

AtBuffalo

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

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Summer 2016



RAW BEAUTY

The Socially Conscious Art of

MIA BROWNELL

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FIRST LOOK

Photograph by Paul Hokanson

Something to Shout About

The Bulls basketball teams were a force to be reckoned with in 2016

By Michael Flatt

The 2016 season was a historic one for UB basketball. The women won their first MAC championship, resulting in their first appearance in the NCAA tournament. The men, who had their firsts in those categories last year, did it again, becoming the first team in 14

years to repeat as MAC champions.

The women's back story makes their success even sweeter.

Predicted to finish

last in their division at the beginning of the year, they were the first No. 8 seed ever to win the MAC championship, and managed the feat with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from sophomore Stephanie Reid (resulting in the celebratory scrum pictured at left).

As last year's MAC champions, the men had greater expectations on them to be successful, but still had to modify their game plan. Some significant roster turnover forced first-year coach Nate Oats to rely on defense and spread the minutes around. It was a good strategy; led by sophomore guard Lamonte Bearden, the players helped Oats to become the first UB coach to win 20 games in his first season.

In the end, both teams showed the fans—and the world—what it really means to be a Bull. **B**

Check out more photos from the women's and men's games at buffalo.edu/atbuffalo.

I'M
Thankful.

○
Corinne Cardinale
COMMUNICATION MAJOR WITH
A MINOR IN HISTORY



Corinne Cardinale received a private scholarship that helped her afford to study journalism in Berlin last summer, which she called a “life-changing opportunity.” Cardinale’s parents are proud she’s a UB student. “I’m the first person in my family to attend university, so it’s a very big deal that I’m here,” she said. Undecided about post-graduation plans—law school or journalism—she is enjoying new experiences at UB. She has volunteered at Buffalo Grassroots Gardens and heard Gov. Andrew Cuomo speak at the SolarCity groundbreaking. “The opportunities available to me at the University at Buffalo are absolutely endless.”

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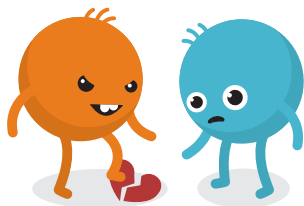
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At Buffalo magazine, with a circulation of 150,000, is published quarterly by the University at Buffalo Alumni Association in cooperation with the Division of University Communications and the Division of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement. Standard rate postage paid at Burlington, Vt. Editorial offices are located at 330 Crofts Hall, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260. Telephone: 716-645-4613; fax: 716-645-3765; email: atbuffalomagazine@buffalo.edu. At Buffalo welcomes inquiries, but accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or photographs. Opinions expressed in At Buffalo are not necessarily those of the University at Buffalo or the magazine editors.



MOVED?

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EDITOR'S ESSAY

Sharing Our Story With the World

When UB embarked on a new identity and brand strategy in spring 2015, our graduates stepped enthusiastically to the fore. As part of the initial research, the UB community, including faculty, students, staff and alumni, were sent a comprehensive survey with the goal of understanding and defining who we are as an institution, and what sets us apart. Nearly 4,500 people responded, exceeding our projections by a whopping 272 percent. Later in the process we did a second round of surveys to test our storytelling platform for authenticity; this time we drew more than 3,500 respondents, or 200 percent over projections.


Most impressive of all? More than half of the respondents for each survey were alumni, supporters and friends. In other words, your input was impactful in helping us shape our strategy, and identify our key attributes and traits as an institution.

The university, and all of us who together make UB what it is, exemplifies purposeful ambition, a global perspective, radical empathy and bold participation.

In everything we do, we are pragmatic, tenacious, inclusive, ambitious, proud and dynamic.

When trying to understand how such attributes and traits take human shape, I have only to look at our own magazine. In the feature on alumnus Marc Edwards (p. 28), we learn how a research scientist risked his health and finances to take on mammoth federal agencies in the cause of safe drinking water—twice: first for children in Washington, D.C., and later, for the imperiled residents of Flint, Mich. In an informal roundtable with three international students (p. 32), we learn that merely being present on the UB campus affords a global outlook, no matter where you're from. As student Paula Elksne of Staburags, Latvia, says: "Once you've been taken out of your culture and put into a mix of others, it's kind of really cool to just see where you stand yourself."

The branding and identity strategy, unveiled in April, also clears up the fuzzy nomenclature that has dogged UB for years. In what may be a historic first, all of UB's schools and units will be aligned under one official name—"University at Buffalo." One of the most visible changes is with the Division of Athletics, which will now use "UB" and "Buffalo" as its primary identifiers. Athletics is also introducing a new spirit mark and tagline, which you can see on p. 17.

Finally—another outcome of our branding initiative—you may notice some new typefaces in this issue along with an updated palette, including colors like UB Blue, Hayes Hall White and Putnam Gray. The colors have been carefully chosen, and named, to reflect our pride in a dynamic and confident university community that knows unequivocally who we are, what we do and why it matters. 

*We're happy to announce that **Kristin Woods** has been named assistant vice president for alumni engagement, effective July 1. Most recently assistant vice president for alumni and career services at the University of Richmond, Woods brings to UB more than 20 years' experience in alumni relations and engagement. Her work aligning career development and alumni relations functions has become a structural model for other colleges and universities.*

Ann Whitcher Gentzke, Editor
whitcher@buffalo.edu



ASK YOUR PRESIDENT

In each issue, an undergrad chosen at random gets to pose a question to President Tripathi

What do you like most about Buffalo?

I've actually lived in various countries on three different continents at different points in my life—in India, where I was born and raised; in Canada (Toronto) and France (Paris), where I spent time as a graduate student and later as a visiting professor; and in the U.S., where I've spent the majority of my academic career and have lived in cities from coast to coast.

So I guess I speak with some authority when I say that you can travel all over the world and never find a community that is quite like Buffalo.

To me, living in Buffalo offers the perfect balance—the best of all worlds. It's small enough to be a close-knit community, yet big enough to offer all the amenities of a major city, from big-time sports to world-class restaurants, theaters and museums. I also love that wherever you are in the city, you can get in your car and in less than 20 minutes be transported to an amazing natural setting that is also uniquely Buffalo-Niagara—whether it's Niagara Falls, an old-growth forest in Cheektowaga or the rejuvenated harbor front.

But as amazing as Buffalo is as a physical place, it's Buffalo's people who make it truly unforgettable. People talk a lot about the resilience, grit and determination that Buffalonians have in common. And there is a lot of truth to that. But what I really love about Buffalo is that these are not individual values—they're collective ones.

There's such a strong sense here that we all rise or fall together ... that we pull together in good times and bad. We Buffalonians love to celebrate together, and in tougher times we put aside our own challenges to help others in need.

You see that sense of community in action during a Buffalo snowstorm, when Western New Yorkers put down their own snow shovels to help others—whether they're bringing supplies to shut-in neighbors or rescuing stranded motorists and snowbound plow operators.

And you see it just as clearly in our beautiful Buffalo summers, when it seems as if every day something brings people outdoors to celebrate the season together, from the Allentown and Elmwood arts festivals, to fundraising events like the Ride for Roswell, to free concerts at Canalside and Larkinville.

That sense of community is exactly why my wife and I immediately felt at home when we moved here from California 12 years ago. It's no accident that Buffalo is known across the nation as the "City of Good Neighbors," and we quickly found out how well-deserved that nickname is.

As a Buffalo native, Maria, I am betting you will agree that this is a community that is warm, friendly, genuine and deeply generous to its core. And being part of it is something truly special. **B**

OUR STUDENT

Maria Fritz

A sophomore accounting major and Honors Scholar from Buffalo, Maria Fritz wants to obtain her CPA upon graduation and work for an accounting firm. Where she will settle down after graduation is unclear, but one thing she does know is she wants to travel and experience other cultures. To prepare, she's learning Japanese and plans to study in Kobe, Japan, this summer. As a volunteer for UB's English Language Institute (ELI), she also helps students from across the globe hone their conversational skills. "The students are from everywhere," she enthused.

Among her most interesting chats with ELI students, Fritz told Tripathi during the photo shoot, are those about the cultural differences in higher education systems. "I learned that high school [in China] is super hard, but once you get into college, it's a little less difficult," she said. "It's the opposite here." Tripathi agreed with this characterization, noting that the contrast extends beyond China. "This is true in most of the Asian world," he observed.

President Tripathi (left) chats with Maria Fritz.



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.



'Big Ideas' found wanting

Hilary Weaver, addressing the refugee crisis ["The Big Idea," Spring 2016], wants us to meet people who "have realities that are much different from ours." I say, start at home. As an associate dean, hire a Libertarian or Republican, or even more daring, a Republican woman, as a professor. Give yourself and your students some viewpoint diversity, instead of superficial diversity with ideological conformity. Meanwhile, Yunju Nam, in her essay on economic inequality, would tax the middle class to ensure that "every child be given an account at birth." How about taking an opportunity path and making individual capitalistic success easier? Eliminate 75 percent of regressive state licensing barriers. Eliminate abusive regressive local taxes on the smallest businesses. Teach economics in high schools—not just checkbook balancing but creation and use of capital. I was poor, my mom bought me clothes at church rummage sales, I was able to do crafts and sell products without government interference, did a free internship one summer, and developed skills that helped me succeed.

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

A 'Salt and Pepper' steps forward

Imagine my elation and surprise when reaching page 48 of your spring edition ["1948: The Salt and Peppers"]. I was part of that group through 1950 when I graduated—I'm the second male in the second row. What a time we had! The article brought back ancient memories. I believe that Tom Hinckley (BA '50) was to the far right, Jack Tylee (BS '50) to his left, and there was "Mouse" in the front row. I still have my letter but the sweater is long gone.

Dick Hainer (BS '50)
Allison Park, Pa.

That's Dick Hainer, who found himself on page 48!



Barbara Staebell Rooney (EDM '92, BS '78) of Williamsville, N.Y., is the winner of our Careful Reader Quiz—Back Issue Edition ("To which former UB student-athlete does this national championship ring belong?"). The answer is Jonathan Jones (BA '15), who won the championship in shot put in 2015. Rooney, whose name was randomly chosen from the correct submissions, will receive an At Buffalo mug.

Kudos for our spring issue

We have received hundreds of publications from many schools over many years, but the Spring 2016 issue of At Buffalo is the all-time best. Totally professional, very readable, interesting, great layout, etc.

Lee Runk (BS '64)
Orchard Lake, Mich.

I have been a faculty member at the medical school for 40 years. I have read many publications out of UB; however, the Spring 2016 issue of At Buffalo is exceptionally good, both informative and extremely interesting. Keep up the good work. I cannot wait for the next issue.

Howard Faden
Professor of Pediatrics
Buffalo, N.Y.

From the Editor's Desk

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Steven B. Sample, who helped guide UB's transformation into a global entity during his tenure as the university's 12th president from 1982 to 1991. Sample, who went on to lead the University of Southern California (USC), died March 29 at the age of 75. An electrical engineer who also taught at Purdue and the University of Nebraska, Sample left an indelible mark on UB by overseeing major campus construction, signing academic exchange agreements with institutions in Asia and Europe, and launching important initiatives to improve undergraduate life and academic experience. Under his leadership, the university gained acceptance into the prestigious Association of American Universities in 1989. At USC, where he served as president for 19 years until retiring in 2010, Sample oversaw the school's rise in the college rankings as well as the recruitment of an increasingly diverse student body and many nationally prominent faculty. "So much of our university's current stature can be traced back to Dr. Sample's dynamic leadership, keen foresight and extraordinary prudence," said current USC President and UB alumnus C.L. Max Nikias (PhD '82, MS '80). Sample's many awards include UB's highest honor, the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal, which he received in 2004.



Steven Sample

On Campus

Bridging the gaps

A high-pressure situation

Taking it to the top

Dennis Maher is using traditional methods to train a modern workforce

Queen City Carpenters

Dennis Maher tackling a project with carpentry assistants Sarah Campbell (middle) and Viktoria Ciostek (right) at Maher's workshop—a repurposed church.

By *Olivia W. Bae* » As carpenters turn increasingly to high-tech machinery and software to ply their craft, old-fashioned woodworking has become a rare skilled trade. Dennis Maher, a painter, sculptor and clinical assistant professor of architecture at UB, is trying to do something about this.

Two years ago, Maher purchased the former Immaculate Conception Church at 150 Edward Street, renaming it Assembly House 150. Currently he is transforming the building into a workshop, art gallery and headquarters for the Society for the Advancement of Construction-Related Arts (SACRA). He co-founded SACRA in February with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery's Innovation Lab to develop what he calls a "Buffalo-centric" apprenticeship program. The purpose: to teach fine woodworking skills to a modern construction labor force.

Working with local carpentry guilds, vocational programs, and individual students and artisans, Maher has begun creating art installations that are displayed in galleries and public

spaces around Buffalo, while reshaping the dialogue around the city's evolving architecture. One recent project is a quirky assemblage of recycled wood, antique furniture and battered books—or, as SACRA carpenter Viktoria Ciostek (BA '04) calls it, a "cabinet of learning." The seemingly haphazard structure highlights the beauty and usefulness of fine woodworking, fusing modern concepts with traditional techniques.

In 2017, SACRA's workshop and training space will move east after renovations of a historic Bailey Avenue cottage are completed (the public gallery will remain in the church). There, experienced instructors will teach the next generation of carpenters to incorporate history and craftsmanship into Buffalo's new buildings.

One of Maher's goals for SACRA is to connect the East and West Side communities through its two locations. "I like what happens when people with different backgrounds and expertise all come together," he says. **B**



TWEETABLE: A national study by @EdTrust cites #UBuffalo as an "exemplar" in closing the gap in graduation rates between black and white students.

THE WEIGH-IN

Faculty experts shed light on trending topics



THE NEWS: In the debate over gender-neutral bathrooms, both sides emphasize concerns over safety. Who is right? Or are both positions valid?

THE EXPERT: Margaret Sallee, associate professor of higher education

“

Laws regulating access to gender-appropriate bathrooms are inherently unjust, as they discriminate based upon identity. An individual should have the right to use whatever bathroom they* feel most comfortable using. Some argue that allowing biological men into a women's bathroom puts women in danger. This defense has two flaws. First, it suggests that biological sex matches gender identity. Second, it suggests that women need to be protected from predatory men. Both assumptions are inherently false. A more radical notion is to make all bathrooms gender-neutral. Gender is a social construction that has been used to organize society, privileging one group over another. Perhaps ceasing to regulate bathroom use based on gender will lead to the destruction of other gendered divisions, such as workplace promotion patterns and divisions of caregiving in the home, thus leading to a society that actively supports all people in leading happy and productive lives.

* My use of 'they' is intentional and aligned with the movement to use 'they' as the gender-neutral third person.

”



BRIDGING THE GAP AFRICA

Engineering with Purpose

UB students help Bridging the Gap Africa save lives in Kenya

By Michael Flatt » It's often said that engineering is about problem-solving. While some of the problems engineers work to solve are what could be called inconveniences—a laptop that's heavier than consumers want; a stretch of road that's prone to potholes—there are others that affect people's lives in dramatic ways.


A group of UB engineering students is partnering with a nonprofit called Bridging the Gap Africa to solve a problem of the latter kind. Founded in 2003 by a former missionary and master mason named Harmon Parker, the organization builds footbridges in rural Kenyan villages, which are often many miles from the nearest crossing. Every year in Kenya, hundreds of people die attempting to traverse rivers in search of health care or education, or to see a sick family member. Parker was named a CNN Hero in 2010 for his bridge-building efforts.

The student group—UB Bridging the Gap Africa Partners, which is overseen by Jerome O'Connor of the UB Institute of Bridge Engineering—assists Bridging the Gap Africa with technical advising and fundraising, while giving the students the opportunity to engage with real engineering projects. Wil Nagengast, a civil engineering major, says he decided to take a leadership role with the group after watching Parker's TED talk. "Civil engineering is one of the most powerful tools to combat cycles of poverty," Na-

gengast says. "Bridges link people with economic, educational and health care opportunities."

