

UB INTERNATIONAL

FALL 2021



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UB International

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internationaleducation](http://www.buffalo.edu/internationaleducation)

FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

The Office of International Education has announced the launch of a new grants program aimed at facilitating international research and collaboration among faculty and graduate students across the university.

"We are excited to offer these new opportunities to strengthen international research at UB, in alignment with the university's top-25 goal," Professor Nojin Kwak, Vice Provost for International Education said. "I appreciate the excellent input for this initiative from three faculty colleagues: Janina Brutt-Griffler (Department of Learning and Instruction), Walter Hakala (Department of English), and Christopher Holister (University Libraries)."

Administered by the Office of International Education, the grants program will provide critical seed funding to jumpstart international research. Seven new grants will be available beginning in 2022; application materials, criteria and deadlines will be available on the International Education website early in the new year.

Faculty Grants for Global and International Research are research grants up to \$5,000, offered on a competitive basis to support scholarly research or creative work on important global/international topics. Funds can support research travel expenses; purchase and collection of data; proofreading, indexing, subvention, or any other publication expenses; and research assistants. Grants do not provide funding for permanent equipment, software, conference travel, office supplies, or summer salary. The funding has to be expended normally within one year after the start of the research project.

Rapid Grants for Global and International Research are small research grants up to \$500 to support scholarly work and academic events on important global/international topics that require small funding within a short time. Funds

can support organization of academic programs (e.g., talks and workshops); research travel expenses; purchase and collection of data; proofreading, indexing, subvention or any other publication expenses; and research assistants. The funding will be disbursed within two weeks of the application, and a priority will be given to those who have not received a rapid grant recently.

Global Research Scholar in Residence Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to support visiting scholars for a campus visit to advance collaborative research and creative activities in fulfillment of the university's commitment to global research, scholarship, and education. The visit is normally expected to be 5-7 days. This program aims to foster an intellectual community for international collaboration and/or collaborative research on important global/international topics. In addition to the collaborative work, the visiting global research scholar is expected to give a public lecture and a workshop with graduate students. To offset the visiting scholar's travel, housing, honorarium, and other expenses, grants up to \$3,500 per scholar from a U.S. institution and up to \$5,000 per scholar from a non-U.S. institution will be awarded.

Graduate Student Research Community Grants (GSRC) are awarded on a competitive basis to support graduate-level student groups involved in or undertaking activities that aim to facilitate greater understanding of important international/global topics. Activities may be scholarly or creative; some of the examples include organizing a reading/writing/discussion group; hosting a workshop or a talk series; developing a publishable paper, grant proposal, or research project; and a combination of any of these activities. Graduate students interested in the GSRC grant may apply for up to \$5,000 in funding, which

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FROM THE VICE PROVOST

As I complete my first semester as Vice Provost for International Education, I am pleased to reflect on how much I have learned so far about the university; our excellent faculty, staff and students; and UB's extensive engagement around the world.

As a newcomer, I have received a very warm and cordial welcome, and appreciate the generous support of so many new colleagues and friends whom I have had the pleasure to get to know. I have come to see how internationally active and informed our research, teaching and service are, and I truly look forward to working with our campus community to advance UB's global mission.

Our newsletter this fall describes several new initiatives of the Office of International Education that I am pleased to announce, including a new international grants program (p. 1) and our new International Faculty Launch program (p. 2). Of particular note is the recent appointment of Adam Rubin (p. 7), our new Assistant Vice Provost and Director of Education Abroad. Adam and his team are busy preparing for a post-pandemic boom in study abroad.

In addition, our current issue illustrates the breadth and range of UB's international activities through stories about our research, faculty achievements in the international domain, international students and study abroad, and UB's role in the local community as well as internationally in the



realm of the arts and cultural exchange.

I hope these stories demonstrate how impactful UB faculty and students are in addressing critical global challenges in different parts of the world—from climate change and environmental degradation to pandemics and systemic disease to food insecurity and racism.

Educating the community about culture, whether through the James Joyce Collection of the UB Libraries (p. 6), the Haudenosaunee Archive (p. 15) being planned at UB, or the digitization of exquisite narrative scrolls from Bengal, India (p. 14) likewise remains a major priority.

While the ongoing pandemic has severely limited international travel, our faculty colleagues remain highly engaged with collaborators around the world and very active through virtual international conferences and networks—as a review of our faculty news attests (pp. 23-26). With any luck, the pandemic will not impede the plans of our most recent faculty Fulbright awardees (p. 5), or the research of

our newest Boren Scholarship winner (p. 18).

We also note the passing of two faculty giants in the international realm—Jorge Gracia in Philosophy and Isabel Marcus in Law (p. 20)—who in very different ways elevated UB's international profile and taught countless students the importance of a global perspective.

Having just returned from UB's branch program on the other side of the globe in Singapore, I have a renewed appreciation for the world-spanning dimensions of our university's efforts and impact. Our newsletter offers just a sample of that impressive activity. 🌐

PROVIDING A STRONG START FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL FACULTY

The Office of International Education is partnering with Office of Faculty Affairs, the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences on a pilot program this academic year to provide mentoring to newly hired tenure-track international faculty.

The International Faculty Launch Program facilitates committees of senior faculty colleagues that work with new faculty on a range of concerns—from planning for tenure to winning grants to work/life balance—to better assure a successful start at UB and long-term retention. New international faculty often face challenges beyond those facing all new faculty—relating to immigration status, cultural adaptation and community building.

In addition to the "launchee," each launch committee includes the new faculty member's chair or designee, a

senior faculty mentor in the department, a senior faculty member from another department in a related research area, and the committee's convenor, a senior faculty member that moderates launch committee meetings.

Professor Nojin Kwak, Vice Provost for International Education, notes that the initiative was adapted from a program he participated in at his previous institution, the University of Michigan. "A number of the deans adopted the faculty launch program, which was warmly embraced by new faculty there. At Michigan, evidence demonstrated the benefit in terms of faculty success and retention," Kwak said. "We are grateful to our partners in Faculty Affairs, the College, and Engineering for their support of this initiative."

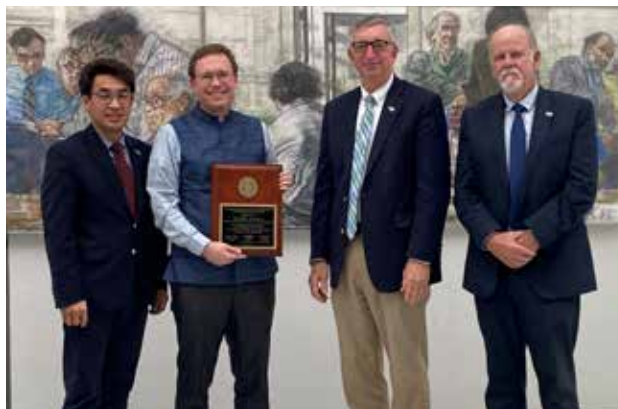
If successful, the program is expected to expand to other schools. 🌐

AWARDS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

On December 1, 2021 colleagues gathered in the Center for the Arts to honor three recipients of the Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education, presented by the Council on International Studies and Programs (CISP), a longstanding committee which advises the Provost and Vice Provost for International Education.

Due to the pandemic, the annual award luncheon could not be held in 2020, and therefore this year awards for both 2020 and 2021 were presented together.

Bruce Acker, Associate Director of the UB Confucius Institute (UBCI), and Walter Hakala, Associate Professor of English and Asian Studies, belatedly received their 2020 awards. Zhiqiang Liu, Professor of Economics and Director of the UBCI, was the 2021 awardee.



Walter Hakala

the teachers from China that UBCI placed at local K-12 schools, the organization of conferences, workshops and guest

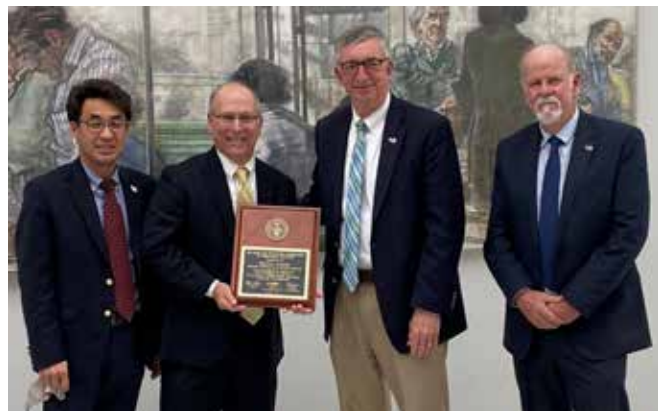
speakers, and major cultural programs.

A specialist in South Asian Studies, Hakala greatly expanded interest and engagement in the field at UB, creating new classes that attracted large enrollments, encouraging colleagues to add more South Asian content to their courses, and energetically recruiting undergraduate students into this area of study through his excellent teaching and mentorship. As a mentor, Hakala assisted many students to pursue the study of South Asian languages, study abroad in South Asia, and compete for prestigious scholarships such as Fulbright.

After receiving tenure, Hakala took on the role of Director of Asian Studies in 2018 and recruited a new clinical assistant professor to teach classes in Japanese popular culture. He also staffed a new course on Bollywood that was very popular with undergraduates. He successfully grew enrollment in Asian Studies courses to their highest level ever. His own scholarship in South Asian lexicography has been

h o n o r e d with multiple awards.

Liu was appointed director of UBCI in 2017 and worked successfully to make UBCI scholarly and academic opportunities more visible and available to UB faculty and students. Under

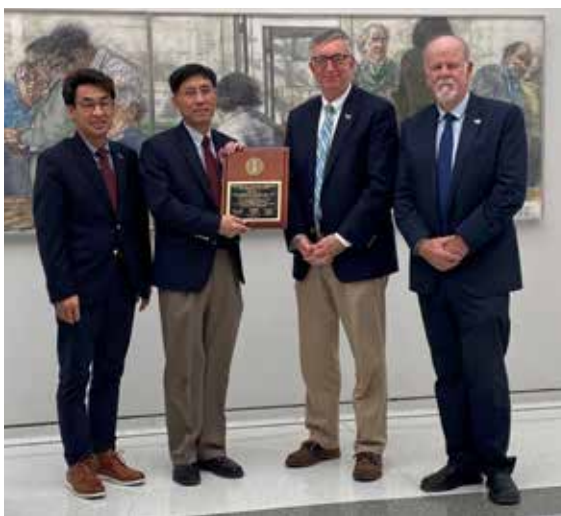


L to r: Nojin Kwak, Bruce Acker, Scott Weber, Robert Granfield

In attendance to present the awards were Provost A. Scott Weber, Vice Provost for International Education Nojin Kwak, and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Robert Granfield.

Acker was honored for his many contributions as assistant director of Asian Studies, a role he served in from 2008 to 2015, and then as associate director of UBCI from 2015 to the present. For Asian Studies, Acker provided critical operational support, planning and facilitating visiting speakers, workshops and conferences; writing grants; conducting outreach to local schools on the teaching of Asian Studies; and supporting the Asian Studies Advisory Council. One of the Asian Studies initiatives he was heavily involved in was the launch of the UBCI in 2009 under the auspices of the Asian Studies Program.

Later, as UBCI Associate Director, Acker likewise played a key role in the day-to-day administration of UBCI programs and initiatives. His duties included support for



Zhiqiang Liu

der his leadership, UBCI organized many scholarly conferences and workshops, hosted a wide variety of guest

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BIG SCIENCE RESUMES AT THE LARGE HADRON COLLIDER

By Charlotte Hsu

UB physicists have received \$1.65 million from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) to support their work with the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which is scheduled to come back online in 2022 after a planned shutdown period devoted to upgrades and maintenance.

"It is exciting, because it allows us to continue research that helps to answer these basic questions: What is the universe made of, and how do the most fundamental particles interact with each other?" says Ia Iashvili, professor of physics in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Iashvili is principal investigator on the new NSF grant. Her colleagues in the physics department, Professor Avto Kharchilava and Associate Professor Salvatore Rappoccio are co-principal investigators.

The LHC is the world's most powerful particle accelerator, straddling France and Switzerland, and consisting of "a 27-kilometer ring of superconducting magnets with a

number of accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way," according to the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

Thousands of scientists work together on LHC experiments, smashing beams of protons into one another at near-light speeds to produce various subatomic particles (including, perhaps most famously, the Higgs boson).

UB physicists have been part of this international collaboration for a long time, as Kharchilava outlined in a magazine article in The Innovation Platform earlier this year. Years ago, Iashvili and Kharchilava helped to build the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS), one of the particle detectors that researchers use to observe the results of proton-proton collisions at the LHC.

The new NSF grant supports UB's continuing contributions to CMS activities. This encompasses research that will occur during the LHC run beginning in 2022, as well as work that will help prepare the CMS to handle con-

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L to r: Avto Kharchilava, Ia Iashvili and Salvatore Rappoccio

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS

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includes a stipend of \$1,000 for the graduate student who serves as the GSRC coordinator and \$4,000 for relevant programing expenses. The GSRC should meet at least once a month for one year, and awardees are permitted to reapply for continuing activity.

Associate Professor Fund in Global and International Research seeks to enhance the support for tenure-track associate professors and aims to foster timely promotion to full professorship. The fund, which is awarded on a competitive basis, will be for a period of two years, \$10,000 per year and \$20,000 in total.

The fund can be used for summer salary (up to \$3,000 per year). Some decanal units have agreed to augment the award with one course release during the two-year period. Each awardee will be named a "Global Research Fellow," and is expected to give a public lecture about their research.

Seed Funding for Global and International Research, jointly funded by the Office of Research and Economic Development, awards up to \$10,000 on a competitive basis to support research projects on important global/international topics that aim to generate applications for external funding within two years of the start of the

award. The fund can be used for a variety of project-related expenses, but does not support permanent equipment, software, conference travel, or office supplies. The principal investigator (PI) of the project will receive a course release for one semester, with the course buyout funds going to the PI's home department. The fund is available for a 2-year expenditure period.

