best way to discover genetic anomalies—are difficult; they require a considerable time commitment by multiple family members. This study was made possible by a multipronged recruitment approach involving informed, supportive community partners.

"Across the country, community organizations and individuals like Veronica personally encouraged friends, neighbors and family members to take part," Ochs-Balcom says, adding that volunteers were especially good at conveying the urgency and importance of this work. Indeed, this community recruitment methodology was so successful, it was presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Ochs-Balcom says she cannot stress enough the critical role played by Meadows-Ray in making this paradigm-shifting research happen. "Whatever success we realize," she says, "I want to emphasize that this study—the first of its kind—started with her." ♣



60 SECONDS WITH Ken Regan

Interview by Michael Flatt

When the chess world suspects someone of having cheated in a tournament, UB Associate Professor of Computer Science Ken Regan is the guy who gets the call. Using a database of tens of thousands of top-level games, Regan, himself an international chess master, has devised a program that can help determine whether a player is playing like a human or like a computer.

Why do people come to you when they think someone has broken the rules?

They come to me because I'm the only one yet who has a scientifically rigorous and vetted model of determining whether the frequency of agreement with a computer—which is to say, the cognitive style of a game—is nonhuman. Humans blunder and don't consistently make the best move available. Players using chess programs will usually use the best available move.

How does someone go about cheating in a game of chess? Does it usually involve hiding a smartphone?

Smartphones are a main culprit, but they're not necessarily the only means. People have hidden computers in their shoe, as in the famous John von Neumann case at the World Open. There have been people caught in bathrooms looking at handheld computers. There was also alleged to be a case where a code was used to transmit moves from Paris to Russia by text messages, which were then conveyed to the player by having people in the audience move between seats corresponding to squares on the board.

Could somebody find a way to use a computer in a manner that you couldn't detect?

Well, that's the beauty. I don't care how the moves were procured. All you do is send me the moves. I have my own analyzer, which is what sets the probabilities. So I actually don't care how they were obtained.

What implications might your research have for artificial intelligence research?

Former world chess champion Garry Kasparov has made the point that my program performs a kind of inverse Turing test. The Turing test is, "Can you program a computer to play like a human, so that a person looking at the games cannot tell it's a computer?" I think you could use my model to generate some fairly convincingly "human" games.

"Don't even think about it."



Chess detective Ken Regan.

DOUGLAS LEVERIE



Tweetable: Women in STEM? We walk the talk: a female engineering dean, three female Goldwater scholars and the first #UBWomeninSTEM Summit.

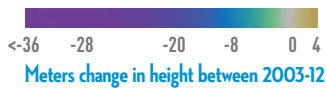
On Thin Ice

By Charlotte Hsu

The Greenland Ice Sheet is the second-largest block of ice on Earth. And according to UB geophysicist Beata Csatho, we may be underestimating how fast it will shrink. In a recent study, she and colleagues analyzed massive amounts of NASA data to provide the world with its first comprehensive picture of how the ice sheet is changing—and feeding rising seas.

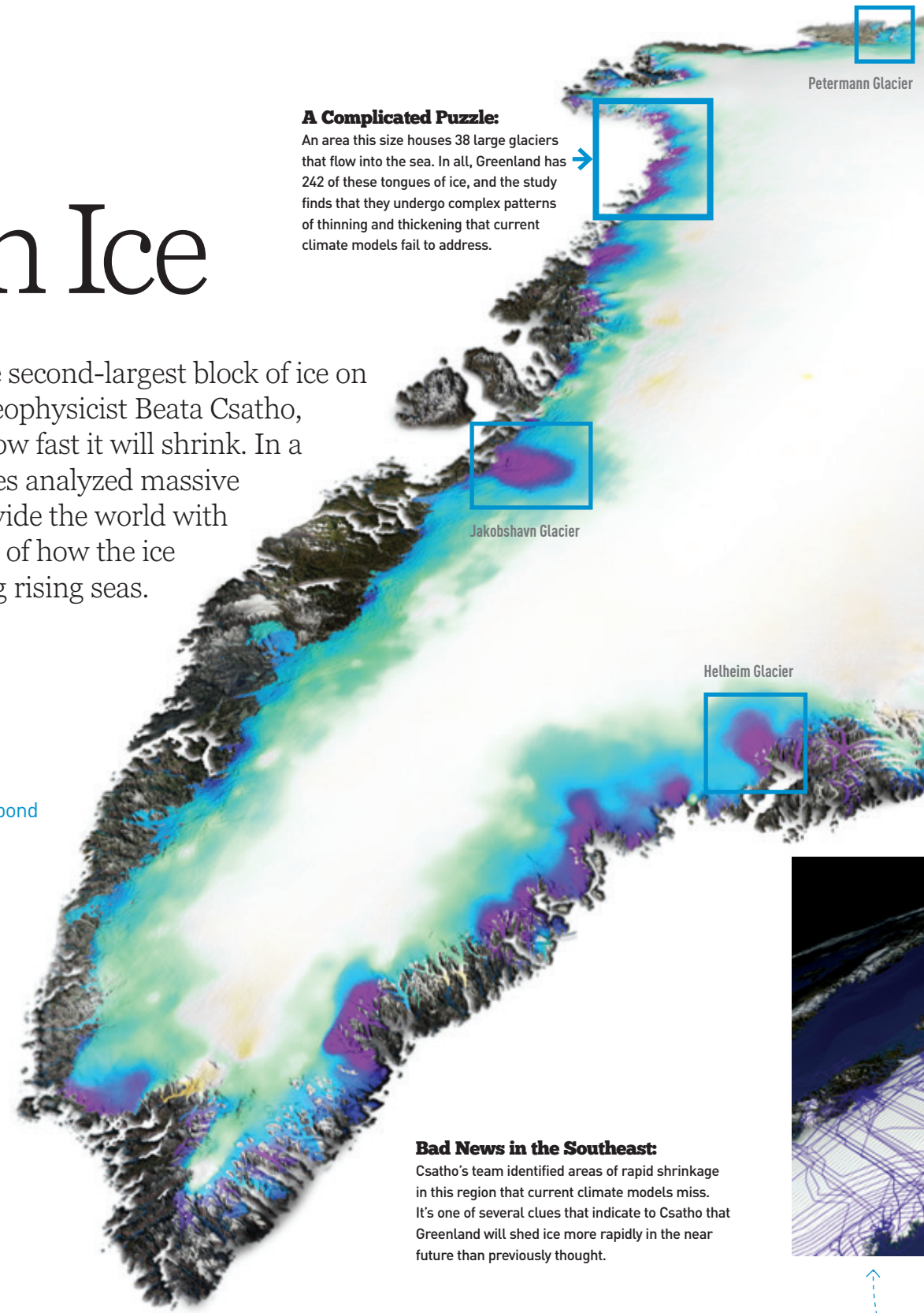
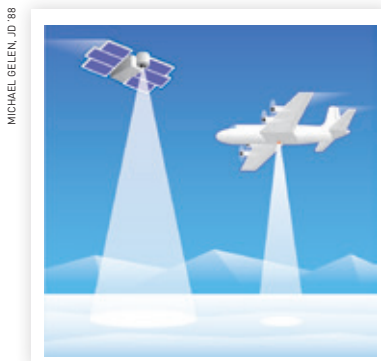
The results are sobering.

This visualization depicts how the Greenland Ice Sheet changed from 2003-12. A close analysis reveals how little we understand about this shifting icescape—in particular, how it will respond to climate change.



Flawed Forecasts:

Until now, scientists have projected how all of Greenland would lose ice by extrapolating from the activity of just four large glaciers [labeled on map]. Csatho's research shows that this analysis is not adequate: Changes at these four locations do not reflect what's happening across the whole ice sheet.



A Complicated Puzzle:

An area this size houses 38 large glaciers that flow into the sea. In all, Greenland has 242 of these tongues of ice, and the study finds that they undergo complex patterns of thinning and thickening that current climate models fail to address.

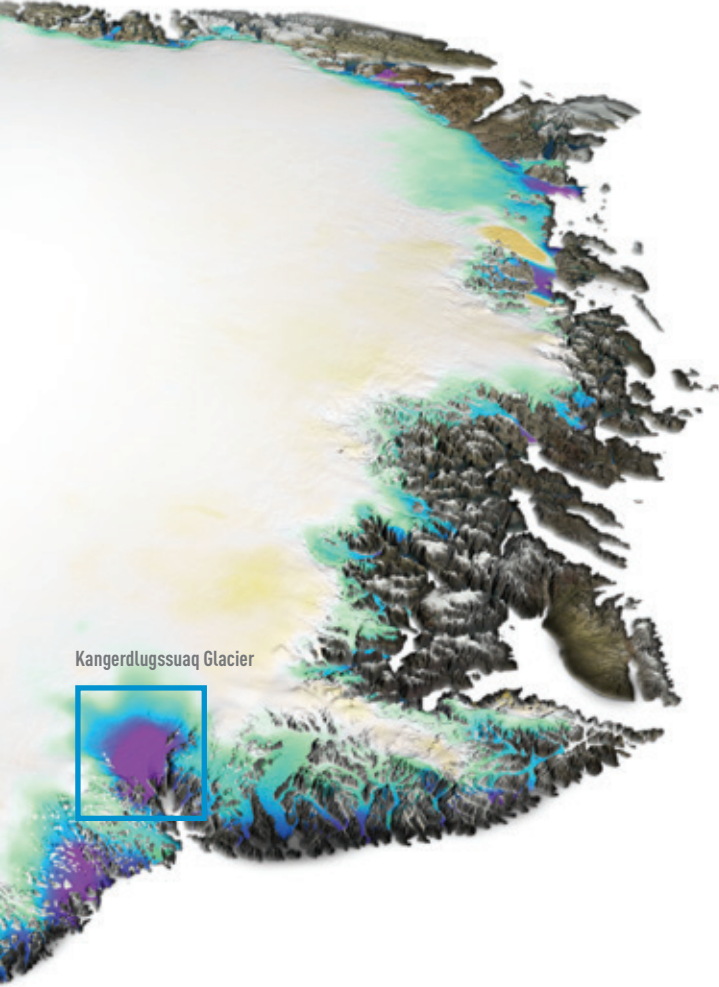
Bad News in the Southeast:

Csatho's team identified areas of rapid shrinkage in this region that current climate models miss. It's one of several clues that indicate to Csatho that Greenland will shed ice more rapidly in the near future than previously thought.

Laser Precision

NASA research vehicles used laser altimetry to measure the ice sheet's elevation:

- Step 1:** A plane (or satellite) fires a laser pulse.
- Step 2:** The light hits a surface and is reflected back toward its source.
- Step 3:** By measuring how long it takes for the laser pulse to reach the surface and return, scientists can calculate the elevation of the surface to an accuracy within centimeters.



NASA'S GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER SCIENTIFIC VISUALIZATION STUDIO

A Massive Undertaking

The study used data from NASA satellite and aerial survey missions (see left) to reconstruct how the ice sheet's elevation changed at 100,000 locations from 1993 to 2012.

GRAY LINES: Paths traveled by NASA's ICESat satellite to collect data

PURPLE LINES: Paths traveled by NASA's Operation IceBridge research aircrafts



Beaker Briefs

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

By Marcene Robinson (B.A. '13)

Bad Luck Bills

Your favorite football team have a tough season? Maybe it's their schedule. Researchers uncovered disparities in NFL scheduling, finding that several unlucky teams played well-rested opponents coming off a bye week or a Thursday game more often than others. From 2002-14, the Bills were the unluckiest of all.

LED BY Engineering doctoral candidate Niraj Pandey, engineering alum Kyle Cunningham (BS '14), and engineering researchers Murat Kurt and Mark Karwan

Male Pride

The Kardashians may rule the selfie, but men are more conceited, regardless of age. A study examining the forms of narcissism (authority, grandiosity, entitlement) found that men were the more entitled and assertive gender, while both sexes were equally vain. The researchers attribute the differences to gender stereotypes and expectations.

LED BY Organization and human resources researcher Emily Grijalva

Guileless Grandpas

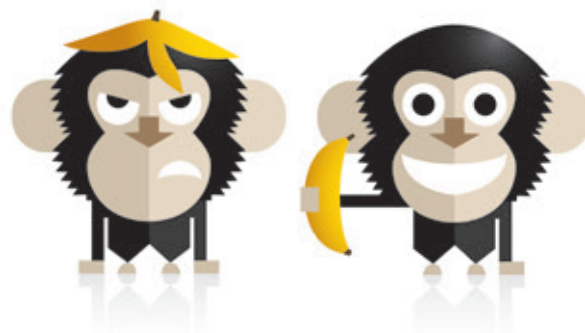
The grumpy old man may be a myth. Researchers found that the more we age, the more trusting and, thus, happier we become. The possible reasons: a smaller, closer social circle and a desire to give back. The possible downside: a higher risk of exploitation from scams and fraud.