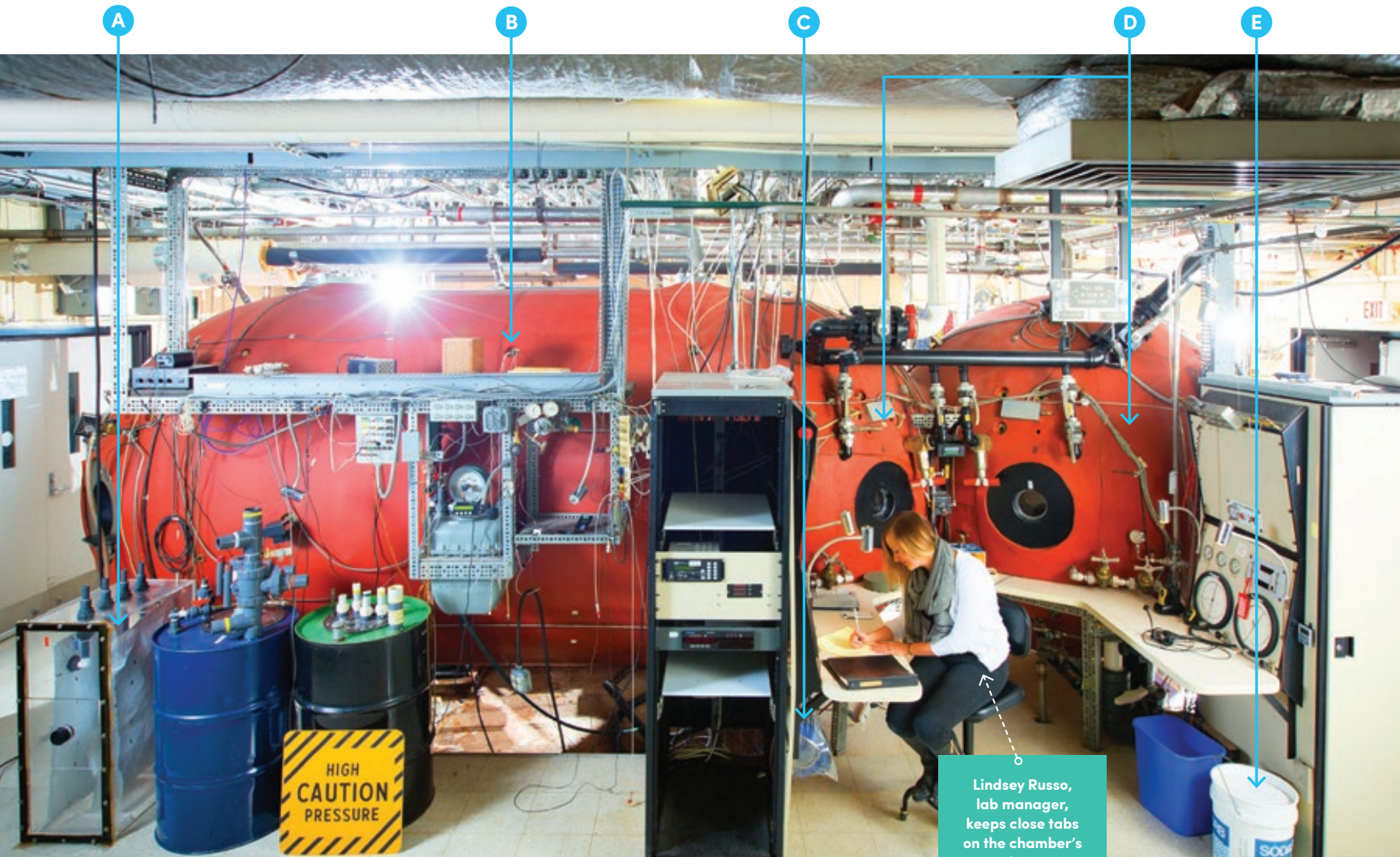
Nagengast is among a group of several students working on a senior capstone project to develop a bridge design that could be produced in the States, shipped to a village in Kenya and then assembled there, with minimal labor and electricity. Other projects undertaken by students in the group include creating a quality-assurance program and producing designs that will protect bridge foundations from scour, the erosion caused by swift-moving water at the feet of the bridges.

At a public lecture on campus in February, engineering students got to hear more about Bridging the Gap's work from Chris and Beth Leibfried, volunteers who helped build the organization's first suspension bridge, called the Peace Bridge, in Kitale, Kenya. Completed in April, the new bridge used locally sourced materials to keep costs low, employed local workers and, with O'Connor as lead designer, represented a shift in Bridging the Gap's work toward more sophisticated engineering.

The Leibfrieds also discussed what it was like to live and work in Kenya, and the drastic cultural differences that make this work so important. "Most Kenyans who live out in the countryside can't swim," Beth Leibfried pointed out. "We take it for granted." 

Space Invaders A REVEALING LOOK AT UB'S PERSONAL AND PUBLIC SPACES

Interview by Michael Flatt



Lindsey Russo, lab manager, keeps close tabs on the chamber's data.

4 Sherman Annex, South Campus **Hyperbaric Chamber**



Deep in the belly of South Campus sits UB's hyperbaric chamber. It can be pressurized to simulate conditions a mile underwater, or it can mimic near-space altitudes. The roughly 600-cubic-foot, solid-steel chamber is used to study the effects of these various pressures on the body. Only a handful of similar chambers exist outside U.S. military bases, and, according to the manufacturer, this is the only one in the world that can replicate such deep-ocean pressures. The 1970s-era communication system and air-quality monitors were updated this spring, but, says David Hostler, chair of exercise and nutrition sciences at UB and principal investigator on a current study examining dehydration risk for Navy divers, "Some things never change. A hyperbaric chamber never gets more complicated than turning valves on and off."

All in the Family

UB's hyperbaric chamber is a product of three generations of alumni. It was built in the 1970s by J.M. Canty Inc., of Pendleton, N.Y., whose founder, the late John M. Canty, held two UB engineering degrees (MS '54, BS '52). His son, company president Tod Canty (MBA '82, BS '77), and granddaughter Meredith Canty (BS '12) were involved with the chamber's upgrades. Nothing like a little pressure to bring a family together!

A

Bag in a Box: The box is taken inside the chamber, and the bag inside collects exhaled gas. The collected gas displaces gas already inside the box, and that's how you measure pressures and volumes. You can also make calculations about workload, nitrogen elimination and more based on the exhaled gas.

B

Penetrators: These allow you to bring wiring inside the cylinder without all the pressure escaping. There are 80-some-odd penetrators on the chamber.

C

Gas Mask: The fire suppression in this room uses halon [gas]. There's a

lot of expensive equipment in here, and if there's a fire, you don't want to dump water all over it. The halon displaces all the oxygen in the room. If there's someone in the chamber, the chamber operator can't just get up and leave, so that mask provides the operator with breathable air if the halon is released.

D

Main and Entry Locks: Any deep chamber has a main lock and an entry lock. If you're in the main lock and the chamber is set at 100 feet of pressure, and you have to bring in equipment or personnel, you can't just shoot back to the surface. You'll get the bends, aka decompression sickness.

E

Sodasorb: That is used to soak up excess carbon dioxide inside the chamber. If we did a long dive, we might put a whole bucket in there to scavenge extra dioxide in the air. You can reuse it, but you'd have to bake it, so we usually just throw it away.

A construction worker stands ready to guide the beam into place.

Beaming with Pride

With the final steel placed, UB's new medical school building permanently changes the Buffalo landscape

By **Lauren Newkirk Maynard** » March 22, 2016, was a fine day to be a Bull. Hundreds of UB community members, along with state and city dignitaries and public onlookers, gathered downtown to watch as a single steel beam—painted white and blue and festooned with an American flag and a small evergreen tree—rose to the top of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences construction site. As the beam settled into position, workers gave a thumbs-up and the crowd burst into cheers. The topping-out ceremony not only marked a time-honored building tradition, but also was a milestone event for UB and Buffalo.

Days before, a beam-signing attracted crowds to the South Campus. Under an outdoor tent to

Watch the topping-off ceremony video at buffalo.edu/atbuffalo.

protect it from the elements, the beam held court as lines of medical students past and present, plus local politicians, UB officials and members of the community, showed up to put their names on the steel with permanent markers. (At Buffalo added our own “Onward and upward!” message.)

The signed beam was among the last of more than 7,000 that support eight floors and 628,000 square feet of the future medical school building, which will house extensive research and teaching space, walkways connecting nearby Buffalo Niagara Medical Center buildings, an expanded patient-care training center and a light rail station. Once the steel construction is complete, the building's permanent roof will



Medical students signed the steel beam before it traveled downtown.

be added and then its outer envelope, including its unique terra-cotta skin. Every day, roughly 300 workers buzz about the construction site, the largest capital project in the university's 170-year history. That number should grow in the coming months as workers in the trades finish the building's interior.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo ended the upbeat event on a playful yet important note: “This new medical campus will further cement the University at Buffalo's position as a national leader in the delivery of quality, affordable health care.”

Eureka!

Unraveling knot theory
Pedagogical puppets
The adaptability of yeast



These graphene aerogel structures are about the size of a matchbook.

Lighter than Air

Materials scientist Chi Zhou tames graphene, a supermaterial as fickle as it is promising



Graphene is so light it can perch on a pile of cattail fluff.

By Cory Nealon (BA '02) » Graphene is a wonder material saddled with great expectations.

Discovered in 2004, it consists of a single layer of carbon atoms packed together in a honeycomb-like pattern. Among its unworldly properties, graphene is 1 million times thinner than a human hair, 300 times stronger than steel, the best-known conductor of heat and electricity, and, under certain conditions, lighter than air. These attributes could, among other things, help make computers faster, batteries more powerful and solar panels more efficient.

"Simply put," says Chi Zhou, a materials scientist in UB's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, "graphene could change the world."

But the material has yet to reach its potential, in part because it's hard to manipulate beyond its two-dimensional form. This conundrum has sent scientists around the world search-

See the graphene video at buffalo.edu/atbuffalo.

ing for a reliable way to make 3-D graphene. One approach—pouring graphene oxide, a gel-like form of graphene, into freezing molds—has met with partial success. The process works, but only with simple structures that have limited commercial use.

Some scientists have been working with a 3-D printer. In this scenario, graphene is mixed with a polymer or other thickening agent. The combination, when pushed out of the printer's inkjets, creates three-dimensional objects. But when the polymer is removed later by heat, it damages the delicate structure, often rendering it useless.

Zhou, working with engineers from Kansas State University and the Harbin Institute of Technology in China, may have finally solved that problem.

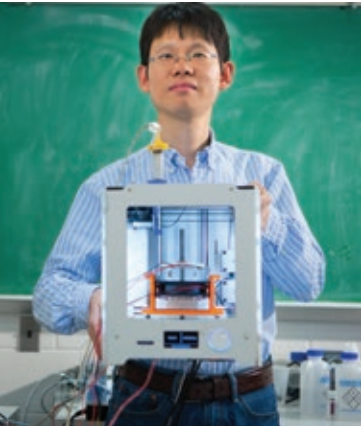
CONTINUED



TWEETABLE: "Each food, as it's chewed, has its own voice"—#UBuffalo researcher Wen Yao Xu on his invention: a high-tech necklace that counts calories.

Instead of injecting graphene with thickening agents, the team uses a modified 3-D printer to combine graphene oxide (graphene with extra oxygen atoms) and water. The printer deposits layers of the mixture on a surface cooled to minus 25 C. The graphene freezes instantly, creating three-dimensional structures, with ice acting as a support.

After the process is finished, engineers dip the structures—everything from lattice-shaped cubes to spiderweb-like orbs—in liquid nitrogen, which strengthens the bond between the ice and graphene. The structures are then placed in a freeze dryer, where the ice changes into gas and is removed.



Chi Zhou with the 3-D printer he uses to make 3-D graphene.

The end result is graphene aerogel, a porous and superlight material in which the liquid part of the gel is

replaced by air, allowing it to retain its shape at room temperature.

“The structures we built show that it’s possible to control the shape of graphene in three-dimensional forms,” says Zhou, a native of China who arrived at UB in 2013. “What’s more exciting, though, is that this process could be an important step toward making graphene commercially viable.”

Zhou and his colleagues have made objects with densities as low as .5 kilograms per cubic meter—or less than half the weight of air. This near weightlessness could revolutionize the transportation industry, for one, with the production of cars and airplanes that are ultralight and thus much more fuel-efficient.

In addition to advancing electronics, batteries and medical diagnostic devices, graphene aerogel could have a profound impact on environmental cleanups. Studies show it can absorb up to 900 times its weight, making the material an incredible tool for sopping up oil spills.

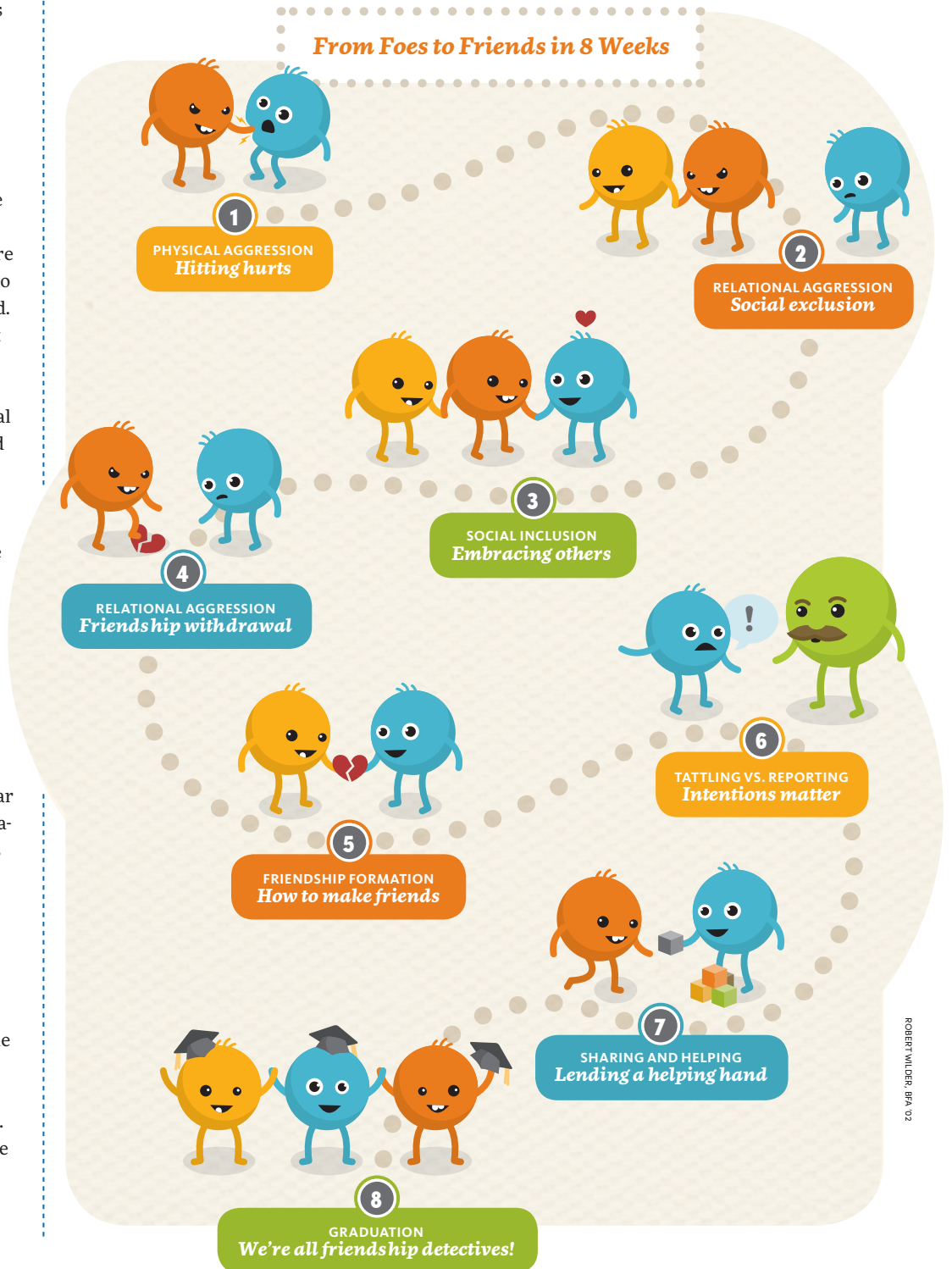
Possibilities such as these have tantalized scientists since graphene’s discovery 12 years ago. Now, says Zhou, they may soon be realized. “We’re getting there,” he says. “Layer by layer.”

EARLY CHILDHOOD

FRIENDSHIP PROJECT

Bullying—both physical and social—can start in kids as young as 3. But early intervention can help. UB researchers have developed an eight-week program, easily integrated into existing preschool curricula, that introduces a social skill each week through a mini puppet show, and then follows up with positive reinforcement. In a recent study, the intervention worked so well that researchers gave it to the control group after the study ended. “It wasn’t ethical not to,” said Jamie Ostrov, associate professor of psychology and lead author of the study.

From Foes to Friends in 8 Weeks



ROBERT WILDSH, BFA '02



Beaker Briefs

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

By Marcene Robinson (BA '13)

Not-So-Fast Ash

Scientists once believed the hot ash expelled by a supervolcano could travel 600 miles per hour. But after studying the movement of prehistoric rock, researchers discovered that these clouds of doom stay under your average highway speed limit. Understanding how quickly these gasses move will help scientists forecast eruptions.

LED BY: UB geology researcher Greg A. Valentine, Blaise Pascal University in France
volcanology researcher Olivier Roche, U.S.
Geological Survey geology researcher David C. Buesch

Fending off Phishers

A new model for cybersecurity training may finally catch those pesky phish that cost the world more than \$1 trillion in damages. Designed by UB researchers, the training ditches the current one-size-fits-all approach for a customized version that accounts for people's thought patterns and varied email habits.

LED BY: Communication researcher Arun Vishwanath

Telltale Tongues

Dentists can spot more than a cavity during routine cleanings. New research suggests an oversized tongue and tonsils place people at higher risk for obstructive sleep apnea—a sleeping disorder caused by blocked airways. The study calls on dentists to check for these signs and recommend patients to sleep specialists.

LED BY: Dental researcher Thikriat Al-Jewair



60 SECONDS WITH BILL MENASCO Interview by Sally Jarzab

Why Knots Matter

For 35 years now, the work of UB mathematics professor Bill Menasco has been wound up in knots. Once considered an esoteric pursuit, knot theory has been gaining traction in the real world. After all, those twists and turns do more than just tie our shoes—they make up our very DNA. Quantifying information about knots, and what happens when they are altered in some way, can help advance research in molecular biology, computer science and other fields.

What is knot theory?

Knot theory is a strand of geometric topology, which asks questions about an object's essential characteristics if continuous changes are made to it—if it's manipulated, but not cut or destroyed. How do you mathematically distinguish such changes? How do you codify that information? Knot theory asks those questions about knots in particular.

Tell me about an application knot theory has to the real world.


In the double helix model of DNA, there's this spiraling of different molecular bonds that would become entangled during replication if it were just split down its axis. Nature has a way of untangling those strands—it's where enzymes come in—and biologists want to understand that process. They've done experiments using electrophoresis in which magnetic fields were used to attract pieces of DNA suspended in a gel. Dependent upon how knotted they were, the pieces responded at different rates, providing a means for codifying what a particular enzyme was doing. Then the mathematicians said, "OK, you have this sequence of knots going on. If you push your techniques a little further, you ought to see *this*." And the biologists went back, and, in fact, their prediction was correct.