Manuscript Review Workshop Grant in Global and International Research provides funding of up to \$3,500 to support faculty who are in the process of preparing single-author book manuscripts. Any tenure-track and clinical faculty are eligible to apply, but priority will be given to junior faculty in preparation for their upcoming tenure review. The grant funds a workshop that provides the opportunity to engage in intensive discussion of the project with two invited external readers.

A select group of UB faculty and graduate students may participate in the workshop. Funds shall be transferred to the applicant's department, which shall be responsible for making logistic arrangements for all aspects of the program, including travel, lodging, hosting, food, and the workshop. 🌐

THREE FACULTY RECEIVE FULBRIGHT AWARDS

By Tessie Mar, Kara Sweet and Matthew Biddle

UB has three new Fulbright faculty award winners: Diana Aga, Robert M. Straubinger and Sahn-Wook Huh.

Aga, director of the UB RENEW Institute and Henry M. Woodburn Professor of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, will travel first to Portugal and then to the Philippines to complete her Fulbright Global Scholar Award. In both countries, she will conduct research to understand and control the spread of antimicrobial resistance in the environment through discharges from municipal wastewater treatment plants.



Diana Aga

Huh, associate professor of finance in the School of Management, received a Fulbright Scholar Award to Canada. In October 2021 Huh traveled to Carleton University in Ottawa, where he holds the Fulbright Canada Distinguished Research Chair in Entrepreneurship for the 2021-22 academic year.

Straubinger, a UB Distinguished Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, will travel to Belfast, Northern Ireland, for the 2021-22 academic year, where he will hold the Fulbright-Queen's University Belfast Visiting Professorship. His project is to develop nanotechnology approaches and bio-inspired therapeutic agents to improve treatment of fatal cancers, specifically pancreatic adenocarcinoma.

The Fulbright Global Scholar Award requires grantees to spend at least one month in at least two countries in two different world regions, with a total of three to six months abroad.

While exact details of her arrival and departure to the host countries remain uncertain due to COVID-19, Aga tentatively plans to travel to Portugal in March 2022, and to the Philippines in May 2022.

Antimicrobials in the environment are particularly insidious because of the numerous pathways through which

they may enter the environment.

When humans take antibiotics, our bodies do not completely absorb them, Aga explains. The excess drugs are excreted and go into the wastewater, which can contribute to the emergence of antibiotic resistance in bacteria that are exposed to low concentrations of these drugs.

Industrial and agricultural wastes are other avenues through which antibiotics enter the environment, where they may also contribute to the spread of antibiotic resistance.

"Some pathogenic bacteria that infect humans are no longer responding to antibiotics because they have developed resistance to these drugs. They have been dubbed as 'superbugs' because they can survive treatment by multiple antibiotics. This is a huge problem because the existing antibiotics are now rendered useless against them," Aga says.

The problem of antimicrobial resistance is worsening due to outdated wastewater treatment plants' inability to filter them out of wastewater, an issue impacting many parts of the world, including regions of Asia, she says. In Manila, the Philippines, Aga will study cost-effective solutions to treat water before it is discharged into the environment.

In Portugal, Aga will work with an environmental micro-



Robert Straubinger

biologist at the Catholic University of Portugal – Porto, School of Biotechnology. She will learn techniques to study the diversity and ecology of bacteria in human-impacted areas, and determine the risk of antibiotic-resistance transmission from the environment to humans.

Aga's Fulbright work ties into her broader research. She is also supported by a U.S. National Science Foundation grant through the Partnerships for International Research

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Sahn-Wook Huh

NEW MURAL HERALDS FUTURE JAMES JOYCE MUSEUM

By Cory Nealon

On June 14, 2021, on the eve of Bloomsday, UB officially unveiled downtown Buffalo's latest mural — a 36-foot-tall homage to renowned Irish author and poet James Joyce.

The university also announced a fundraising campaign to create a museum on the South Campus for the UB James Joyce Collection — a treasure trove of materials that Irish diplomat Ciarán Madden described at the event as the “greatest” collection of Joyce materials in the world.

“The mural that you see here is part of a broader initiative to raise awareness of the UB James Joyce Collection,” said James Maynard, curator of the UB Poetry Collection and coordinator of the UB Rare and Special Books Collection.

“The UB Libraries aims to create a James Joyce museum in historic Abbott Hall on UB's South Campus that provides a permanent exhibition space for visitors from across

the globe to experience for themselves the rare materials and the very life and history of Joyce,” he said.

Through the university's Boldly Buffalo fundraising campaign, the museum will also support a preservation and acquisitions endowment, a James Joyce curator position, and programming and exhibition funds.

Madden, the consul general of Ireland in New York, praised the plan to make the collection, which includes Joyce's manuscripts, personal belongings and other materials, more easily accessible to the public.

He commented on Joyce's most famous work, “Ulysses,” widely considered a masterpiece of 20th-century literature.

“It inspires devotion like no book I've ever seen. When you talk to writers in Ireland and here in the U.S., and talk to them about ‘Ulysses,’ it ignites their passions. They become proselytizers for the book. They tell you their favorite bits; why they love it. They quote it at length. And they bring it to life in a way that reading it doesn't,” Madden said.

President Satish K. Tripathi said the Joyce collection, as well as other materials acquired and preserved by the UB Libraries, play a key role in boosting UB's reputation for

educational excellence in the United States and abroad.

“This significant scholarly treasure enhances UB's international reputation and impact. And both our UB Poetry Collection and our UB James Joyce Collection play a wider role in our ambition to situate UB among top 25 public research universities in the nation,” he said.

Located at 181 Franklin St. — outside of the LoTempio P.C. Law Group building in Buffalo — the mural depicts Joyce in an archival photograph from the collection juxtaposed against a vibrant background of yellow, orange and pink hues.

It was designed by Kristopher Miller, UB Libraries web manager and lead designer, and installed by Rory Allen, owner of Buffalo-based ZoomCopy.com. It was funded by the Office of the Consulate General of Ireland in New York, Amherst Gaelic League and UB alumnus Alphonse Kolodziejczak.

New York State Sen. Tim Kennedy applauded the mural, as well as the effort to create a Joyce museum,

noting it not only celebrates Joyce but also Irish heritage in the greater Buffalo area. Like others, he thanked the LoTempio family for use of their building.

“How fitting it is that one of the best-known Italian-American families in all of Western New York is dedicating the façade of their building to one of the greatest Irishmen to ever live,” he said.

“This year, in honor of the upcoming 100th anniversary of ‘Ulysses’ in 2022, we commemorate Bloomsday,” Weinraub Lajoie said. 🌐

The international holiday, held on June 16 — the same day “Ulysses” takes place — remembers the enigmatic story of a day in the life of protagonist Leopold Bloom in Dublin.

“This year, in honor of the upcoming 100th anniversary of ‘Ulysses’ in 2022, we commemorate Bloomsday,” Weinraub Lajoie said. 🌐

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Cory Nealon is director of news content for University Communications.



L to r: Eviva Weinraub Lajoie, James Maynard, Ciaran Madden, Tim Kennedy and Satish Tripathi (Meredith Forrest Kulwicki)

NEW LEADER FOR EDUCATION ABROAD

By Jay Rey

The travel bug first hit Adam Rubin at age 11 when he spent six months in the South Pacific while accompanying his father on sabbatical.

In the years since, he has visited more than 70 countries around the world, including Japan, where he lived for 10 years.

Now, Rubin — who started at UB in September as assistant vice provost and director of education abroad — is ready to help students discover the world for themselves.

“There are so many perceived or real barriers to study abroad and my goal is to help students overcome those barriers — and to find a program that meets their needs,” he says.

The first task for Rubin, who has 25 years of experience in the field of international education, is to get study abroad up and running again at UB after the pandemic grounded the program for this fall and the entirety of the 2020-21 academic year.

“There was a formal, education-abroad relaunch plan that the SUNY campuses put together and that was submitted to the governor’s office over the summer,” Rubin says. “We are still waiting for a response to that relaunch plan so technically, right now, things are still suspended.”

He hopes a full complement of study-abroad programs can return for the spring semester.

“The pandemic is still here,” Rubin says. “We have to monitor conditions and make sure that we’re doing our due diligence to keep students, faculty and staff as safe as possible. We also want to be transparent with students about the need for patience and flexibility.”

A native of Walla Walla, Wash., Rubin graduated from Whitman College, where his father was a psychology professor.

Instead of pursuing a career in his majors — economics and pre-med — Rubin chose his affection for international travel and left for Japan, where he had his first study-abroad experience as a teenager. This time, he stayed for a couple years teaching at a high school as part of a teaching exchange program.

Rubin returned to the U.S. and earned a graduate degree in East Asian studies from Stanford University before going back to Japan. Inevitably, he landed a job there with the Council on International Educational Exchange, a not-for-profit that operates study-abroad programs for

colleges and universities all over the world.

Rubin would spend the next 20 years at the organization, starting as a program director in Tokyo before rising to executive director of program development and evaluation responsible for all of the non-profit’s study-abroad programs.



Adam Rubin (Meredith Forrest Kulwicki)

“It gave me a really nice, broad view of the world and to see destinations not just as a pin on the map, but as a new opportunity for students,” he says.

Most recently, Rubin was director of Institutional Relations and Enrollment Management in the College of Global Studies at Arcadia University in suburban Philadelphia.

At UB, roughly 500 to 600 students typically go abroad each year on academic, credit-bearing programs, while another 200 to 300 travel abroad on non-credit programs, usually through individual schools and departments, Rubin says.

In 2018-19, prior to the pandemic, UB students traveled abroad to some 50 different countries, from Jamaica to Japan, Ireland to India, Turkey to Tanzania.

Rubin says the combination of his arrival and the pandemic pause is a natural opportunity to assess the university’s study-abroad program — what’s working and what’s not.

“My basic goal is to position UB education abroad as inclusive, academically rewarding, culturally engaging and offering diverse opportunities,” he says. “I also want to stress that I’m eager to engage more with faculty on the development of new programs and student options.”

Ultimately, Rubin wants to help more UB students get the opportunity to study abroad by addressing the barriers — both real and perceived.

Rubin calls them the three Cs.

“The first is cost,” he says.

Institutions recognize college is expensive and are doing more to make study abroad financially possible by keeping fees low, working out agreements with overseas universities and adding scholarship money.

Curriculum is the second barrier for those concerned about course sequencing and graduating on time. There’s also the reality that a lot of academic disciplines haven’t been represented in study abroad.

“In the past, study abroad was usually about going abroad for a semester or year to study a foreign language,”

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FACULTY FULBRIGHT AWARDS

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and Education (PIRE) program, where she, students and researchers from other universities examine water samples from all over the world to characterize residues of antibiotics and presence of antibiotics resistance genes.

Huh's grant will allow him to present his research at workshops and seminars at Carleton University and to fund his research into the effect of prescription drug approvals on financial markets. Huh plans to examine data from different phases of the drug approval process to see how investors behave around key events and whether existing informed-trading measures identify the presence of informed trading on public or private information throughout the process. His findings could have implications for regulators, investors and other financial market participants.

In addition, Huh welcomes the Fulbright program's mission of fostering mutual understanding and cultural exchange between people of the United States and other nations. "Through the Fulbright grant, I hope to not only deepen my academic perspective and broaden the scope of my research, but also to serve as a cultural ambassador for the U.S. and appreciate the beautiful nature and culture of Canada," says Huh, who was an associate professor of finance at Brock University in St. Catherine's before joining the UB School of Management faculty in 2009.

A former president of the Korea-America Finance Association, Huh is a highly regarded scholar in empirical corporate finance, asset pricing, market microstructure, foreign exchange economics, behavioral finance, and the evaluation of mutual fund and hedge fund performance.

His research appears in top-tier journals and has been supported by numerous grants, including awards from the Ontario provincial government and Canadian federal government. Eight of his scholarly articles have won Best Paper Awards from the Financial Management Association and other international conferences.

Huh's 2021-22 Fulbright award is actually his second Fulbright. He previously received a Fulbright student scholarship in 1991-93 for his MBA studies at the University of Chicago. "The Fulbright program opened up a window of opportunity for my academic career," he recalls. "The scholarship was so precious, allowing me to study in a then-foreign country for the first time in my life and gain a foothold for my PhD studies later."

Researchers have projected that pancreatic adenocarcinoma will soon become the second-leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Straubinger will spend six months at the Patrick G. Johnston Centre for Cancer Research at Queen's University Belfast (QUB) collaborating with scientists there to develop new leads for clinical trials for this highly fatal cancer. "This visit to QUB will provide an opportunity for sustained interaction with colleagues

and potential collaborators, during which we will build an expanded sphere of research into novel pancreatic adenocarcinoma treatments," Straubinger says.

His research focuses on both delivery mechanisms to optimize treatment of difficult-to-access solid cancer tumors, and nanoparticle carriers to exploit temporary breaches in the tumor drug-delivery barrier. This work draws heavily on predictive mathematical modeling of cancer therapeutics to understand mechanisms involved in tumor progression and responses to therapy, and how to employ novel nanoparticulate drugs and antibody-targeted therapies.

More recently, Straubinger's research has emphasized treatments impacting pancreatic cancer, where he obtained five years of support from the National Institutes of Health and funding agencies in the United Kingdom and Ireland to lead a three-nation collaborative research project, "Tumor priming sequences combined with novel nanoparticle drug carriers for enhanced therapeutic efficacy in pancreatic cancer," with overall funding of \$4.8 million. Research partners are QUB and the National Institute for Cellular Biotechnology, located at Dublin City University in Ireland. 🌐

Tessie Mar is a student in Environment and Sustainability; Kara Sweet is a project manager for the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Matthew Biddle is assistant director of communications for the School of Management.

