

At Buffalo

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

Keeping an eye on ISIS **p43**
Have clarinet, will skydive **p14**
UB gets a field house **p16**

Winter 2018

The Light Fantastic

JONATHAN SHIMON (BFA '07) AND THE
ART OF TECHNICAL DIRECTION **p28**







FIRST LOOK

Photograph by Douglas Levere

Blue River

By Jeff Klein » Its arches bathed in blue, the Peace Bridge gave a colorful kickoff to UB's Homecoming and Family Weekend on Oct. 6. From dusk to 1 a.m., the span's more than 600 LED floodlights flashed and pulsed from Buffalo on the American shore to Fort Erie on the Canadian, delivering a spectacular international

light show ahead of the festivities.

Those would include ground-

breaking for the university's new field house, alumni talks, faculty seminars, a rock concert, tailgate parties galore and one of the craziest games in the history of college football (see p. 16). The last time the Peace Bridge lighting system, installed in 2009, shone blue for UB? September 2011, for the inauguration of President Satish K. Tripathi. **B**

For more photos from Homecoming and Family Weekend, see p.41.





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UB University
at Buffalo

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ORANGETHEORY

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The Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic, along with UB's other law clinics, gives students firsthand legal experience—and the disenfranchised a chance at justice.

Story by Luke Hammill

Photographs by Douglas Levere

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"Lumagination," the annual *son et lumière* fantasy at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, with technical supervision by Assistant Professor of Theatre Technology Jonathan Shimon.

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MOVED?

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

EDITOR'S ESSAY

Where It All Begins

In my last editor's letter, I wrote about the outstanding alumni and faculty members we choose to profile in these pages—specifically, about how so many of them exemplify that rare ability to map out and follow an unconventional route to success.

What I didn't address in that essay was our students, because they are, for the most part, at the beginning of their journey. We don't yet know what they will do out in the world, whether they will be similarly bold and self-directed. But we do know this: The alumni we profile in At Buffalo were all once UB students. The fact that so many of them

have shown the courage and wherewithal to take that uncharted course through life speaks, at least in part, to the student experience at UB. What is it about this place that sets people off on such exceptional paths?

I think the current issue provides some pretty good answers to that question. Take technical theater expert Jonathan Shimon, the subject of our cover story on p. 28. As a student at UB, he tells writer Rebecca Rudell, he had experiences "that couldn't have happened at any other institution," including a "staggering" amount of responsibility production managing a Snoop Dogg concert for Spring Fest. The skills and self-confidence he gained at UB vaulted him post-graduation to theaters on Broadway and around the world, working his back-

stage magic and sharing his expertise, all before the age of 30.

Now, as an assistant professor of technical theater at UB, Shimon is bestowing even greater responsibilities on his students than he had, essentially letting them run entire productions. One can only imagine how high they will soar in their careers.

Meanwhile, at the UB School of Law, students in Assistant Clinical Law Professor Jonathan Manes' Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic are handling cases with major real-world implications, from protecting veterans from online fraud to securing greater transparency in the federal court system (see story on p. 34). Similar to Shimon in the Department of Theatre & Dance, Manes and the other professors who direct UB's law clinics take a supervisory role, handing the reins to their students—who lead the cases, do the majority of the work and even litigate in court.

Experiential education is a buzzword in higher ed, but not all programs are equal. Look at any department at UB and you'll see examples similar to those highlighted in this issue, where students, often undergraduates, are not just doing the work but calling the shots. That's the kind of education that builds not just skills but also confidence, drive and strength of character—the very qualities that make it possible to blaze your own trail in life.



Laura Silverman, Editorial Director

From MLK to Malala **UB's proud tradition of hosting Peace Prize laureates**

Last September, I had the honor of introducing the inaugural guest in UB's 31st annual Distinguished Speakers Series: Malala Yousafzai, the courageous young woman who took on the Taliban because she wanted to go to school.

Before a capacity crowd in Alumni Arena, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate reflected on her childhood in Pakistan, where her denunciations of the Taliban's brutal tactics to repress girls' rights were answered with a gunshot to her face.

And still, Malala persisted.

"They wanted to silence me in the Swat Valley," she said. "And now, I'm speaking globally for all girls."

To hear Malala explain how she risked her life to advocate for education awed and humbled me, as I suspect was the case for everyone gathered that evening. But her visit to

campus also took on historic significance in that it marked the 10th time UB has hosted a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

This proud tradition began in 1967, when Martin Luther King Jr. delivered a talk titled "The Future of Integration," extemporizing on such topics as voting rights, Vietnam and—like Malala a half-century later—access to education as a civil right.

"There comes a time," King said that night, "when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular. But he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."

Five months later, he was assassinated.

Another 22 years passed before UB hosted not one, but two Peace Prize laureates: former President Jimmy Carter (who would receive the award in 2002) and anti-apartheid cleric Desmond Tutu.

I've been told you could hear a pin drop when Holocaust

survivor Elie Wiesel spoke at the Center for the Arts in 1998.

In 2006, our community participated in a momentous three-day visit from the Dalai Lama.

The following year, a celebration of UB's environmental leadership culminated with talks by former Vice President Al Gore and Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai. Gore, who would receive his Peace Prize later that year, encouraged students to learn more about climate change.

"Empower yourselves with knowledge," he said. "This is the moral challenge of our time. And knowledge can make the fear go away."

Three years later, Kofi Annan, the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, launched the 2009-2010 Distinguished Speakers Series with a discussion about security in a globalized world.

And then, in 2013, I welcomed Barack Obama to UB—the first sitting president to speak on campus since Millard Fillmore in 1853.

That's quite a list, and quite a history!

But it's no accident that UB has hosted so many change-makers from the pantheon of Peace Prize laureates.

Through the years, our mission has remained steadfast: to harness our research, scholarly activity, service and creative endeavors for the greater good. That is what unites us, whether student, staff, faculty or alumni.

And it's why we have consistently and intentionally sought out speakers of the highest character to address our community. Whether fighting deforestation or strengthening international diplomacy, whether surviving the terror of the Taliban or the atrocities of the Nazis, each of these inspirational individuals has been compelled by conscience to make the world a more harmonious place.

As such, they embody the highest ideals of our university. Their messages embolden us to unlock our own potential, to become agents of change.

Over a half-century, across campus, their words echo still.



Satish K. Tripathi, President

To hear Malala explain how she risked her life to advocate for education awed and humbled me.



Malala Yousafzai with President Tripathi and his wife, Kamlesh.

JOE CASCO

We want to hear from you!

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



Tanzanian Keepsake

This is one of the greatest documents of my Tanzanian journey ["African Connections," Fall 2017]. It's like a keepsake, and I will use it often because it simplifies my sharing of something that is truly difficult to put into a few words. I can actually say the trip was life-changing. This story captures why.

Regina Jackson
Buffalo, N.Y.

The writer, a senior at Empire State College, was one of the students on the study abroad trip to Tanzania.

Fondness for 'Gut Flora'

Fantastic art! ["The Color of Difference," Fall 2017] The piece is vibrant and brings much-needed color and feeling to our world.

Michael P. Smith (BPS '88)
Batavia, N.Y.

Kind Thoughts

I found the articles in the Fall 2017 issue of At Buffalo to be very interesting. I hope this magazine will continue for a long time.

Mary Goretti
North Tonawanda, N.Y.

The writer is a member of the facilities staff at UB.

Save the Scraps!

I was impressed with the At Buffalo Food Issue [Summer 2017] and enjoyed the various themes related to this topic. However, there is a key element missing in your coverage, and this relates to food scraps and food waste reduction. Many cities have policies or a vibrant entrepreneurial culture that enables food scraps to be processed locally into compost, which has incredible benefits both environmentally and economically.

Sashti Balasundaram (BS '05)
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Editor's response: Right you are, and we're proud to note that UB uses a state-of-the-art system for managing food waste.

A Better Way

The discussion titled "Can We Change the Way We Eat?" [Coffeehouse, Summer 2017] overlooked an easy diet type for more sustainable living. Vegetarian diets are a much less radical shift from the status quo than veganism and have a small ecological footprint. Ethical vegetarian diets aim for mutualist symbiosis (a relationship between species for mutual benefit), including reducing the livestock herd size to a responsible amount.

People can intentionally reduce their meat consumption (become "flexitarian") if they understand the reasons for doing so. And as more people choose vegetarian meals, more options will be made available, making a positive feedback loop that encourages sustainability.

The public may not be very conscious of modern environmental challenges, but nature's brutal response is beginning to wake us up. Eating low on the food chain is a simple change enabling anyone to help the planet every day.

Paul Howard (BS '95)
Harrisburg, Pa.

Mycological Memories

Thank you for spotlighting the life and work of Dr. Philip Miles in "A Spore to Adore" [Summer 2017]. I had the privilege and pleasure of taking two classes with him. A post-class discussion over his homemade tea turned into a job helping to edit manuscripts and maintain his personal mycological collection. Our working friendship stands out as a highlight of my time at UB. Dr. Miles was a wonderful and giving person and teacher, and I'm sure I'm not the only one who misses lively conversations with him.

Phil Barber (BA '04)
Homer, Alaska

CORRECTION

In the Fall 2017 Coffeehouse ["Are We Free to Offend?"], we incorrectly stated that Donald Sterling was the owner of the Los Angeles Lakers. In fact he owned the Los Angeles Clippers.

From the Editor's Desk

A Career High

Kristina M. Johnson helped create the technology for advanced 3-D glasses and invented a camera that can depict cancerous and pre-cancerous cells. She holds 42 U.S. patents and is an inductee into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. She founded a company that develops hydroelectric facilities to provide clean energy to communities and businesses across the country. She was appointed undersecretary of energy by former President Barack Obama. She has held leadership positions at several major institutions of higher education. And now she comes to us.

In September, Johnson succeeded Nancy Zimpher to become the 13th SUNY chancellor, an opportunity she called the "highest honor" of her career—which, considering the above, is saying a lot. As head of the largest comprehensive system of public higher education in the United

States, Johnson will promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, research and creative work, and service to the communities that are home to SUNY's 64 colleges and universities.



Bullhorn

Life at UB, on and off campus

Compiled by Sally Jarzab. Written by Sally Jarzab, Jeff Klein and Holly Atkins

Front and Center Students get a consolidated spot for services with 1Capen

By Sally Jarzab » Pay a bill. Get an ID card. Apply for a parking pass. Meet with an adviser. There's a lot more to being a student than just heading to class. And it all just got easier with the recent opening of 1Capen, UB's "one-stop shop" for student services.

Services handled by offices previously scattered across the campus are now centrally located in a welcoming space on the ground floor of Capen Hall, marked by a concierge-style front desk where visitors are greeted. Inside the 17,000-square-foot center, a high-tech queuing system, along with self-service computer kiosks, allows students to efficiently navigate multiple services. The Buffalo Room, an adjoining meeting room that can be reconfigured to accommodate a variety of events, becomes "surge space" during high-demand times for services.

The first day of fall classes alone brought nearly 2,000 people through 1Capen's door—a retractable, curved glass wall—and, by all accounts, things went smoothly.

The project is the second phase of the UB 2020 initiative known as the "Heart of the Campus," in which spaces at the center of the academic spine are being rethought and revamped to improve the student experience. Phase one was the renovation of the Silverman Library last year; phase three will bring an expansive global market café to the space between Norton and Capen halls, creating a welcoming new entryway to the campus where people can meet and mingle.

H. Austin Booth, vice provost for University Libraries, told UB's internal news site that the goal of 1Capen is to focus on the students.

"The students really don't care about the organizational structure or the administrative structure of UB, nor should they," she said. "Our mantra is, 'We will get you what you need when you need it.'" **B**

1Capen stylishly streamlines student services.

DOUGLAS LEBRE

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

A collaborative redesign brings terra-cotta mailboxes to Hayes Hall.



An interactive public art project at Welcome Weekend ties everyone together.

UB's geohazards facility in Ashford, N.Y., fields another lava pour.



MEREDITH FOREST KULWICKI

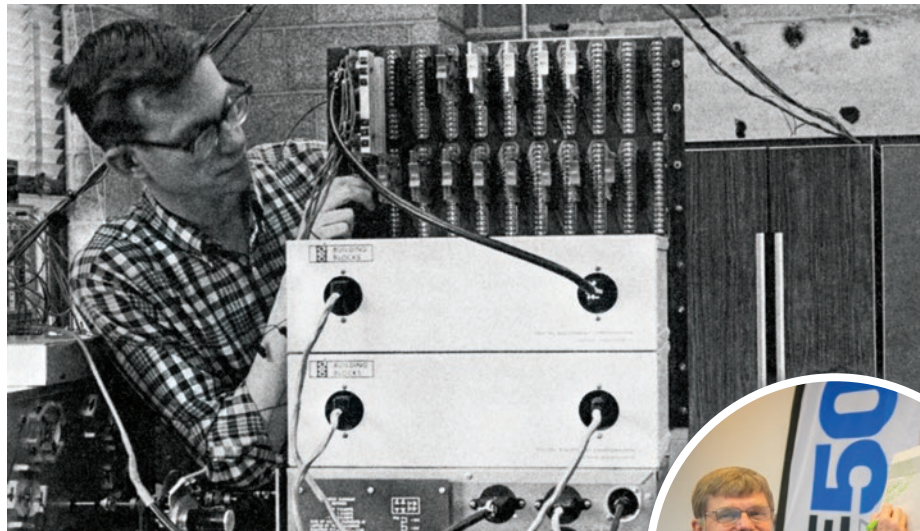
UB Bucket List

(100 things every student should do before graduating)

NO.

52

SILENT DISCO Imagine a dance floor packed with people swaying to the sound of ... nothing. That's what a silent disco looks like. But for the participants, who wear wireless headphones tuned in to one of several special audio channels, the beats are booming. A quirky approach to parties for well over a decade, silent discos are an increasingly popular offering on campus too—as this Welcome Weekend event in August quietly proved.



A computer scientist at UB in the late 1960s. Right: Ed Goit (MS '69, BA '67), a CSE grad from the department's early years, adds his name to a message board at the alumni symposium in September.



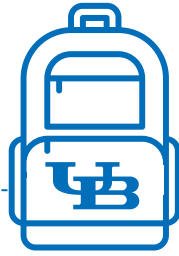
It Does Compute

Before there were smartphones or home PCs or even Pong, there was a small rented space on Ridge Lea Road where five faculty members taught a handful of students. That was 1967, when UB's computer science and engineering department (CSE), one of the nation's first, was born. CSE marked its 50th anniversary in September with four days of events centered at Davis Hall. In addition to the department's nearly 1,700 students, CSE alumni—many now working for Google, Microsoft and other tech giants—joined the celebration.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

DOUGLAS LEVINE

4,045



The historic number of first-year students we welcomed this past fall, topping even last year's record-setting figure, which was just shy of 4,000.



(Good news worth sharing)

*In case you missed it

ICYMI

HIGH MARKS. UB continues a decade-long rise to reach its loftiest perch yet among the nation's best universities. In U.S. News and World Report's 2018 Best Colleges rankings, UB came in at 41 among public universities and 97th overall. In the 2018 Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education list, UB tied for 117th among 1,000 U.S. institutions—the highest among the SUNYs.

POSTDOC PROPS. With research interests in women's health and aging, Hailey Banack of the School of Public Health and Health Professions has been named UB's first Banting Fellow, Canada's most prestigious award for postdoctoral researchers.

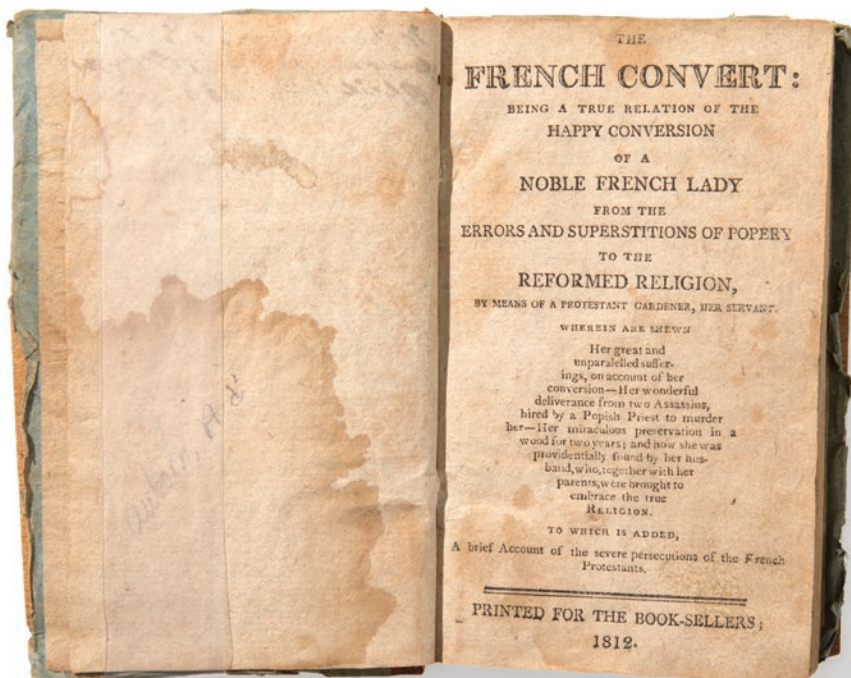
CALL TO ACTION. UB's School of Nursing has received \$1.92 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration, a federal agency, to expand its behavioral health workforce in underserved communities and combat the opioid epidemic in Western New York.