That's mathematics at its best: It not only describes what you're seeing—it tells you what you should be seeing.

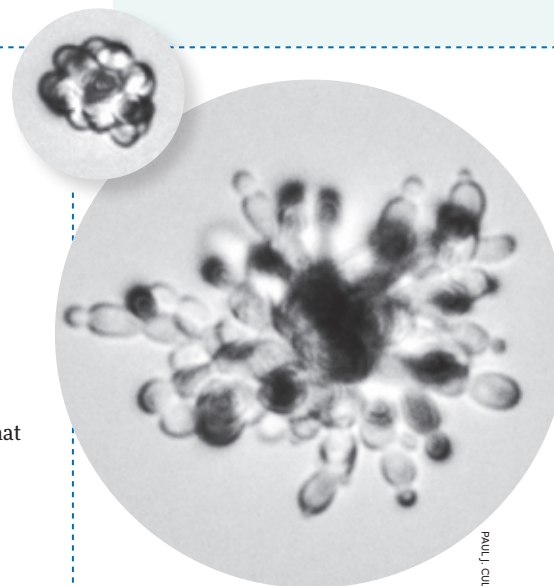
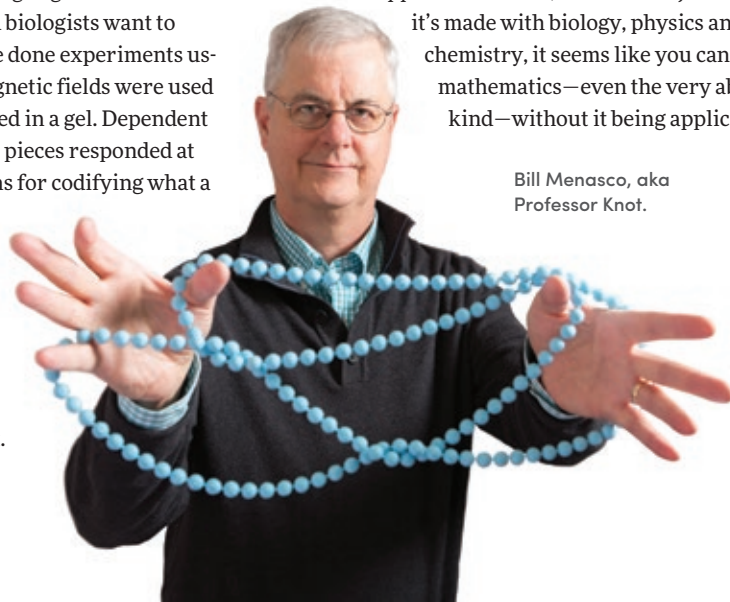
Are there other examples?

Knot theory has relevance to robotics in the planning of configuration spaces. Imagine a manufacturing floor with a lot of automated processes, and you want this machinery to move around in such a way that it doesn't run into itself. Picture those pathways as knots, and you can see how knot theory can be applied there too.

So our teachers were right—math really is useful.

It's really exploding. When I started working in knot theory, it didn't seem like there were any real-world applications. Now, with the conjunctions it's made with biology, physics and chemistry, it seems like you can't do mathematics—even the very abstract kind—without it being applicable. 

Bill Menasco, aka Professor Knot.



PAUL CULLEN

SMALL WONDERS By Charlotte Hsu

Beauty of the Yeast

Microscope photos capture the exquisiteness of yeast. Under normal conditions, yeast cells grow together in a tight cluster (upper left). But starve a colony, and new cells start budding outward in a filament-like pattern that may aid the search for food (large image). According to a new UB study, this change occurs within two and a half hours, affecting the first generation of yeast cells born to a colony in times of scarcity. The shift in growth patterns is driven by decision-making processes inside cells that kick into high gear only when nutrients are low, says UB biologist Paul Cullen.

The Sounds of College

A unique addition to the '59 yearbook provides an auditory trip back in time

The recording crackles to life, then bursts into fanfare. The announcer, in full radio voice, narrates the “talking page,” a 45-rpm disc included with the 1959 Buffalonian yearbook. Together, they provided “a verbal, as well as a pictorial résumé of the year’s activities.”

We hear of exciting news from all corners of the university. The football team had its best year ever. Count Basie performed at the Alpha Phi Delta Winter Dance. A scientist from the Bell Aircraft Corporation presented a lecture on rockets and the space age.

Finally, the charming 11-minute record draws to a close with an instrumental version of UB’s alma mater, signaling the end of an era for the Class of ’59, but also the beginning of a new adventure.

Words of wisdom

Chancellor Clifford C. Furnas lent his voice to the 45, offering this message to graduating students: “With the loss of hair or the graying of hair or perhaps getting just a little bit paunchy, may you always be prouder year by year of your alma mater, the University of Buffalo.”

Bells and whistles

Similar to an old-time radio show, the narrator of the “talking page” is accompanied by a gamut of sound effects, including a ringing alarm clock and a yawn; Hayes Hall clock’s Westminster chimes; footsteps falling on campus pavement; and the ka-chunking rhythm of an IBM machine shooting out mid-semester grades.

Play the audio link at buffalo.edu/atbuffalo and experience the sounds of college for yourself!



Spinning spider

If you’re of a certain age, you may remember using a strangely shaped piece of plastic—known as an insert, a spider—to hold your 45s in place on a standard turntable. Today the spider serves as a visual icon for the music industry, even making an appearance on hipster T-shirts.

The color of music

The seven-inch, 45-rpm vinyl record format was released in 1949 by RCA. Each music genre had its own dedicated color: Country songs were on green vinyl, classical releases were red, children’s albums were yellow, gospel and R&B singles were orange, and popular tunes were black—the cheapest color vinyl to produce.



Coming to you live...

On Jan. 6, 1959, WBFO-FM 88.7 hit the airwaves, reaching listeners as far as 10 miles from the South Campus. That’s more respectable than it sounds, considering it was a student-run station with a \$1,300 annual budget. These days the station is owned by WNED, a binational public broadcasting organization, and broadcasts to a slightly more impressive 1.2 million people.

LockerRoom

Nasti preaches process
UB's champion triathlete
New logo unveiled



No-Frills Fitness

UB student's club helps members be their best selves—inside and out

UB BarbarianZ founder Elijah Tyson has achieved his physique using a minimalist approach.

By David J. Hill » You don't need to spend \$30 a month for a gym membership, or set up a Bowflex in your spare room. All it takes to get fit is the equipment you can find at almost any outdoor park. And the encouragement of your peers.

That's the philosophy behind a new fitness club, called UB BarbarianZ, created by student Elijah Tyson. The club's workouts feature a style of exercise known as bodyweight fitness, which emphasizes calisthenics—used in combination with bars, poles and other typical equipment you might find outside—over traditional free

weights. “These workouts are versatile,” says Tyson, who will be a senior this fall majoring in business with a minor in nutrition. “Everything we use, you can find outdoors.”



Tyson turned to bodyweight fitness as a freshman. He had been using free weights, but didn't like the wear and tear on his body, so he began integrating calisthenics into his regimen. A typical Tyson workout is split into two portions: full body—which includes pull-ups, diamond pushups, squats, a Russian twist and jumping lunges—and what's called front-lever strength-progression

CONTINUED



TWEETABULL: @UBmenshoops asst. coach Bryan Hodgson was named to the 2016 Under Armour 30-Under-30 team, honoring 30 young D-I coaches across the U.S.

Locker Room

exercises, such as leg lifts, side plank raises, back extensions and planks. “Every day I’m trying to do new things with my body,” he says.

A certified personal trainer, Tyson formed the club last fall, taking inspiration from the urban bodyweight fitness groups that proliferate in his hometown of Copiague, N.Y., on Long Island—not just in terms of the workout, but also the ethos surrounding it. “All these street fitness crews promote self-improvement values and community involvement,” he says. “That was the culture I wanted to create with my club.”

So he developed a set of eight guiding principles, or laws—the “BarbarianZ Scripture”—that club members must abide by. Each law is designed to complement the workout and a real-life situation. Examples include “No shortcuts to success” and “Bye, haters.” As Tyson explains, his club does not tolerate discriminators of any kind. “We kick them out,” he says.

Each workout begins with Tyson reciting one of the laws and explaining how it will correlate to that session. At the end, he says a few words about how the law applies to a real-world situation.

That capital Z at the end of the club’s name refers to what Tyson calls the “Law of Z.” “It’s the last letter in the alphabet, and every letter before that represents an obstacle or challenge you will go through in life when you’re trying to accomplish something big,” he explains. “When you get to Z, you’ve done it.”

While the workouts can seem intimidating at first, club members are there to help. “Every exercise we do is acclimated to a person’s fitness goals,” says Tyson, whose postgraduation plans include opening his own gym and starting a nonprofit for youth. “We’re not going to make you feel like you’re not good enough.”



Digging In

Win or lose, it’s all part of the process for Breanne Nasti

By Michael Flatt » Growing up on Long Island in the late ’80s and early ’90s, Breanne Nasti (BA ’04) didn’t play softball. She played baseball, looking for the toughest competition she could find. This head-on approach to challenges has stayed with Nasti throughout her career as a player and a coach.

The former Bulls outfielder, who holds numerous batting records at UB and was a 2012 UB Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, is now the head coach and assistant athletic director at Adelphi University on Long Island. Last season, Nasti’s Panthers competed in the Women’s College World Series for the first time in the program’s Division II history.

It hasn’t been a rose-petal-strewn path to success. After enduring a couple sub-par coaching gigs—“If I have to fundraise to feed my team and pay umpires, that’s not a place where I want to be,”

she says—she went back to school for her master’s in sports administration from Fresno State. She wrote a 200-page thesis, which was not required, in order to prepare herself in case she ever decides to pursue a PhD.

Nasti now works to instill that same mental toughness in her players, with a coaching philosophy that values process over results.

“Results-oriented people don’t know how to feel good about a 1-for-4 day,” says Nasti. “They don’t know how to feel good about playing really well and losing. In our sport, you can do everything right and have things not go your way.”

Anyone can relate to that feeling. We usually call it “defeat.” But if one were to take Nasti’s approach as a guide, the trick is to accept it as a challenge, and dig back in.

The Clubhouse

Stats from right, center and left field

Compiled by Michael Flatt

The 1 in 15-1

In April, the Bulls women’s tennis team defeated MAC leader Ball State in its own house, ending a 15-match winning streak for the Cardinals. A gritty performance from freshman Sanjana Sudhir sealed the script-flipping victory for Buffalo.

15-1

The final 4.0

On top of its first trip to March Madness, the women’s basketball team made a different kind of Final Four. New America, a Washington think tank, pitted NCAA Tournament participants against each other based on team GPA, and the Bulls were among the last teams standing, along with UConn, DePaul and Stanford.

4

¡Cien victories!

On the men’s tennis courts, senior Sergio Arevalillo won his 100th career match in April. If the Spaniard keeps serving it up, he’ll be within striking distance of the Bulls top-10 combined wins list.

100



BUFFALO BULLS

Bullish on Buffalo

In the spring, UB launched a new brand strategy aimed at telling the university's story to a global audience (read more in this issue's Editor's Essay, p. 4). As part of the initiative, the UB Bulls athletic marks received a refresh, with "Buffalo" regaining its prominence and a new tagline, "New York's Public Powerhouse," emphasizing our statewide stature. Uniforms, courts and fields will reflect the new marks in a phased-in approach.

UB's Iron(wo)man

Julia Slyer knows no limits

By David J. Hill » Julia Slyer wasn't your typical toddler. At age 3, when most kids are thinking about their next nap, she dreamed of doing an Ironman triathlon.

"I've always been drawn to nerd stuff. Even when I was a little kid I wanted to be the one that ran the farthest or biked the farthest," says Slyer, a rising junior who transferred to UB from the University of Rochester after her freshman year. "When I was 8, I convinced my dad to do the [American Diabetes Association] Tour de Cure 50-mile bike ride with me."

In fact, Slyer's love of Ironman comes from her father, John, who has competed in more than a dozen of them. She competed in her first, in July 2014 at Lake Placid, N.Y., at age 18—the minimum age to participate. She got a decorative tattoo of the Ironman logo to mark the moment [see inset].

Last summer, Slyer competed in Lake Placid again and won her age group (18- to 24-year-old women), which qualified her for the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, last October. The youngest competitor in the race, she finished in 11 hours, 17 minutes and 44 seconds, placing fourth in her division. Her goal is to again win her age group in Lake Placid this summer, which will be her fourth Ironman, so she can return to Kona Oct. 8.

A grueling competition, Ironman consists of a 2.4-mile open-water swim, followed immediately by a 112-mile bicycle ride, then a full 26.2-mile marathon. Competitors burn anywhere from 8,000 to 12,000 calories per race.



Julia Slyer set up a stationary bicycle trainer in her dorm room.

"I like to push myself and see how far I can go and how fast I can do it," Slyer says when asked why she would put herself through such torture. "It's almost like an addiction. Once you cross the finish line, it's the ultimate runner's high." The high can be short-lived, though. "Fifteen minutes later, you feel like you got hit by a truck. Three hours later, you feel like it's still running you over."

Her training regimen is intense, to say the least. She has a stationary bike set up in her dorm room so she can ride several hours a day. She swims three times a week with the UB Swim Club, and she runs on a treadmill. When the weather turns warm, everything shifts outside and her runs increase from eight miles to 20.

For Lake Placid this summer, she's focused on improving her time on the bike, her weakest event. "The last 20 to 30 miles of the bike is the hardest for

Slyer got this tattoo on her torso after her first Ironman.

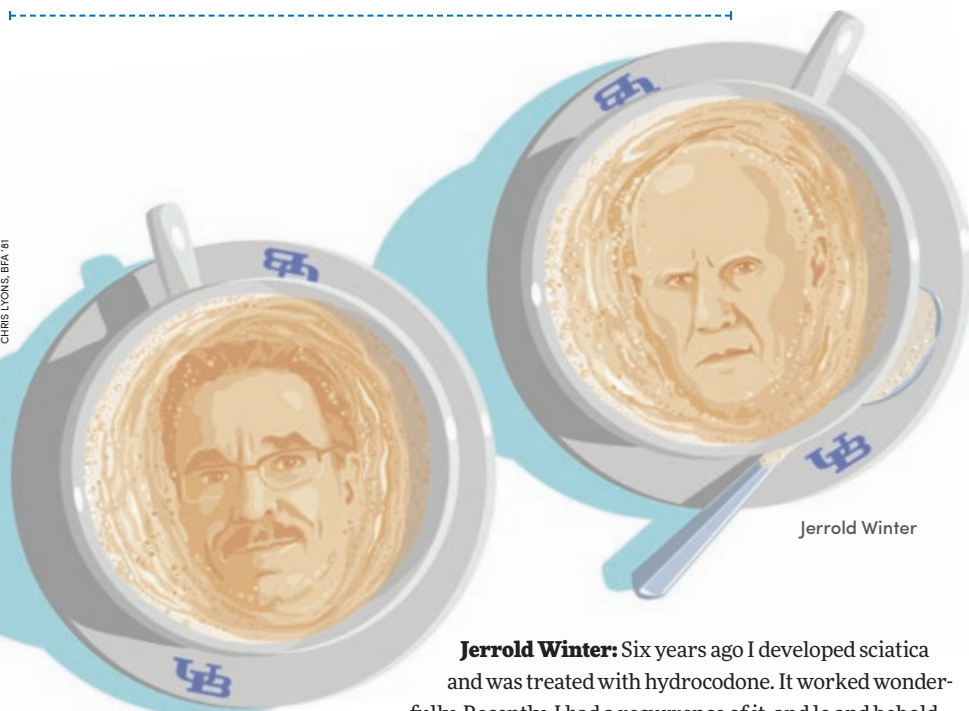


me," she says. "The swim is just over an hour. The run you're like, 'This is the last thing I have to do; it's just a marathon.' But that last hour on the bike, you're aching and you just want to get off of it."

To make things even more challenging, Ironman forbids the use of headphones, iPods and mobile phones. "I try to get songs stuck in my head," Slyer says. "I'll sing one line of the chorus over and over. I've ruined three songs that way."

And lest you think Slyer is taking time away from her studies to train, note that she's a triple major: pre-med, biology and psychology. "School comes first," she claims. "Then training. And then social life—if there's any time left." **B**

CHRIS LYONS, BFA '81



Richard Blondell

Jerrold Winter

Opiate painkillers: Can a balance be found?

Opioid addiction in the U.S. has reached epidemic proportions. It is widely believed that overprescription of opiate painkillers is a primary cause of the epidemic; on the other hand, many chronic pain sufferers depend on these drugs for relief. We asked Jerrold Winter (PhD '66), director of UB's behavioral pharmacology program, and Richard Blondell, an MD and professor in the department of family medicine who specializes in addiction, how a society can navigate the balance between pain management and the risk of addiction.

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

Jerrold Winter: Six years ago I developed sciatica and was treated with hydrocodone. It worked wonderfully. Recently, I had a recurrence of it, and lo and behold, when I left my physician's office, my prescription had been cut by two-thirds. That prompted me to write a letter to The Buffalo News, which basically expressed my personal view that there is a tendency to believe that addiction is going to be prevented or ameliorated by denying patients who need the drugs. But no addict will be saved by putting someone else in pain.

Richard Blondell: Like a lot of things, there's an upside and a downside. Fire cooks our food, but if you have burns over 90 percent of your body, it's not a good thing. When I was in training, I never wrote prescriptions for narcotics. If I had written one for more than 10 days, I would have gotten a call from the pharmacist asking what I was doing. So we probably underprescribed at that time. And now we're overprescribing. For the first time in decades, we have unintentional overdose deaths from drugs exceeding deaths from car accidents. So maybe there are some people undertreated for pain, but there are certainly a lot of people overtreated.

JW: I would like patients to have a precheck, like at the airport. I believe there are people who simply are not likely to become addicts, and yet every patient who walks into some doctors' offices is looked upon as a drug-seeker and potential addict. There are pill-seekers who do that, but there are also people who are never going to become addicted.