EDUCATION ABROAD LEADER

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Rubin says. "Now, the trend is not only toward shorter programs, but also toward programs that incorporate credit-bearing internships, research and service learning."

The third barrier is culture. In many cases, this includes historically underrepresented students who never thought of traveling abroad because it's never been part of their culture. Rubin stresses the importance of ensuring UB's study-abroad programs are accessible and inclusive.

"Even if you're a first-generation student, even if you've never traveled abroad, even if you don't come from a family with a lot of money, there are many different study-abroad options for you," he says.

"The phrase I use a lot is, 'meeting the student where they are.' That's something that we really need to do."

Rubin relocated from Maine. He is an outdoor enthusiast and avid photographer who enjoys tennis, soccer and downhill skiing. He has two children, Alex, who attends Georgetown University, and Amelie, a freshman at Williamsville North High School. As for his next adventure, he's looking forward to exploring Western New York. 🌐

Jay Rey is a news content manager for University Communications.

DIANA AGA IS NEW DIRECTOR OF RENEW

By Charlotte Hsu

Diana Aga, Henry M. Woodburn Professor of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences, has been named director of the UB RENEW (Research and Education in Energy, Environment and Water) Institute.

The UB RENEW Institute is a university-wide, multidisciplinary research institute that focuses on complex energy and environmental issues, as well as the social and economic issues with which they are connected. Aga's appointment as director began Aug. 1, 2021.

Aga is an internationally recognized environmental and analytical chemist, and a devoted mentor who has encouraged and helped to launch the careers of a new generation of diverse scientists in her field.

Aga's research has had a far-reaching impact on the analysis of emerging contaminants such as antimicrobials and other pharmaceuticals, endocrine-disrupting chemicals and engineered nanomaterials, as well as persistent organic pollutants (POPs) such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and pesticides in a wide range of biological and environmental samples.

In the Department of Chemistry, Aga leads a team that has collaborated with colleagues at UB, other universities and industry on projects that focus on detecting known and unknown contaminants, removing them from municipal and agricultural wastewater, developing new technologies to degrade POPs, and understanding the impact of environmental pollutants on humans and wildlife.

Her work is local and global, ranging from studies on the bioaccumulation of pollutants in fish and common terns in the Great Lakes region, to research investigating the presence of pharmaceuticals, personal care products, antibiotics and antibiotics resistance genes in waters in the U.S., Asia and Europe. She has been involved with action plans and various activities by the World Health Organization and other international institutions to combat antimicrobial resistance, one of the greatest threats in modern medicine and public health.

"When I was growing up in the Philippines, I lived in a small village near a river where we swam and played every day," Aga says. "We fished there, and ate the fish — everything was so pristine. Years later, population increased, and gradually the river became black and very polluted.

My research is inspired by my desire to prevent the continuous deterioration of our environment as a result of industrialization and population growth."

"RENEW acts as a catalyst to bring together UB researchers from across disciplines to collaborate on addressing big issues related to environmental pollution and its health effects, climate change impacts and mitigation, sustainable energy production and other vital concerns," Aga says.

"UB has the extensive expertise needed to create synergistic solutions to these global problems. RENEW-affiliated faculty can realize bold ideas and apply for research grants to address the grand challenges we are facing today and will be facing in the future."

A prolific scholar whose research has been supported by more than \$18 million in state and federal funding, Aga has published over 180 refereed

papers, edited two books and serves as editor of the *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, an international journal that publishes scientific articles in environmental science and engineering. At UB, she has mentored 31 PhD students and five master's students, who have gone on to careers in industry, government and academia. She served as director of graduate studies in chemistry at UB for six years.

Aga has also mentored more than 50 undergraduate researchers in her lab, including participants in the chemistry department's National Science Foundation-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) summer research program. Many of these students have gone on to pursue graduate studies in chemistry or environmentally related programs.

Aga has received numerous honors, including two Fulbright awards, the American Chemical Society (ACS) Schoellkopf Medal, the NSF CAREER Award, the Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship, the Koh Lectureship Award in Science from the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering, the Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award from UB, and the Menzie Environmental Education Award from the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. Aga joined UB as a faculty member in 2002 after earning a PhD in analytical and environmental chemistry from the University of Kansas and a bachelor's degree in agricultural chemistry from the University of the Philippines Los Baños. 🌐

Charlotte Hsu is a news content manager for University Communications.



RESEARCH SHOWS BENEFIT OF IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES TO BUFFALO

By Douglas Sitler

The 2020 U.S. census revealed that the city of Buffalo gained population for the first time in 70 years, a trend fueled by an influx of immigrants and refugees.

The positive impact made by these groups, says Wooksoo Kim, associate professor of social work and director of the Immigrant and Refugee Research Institute at UB, goes against the misaligned and politicized views of the immigrant and refugee communities.

"For the last 10 to 15 years, we have witnessed tremendous growth in immigrant and refugee populations in Buffalo," says Kim, whose research aims to improve the lives of immigrant and refugee populations by understanding their needs and designing culturally responsive intervention approaches to address those needs.

"We have heard the stories of Bangladeshi immigrants moving into the East Side and refugees from Burma into the Lower West Side, Black Rock and waterfront neighborhoods," Kim says.

"When we walk down Grant Street or Broadway, we see more and more business signs in various languages popping up every year, which suggests a growing demand and interest in serving immigrants and refugees in the area."

Kim says she was initially worried that immigrants and refugees would not be accurately counted in the census.

"Typically, immigrants and refugees are underrepresented in the census. Adding the pandemic to the mix, I was concerned that the 2020 census would further undercount their numbers," she says. "However, I am personally delighted to see the growth reflected in this year's census. I believe this is the result of the hard work and dedication of various community organizations to make sure the population was accurately counted."

Affordable cost of living and support networks are expected to fuel Buffalo's immigrant and population growth for the next decade, she says. "Historically, affordability and strong support to welcome new Americans have been the major attraction for immigrant and refugee populations to settle in Buffalo," she explains.

"Buffalo and Western New York will always be competitive in offering affordable housing and a lower cost of living compared to other cities in the U.S. We also have a growing, well-structured support network for immigrants and refugees. Thanks to local resettlement agencies and their newcomer support programs, ethnic community organizations and government agencies all work together to make Buffalo and Western New York an ideal place for successful integration."

Buffalo immigrant and refugee populations are also making significant contributions to the city's life, culture and economy, Kim notes. "Immigrants and refugees have always been main contributors to economic development — they accomplish this by opening up small businesses, buying houses and contributing to the wonderful diversity of the region," she says.

"Without setting foot outside of Buffalo, there are so many opportunities to learn and experience the world's cultures and languages located right here in our backyard. There are many cultural events held year-round. To name a few: the Burmese Water Festival, Karen Wrist-tying Ceremony, Puja for Hinduism and Eid Mubarak for Muslims. These events and the people who attend them help to bring different cultural and international experiences to Buffalo without the need for travel. I believe they

are the ones responsible for bringing in much of the character and livelihood of the region."

There are plenty of ways the Buffalo community can support immigrants and refugees Kim says.

"We must continue to invest in fine-tuning a web of support systems for the newcomers to this region in order to better facilitate successful integration," she says. "We also must move away from thinking that we are the 'givers/donors' and they are the 'receivers/beneficiaries' who are dependent upon our generosity. It is important to recognize that Buffalo's longtime residents have benefited, and will continue to benefit, from immigrants and refugees. The more we help them, the more we help ourselves."

Eliminating the unnecessary politicizing of immigrant and refugee issues, she says, would be a large factor in making life better for these populations. The country needs to remember how the nation was built, she says.

"I encourage all of us to step back and remind ourselves that this country was built by immigrants and refugees," said Kim. "Our ancestors were immigrants and refugees who needed help and support, and they are the ones — along with our indigenous populations — who built and defined this nation. To partially borrow the famous words of Emma Lazarus, by welcoming newcomers, we are honoring and continuing our country's legacy to help all of the 'huddled masses yearning to breathe free.'" 🌐



Wooksoo Kim

Douglas Sitler is associate director of national media relations for University Communications.

UB CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE CELEBRATES TWELVE YEARS OF PROGRAMMING

As the UB Confucius Institute (UBCI) winds up operations at the end of 2021, UB faculty, administrators, and community partners celebrated the Confucius Institute's impactful work at the university and throughout Western New York over the past 12 years. The celebration took place on December 12 with a performance of music and dance in the Center for the Arts Drama Theater and a banquet at Eastern Pearl Restaurant.

Established in November 2009, UBCI has sponsored China-related research, teaching and artistic production at UB, Chinese language teaching and student exchange

performances by the Buffalo Chinese Chorus, Nichols School Chinese Chorus and soloist Robert Liu; instrumental pieces performed on guzheng by Zhongbei (Daisy) Wu, visiting associate professor of music and Confucius Institute director at Alfred University, and on viola by Leanne Darling, adjunct instructor of viola performance at UB; and dances presented by the Buffalo Fanghua Dance Group, Buffalo Taichi Group, Buffalo Qipao Group, and Yijun Zhu, a student of UB School of Management.

The evening banquet featured presentation of the Confucius Educator Award to local K-12 Chinese language

teachers Yajie Zhang of Nichols School and Shue Zheng of City Honors School and to Xuehong Lü, director of the Chinese Language Program at UB for nearly 20 years before her retirement in 2018. The awards were given for distinguished teaching and outstanding leadership in developing premier Chinese language



Organizers and performers bid farewell at the Dec. 12 celebration, with Zhiqiang Liu and Bruce Acker at the far right

at UB and in local K-12 schools, and community cultural events that foster better understanding throughout Western New York of Chinese traditions and contemporary culture. Annual funding was provided by the Office of Chinese Language Council International (aka "Hanban") and the University at Buffalo, in cooperation with Capital Normal University, UB's long-time partner in Beijing.

For the afternoon program in the Drama Theater, John Wood, senior associate vice provost for international education, gave welcoming remarks on behalf of Professor Nojin Kwak, Vice Provost for International Education, who was traveling overseas on university business.

Wood commented on the UBCI's impact: "We can never know how much the encounter with China made possible by UBCI will influence the many thousands of local K-12 students who benefited from its programs, not to mention our own students at UB."

"It's thus most unfortunate that current circumstances leave UB with no choice but to close the Institute," Wood said. "For those of us who've been involved in our long-standing collaborations with China, this new era of rising geopolitical tensions is distressing to contemplate, as we lose a key local resource for engagement with China."

The impressive program that followed included vocal

programs at their respective institutions.

The banquet program also included remarks from UB and community partners of the Confucius Institute. Lixin Zhang, who served as president of the Chinese Club of Western New York when UBCI was established, spoke about the central role UBCI played in bringing the community's annual Chinese New Year gala to the Center for the Arts and in many other collaborative programs.

Paul Casseri, superintendent of Lewiston Porter Central School District, thanked UBCI for helping to place ten J-1 visiting teachers from China in the district, for Confucius Classroom funding, and for collaboration on numerous other programs that introduced Lewiston Porter students and teachers to Chinese language and culture.

Other speakers at the evening program included Stephen Dunnett, professor of education emeritus, former vice provost for international education, and long-time chair of the UBCI board of advisors, UBCI director and professor of economics Zhiqiang Liu and UBCI associate director Bruce Acker.

Dunnett reflected on the twelve eventful years of UBCI's existence, noting how proud he was of his association with the Institute and its many contributions to increasing knowledge of Chinese language and culture, and support

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NEW BOOK EXPLORES ROLE OF POISON IN CHINESE CULTURE

By Bert Gambini

The apparent contradiction begins immediately, with the book's title: "Healing with Poisons."

But in this sweeping examination of poison's role in medieval Chinese medicine, Yan Liu, assistant professor of history, College of Arts and Sciences, convincingly harmonizes what seem to be wildly different elements in this fascinating look into a subject that has until now largely escaped the attention of researchers.

The book approaches its subject in part through a study of material culture, a practice that has been gaining popularity in scholarly circles, including the history of science. Instead of looking solely within theoretical analysis and textual representations, Liu probes the history of Chinese medicine through its medicinal substances to tell a previously unwritten story of the value poison acquired in Chinese medicine and culture.

There exists a perception of Chinese medicine as natural, safe and benign, especially when compared to the synthetic drugs of Western biomedicine. It's a notion embraced by both scholars and the general public, but the belief doesn't survive careful scrutiny, according to Liu.

It's one of the reasons he began work 10 years ago on *Healing with Poisons: Potent Medicines in Medieval China*, which was published on June 27, 2021 by the University of Washington Press.

"One of the things I want to highlight is breaking this misconceived dichotomy between Western and Chinese medicine," says Liu. "It's problematic. Chinese medicine used poisons just like Western medicine."

But the question of why medical practitioners during China's formative era of pharmacy (200 to 800 CE) were willing to administer poisons also motivated Liu's research. If poison was medicinal, then what was medicine?

"People in the past found this idea of using poison to be rational," says Liu, an expert in medical history. "Hard-to-treat illnesses required powerful strategies, and this included using powerful substances which possessed 'du,' a quality found in specific plants, minerals and animals that

was thought to have the potential to eliminate ailments."

Although "du" translates most commonly today as "poison," its ancient connotation was "potency," which could mean the ability to both harm and heal. This required a careful approach to treatment, since the dangers of using these substances were well understood in medieval China.

In fact, Liu says, this duality was common to both medieval China and Europe. The English word "pharmacology" derives from a Greek term that referred to both remedy and poison. In medieval Europe, a distinction developed between the two qualities, which did not arise during the same period in China.