PIONEERING PROFESSOR. Paras Prasad, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Physics, Medicine and Electrical Engineering, was recently recognized with three national honors, including a Pioneer Award from the IEEE Nanotechnology Council.



Moving Ever Forward

A \$4 million gift to the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences from civil engineering alumnus **Stephen Still (BS '76)** will help advance the burgeoning field of transportation, logistics and supply-chain management.



Turning Back the Pages An 1812 book believed to be the first ever printed in Buffalo, along with more than 300 other locally published 19th-century titles, has been checked into the University Libraries. The Eugene Musial Buffalo Imprint Collection is the work of its late namesake, an area bookstore owner who spent decades amassing pamphlets, biographies, maps and more. Highlights include the first directory of the village of Buffalo from 1828, assorted guidebooks of Niagara Falls from the 1830s and '40s, and an 1840 journal kept by an inmate of the Erie County Jail. The collection, which offers unique insights into a rich era of the region's history, will be digitized and made available online for public viewing.

The Eugene Musial Buffalo Imprint Collection includes more than 300 titles printed in Buffalo in the 19th century.

Bullhorn

ONE-LINER

“Many of these students are really no different from any other students we have. They provide diversity, they are smart, they’re entrepreneurs ... for us not to give them the opportunity to learn, to get an education, would really be a crime.”

UB President Satish K. Tripathi talking to *The Buffalo News* in Washington, D.C., where he appeared at a news conference in October in support of the DREAM Act



DOUGLAS LEVERIE

Welcome Back

The award-winning GRow Home (for Garden, Relax or Work) has returned to its roots. A solar-powered living space with a built-in greenhouse/solarium that allows for year-round gardening, the GRow Home was designed and constructed by more than 100 UB students under the direction of the School of Architecture and Planning. Now, after claiming second place in the U.S. Department of Energy’s national intercollegiate Solar Decathlon in 2015, the small-but-savvy home has come back from the competition site in Irvine, Calif., to a temporary spot on the South Campus (it will eventually move to North), where students worked through the summer and fall to rebuild the structure for its new role as a university and community resource center—and as a timely model for how to live sustainably regardless of the season.



MEREDITH ROBERT KILMURCH

Last Respects

A lone bagpiper played a mournful tune, and then eight coffins were lowered into the ground. “In respectful memory of the men, women and children of the Erie County Poorhouse, 1851–1913,” read the simple granite monument at the gravesite.

Thus were the remains of 372 persons laid to rest on Oct. 11, their names unknown but their lives honored by UB in a final, moving reinterment ceremony. They lived and died at the county poorhouse, once located at what is now the South Campus. When construction crews first encountered their unmarked, long-forgotten graves in 2008, UB undertook a painstaking effort to

preserve, study and treat with dignity the remains of the people found. The nine-year endeavor was led in part by UB anthropologist Joyce E. Sirianni, a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor.

“Well, my dear friends,” Sirianni said in a eulogy delivered at the Newman Center, “you’ve become part of our being, every one of you.”

Soon after, graduate students who had studied the poorhouse deceased became their pallbearers, carrying the coffins to hearses that would take them to Assumption Cemetery on Grand Island. The piper played “Going Home.”

Eureka!

The dope on soap **p12**

Fish on drugs **p12**

Magnets on the brain **p13**

Mapping Dirt

A soil-typing device invented by a UB professor could help farmers increase yields and decrease pollution

By Grove Potter » A farm field can have a variety of soil types. Some soils, for example, hold water longer than others, which affects how much and how frequently they should be irrigated and fertilized.

A detailed map of those differences can thus be a huge help to a farmer. But mapping soil types has traditionally been a laborious, time-consuming process. Boring test holes, again and again, up and down an entire field. ... It can take days.

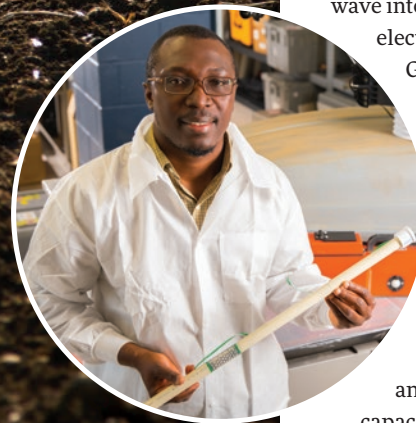
So Erasmus Oware, assistant professor in the Department of Geology, used some technology to come up with a better way. His device, a roughly 3-foot-long probe weighing just under 9 pounds, emits an electric wave into the ground to measure the soil's electrical conductivity; an embedded GPS then logs the precise location.

Because different soil types have different conductivity, the result is a precise map of the boundaries between the various soil types.

With the boundaries demarcated, a farmer can then test a spot in each soil area the old-fashioned way, by boring and measuring the water-holding capacity. Using this process, it takes about 20 minutes to map one acre, an area that would take about 20 hours using conventional methods.

"It's faster, and you get a higher-resolution soil map," says Oware. "We are collecting a lot of data points, many more than with traditional soil sampling." It's also convenient. The apparatus is snugged into a car-rooftop carrier that is dragged behind

CONTINUED



Erasmus Oware in his lab, showing the soil-zapping device he created.

DONIGLAS LEVERIE

Eureka!

an ATV, back and forth over every square yard of the field.

The map results generally are not a surprise to the farmers, Oware says; they know from experience which areas of their fields produce differently. But the detailed maps give them much more accuracy—a major plus not just for farmers but for the planet as well.

“If you over-irrigate a farm, the water will either create runoff and wash the fertilizer into nearby surface water bodies, or it will induce drainage whereby the fertilizer drains beyond the root zone and will contaminate ground-water resources,” says Oware. “On the other hand, under-irrigation will create water stress of the plant, affecting plant quality and yield.” Getting a precise handle on irrigation, he continues, saves water, reduces the amount of fertilizer used and saves energy.

Created in collaboration with Darcy Telenko of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, the invention won an \$84,840 grant from the New York Farm Viability Institute, which was augmented with support from UB’s College of Arts and Sciences. The money was used to purchase equipment and help pay for UB students to do fieldwork on three Western New York farms during the summer.

Next up for Oware: refining the device and seeking a patent, and devising a valve system to make it easier for farmers to vary the amount of water sent to different parts of the terrain. In the meantime, he and his students will be back in the fields in April, just before planting season. 📍

Clean Sweep

Research led by then-student Swapna Kumar (MS '13) and overseen by Pavani Ram, associate professor of epidemiology and environmental health, looked at the availability of soap for hand-washing around the world between 2010 and 2013. They found it varies drastically from country to country, and even within countries. Here’s why this data matters.

SOAP STATS

Approximately **1.5 million** children die each year from pneumonia or diarrhea.

Hand-washing with soap can reduce the risk of diarrhea by up to **47%** and the risk of respiratory infections by **23%**.

The study found that the percentage of households with soap and water available for hand-washing ranged from **96.4%** (Serbia) to less than **1%** (Ethiopia).

Within countries, poor households had significantly lower rates of soap and water for hand-washing compared with wealthier households. In Nepal, the rates ranged from **6% to 85%**.

This systematic analysis—the first of its kind, examining data from 51 surveys of 47 countries—will allow policymakers and aid agencies to focus their efforts to boost hand-washing in places where children are most at risk from preventable infections.

The UB-led study was conducted with collaborators from UNICEF; the U.S. Agency for International Development; ICF International, Inc.; and International Business & Technical Consultants, Inc.



TWEETABLE: Buffalo is now among select smart cities w/ a Wi-Fi network dedicated to the #InternetOfThings, thanks to @UBEngineering & provider @sigfox.

Beaker Briefs

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

By Marcene Robinson (BA '13)



Spiking the Fishbowl

Something’s fishy in the waters of the Niagara River. A UB-led team detected high levels of antidepressants—from wastewater treatment plants—in 10 species of local fish. The drugs, isolated in the brain, pose no threat to your weekend fish fry, but they can alter animal behavior and threaten biodiversity.

LED BY: Chemistry researcher Diana Aga

Squashing Superbugs

To eradicate a rare yet lethal strain of antibiotic-resistant *E. coli* capable of overpowering any single medication, UB researchers assembled a “superteam” of three antibiotics. The novel combination of drugs defeated the bacteria within 24 hours, providing clinicians with an effective weapon in the fight against superbugs.

LED BY: Pharmacy practice researcher Brian Tsuji and University of Illinois at Chicago researcher Zackery Bulman (PharmD '15)

Hitting Back at Frailty

Growing old doesn’t have to mean growing weak. UB researchers discovered that a 10-minute, three-day-a-week workout plan reversed frailty in aging mice. The short bouts of vigorous exercise—a high-intensity interval training (HIIT) program developed by the investigators—led to increased muscle mass, strength and endurance in the rodents.

LED BY: Geriatrics and palliative medicine researcher Bruce Troen and medicine researcher Kenneth Seldeen



60 SECONDS WITH Ciaran Williams

Interview by Grove Potter

Extreme Physics

Ciaran Williams grew up in Gloucester, England, and is the first person in his family to go to college. An assistant professor in the UB Department of Physics, he does theoretical calculations for the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's largest particle accelerator, on the border of France and Switzerland. For a particle physicist, the 17-mile collider is like the NASA program: It's where new knowledge gets discovered, and where weak theories get shot down.

Williams just won a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to continue his LHC project, and also to bring his favorite physics projects and a team of undergraduates to Salamanca High School twice a month for the next five years, with the goal of sparking an interest in these young learners for science.

How did you choose physics?

I always liked astronomy and science fiction—"Star Wars" and "Star Trek" and that sort of stuff. I got a telescope when I was a teenager. That really was the hook.

What does the LHC do?

It smashes beams of protons together at near the speed of light to create conditions similar to those of the Big Bang at the beginning of the universe. The energetic collisions create new particles—for split seconds—and reveal secrets about how matter is formed.

What do you do for the LHC?

My main role is computing mathematical predictions for what the LHC experiments will show. There are a few thousand physicists around the world, including myself, who work on the theoretical side, and a few thou-

sand more who work on the experiments themselves. So if my calculations don't agree with the data, that would mean something is wrong with our theory and we'd have to think of new theories that would fix it.

The Higgs boson was discovered at the LHC in 2012. What does that mean?

The Higgs is a particle, and the interaction it has with other particles generates their mass. It's not the reason you and I have mass, but it's why fundamental particles get their mass. For a long time our theory of physics was nonsense, unless you had the Higgs. Its discovery amounted to the missing piece of data needed to complete the Standard Model, on which modern physics is built.

Can you describe your NSF grant?

It's designed to create the next gen-

eration of researchers and educators. Salamanca High School has a large Native American population, and the aim is to provide access to science and scientists and also to try and boost the number of Native Americans who apply for college positions.

Any advice to young, aspiring physicists?

Anyone who wants to be a physicist understands that they have to like science and math. But I was quite lucky to be involved in amateur dramatics when I was a kid—my mom made me do it. As a result, it made me not terrified to be up in front of a large group of people. There are many, many good scientists with no ability to present their work. If I was going to give advice to a good young scientist, it would be to get some practice doing public speaking. **B**

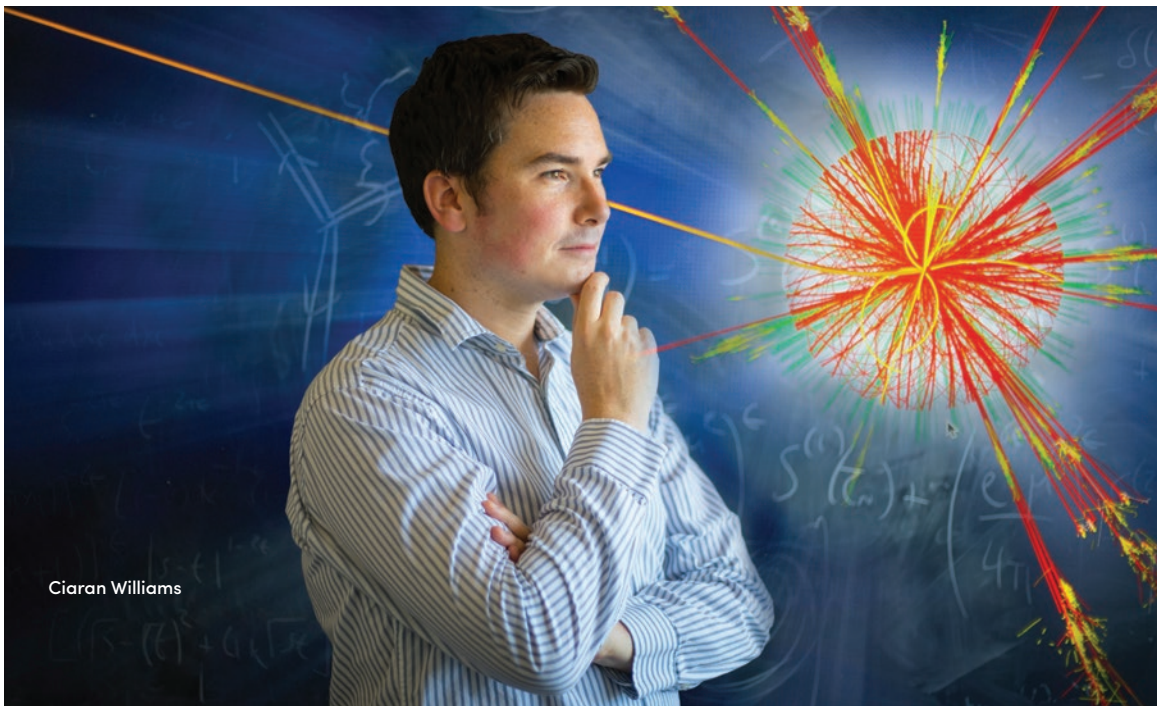


MINSHI ET AL., EURE

SMALL WONDERS By Charlotte Hsu

Stimulating the Brain With Magnetic Fields

In a new study, scientists used magnetic particles (highlighted in red) to activate clusters of cells inside the brains of mice, inducing specific animal behaviors that include running, rotating and freezing in place. While this may sound like an exercise in mind control, it's actually an important advancement for human health, says UB physicist Arnd Pralle, who led the research. Pralle's brain-stimulation technique involves heating the magnetic particles under an alternating magnetic field, which triggers activity in brain cells that researchers have engineered to be temperature sensitive. Such technology could lead to artificial ears and eyes, along with treatments for neurological diseases like Parkinson's that involve malfunctioning brain cells.



Ciaran Williams

DOUGLAS LEVIERE

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

Interview by Michael Flatt | Photograph by Douglas Levere



240 Baird Hall, North Campus

The office of Jean Kopperud, professor of music

Clarinetist Jean Kopperud's office provides a spatial narrative of her wide-ranging passions. Foremost among these is the clarinet, one of which appears in almost every photograph in the room. Her photos also document an early-career move from seated concert musician to kinetic performer. Next, there are her beloved horses and dogs. And, of course, there's the color. "Blue is my favorite color," she says. "When I came into this office, it was all institution-beige."

A Baku: I'm a dressage competition rider. That horse was named Baku, which is a Japanese name for a creature that eats nightmares. Perfect for a black horse. I sold him because we had a really bad accident, and it was his fault. I ended up in the trauma ward for 11 days. He's a beautiful horse, but we were not a match.