LED BY Psychology researcher Michael Poulin

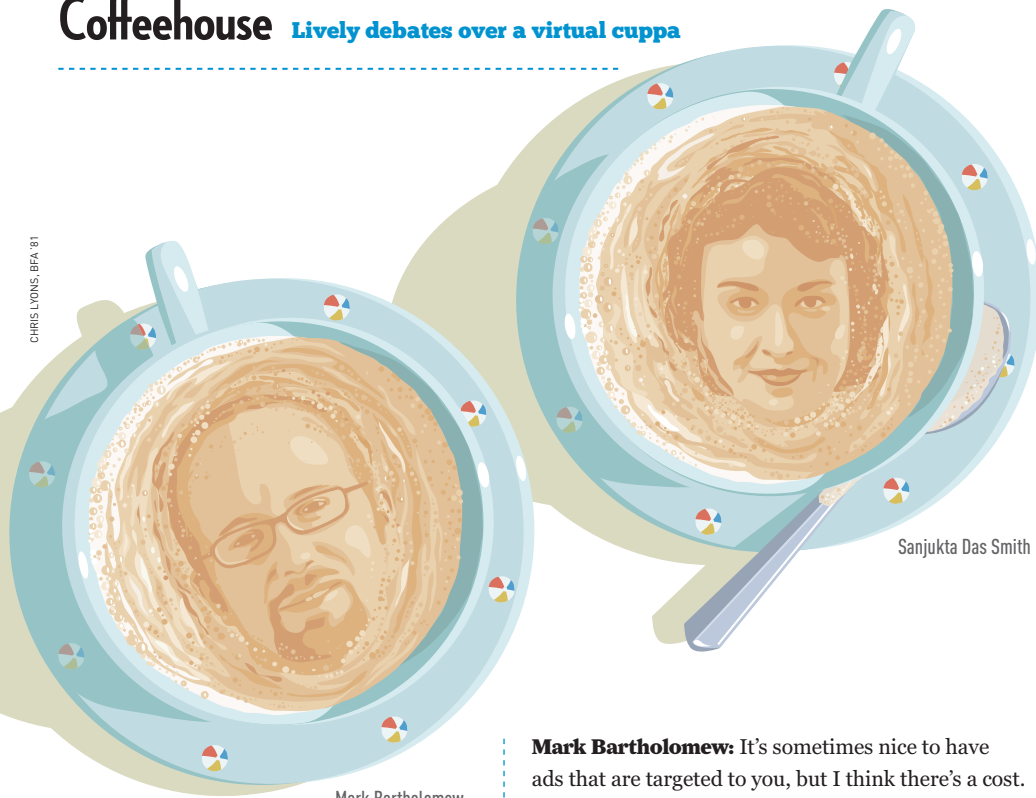
The New Law of the Jungle

Two physicists and a primatologist may have a second career in urban jungle planning. Using Newton's Laws of Motion, they simulated how chimpanzees grouped and dispersed in small areas. The chimps behaved as atoms would in a confined space, moving based on attractions (food, sex) and repulsions (competing chimps).

LED BY Physics researcher Surajit Sen and physics doctoral candidate Matthew Westley with National Institute of Advanced Studies (Bangalore) primatology researcher Anindya Sinha



CHRIS LYONS, BFA '81



Mark Bartholomew

Sanjukta Das Smith

Can privacy and the Internet coexist?

Websites like Facebook and Google are collecting more data on their users than ever before, leading us to wonder whether all those targeted ads are worth it. We asked two Internet privacy scholars—Mark Bartholomew, professor in the Law School, and Sanjukta Das Smith, an assistant professor in the School of Management—to share their perspectives.

Mark Bartholomew: It's sometimes nice to have ads that are targeted to you, but I think there's a cost. There was a Pew study just a couple months ago about Internet use, and 90 percent of respondents said privacy is a concern. People are definitely worried about it.

Sanjukta Das Smith: That's interesting because there have been other studies where people were more optimistic when it was about their own privacy as opposed to others—as in, it can't happen to me. I see that in the types of security habits people adopt. They know what they should be doing, but don't follow through on it.

MB: Passwords are a great example. We all know we should have long passwords with multiple sets, but we don't do it. So maybe in the abstract I have these concerns, but when it comes to executing, I want the website to do the functional thing I'm asking for.

SDS: Age also has a lot to do with it. Right now we have this large section of consumers who haven't had a life that precedes the Internet. Soon we're going to have another batch who've never known life without a smartphone. I think they're willing to give up a lot of control over their privacy in exchange for the perceived benefits.

MB: There's sort of a push-pull between two forces. On the one hand, I think there's a lot of support for more control over one's data and for some real benchmarks for businesses to follow. On the other hand, we have this attitude that consumers ought to be able to decide these things for themselves.

SDS: I do know a lot of people who like targeted ads. And without some amount of predictive analytics happening in the background, there wouldn't be those ads. It's a difficult problem because we don't want to stifle

innovation, but we have to educate consumers about the benefits and the costs.

MB: Something I'm playing with is, when does it pass muster to manipulate people? "I know that you like sports cars and you like the color red, so here's a targeted ad for a red sports car." That doesn't seem to be manipulating me. But "I know where you are and so I try to make an advertisement appear serendipitously when it's not serendipitous at all"—for me, that's iffy.

SDS: I think this is another place where age comes into the picture. Younger users tend to take these types of situational awareness apps for granted. They feel it adds value. I can clearly see other segments of the population not being comfortable with that at all, and understandably so.

MB: So I'm curious, as an expert in this field, do you take steps to protect your own privacy?

SDS: I don't use situational awareness apps at all. I don't know how much of that is because I work in this field. It probably has a lot to do with it. I do see the amount of information that people reveal online and it's not that they're not aware of what happens out there. Again, they feel that it can't happen to them. For example, a friend of mine posted videos of her vacation on her YouTube account. Her Facebook account is not linked to her YouTube account. A digital marketing firm found her videos, was able to connect that to her Facebook profile, found her home phone number and called her after sending her a Facebook message about that video.

MB: People haven't quite realized the power of aggregation. There's a great app for your browser called Lightbeam, which tracks each website you go to and then how many third-party services are hiding in that data. You just go to three sites and there'll be a chart with 100 entities kind of circling around them. They're aggregators and their job is to connect the dots.

SDS: My friend got quite a jolt because of this. This is a person who was otherwise savvy. Yet I don't see too much discussion happening about online privacy. We only see it in fits and spurts when something bad happens. Then people wake up and have this intense discussion, and then the news cycle moves on to the next big item. Unless there's some persistent push from consumers on this, is there incentive from the business side to curb their data collection practices? I don't see that happening. ☼

How do you take your coffee?

Mark: I'm a sucker for anything with hazelnut creamer.

Sanjukta: Black.



Buffalo boy Will Regan.

- » Tennis triumphs
- » A very young Bull
- » UB's smartychamps

A Slam-Dunk Season

It was a historic year for UB men's and women's basketball—and it's only the beginning

MEN'S

By David J. Hill » When Xavier Ford signed to play basketball at UB in the fall of 2010, it was an unlikely choice. He was Colorado's best player and a kid who would earn national honors after his senior season. The Bulls had some success but weren't making much noise nationally.

How things have changed.

Buffalo ended up being a great decision for Ford, and he returned the favor, helping catapult

Bulls basketball into the national spotlight with the program's first NCAA Tournament appearance. "I didn't know Buffalo even had a college team," Ford, the reigning MAC Tournament MVP, said after the historic season ended, recalling his reaction to being recruited at Harrison High in Colorado Springs.

Everyone from well-known college hoops analysts like Jay Bilas to the president—not UB's leader, the commander-in-chief—got on the Bulls bandwagon this year, selecting 12th-seeded Buffalo to upset No. 5 West Virginia. That didn't happen, but UB basketball is now a known entity.

To be sure, Ford is hardly the only reason. MAC Player of the Year Justin Moss, among other starters, played a big part. So did head coach Bobby Hurley, who said he took inspiration from the women's soccer team, which earned its first NCAA tourney

COURTESY MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Locker Room

berth after winning the conference title in the fall, just as basketball season was getting underway. “I remember seeing that team celebrating and thinking, Wow, that’d be great if we were in that position,” Hurley recalled. (Hurley’s success at UB—he went 42-20 in his two seasons here—garnered attention from other programs, and in April, he accepted the head coaching job at Arizona State. Nate Oats, Hurley’s top assistant, was named UB’s next head coach.)

UB showed flashes of greatness early on, hanging with powerhouses Kentucky and Wisconsin. The team really caught fire, though, in the last month of the season, and that’s when people

began to take notice. The official UB supporters bar near Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio, where UB played its NCAA Second Round game, turned customers away because it was so packed—with UB fans.

“I think we showed what this program can evolve into.”

Will Regan

“I think we showed the players on this team and alumni what this program can evolve into,” says senior and Buffalo native Will Regan.

The good news for Bulls fans is that the team returns five of the top eight players in its rotation. They’ve lost key guys, such as Ford and Regan, to graduation, but there’s a lot of talent behind them, including All-MAC Freshman Team selection Lamonte Bearden, and highly touted transfers Torian Graham and Maurice O’Field, and, of course, the unstoppable Moss.

The opening weekend of this year’s NCAA Tournament enjoyed record television ratings, and UB was on that stage. You can bet that the next crop of Xavier Fords at high schools around the country know Buffalo has a basketball program. And they know it’s pretty good.

WOMEN’S

When UB traveled to West Virginia in March for the program’s first-ever Women’s National Invitation Tournament appearance, they saw what it takes to reach the game’s elite level. The Mountaineers had made the NCAA Tournament five straight years before having to “settle” for the WNIT this past season.

UB coach Felisha Legette-Jack already knew



PAUL HOKANSON



PAUL HOKANSON

MAC Tournament MVP Xavier Ford helped power the men’s team. For the women, Christa Baccas (44) and Kristen Sharkey (left) led the way.

 **TweetaBULL:** Men’s soccer went 4-0 against English club teams during a spring trip to the UK. Read junior Ryan O’Mara’s recap at buffalo.edu/atbuffalo.

the answer. “It takes a little bit of crazy,” she says. Truth be told, UB’s players were a little put off by their new coach’s unbridled enthusiasm when she first arrived in Buffalo three years ago. Now they get it.

“She has a passion for the game that no one comes close to,” says Mackenzie Loesing, who garnered MAC Sixth Player of the Year honors as a junior this season. “To play for a coach that loves the game as much as she does, it makes you want to work hard every single day.”

“The reason I’m so crazy, the reason I’m so intense, is because that’s the level you have to be at on a daily basis,” adds Legette-Jack, who coached Indiana to three WNIT appearances during her time in Bloomington. “These young ladies thought that I was a little crazy, and then they saw West Virginia and they realized it takes a little crazy to be really, really good.”

The Bulls had one of their best seasons ever, finishing 19-13 overall, the first time they racked up that many wins since 2000-01. And it marked back-to-back winning campaigns for the first time since 1999-00 and 2000-01. UB earned its first WNIT bid—and only the second postseason invitation in program history—after falling to Ohio in the semifinals of the MAC Tournament.

“It sets a precedent. That’s the new expectation, to make it to postseason,” says Loesing, who, because of a lingering ankle injury, will return next season in a coaching role. “We made great strides this year but it’s only going up from here.”

The Bulls lose three seniors, including two of their top players—MAC Defensive Player of the Year Christa Baccas and Second-Team All-MAC selection Kristen Sharkey, who finished her career eighth all-time in scoring at UB—but there’s plenty of talent and drive returning next season.

“These young ladies want more,” Legette-Jack says. “They absolutely understand what it takes.”

That’s why it doesn’t sound so crazy anymore for UB to be thinking big. ♣

The Clubhouse

Stats from right, center and left field

Compiled by Michael Flatt

Not too shabby

How’s this for a resume: four-time national champion at Penn State; two-time First-Team All-American; Big Ten Player of the Year; U.S. Elite Volleyball Camp director. That’s what new head volleyball coach Blair Brown Lipsitz brings to UB.

Youth movement

The wrestling team currently has 25 underclassmen in its 30 roster spots. Seems we won’t have to worry about senioritis on the grappling front anytime soon.

Putting the ‘MAC’ in Macedonia

Tanja Stojanovska, formerly ranked No. 1 in Macedonia, compiled a 20-9 record in singles matches en route to earning MAC Freshman of the Year honors in women’s tennis.

Hitting the gym—and the books

Our student-athletes aren’t just champions of sport. The fall semester marked the sixth consecutive semester that the select group has recorded a cumulative GPA over 3.0.

4 25 20 6




Maddie Nadrich (in the blue jersey) cheers on her teammates in the dugout during a UB softball game in the spring.

Now That’s Teamwork

The newest member of the UB softball team sports braces, has a fish named Creamsicle and likes the number 11 because it reminds her of bacon. That’s ok—she’s 12. Maddie Nadrich, of East Amherst, N.Y., was signed by the Bulls through Team IMPACT, a national nonprofit that aims to improve the quality of life for children with chronic or life-threatening illnesses by pairing them up with a local college team (Maddie was born with connective tissue and immune system disorders). “She’s going through a lot...but you wouldn’t know it by looking at her. She’s a fighter,” says UB coach Trena Peel.