RB: How do you predict who's going to become addicted and who is not?

JW: If a patient says, "I'm depressed, or I have some other form of mental aberration. I'm unemployed. I have relatives who have had

problems with alcoholism," and so forth, then they are more likely to become addicts.

RB: Patients I see have few of those characteristics. They have jobs, they're educated, they have money, they haven't had

trouble with the law, but somehow they get prescribed into an addiction. The vast majority of my patients are like that.

JW: Do you believe what has been suggested by some, that more stringent regulations with opiates will drive people into the illicit market?

RB: We already do that now. You're familiar with I-STOP, the New York State prescription monitoring program. When those systems went into effect, people were cut from their supply of licit opioids. This did not go unnoticed by the businesspeople in the illicit drug market. Ahead of I-STOP, they actually shipped in extra heroin and fentanyl to New York and stockpiled it, because they were ready for the anticipated uptick in their market. Now, our political leaders are saying, "Oh, we didn't see this coming." If we're going to get our hands around this, we have to be smart.

JW: Are you suggesting the more stringent controls on prescriptions are doing more harm than good?

RB: It remains to be seen. It certainly has caused more problems in the short term, but in the long term we have to get our hands around overprescribing.

JW: Let me raise another issue. In various countries, like Portugal, the prevailing notion is: Let all the drugs be available, let people use them. They had a transient increase in some drug use, but that has settled down, and they had a decrease in the adverse effects of infection.

RB: Drugs have now so permeated society that they are widely available, but it's clear that if a drug is not available, people don't get addicted to it. When I was growing up, if I wanted to use heroin, I couldn't get it. You had to go into the inner city, in the impoverished neighborhood, etc. Now, you're 17 years old, you get your wisdom teeth out, and you leave the dentist's office with a prescription for 30 tablets of hydrocodone. You need maybe two, three, five max after a wisdom tooth. So you now have a 17-year-old with an extra 25 tablets of hydrocodone. No good can come from that.

JW: My fear is that we're going to swing too far the other way, and there are going to be countless people who, when their pain gets bad, they've got this opiate, which treats it, for many people miraculously, and we're going to say to them, "We're going to sacrifice you on the altar of stopping addiction."

RB: It's not a dichotomous decision, overprescribe or underprescribe. It's "prescribe smartly." If a patient has sciatica, write what is appropriate. If a patient comes in with a bogus complaint, don't write a prescription.

JW: We can't argue about that. That's perfectly reasonable.

How do you take your coffee?

Jerrold: Here's a pharmacological fact: Caffeine is not only a pleasurable stimulant, it can also induce physical dependence for which the withdrawal syndrome is headache. In any case, I'm not a coffee drinker.

Richard: Cream and sugar in the morning, black thereafter.

A Voice That Carries

Tiffany Du Mouchelle brings her special brand of operatic art to UB

Tiffany Du Mouchelle, head of UB's voice program.

By Ann Whitcher Gentzke » A big voice cascaded through the octaves, blending with computer sounds and percussion, to portray Clytemnestra, the tormented figure of Greek mythology, in a 21st-century work by Roger Reynolds. At her faculty recital in March, soprano Tiffany Du Mouchelle stunned the audience with her vocal pyrotechnics and dramatic expressiveness.


In addition to exceptional talent, Du Mouchelle, a new adjunct assistant professor of music at UB and head of the voice program, possesses a rare versatility. She performs in genres ranging from classical opera to cabaret, has sung in 35 languages and is fearless in premiering challenging new-music compositions.

"With contemporary music, I can collaborate with the people who are creating the scores," says the 36-year-old recipient of the Richard F. Gold Career Grant for American Opera Singers. "I love being able to explore something I've never heard recorded."

To hear an audio clip,
go to [buffalo.edu/
atbuffalo](http://buffalo.edu/atbuffalo).

Collaboration is important to Du Mouchelle. Seven years ago, just as she was finishing her master's degree, her mother needed a new kidney. A perfect match, Du Mouchelle went forward with the surgery despite the risk that it could affect her voice. It didn't, but the experience affected her greatly, helping her realize she was more interested in connecting and interacting with others than pursuing a solo career on the road.

In addition to her teaching duties and a rigorous performance schedule, Du Mouchelle is active in Cultures in Harmony (CiH), a nonprofit organization that encourages multicultural interaction through music. Through CiH, she has performed and taught in Cameroon, Egypt, Papua New Guinea and Tunisia.

"We need perspective about who it is that we are as people, and what it is that we're doing with our lives," she says of her wildly diverse musical projects. "Music can be a voice for that." 



TWEETABLE: After his @UBDSS lecture, actor @KevinSpacey viewed #UBuffalo Poetry Collection's #Shakespeare Folios and #JamesJoyce manuscripts.

Poetry in Motion

UB celebrates 25 years of literary innovation, and looks ahead to the next quarter-century

By Michael Flatt and Lauren Newkirk Maynard

Writing, for the most part, is seen as a solitary pursuit. So it was remarkable when nearly 250 poets, graduate students, professors and alumni swept onto campus April 9-10, as the community built by UB's legendary Poetics Program came together for a conference to celebrate its silver anniversary.

The Poetics Program was founded in 1991 by UB faculty Robert Creeley, Susan Howe, Dennis Tedlock, Charles Bernstein and Raymond Federman—renowned poets all. Together, they composed a manifesto of sorts that gave voice to “an extraordinary concentration of interest in poetics that makes UB unique among literature departments in North America.” From this document came the program’s guiding principle: that literary artists—not strictly academics—should

Below: Robert Creeley (left) was a beloved teacher, mentor and colleague to many at UB. Right: Susan Howe revolutionized poetry criticism.

teach not only the art of writing, but also the theories behind it.

“The Poetics Program was a way of formalizing what was already an extremely active and innovative writing scene at UB,” says Cristanne Miller, chair of the English department. Of the founders, she adds, “This group wanted an interdisciplinary approach to literary, cultural and textual studies that enabled them to focus collectively on creative and critical activity within the process of learning, thinking and writing.”

Housed within the English department, the Poetics Program offers undergraduate courses and graduate seminars in such subjects as the poetics of translation, the history of the book and ethnopoetics, which considers poetry within the context of ethnic and regional linguistic questions. A vibrant

academic and social calendar grew around the program, including lectures, readings and access to avant-garde poets, writers and faculty—among them Lyn Hejinian, Ed Dorn and M. NourbeSe Philip.

Since its early days, the program also has supported an impressive number of student and faculty publications, from poetry magazines and chapbooks to small presses, which can be found along with the one-of-a-kind manuscripts in UB’s Poetry Collection. It also helped create the Electronic Poetry Center, a vast digital repository of information on postwar and contemporary American poetry.

The Poetics Program is a groundbreaking example of interdisciplinary study at UB. Most important, says Miller, it plays a major role in shaping contemporary poetry’s future. Indeed, this was the core issue at the conference. Through small-group seminars and panel discussions mixed with public poetry readings, the event drew thinkers and writers from around the world who make poetry, study it, and represent its current and future audiences. **B**



Left: A Poetics collaboration from 2009. Below: “Daylight on the Wires” (2006) by Eli Drabman (PhD ’13, MA ’09).



“The Poetics Program was a way of formalizing what was already an extremely active and innovative writing scene at UB.” Cristanne Miller, chair, Department of English



Words for Bob Nathaniel Mackey, one of the country’s most accomplished living writers, gave the inaugural “Robert Creeley Lecture and Celebration of Poetry” at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery on April 8. Established by the English department and

endowed by an anonymous \$25,000 donation, the annual lecture honors Robert “Bob” Creeley (1926–2005), a former SUNY Distinguished Professor and author of more than 60 books of poetry and criticism.

Stoking an Artistic Climate

A UB power couple creates a legacy to help future creative arts students



By *Mary Cochrane* » Bruce Jackson's mother, Julia, was one of 13 siblings their immigrant parents could not afford to send to college. A poet, Julia instilled a love for learning in her son.

"She took me to the library every Saturday, and there were piano and music lessons the family could ill-afford but which we had because she thought music was necessary," he recalls. "She delighted in every one of my books. I doubt my career would have taken the trajectory it did had it not been for her encouragement and support."

Jackson's wife, Diane Christian, remembers her mother, Ruth Curran, as someone who "loved learning and the arts and young people." A Latin major and middle-school teacher, "she disciplined by liveliness and humor," Christian adds.

That love for the arts and literature lived on in Jackson and Christian, both SUNY Distinguished Professors and one of UB's enduring faculty couples. They recently added a new distinction to their multifaceted careers (Jackson is a writer, photographer and filmmaker; Christian, a poet, author and religious scholar)—that of philanthropists.

The pair has pledged a \$1 million bequest in their mothers' names to support undergraduate and graduate studies in creative and performing arts at UB, through the Julia Jackson Scholarship in the Creative Arts and the Ruth Christian Graduate Fellowship in the Arts.

Christian said they made the commitment "to stoke the artistic climate at UB," invigorated last year by the new Creative Arts Initiative (CAI), which Jackson co-designed and co-directs with SUNY Distinguished Professor David Felder.

CAI hosts world-class artists and performers at the university, such as Ensemble Signal, a new-music supergroup that held the program's first residency at UB during the spring semester. UB is contributing \$1 million for the program over a four-year period "to try to bring some of the fire back," Jackson says, and help revive what he recalls as "a superb scene in the creative and performing arts."

"Our bequest gift was, in part, inspired by CAI," says Jackson. "We thought that if the university put money into bringing accomplished artists to town, there should be money to bring promising students in the arts here too." 🗨



Dennis Black (JD '81),
vice president, University
Life and Services

"Alexander Hamilton," by Ron Chernow

"Given the success of the Broadway musical, I am rereading the source material. It's a combination of biography and history, focused on the earliest years of the nation and one of its key, but under-recognized, founders. Was Washington's aide-de-camp—and the first treasury secretary—motivated by the hardships from his illegitimate birth, or by self-interest, or by passionate patriotism? The book considers turbulent times in forming America and one American's life, from his Caribbean childhood to his death by duel."

UB Bookshelf

WHAT WE'RE WRITING

Empowering Families: Practical Ways to Involve Parents in Boosting Literacy

Judy Bradbury (EdM '78) and
Susan E. Busch (EdM '79)

Using their background in education, authors Bradbury and Busch have created a comprehensive handbook promoting early childhood literacy. Full of step-by-step plans and handouts, it encourages parents to become more involved in their children's academic growth. (Routledge, 2015)

Trespassing Across America: One Man's Epic, Never-Done-Before (and Sort of Illegal) Hike Across the Heartland

Ken Ilgunas (BA '06)

In his second memoir about wanderlust, self-discovery and resilience, Ilgunas ("Walden on Wheels") describes his 1,700-mile trek as he alternately hikes and hitchhikes the proposed route of the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline, from Canada to the Gulf Coast of Texas. While enduring physical and mental hardships, he also confronts the realities of global warming and mankind's responsibility to a changing world. (Blue Rider Press, 2016)

Path to the Institution: The New York State Asylum for Idiots

Thomas E. Stearns (BA '10)

Stearns looks back at the history of the New York State Asylum for Idiots (yes, its real name), an experimental institution established in Albany in 1851 that served individuals with intellectual disabilities for 147 years. Published by The Museum of disABILITY History in Buffalo, a project of People Inc., the book documents the school's development and influential figures, and is illustrated with rare, previously unpublished photographs. (People Ink Press, 2014)

Ghost Road

Betsy Sterman (MA '53,
BA '48)

After a strange turn of events, two boys, Jason and Chazz, are transported to the pre-Civil War era and immediately thrust into danger when they encounter Jem, a runaway slave. In this time-travel tale, Sterman shines a light on America's deep-seated legacy of slavery and the virtues of friendship and loyalty. (CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2014)

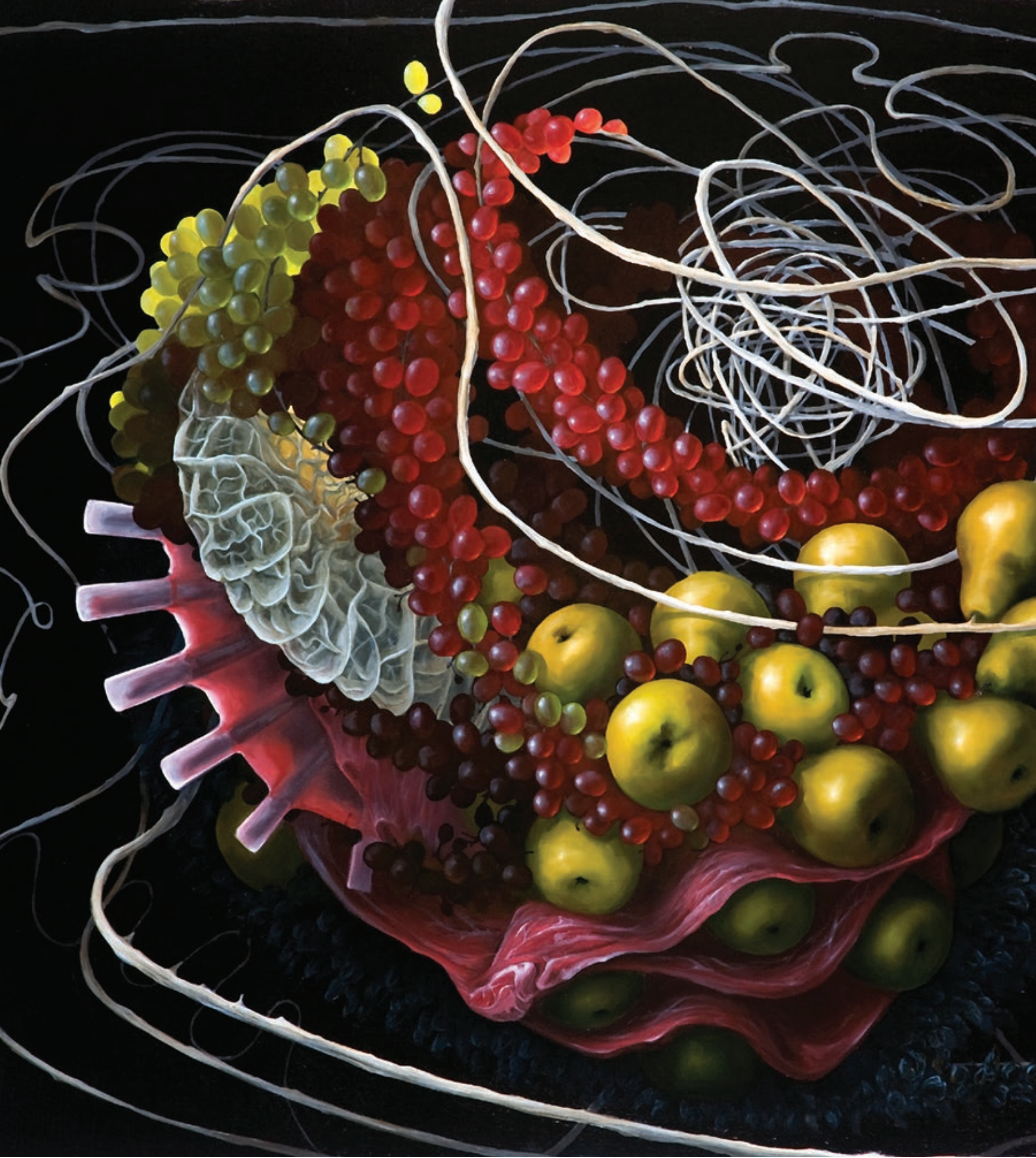
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f ood *for* thought

“WE ARE WHAT WE EAT” TAKES ON NEW MEANING IN MIA BROWNELL’S ART

Story by Rebecca Rudell

Whether we’re debating the use of pesticides, or genetically modified foods, or grass-fed versus corn-fed meat, it seems that everyone these days is thinking about what we put in our stomachs. Artist Mia Brownell (MFA ’95) is no exception.

“Food is the most profound relationship we have with nature,” says Brownell. “It’s an intersection with most things, so it’s a perpetual theme of inspiration for me.” Her work focuses not only on the innate beauty of food, but also on the undeniable fact that much of what people eat today is churned through the industrial food complex first.

The vibrant helices so prevalent in her work hint at what happens to a pear (for example) before it hits our plates—when its chromosomal architecture is

manipulated or it is doused with insecticides—and after it ends up in our bodies, when it merges with our own genetic material. Her work is stunning, but also slightly terrifying. And while Brownell’s critique of the food industry is subtle in its depiction, she is not afraid to name names, as titles like “Still Life with Roundup Ready” make clear.

*Still Life with
Gastric Peptide*
2010
Oil on canvas
30 x 36 inches
Private collection,
Boston, Mass.

CONTINUED



Brownell's influences are many. The daughter of a sculptor, Nancy Schulson Brownell, and a renowned biophysicist, William E. Brownell, she is also a devout pupil of 17th-century still-life artists, who were similarly inspired by scientific principles and discoveries of their day. "The science of vision flourished within 17th-century culture, with the invention of the modern microscope and camera obscura," she says. "The techniques of these artists established the language and conventions that I'm trying to manipulate in my current work."

In terms of subject matter, she is intrigued by DNA and proteins—the building blocks of food and life. "Proteins move and spiral and fold unto themselves. That movement is something I try to capture in my paintings," she says. Her work begins with abstract, gestural lines. Some become twisted vines that lead the eye through the painting, others transform into strands of buzzing bees, and still others become luscious swirls thick with ripe fruit. But all of her work touches on the complicated relationship we have with food.