B In "Harlekin," Kopperud's first performance-art piece: Because I was a marathon runner, I was hired to do a 45-minute dance piece for clarinet. For six months I went into heavy-duty dance training, weightlifting, more running. That piece really changed my life. It created a career for me that I think was more suited to who I am.

C In "Cloud Walking" [see inset]: This was for a one-woman show I produced. I'd been a skydiver already, and the director, Tom O'Horgan, who did "Jesus Christ Superstar" on Broadway, noticed these photos of me flying through the air. He looked at me and said, "Do you think you could jump out of an airplane with a clarinet?"

D As Pan in "A Celebration of Twelfth Night": A conductor and writer from the annual "A Celebration of Twelfth Night" in Westerly, R.I., saw me in "Harlekin" and asked me to perform a leading role as Pan: half-goat, half-god. I worked with clowns and jesters. There was a 200-piece chorus and a pit band. I worked with that company for 22 years.

E Clarinet lamp: I found the clarinet in a store in South Dakota. Eventually, someone offered to make a lamp out of it. It's very old. Our clarinets today have many more keys.

F Rubber balls: I teach all my students to juggle. The process of juggling changes your brain waves, smoothes them out. I do it before every concert

and before I compete on horseback. It helps with writer's block, makes it a little bit easier to work.

G Mirror: The mirror develops awareness. Whether I'm working or my students are working, it's helpful to be able to say, "This is what I'm seeing," in terms of posture and embouchure.



That's one way to conquer stage fright!

LockerRoom

The game that wouldn't end **p16**

Build it, and they will come **p16**

Promising point guard **p17**

Jake Schum's Wild Ride

A former UB punter learns just how tough a career in the NFL can be

By David J. Hill » Jake Schum (BA '12) was selling gym memberships at a Buffalo-area fitness club in spring 2013 when he got the call he'd been waiting nearly a year to receive. An NFL team was interested.

A year earlier, Schum was dispirited after being passed over in the NFL Draft. He had wrapped up an outstanding two-year stint as UB's starting punter and had a strong showing at a combine, an event where prospective players train in front of NFL scouts in the hopes of getting drafted or signed. But the draft came and went, and Schum was left looking for work elsewhere. So he took a job at the Buffalo Athletic Club and, in his spare time, trained with respected kicking coach Sam Watts.

At a regional combine in 2013, Schum caught the attention of the Cleveland Browns, who signed him that March. It was a dream realized. But it didn't last long. The NFL is a cutthroat business where players' jobs are almost always on the line, as Schum would soon learn.

Not even two months later, the Browns released him. "That was the hardest one," says Schum, who went on to be cut several more times over the next few years before landing in Green Bay. "I had made it, and then it just slipped away immediately."

But Schum persevered, as he had learned to do during his college career. After playing one season at SUNY Buffalo State, he planned to transfer to UB. The Bulls, however, had a punter, and the coaching staff turned Schum down several times. He returned to Buff State for his sophomore year but decided to train instead of play.

Schum made the Bulls roster as a walk-on that spring—as a receiver on the scout team.

CONTINUED

Jake Schum with his dog, Emma, at his alma mater, Frontier High School.

MEREDITH FORBES KILMICKI

Locker Room

Unable to showcase his punting ability during practice, he would kick before and after UB's workouts to get the coaches' attention. It paid off: He was named the starting punter his junior and senior years (2010 and 2011) under then-head coach Jeff Quinn.

Fast forward to 2013, after the Browns released Schum. That September, the Buccaneers invited him to Tampa for a workout and signed him the following January (after the season had ended), only to release him in May.

And then things got really crazy. From June 2014 to the following August, Schum did stints with the Jets, the Bucs (second time), the Jets again, then the Bucs again. He was Tampa Bay's starting punter in

"I had made it, and then it just slipped away."

JAKE SCHUM

2015. They released him in August 2016. Through it all, Schum leaned on his family; his pit-terrier mix, Emma; and coach Watts for support. Two days after the Bucs cut him for the third time, Schum was in Green Bay with the Packers, where he started last season. "I just left and never saw my apartment again," Schum says. "Moving around is tough. That's the hard part people don't really see."

Rob Golabek (BA '12), Schum's friend and former classmate at Frontier High School in Hamburg, N.Y., and at UB, flew to Tampa, packed up whatever belongings he could fit into Schum's SUV and drove Emma up to Green Bay.

Schum had one of the best games of his young career in the NFC divisional playoff last January, an instant classic in which the Packers beat Dallas on Mason Crosby's game-winning field goal in the waning seconds. Schum booted a 66-yard punt earlier in the game and was the holder for Crosby's pressure-packed kick. The win sent Green Bay to the NFC Championship game, which they lost.

The Packers offered Schum a one-year extension after the 2016 season. Then, during offseason workouts in the spring, he hurt his back. The Packers released him in June. On his Instagram page, Schum posted a photo of himself with Emma and offered a heartfelt thanks to the Packers organization and fans.

"Those that know my story, it doesn't end here," he wrote. "Just another chapter."

Days later, Green Bay re-signed him and placed him on injured reserve. Schum, who turns 29 in January, has since been working with a team of physical therapists in Buffalo to get healthy for next season.

There are no guarantees the Packers will keep him. But wherever Schum ends up, he'll be ready for the next chapter in his nonstop NFL adventure. 📍



Young Nigerians check out the sneakers Ikenna Smart shipped in from overseas.

Kicks for Kids For kids who play basketball in Nigeria, resources—especially sneakers—are scarce. Ikenna Smart knows this well. "I was once like them, just a kid chasing a dream of playing basketball," says the Bulls junior forward, who came to the U.S. from Umuahia, in southeastern Nigeria, in 2011. To give back, Smart collected the sneakers he and his teammates no longer needed. Over the summer, Smart, with the help of UB Athletics backer and Keg-Works CEO Tom McManus (PMBA '06), shipped four boxes—80 pairs in all. Smart's host family from North Carolina, where he attended high school, flew him to Nigeria so he could distribute the shoes to kids at a playground in his hometown. "I'm hoping to play overseas after college so I can make some money to get more sneakers for them," Smart says.



A Game for the Ages

It will go down as one of the most incredible college football games ever played. And it happened on Oct. 7, during UB's Homecoming and Family Weekend, when the Bulls fell to Western Michigan, 71-68, in an NCAA-record-tying seven-overtime epic. Here are some other records set that night, along with one bizarre incident:

597 Passing yards, a MAC and UB record set by junior QB Drew Anderson

139 Combined points, the most ever in an NCAA game

7 Touchdown passes, a program record, also set by Anderson

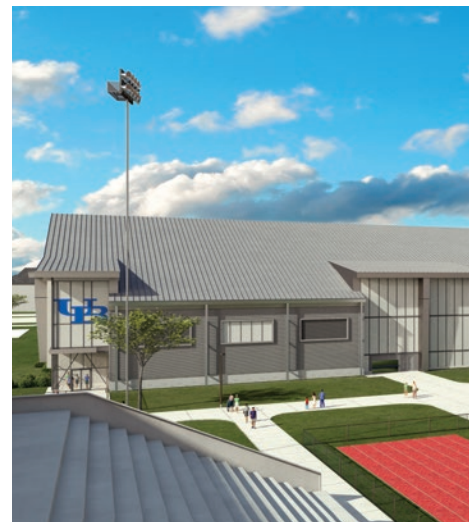
1 Viral video, after Western Michigan tight end Donnie Ernsberger caught a TD pass during the first overtime and his sister Shalene, thinking that was the game-winner, rushed onto the field to congratulate him. Alas, the game wasn't over, and Shalene had to be escorted from the stadium six overtimes before it actually ended.

The Clubhouse

Special Field House Edition

Compiled by David J. Hill

UB will soon have a field house. Construction on the Murchie Family Fieldhouse—the Murchie family made the lead gift toward the \$18 million project—started this fall and is slated to be finished in spring 2019. Here are a few fun facts about the indoor practice facility, which will help UB be more competitive with its MAC peers.



Kid in the Hall

UB's freshman point guard may be small, but she's used to playing on a big stage

By Lyndsey D'Arcangelo » Hanna Hall isn't your average 18-year-old basketball player.

Like most freshmen, the Hamilton, Ontario, native had never played college basketball before, but unlike most of her peers, she has competed on the international stage. A member of both the U17 and the U19 Canadian Women's National teams for the past two summers, Hall has played against some of the best young basketball talent in the world.

"A lot of those girls had already started playing pro, because in Europe, that's what they do," says Hall. "It was good to have that competition before I got here." Hall helped Canada's U19 team place third—their highest finish ever—in the FIBA World Cup over the summer, scoring 10 points in the bronze medal game against Japan.

Nothing in basketball has come easy for the 5-foot-4-inch point guard, who gave up soccer in high school to focus on hoops. "Because I'm a small guard, it's always been a challenge to play basketball, and that's what I liked about it," she says.

Before being tapped to play for Canada, Hall was making a name for herself at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School in Hamilton. She led her team to two straight provincial championships with speed, agility, crisp passing and creative scoring ability.

Given her small size—there are only a handful of players in the MAC her height or shorter—Hall has been working hard on finding ways to be crafty and get the ball to the net. She also soaked



DOUGLAS LEVERIE



FIBA

Hanna Hall played for the U19 Canadian Women's National Team over the summer.

Hall Stats

Age: 18

Hometown: Hamilton, Ontario

Major: Psychology

Career goal: To play professional basketball

Favorite basketball player: Skylar Diggins-Smith, Dallas Wings, WNBA

up all she could during preseason practices, particularly taking notes from veteran point guard Stephanie Reid.

Hall says she chose UB because of the coaching staff and players. The team is focused on making the NCAA Tournament, as it did in 2016, and she wants to be an integral part of that. As a point

guard, she is used to being a vocal leader on and off the court, and that's something she doesn't want to change just because she's a freshman.

"I think we have a really, really talented team this year," Hall says. "If we can come together, which I think we will, we'll have a huge chance at making it to the tournament." 🏀



TWEETABULL: Congrats to @UBWomensSoccer senior goalkeeper Laura Dougall, who set the program record for career wins and shutouts this fall. #UBhornsUP



Forecast: Roomy and Dry

With more than 4 million cubic feet of indoor space, the Murchie Family Fieldhouse will provide ample room for teams from football to cross-country to train, regardless of the weather.

4M

Everybody Wins

The facility will be capable of hosting nonathletic gatherings of more than 4,000 people, and will be equipped with spaces for expanded student recreation programming and intramurals.

4,000

A Lot of Steel

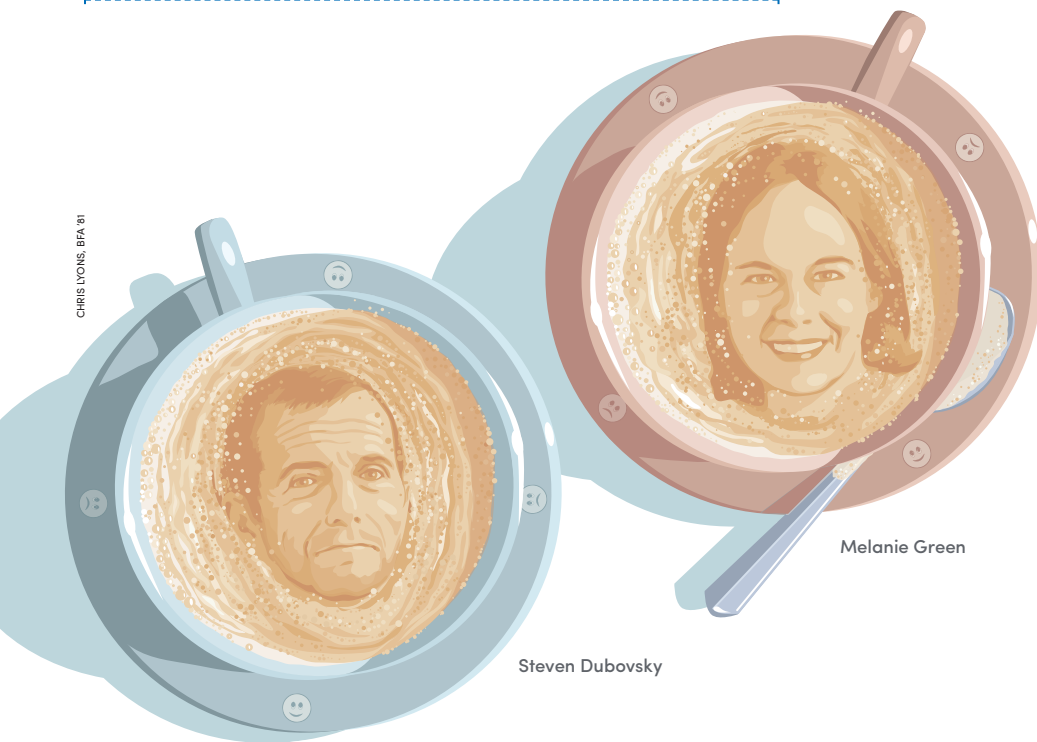
Building the structure will require more than 6,000 tons of foundation concrete, 80 tons of steel reinforcing bars and more than 9,000 tons of structural steel.

9,000

Be Part of the Team

Zero—that's how much state funding is being used for the project, which is being financed through football revenue and philanthropic gifts. To donate, visit www.buffalo.edu/giving.

0



CHRIS LYONS, BFA '11

Melanie Green

Steven Dubovsky

Is Social Media Making People Depressed?

In a recent article in *The Atlantic*, psychology professor Jean M. Twenge argued that the rise of smartphones and social media has resulted in a mental health crisis among U.S. teenagers, evidenced by increased rates of everything from depression and anxiety to social isolation and sleep disorders. Some have responded to Twenge's alarm with skepticism. We asked Melanie Green, an associate professor of communication who studies how online interactions influence real-life relationships, and Steven Dubovsky, professor and chair of psychiatry in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, whether digital media could be causing an increase in depression.

Melanie Green: The history of the research on online communication is a history of mixed findings. You have studies saying, "This connects people!" You have studies saying, "No, this is horrible!" The literature suggests you have to be a little more nuanced about it. There are things people do online that can make them unhappy, and things they do that can contribute to their well-being.

Steven Dubovsky: From a clinical standpoint, the incidence and prevalence of depression have increased in every generation over the last century, and it accelerated after World War II. And in every generation since the war, there has been a decrease in the age of onset of depression. This is apparently not just related to diagnostic fads or better diagnosis. Obviously it started before anyone had heard of the Internet or smartphones. But how do you confirm the most likely factors? These are all association studies. One theory that seems to have relevance is assortative mating, which says that people with similar traits marry each other at a nonrandom rate. Rich people marry each other, Republicans marry each other, and depressed people marry each other at a greater-than-random rate. So you have an accumulation of genetic risk and environmental risk. There's also recent evidence suggesting that untreated depression during pregnancy alters the physiology of the fetus in more or less permanent ways. Another possible genetic factor is something called anticipation, a phenomenon in which illnesses with a genetic component tend to occur earlier and have a more severe presentation in each subsequent generation.

MG: I agree that the data Twenge is drawing on are associative, and when you see an association, you can guess that one thing is influencing the other. But this may be a case

of a third-variable problem, where something else may be influencing the data trends. That's not to discount the negative effects that social media can cause. Cyberbullying and unrestrained aggression are certainly problematic.

SD: I think there has been a breakdown in society in general, where people feel free to unload on one another, and the Internet is just a reflection of that. Even before Facebook, when you had Listservs and chat rooms, people felt completely free to curse at each other. Like, you don't even know me, and you're screaming at me in capital letters.

MG: They're screaming at you because they don't know you—there aren't going to be consequences. But even before things got so polarized, people were prone to social comparison on Facebook, which can be quite a negative because you end up feeling bad about yourself. This is where people post the most exciting thing they've done while you're doing homework, thinking, "Oh, well, they're in the Bahamas, enjoying themselves." One thing that comes up in teaching classes with freshmen is the pressure to self-present. So it's, "I'm going to the party, but the important thing is that I post a picture of myself at the party with my friends so that people know I have friends." It's about representing yourself as the person you want to be, and it can be a stressor to have to maintain that kind of impression.

SD: There is also a kind of addiction to visual things like video games and smartphones that some people are prone to. And if you're predisposed in the right way, you'll be so engaged by these types of experiences that it's like being a narcotic addict, and you'll prefer the jolt you get from that to the pleasure you get from human interaction.