Late Breaking

Men’s tennis won its first MAC Tournament title and NCAA tourney berth. It’s the first time three UB programs won a conference title and made the NCAAs in the same year.

An aerial night view of a city, likely Tokyo, with a large, snow-capped mountain (Mount Fuji) in the background. The city lights are illuminated, and the sky is a mix of orange and blue.

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Mixed Media

» New music, new milestones » The playwright of Pittsburgh » Cats on the case



Sonic Success

Mixmaster Thomas Curley nabs an Oscar for the film "Whiplash"

By Mark Norris » "I met George Clooney once and that was kind of a star-struck moment," Thomas Curley (BA '00) says with a laugh. "But when you're working on set, you've got stuff to do. You don't really have time to be nervous. You just have to jump in."

Curley has spent the past 13 years "jumping in" as a production sound mixer for more than 150 films and television shows. After years behind the scenes, Curley was in front of the cameras at the 2015 Academy Awards, where he took home a sound-mixing Oscar for the film "Whiplash."

"I was talking myself out of winning, just in case," says Curley from his North Hollywood home a

few days after the ceremony. "It's a dream come true, for sure, and I couldn't be prouder."

As a film studies student at UB, Curley knew he wanted a career in the entertainment industry, but admits he wasn't entirely sure which role to take. "At the time, I still had thoughts of being a producer or director, but I didn't really know what that entailed," Curley says. "I did know that I needed to find a job that I'd be happy to get up and do."

After graduation, Curley landed broadcast engineering and production assistant gigs near his hometown of Troy, N.Y. He also found a mentor in famed sound mixer David MacMillan on the set of the 2002 film "The Time Machine." Curley moved to Los Angeles shortly after, opened Curley Sound with his brother, Brian (a musician and sound engineer), and has worked nonstop ever since.

"Whiplash" is the story of an aspiring jazz drummer and his abusive instructor, portrayed by J.K. Simmons in a performance that also won an Oscar. Documenting the fast-paced film, which centers on electrifying live music performances and dynamic blasts of dialogue, proved challenging. "Nobody wants to wait on sound," Curley says. "A lot of that stuff was captured as it was happening. There were multiple cameras going that were shooting different little snippets. We had the booms overhead following the actors as they came in, opening their music cases."

Next up for Curley is "Home," a psychological thriller starring Topher Grace, and "American Documentary," a new cable series from SNL alums Fred Armisen, Bill Hader and Seth Meyers. Hope there's room for an Emmy on the bookshelf. ♣

MAX SIEBER

Forty Years, No Intermission

June in Buffalo has become one of the world's premier celebrations of new music

By Michael Flatt » New music, or contemporary classical music, is by definition an ever-changing genre. The University at Buffalo has been at the vanguard of that evolution.

During the first week of June, students, faculty and the public had the opportunity to hear some of the world's most cutting-edge compositions at UB's annual June in Buffalo festival. This year also marked the festival's 40th anniversary, as well as the 30th anniversary of David Felder's tenure as artistic director.

Felder, a SUNY Distinguished Professor and UB's Birge-Cary Chair in Music Composition, doesn't sell the achievement short. "Sustaining anything that long in American culture is pretty astonishing," he says.

Then-professor of composition Morton Feldman (1926-1987) founded June in Buffalo in 1975, and Felder revamped the festival in 1985. Part symposium, part performance fest, June in Buffalo pairs



up-and-coming composers and established masters with professional performers of new music, all of whom participate in lectures, seminars and open rehearsals, as well as public concerts.

The primary purpose of the program is to serve as an incubator for experimental compositions, but as one might imagine, what constitutes new music has changed quite a bit in three decades. "It's really a mash-up today, to use a contemporary term," Felder says. "You can find almost anything from improvisa-

tion, where there's actually no score at all, to people who are doing DJ mixes."

Felder says the main impetus behind starting the festival was to provide a venue for young composers to hear their work played by professionals. Thirty years ago, these opportunities were few and far between. "Maybe three dozen young composers from around the country got the benefits of having really excellent performances of their work," Felder says. "I like to tell my students that I don't think I had a

really good performance of my work until I was 28 or 29."

Without hearing one's music played by first-class musicians, it's difficult to discern what could be improved and to learn how to evaluate one's own work. "Students, no matter how good they are, learn the most about their work in the immediacy of confronting how musicians play it," Felder adds. "That's what I wanted to give to them." ♣



"You can find almost anything from improvisation, where there's actually no score at all, to people who are doing DJ mixes." **David Felder**



Tweetable: In a recent solo exhibition, #UBuffalo faculty artist Joan Linder displayed her meticulous landscapes depicting #LoveCanal's toxic legacy.

The Prolific Playwright

By Anthony Chase (PhD '08, MA '86) >> In the brutally competitive world of playwriting, Pittsburgh-based UB alumna Tammy Ryan (BA '85) is blazing a trail.

Her 2000 play "The Music Lesson," inspired by musicians who fled the war in Sarajevo to make a new life in Pittsburgh, is performed throughout the country. In 2012 she was awarded the Francesca Primus Prize by the American Theatre Critics Association for "Lost Boy Found in Whole Foods," about a chance meeting of a Sudanese refugee boy and a middle-aged woman in a grocery store. The Kilroys, an advocacy group that seeks to bring women playwrights to the attention of producers, gave her 2015 play, "Tar Beach," a coveted spot on its annual list of "most recommended female-authored plays."

At UB, Ryan studied theater and English literature with hopes of becoming an actor. A turning point came when she wrote her first play, a one-act called "Flying Pigeons." She showed the script to her acting professor, Jack Hunter, who urged her to quickly write a second act, because he wanted to produce it. He did, in the back of Nietzsche's pub on Allen Street, in 1984 (he also starred in it).

When Ryan realized the play had brought in enough money to cover her month's rent, she reassessed her goals and switched to writing. She went on to earn her MFA in dramatic writing at Carnegie Mellon in 1990, and has been writing and teaching in Pittsburgh ever since.

Persistence seems to be key to the career of a playwright based outside of New York City. "There are so many opportunities for writers in New York, but what I've gained in Pittsburgh is the ability to focus almost exclusively on my writing rather than paying the rent," Ryan says. "I've been lucky in that I've had a lot of support here, including an artistic home at the Pittsburgh Playhouse."

In 2013, Ryan received a Pittsburgh Region Artists grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation and Heinz Endowments to support "Molly's Hammer," an adaption of a book by Liane Ellison Norman about Pittsburgh peace activist Molly Rush. Ryan has also written her first libretto, for "A New Kind of Fallout," which will premier at Opera Theater of Pittsburgh at SummerFest in July 2015. ♣



Tammy Ryan (BA '85)

UB Bookshelf WHAT WE'RE WRITING

The Essential Mario Savio: Speeches and Writings That Changed America

Edited by Robert Cohen (BA '76)

Out of the tumult of the '60s civil rights era came the ringing voice of the late Mario Savio, then a 21-year-old student activist at the University of California at Berkeley, and a leader of the campus sit-ins and student blockades that drove the Bay Area's Free Speech Movement. Cohen's collection includes Savio's most influential free-speech oratory as well as his lesser-known letters and previously unpublished speeches and correspondence about the Berkeley rebellion. (University of California Press, 2014)

Fierce Convictions: The Extraordinary Life of Hannah More—Poet, Reformer, Abolitionist

Karen Swallow Prior (PhD '99, MA '92)

Once a household name in England, Hannah More was an 18th-century evangelical reformer and philanthropist with ideas ahead of her time; she worked to abolish slavery and to provide education to women and the poor. She also wrote poetry and plays, and held forth on a variety of moral and religious subjects. Prior's biography helps illuminate the times in which More lived, making her

achievements all the more remarkable. (Nelson Books, 2014)

Dings

Lance Fogan (MD '65, BA '64)

A medical mystery based on Fogan's 40-plus-year career as a clinical neurologist, Dings traces a family's journey as the parents try to understand why their third-grader is failing school. Eventually they uncover the cause of Conner's puzzling "blank-outs" and are left wondering whether he can ever lead a normal life. (BookLocker.com, 2013)

Petectives: Under Fire

Robert J. Smith (BA '91)

Cat detective Gatsby and his right paw, Yoshi, return in Smith's third "Petective" title. In this installment, a heat wave descends as an old nemesis attempts to steal all nine lives from Gatsby's girlfriend, Molasses. Will Yoshi's cooler head prevail, allowing the duo to shut down a gang of animal criminals? (Rose Grey Press, 2014)

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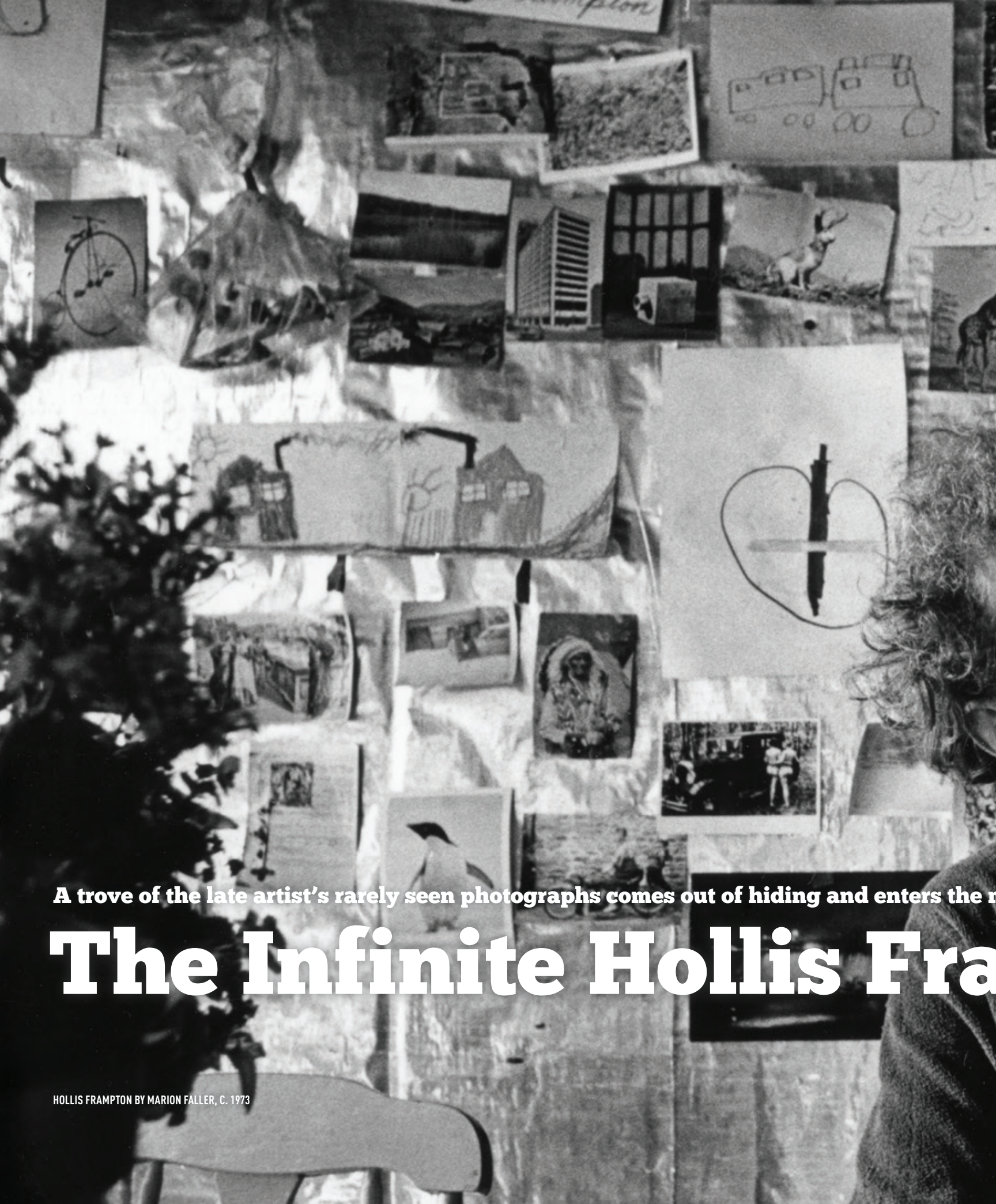
Nightstand WHAT WE'RE READING

Mark Swihart, UB Distinguished Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering and Executive Director of UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Materials Informatics



Make magazine

"Honestly, I don't read for pleasure that much. The items on my nightstand are copies of the magazine Make. Next to my comfy chair are books like 'How Universities Work' by John Lombardi and 'Learning Chinese Characters: A revolutionary new way to learn and remember the 800 most basic Chinese characters' by Alison and Laurence Matthews. I've been studying Chinese in my spare time for two or three years. More than half of my research group consists of Chinese graduate students and visiting scholars, and I am almost able to understand what they're saying about me."