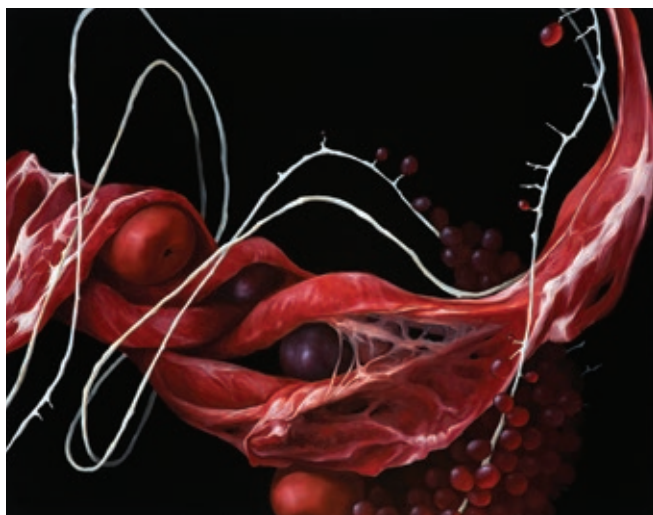
CONTINUED



Mia Brownell in her studio.

Still Life with Double Helix
2007
Oil on canvas
42 x 32 inches
Private collection,
Boston, Mass.

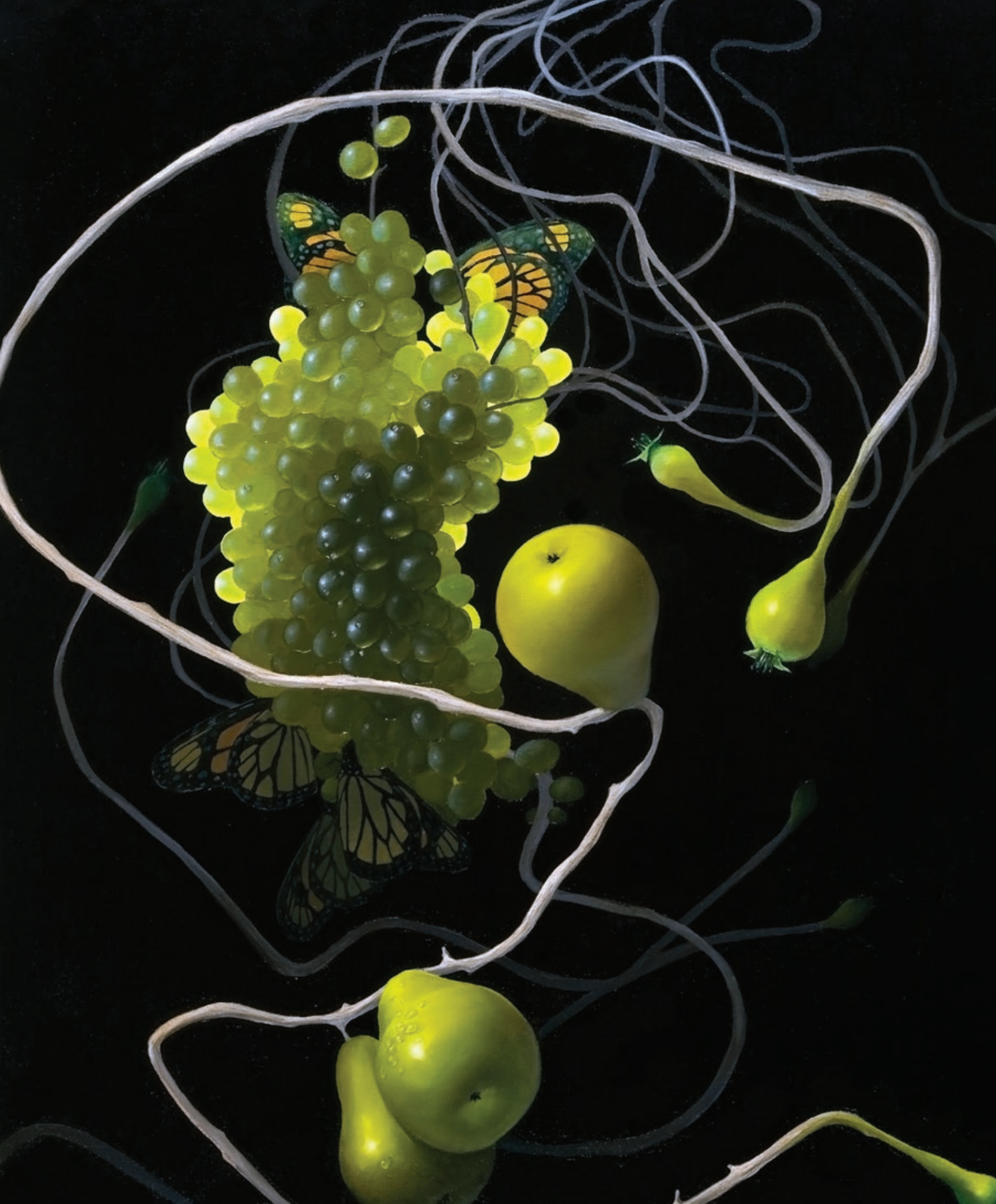
“PROTEINS MOVE AND *spiral* AND *fold* UNTO THEMSELVES. THAT MOVEMENT IS SOMETHING I TRY TO CAPTURE IN MY PAINTINGS.”



Still Life with Cell Signal
2010
Oil on canvas
16 x 20 inches
Private collection, Houston, Texas



Still Life with Apricot and Pear
2010
Oil on canvas
8 x 10 inches
Private collection, New York, N.Y.





Opposite page:
Still Life with Lost Migration
2012
Oil on canvas
24 x 20 inches
Private collection,
London, U.K.

Far left:
Still Life with Poppy
2011
Oil on canvas
10 x 10 inches
Private collection,
New York, N.Y.

Left:
Still Life with Meat Flower
2010
Oil on canvas
10 x 10 inches
Private collection,
New York, N.Y.

“I’M FASCINATED BY THE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE ASPECTS OF *food* AND *science*, AND I THINK MY PAINTINGS TAP INTO THAT POLARITY.”

Brownell’s paintings have been exhibited in solo shows throughout the U.S. and included in more than 130 group exhibitions worldwide. They belong to several private and public art collections, including that of the National Academy of Sciences. In addition to her personal work, she is on the faculty at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, where she teaches painting and drawing. She credits UB—where she stayed on after receiving her MFA, first with a teaching fellowship and then as an adjunct professor—for preparing her for both roles: as an artist and as a teacher. She also met her husband, artist Martin Kruck (MFA ’95), when she was a student at UB.

Brownell’s newest works, currently on exhibit at Bert Green Fine Art in Chicago, continue her investigation of food, genetics and the impact corporations have on what we eat. She hopes that her art becomes part of a greater conversation about what happens to our food when it’s not farm-to-table. “I’m fascinated by the visible and invisible aspects of food and science, and I think my paintings tap into that polarity,” she says. At the same time, she hopes that people will find pleasure and beauty in her work.

To be sure, Brownell’s paintings make us hungry—both for food, and for knowledge about the process it goes through before reaching our mouths. 🍴

Rebecca Rudell is a contributing writer for *At Buffalo*.



Still Life with Lost Pollinators II
2014
Oil on canvas
36 x 24 inches
Private collection, New York, N.Y.



Our HERO in Flint

Story by Tom Nugent and Laura Silverman

Photographs by Logan Wallace

When civil engineer **Marc Edwards (BS '86)** warned Michigan state officials and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that lead-contaminated drinking water was poisoning the children of Flint, he expected them to declare an emergency. Instead, the regulators insisted there was no cause for alarm. That's when Edwards, now frequently described as "The Hero of Flint," realized he would have to take matters into his own hands.

Marc Edwards by the Flint River in downtown Flint, Mich.

IT BEGAN QUIETLY enough one day in April 2015, when civil engineering professor Marc Edwards' phone rang at his office on the campus of Virginia Tech.

But this wasn't a standard call about pipe leaks or sewage treatment methods. The call was from LeeAnne Walters, a stay-at-home mother of four in Flint, Mich. Edwards, 52, listened carefully as Walters described brownish tap water that smelled terrible; family members with thinning hair, rashes and abdominal pain; and frustrating assurances from state and local officials—whom she had repeatedly notified about her troubling water—that it was safe.

"Oh no," Edwards recalls thinking. "Here we go again."

About a decade earlier, Edwards began his rise to national recognition when he discovered that

the water supply in Washington, D.C., was contaminated with lead from corroded pipes, and that thousands of children were ingesting the potent neurotoxin. Edwards reported his findings to the authorities, including the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), but nothing happened. In fact, the CDC issued a report downplaying the health risk. So Edwards spent the next six years and thousands of dollars of his own money (including a \$500,000 MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant" he won in 2007) working to expose the truth and the surrounding cover-up. Finally, in 2010, a congressional hearing concluded that the CDC report was "scientifically indefensible." The public was outraged, and Edwards' reputation as a dogged researcher willing to take on some of the country's most entrenched and powerful regulatory agencies was sealed.

CONTINUED

EDWARDS GREW UP in and around Ripley, N.Y., a speck of a farm town on Lake Erie about 70 miles southwest of Buffalo. The son of a schoolteacher and a stay-at-home mom, he attended a one-building K-12 country school; as a teenager, he worked in the fields alongside immigrant farmhands. These humble beginnings, he says, were instrumental in giving him the values that guide him today.

“Ripley was a poor but amazing place. As a kid growing up there, you felt lucky to get a job with the immigrant laborers in the grape vineyards. You worked all day with them, and you were happy that someone was paying you a farm minimum wage.

“When you grow up that way,” he says, “you never consider looking down on poor people. How could you? You’d be looking down on yourself.”

Arriving at UB in 1982, Edwards decided to take on a “huge challenge”: majoring in biophysics. “At that time, it was the most rigorous science program at the school,” he says. “You had to take, essentially, three years of physics, mathematics, biology and chemistry. You were totally immersed in science, and it was very tough. But I also had some wonderful science teachers, both in college and in high school, and that was very humbling. I try to live up to their example every day.”

Having learned, as he puts it, “to worship at the altar of science,” Edwards went on to earn a PhD in environmental engineering at the University of Washington, then spent several years teaching at the University of Colorado Boulder before joining the faculty of Virginia Tech’s civil and environmental engineering department in 1997.

What followed, he says, was a busy period of teaching and research, during which time he remained “incredibly naïve” about how science can be used to justify decision-making that can adversely

impact the public. “You’re on this treadmill where everything is about getting money from research grants, getting publications, and if you aren’t careful, you can lose yourself completely and forget that science is supposed to be about advancing the public good.”

But Edwards was spared that fate—if painfully—when he became embroiled in the Washington, D.C., water crisis during the mid-2000s. While researching pinhole leaks in copper plumbing systems around the country, he was contacted by a group of D.C. homeowners who wanted him to check their pipes. Having heard of occasional problems with lead in the District’s water supply, Edwards decided to test it, and discovered a much bigger problem than he had anticipated. Many of the samples he collected contained enough lead particles to be legally classified as hazardous waste, capable of causing devastating injuries to the developing brains of children.

Edwards reported his findings to the appropriate authorities (the CDC, the EPA and the D.C. water authority). A father of two himself—his kids were 2 and 4 years old at the time—he was sure the agencies would alert the public and begin working to fix the problem. Instead, the CDC issued its false report, while the water authority, which had been supporting Edwards’ research, withdrew its funding, and the EPA discontinued its subcontract with him.

Isolated but determined, Edwards continued his research, paying graduate students out of his own pocket. The Washington Post began reporting on the story, which led to political intervention, and, eventually, the congressional hearing which affirmed that the CDC had misled the public about the health risk. Based on Edwards’ research, the District’s hazardous water-supply system was

treated with an anti-corrosive chemical that fixed the problem.

Edwards was vindicated, but the effort took a significant toll on his finances and his health. He lost significant weight and at one point was hospitalized for stress. At the same time, he underwent a remarkable inner conversion, in which he began to study the humanities as a way of countering, as he explains it, the “dehumanization” that can overtake “well-intentioned scientists who fall prey to the deadening impact of relying on reason and nothing else.”

“When that happens,” he says, “human beings can become mere data on a page of scientific research. And history shows us that terrible things can take place when ‘bad science’ is allowed to shape policies and decisions affecting the public good.”

INDEED, THERE HE WAS, on the phone that fateful day in April, possibly hearing yet another example of “bad science” shaping misguided policy. After listening to Walters’ story, Edwards talked her through how to take water samples and had her overnight them to him. The lead content in one sample was 13,200 parts per billion (ppb)—much higher than anything he had seen in D.C. The maximum concentration allowed by law is 15 ppb. Five thousand ppb is considered by the EPA to be hazardous waste.

He alerted the EPA, hoping it had learned its lesson. One employee took the problem seriously, sending a memo to the agency’s upper administrators outlining the danger to Flint’s population and requesting that the EPA exert emergency powers to take over the system. But the agency failed to take action. That’s when Edwards formed a team of student researchers and, as he reported to The Washington Post the following January, decided to “go all in for Flint.”



A spillway along the Flint River.



Edwards examines a length of pipe that supplied the home of Flint resident Elnora Carthan.



Flint water and pipes collected by Edwards’ research team.

Edwards worked tirelessly, and without compensation, for more than a year, spending roughly \$150,000 of his own money and driving back and forth to Flint, where he sometimes slept on Walters' living room sofa. He and his team analyzed hundreds of samples of the city's tainted drinking water and mounted a publicity campaign (including setting up a website) to alert the public, news media and political leaders as to what they were finding.

What were they finding? That the toxic water flowing from Walters' tap was not an isolated case, as the officials had told her. Elevated lead levels were pervasive throughout the city—in houses, offices, day care centers, schools. When Flint pediatrician Mona Hanna-Attisha got wind of the data Edwards was compiling, she began systematically testing lead in children's blood—and finding levels as high as 38 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL), or more than seven times the CDC threshold of 5 µg/dL. Any exposure to lead can be harmful to children; high exposure can be catastrophic, with effects including cognitive impairment, neurological disorders, developmental delays and hearing loss. Though there are medications to reduce blood lead levels, any damage that has already occurred is believed to be irreversible.

As he was learning the deep, dark truths about Flint's water, Edwards was simultaneously filing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for documents to see what state and federal officials knew, and when. It turns out they were well aware of how toxic the city's drinking water was, for at least several months before admitting it to the public.

THE WATER CRISIS in the southeast Michigan municipality of about 100,000 began in April of 2014. At that time, a state-appointed emer-

gency manager, hired to supervise the financial affairs of the fiscally insolvent city, decided to cut costs by switching its water source from Lake Huron (Detroit's water system) to the Flint River. But for some reason that is still unclear, the city never treated the much more corrosive river water with the chemicals necessary to prevent contamination from lead pipes—nor did the state require it to do so—despite a federal law mandating that all cities have a corrosion control plan. Untreated, the corrosive water quickly began to leach away lead from the city's aging service lines.

Over the next 14 months, as documents later revealed, repeated analysis of the water by state and local officials showed that lead levels were rising. By early 2015, residents were filing complaints about water that looked, smelled and tasted funky, and children who were suffering from rashes and mysterious illnesses. In June 2015, the EPA employee mentioned above wrote his memo, citing Edwards' early findings and requesting intervention. The EPA didn't intervene, and after the memo leaked, state and local officials continued to assure the public the water was safe, dismissing the elevated lead level reports in the memo as isolated incidences. In July, the mayor of Flint famously drank a cup of tap water on television to prove its harmlessness.

It wasn't until October—months after Edwards' first reports and a few weeks after Hanna-Attisha released the results of her investigation—that officials acknowledged the problem publicly. Soon after, the governor appropriated \$9.35 million to reconnect the city to Detroit's water system and provide health services to residents. In January, he declared a state of emergency, and in February, with the help of federal funds, the city began replacing lead-contaminated pipes throughout the city.

But the story in Flint is far from over. While there has been some justice—a task force was appointed, many officials lost their jobs, some are facing criminal prosecution, and more than a dozen lawsuits, including several class action suits, have been filed—city residents continue to live a nightmare. It's been reported that up to 12,000 children may have been affected by lead poisoning; it could be years before parents understand the full extent of their injuries. And though not conclusively linked to the water system, an outbreak of Legionnaire's disease that began when the water source changed has sickened 91 people and taken 12 lives. In the meantime, the people of Flint still can't drink water from their taps, and given their utter lack of trust in government, possibly never will. A recent New York Times story documented the profound fear, guilt and depression that many residents are suffering in the aftermath of such prolonged and systemic betrayal.

All that said, there is no question the story would have taken an even more horrific turn had it not been for Edwards. He is a hero in Flint, and is increasingly recognized throughout the country for his courage and moral integrity. In April, Time magazine named Edwards and Hanna-Attisha to its annual "100 Most Influential People" list for being "right, brave and insistent."

But Edwards doesn't do it for the glory. In fact, if he had it his way, he wouldn't be doing it at all. "I actually don't like the activist route I've been forced to take," he says. "But if science is failing to do its job, then you have to take the struggle to the next level. Because that's the only way to protect the kids." **B**

Tom Nugent is a freelance writer who lives near Flint, Mich. Laura Silverman is the editorial director of At Buffalo.



Edwards talks with Flint resident Lewis Spears, who participated in his water study.



Edwards gets under the sink to check Elnora Carthan's plumbing.

Moderated by Jessica Kane (MA '13)

Photographs by Douglas Levere

culture klatch

M

ORE THAN 5,000 UB students hail from places other than the United States. We invited three of them to Parkside Candy for ice cream and a freewheeling conversation about their experiences in America and at UB.

Jessica: What were some of your first impressions of the United States?

Dev: I came in two days before orientation and the campus was dead! Then in two days suddenly it was so full that I was intimidated for a second. I was like, "I can't live here. It's too much!" [laughing] But then everything settled down after that.

Paula: I flew to LA and I come from a much smaller place so it was kind of the other way around. I took a subway and it was so many people and there were so many accents. I was like, "I'm supposed to understand English, but I'm in this country for an hour and I don't understand anything!"

