

UB Knightlines

Innovation Gets a New Home

Thanks to a \$2.3 million gift to UB, a once-shuttered building becomes Connecticut's most dynamic center for entrepreneurs



President's Line

University presidents often talk about how their schools are distinct from other institutions of higher education. At UB, the examples are obvious and plentiful. As one of the most diverse universities in the U.S., our students truly value other cultures and backgrounds. For the sixth consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* just ranked our online programs among the best in the nation. What sets our distance-learning courses apart is that UB was the first university in Connecticut to offer online programs 20 years ago. Our ability to anticipate tomorrow is reflected elsewhere in the curriculum and in our abundant resources that prepare UB students to thrive in an ever-changing workplace. The evolution of our support for entrepreneurs is just one vivid example of this. Eight years ago, UB became home to the first university-based business incubator in Fairfield County (since then, other schools have followed suit). Now, as I write this, we are poised to open the doors to Bauer Hall, a singularly comprehensive staging ground for UB student-entrepreneurs and for start-ups and inventors throughout Connecticut. This exciting resource would not be possible without generous support from George and Carol Bauer.

The impact of philanthropy is one key to academic success. America's universities—from private, non-sectarian schools like UB to large state institutions, tiny liberal arts colleges and technical powerhouses—and their students face myriad financial pressures. We all need support.

At UB, however, the power of giving is truly transformative. As you'll read in this issue, the Bauers' gift will not only provide students with expertise they need to thrive in the world, it also helps UB amplify its role as an economic partner in Connecticut. But gifts of all sizes make a huge impact.

Consider the case of Corey Mayberry '17, featured in the following pages. Just over a year ago, a car accident nearly destroyed his chances of finishing his last semester at UB. He was almost done. Nonetheless, too injured to work, school seemed like an impossibility. Thanks to support from the Roy and Aline Friedman Scholarship Fund, Mayberry completed his degree and now works as an engineer at Lockheed Martin. The gift of a semester's tuition is making a positive and transformative impact on Corey's entire family.

Longtime donors come to realize the power of their gifts. Often, it's because they, too, relied on someone else to lend them a hand. Each student, like each university, is unique, but none of us can do it alone. Alumni Howard '59 and Maxine Abner '62, steadfast supporters of UB for years, understand this. Their most recent gift to expand training facilities at Hubbell Gym enables our student-athletes to train better together. It's a fitting reminder to us all that future success seems brighter when we work collectively toward a common goal.



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Editor's Note

We may want to organize our lives into smooth efficiency, but often it's the unexpected that imbues quotidian routines with breathtaking pizzazz.

That's the beauty of sharing stories from UB; I never know what will happen. A meeting with chemistry chairperson Dr. Amanda Petrus, about researching potential cures for Alzheimer's and other diseases, was humming along nicely. Then suddenly, Petrus compared her most challenging work—delivering drugs into the brain itself—to getting into an exclusive night club. Unexpected fabulousness! Or take Philip Maymin, an associate researcher at the Ernest C. Trefz School of Business. He's been wondering if there might be a relationship between popular music and the stock market (to find out, go to "Faculty Lines" on page 30). Alumna Kat Evans's paintings are based on color theory and unexpected color combinations "discovered" in the moment as she works.

Unexpected may be shorthand for creative inspiration, but channeling it takes discipline and support. That's why a university like UB is so important. It provides training, materials, and expert faculty who help cultivate aha! ideas into sustainable, transformative inventions, resources, and programs. That was clearly evident when UB celebrated the soon-to-be reopened Bauer Hall. Before being used as a former residence hall, the building was the home of industrialist William Grippin. Now, thanks to a generous \$2.3 million donation from George and Carol Bauer, the historic building is being transformed into an innovation center. Here again, Bauer Hall will house an unexpected (and wholly needed) mix of minds and machines: from legal advisers, marketing pros, and entrepreneurs-in-residence to 3D printers and "brainstorming rooms." Best, its doors will be open to UB students and Connecticut start-ups. That's a cross-pollination of talent and tools that's sure to yield plenty of new success stories. I can't wait to find out what they are and report back to you in future issues.

In the meantime, feel free to visit during one of our many fun alumni gatherings and see all the things happening on campus. Can't make a planned event? Stop by and surprise us with an unexpected visit. We'll be delighted to see you!