A trove of the late artist's rarely seen photographs comes out of hiding and enters the room

The Infinite Hollis Frampton

HOLLIS FRAMPTON BY MARION FALLER, C. 1973



market BY BRUCE ADAMS

ampton

Perched inconspicuously on a storeroom shelf at the Anthology Film Archives in New York City is a cardboard storage box labeled simply Number 6. It's one of 10 boxes listed on an inventory of equipment and materials preserved from the University at Buffalo workspace of the late avant-garde filmmaker, photographer, writer, digital art pioneer and UB professor Hollis Frampton.

According to the inventory, box six contains 40 floppy disks, though in point of fact it's nearly 200. The data on the fragile eight-inch disks cannot be accessed by today's computers; it must be retrieved through a meticulous recovery process. For the moment their contents remain a mystery.



Hollis Frampton by Marion Faller, 1975

“Knowing Frampton’s work in the development of new hardware and software for digital manipulation of video, the presence of the disks alludes to potentially hundreds of files of early digital artworks and video clips,” says Sean Donaher, the executive director and curator of CEPA Gallery in Buffalo. Such a discovery would be something of a holy grail to the art world.

Donaher and his staff, in conjunction with fine art dealer Dean Brownrout Modern/Contemporary, are eagerly preparing for what promises to be a comprehensive exhibition and unprecedented sale of Frampton’s photography. Simply titled “Hollis Frampton,” the show, to open June 20 and run through the summer, will include work never before presented in a gallery setting. Pre-exhibition buzz caught the attention of nearby media arts center Squeaky Wheel, which is partnering with CEPA to present a simultaneous exhibition about Frampton’s time at UB’s Digital Arts Lab (DAL), while the Western New York Book Arts Center plans a third exhibit of Frampton objects and ephemera. Other events include lectures, screenings, an outdoor live concert/screening of the experimental film “Zorns Lemma” at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, a DAL roundtable featuring former colleagues and students of Frampton from around the country, and a final live concert and screening of his last work, “Magellan,” amid the grain elevators of Silo City.

The mystery disks, along with a vast cache of sundry materials supplied by the artist’s stepson,

Will Faller Jr., have led the curatorial team down unforeseen paths. “When I came to Buffalo in 1989 to study photography and printmaking at UB, I was aware only of Frampton’s 16mm film work, and even that in a peripheral sense,” says Donaher. “It was really only when we started digging into the research for this exhibition that I truly began to understand the scope of his genius.”

A wagon full of books

That word genius pops up often when people talk about Frampton. It’s a term perhaps bandied about too freely today, but the artist’s penetrating intelligence (and innate bullheadedness) were evident early on. Born at the peak of the Great Depression, the son of a poor Ohio coal minor, young Frampton seldom spoke. “Borderline autistic” is how he described himself. The adult library card he acquired by age 6 nourished his insatiable appetite for books; a fresh batch packed his Radio Flyer wagon each Saturday. Hard science was the first of many passions.

Storied accounts of his early days abound. At 7, with his grandfather, he created a rudimentary “movie” by pasting catalog images to a belt connected to a hand-cranked phonograph motor. Before age 10, tests revealed he had a mental age above 18, getting him sprung from special education classes. Placed among gifted students, the uncommunicative boy studied French, the second of eight languages he would eventually speak.

Frampton’s first scholarship at age 10 was for life drawing classes at the Cleveland Museum of Art. At 15 he applied on his own to the prestigious Phillips Academy and received a full scholarship. After he graduated from Phillips, Harvard offered him a scholarship and then rescinded it when he intentionally blew a history test, ultimately failing to graduate.

The headstrong student, in his words, “allowed [himself] to be admitted” to Western Reserve University in Cleveland on the condition that he not be required to take courses he felt were irrelevant. The school agreed, but after Frampton amassed 135 credit hours, he was informed that he needed three “irrelevant” courses to complete a bachelor’s degree. So he left without one. He moved to Washington, D.C., where he visited the aging poet Ezra Pound almost daily in St. Elizabeth’s Hospital. Then, in 1958, he relocated to New York to pursue photography. Over the next decade or so, he documented artist friends, including Carl Andre, Frank Stella, Larry Poons, James Rosenquist and John Chamberlain.

Harvard offered him a scholarship and then rescinded it when he intentionally blew a history test.



ADSVMS ABSVMS Clockwise from top left: Oyster Shell (*Pleurotus ostreatus*); Grass Frog (*Rana pipiens*); Rose (*Rosa damascena*); Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*). Ektacolor photographs, 1982

Some of these photographs are included in the CEPA exhibition.

“I didn’t find it a picnic to be a photographer through the ’60s,” recalled Frampton in a 1979 interview, “not because photography was disregarded, although of course that was true, but because my predicament was that of a committed illusionist in

an environment that was officially dedicated to the eradication of illusion and, of course, utterly dominated by painting and sculpture.” Avant-garde filmmaking was about to take off in New York, and by the mid-’60s Frampton was a leading artist and theoretical prophet in the field, for which he is now best known.

“Hollis Frampton wasn’t just one of the great experimental filmmakers; he was a model for 21st-century art makers,” says Peter Lunenfeld (MA ’88), professor and vice chair of UCLA Design Media Arts, and one of many current media experts who got their start at UB’s Center for Media Study (now the Department of Media Study), which Frampton helped design. “He combined the four major waves of optical media in one career, moving from photography to cinema, to video, to digital media.”

Indeed, Frampton was one of the earliest explorers of audio and visual digital media, writing

and testing hundreds of computer programs, and formulating dozens of hardware devices, to produce a computing environment useful for the arts. This groundbreaking technology included a frame buffer that enabled images to be stored on any computer and manipulated in real time, something not previously possible. Together with media artist Woody Vasulka he created UB’s Digital Arts Lab, which implemented and further developed these emerging technologies. The DAL was soon serving students from various departments throughout the university.

“It was the first program in the country devoted to the study of digital arts,” says Tony Conrad, a SUNY Distinguished Professor in Media Study who taught alongside Frampton in the early days of the department. “That was at a time when students built their own computers out of mail-order kits; everyone had a different idea of what could be done with the unexplored turf of ‘digital art.’”

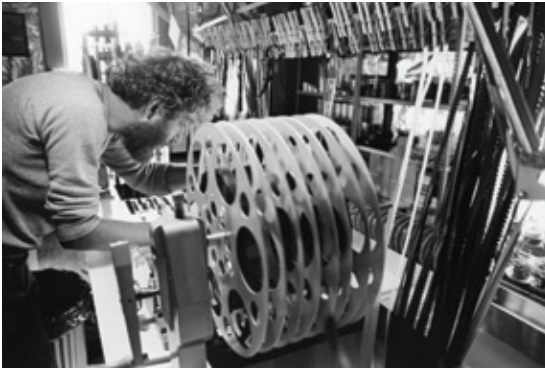
One word per second

Frampton was brought to UB in 1973 by Gerald O’Grady, the first member of a renowned community of groundbreaking filmmakers and videographers at the university, including, in addition to Conrad and the husband-wife team of Woody and Steina Vasulka, James Blue, Paul Sharits and Peter Weibel. (This era is documented in the massive tome “Buffalo Heads,” published in 2008 by MIT Press.) “I did my master’s after [Frampton’s] death,” says Lunenfeld. “So I never knew him, but in those days it was impossible not to know of him. I’ll never forget the first time I saw his masterpieces ‘Nostalgia’ and ‘Zorns Lemma.’ They proved to me that he was a protean artist; the intersections of sound and image he created stay with me.”

“Zorns Lemma” (1970), named after a proposition in mathematical set theory, is arguably Frampton’s most important work. The film begins in darkness with a woman reciting from an archaic reading primer used for teaching the alphabet. The central part is silent, as the 24-letter Latin alphabet repeatedly flashes on the screen, one letter at a time in one-second intervals. With each sequence, a new letter is swapped with a random image until the entire alphabet is replaced. The final segment is an extended shot of a man, woman and dog walking into the snowy distance as several alternating voices recite a passage from “On Light, or the Ingression of Forms” by Robert Grosseteste—one word per second.

Entire treatises have been written on “Zorns Lemma.” Some see it as a “cryptic autobiography,” in which young Frampton learns verbal language, moves to New York and progresses from verbal to visual language, and then departs for the countryside. (In 1974 he moved to a farmhouse in Eaton, N.Y., with his wife, photographer Marion Faller, and her son.) There are plenty of alternative readings. With its filmic temporality, system of order and substitution, and references to fire, water, air and earth, there may be an elemental truth encoded into its dense and resonant structure that supports a diversity of metaphoric and transcendent interpretations. You don’t so much watch “Zorns Lemma” for the enjoyment of watching; you watch it for the gratification of thinking about it later.

Frampton is widely known as a pioneer of structural film, a term he felt lacked sufficient specificity to describe his work. Influenced by Marshall McLuhan’s assertion that “the medium is the message,” structural filmmakers explore the material properties of film itself—fundamentally a series of 24 still images per second arranged in some order—rather



Top: Hollis Frampton by Marion Faller, 1972.

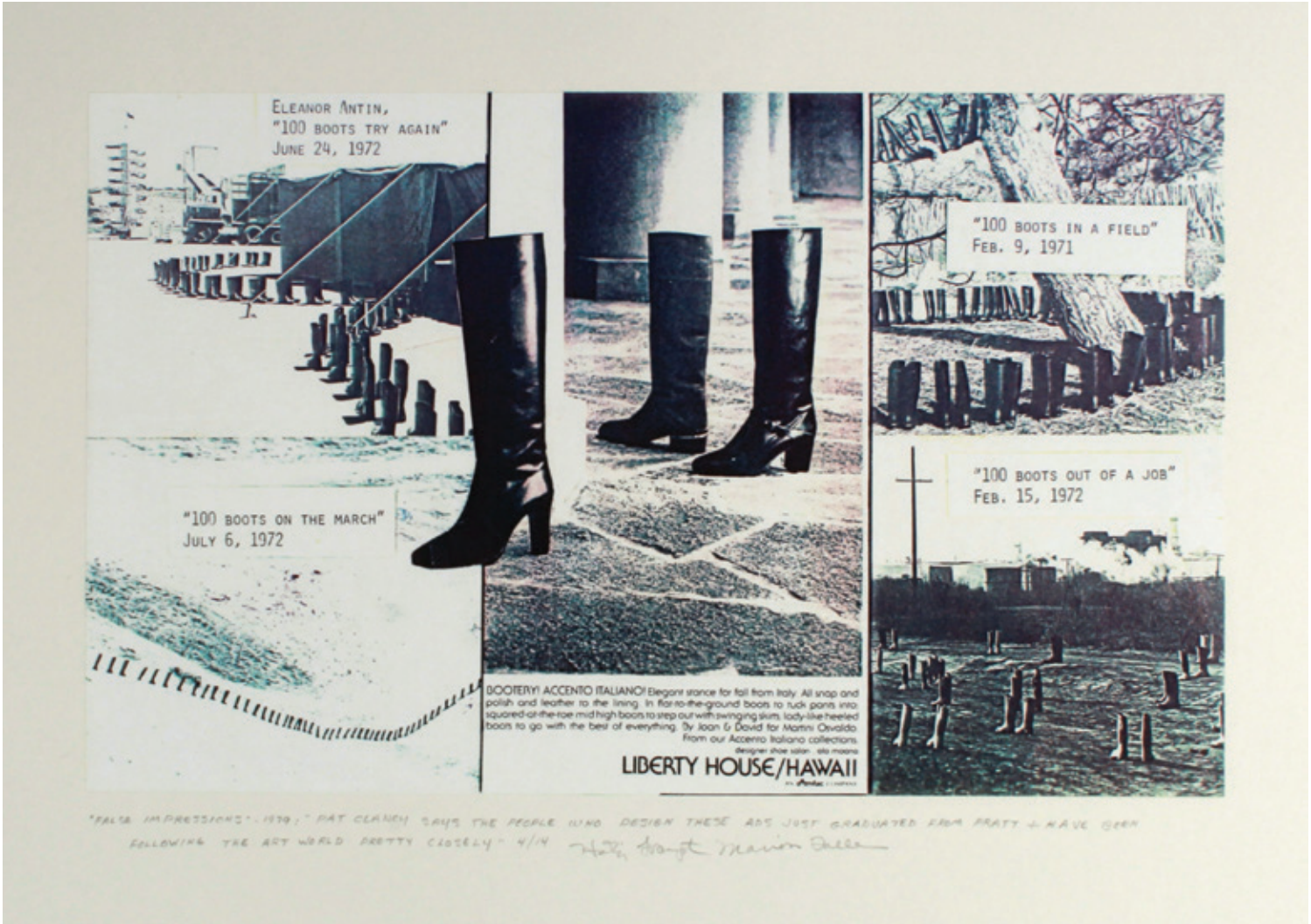
Bottom: London-Salisbury train by Marion Faller, 1972

“My predicament was that of a committed illusionist in an environment that was officially dedicated to the eradication of illusion.”