Jessica: So would you say that your impressions of how English was spoken were different from how you learned it?

Dev: Oh, completely!

Jin: In Korea, we are using it more like, for the test. We just memorize the words, but we are not really using for daily basis. So when I came here it

becomes like reality, you need to communicate.

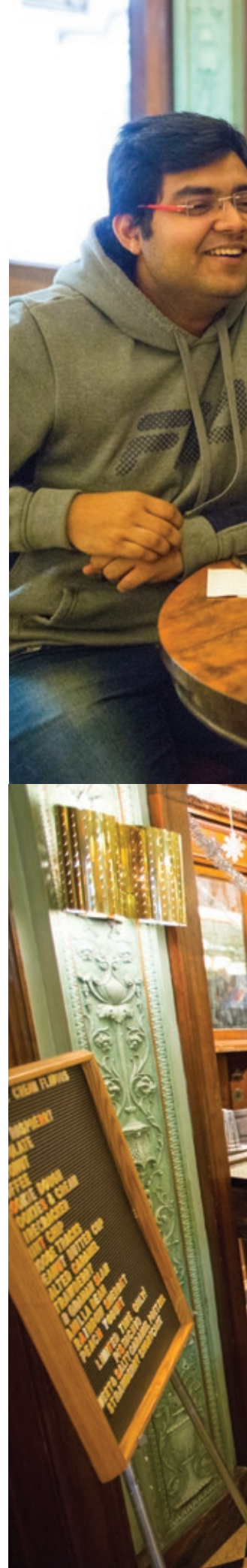
Jessica: What do you think has been the hardest to adapt to in terms of American culture—just daily life and the world around you?

Paula: What I really struggle to get used to is how to get around. Public transportation is, like, non-existent. I'm not used to planning hours before to get somewhere. It's just like a practical thing, but it really influences everyday life.

Jin: I think [daily life here] is much easier. The life in Korea is very packed in, everything is supposed to be on time and fast, fast, fast. People say, "Palli, palli, palli" (quick, quick, quick). But here you guys have, like, some free time to finish. And people go home really early after work. In Korea we have the culture that people stay together even after the work, eating together and the drinking culture as well.

Dev: The one major thing I was not expecting to run into, and it takes mental preparation to get into, is people are so open about everything.

Parkside's famous sponge candy.



CONTINUED



Our panelists:

LEFT TO RIGHT

Devashish “Dev” Agarwal

COMPUTER SCIENCE BS ('18)
Agra, India

Paula Elksne

JOINT DEGREE BACHELOR'S
PROGRAM WITH RIGA
BUSINESS SCHOOL ('16)
Staburags, Latvia

Jin Kim

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING BS ('17)
Seoul, South Korea



Decision-time at the ice-cream counter. Dev chose strawberry, Paula ordered salted caramel and Jin, pistachio.

Paula: That's true.

Dev: You can start a conversation about the most awkward topics. In India if you just start talking about dating with girls, people pull back. But here you can sit down and tell everyone, "I don't understand how this works." And it may be an awkward conversation but they don't take it in the wrong sense.

Jin: They're pretty receptive.

Dev: They're ready to have a conversation. It's kind of sometimes uncomfortable too, like, Give me one second, is that really what you're saying? Are we actually having that talk? [laughing]

Jessica: Paula, being from Europe do you have the same perception?

Paula: A bit. I feel it's easy to start a conversation with everyone. You wait in a line and you're like, "Oh, how are you doing? Where are you from?" It's easy to make friends, or at least acquaintances. That definitely is different.

Jessica: Are there things here in the U.S. that still kind of confuse you—things people do that even though you know it's something people do, you're still like, "Why do people here do that?"

Dev: The most common thing is, if you pass someone, say in a hallway, it's like, "Hey, hello, how's it going?" And "how's it going" doesn't need an answer. [laughing]

Jin: That's true, that's true!

Dev: You say "Hey what's up?" and then you just walk off!

Paula: That's very confusing, I agree. I'm always like, Why do you even ask? Just say, "Hi!" Also, I don't understand why pizza is such a big thing; it's everywhere.

Jessica: What?

Paula: Pizza. Like for all student association events, it's always free pizza and I'm like, How is that a thing?! [laughing] Why is that so important?



Dev: The first week of orientation we had pizza for, like, five days on a stretch and then I didn't eat pizza for the whole semester because I was so tired. I go back home, I'm in India for the second day, and my friend says, "Hey, Devashish, I'm celebrating my birthday and we're meeting at Pizza Hut." And I'm like, "I'm not coming. I'm done." [laughing] We literally changed the venue because I was like, "I'm not eating pizza anymore!"

Jin: What about when people cough and say, "Bless you."

Dev: When they sneeze, yes. I don't know why they care so much.

Jessica: It's a very old tradition. They thought your soul left your body when you sneezed.

Dev: And people are so concerned. You're in a class and somebody from the back shouts, "Bless you!" Even the professor says, "Bless you."

Jin: In the middle of a lecture! For me, another weird thing. Here in United States we call out the name directly, whether he's older or younger. In Korea we have another word for older people and younger people.

Dev: Yeah, yeah. And professors. You don't know what some professors prefer to go by, Dr. or by their first name. There's a professor in the computer science department that corrects me. I was like, "Professor Rudra" and he says, "No, Atri."

And I say, "Professor Rudra" and he says, "Atri." I'm not used to this.

Jin: In Korea it's impossible. That's very dishonoring.

Paula: For us we have it in the language: "you." I would use one kind of "you" for you two [Dev and Jin] and a different "you" for you [Jessica].

Jessica: That says something about our culture, right? That we don't have two "yous."

Paula: I like that, because it's usually awkward when you switch from the one "you" to the other "you."

Jessica: What do you think is the biggest difference between living in the U.S. and living in your home country?

Dev: The greatest difference for me is the relaxed environment. I went to a Catholic high school so we had a strict uniform dress code. We were always dressed up. And even when you go to college in India there's a uniform that you have to wear, like a special colored shirt or polo and you have to wear trousers, you can't wear jeans. Here, you can walk around in sweatpants.

Paula: I think it's also interesting, from a UB perspective, that you meet so many people from so many places. Once you've been taken out of your culture and put into a mix of others it's kind of really cool to just see where you stand yourself. I think you realize what's important for you from your country, and what you like here. You make new friends and you realize, "Oh, why did I make friends with that person?" Because there are so many people and no one really expects anything from you. It's like starting a life over, kind of.

Jessica: What do you wish people knew about international students? What do you think their misconceptions might be?

Dev: In my personal experience, people started asking me questions like, "Do you guys actually eat curry all the time?" [laughing] But at the same time that was the question they asked me after three months. They are super sensitive here, so they think ten times before they speak just so they don't offend you. I sometimes feel that just because we are international doesn't mean we don't enjoy humor or poking fun at each other. I don't think international students generally mind if a stereotypical question is asked of them, unless it's ethnically offensive.

"If you pass someone in a hallway, it's like, 'Hey, how's it going?' And 'how's it going' doesn't need an answer. You just walk off!"



Paula: You kind of expect them. People always ask me, “Are you Russian?” and I’m like, “No. It’s fine.” I can’t get offended because I don’t know all countries everywhere. So I think people need to realize that it’s sometimes fine. If we come here, we are open. We expect to have these experiences.

Dev: International students are chill. [laughing]

Jessica: Let’s talk a little bit about Buffalo specifically. What were your impressions of Buffalo as a city?

Jin: When I say to my friends that I’m coming to UB, one or two of them had visited before and they say, “Why do you go there? It’s super cold during winter.” [laughing] I was like, “Well, I think I could survive.” When I came it was around August. It was a sunny day, but the wind was super strong! So as I’m walking, even though it’s sunny, the sun is so hot, it’s still cold because of the wind. So I could kind of imagine how the snow wind will be like.

Jessica: Jin, I’m assuming you experienced winter before you came here.

Jin: Oh, yeah.

Jessica: I know you have, Paula. How about you, Dev?

Dev: Never! The worst I had ever seen is, like, 32 degrees Fahrenheit and that’s when people start dying in my city. [laughing] Then here, it’s negative and fine!

Paula: I think that Buffalo is bipolar. It was so nice two weekends ago...

Dev: Since last Sunday it has been different weather every single day.

Paula: Yeah, I feel like I’m a grandma checking weather every day. I never did that and now I’m like, “I need to check the weather before I leave!”

Dev: If you look out the window it’s sunny but if you look at the temperature it’s below zero! So if you just look outside, you walk outside and you freeze.

Paula: It’s not good.

Dev: But it was fun when it was the snowstorm outside and UB got canceled. Me and my friend, she was from Seattle, so she hadn’t seen snow either. So we just wore like three layers, went out in Governors where they have the hill and were rolling down the hill in snow! I sent that video to my mom and dad and I got seven different phone calls in one day. First my mom calls, like, “Are you out of your freaking mind?” And then my dad calls me: “Do you want to die or anything?” And then my grandfather

CONTINUED



While Jessica has a laugh with the students, baby Aurelia eyes the sundaes.



calls: "It's only been a few weeks. What are you trying to do to yourself?" And then my uncle calls from Singapore, and he's like, "What are you doing?" My cousin calls from Georgia: "Are you crazy?" [laughing]

Jin: They are very active!

Paula: Buffalo is something else. I come from a place where it snows but it's not like here. It gets really cold in Latvia but it's gradual. It snows a bit and then it accumulates a bit but here it's like, it decides to snow and it snows for two days. [laughing]

Jin: One more expectation before I come to Buffalo was that I thought I would be seeing more buffalos.

Jessica: The animal?

Dev: Oh! [laughing]

Jin: The place's name is Buffalo! I even didn't know about the Buffalo wing, the salty and a little bit spicy sauce, I didn't know that was from here. And that it's good to eat! The first time it's very salty and...

Dev: It's very different. Vinegary.

Jin: But then, little by little, you get used to it and then when we leave Buffalo, we will say, "This sauce is from the area that I was studying from!" [laughing]

Dev: Also they say that Buffalo hot sauce is really, really hot. It's nothing compared to the Asian spices that we [speaking to Jin] eat.

Jin: Maybe. I didn't try the very hot. I don't really enjoy spicy food.

Dev: I love spicy food. I came here and I was like, "Yeah, I'll eat hot wings," and then I was like, "Oh, no. I'm used to more. Come on, Buffalo, you can do better!"

Jessica: So you guys have all traveled around the country too. What were your impressions of the

other places you've been, or the U.S. as a whole?

Jin: It's like, "Wow, this country is really big!" All the different cities, and then the weather diversity as well.

Paula: Just going from state to state is like going from country to country in Europe. That's just so interesting how the culture changes. Like from Buffalo to New York City, it's two different worlds, and you just have that choice and an 8-hour drive. It's still the same language, the same country, your family is still relatively close and you just have that huge difference in lifestyle. I think it's so awesome, and I think that people who are born here sometimes don't appreciate it enough.

Jessica: Do you feel like living here has changed you as a person, and if so, in what way?

Dev: The most interesting change that I have seen is in the attitude of my parents. When I was back in India, my parents were always a little over-protective of me. If I'm out with my friends after 7 p.m., my mom will call at 7 exactly: "Devashish, when are you coming back home?" Then I'm here, 5:30 in the morning at Niagara Falls, I just call my mom and I say, "Hey, I'm at Niagara Falls." And she's like, "Oh, cool, nice!" And things like ... I make my own decisions. I've started talking to my parents about the decisions *they* make. You know I call them up and my dad says, "I was thinking about doing this. What do you think?" Now suddenly I am giving my opinion on the big things that I never even knew were happening. And then once you're here and start doing your own stuff, it kind of gives you practical exposure. So when you go back to India, you have ideas about things. My dad's friend was looking into expanding his business and because of the small things that I have done here I just went with him and suggested a few things that he could do to expand his business and they worked. So this life has made me a little more professional in my approaches.

Jessica: Do you think part of that comes from the fact that you decided to study in the U.S. as opposed to just being older and going to college?

Dev: Yeah. I think had I not come to U.S. I wouldn't have that kind of independence or free-thinking nature that I have now. In India, it's more like, my dad knows someone, he'll get things done for me. Like getting a driver's license. I told my dad I'm turning 18 next month and I want a driver's license. He's like, "We'll think about it." And then on my 18th birthday he walks in and gives me my license.

Jin: Wow!

"It was so cool to realize how different we can be but that we can still have so much fun together and work together. It's just really life-changing to realize that."



Paula: That's insane!

Dev: That's how things work in India. [laughing] I still don't know how to parallel park!

Paula: I think being here made me realize how much I love diversity. Latvia is very ... there is no diversity really. I can't really imagine myself, for now, being back in a place where everyone is so much like me. Because here I think life is so much more exciting. Like we are here and we can communicate even though we are so different. Being here just made me realize how big and small the world is at the same time. I was hosting a party at my apartment once and I had people from all continents. Everyone was so happy and people were putting on music from their country and it was just so cool to realize how different we can be but that we can still have so much fun together and work together. I think it's just really life-changing to realize that.

Jin: For me, since I come here I am able to see my country as a third perspective. I am more able to see the good and bad things of my country at the same time; for here as well. It made in me a really big change in that I can somehow love more about my country. It made me think where I come from, where I really belong, but at the same time I love U.S. because it made me learn many things. It is very ... something that I couldn't learn ever if I had stayed in Korea.

Paula: Oh, definitely.

Dev: When I was in India I was always like, "There is nothing in India. India is going down the drain." But once I'm here I realized that there's potential for us, there's potential for us to do better here and, if given the chance, to do better in India. That has made me feel strongly about my Indian roots and identity. I feel more patriotic and nationalistic.

Paula: You appreciate who you are.

Dev: And I feel nationalistic about issues in America. I would never have imagined that I would actually feel better about an American president going to Cuba and the relations improving.

Jin: Having more sense of what's going on in the world.

Dev: Having more sense, and then suddenly, without realizing, connecting more with America. You think with the American perspective and then you also think with the Indian perspective.

Jin: That's true. That's true.

Paula: That's a good summary I think. 🍩

Jessica Kane is assistant director for communications in the Office of the Vice Provost for International Education.



Sweet History Founded in 1927, Parkside Candy looks pretty much the same now as it did then, with its ornate architectural moldings, intricate domed ceiling, vintage checkerboard floor and antique furnishings. The menu (and prices) at this University Heights landmark are similarly retro. An old-fashioned soda fountain churns out classic cherry-topped ice cream sundaes, while the lunch menu, featuring items like a tuna fish sandwich, harkens to a simpler time. Long a favorite meeting spot for UB students on the South Campus, Parkside Candy got national props when it was featured in the 1984 movie "The Natural." Recognizing what Hollywood saw then—and Buffalonians have known for decades—the National Park Service listed the shop on its National Register of Historic Places in November 2015.



AlumniLife

Kudos for Claude

Giving back to the givers

A familiar ring

Holly Cohen gives people the tools to make everyday items accessible to all

Empowering Ability

Holly Cohen speaking at TED2016–Dream, in Vancouver, Canada.

By Angelo Ragaza » Quick: Name a gadget or appliance you use constantly and would be lost without. Chances are, you can't limit yourself to just one. There are those that have practically become appendages: cellphone, tablet, remote. Then there are those—microwave, coffee machine, vacuum cleaner—whose convenience we take for granted.

But for the more than one in five people in the U.S. with a disability, using or enjoying such items is not a given. More than 15 million adults have conditions that give them difficulty with everyday activities like housework, answering the phone and preparing meals. And millions of children don't have the range of motion or motor skills required to do something as simple as turn on a toy.

"Some companies sell toys that come adapted for children with disabilities," says occupational therapist Holly Cohen

HOLLY COHEN, BS '97

(BS '97), "but they're extremely expensive." Adapted toys, she says, can cost up to four times the usual price.

Cohen and her business partner, John Schimmel, a web developer with experience in electronics, decided to do something about the situation. Both had considerable experience using assistive technology to help people with disabilities go about their lives—for example, adapting a computer mouse for a particular patient's use. They wanted to empower patients, and their caregivers, with the tools and information to hack into existing devices themselves. "We wanted to teach people to create their own solutions," Cohen says.

So they founded DIYAbility, a startup that develops and distributes "hacking kits," and educates people on how they can adapt everyday toys and appliances to work for them.

"All battery-operated toys have little switches inside the toy,"

BRET HARTMAN / TED

Cohen explains. “It’s very easy to take a toy apart, find the switch, add a mono jack and once you add that, connect an ability switch or button.” (An ability switch is an external device that creates alternate ways to use items like computers and appliances.) “Then the child can activate the toy by hitting this switch or button with their head or their foot.”

DIYAbility offers a toy-switch hacking kit and a battery-interrupt kit on its website. The company will soon release Capacita, a game controller designed for those with a narrow range of motion. “If someone can access a computer with their head or their breath, then they can play video games,” Cohen says. “Their laptop or computer is their controller.”

They also run toy-hacking workshops, including one near the end of the year called Hacking for the Holidays.

Cohen, who is program manager of assistive technology and driving rehabilitation at New York University’s Langone Medical Center, credits her training at UB with sparking her interest in innova-

tion. “I had one sense of what occupational therapy was before I started,” she says. Then a classmate (James Lenker, PhD ’05, BS ’97,

now an associate professor at UB) introduced her to UB’s Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (also known as the IDeA Center), whose multidisciplinary approach to human-centered design greatly appealed to her creative bent and interest in technology. The experience there, she says, “really opened my eyes to what could be done outside of the traditional roles of OT.”

According to Cohen, DIYAbility has no current plans to patent its kits and tools. “They’re open-source,” she says. She hopes this approach—empowerment through shared information—enables more people to experience what she witnesses every time she sees a child play for the first time with a toy once thought inaccessible.