MG: I think with social media it even goes beyond the visual component, because we have this need for a sense of belonging. In 2000 there was a book by a sociologist named Robert Putnam called "Bowling Alone," which basically said everybody's watching too much TV, and it's reducing trust and connection. I wondered what was so compelling about TV that it could pull people away from their real relationships. Maybe it's this tendency we have to get immersed in narrative. These stories are compelling, and also easy. They don't carry the risks of real interaction.

SD: People also like different kinds of stories now. How many young people would watch "The Seventh Seal"? It's black and white, it's subtitled, it's really complicated. Who's got the time or patience for that these days? At the same time, when I was growing up, it was rock 'n' roll that was ruining my generation. Adults said it was the worst thing ever, that Chuck Berry was the devil. But you know, most of us turned out OK. ☺

How do you take your coffee?

Melanie: Actually, I drink tea.

Steven: So do I.

MixedMedia

The dirt on Depo-Provera p20
How to retire right p21
A rancher's tale p21



Michael Jablonski (right) as Riff in a 2015 production of "West Side Story."

O Captain! Dance Captain!

Musical theater vet Michael Jablonski ponders his next act

By Rebecca Rudell » "When I was young, I wanted to be a professional athlete," says Michael Jablonski (BA '97). "But I wasn't going to be that, so I became a 'professional athlete' in the Broadway dance world."

Indeed. In the 20 years since landing his first touring production as a dancer in "Brigadoon"—which he did just one year after graduation—Jablonski has attached 70 performance credits to his name, including three Broadway shows and eight national tours. Among his favorites: "West Side Story," "The Book of Mormon" and "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" starring '60s icon Ann-Margret.

Jablonski's love of dance started early. "My parents are huge musical theater fans, so growing up [in the Buffalo suburb of West Seneca], we went to shows at Shea's and in Toronto," he recalls. He took his first dance class in seventh grade, but when friends made fun of him, he quit and didn't take another dance class until his sophomore year at UB.

He still sang and acted a bit in high school, and in his senior year auditioned for Spirit of Youth, a local show choir. There, he met Lynne Kurdziel Formato (MA '87, BA '85), former director of the Musical Theatre Program at UB. Recognizing Jablonski's talent, Formato encouraged him to attend the university.

CONTINUED

PHOTO COURTESY OF AVENUE THEATRE, VERO BEACH, FLA.

Mixed Media

Jablonski took Formato's advice but didn't start off as a theater major; endowed with a natural proclivity for numbers, he initially majored in math. Yet performing was still in his blood. He took an acting class elective and auditioned for "The Threepenny Opera," the first production to open at the then-new Center for the Arts. The next year, he landed a part in "Godspell."

"Godspell' changed my life," he says. "I told Lynne, 'This is what I want to do.'" After Formato talked it out with Jablonski's father, who had some concerns about career prospects, Jablonski changed his major to theater.

Post-graduation, Jablonski danced on cruise ships, for regional theaters and at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va. Then came "Brigadoon" and a move to New York City. There, in part because of his even temperament and "mathematical brain" (which allows him to remember the thousands of steps in a single show), he was soon tapped for two highly specialized roles: swing and dance captain.

A swing is able to substitute for multiple performers on a given show. A dance captain ensures continuity of all choreography throughout a show's

run and teaches the choreography to replacement dancers. Both positions can take a toll, says Jablonski. Swing can be emotionally draining: You have to be ready to jump in for any number of positions at a moment's notice. As dance captain, you're critiquing your peers, which must be handled delicately. But Jablonski is a master of both roles and has performed them countless times. "Once you're known in the business as being good at swinging or dance captaining, everyone wants you," he says. "It's hard to find people who can handle it."

In 2001, Jablonski began teaching master dance classes at universities in cities where he was on tour. Then, in 2016, while working as dance captain on the touring production of "Matilda the Musical," he had an epiphany: He loved the instructional aspect of dance captaining a show. He loved teaching more than any role onstage. And once again, his mentor gave him the boost he needed.



Michael Jablonski

Formato, now an associate professor at Elon University in North Carolina, brought Jablonski on staff this past fall as an adjunct dance instructor. While there, Jablonski applied to graduate schools, including UB, with the ultimate goal of finding a full-time university position.

Many students in the arts never finish

school, instead choosing to try their luck at landing a dream job. One of Jablonski's motivations for teaching is to convince undergrads to stay the course. "There are so many benefits to getting your degree," he says. "I know it's tempting to take that job, but that job is going to end. Every show closes." With his proposed move from the dance world into academic life, it's clear the curtain has yet to fall on Jablonski's career. **B**

"Once you're known in the business as being good at swinging or dance captaining, everyone wants you. It's hard to find people who can handle it." MICHAEL JABLONSKI

UB Bookshelf WHAT WE'RE WRITING



CALLING ALUMNI AUTHORS

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

Regreening the Built Environment: Nature, Green Space, and Sustainability Michael A. Richards (MArch '02, BS '96)

Richards, a space planning/mapping specialist at the University of Vermont, describes how the industrial world can coexist with the natural world, creating an environment where rooftops become wildlife habitats and roadways transform into land bridges. In this forward-thinking work, the author offers readers a way to reimagine infrastructure in a sustainable world. (Routledge, 2017)

Contraceptive Risk: The FDA, Depo-Provera, and the Politics of Experimental Medicine William Green (PhD '77)

Green tells the backstory of Depo-Provera, the controversial injectable contraceptive approved by the FDA in 1992. Drawing from a wide variety of sources, he details the dark history of the drug's dangerous side effects, as well as the widespread institutional failures that allowed it to be approved and marketed in the first place. (New York University Press, 2017)

Second Acts Teri Emory (BA '70)

Emory's novel follows the lives of three women—Sarah, Miriam and Beth—from the beginning of their friendship in a UB dorm room in the late 1960s. As the years roll by, conflicts—from old relationships to sexist bosses—arise, and they are forced to confront the lasting effects of decisions and actions made long ago. But the trio consistently draw strength from their unwavering bond to come to terms with the past and move into the future. (Amberjack Publishing, 2017)

The Battle for the Catholic Past in Germany, 1945–1980 Mark Edward Ruff (BA '91)

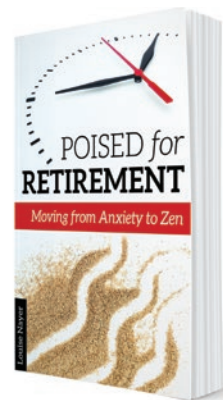
As West Germany came to grips with its Nazi past in the years following World War II, the Catholic Church, claims Ruff, received a disproportionate amount of criticism for its relationship with the Third Reich compared with its Protestant counterparts. In this in-depth study, Ruff tries to explain the discrepancy, in part by examining the perspectives of everyone from Pope Pius XII to ordinary German citizens. (Cambridge University Press, 2017)



Retiring Your Anxiety

The author of “Poised for Retirement: Moving From Anxiety to Zen” reveals the light at the end of the work tunnel

Interview by Holly Atkins



“Have I thought this out?” The question kept Louise Nayer (MA '76) up at night. For her, as for many people, the idea of retirement was fraught with anxiety. She longed to start a new phase in her life, but was loath to leave behind the joy and sense of accomplishment that her job as a writing professor brought her.

She fell in love with writing while studying under poets Robert Creeley and John Logan at UB. From there she went on to teach poetry to senior citizens before becoming an English and creative writing professor at City College of San Francisco for 27 years. She's been the beneficiary of six California Arts Council grants, and her previous book, “Burned: A Memoir,” was the winner of the 2011 Wisconsin Library Association Literary Award and a finalist for a USA Book News Award.

Conflicted about her next step, Nayer channeled her concerns in a familiar way: She wrote a book about it. Here she discusses how she came to write “Poised” and what's next on her agenda.

What made you want to write about your retirement experience?

The book started out as journal entries to help me cope with my anxiety, and as I was taking notes I thought, “This could be helpful to other people.” So it expanded from there. It had three different titles, went through a number of drafts and took years to get it out there. But now I feel this book can really benefit people who are considering retirement or who have recently retired.



Louise Nayer

You call “Poised” an emotional planning book. What does that mean?

Before retiring, many people have thoughts like: “I won't have my work friends anymore.” “Will I feel isolated?” “What will it be like without my job identity?” My book helps people work through those thoughts and emotions. I also suggest people fill their days with something they really want to do. People are afraid of what they think of as “the void”—but there are no voids. Things get filled. Even if they're taking care of grandkids or working part time, it can be an opportunity to rediscover things they used to love.

Was retiring harder than you expected it to be?

In the beginning, it was really exciting. I joined the San Francisco Writer's Grotto and thought, “Wow, I can focus my time and energy on writing.” But there were tough things too. I got out a bit too early and still had debt. And sometimes when you retire and go into a new situation, it's like going to a new middle school. You look around thinking: “Am I going to fit in? What do people think of me?” When you're older, it can be tough to get out of your comfort zone, but it's definitely worth it.

What would you say to people who want to retire but feel they're not able to do so financially?

Every situation is unique. If you feel up to it, stay in your job a little longer. But if you've hit a wall and you're exhausted physically and emotionally, as I was, it's time to think of new ways to bring in money. My husband and I rent out our house part time, I do memoir classes, and my husband teaches history classes.

What's next?

I have two books in the hopper. One is a memoir that includes a big scene in Buffalo where I put everything into a car and drive cross-country by myself. And years ago I started a novel, which is about two-thirds finished. I'm also going to lead workshops based on my book to help even more people through retirement. ☺



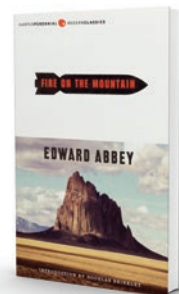
WHAT WE'RE READING

Nightstand

Jacob Neiheisel, assistant professor of political science

“Fire on the Mountain,” by Edward Abbey

“A sometime darling of the environmentalist movement, Edward Abbey [1927-1989] is known for his vivid depictions of the American West. Set against a picturesque backdrop, this 1962 novel tells the story of a confrontation over land between an elderly rancher and the U.S. government. Although it offers no simple lessons for the reader, the book does urge us to consider our obligations to one another and to the public good.”



TWEETABLE: Filmmakers, scholars and artists joined descendants of slave-narrative authors at @UBuffalo's second “Reclaiming Our Ancestors” event.



Entrepreneurial UB alumnae are spotting unmet needs in the marketplace—and transforming the health, beauty and wellness industries along the way

When Women Define

WOMEN

STORY BY LYNN FREEHILL-MAYE

NINETEENTH-CENTURY ENTREPRENEUR Lydia Pinkham had been cooking up herbal remedies in her Massachusetts cellar kitchen for years, grinding herbs like pleurisy root and bottling the resulting compound to share with her female neighbors. Over time, the home remedy developed a strong reputation for relief from cramps and menstrual pain, and her family started encouraging her to sell the blend. In 1875, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound hit the market at \$1 per bottle, becoming so popular that Pinkham started to receive up to a hundred letters a day from women seeking health care advice.

Pinkham's understanding of what women really needed—one of the product's slogans was "Only a woman can understand a woman's ills"—brought her fame and fortune. Yet in spite of her success, and that of a few other notable American women who have founded lucrative companies in the women's health, beauty and wellness sectors over the years, men continue to dominate the space. In other words, it's still largely men who are recognizing the needs and dreaming up the solutions for women.

But change is on the horizon. A surge of female entrepreneurship in the U.S.—the number of women-owned businesses is up 68 percent since 1997—is reshaping everything from corporate culture to product lines across the spectrum of industries, and most notably in those industries that cater to women. Three UB alumnae are among those leading the charge. Rachel Jackson, founder and CEO of Rachel's Remedies, invented a reusable relief pack that gives breast-feeding women control over their time and comfort. Dayna Bolden, founder and creative director of Bolden Creative Media, is using her sizable influence to promote the authentic beauty of

natural black hair and a relaxed, easygoing style for women on the move. And Ellen Latham, founder and partner of Orange-theory Fitness, developed a science-based interval workout geared to how women train best.

Each of these female founders brought a fresh eye to her sector, spotting a need that men hadn't fully understood and pushing to fill it in the marketplace. But even in 2017, when there are vastly more female entrepreneurs than in Pinkham's day, they've encountered a lack of female mentors and faced doubts about whether their ideas are valid. All three have pressed on to develop businesses to reflect what women (and, in some cases, men) need now for health, beauty and wellness—and in the process, are reshaping their industries to reflect a much broader swath of society.

REMEDY-FINDER

Rachel Jackson (BA '95)

Back in 2011, when new mom Rachel Jackson developed clogged milk ducts and inflamed mammary glands from breast-feeding, she figured that her conditions must be ultra-rare since they seemed to have no real solutions. Her doctor suggested taking hot showers (up to eight a day), tucking warm washcloths under her shirt, even leaning over a table and dipping her chest into bowls of warm water.

Jackson found these solutions absurd, especially as she cared for her son and tried to keep up work as a corporate lawyer. "All the things that were available didn't allow me to take care of my child—I couldn't do anything," she says. "There

CONTINUED

Rachel Jackson with her sons at their North Buffalo home.

DOUGLAS LEVINE

were times I was on a conference call with a judge, coming up with reasons why I couldn't appear in person."

Jackson had a second child a year later and encountered the same issues. Indeed, the more breast-feeding mothers she talked to and blogs she read, the more common she realized

these conditions were. And then she got angry. "It's not the exception, it's the rule, and there just wasn't anything out there," she says. "If it were a problem that men had, there would've been a solution in the 1400s. I'm convinced of that."

So Jackson, 47, took it upon herself to develop a fix—a reusable breast-feeding relief pack—which her husband jokingly called "Rachel's Remedy." She eventually turned that into the name of the company she founded in 2014: Rachel's Remedies. Reflecting how great the need clearly was, the packs are now sold online and on shelves at more than 350 stores, including Babies R Us and Buy Buy Baby. The company is currently developing new products, including an antimicrobial nursing pad. Jackson recently signed a deal with the country's top baby-bottle seller, Dr. Brown's, to start cobranding both products. They'll hit 800 Target stores in January and begin to reach the Dr. Brown's market of 58 million breast-feeding women worldwide.

Jackson's entrepreneurial journey began with a homemade chest-soother: a grainy heat pack that could fit comfortably in a bra and retain moist heat without soaking her clothes. Having majored in environmental studies at UB before turning to law, she wanted the solution to be all-natural. She shopped for materials (bulk flax at the co-op grocery, waterproof material at the fabric store) and had her seamstress mother-in-law sew a prototype.

She asked practically everyone who walked up to her North Buffalo door to try one out—even men, for knee and shoulder pain. Then one July night in 2014, she was having dinner with her father and stepmother, UB English professors Bruce Jackson and Diane Christian, when her father turned to her. "He said either do something about this or stop talking about it," she recalls. "The next day I formed the LLC and went all in."

Jackson arranged for her breast-relief packs to be produced locally, at a facility in Orchard Park. UB gave her guidance and support through its Western New York Incubator Program. She secured \$100,000 in funding from Launch NY, and even more from Z80 Labs. Most recently she won the Bright Buffalo Niagara startup competition's \$20,000 grand prize and was a finalist in the 43North competition.

Still, she has hit fundraising roadblocks, many clearly a result of sexist attitudes. "I presented in front of one group of investors, all men, and no one was making eye contact," she remembers. "I was told things like, if you're doing a presentation

don't use the word breast. Don't say breast-feeding. Say nursing, because you don't want to offend the men.

"It's been an old boys' network for a long time," she continues. "It's not going to change overnight—it's going to take a lot of work and education, like anything worth fighting for."

STYLE-SETTER

Dayna Bolden (BS '10)

Thirteen hundred photos ago, at the very bottom of her Instagram feed, Dayna Bolden posted snapshots of herself applying makeup to her younger sister Dominique's face as Dominique dressed up for prom. This was 2012. Bolden, then 23, looked barely older than her teenage sister, whom she thanked for getting her on the still-new social media platform. Bolden kept up with it, at first posting grainy smartphone shots and selfies with her husband, Ernest, and friends. But over time the images started to reflect more sophistication in art direction and content, showing a sleek and polished urban woman.

Five years after that first post, Instagram means business for Bolden, now 29. A basketball player and marketing major at UB, Bolden had worked since graduation in corporate sales and retail operations for athletic-wear giant Under Armour. This year, with 42,000 Instagram followers and counting, she was able to leave that job and go solo as a social media influencer and creative director. "When I started, I would share cute outfits here and there, not knowing this could eventually be a business for me," she says. "It's been such a blessing."