"Chinese medicine saw everybody as different, contingent on age, gender and their particular constitution," explains Liu, who is a biologist as well as a historian. "Every substance also varied greatly depending on how it was prepared and deployed. Context mattered."

While medieval Europe eventually viewed poisons as distinct from medicines, those substances remained central to healing in pre-modern China, despite the awareness of their risks. "European medicine prescribed poisons in spite of their toxicity; Chinese medicine because of it," writes Liu. But the practice of medieval Chinese medicine was as concerned with prolonging life as treating illness, and again, poisons figured prominently in these dimensions.

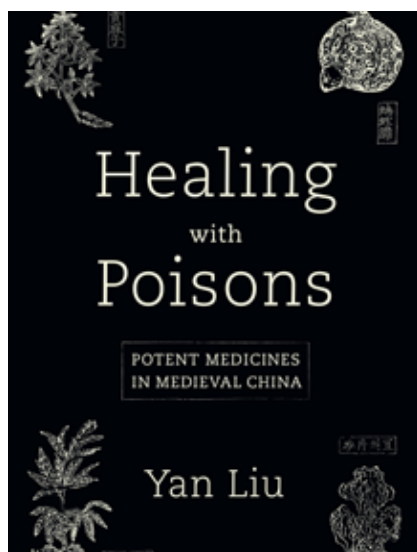
"Chinese pharmacology was shaped by the goal of transforming the body into higher states of being and achieving longevity," says Liu. "Medicine in China thus developed through the interaction of two related but distinct enterprises: the fight against sickness and the quest for ever-enhanced vitality."

"We should think of drugs broadly, as something fluid rather than fixed and definitive. We should go beyond considering each drug carrying a material essence, the so-called 'active ingredient,' and pay attention to a variety of factors that could alter its effects," he says. "How are we using a substance? How are we assigning its value? How might drug-induced responses vary across different individuals and social groups, for example, in the cases of consuming opioids and medical marijuana?"

Medicines and poisons appear to be opposites, Liu acknowledges. But if their intertwined history is paradoxical, then this book contributes to the resolution of that paradox. "I hope my readers will be left with a more nuanced understanding of this history," he says.

Healing with Poisons is freely available in an open access edition, thanks to TOME (Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem) and the generous support of the University Libraries. 🌐

Bert Gambini is a news content manager for University Communications.



ONLINE HUB FOR ICE-SHEET SCIENCE IS A GLOBAL RESOURCE

By Charlotte Hsu

Glaciologists have teamed up with computer scientists to build an online portal for ice sheet science. The new science gateway is called [GHub](#), short for “Glaciology Hub,” and it houses datasets, computational tools and educational materials about the science of ice sheets and sea level rise. The site seeks to centralize these resources. It also provides a space for collaboration.

Users can browse datasets; contribute data; run, devel-



op and share computational tools, including ones that leverage supercomputers at the UB Center for Computational Research (CCR); discover resources for teaching and outreach; and connect with one another.

“We want GHub to become the go-to site for resources for anything having to do with the science of ice sheets and sea level rise,” says Jason Briner, an ice sheet researcher and geology professor in the College of Arts and Sciences. “Our goal is for this to become a community space that makes it easier for scientists to collaborate. We want to reduce bottlenecks that are slowing scientific progress on important problems.”

The GHub team includes scientists, engineers and programmers from UB, Tufts University, the National Center for Atmospheric Research and NASA.

The multi-institution effort is funded by over \$4.2 million from the U.S. National Science Foundation, with Briner as the project lead.

GHub is maintained by UB CCR and powered by the HUBzero® Platform at the San Diego Supercomputer Center, located at the University of California, San Diego.

For research projects that bring together large groups of ice sheet scientists, “GHub is full of potential,” says Sophie Nowicki, Empire Innovation Professor in the UB Department of Geology and UB RENEW Institute, and a GHub team member. ISMIP6, a major international ice sheet modeling collaboration that Nowicki launched and co-leads, has already leveraged GHub’s capabilities.

“Science gateways are a bit of a democratizer,” says Jeanette Sperhac, a scientific programmer at CCR and GHub team member. “They allow people to access computing

and data that they might not otherwise know about or be able to use.”

In a 2020 paper in the journal [Concurrency and Computation: Practice and Experience](#), Sperhac and colleagues at UB, the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Tufts outline GHub’s objectives.

“With this new cyberinfrastructure, ice sheet scientists will gain integrated tools to quantify the rate and extent of sea level rise, benefiting human societies around the globe,” the authors write.

They explain that the ice sheet science community includes two broad groups of researchers: those who use fieldwork, satellite observations and other data to learn about the past and current states of ice sheets, and those who develop computational models to forecast the future of ice sheets and sea level rise.

The models used by the second group are validated against data collected by the first. However, “These two groups are not well integrated,” Sperhac and co-authors write. “Better coordination between data collection efforts and modeling efforts is imperative if we are to improve our understanding of ice sheet loss rates.”

And this, says Briner, is the vision for GHub. The team plans to publish what Briner calls “dark data” that’s of interest to modelers. As he explains, “These are data on the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets that are not archived anywhere public, that are obscured, that are hidden in papers, all formatted differently. We want to put those in a database and make them available for everybody.”

GHub already links out to a variety of datasets and houses others, with the project currently hosting about 15 terabytes of data at CCR for ice sheet research, including for ISMIP6. As Sperhac explains, “Software we run at CCR enables researchers to easily transfer large datasets back and forth. This capability — high-volume, secure data transfer and hosting — is really an important piece of the solution.”

GHub also aims to provide access to computational tools that could serve a range of purposes, such as reformatting large datasets for use in ice sheet models, reformatting model outputs for comparison with observations, and facilitating analysis and visualization of complex datasets. In addition, the GHub team will help users build and share their own computational tools.

Nowicki highlights the value of GHub’s many capabilities, noting that, “We plan to use GHub in ISMIP6 follow-on activities for so many things, from asking participating modelers to check the quality of their submissions prior to upload (thereby catching errors) to developing tools that reproduce figures from community papers (thereby allowing a modeler to see how a new model simulation compares to or alters published results). The possibilities are endless.”

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DIGITIZING PAINTED NARRATIVE SCROLLS OF BENGAL

A project of cultural preservation developed by Haimonti Dutta, assistant professor of management science and systems, documents the performing art of a class of (once) traveling singers from rural West Bengal, India, who sang moral and mythological tales painted on scrolls and served the dual role of performers and social entertainers.

Traditionally, these scroll painters, known as patuas, trekked from village to village unfurling their scrolls and singing songs, with lyrics they had composed themselves—primarily in Bengali and its dialectal variants—or orally transmitted.

Dutta and her students at UB are working on development of an art recommendation system which uses multi-modal data – images and text, collected from rural Bengal, to generate a set of recommendations for a user of the system.

Such recommendations could include other “similar” paintings or songs which have similar lyrics. This recommendation engine is of interest to the anthropologist, social worker, folk art connoisseur and others and to date, Dutta is not aware of a system specifically designed for this genre of art.

The process of documentation of the performing art form, which is essential to design the recommendation engine, has led to a collaboration with Ratnaboli Bose, founder and research and documentation expert at the [Daricha Foundation](#), a nonprofit that documents and disseminates folk and tribal forms in West Bengal.

In addition, the members of this project are also collaborating with the UB Institutional Repository (UBIR), which is designing an archive that will store the audio, text and image data that are currently being collected in India. Because of the very nature of the project, there is constant interaction between the artists, Daricha Foundation, the project team from UBIR, and faculty and students who are involved with analysis and data storage.

For each scroll, the team comprised of Ratnaboli and her collaborators—Maya Roychoudhury, Abhilash Banerjee, Jaideep Ganguli and Dipak Seal—collect photographs of each panel of the scroll, the song associated with that panel in the original dialect and an audio recording of the song. Then, the lyrics of the song are analyzed by transcription, transliteration and translation (to English).

“Processing each scroll involves days and days of research, nitpicking over semantics with the singer and the translator, reading translations of Bengali texts, and is quite

a journey, mainly because the singers are not always sure of the meaning of each word they sing,” says Ratnaboli.

“They just have a sense of what it could mean, and they are not always correct—for example, they sometimes skip lines and words that don’t really fit into their flow—but when you are translating you are digging into nearly every word.”

The multi-modal data that is obtained will be stored in repositories at UBIR. Karlen Chase, scholarly publishing specialist in University Libraries, helped design a file naming protocol for data storage and ensures that rules governing resource accessibility are followed carefully.

To date, Dutta and her team have collected data from eight medium and large-sized scrolls with traditional themes resulting in almost 60 panels. It is expected that on completion of the data collection phase, about 100 panels from the West Bengal villages of Naya and Habichak in West and East Medinipur, respectively, will be recorded.

Going forward, the team plans to collect data from other districts in West Bengal, including Bankura and Purulia.

Much of the data-collection work has slowed down due to the sudden outburst of the second phase of COVID-19 in India, which affected travel and the ability to record and meet with artists, however, they have made substantial progress in software development which can be done independently in their labs in the US.

Students in MGS 655, Distributed Computing and Big Data Technologies,

have used samples from an older version of the data to design a Hadoop-based storage system and develop scripts to preprocess it and plan to transition to the newer data once it is available.

The development of this art recommendation tool will aid the search and retrieval of even more images and text, and potentially attract various stakeholders, including art connoisseurs, clients and museums.

Dutta acknowledges support from the Gnam Award for enabling her travel to India during the difficult COVID-19 pandemic. She has traveled from the U.S. to Kolkata, India to hear performances of several artists and meet representatives from the Daricha Foundation in person. More recently, the project has been supported by the School of Management’s Summer Research Impact Award. 🌐



MELLON GRANT TO PLAN HAUDENOSAUNEE ARCHIVE AND RESOURCE CENTER

By Bert Gambini

The University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences has received a \$175,000 planning grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the development of a Haudenosaunee Archive and Resource Collection, bringing a long-imagined project a step closer to reality.

The announcement comes as the university continues work organizing its new Department of Indigenous Studies, also generously supported by The Mellon Foundation through its \$3.174 million grant to the university in 2019.

The proposed archive and resource collection will establish and house a campus center where scholars, students, educators and community members can research and learn about Haudenosaunee people.

UB will work closely with Indigenous advisors to help build a collection that will further enable it to meet the new department's strategic priorities by inspiring scholarship, advancing Indigenous knowledge in ways that incorporate it into all fields, and addressing prevalent societal knowledge gaps regarding the culture, history and experiences of Indigenous people.

"I was inspired by recent projects funded by The Mellon Foundation that were transforming universities by placing the initiatives of Indigenous communities and communities of color at their center," says the grant's principal investigator, Theresa McCarthy, PhD (Six Nations, Onondaga), associate professor and interim chair of the new Department of Indigenous Studies and associate dean for inclusive excellence in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"We're hoping to follow suit with this project to advance a transformative, outward, community-facing approach at UB that enables Indigenous knowledge to redefine the traditional epistemologies of our university.

"The aim is to address significant place-based concerns by supporting the development of infrastructure and capacity at UB, as well as at the many Haudenosaunee community-based repositories within close proximity to UB, in ways that ensure our important historical and cultural materials remain here instead of always ending up at collecting facilities located off of our territories," McCarthy adds.

UB is located on the traditional territories of the Seneca Nation, one of the six member nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and is close to a majority of the federally recognized tribal nations in New York, as well as one of

the largest First Nations communities in Canada.

That proximity can help the department expand general knowledge of the Haudenosaunee and contribute to normalizing their inclusion in public narratives across the state, country and internationally, according to UB Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence Despina Stratigakos, who is also a professor in the UB School of Architecture and Planning.



Theresa McCarthy

"This project builds on decades of efforts by Haudenosaunee scholars at UB," says Stratigakos, the project's co-principal investigator. "As an educational institution with a long legacy of Haudenosaunee scholarship, UB recognizes its responsibility to participate in dismantling colonialist and settler forms of knowledge production as we strive to become a more just and inclusive place of learning."

The collection will be centered on Indigenous data sovereignty and ways of knowing, with an approach that ensures the financial resources to do this work are directed toward Haudenosaunee people, stu-

dents, communities and tribal archives, and toward advancing more ethical and inclusive research and educational practices.

"We will honor and support Indigenous expertise and record-keeping practices under the direct authority of the Indigenous-run archival repositories on Haudenosaunee territory," says McCarthy.

McCarthy has assembled a Haudenosaunee Advisory Committee to help guide the project and support the collection's immediate planning. The council's four members are all involved with the development of the university's Indigenous Studies department, and are also Indigenous community members of UB's Haudenosaunee-Native American Studies Research Group, which has been together since 2008:

- **Agnes Williams**, an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation of Indians, Wolf Clan. She is a founding member of Women of All Red Nations, the IWN-Indigenous Women's Network, and its local affiliate IWI-Indigenous Women's Initiatives.
- **Terry C. Abrams**, Tonawanda Seneca, Bear Clan. He is curator and collections manager at the Niagara County Historical Society and president of the

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HAUDENOSAUNEE ARCHIVE

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Tonawanda Reservation Historical Society.

- **Dinah Porter**, Akwesasne Mohawk, Wolf Clan. She is a longtime employee of Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties, who has worked as a cultural advisor, an Indigenous youth supporter, and Native women's health and wellness advocate
- **Mia McKie**, Tuscarora, Turtle Clan. She is a UB faculty member working to complete her doctoral studies in history at the University of Toronto, specializing in Haudenosaunee governance.

The initiative and grant award acknowledge the achievements and aspirations of past and current Haudenosaunee scholars at UB, and gives substance to the university's ongoing discussions with Indigenous members of the Seneca, Tuscarora, Tonawanda and Six Nations communities in Western New York and Southern Ontario, Canada, according to McCarthy.