Leslie Geary
Founding Editor

Mailbag

Coffee Time!

Dear Editor,

I get *Knightlines* in the mail, and I usually end up saving it and then flipping through it months later. My husband is from Costa Rica so your story “Harvesting the Future” (Summer/Fall 2017) looked interesting. I read it and actually saved the article because I wanted to know what ended up happening. Did [the community of] Biolley get the coffee roaster? Are they using a website?

It said that people from UB would return in the fall of 2017, so I was wondering if you were going to do a follow-up story?

It was a great article and great pictures.

Gabriella Marinaccio '10
Norwalk, CT

Ed. Note: Yes, the coffee project continues in Biolley, Costa Rica! Grindmaster Corporation heard about our students' work with the coffee farmers and generously donated an industrial roaster. Professor Tim Raynor and his business students have returned to Costa Rica three times since the original reporting for the article. Their next trip to Biolley is in March 2018. A website to sell the coffee is being tested. Stay tuned!

Religion 101

Dear Editor,

I have just finished reading “Religion 101” in the current issue of *Knightlines* (Summer/Fall 2017). It's certainly noteworthy that UB actually has an on-campus mosque which can separately accommodate adherents of Islam.

This begs the question: can I safely assume that UB offers equal on-campus worship facilities to a variety of adherents of other faiths as well in this age of both enhanced diversity and equality? For example, are there also separate on-campus worship facilities for, say, Buddhists, Catholics, Hindus, various Protestants, Taoists, etc.? If so, this is encouraging for all.

David H. Tocher '65
Marlton, New Jersey

Ed. Note: An interfaith chapel is located at Carstensen Hall and is available to members of all faiths at UB.

Musings

Dear Editor,

As a Yale alumnus, I don't remember how I got onto the *Knightlines* mailing list, but feel lucky because I have read every issue with great interest and enjoyment for many years.

Every issue has presented interesting, well-written articles about people and doings on and off campus, but I think the latest issue (Summer/Fall 2017) is the best yet.

Congratulations on producing a consistently high-quality publication and successfully presenting the highly positive image of UB.

Lincoln W. Craighead
Fairfield, Connecticut

Have an Opinion?

Send letters to the editor to
knightlines@bridgeport.edu or to Knightlines,

Cortright Hall, University of Bridgeport,
219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Please be sure to include your full name, contact information, and UB class year if applicable.

Letters may be edited for length, clarity, or accuracy.

Innovation Gets a New Home

By **Leslie Geary**

Thanks to a \$2.3 million gift from George and Carol Bauer, the University begins work on a new center for student-entrepreneurs and Connecticut businesses



Rendering by Mark R. Halstead, AIA
Coloring by Creative Partners



Photo by Christian Abraham

It turned out to be a \$2.3 million view.

And when George and Carol Bauer first saw the awe-inspiring expanse of Long Island Sound from UB President Neil A. Salonen's office on the top floor of Wahlstrom Library, the Fairfield County philanthropists knew it would inspire others, too.

That—coupled with UB's strong executive leadership and unique diversity—said Bauer, was how he and his wife came to donate \$2.3 million to the University.

Now, thanks to their generosity, UB is transforming the former estate of industrialist William Grippin into one of Connecticut's most comprehensive support systems for student-entrepreneurs and Connecticut businesses.

"The view that once attracted [William Grippin] is still here . . . It is spectacular, and we hope it will be conducive to creative thought," Bauer said on a cloudless October 12, when the gift was formally announced.

"I strongly believe that those who are fortunate have a responsibility to properly use that good fortune," Bauer continued. "My wife and I consider ourselves stewards—we are responsible for contributing to the common good, and the way we see it, universities like UB represent the common good and all the ways that we can invest in the future."

Crews from KBE Construction are painstakingly refurbishing the building to accommodate programs that have long established UB as a leader in venture creation.

In the past two years, for instance, the Student Entrepreneur Center (SEC)

has guided more than 100 UB scholar-entrepreneurs and helped them launch 11 student-owned companies, ranging from an e-store specializing in bespoke footwear to international travel and education consultancies. Due to growing demand, the SEC will relocate to Bauer Hall in 2018.