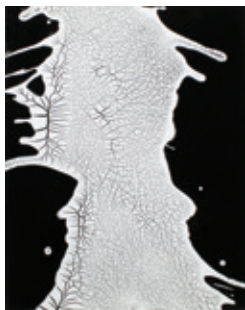
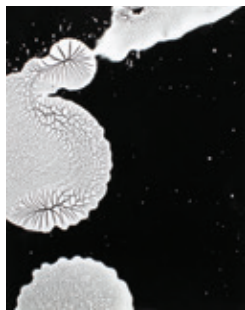
Hollis Frampton



James Rosenquist, Palm Sunday Contact sheet, 1963



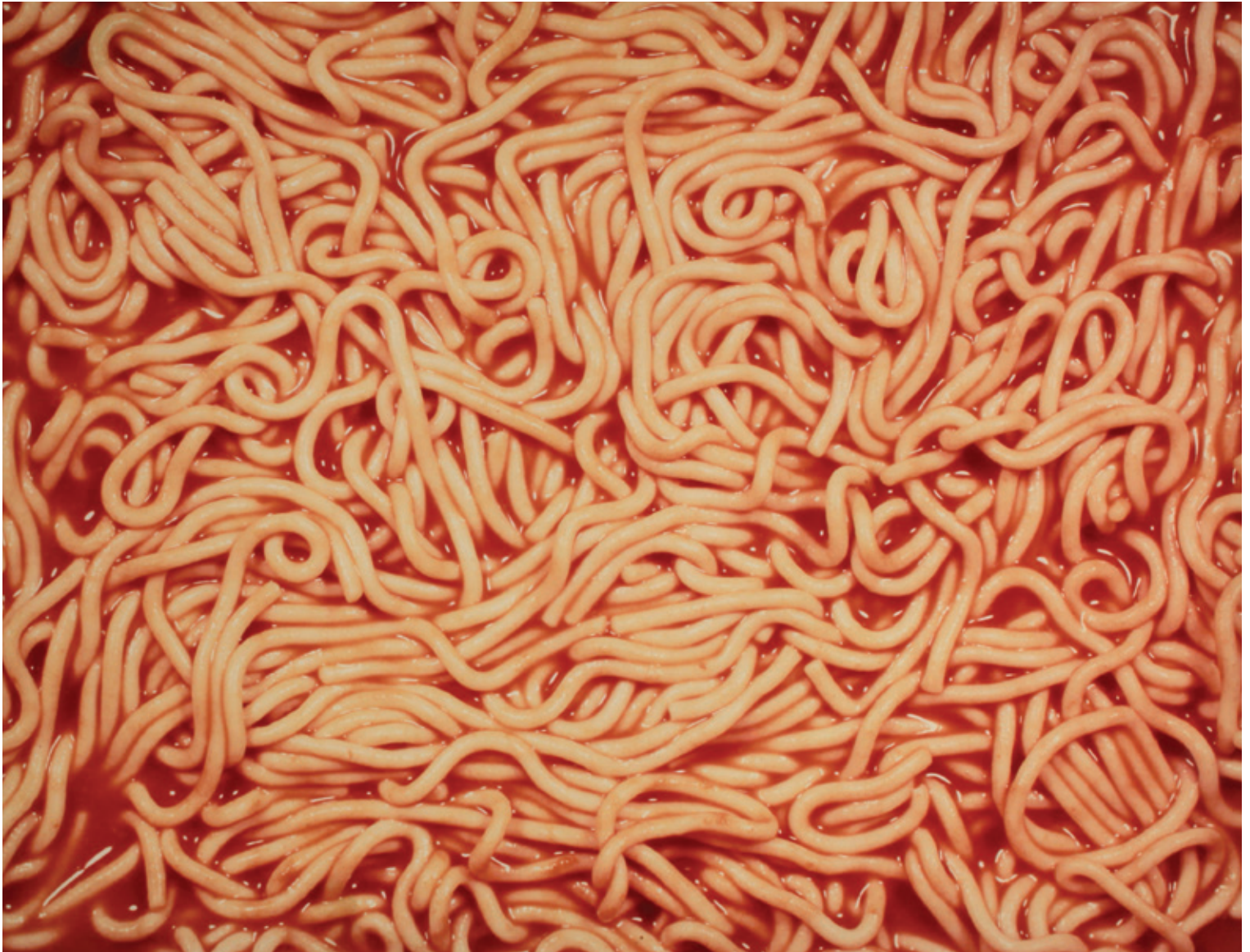
"Pat Clancy says the people who design these ads just graduated from Pratt and have been following the art world pretty closely." From False Impressions, Hollis Frampton and Marion Fallner. Xerograph affixed to mat, 1979



Untitled Photographs, dates unknown



3, 1960 From *The Nostalgia Portfolio*, 1971



Spaghetti Ektachrome photograph, 1964



Hapax Legomena II: Poetic Justice Film still from "Poetic Justice," 1972



Hapax Legomena V: Ordinary Matter Film still from "Ordinary Matter," 1972

Frampton was perhaps one of the first people to understand the potential of the computer as personal creative instrument.

than focusing on narrative and other cinematic conventions. Frampton's films were often based on mathematical or scientific concepts. In 2012, much of his work was released on Blu-ray and DVD by the Criterion Collection. He was also known as a prolific and erudite theorist, and selections of his writings, collectively titled "On the Camera Arts and Consecutive Matters," were published in book form by MIT Press in 2009 and reprinted this year.



Hollis Frampton by Marion Faller, 1974

"Hollis was a deep well of knowledge in a spread of fields that carpeted the humanities and sciences alike," says Conrad. "A class or conversation with [him] was always sprinkled with sparkling witticisms, critical twists and original thoughts shooting in all directions."

One of Frampton's noted conceptual constructs was the "infinite cinema," composed of all film of any kind ever made. A "metaphor for consciousness," he once called it, which postulated that all cameras, projectors and film are part of an enormous single machine that powers the infinite cinema. "A still photograph is simply an isolated frame taken out of the infinite cinema," he explained.

Flying cabbage and soy sauce pistols

Frampton continued making these "isolated frames" throughout his life, frequently in collaboration with Faller, who was also, says Brownrout, a "meticulous steward" of Frampton's work until her death in 2014. "She made sure much of his artwork, films and personal archives are preserved in museums and institutions across the country." Little of this work has previously been available for purchase. With growing international interest in the artist in recent years, Brownrout and Frampton's estate agreed that now is the time to make this work available.

Safe to say, Donaher concurred. "My entire presentation [to Donaher] consisted of two words," recalls Brownrout: "Hollis Frampton." Donaher's immediate response: "How does summer 2015 sound?" The exhibition will cut across the broad spectrum of Frampton's photographic output, including early documentary photos and images used in "Nostalgia" and "Zorns Lemma."

Also included will be examples from the series "ADSVMVS ABSVMVS," in which objects, plants and dried animals are photographed against a black background, like scientific specimens. Each is ex-

haustively documented with deadpan earnestness in the accompanying text. "Frampton's sense of humor is widely evident throughout his work, both in title and topic," says Brownrout. "[His] works with found objects...or throwing a typewriter into a burn pile in the woods and calling it a sculpture entitled 'Tortures [Tortures] of the Text,' follows a conceptual path started by Duchamp."

"Sixteen Studies from Vegetable Locomotion"—a series done with Faller—depicts vegetables shot in rapid sequence against a gridded backdrop, similar to the motion studies of pioneering photographer Eadweard Muybridge. "Zucchini squash encountering sawhorse," for example, shows a particularly large zucchini slamming against a wooden sawhorse, with predictable results. "Savoy cabbage flying" is doubly ironic since the camera follows the subject, in direct opposition to the customary stationary lens and grid. "Watermelon falling" beat David Letterman to the gag.

When color copiers were new, rare and prohibitively expensive, Frampton was invited to Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse to make art using one, much as Andy Warhol used serigraphy when it was still considered a commercial medium. In his "By Any Other Name" series, the artist copies various food labels, assigning witty misreadings of the packaging (e.g., "Thick Soy Sauce Brand Pistols") to the cheerfully banal pop imagery. Frampton considered Xerox, like photography, to be a "democratic medium" that should be accessible to the general public. Now, for the first time, these will be.

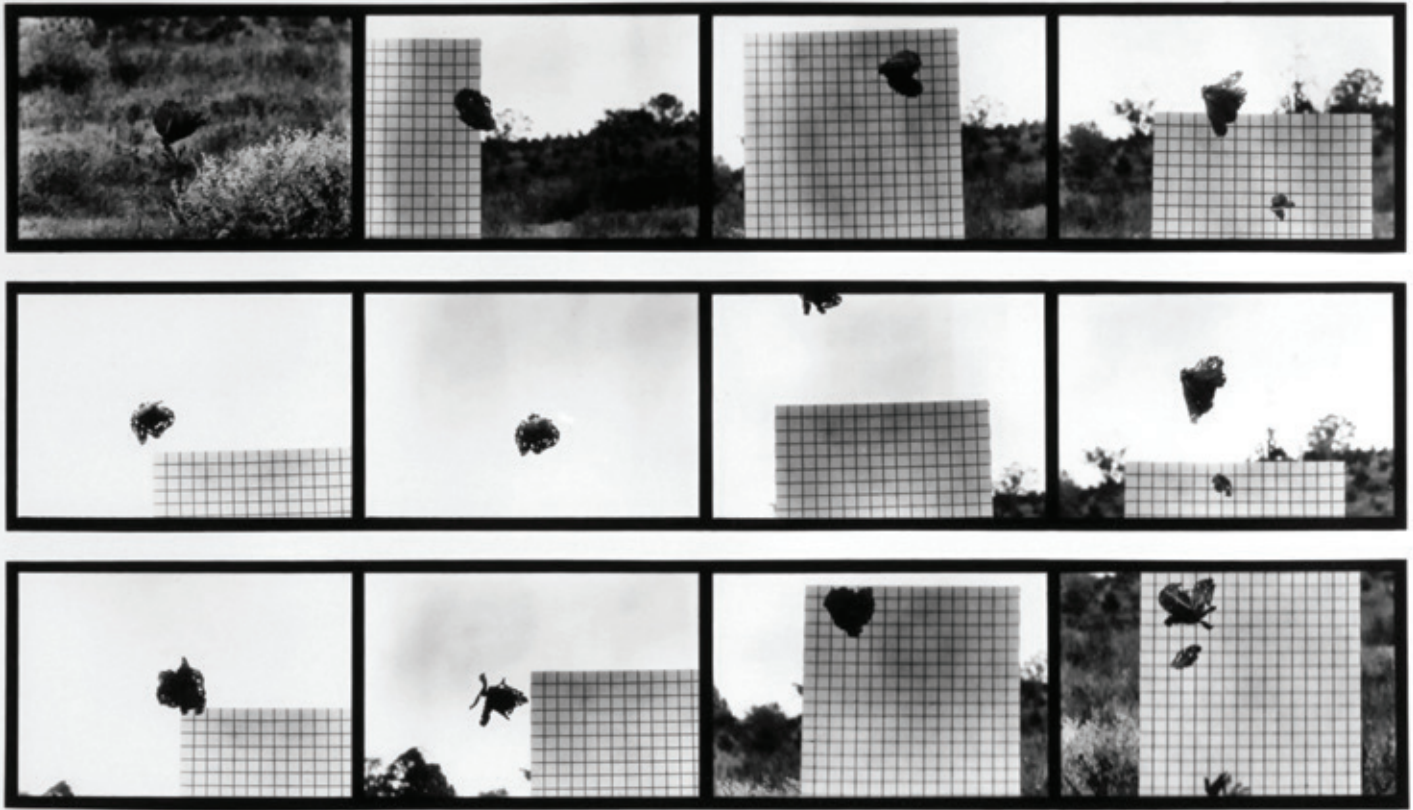
Frampton died of lung cancer in 1984 at age 48. His final years at UB were spent working on his unfinished "Magellan" project (a film intended to be viewed in daily segments over 371 days) busily writing computer software programs to organize images for this work. Among other things, Frampton was perhaps one of the first people to understand the potential of the computer as personal creative instrument. He once wrote: "As an image tool, however, it is still young. However, we're optimistic. Things have their natural time, they come and go."

The same could be said for people. "When Hollis was here," says Conrad, "he did nothing but smoke, drink beer and hack ceaselessly at his computer programs." The lifestyle took its toll, and Frampton's natural time was cut short. Donaher sums up what many others have said: "It makes you pause and wonder what his impact on the field would be today if he hadn't died so young." ♣

Bruce Adams is an artist, educator and writer living in Buffalo.

"A class or conversation with him was always sprinkled with sparkling witticisms, critical twists and original thoughts shooting in all directions."

Tony Conrad



260. Savoy cabbage flying [var. "Chieftain"] From Sixteen Studies from Vegetable Locomotion, Hollis Frampton and Marion Faller. Photograph, 1975



Thick Soy Sauce Brand Pistols, from By Any Other Name—Series 1 Xerograph, 1979

DO YOU KNOW UB?

Then prove it! Take our test with Professor Bufflesworth and show your alma mater aptitude!