"A recurring thread in these conversations has been the desire to develop this archival and resource collection that recognizes Haudenosaunee sovereignty and intellectual authority, and to create an infrastructure that will support the care and culturally appropriate access to these materials," says McCarthy.

And it is those conversations that have directly informed the direction of the current planning grant, according to Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for University Libraries and the project's co-principal investigator.

"This is predicated on the idea that the Haudenosaunee are in the best position to tell us what their needs are and

how we can work with them to enhance the accessibility of their history, language and culture," says Weinraub Lajoie. "We hope that together we can build a pathway for enhanced access to the written, recorded and oral traditions of the Haudenosaunee people that will benefit researchers, educators and the members of the Confederacy."

The imperative for the archive became clear and began taking shape more than 20 years ago while McCarthy was working with John Mohawk, a founder of UB's Native American Studies program in 1972 and one of the foremost Haudenosaunee scholars of his generation. Mohawk was McCarthy's academic supervisor on an archival research project she was developing on behalf of her community of Six Nations. A shuttered research facility encountered one year into the effort prevented the project's completion.

The disappointing conclusion to their work, similar to what many Haudenosaunee people experienced throughout the 20th century, prompted Mohawk and McCarthy to think about how an archival space at UB would be beneficial to researchers, educators, students and community members, given the lack of access to collections within colonial collecting facilities.

"Dr. Mohawk hoped one day UB could develop a 'clearing house' for Haudenosaunee resources that would permit easy access to materials while recognizing Haudenosaunee peoples' authority over them through community partnerships," says McCarthy.

"This grant brings us closer toward realizing a project his forward-thinking leadership first imagined more than two decades ago," she says. "I'm thrilled by the opportunity we have before us." 🌐

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

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for academic research about China. He saw the UBCI as an outgrowth of UB's pioneering programs in China in the 1980s which made the university especially well known in that country.

From 2010-2021, the Confucius Institute partnered with faculty in many UB departments to cosponsor 74 lectures by leading specialists in China studies throughout North America; 26 major conferences, symposia and art exhibitions including scholars and artists based in the U.S. and China; and more than 25 teacher workshops and seminars. The institute hosted six J-1 visiting professors from China to teach in the UB Departments of Linguistics, Learning and Instruction, and Art, and arranged for 42 J-1 teachers from China to teach Chinese language and culture in K-12 schools in Erie and Niagara Counties.

Through UBCI, 80 UB students and 75 high school students received full or partial funding to study in China,

including 12 students who were awarded Confucius Institute scholarships for semester or year-long study at Chinese universities. In all, more than 35,000 students at UB and throughout Western New York studied in Chinese language programs affiliated with the UB Confucius Institute.

Professor Liu concluded the December 12 program by thanking and congratulating UBCI's sponsor and partner – Capital Normal University in Beijing, local community collaborators, and UB faculty and staff, "As we celebrate 12 years of the Confucius Institute, let's take pride in what we have accomplished, together, in the past 12 years, let's be grateful to our sponsor and partners, and let's congratulate each other – together, we had a fabulous run."

Looking forward he noted, "As we bid farewell to the Confucius Institute, let's be confident that we will find new ways to continue the work of the Confucius Institute – promoting Chinese language learning, foster a better understanding of Chinese society, and engaging in research and teaching about China." 🌐

DEMONSTRATING THE INTERNATIONAL SCOPE OF BLACK LIVES MATTER

By Michelle Eubank

UB visiting French professor Mame-Fatou Niang has lived through the challenges of racism her entire life. For years, she never saw anyone who looked like her in the media, much less celebrated in French culture. Her fight against racism has landed her on the list “363 Islamo-leftists that need to be targeted” in France.

Now with recent Black Lives Matter movements in both the U.S. and France, Niang is beginning to see glimmers of a post-racist society. A scholar studying Blackness in contemporary France, she brings her familiarity with French racial issues to UB as the fall 2021 Visiting Melodia E. Jones Endowed Chair in French studies.

Her seminar, FR 482: Rethinking Universalism in 21st



Mame-Fatou Niang (Meredith Forrest Kulwicki)

Century France, examines how French identity was born, how Frenchness became restrictive and how this influenced the way France continues to pay homage to the French identity through memorialization of statues and names.

“When you look at all of this, you realize that French history is almost exclusively white and metropolitan,” Niang says.

To uncover this whitewashed history of France, she and her UB students are developing an inventory of Parisian streets named after French historical figures with hidden racist pasts.

In collaboration with the Foundation for the Memory of Slavery in Paris, they’ve “found over 200 streets in Paris named after slaveholders and colonial missionaries who hid behind titles like artists and politicians,” Niang says.

“We are building a website with an inventory of French ‘heroes’ that had an unknown role in colonial and slave conquest. For example, there is a street named after Jean-Baptiste Colbert who was the most famous finance minister in the history of France, but not many people know he was also the architect of France’s slave code,” she explains.

Sophie May, a senior who is enrolled in FR 482, says she

finds value in being a small part of the anti-racist movement in France.

“Each of us are given a few street names to research, and we write up a short paper highlighting the racist past of the person it was named after,” says May. “I had no idea how outdated the views and monuments were in France.”

Although UB students are working toward uncovering hidden Black French history, mainstream French culture has traditionally blocked any of its history that does not align with the classic “French” identity.

“France decided that race is a social construct that created one of the world’s greatest catastrophes: slavery. So, we decided to remove the word ‘race’ from our language, but this does not erase the events that happened in the past,” Niang says.

The rejection of the words “race” and “blackness” in France has had detrimental effects on many Afro-French people, including Niang herself.

“When I first started going to university, I identified myself as ‘Afro-French’” she says. “This was never done before. It distinguished myself from the typical ‘French’ identity and acknowledged my race. People did not like this in France.”

Her experiences as a young adult in France provided motivation for her future works. In addition to her research on Blackness in contemporary France at Carnegie Mellon University, where she holds a faculty position, she wrote the novel *Identités Françaises* and directed the film “Mariannes Noires: Blackness in French,” both centered around racial issues in France. These works have sparked the conversation about racism in France. The beginning of this conversation gives Niang hope for the future.

“For me, the fact that we are coming out of this silence is a victory,” she says. “The fact that the president of France had to stand in front of the nation and acknowledge the word ‘race’ multiple times is a victory. It does not matter what he said it about; it’s that this conversation is finally happening.”

In addition to de-silencing the past, Niang hopes someday to live in a world where race is not a factor at all.

“My dream is to live in a post-racist society — a society where race is not a factor anymore,” she says. “We are told that we live in this world, but this is not true. While my work is about race, I want my nephews or nieces to make a movie about science fiction or comedy — not to have to make fighting racism their life mission like I do.

“I think keeping in mind ‘la finalité,’ or the purpose of life, helps us realize we have bigger challenges that face us as human beings. We need to come together to fight these, rather than let race divide us.” 🌐

Michelle Eubank is an undergraduate biomedical sciences major.

BOREN AND GILMAN RECIPIENT WILL STUDY FOOD INSECURITY IN SENEGAL

By Charles Anzalone

A child of African immigrants whose years of homelessness strengthened her resolve to succeed is UB's latest recipient of a Boren Scholarship, a prestigious international award that sponsors U.S. undergraduates to study abroad in areas of the world critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad programs.

Dalanda Jalloh will spend part of her senior year in Senegal studying the language and working as an intern with a local organization related to her chosen area of study.

Jalloh also has been selected to receive a scholarship award from the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, which funds study abroad for undergraduate students.

She brings a distinctive identity to her honors, first for her passion to fight food insecurity, which she calls a "catalyzing agent for political and economic instability."

Jalloh's professors stress her ability to bridge the gap between her humanitarian interest in establishing equitable food systems in local communities

and understanding how food insecurity can derail progressive governments and humanitarian reform.

"Food insecurity must be addressed as a U.S. national security concern," says Jalloh. "Senegal plays an important role in promoting peace and security throughout the African continent. Addressing food security in Senegal is imperative to avoiding political and economic instability, and establishing lasting peace and prosperity in sub-Saharan Africa."

Jalloh's perspective on the role of food insecurity in international relations is just one reason for the deep and detailed admiration from her academic mentors. Jalloh's academic preparation, research as an undergraduate at UB and work in the local refugee community are all the more instructive, they say, because of the adversity she endured before coming to UB.

"Dalanda's accomplishment in receiving this award is another perfect example of how a UB education can empower an individual. Education can change lives," says Elizabeth Colucci, director of UB's Office of Fellowships and Scholarships, which identifies, sponsors and supports UB students applying for internationally competitive and recognized scholarships such as the Boren award.



Dallanda Jalloh (Douglas Levere)

"The fact she went through that personal and academic growth at UB, right here with us, is even more reason to celebrate.

"Dalanda was able to engage in meaningful research around the topic of global development and planning through her work with Dr. Frimpong Boamah and UB's Community for Global Health Equity," Colucci explains.

"Dalanda sees how food security has international, as well as domestic security implications. This is why she was such a strong candidate for the Boren Scholarship African Flagship Languages Initiative."

Jalloh walks a delicate balance when explaining her background. It's important, she will tell you, about how her years without a real home — a time in effect ending

when she came to Buffalo for college — honed her determination, resilience and ability to "cherish memories and every experience deeply."

"I don't want to make it seem like I have completely processed what I've been through," she says. "Every day is definitely a battle — especially accepting that it happened to me. But it is a part of my journey and to embrace it means I need to see the good in what this experience brought. After all, it did lead me to Buffalo."

But those around her join her insistence that she also be perceived as a scholar with a savvy eye, one who merges idealism with a realpolitik appreciation of how food equity can either stabilize or undermine governments.

"Driven by its democratic values, Senegal plays an important role in promoting peace and security throughout Africa," she wrote in a Boren essay.

What Jalloh learned about food security in Buffalo can apply worldwide, something her professors called a powerful connection.

Five UB students have received Boren Awards in the past five years, including two in 2020.

Jalloh says being a daughter of first-generation African immigrants allowed her to view the world through different lenses.

"I am interested in federal service because I have a lot to offer in diversifying the field," she says. "By serving the U.S. government, I will be representing a true image of what being American means and represents around the world. I am diplomacy; I am America." 🌐

Charles Anzalone is a news content manager for University Communications.

HANDS-ON STEM EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

By Michelle Kearns

When Adetola Salau, GSE PhD student and education aide to Nigerian Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, drives through Lagos, she is inspired to persevere. She gets energy for her own sometimes exhausting daily work, as a graduate student and government official, when she sees young people hanging out on the streets with nothing to do.

Her mission: Implement what she believes is the life-changing solution and transform education in Nigeria to reflect the U.S.'s experiential approach to science and math learning. She wants to help shift teaching traditions around memorization to class project work, which she believes helps students cultivate curiosity, self-confidence, understanding and the tools they need to find, and create, meaningful work.

"The rest of the world has gone to hands-on learning," Salau said. "It took me going to the States ... to see we can do this differently."

Months after she enrolled in GSE's curriculum, instruction and the science of learning online PhD program, Lagos State Commissioner of Education Folasade Adefisayo, who had been reading Salau's newspaper columns about reform, offered her a job. "She's a progressive educator," said Salau of Adefisayo.

In her role as education aide, Salau launched an initiative called "STEAM UP Lagos," a program to create after-school science clubs in more than 50 junior high and high schools with new lab spaces, STEM competitions, teacher training. Its curriculum, which Salau developed, includes activities like fizzy baking soda explosions and investigating trash dump pollution with drones. To help expand the club to the state's 5,000 public and 20,000 private schools, Salau hopes to elicit financial support from Nigerian businesses and international governments.

Her passion for STEM education comes from her own journey. She was born in the U.S. to Nigerian parents who were earning their PhDs. She was 5 when they returned to Nigeria, where her mother became a university lecturer and the country's first female meteorologist, and her father was a geography and climate change professor and United Nations diplomat.

In 1995, when she was 18, Salau settled in the U.S. and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Fordham University and, at Syracuse University, a master's in chemical engineering.

Salau then spent a decade teaching middle school and high school math and science in the South Bronx, the Carolinas and California. It was hard, life-changing work that she loved. She built rapport with students by sharing her story about how education led her family to the U.S. "I

made connections beyond math," Salau said.

She became convinced that the American experiential style of teaching could transform Nigeria's schools and their reliance on memorization.

She planned her return to Nigeria, stockpiling outdated textbooks whenever she knew they were going to the dumpster. Eventually, when she was heading to Lagos, she loaded them into her mother's car before it shipped.



Adetola Salau at a public school in Abesan, Nigeria (Banic Media)

In the beginning, she advocated for change by driving 13 hours to the capital Abuja to lobby officials. She then decided a PhD would give her the clout she needed.

Her graduate work converged with her government work. Opportunities to create change emerged—in her dissertation and with international collaborators.

In the past year, since she began working on state education policy, the work informed her doctoral study and vice versa. She surveyed Nigerian teachers about their interest in taking new approaches to teaching math and science as part of her STEM education dissertation research that she is developing with her advisor Noemi Waight, associate professor of learning and instruction.

To help her research, one of her science education professors, Joseph Engemann, PhD '00, connected her with the Smithsonian Institution's Science Education Center. It sponsored virtual training for 10 teachers and policymakers in Lagos last year. Then this spring, she won a place on its inaugural committee, "STEM Education for Sustainable Development and Network for Emergent Socioscientific Thinking," an international panel collecting new ideas.

Once Salau finishes her PhD, they plan to continue to work together to research and publish ideas for improving STEM education, and opportunity, for students. "We need to make them become people who solve their own problems and create and think critically," said Salau. "I want to see problem-solving. And, I want to see critical thinking become something of the norm." 🌐

Michelle Kearns is communication content manager for the Graduate School of Education.

IN MEMORIAM: UB LOSES TWO DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONALISTS

In 2021, UB lost two beloved faculty members who in different ways exemplified a commitment to international scholarship and global engagement—Jorge J.E. Gracia and Isabel Marcus.