Across campus, UB Incubator, Fairfield County's first University-based

Opening later this year, Bauer Hall will distinguish itself from other innovation centers by housing materials and minds—from printing presses and design software to engineers, lawyers, and other experts whose specialized knowledge is critical to bringing ideas to market.

incubator for start-ups, enables entrepreneurs in the community to work with expert faculty. That's been invaluable to firms like FaceChecks, an award-winning facial-recognition software maker.

Connecticut-based companies like FaceChecks can continue to expand by accessing Innovation Center resources at Bauer Hall, including a planned International Trade Center and Professional Service Office. These resources also capitalize on Bauer Hall's location within Bridgeport, one of the state's four designated Free Trade Zones.

There, they will be guided by attorneys, experts specializing in international trade, designers, engineers, marketing professionals, accountants, financial professionals, and successful entrepreneurs.

"It's truly an impressive range of professional talent under one roof, and something that really makes Bauer Hall stand apart as a source of comprehensive resources for our UB students and the Bridgeport region," said School of Business Dean Lloyd Gibson.

UB's plans for the 8,600-square-foot Innovation Center also include a maker space, conference and presentation rooms, a student lounge, individualized computer work stations, collaboration "brainstorming booths," a kitchen, and lab areas.

Bauer Hall is located within the Marina Park Historic District and was sold to the University in 1959 for use as a dorm.

Shuttered since 1990, the building nonetheless retains a singular beauty. Plans by architect Mark R. Halstead call for refurbishing a veritable box of structural treasures: coffered ceilings and inset cherry wood paneling, scroll pediments and fluted pilasters, scalloped wood shingles, brownstone quoins and

a red slate roof, a rounded back porch, hexagonal mullions, and oversized arched windows.

"The opening of Bauer Hall has great significance for the University and the region," said UB President Neil A. Salonen. "In its earliest days, the building was the home of industrialist William Grippin who, along with entrepreneurs and visionaries like P.T. Barnum, put Bridgeport on the map. Thanks to the generosity of George and Carol Bauer, the building will support a new generation of business innovators. It's an exciting new chapter, and we are most grateful to the Bauers for making it possible." ■

Color Fields

A high-angle photograph of an artist, Kat Evans, sitting on a light-colored wooden floor in her studio. She is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, dark shorts, and glasses, and is smiling at the camera. She is actively painting a large, rectangular abstract artwork on the floor. The artwork features a vibrant, multi-colored field of orange, yellow, and green, with a purple border. To her right, a small orange paint can sits on the floor. In the background, there is a desk cluttered with various art supplies, including bottles of paint and brushes. Two white plastic chairs with circular perforations are visible, along with a round white table. A window with blinds is on the right side of the frame, letting in natural light. The overall atmosphere is bright and creative.

How Kat Evans learned to move intuitively into color and bring viewers along the way

By Dianne Wildman



When professional artists finish a painting, they often work on selling or exhibiting it. When Westport artist Katherine (Kat) Evans finishes a painting, she books a massage. Maybe two.

“My back always hurts,” she says by way of unnecessary explanation.

All one has to do is watch her work to understand why. Her canvases—often five feet square—don’t fit well on easels or walls, so she uses the floor and bends over for hours, pouring, brushing, smoothing, blending, or dot-dot dripping acrylic paint. And if she’s working in collages, you can add more verbs, like cutting, trimming, and arranging.

Evans creates in a luminous style called Color Field, which originally grew out of the abstract expressionism movement of mid-20th century Europe. Color Field painters (think Clyfford Still, Mark Rothko, Helen Frankenthaler) rejected figurative or action drawing, concentrating instead on the interplay of colors and textures to evoke emotional response.

Evans adds bold brushstrokes and often collage effects to her compositions, which have clearly struck a chord. Her list of juried shows and prizes is a long one. She’s recently exhibited in Southport and Greenwich as well as galleries in New York City. She also sells at retail shops like Dovecote in Westport. Her larger pieces fetch prices in the thousands, and she regularly receives commissions.

But life as a fine artist is relatively new to Evans, who is in her 60s. For many years she has also been a graphic artist, working with clients like Save the Children and Girl Scouts of America. It’s a field she believes is underappreciated by the public.

(continued on page 8)



“I like the challenges of translating a message into a compelling visual statement,” she says. “It’s brainwork. It’s haiku.”