Compiled by Michael Flatt Illustration by Michael Gelen (JD '88)



1 What British television series inspired an event held annually by the UB engineering school?

- A) "Black Mirror"
- B) "Top Gear"
- C) "Robot Wars"
- D) "Absolutely Fabulous"



2 Which of the following has been spotted on the North Campus?

- A) Coyote
- B) Asian carp
- C) Peregrine falcon
- D) All of the above
- E) None of the above



3 When did UB become a Division I-A school in the NCAA?

- A) 1979
- B) 1989
- C) 1999
- D) 2009

4 Which restaurant is closest to the site of UB's future downtown medical school?

- A) Pearl Street Grill & Brewery
- B) The Anchor Bar
- C) Cole's
- D) Templeton Landing

5 Who has not been featured in the Distinguished Speakers Series?

- A) Hillary Clinton
- B) Earvin "Magic" Johnson
- C) Steve Martin
- D) George R.R. Martin



6 The first line in the refrain of UB's alma mater is:

- A) "To Buffalo all hail to thee"
- B) "In thy honor now we stand"
- C) "Our alma mater by the island sea"
- D) "Oh, for hallowed halls and smart professors"



7

Which award did a UB alumnus win in 2015?

- A) Tony Award
- B) Academy Award
- C) Nobel Peace Prize
- D) Key to the City of Buffalo



8

The following two buildings are connected by an underground hallway:

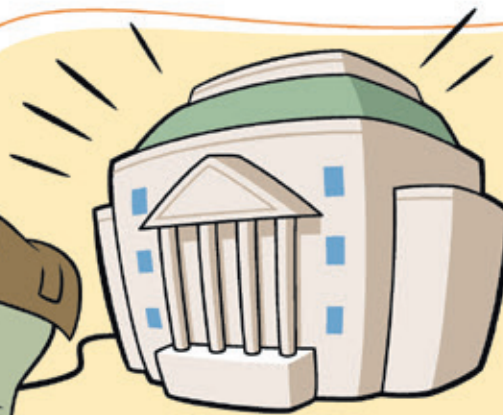
- A) Alumni Arena and the Center for the Arts
- B) Slee Hall and the Center for the Arts
- C) The Student Union and Lockwood Library
- D) Lockwood Library and Clemens Hall



9

Which person listed has a UB building named after him or her?

- A) Mark Twain
- B) Rick James
- C) Cindy Sherman
- D) Frank Lloyd Wright



10

Abbott Hall, home of the Health Sciences Library, was doubled in size in:

- A) 1965
- B) 1975
- C) 1985
- D) 1995

11

The bronze buffalo on Coventry Circle opposite the Center for the Arts is a replica of:

- A) A favorite animal of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody
- B) One of four massive buffalo on each corner of the Dumbarton Bridge in Washington, D.C.
- C) A statue by G.H. Messmore that once graced the concourse of Buffalo's Central Terminal
- D) A memorable sculpture of the American bison in Jamestown, N.D.



12

Which dance world luminary gave a rare performance at UB in 2006?

- A) Twyla Tharp
- B) Judith Jamison
- C) Mikhail Baryshnikov
- D) MC Hammer

Answers

1. C 2. D 3. A 4. B 5. D 6. A 7. B* 8. A 9. A** 10. C 11. C 12. C * See page 21 ** Samuel L. Clemens Hall

How many questions did you answer correctly?

- 0-3:** Ok now, just put the magazine down, back away slowly and let the real UB alum in your house take the test.
- 4-6:** Did you hear that noise? That was your degree spontaneously combusting.
- 7-9:** Well done! You paid attention in school *and* remembered to take your ginkgo biloba.
- 10-12:** We're impressed. But you should really get out more.



The



Soul of a Structure

THE DRAMATIC RENOVATION
OF HAYES HALL MATCHES
THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF AN
ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL
ON THE RISE

BY ROBERT L. KAISER ✚ PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOUGLAS LEVERE

CLIMBING ONE FINAL FLIGHT of stairs to a fourth-floor space that for decades was Hayes Hall's dark and forgotten attic, UB School of Architecture and Planning alumnus Michael Tunkey (BPS '00) looked into the rafters and his face lit up.

Construction crews restoring the almost 150-year-old building had installed a skylight to illuminate what figures to be a spectacular loft-style studio for architecture and planning students when Hayes reopens in 2016, and the sun streaming in splashed Tunkey's angular features, bringing a smile to his upturned face. There, through the skylight, he saw it: the bell tower and the south face of its clock. Rearing up against a fragile December sky rather than gracing a recruitment brochure, the iconic tower felt breathtakingly real and large.

When Tunkey, now a principal at global design firm CannonDesign, was an architecture student at UB, winding the clock was his job for a time. "You kind of had to go up the normal stairs," he recalls, "and then, almost like in that movie 'Being John Malkovich,' where there was an elevator stop at 8½ floors, you had to crawl through this weird little door and then go through a hole."

On this early afternoon in December 2014, as UB officials gave Tunkey a tour of the site, the clock's hands were stopped at 10:32. Guttled from basement to rafters and surrounded by the high but sagging chain-link fences common to construction sites, Hayes might have looked to passersby like a place where time had come to a standstill. And yet a walk through the building's interior revealed it to be intensely alive and buzzing with activity.



Architect and former Hayes Hall clock winder Michael Tunkey (BPS '00).

FOR DEAN ROBERT SHIBLEY, the rebirth of Hayes Hall affords UB a golden opportunity to raise the school's profile. By most measures, it already ranks among the nation's elite. Based on fundamental data provided by Academic Analytics, an independent research firm that focuses on higher education, both the architecture and the urban planning program consistently rank in the top 10 in research generation when compared to the other 23 architecture and planning schools in the American Association of Universities with accredited programs. The top-10 rankings put the school and its research enterprise in the company of some of the nation's best institutions, including Harvard University, UC Berkeley and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Moreover, says Shibley, firms employing UB grads invariably report that they are every bit as prepared for the work as graduates from the top-tier institutions.

Shibley is determined to see that information like this ultimately positions UB's School of Architecture and Planning prominently on the national playing field, and he believes the renovation of Hayes Hall is a key part of that process. "[This restoration] will be our statement to the world about our school's commitment to sustainability, historic preservation, community, and state-of-the-art facilities for education in architecture and planning," he says.

Shibley, himself an accomplished and highly regarded architect, is by turns or all at once cerebral and passionate and poetic when discussing architecture and urban planning—particularly when talking about UB's School of Architecture and Planning. He doesn't believe Hayes Hall is haunted, as some people claim. But he believes there's *something* there: a spirit, if you will; the soul of a structure; that which makes a thing architecture and not just a building.

"The essential conceit embedded in the idea of architecture is that it is a cultural production," he says. "So it carries political, critical, spiritual, aesthetic and heritage-based power. All of those are narratives that fold one into the other. You're in Ethiopia and you come up over the next dune and you see the remnants of a Roman coliseum and you are awed by its presence on the landscape. That's not about its functional program, or its technology or construction; that's the political intent of the Romans to represent a presence of power. These are not things



Above: Robert Shibley.
Left: Hayes Hall, formerly the Erie County Almshouse, in the 1920s. The site was acquired by UB in 1909.



you say about just buildings. These are things you say about architecture."

HAYES HARDLY SEEMED HAUNTED the day UB officials gave Tunkey a tour of its interior. Sunlight streamed into the newly airy building. The light was fragile and pale, the light of a Buffalo sky on the eve of winter, but it was sunlight nonetheless. Its presence in the rafters on the fourth floor marked a dramatic change from the days when Tunkey the student used to shimmy through the building's dark and claustrophobic heights to wind the mechanism in the bell tower that runs the four faces of Hayes Hall's clock.

On this day, Hayes itself seemed to symbolize a new beginning. The building's old, familiar exterior, its public face, masked a gutted interior filled with sawdust and the cacophany of drills. Construction

workers were putting up drywall. Already in place were two layers of backer board and rough electrical and plumbing. Two workers had a tape measure rolled out from floor to ceiling.

In what will be Shibley's office there sat a stack of wooden studs and an idled "fluffer-blower"—an odd-looking little machine, with an even odder name, that's used to spray insulation on steel beams.

Tunkey asked questions and made comments along the way—*Are you using foam shims on those mounts? Those are some serious LVLs!* Near the end of the tour, when he saw the clock tower through the new skylight in what used to be Hayes Hall's attic, he pulled out his smartphone and held it up high to shoot a photo through the glass.

That the clock's hands were stopped was not for lack of a winder; for years now the clock has wound itself, automatically, once or twice daily. It was because the mechanism had been removed and taken to a Lockport, N.Y., shop specializing in the restoration of historical tower and street clocks. (The same shop also has renovated the Independence Hall Tower clock in Philadelphia, and America's oldest working tower clock, in Hillsborough, N.C.)

The mechanism will be back and the clock running again by the time Hayes Hall reopens. Meanwhile, there's only the wind to turn the new 23-karat, gold leaf-on-aluminum, powder-coated hands that replaced the clock's rotted wooden hands in October.

No matter. Time at this building never has been measured by the hands of a clock, not really. Glimpses into the past and future require something else: Faith. Hope. Vision. A good blueprint.

Back outside at the end of his tour, Tunkey turned to look at the building one last time. "That's something to look forward to," he said to no one in particular, removing his red hard hat and running a hand through his hair.

Then he plunked the hard hat on his head again, as if ready to go right back in. ♣

Robert L. Kaiser is a contributing writer for At Buffalo.



The new Hayes Hall, slated to open in fall 2016, will feature extensive use of daylighting, high efficiency windows, state-of-the-art mechanical systems, natural ventilation, and green materials and finishes, including reclaimed wood and locally made products.



Exposed wooden trusses and skylights will brighten up the reclaimed fourth-floor attic spaces.

RENDERING BY BRIAN PODLESKI, MARCH '10, P.9 08

AlumniLife

» [Feel-good wheels](#)

» [Alumni honor roll](#)

» [Name that food, er, president](#)

The Hopeful Realist

Mexico's top environmental officer brings pragmatism to the politics of climate change

By [Lauren Newkirk Maynard](#) » Alejandro Rivera Becerra (PhD '01, ME '98, MS '93) was raised in Juárez, Mexico, which sits on the U.S. border across from El Paso, Texas, and is home to hundreds of factories that make goods mainly for the American market. Growing up in this environment, he developed an early interest in manufacturing and trade.

He began studying industrial engineering, eventually traveling to the U.S. on a Fulbright scholarship. While he chose UB for its engineering program, he was wowed by its internationalism. "I loved the diversity," he recalls. "I was surprised to find 80 different countries represented there." He earned three degrees at UB—two master's, in industrial and environmental engineering, and a PhD in industrial engineering. He obtained the latter while simultaneously getting a master's degree in diplomacy from the Instituto Matías Romero in Mexico.

Rivera Becerra worked as a quality assurance engineer for the Mexican auto industry in Juárez, and then as a professor of engineering, before joining the Mexican foreign service in 2000. He quickly climbed the ranks as a diplomat, honing his skills with posts in Ecuador and China before taking on his current role as director for climate change, Secretariat of Foreign Relations of Mexico.

This spring, Rivera Becerra made a rare visit to Buffalo to receive UB's International Distinguished Alumni Award for his efforts to bring consensus and scientific rigor to the sticky debate over global climate change—or, more specifically, over what actions must be taken in both developed and developing countries that will protect the environment without damaging the international economy.

Alejandro Rivera Becerra

Sustainability is more than a romantic notion of saving trees, Rivera Becerra explains. It's also about the biophysical sustenance of the economy. "The transformation we make in manufacturing and industry has to incorporate what is known as the life-cycle approach—products must be designed to function, but once you toss them, their environmental footprint must also be reduced."

From 2011 to 2013, Rivera Becerra was Mexico's negotiator for the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which resulted in a treaty calling for regulation of mercury emissions; it will enter into force once 50 countries ratify it. In 2013, he began his most challenging and historic role to date, as chief negotiator for Mexico to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a group representing 195 countries that was established in 1992 to develop worldwide climate policies. Rivera Becerra has been representing Mexico on one of the convention's most important subcommittees, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, which has been pushing for more expedient, legally binding action to curb global greenhouse gases. The working group hopes to conclude negotiations of the new global climate agreement by the end of this year, when it meets in Paris.

"It's a privilege and honor to be the voice of Mexico, to know that we are being heard and are showing leadership," Rivera Becerra says, and then pauses, choosing his words. "In a few decades, I hope that this agreement helps change the paradigm of how the world develops. If we're able to send a clear signal to the world about the consequences of our production and consumption patterns, then perhaps there can be hope to slow climate change."

Alejandro Rivera Becerra

That's not to say Rivera Becerra is expecting to reverse the damage. A realist, he recognizes that the human need for energy and resources will never go away, and thus focuses on helping people adapt to a changing world as sustainably as possible. "Climate change is something that relates to everyone," he says. "It's not just a challenge for government; it's about everyday decisions that citizens make about their consumption of energy. We have to maintain and grow, but at the same time be responsible for future generations." ♣

SHOW YOUR AGE Alumni proudly date themselves

Where did you work while earning your UB degree?

"I worked in the AV department out of Capen Hall. We zipped around campus in our white vans and were the coolest AV squad ever. We even nicknamed ourselves 'ECC Vice,' for Educational Communications Center."

Joseph Kuperberg, BA '88
Pittsford, N.Y.