As people look to their peers rather than to professional models for inspiration, corporations have shifted some of their advertising dollars to everyday people—and Bolden has surfed that wave. You can think of her as an entrepreneurial marketer, blogger and model who helps companies imagine fresh ways to promote their brands while driving or creating trends among her followers. She's scored deals with firms like Revlon and Google, who appreciate her image as a stylish, confident mom and woman of color. In February she launched her own business, Bolden Creative Media, and is on track to make six figures in her first self-employed year.

Scroll up Bolden's Instagram feed and you'll see an emerg-

ing professionalism, hand-in-hand with an evolving personal style. At the start, Bolden's hair was chemically straightened and carefully styled. A few months in, around the time she was expecting daughter Aria, she chopped it short and let its natural coils crown her head. It was a decision driven by painful memories of getting her hair done as a child. "I think my mom put a relaxer in my hair when I was, like, 7—really young," she recalls. "All my life it was 'get the relaxer' every month. I can never see myself putting relaxer in Aria's hair. While she's under my

CONTINUED

RACHEL JACKSON

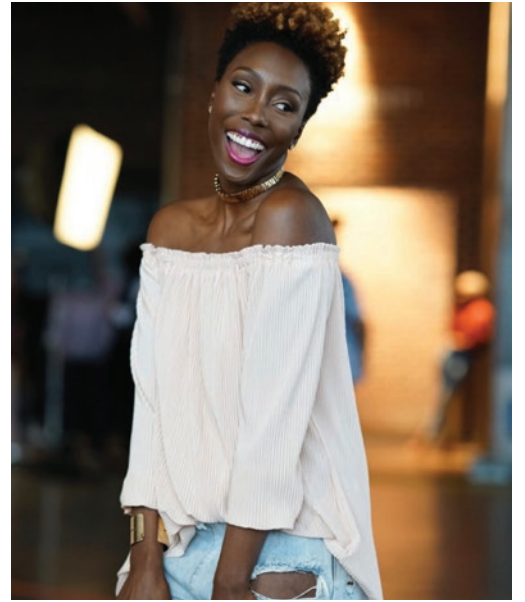
How do you think the environment for female entrepreneurs has changed in the past five years?

The entrepreneurial ecosystem in Buffalo has skyrocketed, and I've benefited from that immensely. But in the private sector, investors are still lacking in supporting female entrepreneurship. There needs to be more support because it's harder for women than for men. ←

DAYNA BOLDEN

How do you think the environment for female entrepreneurs has changed in the past five years?

I feel it's changed drastically. There are definitely more black female entrepreneurs. And the fact that you see so many more women entrepreneurs inspires you. In this world of social media, everything is more publicized, and that has helped raise our profiles. ←



The multidimensional Dayna Bolden.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ORANGETHEORY

Ellen Latham at an Orangetheory studio in Boca Raton, Fla.

watch, I'll instill in her how beautiful her hair is."

Shortly after going natural, Bolden and one of her best friends, Brittany McNeal, started blogging about their stylish lives with untreated hair under the rubric Chic Naturalistas. The idea took hold; they were featured in magazines like *Essence* and *It's My Hair!*, and the exposure built a major social media fan base. Natural hair is "a huge deal" for African-American women, says Bolden. "Now it's starting to become more normal to be natural, but even five years ago it was like, 'Why is she doing that?' I was just over it—the damage to my hair, the chemicals. I wanted to embrace my natural hair texture."

These days Bolden's fans want to see her look in person, snap pictures with her and get her beauty advice. Brands hire her to attract people to their booths at major events. She travels nearly every weekend, recently flying to L.A. for a beauty convention, Atlanta for a Disney Moms conference, Brooklyn for an Afropunk festival and Manhattan for Fashion Week. Even when she and Ernest took an anniversary jaunt to the Bahamas in August, she couldn't resist the chance to post from the trip for her fans.

When she's home, Bolden churns out content: blog posts for *DaynaBolden.com* and images for social media. Essentially, she's a real-world model who dreams up, schedules and edits her own fashion shoots. She hires professional photographers to document her against urban backdrops that now tend toward clean white and cool gray. The images look effortless, but they're often taken during marathon six-outfit shoots, with Bolden changing outfits in her car along the way. "The more effortless it looks, the more work it takes," she says.

Every so often she'll show more of a getting-ready scene, perhaps applying makeup like she did for her sister in that first Instagram post. In a recent image, Bolden's hair is twisted into bright aqua curlers, with Aria on her lap in matching yellow ones. She hopes her daughter and other women will be inspired to be both multidimensional and real. "I'm showing the world that you can be your true, authentic self while having all those roles and titles—mom, wife, businesswoman—that we women tend to have."

FITNESS-BUILDER

Ellen Latham (EDM '88, BS '79)

In 1986, Ellen Latham lit out from her hometown of Niagara Falls, N.Y., for Fort Lauderdale. A football coach's daughter and a fitness buff, Latham had majored in health science as an undergrad and was earning a master's in exercise science. She was also teaching P.E. and managing local YMCAs, but was ready to take her skills to a new level. "It was challenging to grow in the fitness world in upstate New York," she recalls.

In Fort Lauderdale, Latham finished her degree remotely and worked at big-name health spas, where stars like Linda Evans trained, before eventually opening her own Pilates studio. Over the years she developed an enthusiastic following and built up her clientele. Then, in 2010, a major opportunity presented itself. One of her clients, April Kern, suggested

Latham talk to her husband, an investor who specialized in health and wellness franchises. Kern was sure Latham's dynamic workout style could be taken nationally.

Seven years later, Latham, 61, is founder and partner of the runaway success that is Orangetheory Fitness.

Nearly 750 Orangetheory-franchised studios are now open in 46 states and 16 countries.

This year, both *Forbes* and *Fortune*, as well as the entrepreneurial-advocacy group Women Presidents' Organization, recognized Orangetheory as the fastest-growing female-owned business in the nation after its annual revenues hit \$450 million.

Latham developed the Orangetheory workout—an energetic, metabolism-spiking combination of cardio and strength-building—from scratch. She pored over studies old and new about intervals and heart rates, crediting UB, she says, "for instilling in me the need for research, science and data." Then she went beyond physiology, tapping into psychology and behavioral science to fashion a more effective workout for her mostly female clients. "I knew women would not continue with a workout if they didn't feel successful

at it," she says, explaining her decision to create walker, jogger and runner categories. Because women tend to crave variety in their fitness routines, she also changes workout themes daily.

Men wound up loving the Orangetheory workout, too, and now compose around 40 percent of the company's clients. A marketing truism holds that women will enter a business with a masculine vibe, but men will largely steer clear of a business with a feminine one. Orangetheory has flipped that theory around, putting women front and center in its marketing and still attracting men. The approach has been so effective that on a recent day, Latham—who still leads several group workouts per week—had a woman with a pacemaker and a Miami Dolphins football player in the same class.

Her business partner Jerome Kern and two other executives and investors they brought on board have helped Latham build out the concept and expand the business over seven years of scaling up. Her partners are high-level businessmen with impressive experience in areas like sales, management and private-equity investment—but also strong opinions that didn't always jibe with Latham's vision. She recalls having intense conversations about how Orangetheory would be run, stifling her frustration and only letting it out on the way home.

"Over time I saw they respected me and listened to things I said," she acknowledges. "But it is interesting being a female going into that all-male environment. It would've been nice if there were more female mentors out there."

How to change that? Latham cheerfully ends an interview about her entrepreneurial success by volunteering to mentor any women who need guidance. "I would be more than happy to serve in an advisory capacity," she says. 📍

Lynn Freehill-Maye is a freelance writer in Buffalo, N.Y.

ELLEN LATHAM

How do you think the environment for female entrepreneurs has changed in the past five years?

Dramatically. I think more women are getting higher education and want to be successful in their careers. You have some brilliant women doing great things in tech even though it's a man's world. You can see that still exists, but we have definitely made leaps and bounds. ←

NUTS AND BOLTS

Jonathan Shimon teaches students about the rigging system in the CFA Drama Theatre.



DOUGLAS LEVERE

PROPS

GIVE HIM HIS

STORY BY
REBECCA RUDELL

HIGH TECH, HIGH DRAMA

UB engineering, computer science and theater students worked with Shimon and costume designer Jen Dasher to develop these LED costumes for "Undertow," a Zodiaque Dance Company production.



JIM BUSH

From grateful mentee to valued mentor, Jonathan Shimon comes full circle

IN THE 10 YEARS SINCE he graduated from UB, Jonathan Shimon (BFA '07) has, among other things, built the electrical and mechanical components of an animatronic monkey music box for the "Phantom of the Opera" national tour, created a Cadillac out of a golf cart and foam for Sally Struthers' character in "All Shook Up" at Artpark, and designed the control system on LED-embazoned Elvis costumes for the Broadway production of "Honeymoon in Vegas."

Technical theater, also called theater technology, includes everything that goes into staging a production: lighting and sound design, costumes and makeup, scenery and props.

As a technical director (or TD), Shimon plays an essential if largely unseen role in making all of that possible: He programs scenic automation (when stages, scenery and props are moved via computer); works rigging (the ropes, pulleys and devices that control curtains, scenery, etc.); designs lighting control boards; sets schedules and budgets; and implements safety procedures. Katherine Metzler, a UB student currently earning a dual degree in technical theater and mechanical engineering, sums up the profession best: "A TD's job is to make the set designer's dream come true."

CONTINUED

FOLIAGE FX Shimon is the technical supervisor for UB's displays at "Lumagination," an annual sound-and-light show at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. For the 2016 show, pictured here, students created effects inspired by the diurnal cycle of light in a rainforest.



DOUGLAS LEVERRE



DOUGLAS LEVERRE

LIGHTING THE WAY Shimon indicates the structure in the Botanical Gardens' dome where students will hang lighting.

As an authority on nearly every aspect of technical theater, and as one of about 1,000 certified riggers in North America, Shimon is often called upon to share his expertise. This past summer, he traveled more than 30,000 miles to train theater technicians on cruise ships from the Baltic Sea in northern Europe to the Strait of Malacca off Malaysia. But since 2014, when Shimon came back to UB as an assistant professor in the Department of Theatre & Dance, those benefitting most from his wealth of knowledge have been UB students like Metzler.

Shimon's interest in theater was sparked in seventh grade when his shop teacher noticed his proficiency with power tools and asked if he wanted to build scenery after school. He enjoyed it and continued to work on stage crew throughout high school. But he found his calling at UB. "I took Introduction to Technical Theatre—a class I now teach—and quickly decided I was going to be a technical theater major." He worked at concerts, football games and other live events at the university, as well as at venues around Buffalo, including Darien Lake amusement park, the Erie County Fair, the Kavinoky Theatre and more—all before the age of 21.

"I had a lot of really amazing experiences that couldn't have happened at any other institution," Shimon says. "When I was

19, I production managed Spring Fest.” Specifically, he worked with Snoop Dogg’s tour manager and chose the rigging, staging, lighting and sound equipment for the concert. “The list of responsibilities I had was staggering,” he laughs, crediting the mentorship provided by UB faculty and staff for his ability to take on so much.

Many of those same teachers are now Shimon’s colleagues, and Shimon is himself a mentor, teaching the Introduction to Technical Theatre course each semester as well as a variety of studios and special topics classes. His mission, as he puts it, is to impart to students how technology helps tell the story—and not just to theater students. A typical Shimon course attracts as many students from computer science and engineering as from theater and dance. Indeed, more than half the undergraduates in his intro course are non-majors.

In one of his recent special topics courses, an LED-costuming project that he co-taught with costume designer and Morris Visiting Artist Jen Dasher (who collaborated with Shimon on the Elvis outfits for “Honeymoon”), students designed attire with tiny, twinkling lights for UB’s Zodiaque Dance Company. The lighting inspired Anne Burnidge, associate professor of dance, to develop a routine that mimicked underwater bioluminescent creatures (see photo on p. 29). “The LED project was my favorite,” says Metzler. “We worked on it from concept to realizing it on stage.”

To say that technical theater courses are hands-on is an understatement. In Shimon’s courses, students build scenery, draw wiring diagrams, use AutoCAD software, hang lights and operate rigging. In fact, each departmental production at UB is student-designed, and students fill all major technical roles, running entire shows from start to finish. “UB is in a distinct minority—in terms of theater and dance programs in the U.S.—where students are the TDs on university productions,” Shimon says.

According to Metzler, Shimon is the one who made that happen. “It used to be that just the faculty would do the TD jobs, like budgeting and drafting,” she says, adding that Shimon still guides them and answers questions. “But he really puts it all in our hands.”

Shimon also involves a few of his top undergrads in his professional work outside UB. For example, every summer and fall, students participate in the technical aspects of the Neglia Ballet Artists’ production of “The Nutcracker” at Shea’s Performing Arts Center, which Shimon has been TDing for the past eight seasons. Last summer, Metzler handled the budgeting and structural design for the show every other week, when Shimon was out of town training cruise ship staff.

Alex Farley, a senior earning his BFA in theater with a



LYNNE KOSCIENIAK

FOAM ROLLER In collaboration with a local supplier, Shimon’s team modeled and assembled this foam Cadillac to be “driven” by Sally Struthers’ character in a production of “All Shook Up” at Artpark.

design and technology concentration, helped with a warehouse move, rebuilt scenery at the Shea’s workshop and assisted with load-in and load-out for the production. This was his third time working on “The Nutcracker,” which starts its run the weekend following Thanksgiving. “You get to work at Shea’s, have off on Thanksgiving to eat your turkey, and go back to do the show,” he says. “It’s a fun week.” Shimon was also Farley’s mentor on this year’s production of “American Idiot” at UB, for which

Farley was the student TD. “It’s very evident that [Shimon] cares about producing good students, as well as the future of our industry,” Farley says.

The field does in fact need new blood. Shimon mentions that there’s a dearth of riggers, technical directors and automation experts, and that the industry is constantly searching for engineering and computer majors “who know stage left from state right.” His goal? To instill a love of theater in these students, teaching them how to pull off incredible feats of imagination and engineering—and to ensure that the show goes on. **B**

Rebecca Rudell is a section editor for At Buffalo.

“UB is in a distinct minority where students are the TDs on university productions.”

JONATHAN SHIMON



STAGE LIGHTS LED costumes—like these light-up Elvis jumpsuits he helped create for “Honeymoon in Vegas” on Broadway—are a Shimon specialty. His other areas of focus include scenic automation and theater safety.