Her earliest inspiration came from her artist father, Emerson Evans, who worked on the famous murals at San Francisco’s Coit Tower back in the 1930s, where Diego Rivera also left his mark.

The family lived in Utah, and for a while Evans attended college there. But she married, moved east, and had two kids before finishing her degree in the early ‘80s at a place and a time that proved fortuitous.

“It was at the University of Bridgeport that I found my true inspiration,” she recounts with a warm smile to match warm memories.

“I was incredibly lucky to have gotten into its graphic design program; it had the highest of standards. They brought in extraordinary speakers, and it actually turned out to be a Yale education because wonderful faculty members like Gus Moran and Bob Morris had studied at Yale under Josef Albers.”

The German-born Albers had been associated with the Bauhaus before immigrating to the United States, where he became one of the leading pioneers of 20th-century modernism. An abstract painter, designer, and writer, he was a hugely influential teacher as well, training a generation of art educators at Yale and elsewhere.

Through her UB courses, Evans learned about Albers’s theories of the

“It was at the University of Bridgeport that I found my true inspiration. I was incredibly lucky to have gotten into its graphic design program; it had the highest of standards.”

human perception of harmony, color, and contrast. It turned her into a fascinated student of Color Field painting, helping her develop her own practice which she explains on her website www.kevansart.com.

“I move into each piece intuitively, open to chance, applying complex color combinations. When I discover paintings within the paintings, I crop and layer parts of the whole to create a larger composition. At times I apply clear acrylic mediums to create depth and texture.”

As she lowers herself back into “working position” on her knees (no pads) on the bare wooden floor, she leans over a pile of canvas strips she’d previously painted in vibrant azure and pea green and plays with the layering. The quiet studio space is almost contemplative but Evans is hardly the lone artist.

“There are actually seven others who share this space,” she says, laughing because—where do they fit? There’s just a long room and some easel-cluttered corners on the second floor of a small of-

fice building overlooking the Post Road in Westport near the Norwalk border.

“Fortunately, we’re almost never here at the same times. We’ve all thought about getting our own places, but truth is, we’re such good friends, nobody wants to leave. And somehow it works.”

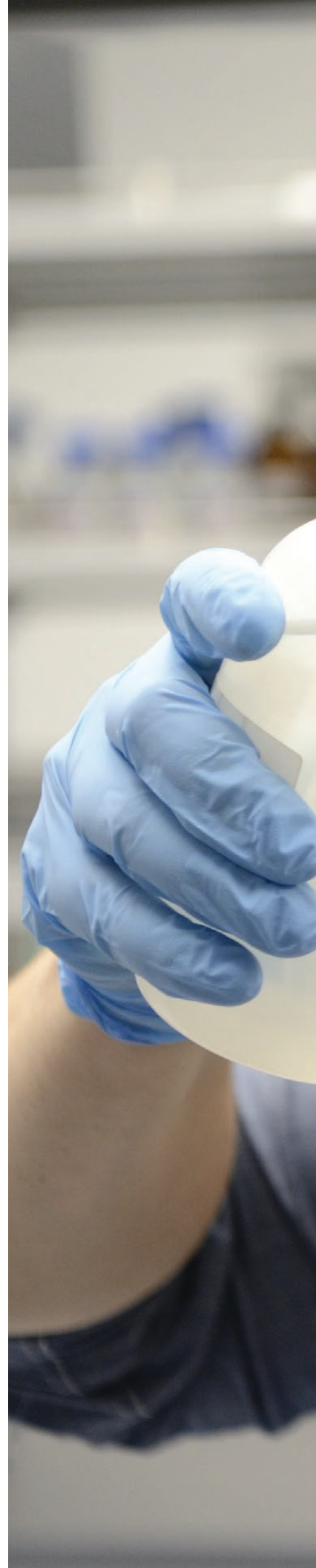
Evans says it’s a much better arrangement than her old home office above the garage with all its interruptions, including kids and grandkids stopping by. As for her husband, Fairfield physician Dr. Joel Papowitz: “He’s my rock—always so supportive, no matter where I work.”

But while location and support systems help, the real credit for this glowing career goes to Katherine Evans’s talent, attitude, work ethic, and don’t forget her masseuse. And one more thing—seminal lessons from some very smart people at the University of Bridgeport. ■



Why Not?