"I hand-bound sheet music and was a lifeguard at the campus indoor pool. Then I toyed with working in a lab for an extra quarter an hour, but turned that down when I figured out I could work in the Tower cafeteria and eat for free—a twofer!"

Claudia Allen, JD '79, MA '75, BFA '70
Cincinnati, Ohio

"I had an office job at Radiation Protection Services on the South Campus."

Pamela Horning, EdM '88, BA '85
Buffalo, N.Y.

"I started at long-defunct Norton [cafeteria] making subs, helped stand up Putnam's as it was being constructed and finally ended up at Bert's behind the grill. It was the most fun I've ever had at work. I went to class reeking of fryer oil and eggs, but I would still never trade my time there in spite of the stunning impact to my date-ability."

Michelle Wolf, MBA '08, BA '95
Amherst, N.Y.

"I worked the graveyard shift at General Mills as a shift chemist."

Gordon Gibson, BA '57
Buffalo, N.Y.

"I was a 'wax winder' for United Compound Co."

Bruce Glaser, BA '65
Rochester, N.Y.

"I had a summer job in the sports department of the Courier-Express."

Steven Schuelein, BA '67
Playa del Rey, Calif.



HAL MANFORTH

UB ALUMNI TRIVIA

Quiz

It's true: Our new UB Alumni president has a carb-heavy name. Can you pick it out from the following list?

- A) Patty Caike
- B) Mary Garlick Roll
- C) Marie Bon Pain
- D) Delandra Danish
- E) Margie Puph-Pastrey
- F) Ginny Sauerdoh

See p.43 for answer.

Warm Words

Alumni gather to honor their own

By Jana Eisenberg

Each year, the UB Alumni Association accomplishes the difficult task of selecting a handful of our many accomplished grads to recognize at the annual UBAA Achievement Awards. At this year's ceremony and reception, held in March at the Center for the Arts, many award recipients spoke of gratitude to UB and Buffalo—especially, as several mentioned, for the gift of meeting their spouses.

SEEN AND HEARD

“I know how a rock star must feel.”

—**Steven A. Guttenberg (DDS '69, BS '65)**, founder and president of the Washington Institute for Mouth, Face and Jaw Surgery, reflecting on receiving the Samuel P. Capen Award—UB's most prestigious alumni honor—for making the largest bequest to date to the university's dental school. (Apparently, bow ties are his signature look; his wife and partner-in-giving, Diana Winters Guttenberg, attested that he has “at least 1,000 of them.”)

“Good studying weather.”

—**Alejandro Rivera Becerra (PhD '01, ME '98, MS '93)**, the International Distinguished Alumni award recipient and Mexico's chief negotiator to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, on one reason he enjoyed Buffalo.
See the full interview with Becerra on p. 40.

“We come here as blank slates, and the university and community really come together to create the next generation.”

—**Rear Adm. Rebecca McCormick-Boyle (BS '81)**, deputy chief of the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Medicine, Education and Training; commander of the Navy Medicine Education and Training Command; and director of the Navy Nurse Corps.



Fraternity brothers **Paul Nussbaum (BA '67)** and **Steven Guttenberg (DDS '69, BS '65)**, reunited after almost 50 years, embraced onstage. Nussbaum (right), chair of the UB College of Arts and Sciences dean's advisory council, started his comments by relating Guttenberg's old nickname, “Brother Dart”—so called because of his tendency to be in constant motion.

ALSO HONORED THIS YEAR:

- » **Alfred Caffiero**, legendary WNY physical therapist and longtime UB professor
- » **Dale Fish (PhD '82)**, newly retired senior associate dean for academic and student affairs in the School of Public Health and Health Professions
- » **Arthur Goshin (MD '70, BS '66)**, former president and CEO of Univera Healthcare, founder of HealthyWorld Foundation
- » **Venkat Panchapakesan (MS '90)**, head of engineering at YouTube
- » **Mark Travers (PhD '08, MS '05)**, tobacco researcher and assistant professor, School of Public Health and Health Professions/Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- » The School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Dean's Advisory Council



Stephanie Mucha, age 97, received the Walter P. Cooke Award for her philanthropic contributions to UB. “It's my joy to do so,” said the former Buffalo nurse. Together with her late husband, Mucha invested in companies that, as she says, “made something people could use.” One of those companies was Medtronic, a pioneer of the implantable pacemaker.

IN MEMORIAM



Just as we were going to press, we were deeply saddened to learn that **Venkat Panchapakesan (MS '90)**, recipient of this year's Clifford C. Furnas Memorial Award, lost his battle with cancer. Panchapakesan, 48, was a prominent vice president at Google and head of engineering for YouTube. He also served on the Dean's Advisory Council for the UB engineering school and was active with its alumni network in the Bay area. His award will be presented posthumously to his family.



Colleen Kirk, co-founder of Revolution Indoor Cycling.



DOUGLAS LEVINE

A Positive Spin

A new gym in Buffalo promotes cycling with a conscience

By **Lauren Newkirk Maynard** >> Colleen Kirk (BA '07) has been spinning her wheels for 10 years now, and she's perfectly fine with that.

As a communications major at UB, she picked up running to blow off steam. That led to taking, then teaching, group fitness classes on campus. She recalls interviewing for a spinning instructor position after having gone to the class exactly twice. She was a natural, though, and got the job. "UB covered the cost of certification and trained me—we had a really great team."

At a big university like UB, Kirk, a native of Rochester, N.Y., found that pushing herself physically with like-minded people was a great way to beat stress and make friends. She went on to teach part time at other gyms, but after graduating and starting to work as a copywriter for global toy company Fisher-Price, where she had interned as a senior, she got too busy and stopped teaching classes.

Fast-forward to 2014: Kirk is still at Fisher-Price, which is headquartered in a Buffalo suburb, working on product packaging, global public relations and international communications. She lives in Buffalo with her husband, Spencer Kirk (BS '13, BA '06), a financial adviser. She loves her job, and loves living

in Buffalo, but feels that something is missing—namely, that sense of social connection she had as a spinning instructor.

So she uses her spare time to open Revolution—an indoor cycling gym with a twist—in downtown Buffalo. Tapping into the energy and sense of connection that spinning classes create, Kirk and her two partners create an unusual business model that includes a public service component.

Earlier this year, the gym launched its "Community Rides": free, public spinning classes with a volunteer event afterward. Participants sign up to ride for an hour, and then head out together to a service event, which so far has included a stop at the local Ronald McDonald House and a community garden cleanup. There are plans for future events with Habitat for Humanity and Girls on the Run, an organization that pairs running mentors with preteen girls.

"It's taking your workout high and applying it," Kirk explains. At the events, she says, "people interact in a new way. They're high-fiving and hugging." Kirk firmly believes that exercise shouldn't be a chore, and now she's making sure that helping the neighbors is just another extension of a good day's workout. ♣

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

EVENTS

Mary's Summer Picks

A selection of campus events, open to all alumni

July

University Heights Collaborative Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk

07.11.15

South Campus neighborhoods

DC-Metro Networking Happy Hour

07.14.15

Beacon Bar & Grill

Washington, D.C.

School of Management Alumni Association 19th Annual Golf Outing

07.20.15

Lancaster Country Club

Lancaster, N.Y.

August

UB Alumni Summer Day Trip

08.18.15

Chautauqua Wine Trail

Chautauqua County, N.Y.

September

All-Alumni Event in WNY

09.18.15

Harbor Center

Buffalo, N.Y.

October

Homecoming

10.03.15

UB Stadium

Mary says:
"Wear your blue and white, and join us for fun and football!"



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

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

ClassNotes

- » A paradise of wine
- » Stain fighters on steroids
- » '92: Bruffett moves up by design

Channeling Outrage

Cartoonist Tom Toles keeps his pencils sharp

By Robert L. Kaiser » With his angular face and shoulder-length red hair—a frizzy mane that hasn't been touched by scissors in a year and a half—Tom Toles, 63, looks a little like a lion.

On this snowy February evening, the Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist for The Washington Post is one of four UB alumni in the news media participating in a panel discussion at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. In attendance are 70 other UB alumni. Many have come for Toles (BA '73), and they won't leave disappointed. Some are laughing so hard at his wry comments they seem nearly unhinged.

But if Toles is having the same effect on this audience that he has on his readers, it stands to reason that some here are doing a slow burn. Sure enough, midway through the program, a 1956 med school alumna in the second row starts jawing with Toles about Bill O'Reilly and his recently disproven claims to have reported from war zones. The man believes O'Reilly is telling the truth and is utterly unmoved by evidence to the contrary

unearthed by a Village Voice reporter—and Toles can't let it go.

"You can shake and nod your head any way you want," the cartoonist says, "but he reported what Bill O'Reilly actually said and could prove it."

As a political cartoonist, moral outrage is Toles' currency. "I am infuriated by many things," he says. "Top among them is the way we've botched the climate challenge. This one was our responsibility, and we dropped the ball."

The outrage works both ways. A woman once wrote to Toles: "I happen to think Mr. Bush is a fine-looking man and your portrait of him makes him look like some kind of little animal. I think it is highly disrespectful of you to do this. His ears are on his head in the same place as everyone else's."

This winter the outrage that circulates around political cartooning spiraled out of control, ending in the shooting deaths of French journalists at Charlie Hebdo for the perceived blasphemy of their cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. Nobody should be killed for expressing a view, Toles says. But what hap-

TOM TOLES, BA '73



TOM TOLES

HIGHLIGHT SYDORON

pened does raise secondary questions about journalistic wisdom and worth. The history of political cartooning isn't without, as he puts it, "bad actors spreading hate."

On the day of the media panel, Toles catches the first train into the city, a 10-minute ride. Soon he'll have a different morning routine. He'll be back in Buffalo per an agreement with the Post allowing him to work summers in his hometown. He and

his wife, Gretchen (BA '73), love Buffalo, he says. "There's just something kind of lovable about it. The way people are in a snowstorm—they drop what they're doing and help each other get through it."

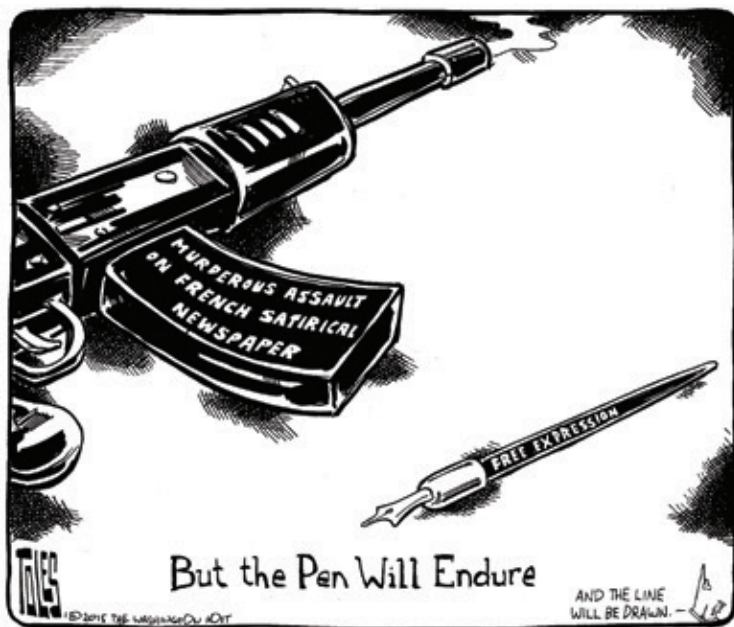
It would appear that Toles' vision of the world and how it

ought to be—a vision that says much about what and whom he takes issue with—is informed at least in part by his upbringing in the City of Good Neighbors. In his office, several hours before the panel, he is taking issue with the minimum wage, inking in a cartoon depicting one of the Wicked Witch's guards telling Dorothy: "The wicked 1% hired me at minimum wage to guard her castle. The bucket of water is on the wall under the torches."

As Toles works, cars shush along the wet surface of 15th Street four stories beneath his window. The Rapidograph in his long, slender fingers makes a soft scratching noise on the paper like the lick of a switchblade. ✦

"I am infuriated by many things. Top among them is the way we botched the climate challenge."

Tom Toles



Tom Toles' poignant take on the Charlie Hebdo attack.

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CLASS NOTES BY DECADE

Person to Person

70

Robert Friedman, BA 1975, joined the board of directors for Hearts and Hands, a nonprofit that pairs volunteers with older and physically challenged adults for assistance and caregiving. Friedman is partner at the law firm of Friedman & Ranzenhofer. He lives in Corfu, N.Y.

Alan Snitzer, BA 1975, was named a top lawyer for 2015 by California's Super Lawyers. Snitzer, who has been practicing law for more than 35 years, was recently designated as a certified specialist in workers' compensation law by the State Bar of California. He resides in Pasadena, Calif.

Louis DiLorenzo, JD 1976, was included in the Chambers & Partners USA [Lawyers] Guide for 2015. DiLorenzo is a managing member of Bond, Shoeneck & King PLLC's New York City office. He lives in Romulus, N.Y.