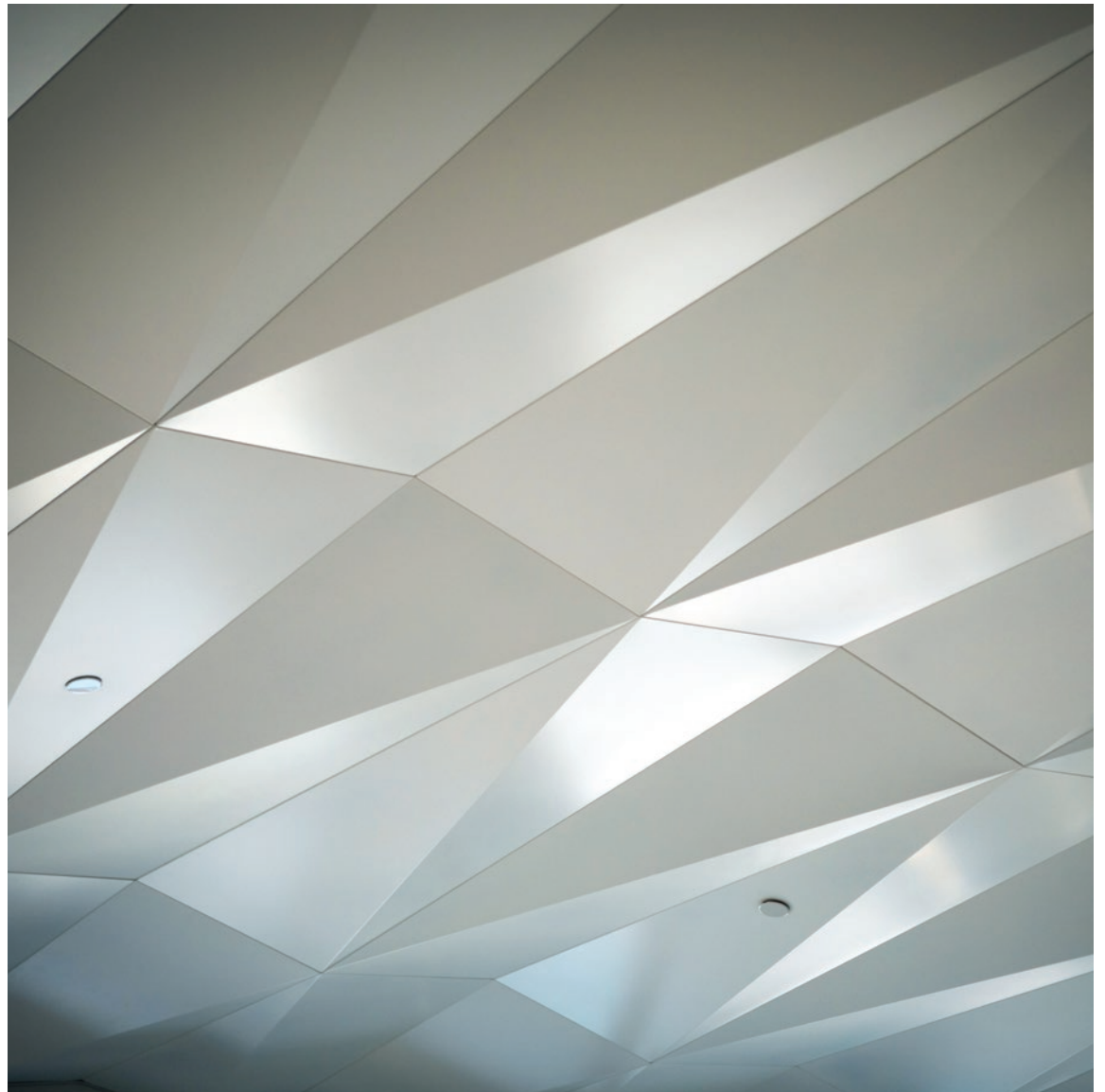
JOAN MARCUS, PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGHTING & SOUND AMERICA

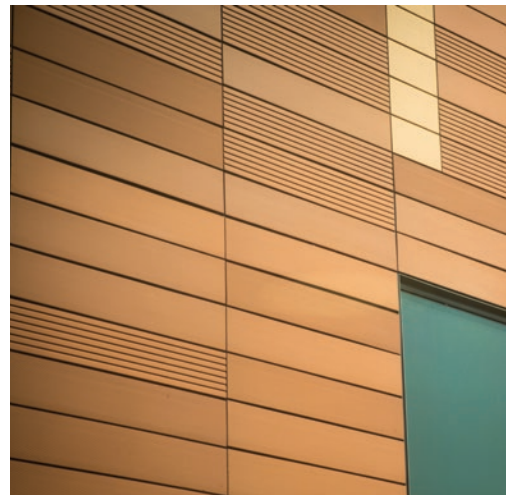
Details Make the Difference

By Sally Jarzab » Photographs by Douglas Levere

Final touches are being put on the downtown home of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, so that, come January, classes can get underway. In these pages, At Buffalo offers a sneak peek—and we do mean peek—at some intriguing visual elements of the spectacular new structure. How does it all come together? Look for full coverage in our next issue.

» Looking up: The South Campus facilities—some more than 60 years old—didn't always support faculty and students in their aspirations to achieve a world-class level of teaching, learning and research. And it was impossible to expand at the former location. But the new eight-story building is an ample 628,000 square feet, allowing the Jacobs School to increase its student body by 25 percent. Eight floors means eight ceilings, of course, and this one, in the lobby of the main entrance at Main and High streets, features geometric panels that manage acoustics while looking cool.





 **Medical chic:** Exposed steel beams, tactile tilework, grand glass windows, gleaming terrazzo floors and warm terra-cotta exteriors. Underneath these finishing touches are important design objectives of the new building. The \$375 million project creates a physical space that will foster interdisciplinary collaboration and interprofessional education; support high levels of research; and help to attract and retain the best and brightest faculty, students, researchers and staff.



Vietnam vet Thomas Barden turned to a UB School of Law clinic for help in protecting himself and other veterans from fraudsters.

CLASS ACTION

class action

Story by Luke Hammill | Photographs by Douglas Levere

UB's law clinics give students firsthand legal experience—
and the disenfranchised a fighting chance in court

THOMAS BARDEN was sitting in a Tonawanda, N.Y., meeting of the Vietnam Veterans of America last January when his ears perked up. He was listening to a presentation by Jonathan Manes, an assistant clinical professor at the UB School of Law, and a group of his students.

The U.S. Department of Defense, they were saying, maintains a website that offers private details of veterans' military service to anonymous third parties, potentially exposing millions of vets to an increased risk of identity theft and scams. "Hey," Barden thought to himself, "that sounds like what happened to me."

Barden, a retired Air Force master sergeant who served 21 years in the military, approached Manes and told him his story. He had received a phone call in March 2016 from somebody trying to sell him computer software. The man persuaded him he was legitimate, Barden said, by thanking him for his military service and providing details about his Air Force career that Barden thought only a vetted, government-affiliated company would have.

"Of course, I'm not the most computer-literate guy around," Barden concedes. "My wife will verify that."

Barden bought the software—and before he knew it, he'd been hacked. The scammers, he says, took control of his computer and held it for ransom. He had to get rid of it, putting him out at least \$1,000.

Barden enlisted Manes and his students in the School of Law's Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic, which Manes launched soon after his arrival at UB in 2016. The result was a 46-page lawsuit Barden and the Vietnam Veterans of America filed in August against the Department of Defense, alleging that the agency's website violates the federal Privacy Act. Barden believes the phone scammer who knew details about his military service likely obtained that information from the site.

"It's not about me recouping a thousand, fifteen hundred bucks," Barden says. "My concern is for other veterans, especially these young guys today fighting over in Afghanistan on three, four, five deployments. They shouldn't come home and have to deal with an identity problem. The government has to put in protections for that stuff."

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Manes agrees. “It affects millions of veterans across the country,” he says of the lawsuit, which is awaiting adjudication. “So we’re hopeful that the Department of Defense will be reasonable and work with us to fix the site.”

So far, it’s not clear that it will. In a statement responding to the suit, Navy Cmdr. Gary Ross, a Pentagon spokesman, defended the website, asserting that it “helps to ensure service members on active duty are provided the full protections they are entitled to under the law.” In the meantime, media coverage of the lawsuit is growing. Barden noted that a friend sent him an article on the case from the Miami Herald.

“I think now there’s going to be more service members and ex-service members who are going to come forward,” he says. “It’s getting people’s attention.”

THE VETERANS CASE IS just one example of the pro bono work the Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic, along with UB’s other law clinics (see sidebar on p. 38), provides the Buffalo region. The clinics collectively operate as a public-interest law firm within the law school, allowing students to get hands-on experience under the supervision of experienced professors across a range of social justice issues, from press freedom to animal rights.

The faculty-student ratio within the clinics is about eight to one, which means students get a lot of individual attention. Enrolling in one of the clinics is not required to graduate, but the clinics count toward the six credit hours of experiential

learning students need to earn their degrees.

And it is a truly experiential education. All the cases undertaken by UB’s various law clinics are led by the students, who have been granted a limited license by New York State to practice in court while they’re still in school. They

typically do the majority of the work on a case, and their names are listed on the case alongside their professor’s.

The Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic focuses on defending individual civil rights—especially free speech, privacy, due process and nondiscrimination—and presses for greater transparency in government through litigation and other legal advocacy. According to Manes, it is one of only a handful in the nation focusing specifically on civil liberties, press freedom and access to public information.

“The clinic serves to fill a gap in legal services that is of fundamental need to society, particularly at this moment in time where the public perception of the rule of law is fraying,” says Aviva Abramovsky, the dean of the law school. “What they’re doing is very, very important.”

Other examples of the clinic’s projects include third-year law student Arthur Heberle’s ongoing work to obtain informa-

tion from the U.S. government about open-air burn pits on military bases, which could pose health risks to active service members and veterans, and third-year student Jessica Gill’s successful efforts to help an Iraqi refugee obtain his green card after five years of delays. “That’s the most rewarding thing ever, knowing you’ve given someone more security than they had months prior,” says Gill. “He was just so thankful and so happy.”

Another student-led project, with potentially wide-ranging ramifications, seeks increased transparency in the federal court system. The clinic is undertaking the work on behalf of the Columbia University-based Knight First Amendment Institute.

“Too often, the parties to a lawsuit will agree to have details of their case kept secret and put under seal, and too often judges sort of rubber-stamp those orders and close off public access to court proceedings,” Manes says. “And that’s a problem, because oftentimes a dispute in court matters not just to the parties in court but to people who would be affected by the outcome.”

Manes’ students came up with a proposed rule that would “entrench constitutional standards” in legal proceedings and submitted it to the U.S. District Court in Albany. While they await a response, they’re trying to come up with ways to expand the effort to other federal courts across the country.

“The best part of the experience has been getting to work with these motivated, hard-working students,” says Alex Abdo, senior staff attorney at the Knight First Amendment Institute. “They’ve put in many hours of work, and it shows in their product.”

MANES, THE SON OF Chilean parents, grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia, and graduated in 2003 from Columbia University, where he majored in biochemistry and the philosophy of science. The next year, he earned a master’s degree in the philosophy of the social sciences from the London School of Economics. In 2008, he earned his law degree from Yale University.

His professional experience aligns nicely with his clinic’s mission. Manes worked as a legal fellow from 2009 to 2011 for the American Civil Liberties Union’s National Security Project, a unit that “defends civil liberties in the face of various national security programs,” he explains. “Everything from surveillance programs to police programs that target the Muslim community to targeted killings abroad, drone strikes and that sort of thing.”

He won a John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest and Constitutional Law at Gibbons P.C. in Newark, N.J., where he litigated cases involving prisoners’ rights, immigrants’ rights and marriage equality. He worked on the case that resulted in same-sex couples being allowed to marry in the state.

In 2013, he returned to his alma mater, serving as the Abrams Clinical Fellow at Yale and co-teaching the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic. “The model of clinical teaching seemed to fit my interests perfectly,” he says. “I could continue to do good work in the world but also be in the

CONTINUED



Pro bono: Third-year law students Jessica Gill and Arthur Heberle confer with Jonathan Manes (in necktie) about the cases they’re handling.



Married to the law: Jonathan Manes, who leads the Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic, and Nicole Hallett, who leads the Community Justice Clinic, are husband and wife.

scholarly environment of the university, where I could do research, write papers and have academic freedom to pursue those interests.”

He stayed at Yale for three years before UB lured him (along with his wife, Assistant Clinical Law Professor Nicole Hallett) to Buffalo. The law school was not looking specifically for a Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic, says Kim Diana Connolly, director of clinical legal education at UB. School officials simply “put an ad out, saying we want an excellent clinician.” Manes was “one of many hundreds who applied,” Connolly says. “He made it to the very top because he had great ideas. [We knew] he could deliver an amazing education to students.”

And so can Hallett, who directs UB’s Community Justice Clinic. That clinic represents low-income Western New Yorkers on issues relating to workers’ rights, consumer justice, immigration, civil rights and government benefits.

The two clinics are different, but Manes and Hallett approach their work with the same spirit. “We both see ourselves as public interest lawyers who are sticking up for the little guy and trying to make some good in the world through the law,” Manes says.

IT’S A WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON at the beginning of the fall semester, and about 35 law students are gathered in O’Brian Hall’s Cellino and Barnes Conference Center, a boardroom with wood-paneled walls and a large projector screen at the front. Hallett and Judith Olin (JD ’85), assistant clinical professor of law and director of the Family Violence and Women’s Rights Clinic, are acting out a skit for the student attorneys during a joint session of UB’s various legal clinics.

Hallett and Olin are pretending to be busy clinical students, talking to each other on a hypothetical weekend. A fictional client, they say, wants to drop her asylum case because she doesn’t want to testify. Worried about the client being in danger of deportation, Hallett and Olin decide to advise her to marry her boyfriend so she’ll be allowed to stay in the country.

The skit ends, and the question is put to the students: Did Hallett and Olin act ethically?

Discussion ensues, and the students decide that advising a client to get married goes beyond the role of a lawyer—a position with which the professors agree. But, Hallett says, student lawyers can give clients advice about the legal implications of decisions like marriage.

The room also agrees that the fictional students should have called their professor, weekend or not. “You shouldn’t be making big decisions without speaking to us, let alone changing the entire strategy of the case,” Hallett says.

The session ends with an exhortation from Connolly. “Go out,” she tells the students, “and be amazing.”

Luke Hammill (BA ’11) has reported for news organizations across the United States, including The New York Times, The Oregonian and Chicago Tribune, and now writes for The Buffalo News’ Hamburg Sun newspaper.



Students at the Clinical Legal Education office in O’Brian Hall.

For the Public Good

The history of UB’s legal clinics dates back to the early 1950s, when Professor Charles W. Webster established a student-run defense organization to aid indigent defendants charged with a misdemeanor. But, says Kim Diana Connolly, professor of law and director of clinical legal education, the clinics really took off in the ’70s—part of a nationwide movement at law schools seeking to address what the Fordham Law Review described as a “large, unmet need for legal representation for the poor in both criminal and civil cases.”

Today, says Connolly, UB has made “a big commitment to experiential learning and practical legal training” through its pro bono legal clinics. Some students work in the clinics for four semesters, notes Nicole Hallett, director of the Community Justice Clinic. “They might be graduating with two years of legal experience under their belts.”

In addition to the Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic, the law school has seven other clinics* focusing on topics ranging from animal law to conflict resolution:

The **Animal Law Clinic**, led by Connolly, works on local, state and national policy addressing animal welfare issues, like puppy mills, treatment of feral and community cats, and corporate formation and policy support for animal groups.

Connolly also directs the **Environmental Advocacy Clinic**, which focuses on state, national and international environmental policy issues that have direct impact on Western New York.

Led by Assistant Clinical Professor Nicole Hallett, the **Community Justice Clinic** represents low-income Buffalonians on issues relating to workers’ rights, consumer justice, immigration, civil rights and government benefits.

Assistant Clinical Professor Judith Olin (JD ’85) helps students fight for justice and safety for victims of intimate partner violence in the **Family Violence and Women’s Rights Clinic**.

Directed by Assistant Dean Danielle Pelfrey Duryea, the **Health Justice Clinic** works on health-related matters, like providing legal assistance to patients at Roswell Park Cancer Institute who don’t have access to a lawyer.

Adjunct Professor Steven Sugarman (JD ’85) helps students in the **Mediation Clinic** navigate the world of conflict resolution as they work on cases referred by local courts or other mediation agencies.

*As At Buffalo went to press, the law school launched the Puerto Rico Recovery Assistance Legal Clinic, which will provide free assistance to the victims of Hurricane Maria.

AlumniLife

Homecoming happenings p41

Individualizing education p42

Email in the old days p42

In the Genes

A rising researcher addresses health disparities from the inside out

By Elizabeth Gehrman » Most kids see the movie “Jurassic Park” as an exciting, if scary, fantasy. Candace Middlebrooks (MS '07) saw it as inspiration.

“I thought that would be the coolest thing in the world,” she says, “to learn to do what they were doing in that movie.”

Middlebrooks, 34, had already figured out by age 6 that she wanted to be a scientist, so, to be fair, Steven Spielberg wasn't her only influence. Her parents stoked an interest early on, doing chemistry experiments with her and tuning the family TV to National Geographic. And today, while she's not quite ready to hatch dinosaurs from amber-trapped DNA, she is bringing to light some pretty big things in her work as a post-doctoral fellow in computational and statistical human genetics at the National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, Md.

These days, she's helping to unravel a mystery concerning sickle cell disease, an inherited blood disorder that, in the U.S., disproportionately affects people of African ancestry—and, says Middlebrooks, has received relatively little attention from the scientific community.

“There's just not as much research on sickle cell disease as we would hope,” she says. “We know the main cause of the disease but not what causes all these other traits that often go with it, like stroke, pain crisis, cardiac complications.” Middlebrooks' current project examines a part of the genome called the exome to tease out risk for leg ulcers, a common and debilitating effect of sickle cell. “We're trying to see if natural bacteria on the body may be contributing,” she says. “I'm mainly focusing on the genetic risk for increases of certain bacterial growth on the skin.”

Candace Middlebrooks at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

JAMES KEALEY

CONTINUED

Alumni Life

Her training in genetic epidemiology has allowed her to take on other sizable challenges. Her previous postdoc was at the National Cancer Institute, also in Bethesda. "If you can understand genetic analysis methods, you can apply them to any disease," she says.