“Whether it’s the first or the 500th child, it’s amazing every single time,” Cohen says. She has seen people, who’ve been awakened to their potential through technology, return to school, formulate work goals and help other people with disabilities. “People develop a sense of self-esteem and independence. They start to think, ‘What more can I do?’”

“Whether it’s the first or the 500th child, it’s amazing every single time.”

Holly Cohen



Presidential Perspectives In a panel discussion, four UB alumni who serve as university presidents shared ideas on affordability, diversity and other big issues surrounding higher education today. From left: Keith Taylor (PhD ’96, MS ’90, BS ’86) of Gannon University, Virginia Horvath (BA ’78) of State University of New York at Fredonia, Robert O. Davies (PhD ’05) of Murray State University and Scott Dalrymple (PhD ’97, MBA ’91, MA ’89) of Columbia College.

Scaling the Summit

A contingent of committed supporters helps UB reach the top



Robert Bennett (MS ’76) speaking on the power of volunteerism.

By Sally Jarzab » How do you thank a volunteer enough? According to Robert Bennett (MS ’76), former president and CEO of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, and former chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents, it just can’t be done.

And yet, the UB Volunteer Leadership Summit, at which Bennett delivered the keynote address, provided two days of opportunities for alumni and other dedicated partners who serve on key boards, councils and committees across UB to get the recognition they deserve.

Hosted by UB Council chair Jeremy M. Jacobs (’60), UB Foundation chair Francis Letro (JD ’79) and UB Alumni Association president Mary Garlick Roll (MS ’88, BS ’84), the summit served as a forum to exchange ideas, gain

insights into higher education and continue to support UB’s ascension. Discussion groups, faculty presentations, interactive sessions, networking opportunities, campus tours and a pop-up party on Baird Point filled out the spring event, now in its second year. Achievement awards, presented by the UB Alumni Association, were also part of the lineup (see p. 42).

Speaking on the challenges and opportunities of volunteer leadership, Bennett paid tribute to the power of what he termed the “volunteer sector,” which works alongside the public and private sectors to make a profound impact not only on institutions—UB included—but also on the quality of all our lives. ■

Calling it a Career

A grateful campus salutes one of its most influential teacher-scholars after five decades of service



By Ann Whitcher Gentzke » When SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science Claude E. Welch Jr. announced his retirement after a 52-year career, the news resounded among the legions of alumni who attended his lectures and experienced his expansive worldview as an Africanist and human rights scholar. Responding to a call from the UB Alumni Association for anecdotes, former students remembered his vigorous teaching style and commitment to them as individuals. Welch's remarkable career—14 books, service on 60 dissertation committees, repeated awards for pedagogical excellence—was feted throughout the spring. A retirement celebration in April brought together leading human rights experts, and in May, Welch was honored with the UB President's Medal at the University Commencement. Yet one suspects the heartfelt comments of his students, a selection of which follows, are the best tribute of all.

Read more responses and watch a video about Welch at buffalo.edu/atbuffalo.



Above: Claude Welch at his retirement party in April. Top left: The young professor. Top right: Welch and law professor Virginia Leary presenting a citation to Jimmy Carter in 1989.



Frank Bradley, BA '93
NEW YORK, N.Y.

After taking African politics with Dr. Welch, I actively sought out other coursework with him. You had to bring your "A-Game" to keep up. He was challenging, good humored and inspiring, and he took some fairly heady topics and made them immediate and real to his students. To this day, I find myself rereading texts from his civil-military relations course.

Melissa Chester, BA '90
DENVER, N.C.

I had heard that Professor Welch challenged students' minds, so I took my first class with him my second semester—and boy, was I challenged. The work was not the thing—he made me think and then re-rethink my opinions about all kinds of things. He made my mind truly work.

Paul J. Cornish, PhD '95, MA '91
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

Professor Welch was my first supervisor when I started as a graduate student teaching assistant in 1989. His lectures in African politics were truly remarkable, and his commitment to the study of human rights inspired me to continue the work I had started as an undergraduate. He is a great educator and a true gentleman.

Paul Fisk, BA '66
ALBANY, N.Y.

Professor Welch stands out in my memory as one of the best informed, most caring and highly respected of a great assembled cast of poli-sci professors. And he was a very good teacher.

Carolina Guity, BA '09
NEW YORK, N.Y.

It seems like yesterday that you supervised my 2006-2007 internship with the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, and I will forever be grateful for your faith in me; if it wasn't for that opening door, I wouldn't be where I am now, at the Department of Justice in the Executive Office of Immigration Review. Hearing cases regarding different countries around the world takes me back to conversations I had with classmates who took your world civ class.

Mark W. Huddleston, BA '72
DURHAM, N.H.

Claude Welch was my mentor and role model when I was an undergraduate at UB (and a dear colleague when I returned to teach some years later). Claude supervised my senior thesis and inspired me to pursue an MA and PhD in African politics. Indeed, it was Claude, more than anyone, who inspired me to become an academic.

Marc Hurwitz, BA '97
MIAMI, FLA.

Congratulations, Dr. Welch! You were a great mentor, and your values on human rights guided me throughout my tenure in the government. Your inscribed book has stayed a part of my library through my many moves.

Vivian Wiesner Mittleman, BA '74
BALTIMORE, MD.

Dr. Welch had a tremendous impact on my life and my career; he nominated me for Phi Beta

Kappa and recommended me for admission into the London School of Economics for a semester abroad. He challenged me to think and taught me to analyze. I recently retired as a judge for a federal agency, and I owe a good deal of my success to him.

Kenneth Murray, BA '84
BUFFALO, N.Y.

I took a course on Third World politics with Professor Welch in the early 1980s. We had to subscribe to The New York Times and were responsible for anything in it that related to the developing world. It was quite the challenge, but, because of Professor Welch, it turned out to be one of my favorite classes.

Christopher Pucella, EdM '02, BA '97
LOWELL, MASS.

Professor Welch was a phenomenal instructor who showed his passion for both the curriculum and the students. He introduced me to the politics of Africa, most notably the Nigerian author Chinua Achebe. Achebe's novel "Things Fall Apart" has stayed with me, especially during my time as a high-school history teacher.

Bennett Stevens, BA '92
SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

Professor Welch traveled the world absorbing information, and he seemed to be able to have a personal interest in all his students. I was an older student who returned to school after active service in the Army, and he surprised me with his knowledge of the military as well.

Sherry Matthew Tasselmyer, BS '89
DRYDEN, N.Y.

In a lecture hall of well over 150 students, Professor Welch knew who I was. One day I said, "You don't know me, but I am in your sub-Saharan Africa class." He replied, "Of course I know you. Your name is Sherry, you usually sit three rows up and you currently have an A." Best wishes in your retirement. You made learning interesting and engaging. Most importantly, you genuinely cared for your students. 📍

What's next?

"I don't like cruising along," Welch told the UB Reporter, and his post-retirement plans underscore this philosophy. He is working on book No. 15, and will continue to teach and give talks in the community. After his wife, Jeannette Ludwig, associate professor of Romance languages and literatures, retires at the end of the fall 2016 semester, the couple plan additional travel in the U.S. and abroad.

Keepsakes WHAT DID YOU SAVE?

Class Ring

For Gary Hebert (BS '70), the question is really, "What did you lose?" The answer is his class ring, which he misplaced somewhere in California shortly after he graduated. Hebert, who now lives in Boston, recently got a message from UB's Office of Alumni Engagement, letting him know they had received a 1970 class ring from the School of Engineering, engraved with his initials; apparently, it had turned up on the floor of a California condo. Back with its rightful owner after its 40-plus-year adventure, the peridot ring shined up rather nicely with a good polishing. Best of all, it still fits. "It's quite a conversation piece around here," Hebert says.



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

MARY'S* SUMMER

Picks

A selection of campus events, open to all alumni

July

Joe Jackson: Fast Forward Tour

07.08.16
Center for the Arts
North Campus

Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk

07.16.16
South Campus neighborhoods

School of Management 20th Annual Golf Outing

07.18.16
Lancaster Country Club
Lancaster, N.Y.

D.C. Metro Chapter: UB Day at the Ballpark

07.19.16
Nationals Park
Washington, D.C.

Young Alumni Paint Night

07.20.16
Rusty Nickel Brewing Company
West Seneca, N.Y.

Mary says: "Create a masterpiece while supporting UB entrepreneurship." Rusty Nickel is owned by alumnus and adjunct professor Jason Havens (BS '05).

August

Rochester Chapter: UB Day at the Ballpark

08.18.16
Frontier Field
Rochester, N.Y.

UB Night in Western New York

08.25.16
Pierce Arrow Museum
Buffalo, N.Y.

September

Hayes Hall Grand Reopening Celebration

09.23.16–09.24.16
Hayes Hall
South Campus

October

UB Groovin' 1960s Reunion Weekend

10.06.16–10.08.16
UB Campuses

Homecoming

10.08.16
UB Stadium



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



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



From left: Bruce Jackson, Diane Christian, Frank Clement, Robert Bennett, Frank Cerny and Meherwan Boyce. Not pictured: Richard Kurin, Eileen Silvers, Ashutosh Sharma, Thomas Nochajski, Brian King and Jeremy M. Jacobs.

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IN GOOD COMPANY

The winners of the 2016 UB Alumni Association Achievement Awards have done it all, from engineering and filmmaking to education and law

Frank Clement (BS '66)
Samuel P. Capen Award
Former vice president, UBS Financial Services

Frank Cerny
Community Leadership Award
Executive director, Rural Outreach Center; former chair of physical therapy, exercise and nutrition sciences, School of Public Health and Health Professions

Diane Christian and Bruce Jackson
Walter P. Cooke Award
Writers, filmmakers and SUNY Distinguished Professors; co-directors, UB Center for Studies in American Culture; founders, Buffalo Film Seminars

Robert Bennett (MS '76)
Distinguished Alumnus Award
Former president and CEO, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County; former chancellor, New York State Board of Regents

Richard Kurin (BA '72)
Distinguished Alumnus Award
Provost and undersecretary for museums and research, Smithsonian Institution; fellow, American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Eileen Silvers (BA '70)
Distinguished Alumnus Award
Former partner, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; former executive, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Deloitte & Touche and Genpact Limited

Ashutosh Sharma (PhD '88)
International Distinguished Alumnus Award
Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India

Meherwan Boyce (MS '64)
Clifford C. Furnas Memorial Award
Managing partner and chair, Boyce Consultancy Group LLC

Thomas Nochajski (PhD '90, BA '82)
Richard T. Sarkin Excellence in Teaching Award
Research professor and co-director of the Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care in the School of Social Work; associate research scientist at the Research Institute on Addictions

Brian King (PhD '10, MPH '06, BS '04)
George W. Thorn Award
Deputy director for research translation, Office on Smoking and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Jeremy M. Jacobs ('60)
Philip B. Wels Outstanding Service Award
Chair, Delaware North Companies; owner, Boston Bruins; chairman, NHL Board of Governors; chair, UB Council

Name your UB hero Nominate outstanding alumni for the 2017 UBAA Achievement Awards. Go to buffalo.edu/alumni/nominate and submit your nominations by Sept. 16, 2016.

Class Notes

Escape from the Queen City
A non-fan's guide to ballparks
'05: Raina pieces it together

For Hassan Shibly, loving America and fighting Islamophobia are one and the same

Faith in the System

By Lauren Newkirk Maynard » Born in Syria and raised in Buffalo, Hassan Shibly (JD '11, BA '08) has seen his share of discrimination. A U.S. citizen, he has been stopped by airport security or at border crossings roughly 20 times in the past decade, at times with his young children in tow. In March, he was on his way to Washington, D.C., to meet with President Obama's senior advisers and missed his flight when he was held back for questioning. "It's ironic that I'm deemed safe enough to visit the White House to talk about Islamophobia," says the 29-year-old lawyer/activist/imam, "but I'm not trusted to board a plane."

Despite these incidents, Shibly is deeply loyal to America and committed to human rights for all. He is similar in that way to his father, Othman Shibly (DDS '99, MS '95), an oral surgeon in the UB dental school who has established schools in Syria and free dental clinics in Turkish refugee camps (his mother, Sawsan Tabbaa, MS '97, directs UB's master's program in orthodontics).

After graduating with political science and

law degrees, Shibly founded the nonprofit Center for American Muslim Understanding in Buffalo, then moved to Tampa, Fla., where he opened a legal practice specializing in Islamic law, or Sharia. He also began working with community organizations, quickly becoming a nationally prominent consultant and speaker on Islam. In 2014, he was named chief executive director of the Florida chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a national organization that works to challenge ethnic stereotyping and defend civil liberties. The chapter is busy; in 2015, Shibly says, it documented a 500-percent jump in incidents against Muslims and opened 400 new discrimination cases.

Still, he insists, "America is the best place to be who you want to be. That's not exceptionalism; I've traveled to Muslim countries and have seen the reality. We have to keep this nation free."

What was it like growing up in Buffalo as a Muslim? I'd be the only kid who couldn't have pepperoni on his pizza. You're constantly being

questioned for being different. But that pushed me to study [Islam], to understand my faith. I have had to actively identify myself and my beliefs.

How has life changed since the Syrian war began and Muslim-American tensions started rising?

Even before the Syrian conflict started, my family was pulled aside for questioning at the U.S. border on the same day a man was caught with bloodied weapons after entering the country. He was never questioned or searched because he didn't "look the part." That was a wake-up call for me. Why are the real criminals allowed through? So I shifted my focus to domestic policies. Syria is gone. America is our homeland. We have to invest in protecting civil rights and not take what we have here for granted.

What is Sharia and Sharia-compliant law? How is it applied within the U.S. legal system?

Sharia literally means "the path to water." It's where we must go to have God's pleasure. It speaks to protecting and preserving religion, life,

CONTINUED



TWEETABLE: #UBuffalo alumnus and photojournalist Marcus Yam won a 2nd Pulitzer Prize, as part of the @latimes team covering #SanBernardino shootings.

Class Notes

property, honor and intellect. For me, it's why I pray, give to charity, honor my parents, etc. Sharia-compliant law also forbids compulsion, or forcing that [Muslim] law on others.

There is no principle of Sharia that would oblige us to act against U.S. law. On the contrary, Sharia requires us to abide by our covenants and the laws of the land. Likewise, there is no U.S. law that would force us to go against the principles of Sharia. The two are not mutually exclusive.

What are some ways in which Muslims and Muslim businesses need legal representation?

There are books, for example, on how to preserve property and honor, so usury isn't allowed. Jurisprudence, called fiqh, helps us implement mortgages, contracts and interest-based transactions.

What are you focusing on at CAIR-Florida?

We have two approaches: proactive community outreach and education. Five full-time lawyers offer \$2 million a year in free legal services—not just for Muslims, but for anyone facing discrimination—and we give media interviews, hold personal safety training, and conduct studies in order to promote truth and tolerance.

How do you talk to, and with, people who are reacting to current events with fear?

Fear is a reflection of politicians who score cheap points by promoting hate at the expense of our nation. Americans can't let politicians drive the dialogue this way. Studies show that hatred isn't connected to terrorism, but to propaganda.

Regarding this year's presidential election, what (or who) are you most concerned about?

Our worst enemy is ignorance. CAIR is nonpartisan, but there is toxic rhetoric coming from candidates like Donald Trump. Recently, I've heard politicians lobby for databases and ID cards for Muslims. It is a big concern.

What gives you reason for hope?

I think the majority of Americans are good-hearted, but some are misinformed. We are united in the idea of a free land with equal opportunities. I have to remind myself that many of Islam's heroes were once its enemies; we've seen opponents' viewpoints turn 180 degrees after hearing us speak.

What advice would you give Muslim students who are afraid to practice their faith openly?

I owe much of my success to practicing my faith and to the tremendous education I received at UB. The major advice is to absolutely be proud and to be the best classmate, friend, community member and Muslim you can be. 🌟

CLASS NOTES BY DECADE

Person to Person

60

Gordon Amidon, BS 1967, received an honorary doctorate from the Miguel Hernández University of Elche in Alicante, Spain, in recognition of his notable contributions to the field of pharmaceutical science. He lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.

70

Michael Parker, BA 1970, was elected to Chapel Hill's Town Council in November 2015. He resides in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Norine Spurling, MFA 1975, was honored with a major exhibition of her work in January 2016 at the Kenan Center Gallery. The show was a 40-year survey of her paintings and drawings. She lives in Amherst, N.Y.

Gary Jastrzab, MUP 1976 & BA 1976, is executive director of Philadelphia City Planning Commission, which was awarded the 2016 National Planning Excellence Award for a Planning Agency by the American Planning Association. Jastrzab is a member of the UB Alumni Association board of directors. He resides in Philadelphia, Pa.

Michael Jay, BS 1976, received the Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He lives in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Thaddeus Kryczko, BA 1976, a retired producer for Walt Disney Records, has been credited on more than 1,000 Disney audio products and has also been honored with more than 70 gold and platinum records. Now president of Get Bizzy Entertainment, he resides in Burbank, Calif.

Bruce Kimelblatt, PharmD 1979, co-authored a study on metastatic breast cancer published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. He lives in Belle Mead, N.J.

80

Andrew DiLuca, BS 1981, was promoted to director of pharmacy services at Kaleida Health. He resides in Getzville, N.Y.

Mario Rocci, PhD 1981 & BS 1976, was elected president of the board of directors of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics for the 2015–2016 term. He lives in Utica, N.Y.

Daniel Schaefer, MD 1981, received the Outstanding Contribution Award from

the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He resides in Amherst, N.Y.

Rick Kennedy, JD 1982, was named president and CEO of Hodgson Russ LLP in February 2016. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Michael Edbauer, BS 1984, was appointed president and CEO of Catholic Medical Partners. He is also the chief clinical officer at Catholic Health and resides in Hamburg, N.Y.

James Daly, MBA 1985 & BS 1984, was appointed executive chair of the commercial advisory committee at Coherus BioSciences. He lives in Raleigh, N.C.