Yitzhak Mendelson, MS 1976 & BS 1975, was promoted to full professor of biomedical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Mendelson also serves as the interim head of the university's biomedical engineering department. He resides in Worcester, Mass.

Janet Linn, JD 1977 & BA 1972, joined Bleakley Platt & Schmidt LLP as a partner in the firm's intellectual property litigation practice group. She lives in Scarsdale, N.Y.

Keith Itzler, BS 1979, was promoted to vice president of Dewberry's New York City office. He previously held the position of assistant branch manager at the design firm. He resides in Commack, N.Y.

80

Michael Corp, JD 1981, was selected for inclusion in the Best Lawyers in America for 2015. Corp is partner and chair of the elder law and special needs, tax and trusts, and estates practices at Hancock Estabrook LLP. He lives in Cicero, N.Y.

Peter Pullano, BA 1983, was named managing partner of Tully Rinckey PLLC's Rochester office. He resides in Rochester, N.Y.

Eugene Fahey, JD 1984 & BA 1974, was confirmed as associate judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. He previously served as a judge within Buffalo City Court and the New York State Supreme Court. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Cora Alsante, JD 1988, a partner in the elder law and special needs, tax and trusts, and estates practices at Hancock Estabrook LLP, was included in the Best Lawyers in America for 2015. She resides in Jamesville, N.Y.

Kara Kelly, MD 1989, was named the James A. Wolff Professor in Pediatrics at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC). Kelly also serves as director of CUMC's integrative therapies program for children with cancer and the leukemia and lymphoma program. She lives in New York, N.Y.

90

Janet Wojcik, BS 1990, associate professor of exercise science at Winthrop University, was awarded the Bank of America Endowed Professorship for the

Richard W. Riley College of Education. She resides in Charlotte, N.C.

Nicholas Strauss, BA 1991, was appointed vice president of digital strategy at Theorem, a digital marketing company. He lives in Madison, N.J.

Marc Bruffett, BA 1992, was promoted to principal of Gensler's New York office. Bruffett guides the design firm's analysts in Boston, New York and Toronto. He resides in Fairfield, Conn.

Sanjay Putrevu, PhD 1992, was appointed dean of the University of Wyoming's College of Business. Putrevu was previously a professor of marketing and associate dean of University at Albany's School of Business. He lives in Laramie, Wyo.

Timothy Trifilo, BS 1992, joined CohnReznick LLP as lead tax partner for the firm's national commercial real estate injury practice. He resides in Washington, D.C.

Kelly Julius, BS 1994 & AAS 1988, was named vice president of human resources at Merchants Insurance Group. She lives in Grand Island, N.Y.

Kenya Hobbs, BA 1996, was promoted to assistant vice president and community engagement specialist at M&T Bank. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Joseph Chow, MD 1997 & BA 1993, was appointed president of TeamHealth's Urgent Care service line. Chow joined TeamHealth in 2007 and previously worked as a medical director for two of the company's urgent care centers. He lives in Orchard Park, N.Y.

CONTINUED

Class Notes

Mary Beth Pasquale, BA 1997, was named managing partner of Tully Rinckey PLLC's Buffalo office. She resides in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Thomas Kerr, BS 1998, was chosen as the Paul Kroegel Refuge Manager of the Year for 2015 by the National Wildlife Refuge Association. Kerr is the manager of the St. Croix Wetland Management District and the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, both located in Wisconsin. He lives in Inver Grove Heights, Minn.



Jennifer Johengen-Vogel, MS 2000 & BS 1994, was promoted to senior director of health management at BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York. Johengen-Vogel also serves on the board of the Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network. She resides in Orchard Park, N.Y.

Eric Ginsburg, BPS 2001, was promoted to principal at Genster, a global design firm. He previously held the position of office director at the firm's Toronto office. He lives in New York, N.Y.

Stephen Pezzino, BS 2002, was appointed regional sales manager of First Niagara Financial Group's mortgage division. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Christopher Schenk, MBA 2002 & BS 1995, was appointed chief legal officer of Curbell Inc. He resides in Kenmore, N.Y.

Max Humann, JD 2004 & BA 2001, was named junior partner at the law firm of Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Joshua Lynch, BS 2004, was promoted to vice president of medical operations at MercyFlight Inc. Lynch previously served as medical director for the organization. He lives in Clarence Center, N.Y.

Paula Paradise

Owner, Paradise Wine



HOW-TO

After studying English lit at UB and then working as a pastry chef, Paula Paradise found her true calling: wine. As director of wine education at industry leader Prime Wines Corp. for more than 12 years, she traveled around the world honing her craft while steadily building up a loyal following back home in Buffalo for her excellent taste.

Late this spring, she and business partner Lauren Kostek (BA '99) opened Paradise Wine on Buffalo's West Side. It's the city's first wine store devoted to organic and environmentally sustainable wines—all selected by Paradise. "I'm generally not impressed with wine that costs \$100; it's too easy and sometimes disappointing," she says. "The thrilling hunt is to find wine in the \$10-20 range that also succeeds in combining complexity, quality fruit and expert winemaking." Luckily, Paradise adds, there are many to choose from.

How to choose a decent wine for \$15 or less:



Go high-low

An easy trick for finding good wine is to buy the entry-level offerings of high-end wineries. Examples include Barbera and Dolcetto from Piedmont, because the estates that make those mid-priced reds are also making coveted reds, such as Barolo and Barbaresco. When I began seriously studying wine in 2000, I learned by drinking my way through a particular region. At the time, Côtes-du-Rhône was an inexpensive region jam-packed with quality wines made by the same producers who were sought out by collectors for their more costly Châteauneuf-du-Pape bottles.

Shop local, buy global

Avoid factory-scale wineries and seek out wines of character that represent a particular place and culture. These are generally from small-production, family-owned wineries that use sustainable methods to make wines full of personality.

There are great values right now from South Africa—red blends, Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc. South America (Chile, Argentina) has been a steal for at least a decade. Spain is also fertile ground, but you want to avoid the more famous regions such as Rioja and Ribera del Duero. I go for the old vine Garnacha and Monastrell for reds and Rueda for whites.

Know thy wine seller

If you feel overwhelmed by the choices and don't know where to begin, attach yourself to a retailer who can guide you in the direction of your own tastes. Everyone has a different palate, so you'll need to find someone in a wine shop who understands your individual preferences.

Make it social

Start your own wine-tasting group with some friends and pick a region to drink through. It's a perfect excuse for summer al fresco sipping or taking wine tours in the fall.

PENELOPE DULLAGHAN

Elizabeth Perry, JD 2004, joined Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP as a partner in the trusts and estates practice group. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jonathan Roller, MS 2004 & BS 2003, was promoted to principal at Lumsden McCormick LLP. He lives in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Douglas Muth, MBA 2005 & BS 2005, was named principal in the auditing and accounting department at Lumsden McCormick LLP. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Magdalena Jaworska, MS 2006, was promoted from assistant portfolio manager to portfolio manager at Arbor Capital Management. She lives in Rochester, N.Y.

Missy Stolfi, EdM 2006, joined the American Cancer Society as community manager for Relay For Life. She resides in East Amherst, N.Y.

Mark Kranster, BA 2007, joined Brock, Schechter & Polakoff LLP as a staff accountant. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jordan Marks, JD 2009, joined the California Board of Equalization as a tax attorney. He resides in San Diego, Calif.

10

Ren LaForme, BA 2010, was named interactive learning producer at The Poynter Institute. LaForme joined Poynter in 2013 as an interactive learning fellow. He lives in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Keeley Sheehan, BA 2010, joined the Florida Holocaust Museum as a marketing and communications specialist. Prior to joining the

museum, Sheehan was a staff writer for the Tampa Bay Times. She resides in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Drew Brigham, BS 2011, joined Campus Labs as a Web developer. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Krista Grow, BS 2011, was appointed project manager at Eric Mower + Associates. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jessica Balke, BS 2012 & BA 2012, joined WNED-WBFO as a corporate development sales representative. Previously, Balke served as an account executive for WKBW-TV. Balke lives in East Amherst, N.Y.

Christine Kemp, MPH 2012, was named administrative director of the Safety Net Association of Primary Care Affiliated Providers of Western New York. A 2014 Buffalo Business First 30 Under 30 awardee, Kemp resides in Tonawanda, N.Y.

Megan Dressel, BA 2013, accepted an internship at Upstate Medical University Hospital in speech language pathology for summer 2015. She lives in Syracuse, N.Y.

Joshua Bach, BA 2014 & BS 2014, joined DigitalOcean as a recruitment coordinator. He resides in New York, N.Y.

Marissa Stevar, MPH 2014 & BS 2012, joined P2 Collaborative of Western New York as population health coordinator. She lives in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Sarah Warner, MS 2014 & BS 2013, was named a staff accountant at the certified public accounting firm of Tronconi Segarra and Associates. Warner resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Joe Ferguson, PhD '09

R&D Project Manger, Rust-Oleum Corp.



TOP FIVE

Go ahead, chronic spaghetti spillers—slurp up your sauce with reckless abandon. Just be sure to douse your shirt with NeverWet first.

In 2013, chemist Joe Ferguson led the research and development team at Rust-Oleum Corp. that brought this unique product to hardware store shelves around the country. As the name implies, NeverWet is a liquid repellent that can be applied to just about anything—shoes, auto interiors, even clothing. YouTube is rife with videos of people testing its limits using stubborn stain-makers from wine to mud.

In scientific terms, NeverWet is a synthetic superhydrophobic coating. Rust-Oleum R&D, based in Pleasant Prairie, Wis., partnered with NeverWet LLC in Lancaster, Pa., to develop the product for mass consumer applications. Rust-Oleum made the product available in June 2013.

Ferguson, Rust-Oleum's R&D project manager for new product development, explains how it works: "When a drop of liquid hits a surface, the angle formed between the edge of the drop and the surface it rests on is called the contact angle. The higher the contact angle, the more likely the liquid will be repelled. If the angle of a water droplet is greater than 150 degrees, that surface is referred to as superhydrophobic, and the water droplet will literally roll off it."

We asked Ferguson to offer his top five most unexpected uses for the product.



Top 5 unusual applications of NeverWet:

1. Satellite dish

NeverWet will help prevent snow and ice from building up on your satellite dish, so you don't have to worry about losing your signal during the two-hour "The Bachelor" finale. Crisis averted.

2. Your mountain bike

Sure, a muddy bike says you shredded those trails, but then you have to clean it. With NeverWet, you can go straight from ride to storage.

3. Child's backpack

It's amazing what kids can do. New Minecraft backpack? Guaranteed to have a ketchup stain by the end of

the day. A little NeverWet will keep those pricey products as pristine as the day they were bought.

4. Umbrella

What could be more annoying than using an umbrella to stay dry in the rain, only to come inside and get drenched trying to fold it up? Use NeverWet and you'll never deal with that soggy situation again.

5. Matt Lauer's pants

Look it up. The "Today" show co-host applied it to his suit pants and watched in awe as chocolate syrup slid off the treated area with ease.*

*Full disclosure: It also left a stain and a funky smell. After that test on live TV, Rust-Oleum launched NeverWet Fabric, which is specifically designed for textiles.



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



November 1924



March 1929



The lovely "Miss Erma Homeyer, Winner of the U.B. Beauty Contest" was immortalized on the cover of the March 1928 issue by prominent art deco painter and illustrator Alexander O. Levy (1881-1947), who lived and worked in Buffalo from 1909 until his death.

UB YESTERDAY

1913-41

The Bison magazine

Back in the day, the Bison was UB's student-produced humor magazine. "We strive to tease as well as please"—a line from an October 1927 editorial—might as well have been its motto. The wildly popular monthly included news, poetry and stories that poked fun at social norms. Student and professional artists designed the front covers, which announced prominent campus events at the time, including the annual freshman, junior and Christmas proms.

Earlier issues were officially called the University Bison, but after publication was suspended for a year because of alleged "slandorous" material, the magazine returned as The New Bison in 1934. They may be out of print now, but you can view 61 of the Bison's vintage covers online at the University Libraries' Digital Collection. Color posters and prints can be purchased from the Library Store at ublibraries.smugmug.com.



I'm thankful.



Corey Wells saw a name that looked familiar up on a wall in Kapoor Hall. Then he realized it was the name of the donor—Henry A. Panasci—who had provided one of the two scholarships he's received at UB. A second-year PharmD student who works part-time at two pharmacies, Wells welcomes the financial help: "Right now I'm taking out full loans for tuition, and what I earn working goes right to living costs. The scholarships help me have more time for studying." He enjoys counseling patients about prescriptions at his jobs, and hopes to someday teach and conduct research at the university level.

The **best public universities** have the strongest private support.

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DOUGLAS LEVERIE

LAST LOOK

True Blue Treat As if you needed another reason to indulge in summer's tastiest tradition, Akron, N.Y.-based Perry's Ice Cream has crafted a UB-themed flavor called True to the Blue. It combines vanilla ice cream with salty caramel swirls and blue pretzel balls. Perry's, whose president and CEO is Robert Denning (EMBA '00), donated a tub of the cool concoction to UB's South Campus Child Care Center. It appears the kids enjoyed it.