Her interest in sickle cell and cancer comes in part from those closest to her. Several of her relatives are carriers for sickle cell, and both prostate and colon cancer run in her family. When she learned through her graduate studies at UB that African-American men are genetically prone to prostate cancer, she went home and told her dad to get screened—but he wouldn't. "Then my uncle ended up getting the disease and passed away from it," she says. "Seeing that so close to home, I became interested in doing something about it."

Reducing inequalities in health outcomes is a prime concern for Middlebrooks, who grew up on Buffalo's East Side, where public health data show disparities abound. One factor compounding the problem, she notes, is the lack of trust in medical

research that runs through many minority populations, often with good reason.

"Tuskegee," she says with a sigh, referring to the infamous study on syphilis in which hundreds of African-American men were misled and mistreated. "Sad, horrible things have happened, and in some ways, people are justified in their fears. I think I'm good for this role because of my background. People can relate to me, and I'm good at understanding them."

Middlebrooks' passion for righting wrongs is already garnering accolades—and backing. This summer she was one of three recipients of the inaugural William G. Coleman Jr. Ph.D. Award from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

She looks forward to one day having her own lab, where she can decide on her own research questions and direct where the funding goes. Above all, she says, "I'm hoping I can restore the trust of minority populations in the scientific community." ❊

The Next Chapter

An alumni gathering in September at Buffalo's Larkin Square brought guests out to celebrate the debut of the Buffalo Niagara Chapter of the UB Alumni Association.

Find the group on Facebook: facebook.com/groups/buffalo.niagara.ubaa

Career tip

Rachel Jackson (BA '95) Founder and CEO, Rachel's Remedies
("When Women Define Women," p. 22)

"Do your research before a meeting. Know everything you can about the person you're meeting with and what they're looking for. Don't go in there blind, because that shows them you don't care. Information is power."

Capital UB Dozens of UB alumni gathered at Buffalo Nite #39 at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., in September to enjoy one another's company over Buffalo food and drink: chicken wings, Bison chip dip, Bocce pizza, Genesee and Molson beer, and Aunt Rosie's Loganberry. The New York State Society in D.C. sponsors the annual event, which draws politicians, business and community leaders from Buffalo, as well as Buffalo expatriates in and around the capital, to celebrate the city they grew up in or adopted along the way.

Mike's* Winter

Picks

A selection of upcoming UB events, open to all alumni

December

UB Bulls Men's Basketball vs. Syracuse Orange

12.19.17

Carrier Dome
Syracuse, N.Y.

January

Career Conversations NYC

01.10.18

Union League Club
New York, N.Y.

February

Alumni Reception and Tour of "Lumagination"

02.07.18

Buffalo and Erie County
Botanical Gardens
Buffalo, N.Y.

Mike says: "UB students are adding new designs to this amazing annual show!"

**YOUNG ALUMNI NIGHT
Rochester Americans Hockey vs. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins**

02.16.18

Blue Cross Arena
Rochester, N.Y.

Alumni and Family Skating

02.24.18

The Ice at Canalside
Buffalo, N.Y.

**DISTINGUISHED
SPEAKERS SERIES**

Susan Rice, former U.N. ambassador and U.S. national security adviser

02.28.18

Alumni Arena
North Campus

March

Humanities to the Rescue: An Evening With Margaret Atwood

03.09.18

Center for the Arts
North Campus

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

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





The Bulls caught air but ultimately did not catch a break in their multiple-overtime game against Western Michigan.

Home Is Where the Herd Is

A jam-packed Homecoming and Family Weekend in October brought music, reunions, sports and more to the UB community. In addition to the football game, this year's events offered the chance to learn from faculty and alumni in a variety of "Back to the Classroom" seminars, workshops and tours. The traditional carnival, pep rally, bonfire and fireworks prepped the crowds for the bustle of the tailgate tent party and the Walk to Victory through Stampede Square.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL HOKANSON, MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI, DOUGLAS LEVERE AND ONION STUDIOS



Steve Morris and Ruth Kleinman (BA '05) of New York, N.Y., enjoyed the tent party with their little boy in blue.



Marcus Yam (BS '06), a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, presented his sometimes harrowing, always stunning photographs to an audience of students, families and alumni, and explained how his stint as a UB Spectrum photographer shot him into a career documenting stories of tragedy and redemption worldwide for The New York Times, Seattle Times and Los Angeles Times.



Fans' enthusiasm did not wane during the protracted battle. For more on the game, see p. 16.



A trio of students took a turn on the Ferris wheel at the Friday night carnival on the shores of Lake LaSalle.

Learned Interest

Educators band together against sameness in schools

By Sally Jarzab » As a doctoral student in the 1970s, Walter Polka (EdD '77, BA '68) wrote his dissertation on the need for individualization of school instruction. "I had fine professors at the time," he recalls, "who helped me to see that, yes, all children can learn, but not all at the same time, in the same way or at the same rate."

In the years since, scores of other UB graduates have reached the same conclusion. In 2012, at a showing of the education documentary "Race to Nowhere," a small group of them came together. That informal network of acquaintances later evolved into an advocacy group dubbed the Partnership for Smarter Schools.

Now, a product of that partnership—a book co-edited by Polka and John McKenna (EdD '08), with contributions by a host of other UB alumni [see photo]—is pushing back hard against decades of school reform efforts they say are stifling both students and teachers through excessive standardization.

These folks would know. The authors, each experts in their fields, represent a range of perspectives, from education professors to school administrators to PTA leaders. "The common philosophy that bound us together, and inspired us to write the book, is that differentiation is in the best interest of students," says McKenna, principal at Fletcher Elementary School in Tonawanda, N.Y.



UB alumni authors share their perspectives in "Confronting Oppressive Assessments: How Parents, Educators, and Policymakers Are Rethinking Current Educational Reforms" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016). From left: Jeffrey Rabey (ELP cert. '98); Rachael Rossi (BA '07); Donna Kester Phillips (PhD '01, EdM '77); Charles Smlinich (EdM '03, BA '01); John McKenna (EdD '08); Douglas Regan (EdD '83, MS '76, BS '72); Mary Beth Carroll (BS '84); Walter Polka (EdD '77, BA '68). Not pictured: UB education professor Gregory Fabiano (PhD '05, MA '01) and Susan Krickovich (EdD '88).

DOUGLAS LEVINE

"We're not against standards. We're against standardization—having everyone complete standards at the same time," stresses Polka, a professor at Niagara University and retired superintendent of the Lewiston-Porter Central School District. "And we don't just lay out criticisms. We identify what we think are better options." For example, they call for revamping standards to be specific, measurable, attainable, responsible and timely—in short, SMART.

McKenna notes optimistically that New York State is in the process of making modifications. "Everyone is hopeful they'll be positive," he says.

Meanwhile, the authors are promoting the book around the country. To drive home the differentiation message, Polka often starts his talks with an analogy from his early UB days.

"I was 17 when I took my driver's test, just a month before I started classes," he says. Polka used his uncle's Ford Falcon; his other option, a 1956 Packard, was big, bulky and difficult to park. He says he passed the test precisely because he was able to take it at a time and in a way that met his particular needs. "It's got to be individualized," Polka says. **B**

Show your age Alumni proudly date themselves

What was your first email service provider?

"I created my first email account in 2001—a Hotmail account that I still use today. I get funny looks when I give it out."

Carl Weiss (MBA '07)
Westfield, N.J.

"I started with AOL in 1997 and still use it. It's in so many reminders and renewals, I'm afraid I'd miss something if I changed."

Steve Reynolds (BS '76)
Midwest City, Okla.

"My first email address was from UB in 1983. My first commercial account was with CompuServe. I also had GEnie and Prodigy accounts before I got married, and my wife and I set up a joint AOL account."

Thomas Pellitieri (BA '83)
Toledo, Ohio

"Netscape in the late '90s. I still use it!"

Debbie Sinkin Kaplan (BS '78)
Northport, N.Y.

"I worked at the Information Technology Center in the basement of Clemens Hall during the mid-'90s. At the time, UB had the VAX system for email and internet stuff. I think my address was ITCMARK@ubvms.com."

Mark Weber (BA '97)
Amherst, N.Y.

"I was 10 when I started using email. My first provider was Hotmail, and my grandmother helped me set it up."

Nikki Niemeyer (MA '17)
Erie, Pa.



"My first email provider was UB. I started using it in 1992 when my brother went away to the University of Wyoming. He was the only other person I knew with email! It saved lots of money on long-distance phone calls."

Dori Sajdak (BA '95)
Buffalo, N.Y.

ClassNotes

Cold mountain p45

'96: Goldberg joins The N.Y. Times p45

How to lose a tail p46

Eyewitness in the Sky

Using satellite imagery, a UB alumnus monitors cultural destruction in the Middle East

By Jeff Klein » From half a world away, archaeologist Scott Branting (PhD '04, MA '03) has been watching the ancient monuments of Syria and northern Iraq get bombed, looted, obliterated.

"At Nimrud, you see them pulling out reliefs and jackhammering them," he says of what Islamic State fighters did at a 3,000-year-old Assyrian site in northern Iraq, which he witnessed through a series of detailed satellite images. He has also seen the toppling of ancient pillars, the destruction of mosques and churches, and the pillaging of museums, all from his lab at the University of Central Florida, in Orlando.

Branting, one of the world's top researchers in the field of archaeology and geospatial science, is a principal investigator with the American Schools of Oriental Research, a nonprofit scholarly organization that studies the Ancient Near East. With funding from the U.S. State Department, the Getty Institute and other donors, the organization monitors the ongoing damage to cultural and historical sites in those war-torn lands. The project is called the Cultural Heritage Initiatives.

"It's horrible to see the destruction of cultural heritage being used as a tool to sow fear and tear away people's identities," he says. "Even more horrific are the killings and violations of people that have gone hand in hand with the destruction of cultural heritage."

Over the last three years, Branting and his colleagues have inventoried some 13,000 heritage sites, conducted 9,000 satellite assessments and produced more than 1,000 reports. "I deal mainly with satellite imagery and other types of geospatial information," says Branting, who also uses other data, like on-the-ground

NICHOLAS LEREW/SATELLITE IMAGE COURTESY OF DIGITALGLOBE

Scott Branting in front of a 2003 satellite image of Kerkenes, an archaeological site in central Turkey that he has studied for more than two decades.

CONTINUED

intelligence, to prepare his findings. The remarkably detailed reports he helps produce are presented at White House briefings, shared with Interpol and stockpiled as evidence for future war crimes trials.

They've also revealed some surprising deceptions.

When Branting started his work, the Islamic State (IS) was gaining control over much of Syria and northern Iraq. It distributed videos of IS fighters deliberately destroying antiquities that the group denounced as idolatrous and anti-Islamic. But contrary to appearances, the Islamic State wasn't destroying everything. The jackhammering at Nimrud is one example—the debris pile Branting observed was much smaller than what would've been expected from the complete destruction of all the reliefs at the site.

"So they may well have pulled things out," says Branting, "and subsequently we have knowledge of things coming onto the black market,

"Any time you drop a bomb, there's going to be some damage."

SCOTT BRANTING

But the destruction of cultural sites continues, inflicted by the Iraqi and Syrian armies, regional militias, rebel groups and foreign forces.

"There are other groups causing damage, not all of it deliberate looting of antiquities," says Branting. "But that doesn't mean there hasn't been extreme damage—collateral damage from barrel bombs dropped out of helicopters, bombing by jets." American aircraft, he adds, have caused some of that destruction. "The U.S. tries to their best ability to avoid that within the parameters of the mission, and other parties do as well. But any time you drop a bomb, there's going to be some damage."

Branting, 45, earned a master's degree at the University of Chicago before attending UB, where he earned a second master's, in geography, and a PhD in anthropology. (His dissertation was on pedestrian traffic in Kerkenes, an Iron Age city in modern-day Turkey that was destroyed around 550 BCE.) He then spent 10 years directing the University of Chicago's Center for Middle Eastern Landscapes. Today he is an assistant professor of archaeology at the University of Central Florida, where he directs research at Kerkenes alongside his geospatial monitoring of endangered cultural sites.

"UB was certainly instrumental in placing me where I'm at now," he says. "When I was there, the university had a National Science Foundation-based doctoral program that was sort of a collaboration between anthropology, geography, various portions of engineering and philosophy. It created this interdisciplinary community that was absolutely essential to me taking the next step from being an archaeologist to using remote sensing technologies and geographic information systems."

Branting is quick to point out that his specialty, though not as technologically advanced as it is now, has been around for decades. "During shuttle missions in the early '90s, NASA used radar technology to find the lost city of Ubar," an ancient city buried beneath the sands of the Arabian Peninsula. "Looking at antiquities from space or trying to find archaeological sites is certainly not something new."

But monitoring cultural destruction from space is, unfortunately, a growing line of work. The State Department recently added Libya to the Cultural Heritage Initiatives' portfolio.

"Sadly, our scope has expanded," Branting says. "There's no shortage of damage taking place." 📍

artifacts that are most likely coming from these sources. Certainly there are cases where the Islamic State exaggerated the extent of the destruction they perpetrated, and looted instead."

Over the last year, the IS has lost most of the territory it once controlled.

CLASS NOTES BY DECADE

Person to Person

50

Vincent "Jim" Cipollaro, BA 1953, a retired dermatologist, was honored by the International League of Dermatology Societies. Cipollaro, who still has his 1949 freshman beanie, lives in Manhattan, N.Y.



Stay connected!

Share your news, photos and stories on UB Connect, the online community for alumni.

» buffalo.edu/alumni

70

David Klein, BA 1971, received the Excellence in Medicine Award from the American Medical Association and the Harold Strasser, MD, Good Samaritan Award from the Florida Medical Association. An ophthalmologist for more than three decades, Klein founded a community clinic in Port Charlotte, Fla., to provide free medical, pharmacy and wellness services to underserved patients. He lives in Punta Gorda, Fla.

Sister Roberta Brunner, MS 1972, has retired after working in various nursing jobs for nearly 40 years, including nursing home administrator, nurse supervisor and geriatric nurse clinician. She resides in Tampa, Fla.

Alberto Cappas, BA 1973, has published "To Think Is to Grow," a book of quotations encouraging young minorities to use their creativity to liberate themselves from stereotypes. A native of Puerto Rico, Cappas grew up in New York, N.Y., and helped create El Festival del Libro, an annual book fair in East Harlem. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

Neil Woodworth, BS 1974, is now a certified guardian ad litem for the State of Florida, 5th Circuit. He lives in The Villages, Fla.

Arlane Frederick, EDM 1975, retired from teaching at Buffalo State College and volunteers at The Teacher's Desk in



LARS GERHARD

Keith Patchel, BFA 1979, composer-in-residence at the NYU Music Experience Design Lab (MusEDLab), received an Acker Award in the category of composer/producer. At UB, Patchel learned from guest lecturers John Cage and Aaron Copland, and reconnected with Cage in New York City after graduation. He later formed a rock/punk band and joined other bands, including Richard Lloyd's. Patchel recently premiered his opera, "The Plain of Jars," about the secret bombing campaign the U.S. waged on Laos during the Vietnam War. He lives in New York, N.Y.

Buffalo, N.Y., a store that provides teachers with free school supplies. She lives in Amherst, N.Y.

Richard Homokay, BS 1977, a physical therapist, recently retired and started training for a half marathon. He resides in Monterey, Calif.

80

Paul Barry, BA 1981, was named vice president of claims by PEMCO Insurance in Seattle, Wash. He lives in North Bend, Wash.

Doug Olsson, BS 1983, regional vice president for AIM Media Midwest and publisher of The Lima News, was named to the board of trustees of the Ohio News Media Association. Olsson resides in Lima, Ohio.

David Fillenwarth, BA 1984, is the new executive director of the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, N.Y. Fillenwarth, who managed the Lancaster (N.Y.) Opera House until 2014, lives in Hamburg, N.Y.

90

Donna Falcone, EDM 1990, is the illustrator of "A Is for Azure," by L.L. Barkat, a children's alphabet book of colors based on literacy and brain research. Falcone lives in Tifton, Ga.

Michelle Goldberg, BS 1996, was named an opinion columnist for The New York Times. A former columnist at Slate, Goldberg has written for The New Yorker, Rolling Stone, The New Republic and The Nation. Goldberg resides in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jerome Scarcella, EDM 1997, BS 1986, longtime Williamsville North High School baseball coach and

a member of the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame, has retired. Scarcella, a health teacher for the school district for 22 years, lives in Lancaster, N.Y.