Jorge J. E. Gracia, Cuban émigré and internationally renowned philosopher, died July 13, 2021 at the age of 79. He was a SUNY Distinguished Professor and Samuel P. Capen Professor of Philosophy.



Jorge Gracia

Gracia fled to the United States at the age of 18 after the Cuban revolution. He received his bachelor's at Wheaton College, master's in Philosophy at the University of Chicago, and his Ph.D. in Medieval Philosophy at the University of Toronto.

He joined the faculty at UB in 1971 and retired in January 2020. Jorge Gracia's voluminous publications transformed the

field of philosophy. His writing spanned several areas—metaphysics and ontology; philosophical historiography; philosophy of language/hermeneutics; issues of ethnicity, race and nationality, specifically Hispanic and Latino issues; medieval/scholastic philosophy; and Hispanic, Latino and Latin-American philosophy.

Gracia's views of race and ethnicity have helped shape the field and addressed many issues that previous theories had left unanswered. Gracia actively promoted Latin American visual artists by writing about their work and curating exhibitions here and abroad.

Gracia received recognition and numerous awards for his scholarship. In 2010, he was listed in the "Blackwell Companion to Latin American Philosophy" among 40 prominent philosophers in the history of Latin America from 1500 to the present.

He was the founding chair of the American Philosophical Association's Committee for Hispanics in Philosophy and served as president of the Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, the Society for Iberian and Latin American Thought, the American Catholic Philosophical Association, and the Metaphysical Society of America.

Gracia published more than 45 books (authored or edited) and over 240 scholarly articles. In 2019, he published the story of his professional journey entitled, *With a Diamond in My Shoe: A Philosopher's Search for Identity in America*. His most recent book is a compilation of family stories from Cuba published in 2020, *Cuba before Castro: A Century of Family Memoirs*.

Isabel Marcus, professor of law, died at age 83 in California on October 31, 2021. Having retired at age 80, she was an activist scholar-practitioner whose work in women's and human rights spanned the globe.

Having received her undergraduate degree from the London School of Economics, Marcus earned her law degree and Ph.D. at the University of California Berkeley in 1975. After teaching at UT-Austin in the late 1970s, she joined the UB Law School in 1982. Initially her focus was family and labor law, but her interests also included women's rights and international human rights.

Marcus became an active participant in pioneering UB exchange programs in challenging parts of the world. She was in Beijing in 1989, during the Tiananmen uprising and went to the square to meet with the protesting students directly. As the crisis deepened, she had to be evacuated with other UB colleagues and students on one of the last western flights out of Beijing.

With the fall of the Iron Curtain, Marcus became involved in women's rights and domestic violence policies in Central and Eastern Europe. She regularly taught human rights law at the Jagiellonian University, UB's partner in Krakow, Poland.



Isabel Marcus (r) with Law Dean Aviva Abramovsky

In fact, over her UB career she taught abroad regularly and in more than a dozen countries. Marcus was awarded Fulbright Scholar grants to Romania and Macedonia, and she directed

study abroad programs for UB Law students that involved travels through several Balkan countries.

At UB she co-founded the Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender, which has had a strong international focus since it was established. She created and endowed the Isabel Marcus International Research Fellowship to better support visiting women legal scholars whose work she facilitated.

In 2012, the university's Council on International Studies and Programs presented Marcus with the Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education at UB, a tribute to the far-reaching impact of her work both abroad and at UB, particularly teaching and mentoring younger international scholars working in women's and human rights law. 🌐

LEE GLOBAL HEALTH LECTURE LINKS CLIMATE AND DISEASE

By Grace Lazzara

In another instance of your mother being right, the presenter of this year's Richard V. Lee, MD, Lectureship in Global Health showed how the weather — specifically absolute humidity — can affect our health.

Jeffrey Shaman is director of the Climate and the Health Program at Columbia University Mailman School of the Public Health and faculty chair of Columbia's Earth Institute. He studies how infectious diseases survive and transmit, including how things like climate and weather can affect those processes and human health.

Shaman discussed his recent work looking at the connection between the flu and humidity and temperature. The fact that flu outbreaks peak in wintertime has led researchers over the years to hypothesize why that might be. Among the theories is one related to the lower temperatures and lower humidity of winter air, an idea that interests Shaman.

His studies indicate that in winter conditions of low absolute humidity — the amount of water vapor in the air — flu survives longer and transmits better. That helps explain why flu season occurs when the weather is colder, as opposed to during the summer. Shaman said his next question was whether he could use observed humidity conditions at population levels to mathematically model a flu season — and thus predict seasonal flu outbreaks.

Shaman developed his model and populated it with data from the past 31 years on humidity conditions in New York, Washington, Florida, Arizona and Illinois. The result reproduced “the cycle of influenza seasonality” in all five states.

Shaman wondered if weather prediction could inform a better model. Could Shaman build a system that mimics weather prediction, but apply it to influenza prediction?

To find out, Shaman combined three ingredients analogous to those used in weather prediction:

- A simple model describing the transmission dynamics of flu in a population, including the effect of absolute humidity.
- Real-time (or nearly real-time) observations — in this case, flu-infection rates based on reported and estimated cases of flu and flu-like illnesses in Salt Lake City in 2013.
- Statistical data-simulation methods that allowed Shaman to combine the observations with the model to correct for errors in the model.

Numerous simulations showed a system that almost consistently predicted the peak of flu outbreaks in Salt Lake City five weeks into the future. Further refinement of the system allowed it to show how certain the forecast would be, akin to when weather forecasters. And, just as with weather predictions, Shaman found the likelihood of

good forecasts eroded over time.

Another aspect of Shaman's work has significance for the COVID-19 pandemic. He and his colleagues conducted a field study called the Virome of Manhattan, in which their aim was to improve their flu forecast by understanding the nitty-gritty of respiratory illnesses. They studied a group of 200 people who reported daily their common cold symptoms like runny nose, cough and chills. The group also had weekly tests for common respiratory viruses.

Ultimately, the study found that about a quarter of people with flu saw a doctor; the numbers were lower for RSV and coronavirus. It also found that most people had no symptoms, yet they were shedding detectable virus and probably contagious. In effect, he added, “the fact that most infections are undocumented and mild or asymptomatic means that these viruses can get around. It's why common respiratory viruses are common.”

Shaman and his team in January 2020 got word of a newly emerging virus coming out of Wuhan as its epicenter and saw it very quickly spreading throughout China. Because of their work on the Virome project, the team immediately realized that COVID-19 was behaving like a common respiratory virus. “Most of the people who are infected probably don't know they have it,” he said.

They built a system to determine if that was, indeed, the case, coupling travel records from a common GPS app in China and observations of confirmed cases of COVID-19 from 375 Chinese cities. Their system estimated that 86% of COVID-19 infections were falling in the undocumented category, “just like a common respiratory illness.”

They also saw evidence of a two-to-three-day period before symptoms when people were already contagious. Their conclusion? “This virus is not going to be stopped. It has epidemiological properties consistent with common respiratory illnesses. And that characteristic of doing all this undocumented, undetected infection means that you're not going to be able to constrain its transmission.”

Thanks to endowment in his name, the Richard V. Lee, MD, Lectureship in Global Health is presented annually to honor the late UB faculty member. 🌐

Grace Lazzara is special assistant to the dean for external relations in the School of Public Health and Health Professions.



Jeffrey Shaman

KEEPING INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI CONNECTED TO UB

By Jay Rey

Wei Loon Leong has the very big job of tracking UB alumni across a very big globe.

"The joke in the office is that someone is responsible for the alumni networks in the U.S. — and then I have the rest of the world," cracks Leong. "I take it as a compliment."

Leong, 41, was hired as director of international alumni engagement in 2013 to cultivate new opportunities for alumni development, fundraising, research, student recruitment and other university-sponsored programs by tapping into UB's vast network of international alumni.

As many as 26,000 are on record as residing overseas. They include the secretary of the Department of Science and Technology in India; the minister of finance and human resource management of the state of Tamil Nadu in India; the co-founder of Baidu, China's equivalent to Google; and the former minister of education in China.

Outside the U.S., the university has 11 alumni chapters. India has the most UB graduates, followed by China, Singapore, South Korea and Canada. The smallest is in the United Arab Emirates, where an alumni chapter started last year amid the pandemic.

It's up to Leong to keep them all connected to UB.

On any given day, Leong is working his contacts and orchestrating philanthropic gifts. He's asking alums to help recruit students, offer students career advice or provide them with experiential learning opportunities. He's also fielding requests from alumni seeking assistance from UB.

"I see myself as a bridge builder, if you will," Leong says. "We're asking alumni for help, but we're helping them, as well. It's one of those things I see as a win-win for UB and our alumni."

For Leong, the job is a balancing act between time zones.

His day starts early, catching up on emails at home before heading to campus, where he'll work with the various academic and administrative units to engage their alumni base overseas.

Then, when he's home in the evening, his workday picks up again. That's when he's able to talk by phone or by Zoom to alums who are on the other side of the world and unavailable during the day because of the time difference.

Three times a year — fall, winter, spring — Leong makes a business trip overseas to meet with alumni in person, although that hasn't happened since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Efforts have started to bear fruit, he says.

For example, he says, philanthropic giving from international alumni tends to remain at modest levels, considering the tough economy in many parts of the world. But, he adds, UB saw a 28% spike from international donors during the past fiscal year. That's a significant increase, especially during a year affected by the pandemic, Leong says.

"I really want to make an impact because UB has made an impact on my life and my career," he says.

A native of Malaysia, Leong graduated from UB with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 2003 and a



Wei Loon Leong (Douglas Levere)

master's in business administration in 2005.

After graduation, he worked eight years in China, where he held management positions at an international school in Beijing and helped with the expansion of an American manufacturing operation.

All the while, he remained loyal to his alma mater. He served as a volunteer for the Office of International Education as its China liaison for student recruitment and alumni development. It was Leong's way of giving back to UB and former Vice Provost for International Education Stephen Dunnett, who helped shape his life.

So, Leong says, when the opportunity became available to "contribute to President Tripathi's vision of advancing UB to greater success," it was a natural decision for him to accept the job and return to his alma mater.

Leong now lives in Amherst with wife, Xiaoli, and daughter, Janice. He enjoys golf and the outdoors. This year, he took on added responsibilities as co-president of the PTA at Maple East Elementary, where his daughter attends.

As for his position at UB, the international role is still relatively new across higher education. In fact, it was a first for the university upon hiring Leong.

That's why Leong occasionally will get an inquisitive response when he reaches out to an alum for the first time.

"What took you so long?" they ask. 🌐

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Daniel B. Hess, professor and chair, has extended his research on housing renovation to North Macedonia by publishing “Enlargement of apartments in socialist housing estates in Skopje under transition: the tension between individual preferences and collective action” in *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment* (with co-author Jasna Mariotti from Queen’s University, Belfast). He also delivered a presentation entitled “Service housing: Innovations in housing planning and design” at the Dialogue on Large Housing Estates convened in April 2021 at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Economics

Alex Anas, Frank H. and Josephine L. Goodyear Professor and chair, was an invited participant in the three-day remotely held roundtable discussion sponsored by the International Transport Forum of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on “Broadening the Scope of Transport Appraisal to Capture the Full Impact of Investments”, September 29 – October 1, 2021. The roundtable included experts from Australia, Europe, Japan, the USA and New Zealand working on the appraisal of transport investments. Anas was invited on the basis of his recently completed working paper “Productivity benefits of urban transportation megaprojects: a general equilibrium analysis of «Grand Paris Express»,” co-authored with **Huibin Chang** an alumnus of the department and currently an assistant professor at the Institute for Advanced Economic Research, Dongbei University of Finance and Economics, Dalian, People’s Republic of China.

Department of English

Walter Hakala, associate professor, participated in several virtual international programs in the past year. He presented a paper on “Urdu Culturomics” at the International Workshop on Digital Humanities: Theory and Praxis, Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia (New Delhi, India) on December 15, 2020. He organized with an outstanding student committee the third annual Rustgi Undergraduate Conference on South Asia on February 26 and 27, 2021, which featured twelve presentations by undergraduate scholars from the United States, India, and Pakistan; a keynote lecture on “Isolation to Responsibilization: Contradictions of Trans Activism in India during COVID-19” by Aniruddha Dutta (University of Iowa); and a performance by sitarist Paul Livingstone and cellist Peter Jacobson. On October 21, 2021, Hakala organized the fourth annual Urdu Symposium on “World History in Urdu,” an event that was held in conjunction with the Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As part of the symposium, he introduced and translated “The Initial, Intermediate, and Final Language of Mankind” by the Urdu lexicographer Sayyid A mad Dihlav (1846-1918). His chapter, “Literary Translingualism in Hindi and Urdu,” appears in *The Routledge Handbook of Literary Translingualism*, edited by Steven G. Kellman and Natasha Lvovich (New York: Routledge, 2021). He served as chair for the Nominations Committee for At-Large Trustees to the American Institute of Pakistan Studies Board of Trustees in 2021. He continues to serve as the co-organizer of The Translation Zone, a UB Humanities Institute Research Workshop devoted to the study of translation in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and Southeast Asian linguistic contexts.