Michael Blemel, BS 1987, was named chief accounting and administrative officer of North Forest Office Space. He resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

Timothy Gawenus, BS 1989, a civil engineer and senior project manager in RETTEW Associates' natural sciences group, oversees numerous projects in the pipeline industry. He lives in Venetia, Pa.

90

Steven Weiss, JD 1991, MBA 1988 & BS 1987, is a partner of Cannon Heyman & Weiss LLP. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Bonnie Flickinger, PhD 1994, MA 1986, MS 1968 & BS 1964, received the Friend of French award from the Western New York chapter of the American Association of Teachers



Nagendra Raina, MBA 2005, was named president of Buffalo Games Inc., a leading party game and jigsaw puzzle manufacturer whose stated purpose is "to make life more fun and rewarding." Before joining Buffalo Games in 2013 as general manager, Raina was director of strategy and finance at Fisher-Price. He lives in Clarence, N.Y.

of French. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

James Grande, BA 1994, was hired by Gateway Longview as director of its behavioral health clinic. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jennifer Berke, PhD 1996, was named an exceptional master leader by Exchange magazine, a bimonthly publication that focuses on the administration of programs for young children. She resides in Westfield, N.Y.

Sarah Spencer, BA 1996, was appointed head of U.S. external communications for GlaxoSmithKline, a global pharmaceutical company. She lives in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Frank Strangio, MBA 1997 & BS 1995, was recognized as business person of the year by the Niagara USA Chamber at its annual Chamber Honors Gala. He resides in North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Jennifer Berger, JD 1998, a supervising attorney at AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly, was the recipient of the DC Bar Foundation's 2016 Jerrold Scoutt Prize, one of the highest honors for public interest lawyers in Washington, D.C. She lives in Silver Spring, Md.

00

Jennifer Ditta, MSW 2000, joined the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities as a licensed master social worker. She resides in East Aurora, N.Y.

Eric Eisenried, BS 2000, was named general manager of North Forest Office Space. He lives in East Aurora, N.Y.

Kevin Thurston, BA 2001, was hired as a marketing and public relations assistant at Just Buffalo

Literary Center. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Marc Kokosa, BA 2002, founded Kokosa Law Firm PC in October 2015. He lives in Troy, N.Y.

Kate Waterman-Kulpa, MArch 2002 & BPS 2000, was hired by Foit-Albert Associates. She resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

Shawntera Hardy, MUP 2004, was appointed deputy chief of staff for the office of Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton. She lives in Saint Paul, Minn.

Alexis Mierzwa, DDS 2004, opened her own practice, Cedar Creek Dental. She resides in Winchester, Va.

Victoria Belniak, JD 2005, was named associate general counsel for corporate risk management at Kaleida Health. She lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Christopher Corfield, BS 2005, was appointed vice president of Whelan & Curry Construction Services Inc. He resides in Camillus, N.Y.

Arlette Smith, PhD 2005, director of African American studies at St. John Fisher College and founder of the AKOMA African American Women's Gospel Choir, organizes an annual gospel songfest to support scholarships for high school seniors. She resides in Fairport, N.Y.

Joseph Mure, MD 2006 & BA 2002, was appointed program director for Eastern Niagara Hospital's recently established family medicine residency program. He lives in Tonawanda, N.Y.

Kaela Keluskar, PharmD 2008, joined the Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center as a clinical pharmacist. She resides in Overland Park, Kan.

CONTINUED

HOW-TO WITH

Dominic Luongo, BA '05

Co-owner, Queen City Escape Room

Interview by Rebecca Rudell »

Dominic Luongo, 34, has always loved games. When asked when his interest began, he says, "When did Tetris come out?" (The answer is 1984—when he was 2—so we imagine he probably started playing a few years later.)

As an adult, Luongo still loves games. His fiancée, Sara Manzella, is an avid gamer too. Among their favorites are virtual escape-room games, so when they discovered a live-action version in New York

City, they were hooked. They started designing their vacations around escape rooms, visiting locations throughout North America. They eventually decided Buffalo needed one for itself, and opened Queen City Escape Room in November 2015.

An escape room is pretty much what you'd imagine it is. Participants—friends, co-workers, even strangers—are placed in a "locked" room together. Once the timer starts, the team has 60 minutes to solve puzzles that lead them to a special code, which opens the door. (Doors aren't actually locked in case of an emergency.) It's quite a challenge—only 40 percent of Queen City players make it out in time.

Luongo is intrigued by gamification—that is, making work fun by turning it into a game. "Playing a game dissolves the boring aspects of problem-solving, eliminates egos and even reveals things about people," he says. "Like, who will take a leadership position? Will cliques form? Will some players hide information from others?"

Given his experience seeing teams of people escape—and others getting stuck—we asked Luongo for tips on how to work together toward a common goal.

How to problem-solve as a group

Think out loud

Don't keep ideas in your head—the more you share, the more you'll solve. The only bad thought is the one you keep to yourself.

Pose questions

When you ask questions, you leave the forum open to problem-solve, rather than throwing out half-baked solutions that may lead to dead ends.

Know team members' strengths (and weaknesses)

Everyone on the team has skills. Rely on the innate talents of each person, rather than wasting time making people do what may not be their strongest suit.

Be organized

If you have multiple problems to solve (or even multiple parts of one large problem), break them down and tackle them one at a time.

As issues get worked out, place them on the "solved" list, then move on to the next one.

Divide and conquer

If you have enough teammates to do so, split up and work on multiple challenges simultaneously. Be sure to stick to your part, and don't get distracted by what others are doing.



MICHAEL BEDNARSKI

Class Notes

Wei Liu, MS 2008, founded the Silicon Valley startup DisplayTen, which helps users share and organize information effectively and eliminate time-consuming meeting setup. He lives in San Jose, Calif.

Erin Molisani, JD 2008, an associate with Cohen & Lombardo, has been appointed to the board of directors for the Defense Trial Lawyers Association of Western New York. She resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Anas Saleh, BA 2008, joined Bousquet Holstein PLLC as of counsel in the business practice group. He lives in Cicero, N.Y.

Teresa Lawrence, PhD 2009, Cert 2003, EdM 1993 & BA 1991, superintendent of Grand Island Central School District, was selected to receive the 2016 University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education Distinguished Alumni Award. She resides in Clarence Center, N.Y.

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Keeley Sheehan, BA 2010 & Cert 2010, joined B2 Communications as an account coordinator. She resides in Saint Petersburg, Fla.

Brian Wetzel, PharmD 2010, a clinical pharmacist at Kenmore Mercy Hospital, was recognized with the annual Medical Staff Associate of the Year Award for 2015. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

Colleen McCormack, MSW 2012, joined Beacon Health Options as a clinical case manager. She resides in Somerville, Mass.

Ariel Ruggeri, BS 2012, was promoted to account executive at Aigner/Prensky Marketing Group and named director of operations at Food Trucks 2 Go, a division of Food Truck

Festivals of America. She lives in Stoneham, Mass.

Michelle Sahli, MS 2012, joined the University of Michigan-Flint as an assistant professor of public health and health sciences. She resides in Grand Blanc, Mich.

Sarah Balogh, JD 2014 & MSW 2013, joined Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of Western New York as a staff attorney. She will be working in the KinCare Legal Services Program. Balogh lives in Lockport, N.Y.

Nyrisha Beckman, MS 2014 & BA 2010, was promoted to mental health therapist with the Residential Intensive Care Comprehensive Program of Fairfax County. She resides in Alexandria, Va.

Sean Croft, EdD 2014, was promoted to superintendent of Starpoint Central School District. He lives in West Seneca, N.Y.

Alexander Schepart, MBA 2014 & PharmD 2014, is a global medical franchise fellow at Pfizer Consumer Healthcare. He resides in Madison, N.J.

Chidera Atuegbu, JD 2015, a staff attorney with the Urban Justice Center's Safety Net Project, is also a fellow with Poverty Justice Solutions, where she represents tenants in New York City Housing Court. She lives in Springfield Gardens, N.Y.

Joseph Smith, JD 2015, joined Phillips Lytle LLP as an associate. Smith's practice focuses on environmental law, environmental reviews and regulatory compliance. He resides in Hamburg, N.Y.

Benedict Wolfling, BS 2015, joined CORE Environmental Consultants as a junior engineer. He lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

TOP FIVE WITH

Brian Phillips, BA '96

VP, Industry Initiatives at MLB Advanced Media

Interview by Rebecca Rudell »

Brian Phillips, 42, manages teams for baseball, but not in the way you might think. His players are on the digital team that creates all the online content sports fans crave.

Phillips has worked for MLB Advanced Media (MLBAM) for more than 15 years, starting at the time Major League Baseball centralized the digital media production and rights of all 30 clubs. Today, MLBAM is one of the most technologically sophisticated media companies in the world, working beyond the diamond with partners like the PGA Tour, NHL, ESPN and HBO, among others.

Phillips oversees a staff of about 50 people who, in turn, oversee and implement all of MLBAM's club relationships and online business content, including e-mail marketing, promotions and social media. He also hypes cool apps like At Bat and Ballpark within the clubs, ensuring fun, user-friendly content for fans through their phones and tablets.

Aside from his love of baseball, Phillips is an avid traveler who has visited 53 countries—and, of course, all 30 ballparks. But he knows not everyone shares his love of the game, so we asked him what folks can do if they're taken to a park and don't know a fielder's choice from a fly ball.

Five ways to have fun at a baseball game if you're not a fan:

Check out the sights

1 If you're not into the action on the bases, take a stroll around the park and soak up the scenery. City views are stunning at many stadiums, including San Francisco's and San Diego's—you can even watch a game from the pool at Chase Field in Phoenix. Many stadiums also boast iconic features, like the Giant 42 for Jackie Robinson at Citi Field in Queens.

Get silly with your neighbors

2 People from all walks of life come together to watch America's pastime, and baseball has a way of taking everyone's guard down. Jump up and exercise en masse during the seventh-inning stretch, or participate in the sure-to-erupt sing-a-longs—like "Sweet Caroline" at Boston's Fenway Park and "YMCA" at New York's Yankee Stadium.

Cheer on the mascots

3 Team mascot races add a giant dose of whimsy and humor to every game. Watch as sea creatures compete in Miami, U.S. presidents try to outrun one another in D.C. and pierogies battle for first place in Pittsburgh.

Eat a sundae the size of your head

4 Enjoy some of the wackiest food around, including Fried S'mOreos in Arlington, Texas; crab mac 'n' cheese dogs in Baltimore; or a 12-scoop ice cream sundae served in a life-size helmet in Chicago.

Learn the game

5 Discover the finer points of baseball from the passionate fans around you. Who knows? In time, you may even develop a love for the game. There's a reason it's been around for more than 100 years.



BARRY FITZGERALD, MFA '90



UB Homecoming Weekend 2016

Oct. 6-8, 2016

THURSDAY, OCT. 6

- Back to the Classroom: Lectures and Seminars

FRIDAY, OCT. 7

- Panel Discussion: Keeping the Medical in Medical Marijuana
- A Study of Student Activism: A Conversation with Professors Bruce Jackson and Claude Welch
- Campus Tours
- Lecture: Genomic Testing, Individual Health Values and Personalized Medicine
- Student Carnival

SATURDAY, OCT. 8

- UB Alumni Association Tailgate Party
- Eddie Money Live Concert
- Homecoming Football Game: UB vs. Kent State

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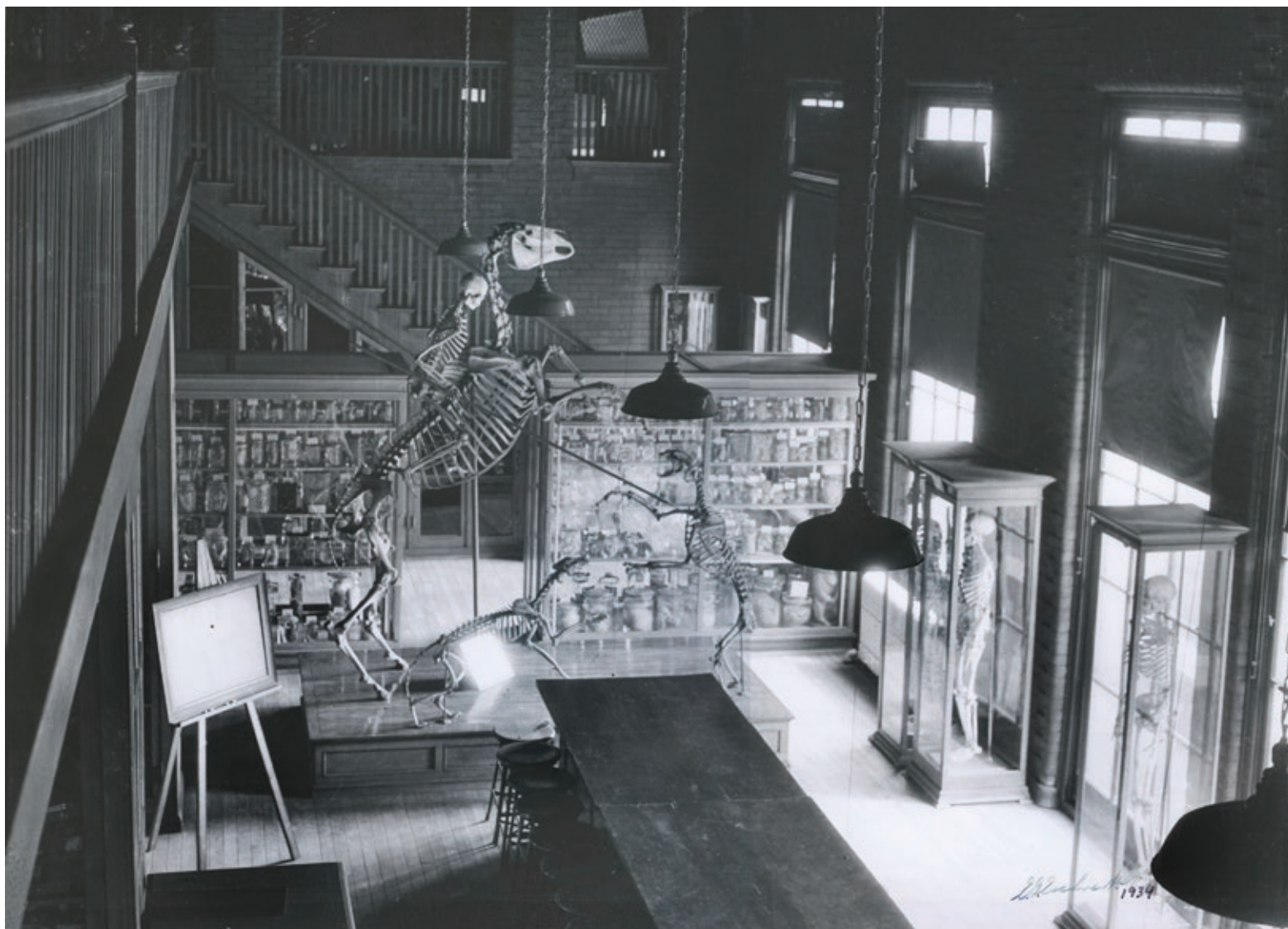
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UB YESTERDAY



1934 High Street medical school lab

By Rebecca Rudell

When the late Edward Eschner (MD '37, BA '32) was a young med student, he snapped some extraordinary photos of UB's medical school at 24 High Street, including this one of the lab/museum and its unusual contents.

The room brims with hundreds of human artifacts, including skeletons, bone fragments and other anatomical specimens, all used to educate the university's medical students. Dominating the room is "The Bear Hunt," a dramatic skeletal composition of a hunter on a rearing horse with his faithful dog beside him, facing off against a charging bear. The 10-foot-tall tableau was designed and arranged by Charles H. Ward, and presented to UB between 1900 and 1901 by Charles Cary, a professor of clinical medicine. Ward's skeletal creations were widely recognized as the finest in the country, earning him an award at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

The school building itself was designed by Charles Cary's brother, architect George Cary (who also designed the Buffalo History Museum). Dedicated in 1893, the Italian Renaissance-style structure included

lecture classrooms, offices, a fireproof library, a dispensary and the space pictured here. In Charles Cary's dedication speech, he described the structure's open system of internal construction: "[It] exposes every plank and timber and every pipe to view—so that a walk through the building may be said to be a lesson in anatomy."

Eschner went on to become chairman of UB's Department of Radiology from 1957 to 1971. Upon his death in 2001, UB received his sizeable collection of medical artifacts, which resides in the Radiology Museum on the South Campus. As for the horse, rider and friends, they sadly disappeared when the school was relocated to present-day Farber Hall on the South Campus in 1953. If you happen to stumble upon a massive skeletal scene of a hunting expedition, please give us a call. 📞



24 High Street



William Rathke (1923–2014) never forgot those who helped him along the way, including Lillias MacDonald,

UB's first female dean and head of the scholarships committee when Rathke applied. Though he'd missed the deadline, a call from Rathke's aunt helped sway MacDonald to reverse her decision against him. The scholarship helped him afford UB's tuition—\$385 at the time—and in 1944, he became the first college graduate in his family.



Rathke went on to graduate from UB's dental school, then to earn certification in orthodontics from Columbia University. Upon retiring from his successful career as an orthodontist, Rathke repaid UB's generosity, establishing the Buffalo Public Schools Scholarship to help city high school graduates attend the university.

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

For information on how you can leave your legacy, please contact Wendy Irving, Esq.,
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LAST LOOK

Branching Out With a series of intense deadlines behind them, architecture students enrolled in the freshman Design Studio went out on a limb to unwind a little, climbing up a tree outside of Abbott Hall. Teaching Assistant Micaela Barker, BS '14 (pictured halfway up tree in the blue shirt, facing the camera), wanted to start the day's class in a playful and relaxing way. "I also wanted to make sure they realized how awesome that tree is," Barker said.