Joe Wandass III, MD 1997, PhD 1986 & BA 1982, has joined Saint Thomas Medical Partners at Lenox Village in Nashville, Tenn. Wandass, who was a clinical associate professor of medicine and pediatrics at UB, resides in Nolensville, Tenn.

00

Abdulkadir Sarac, PhD 2001, MS 1997, was named chief operating officer of Curbell Inc., the Orchard Park (N.Y.)-based parent company of Curbell Plastics and Curbell Medical Products. Sarac lives in Williamsville, N.Y.

Molly Eaton, MD 2004, a family medicine doctor, has joined the Murfreesboro Medical Clinic in Tennessee. A native of Lockport, N.Y., she practiced in Buffalo, N.Y., for 10 years. Eaton lives in Murfreesboro.

Gabriel Horowitz, BA 2004, was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor of Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro. He resides in Jonesboro, Ark.

Richard Taczowski, MUP 2006, received a certificate of appreciation for his 15 years of service as a board member with the Selective Service System. Taczowski, who founded the Friends of Schoolhouse #8 to preserve the 1857 one-room school in North Collins, N.Y., lives in Buffalo, N.Y.

CONTINUED



BARRY FITZGERALD (MFA '90)

Top Five *with* Susan Reenan, BA '93

Teacher, Gordon School (a private elementary school in East Providence, R.I.)

Interview by Rebecca Rudell » When Susan Reenan isn't teaching sixth-grade humanities, she's most likely hiking up a mountain. Her love of the outdoors began in 2011 when she met Robert, a man who would eventually become her husband, and the two began hiking together—easy trails at first, then on to more challenging terrain, but always in the milder months. After logging many mountainous miles over several springs, summers and falls, they realized that something was missing from their hiking lives: winter.

So in 2014, the Reenans pledged to join the Winter 46ers, an elite group of approximately 700 people who have climbed all 46 Adirondack peaks in the period between Dec. 21 and March 21. Three years later, and shortly before her 46th birthday, Reenan became one of fewer than 200 women to achieve this feat—and an ideal person to ask about prepping for a chilly ascent.

Five tips for hiking in winter:

Buy the right gear

1 Gear can make or break your experience. It can get to well below minus 10 degrees in the mountains, so your equipment has to be capable of enduring those temperatures. Lithium batteries, for example, don't freeze as easily as regular batteries. And down mittens and wool underwear are a must.

Pick a partner or join a team

2 Hiking alone in winter isn't safe. Every minute counts when it's that cold, and if you get hurt or need to make a quick decision, you need a buddy you can trust. Plus, it's more fun! There are meetup groups

on Facebook (like the Aspiring Adirondack 46ers) where you can find people to hike with.

Research your route

3 In the hiking world, it's called "gathering beta." You need to know a trail's distance, elevation gain, landmarks and what the terrain is like. In winter, trails are often broken (meaning there's a path in the snow), but if wind blows snow over that track or trail markers are covered, you could get in trouble. You also should know alternative routes in case you need to bail and find a different path back. Always bring a map, compass and GPS unit.

Bring food that doesn't freeze

4 You'll be out for a long time—our Adirondack hikes can last 12 hours—so pack snacks like cheese, jerky and peanut butter cups (our favorite). We also carry hot drinks in insulated bottle carriers so they don't freeze as quickly on the trail.

Be knowledgeable, and brave

5 When your fingers start to go numb, it's natural to get worried. But it's all about knowing your body and acquiring skills, like how to get your circulation back. People are afraid of the cold, but hiking in winter is beautiful. It all comes down to planning and tenacity.

Class Notes

Evan Reimondo, BS 2008, environmental stewardship coordinator at the National Outdoor Leadership School, was named one of the National Wildlife Federation EcoLeaders Top 50 Inspirations. Reimondo lives in Flagstaff, Ariz.

10

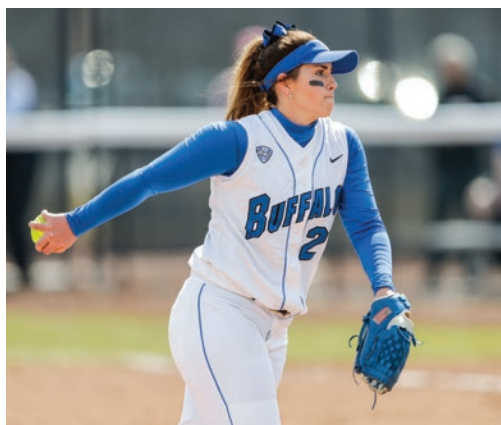
Adam Skonieczki, BA 2010, has been hired as Southern Vermont College's head baseball coach. Currently living in Amherst, N.Y., Skonieczki plans to move to the Bennington, Vt., area next year.

Kailee Tkacz, BA 2011, was named policy adviser for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services division. Tkacz lives in Washington, D.C.

Timothy Niver, MLS 2012, is the new library director at Victor Farmington Library, where he previously served as community services librarian. Niver resides in Clifton Springs, N.Y.

Zachary Persichini, BS 2014, is the new varsity soccer coach at Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School in Buffalo, N.Y. He lives in Buffalo.

Gianfranco Pietrantoni, MArch 2017, has been hired as an architectural designer at SWBR, a multidisciplinary design firm in Rochester, N.Y., where he began his career as an intern in 2015. Pietrantoni lives in Greece, N.Y.



Tori Speckman, BA 2014, was named pitching coach of the University at Buffalo softball team. Speckman, a two-time All-MAC pitcher, holds several UB single-season and career records. She lives in Buffalo, N.Y.



BRIAN STAUFER/THE ISHOO

How-to *with* Marc Hurwitz, BA '97

President, Crossroads Investigations

Interview by Jeff Klein » In this age of ubiquitous GPS tracking, security cameras and license-plate scanners, people can be forgiven if they think they're being watched. Some of them actually are, according to Marc Hurwitz, a former CIA counterterrorism officer who is now president of Crossroads Investigations, a Miami-based private investigation and due diligence firm whose many services include tracking down stalkers.

"There are so many tools available to us as investigators to find people," says Hurwitz, who started on his career path as an intern at the Department of State during his UB years. "There's very little privacy." When someone is being stalked, Hurwitz says, the culprit is usually a business rival, jilted spouse, flat-out creep—but not always. "In one case," he says, "the Feds were following our client."

We asked Hurwitz how you can tell if someone's watching you, and what you can do about it.

How to spot a stalker:

Beware online lurkers

We give clients an extensive tip sheet on how to keep their social media accounts private. One tip: Never log on to or link to third-party sites (Twitter, Bing, LinkedIn) using your Facebook account—doing so shares your information with third parties. We also provide a Javascript code called InitialChatFriendsList that lets you see who's stalking you online.

Mind your phone

These are the first questions I ask clients worried that their phones are bugged: "Is it an iPhone?" and "Has it been jailbroken?" A jailbroken iPhone means you can download apps from sources other than the Apple App Store. If an iPhone hasn't been jailbroken, it's about as secure a phone as you can have against nongovernment hackers. For any other phone, a technical specialist must look to see if there's any software allowing it to be bugged.

Check your rearview

If you think a car has been tailing you, design a route that will take you through chokepoints—areas with no parallel roads—so the person would have to follow you to get from Point A to Point B. Drive calmly and make your normal stops so it looks as natural as possible. Note the make, model and color of the car, and the license plate. Or use a dash cam with a reverse camera. Drive long enough, and change directions enough times, to rule out coincidence.

Gravitate to safety

If you know you're being watched and feel you're in danger, stay in public areas. If you can, call or make your way to the police. I can tell you that surveillance investigators are not happy and will break off if a subject drives to a police station.



YOUR GIFT
matters.

N'Dea Johnson ←
CLASS OF 2018
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

N'Dea Johnson came to UB from Long Island as a student athlete with a four-year scholarship in soccer. She stayed to become a graduate student in public health. She had been diagnosed with Crohn's disease, and added a minor in nutrition sciences to her undergraduate psychology major. N'Dea discovered her true passion in the field and decided to pursue a master's degree in nutrition sciences. Her hope is to "help others like me who suffer from autoimmune disease," she says. After graduation, N'Dea would also like to work as a nutritionist with a sports team. She says that generous financial support from UB donors "is the reason I get to chase my dream every day and work my hardest."

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

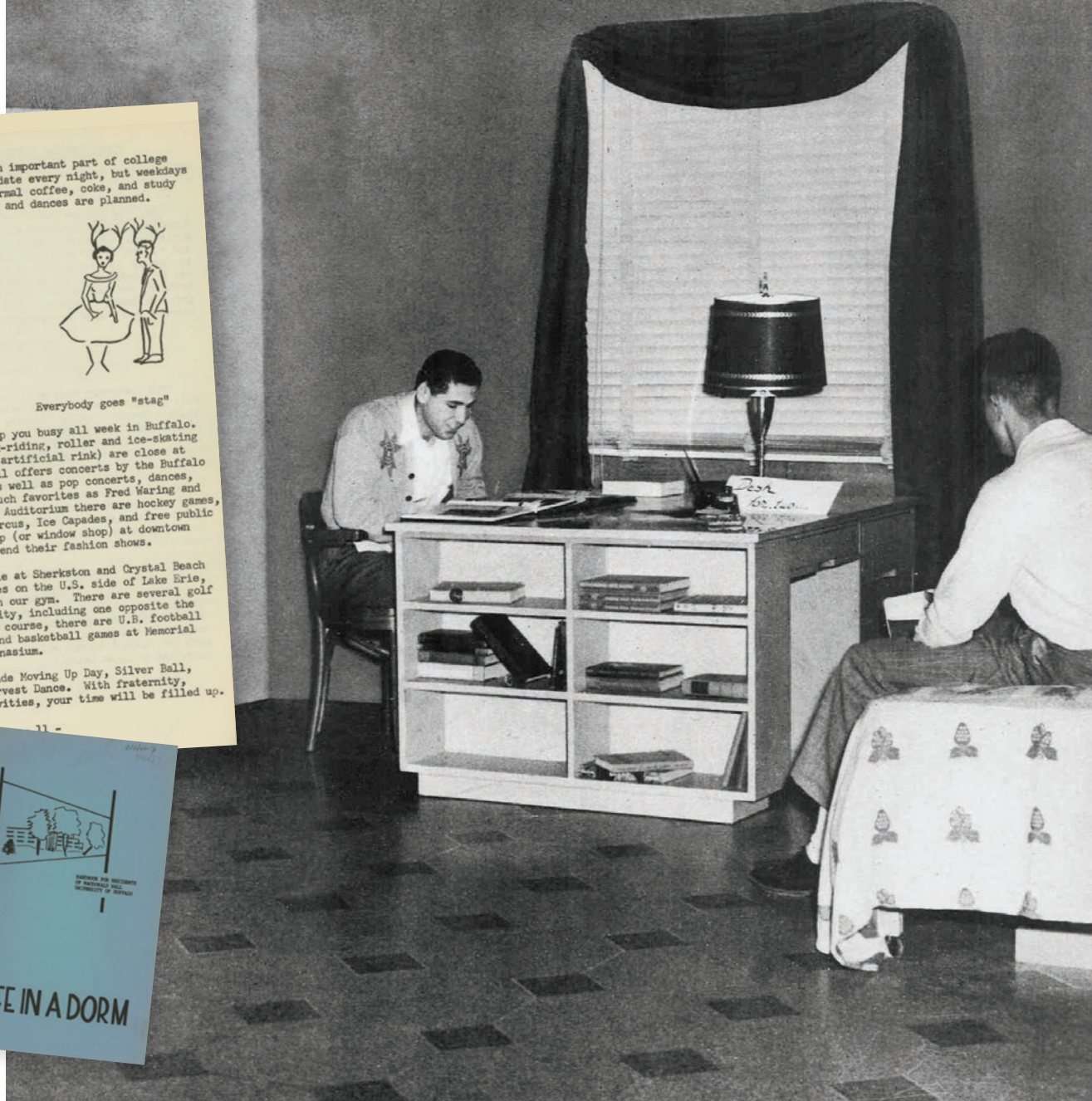
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"Life in a Dorm" handbooks (above and near right) gave female students rules and tips on cooking, clothing and dating.



UB YESTERDAY

1952 New Room on Campus

By Rebecca Rudell

A few months before UB opened its inaugural residence halls in February 1953, students got a sneak peek at this sample room on display in the lobby of Norton Hall (now Harriman Hall). Potential residents could check out the modern furnishings, including double desks, twin beds, vanities and built-in closets.

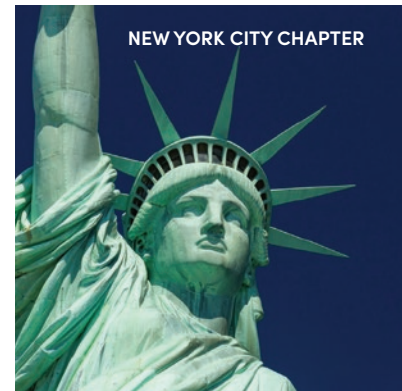
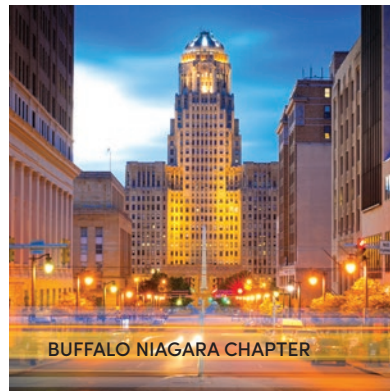
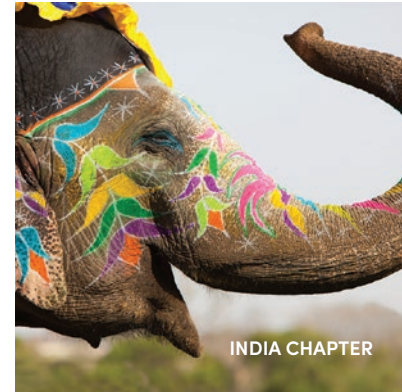
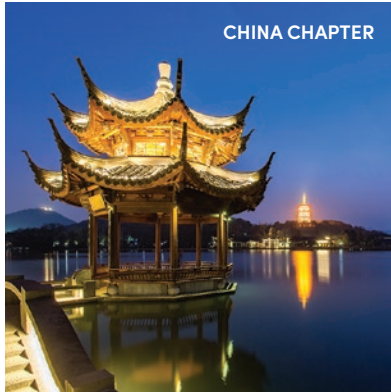
The three dorms—Schoellkopf, MacDonald and Cooke (now Pritchard Hall)—accommodated 149 students each and were built simultaneously at a total cost of \$1.5 million. MacDonald Hall was for female students, with walls painted in pastel colors like “orchid” and “maize.” The women’s “Life in a Dorm” booklet proclaimed, “Decorating your room is fun and gives you an opportunity to use your ingenuity.” Young men, who resided in the two other halls, were basically told to keep their spaces presentable, as “rooms are subject to inspection by the residence halls staff at any time.”

In 1953, room and board at UB set students back \$325—equivalent to \$2,965 today—per semester. (Currently, it costs about double that to live on campus.) Rules were strict: No member of the opposite sex was allowed past the recreation rooms and lobbies, and you couldn’t enter public spaces unless you were fully dressed—no pajamas or slippers! The social perks of living on campus were much the same then as they are now, although today’s Bulls probably don’t put sock hops and jam sessions on their calendars.

Dorm life quickly proved popular. A long waiting list prompted the university to open Michael Hall in 1955 and Tower Hall (now Kimball Tower) in 1957, housing 149 and 440 students respectively. Today, more than 7,000 men and women live in UB residence halls and apartments on the North and South campuses, enjoying amenities—Wi-Fi, fitness centers, award-winning dining—that we imagine the students of the ’50s would have found peachy keen. 🍑

GOOD TO BE BLUE

AROUND THE WORLD!



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DOUGLAS LEVERE

LAST LOOK Letter Perfect Installation of the university's logo in August was one clear sign—literally—that the new downtown home of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences was nearing completion. A crane hoisted the 800-pound, 7-foot-tall and 13-foot-wide aluminum-clad interlocking "UB" to its towering spot about 140 feet up the building's Main Street facade, abutting the school's name. The big blue characters stand out clearly against the structure's clay-colored "skin." At night they even glow, marking a new beacon in medicine for Buffalo and beyond. For the latest on the relocation, visit buffalo.edu/here.