Damien Keane, associate professor, attended the annual meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, which was held virtually in Derry, Northern Ireland, in June 2021. He presented a paper titled “Literary Field Recordings,” on the (non-)legacy of mid-century recordings of the New York James Joyce Society. In July 2021, he participated in a week-long virtual conference at Durham University (UK) on “The Writer as Psychological Warrior: Intellectuals, Propaganda, and Modern Conflict,” which was organized through a Leverhulme Trust-funded project on Britain’s Political Warfare Executive. His paper, “Radio Pages, Archival Function, and the Repertoire of Political Warfare,” examined the use of monitoring transcripts of propaganda broadcasts in public morale-building operations during the Second World War

Department of Geography

Jessie Poon, professor, became the first female and American to lead the Regional Studies Association headquartered in London, UK in November 2020. This position allows her to work with many academics from Europe. She hosted a number of global webinars on Europe, Asia and South America’s COVID-19 regional recovery. One highlight of the webinars was a panel of international speakers discussing the US-China trade tension. Her 2017 book entitled “International Trade” was translated into Mandarin and published by Social Sciences Academic Press (Beijing) in fall of 2020. She also published papers on Islamic finance in Bahrain and Kuala Lumpur. She is collaborating with **John Atkinson**, professor of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, and Beijing’s Chinese Academy of Science to study US and China’s waste trade and management.

Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies

In October 2021, **Elizabeth Otto**, professor of modern and contemporary art history, currently a fellow at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, will travel to Weimar, Germany to deliver a keynote lecture for the opening of the “Forgotten Bauhaus Women” exhibition at the Bauhaus Museum, and two essays by her will be published in the exhibition’s catalogue. She will also travel briefly to Dessau to continue research for her current book, *Bauhaus Under National Socialism*.

Department of History

In June 2021, **Yan Liu**, assistant professor, who specializes in the history of Chinese medicine, published his first book titled *Healing with Poisons: Potent Medicines in Medieval China* (University of Washington Press); see article above, p. 12. Since then, he has given a series of online book talks including one at National Taiwan University in July and one at the Institute of History and Philology at Academia Sinica (Taipei) in September. In addition, his book is being translated into Chinese, which is scheduled to be published by Shanghai People’s Publishing House in China in December 2022.

Ndubueze L. Mbah, associate professor, was featured in an international roundtable on his book, *Emergent Masculinities: Gendered Power and Social Change in the Biafran Atlantic Age*, organized by the Lagos Studies Association in June 2021. Mbah was also invited by the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies at the University of Rochester to discuss his book with the History department’s honors class, in April 2021. Mbah continues to work on his second book, *Rebellious Migrants: Forging Abolition, Cosmopolitan Identities, and Postcolonial Spaces in West Africa, 1840-1960*. He was invited by the University of Reading, United Kingdom to present research from this project in a “Research Seminar in Gender and African History” in December 2020. Entitled “Forgery: an African Habitus of Slavery and Colonialism,” his paper examined the ambiguous and gendered ways that West African transnational and trans-colonial coerced and subordinated migrants used forgery, subterfuge, and fringe criminality to respond to the structural violence and precarity of slavery, free trade monopolies, and colonial labor conscriptions in the Bight of Biafra during the first half of the twentieth century. Also, in February 2021, Mbah was invited to present research from his second book project in an international conference on “Empire, Sovereignty, and Labor in the Age of Global Abolition” organized by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. His paper was entitled, “Rebellious Migrants: The Freedom and Abolition Politics of ‘Liberated Africans’ in Old Calabar, 1850-1891.” Over the spring and summer of 2021, Mbah submitted a research article on “African Masculinities” at the invitation of the Oxford Bibliographies in African History, a second research article on “Liberated African” returnees to Old Calabar at the invitation of *Radical History Review*, and a third research article on Nigerian women migrants to Fernando Po and Gabon to *History in Africa: A Journal of Debates, Methods, and Source Analysis*. In addition, Mbah completed reviews of two books on global slavery and African American migration to Liberia for *Business History Review* and *Journal of Early American History*, respectively.

Katherine Zubovich, assistant professor, gave virtual talks this year at the University of Manitoba, Columbia University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University College London. Her book *Moscow Monumental: Soviet Skyscrapers and Urban Life in Stalin's Capital* was published in December 2020. Based on research conducted in the Russian archives, the book examines the history of skyscraper building in Moscow in the decade after World War II. Zubovich tells a story that is both local and broadly transnational, taking readers from the streets of interwar Moscow and New York to the marble-clad halls of the bombastic postwar structures that continue to define the Russian capital today. In summer 2021, *Moscow Monumental* was shortlisted for Britain's Pushkin House Russian Book Prize. In the 2021-22 academic year, Zubovich is the James H. Billington Fellow at the Kennan Institute based at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C.

Department of Mathematics

Thomas Cusick, professor, presented paper online at the Workshop on Boolean Functions and their Applications (BFA 2021), held in Rosendal, Norway as Hybrid (some in-person talks, some online), Sept. 5-10, 2021. The paper was jointly written with **Alexandru Chirvasitu**, assistant professor.

Department of Media Study

Dave Pape, associate professor, gave an online talk in June 2021 on "Game Design as a Writing Exercise," at the annual Irish Game-Based Learning Conference, organized by the Waterford Institute of Technology in Ireland. In September 2021, his past work in developing and working with the CAVE virtual reality system was among the projects highlighted at the 2021 Ars Electronica Festival's special events celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Ars Electronica Futurelab (Linz, Austria), and in the accompanying book *Alchemists of the Future*, by Andreas J. Hirsch.

Katja Praznik, associate professor in the Arts Management Program, published her third book *Art Work: Invisible Labour and the Legacy of Yugoslav Socialism* (University of Toronto Press). The book was released in June 2021 and a chapter from the book is planned for translation and publication in a thematic issue of a Hungarian journal *Fordulat*. She published an essay "We Need to Talk about Labor – Countering the Invisibility of Art Workers" in the fourth issue of a bilingual Croatian-English journal *Gradani Svom Gradu* (GSG) – *From the Citizens to Their City* distributed by a Canadian art platform *Artseverywhere.ca*, and a conversation with Sasha Pevak "Artists strike against art institutions: A symbolic gesture or a strategic action?" for *Garage Journal Media*. A Lithuanian translation of her essay "Women, Art and Labor, or the Limits of Representational Politics" was published in *Artnet*. In June, she was invited as a speaker for "Art Field – Battlefield," working sessions and a public plenary debate on the struggles for better working conditions in the arts organized by ULUS – Association of Fine Artists of Serbia in Belgrade, Serbia. In the fall, she was also invited to speak for a panel on political economy of the arts in the framework of the exhibition "Antinomies of Autonomy" organized by ULUS in Belgrade, Serbia. In September, Praznik gave a talk "Between the Call of the Muse and the Promise of a Union" for the Zagreb Academy of Dramatic Art, University of Zagreb (Croatia), and in November a talk "They Call it Creativity, We Call it Unwaged Labor" at the Berlin University for the Arts. She presented two papers, the first on an international colloquium *Art Through Theory* (Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia), and the second at the 5th International Conference *Socialism on the Bench: Antifascism* (Pula, Croatia) organized by the Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism, Croatia. For the 53rd Annual Convention of the ASEES, she co-organized a two part panel "Was Socialism Good For Women: Socialism Women and Social Reproduction – Historical Legacies." During the conference, her book *Art Work* was presented in a book discussion panel.

Department of Music

Tiffany Du Mouchelle, clinical assistant professor, presented a lecture recital, in October 2021 in the *Dialogues: Analysis & Performance* symposium, hosted by University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. The presentation, "100 Ways to Say I Love You", explores the many uses of diction for musical analysis and performance interpretation, and included an abridged performance of Ana Sokolovic's "Love Songs",

an unaccompanied solo voice work in one hundred languages.

Department of Political Science

Michelle Benson-Saxton, associate professor, was hired by the UN as a research consultant in summer 2021 with a colleague from Essex University in England to do research on Militarization and Female Empowerment. They have important findings on the links between peacekeeping, military spending and empowerment levels in post-civil conflict states; they presented their work at a UN Women's conference in September 2021 entitled: "Military Spending and Women, Peace and Security: a Conversation about New Research."

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Elizabeth Scarlett, professor, moderated and co-organized the Modern Language Association (MLA) 2021 Convention panel "Religion in Speculative and Science Fiction by Black Women." Originally scheduled to be held in Toronto in January, the conference went online. Scarlett also co-organized the session "Indigenous Religion and Spirituality." Both sessions were sponsored by the Executive Committee of the MLA Transdisciplinary Forum on Religion and Literature, on which she serves as Secretary.

Department of Sociology

Yige Dong, assistant professor, was awarded an ACLS/Luce Early Career Fellowship in China Studies for AY 2021-22 and will be conducting field work for her book project that examines gender politics and reproductive labor in China in Spring 2022. On December 16, 2021, she gave a virtual talk titled "Feminism and the Politics of Social Reproduction in China," hosted by the Berlin Contemporary China Network.

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Department of Restorative Dentistry

On April 2, 2021, **Sebastiano Andreana**, professor and director of Implant Dentistry, was a keynote speaker for the inauguration of the Implant Fellowship Annual Course organized by the Department of Oral Implantology of the Dr. D. Y. Patil Dental College and Hospital, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pimpri, Pune, India. The course was organized through the collaboration of the Implant Dentistry faculty members from UB and the Dental Academy for Clinical Excellence (DACE) organization. The course, attended by 20 participants, included a two-day online series of lectures delivered by renowned Implant Dentistry educators, researchers and practitioners from India and abroad. On April 17, 2021, Andreana delivered a three-hour long synchronous webinar titled "Microbiome and Peri-Implant Health: Updates" to 54 dental and dental hygiene students attending the DDS and Dental Hygiene program at the D'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara, Chieti, Italy. Andreana provided a comprehensive evidence-based review of the literature on the effect of the oral microbiome on many systemic conditions as well as periodontal and peri-implant health. Specifically, recent findings on the correlation between periodontal conditions and Alzheimer's disease, hypertension, lung diseases, including the novel coronavirus COVID-19, were presented. The live lecture was followed by a Q&A session moderated by Marco Dolci, professor and director of the Dental Hygiene Program and faculty member of the D.D.S. program in Italy, and his valuable collaborator, Silvia D'Agostino, faculty of the Dental Hygiene and D.D.S. programs. **Carla Beneduce** from the SDM Office of the Dean, addressed questions related to the shortcomings in the delivery of emergency, preventive and sustained oral care services to rural communities in U.S. Lastly, on Friday, July 9th, Andreana was invited as Distinguished Speaker at the 6th Dental Materials Conference and Exhibition (DMCE) of the Indonesia Society of Dental Materials and Devices organization. The event took place July 9-10, 2021 as a virtual experience. The invitation was extended by Veni Takarini from the Universitas Padjadjaran, Department of Dental Materials and Technology and President of the Organizing Committee, and by Gema Gempita, Master of Science in Biomaterials from SDM. Andreana gave a presentation titled "Alloplasts for bone augmentation procedures in Implant Dentistry."

Department of Oral Biology

Stefan Ruhl, professor, was invited by the Centro de Investigación e Innovación Biomédica (CiiB) of the Universidad de los Andes in Las Condes, Santiago, Chile to deliver a seminar on August 19, 2021

entitled “The Salivary Proteome from an Evolutionary Perspective.”

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

Melinda Lemke, assistant professor, was named a UB Honors College Faculty Fellow from the Graduate School of Education (GSE), a first appointment in GSE history. She received a UB Community of Excellence in Global Health Equity Micro-Grant, for which she will serve as the Primary Investigator on the project, “Co-constructing public knowledge: Centering sexual violence in educational research, policy, and practices concerning adolescent girl trauma.” In September 2021 she presented on an international panel focused on cross-cultural exchanges for the Annual Conference of the None in Three (Ni3) Centre for the Prevention of Gender-based Violence at the University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom. Lemke recently co-authored the following publication with UB PhD student Kate Rogers (Community Health & Health Behavior): Lemke, M. & Rogers, K. (2021), “Confronting teen dating violence in schools: De-constructing policy paradoxes,” In F. English (Ed.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Educational Leadership and Management Discourse* (pp. 1-20), Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

Department of Information Science

In fall 2021, **Heidi Julien**, professor, presented a paper and a panel at the annual conference of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (virtual), a panel and a poster at the annual conference of the Association for Information Science and Technology in Salt Lake City. She also received a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, along with colleagues at McGill University and Swinburne University. The project is titled “Precarity and information marginalization: Exploring how academic casualization complicates workplace information practices.”

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Paschalis Alexandridis, UB Distinguished Professor, presented the Plenary Lecture (titled “Fluorinated Surfactants: Friend or Foe?”) at the 35th Conference of the European Colloid and Interface Society (ECIS), held in Athens, Greece (5-10 September, 2021). Alexandridis also presented a virtual plenary (titled “Dissolving Polymers that are not Meant to Dissolve: Fundamentals and Applications in Biomass and Plastic Waste Valorization”) at the WebSymposium on Functional Polymeric Materials, organized by the International Association of Advanced Materials (IAAM) in May 2021.

Viviana Monje-Galvan, assistant professor, participated as invited speaker at the 3rd International Conference in Biotechnology Bolivia Innova, held virtually in June 2021. The conference serves to connect Bolivian scientists and entrepreneurs around the globe with students and professionals in Bolivia to promote research and collaboration in the fields of biotechnology, biophysics, bioengineering design, and environmental engineering. Continuing her efforts to promote the participation of minorities in STEM fields, Monje-Galvan maintains a strong network with professors and scientists in Latin-America. She will be co-teaching a virtual 8-week course on graduate simulation modeling applications during this Fall semester with Juliana Palma at the Universidad Nacional de Quilmes (UNQ), Argentina. The course has over thirty students registered, and is being offered free-of-charge on the UNQ virtual learning platform to provide training for Spanish-speaking students on computational approaches in biophysical research.

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Deborah D. L. Chung, professor, ranked first among UB researchers in a recent international study by Stanford University. The 2020 ranking was of about 7 million researchers worldwide, both living and deceased, for all fields, and was based on the researchers’ publications/citations. Chung was ranked 14th among 177,931 materials researchers in the world (living and deceased), and 1st among those who are female. Chung recently delivered several invited and plenary international lectures: “Carbon dielectrics - a new chapter in the electrical behavior of carbons,” a plenary lecture at the Turkish 3rd National Carbon Conference, March 11, 2021; “Carbon materials,” China University of Mining & Technology (School of Chemical &

Environment Engineering), Beijing, China, co-organized by American Carbon Society (international). June 9, 2021; “My life journey,” Christianity and Science Salon (global platform), June 26, 2021; and “My life journey,” Toronto Christian Community Church, Canada, Oct. 27, 2021. Chung recently authored a textbook, *Functional Materials*, 2nd Edition, World Scientific Publishing, Singapore, 532 pages, 2021.

SCHOOL OF LAW

The School of Law hosted Governor Atou Matubuana Nkuluki, Governor of the Kongo Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo and members of his delegation during their visit to Buffalo in June 2021. The delegation toured the law school and its law library and met with **Aviva Abramovsky**, dean, and **Meredith Lewis**, professor, the law school’s vice dean for international and graduate programs to discuss educational partnership opportunities. University guests included **Mara Huber**, associate dean for undergraduate research and experiential learning; **Shaun Irlam**, chair of Africana and American Studies; **Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah**, director of global programs, School of Management; **Korydon Smith**, chair of architecture, School of Architecture and Planning; and **John Wood**, the university’s interim vice provost for international education.

On June 30, 2021, **Michael Boucai**, professor, moderated a panel sponsored by the Embassy of Argentina in Washington, DC on “LGBTIQ+ Rights in Argentina and Latin America.”

Paul Linden-Retek, lecturer in law and society, published an article in the *Boston Review* (September 22, 2021) examining the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees on the 70th anniversary of its signing.

Makau Mutua, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Margaret W. Wong Professor, is among a group of more than 50 African intellectuals who have added their voices to the call for dialogue and an end to the fighting in Ethiopia a reported by media outlets including *Jeune Afrique*, *The Africa Report*, *The Nation*, and *The East African*.

John Henry Schlegel, UB Distinguished Professor and Floyd H. and Hilda L. Hurst Faculty Scholar reviewed *Free Hands, Free Minds: Pioneering Australian Legal Scholars* by Susan Bartie (Hart Publishing 2019). The review was published in *Law & History Review* (2021).

David Westbrook, Louis A. Del Cotto Professor, was named to the editorial board of *Telos*, the definitive international forum for discussions of political, social, and cultural change. In September 2021, Westbrook participated in a Telos Press Podcast titled “Causes & Consequences of U.S. Failure in Afghanistan.” This past spring, he presented “The Secret College: Counterterrorism and its Publics” at a research seminar organized by the Conflict, Crime, Power, and Politics Researcher Group at the Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen; and gave a presentation titled “Knowledgeable Uncertainty and the Specter of Failure: A few thoughts from Maguire & Westbrook,” at the Global Foresight Summit’s Virtual Conference hosted in partnership with the Association of Professional Futurists, the *World Futures Review*, and the FFWD-Futures Intelligence and Strategic Foresight. Westbrook also collaborated with Maguire on “The Secret College: Counterterrorism and its Publics,” a research seminar organized by the Conflict, Crime, Power, and Politics Researcher Group at the Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, on April 21, 2021.

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Department of Organization and Human Resources

In spring 2021, **Kate Bezrukova**, associate professor, was invited to share her expertise on the Correctional Services Accreditation and Advice Panel (CSAAP) for Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in England. She reviewed and advised on the development and evaluation of an HMPPS diversity and inclusion curriculum for staff.

JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Department of Biomedical Informatics

Peter Elkin, professor and chair, was elected to the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics, the most prestigious

international honor society in the field. Elkin was also elected to the IEEE, ADCOM board, the principal academic body of biomedical engineering. He was also elected to ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) Sigbio (Special Interest Group in Bioinformatics, Computational Biology and Biomedical Informatics) board, and to the Program Committee for the International Medical Informatics Association's Context Sensitive Health Informatics meeting.

Department of Physiology and Biophysics

Mark Parker, associate professor, co-chaired a symposium "The clinical and physiological importance of acid-base balance" and a plenary session "Metabolic acidosis: New challenges and new solutions" for the 56th Annual Congress of the Brazilian Society of Physiology, which was held virtually in October 2021. The diverse roster of speakers brought together senior investigators and trainees from North America, South America, and Europe.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Donald Mager, professor and vice chair, has been named a fellow of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). The fellowship recognizes FIP members who have exhibited leadership internationally, and distinguished themselves in and contributed to the advancement of the pharmaceutical sciences and practice of pharmacy. Mager was honored at FIP's virtual 2020 conference on Sept. 17. His research focuses on identifying the molecular and physiological factors that control the pharmacological properties of various drugs, including antiplatelet, anticancer and immunomodulatory drugs. His work has led to new theoretical concepts and applications for targeted drugs, antibody-based therapeutics and cancer chemotherapy models.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Laina Bay-Cheng, professor and associate dean for faculty development, is working on a tri-national study of the impact of COVID-19 on the sexual lives of LGBTQ+ and racialized young women living in New York City, Toronto, and Melbourne, Australia. The research team is comprised of senior researchers, PhD student researchers, and undergraduate researchers from UB (Bay-Cheng, PhD students Jessica Mencia and Seventy Hall, and undergraduate students Kezia Arinka [Global Gender and Sexuality Studies], Kalifa Lambert [Psychology], and Emily Sutton [Psychology]), University of Toronto and York University in Canada, and Monash University in Australia. The research team will collect multimedia quantitative and qualitative data and plan to share their findings through conventional academic outlets (journal articles, conference presentations) as well as virtual and physical pop-up galleries. The project is funded by a grant from the Canada Research Coordinating Committee's New Frontiers in Research Fund - Exploration Program.

Wooksoo Kim, associate professor and director of the Immigrant and Refugee Institute, was selected as one of the two BK21 Global Visiting Fellows at the Seoul National University (SNU) College of Nursing. The duration of the fellowship is for two months from December 1, 2021, to January 31, 2022. Brain Korea 21 (BK21) is a government-funded scholarship program that has run every seven years since 1999 and aims to cultivate outstanding scholars who take the lead in responding to social changes. Now it is in its fourth phase (2020-2027). During a two-month fellowship, Kim will work with the Center for Human-Caring Nurse Leaders for the Future at the SNU College of Nursing. Her main contribution will be to lead a series of seminars for graduate students on topics of community-based participatory research and facilitate collaborations in intervention research with multicultural families through a Trauma-Informed and Human Rights perspective.

On September 3, 2021, **Yunju Nam**, associate professor, gave an invited virtual presentation organized by policymakers in South Korea: Nam, Y. (2021), *Basic Assets: New Policy Initiatives in Korea and Abroad. Policy Discussion on Basic Assets for Young Adults for Legislative Initiative for Young Adults Basic Asset Act*. Seoul, South Korea: Democratic Party of Korea, Offices of National Assembly Members, Youngwoo Lee, Seongjoo Kim, Tanhee Lee, and Kyungtae Chang.

Hilary Weaver, associate dean and professor, has several chapters in international books in press: Weaver, H.N. (in press).

"Overcoming Prejudice and Discrimination Through Resilience of Indigenous Peoples," in Congress, E. P., Meister, D., Osborn, S. C., & Takooshian, H. (Eds.), *Behavioral science in the Global Arena: Global Mental, Spiritual, and Interpersonal Health* (Vol. 2). Information Age Publishing; McAuliffe, D., Weaver, H., Moore, S.E. & Common, R. (In Press). Human Dignity. In P. Fronck (editor). *Social Work in Health Emergencies: A Global Perspective*. Weaver also has her own edited book that is scheduled for release in January 2022: Weaver, H.N. (in press), *Routledge International Handbook of Indigenous Resilience*. Weaver recently delivered the following international presentations: "Strong families for strong communities: Examples from Turtle Island". 20th annual Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. United Nations, New York, NY (on-line). 2021; "Native Americans respond to the COVID-19 pandemic: Highlighting opportunities for social development." International Consortium for Social Development on-line conference. Johannesburg, South Africa, 2021; "Missing, missed, and missing the boat: Teen mental health and the struggles of Native families," University of Toronto Indigenous Health Conference, on-line conference. 2020; Weaver has been appointed as the inaugural Global Commissioner for the International Federation of Social Workers Indigenous Commission. This is a new Commission with representation from all five global regions. As Global Commissioner, she chairs the Commission.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Christopher Hollister, librarian, is an invited speaker for the seventh annual European Conference on Information Literacy. His paper, "Using Open Pedagogy as an Information Literacy Intervention for LIS Students: A Case Study," will detail the implementation of an open pedagogical framework in his Department of Information Science course, International Librarianship. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this conference is virtual. 🌐

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

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speakers and sponsored major cultural performances and celebrations with community partners. UBCI became a key resource for the UB community in learning about and better understanding China and the Chinese diaspora. Through Liu's UBCI initiatives, he also enhanced ties and collaboration with UB's longstanding partner, Capital Normal University in Beijing.

In addition to his outstanding directorship of UBCI, Liu was honored for service as coordinator of UB's Economics undergraduate program at the Singapore Institute of Management, his own research on human capital in the context of China, and his teaching and mentorship of international students. 🌐

GHUB

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The GHUB team includes Briner, Beata Csatho, Nowicki, Kristin Poinar and Anton Schenk in the UB Department of Geology (Nowicki and Poinar are also part of the UB RENEW Institute); Spherhac at UB CCR; Erika Simon at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; Abani Patra at Tufts; William Lipscomb and Katherine Thayer-Calder at the National Center for Atmospheric Research; and Eric Larour and Justin Quinn at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. 🌐

BIG SCIENCE

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ditions at the High-Luminosity LHC, an anticipated substantial upgrade of the collider.

Experimental goals include conducting more precise measurements of known particles and forces, and performing searches for yet undiscovered particles.

As Iashvili explains, “These are particles predicted by theories beyond the Standard Model. The Standard Model is basically our working theory in particle physics, and it has been very successful, because it describes interactions between particles, and their properties, but we know it’s not complete.

For example, it doesn’t explain matter-anti-matter asymmetry. It doesn’t tell us, ‘Why do we have dark matter or dark energy?’ There are other open questions. The Standard Model of particle physics is a beautiful theory, but it is understood to be only a

low-energy approximation of a more complete theory.”

Students will play an active role in the research — a chance to work at the frontier of high-energy physics.

One team member, AC Williams, a UB PhD candidate in physics, is stationed at CERN as the LHC gears up for its next run. Williams, whose research interests include the hunt for dark matter, is the recipient of a fellowship through the NSF Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate program, which seeks to improve access to STEM education for underrepresented minorities.

UB physicists will also partner with UB’s Women in Science and Engineering initiative and engage high school teachers and students in hands-on science through the QuarkNet and Science Olympiad programs. 🌐

Photo by Douglas Levere and CERN.

ENROLLMENT

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and guidance through his undergraduate journey.

Overall, he has accomplished what he set out to do while at UB.

“I have always looked for available opportunities and how I can make the most out of them,” he says. “The electrical engineering department provided an excellent undergraduate curriculum that had great course selection and gave me the flexibility that allowed me to specialize in my subject area while exploring other majors.”

Johnathan Lim, president of the Singapore Student Association, had some hesitancy about coming to UB, but the senior is grateful to the university’s large international community for helping him fit in and not feel left out.

“I feel very welcomed and confident,” Lim says, “and as time goes by, when there are new students coming

in, I would also do my best in guiding them.”

This is the 19th straight year that UB has ranked among the top 30 institutions in the annual Open Doors report, which has long served as a benchmark for higher education. UB came in at No. 27 on the list last year, as well.

The number of international students at UB last fall was down 572 from the previous year, according to institute figures. But that’s a reflection of how the global pandemic has impacted international students studying at universities across the U.S.

In the 2020-21 academic year, 914,095 international students pursued studies at U.S. colleges and universities — a decrease of 15% from the previous academic year, according to the report.

A snapshot from this fall, however, shows that the number of international students has already rebounded for the 2021-22 academic year, according to the report. 🌐

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PANDEMIC EFFECTS ON ENROLLMENT ARE LIMITED

By Jay Rey

Despite the global disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, UB continues to rank among the nation's top universities when it comes to hosting international students.

UB is ranked No. 27 by the Institute of International Education in its latest census, "The Open Doors 2021 Report on International Educational Exchange," which was released on November 15, 2021.

International students at UB totaled 6,161 during fall 2020, according to the report by the Washington, D.C.-based organization.

The number includes international students studying online at UB while still abroad amid the pandemic. That number also includes the 2,521 who continued in the U.S. with postgraduate Optional Practical Training, which allows for a period of temporary employment in their field of study.

"We are excited to report that UB

remains a major contributor in the international market by enrolling smart students and producing an impressive number of educated students for the global workforce," says Lee Melvin, vice provost for enrollment management.

Among universities in New York, only New York University, Columbia University and Cornell University hosted more international students than UB, according to the report.

The leading countries sending students to UB in fall 2020 were, in order: China, India, Korea, Canada, Taiwan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Bangladesh and Vietnam.

"UB's success in enrolling outstanding students from around the world reflects our commitment to providing enriching experiences — and our current students sharing their experiences with other students," says Nojin Kwak, vice provost for international education.

"Attracted by the excellent academics and extracurricular opportu-

nities available at UB, international students discover a welcoming, inclusive community and strong support services, both of which enhance their experience here and help them be successful," Kwak says.

Aniruddh Devaiya, a senior electrical engineering major at UB, can attest to that.

As a freshman coming from India, Devaiya arrived at UB both amazed and anxious. But he was fortunate early on to find a good group of friends, as well as others at the university who would provide him advice

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John J. Wood, Editor