When chemistry professor Amanda Petrus wanted to deliver drugs into the brain, she began wondering about all those velvet ropes at night clubs





By Leslie Geary

Amanda Petrus may be working on new drug-delivery systems, but as she talks about her research, medieval castles and night clubs come to mind.

For just about a decade, Petrus, who is chairperson of the Chemistry Department, has considered various ways to treat Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, AIDS, Huntington's, and other diseases. A little over a year ago, she began a plan of action: she'd find a way to deliver drugs directly to the brain.

The brain?

"It's a reservoir for infectious and neurological diseases," she said.

Petrus is in her office at Eleanor Dana Hall, where she keeps books by neurologist Dr. Oliver Sacks. His bestsellers, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* and *Awakenings*, ushered brain science

into popular culture. Affable and helpful, Petrus has a way of making science easily accessible, too. Which is ironic, because as she talks about her research, it becomes clear that getting drugs to the brain is no small feat.

The organ, she explained, is protected by a blood-brain barrier, or BBB. Like a moat protecting a castle from invaders, the BBB protects the body's intellectual command center "by keeping toxins from getting into it, which is good."

Now for the bad news. "The blood-brain barrier also makes it impossible to deliver most drugs where they're needed," Petrus said. "Many diseases that are treatable throughout the body with medications can hide out in the brain, making them next to impossible to treat."

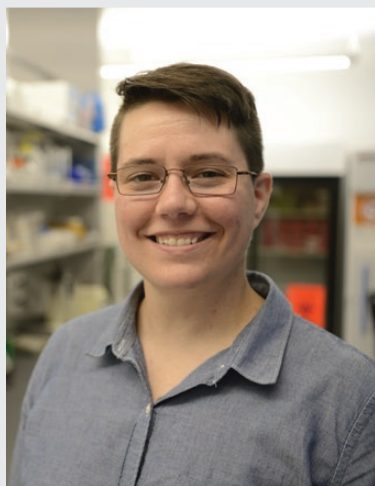
That affects millions of patients. For instance, 98 percent of potential drug treatments for neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's, ALS, and Alzheimer's are unable to penetrate the BBB.

An exception? Vitamin B12. Readily absorbed, the essential nutrient pushes through the blood-brain barrier like a celebrity blowing past velvet ropes at an exclusive club. Of course, celebrities get friends and other hangers-on into sanctums of exclusivity.

Which led Petrus to wonder: "Why not B12 to carry drugs?"

Now Petrus is developing two methods to attach drugs to B12: by chemically binding them onto the vitamin and by stuffing them into bubble-like sacs called liposomes, which are then attached to B12.

Although she said it could "take years" to develop a successful delivery system, Petrus has already successfully attached dopamine, a molecule associated with Parkinson's disease, directly to B12. The process involves using a coupling agent



Amanda Petrus conducting research at UB's new Collaborative Biomedical Research Center



called CDT. It's a useful compound, one that activates the B12 so it will bind with dopamine, but it's easily contaminated. Petrus steers clear of potential problems by using nitrogen to eliminate the scantest traces of water from air-tight glass vessels, in which she combines CDT, a red powdered version of B12, and dopamine. Then she mixes the three with a magnetic stirrer. "It's like a miniature cocktail shaker," she joked.

Even with nitrogen and air-tight containers, it's critical to ensure that neither the B12 nor whatever drug it's carrying has been chemically adulterated. So Petrus runs the B12-dopamine cocktail she's synthesized through a HPLC instrument and mass spectrometer. The first instrument, a metallic box festooned with wires, allows her to separate the compounds. She uses the second to make sure she's synthesized the correct version of the compound.

Chemically binding drugs to B12 poses other challenges besides purity issues. "It's the fastest way to attach the drugs, but there's only a 1:1 delivery," Petrus said. "Each B12 molecule can only carry one dopamine molecule."

So Petrus is assembling liposomes as another means to get drugs to the brain. Though the process is glacially slow, liposomes offer far more versatility. While a single B12 molecule can attach to a single liposome, each liposome can

a measured approach. Researchers at other institutions are working on different ways to pass through the blood-brain barrier, too, but the more ideas on how to do this, the better, she said.

Readily absorbed, the essential nutrient pushes through the blood-brain barrier like a celebrity blowing past velvet ropes at an exclusive club.

be stuffed with multiple drugs. In fact, liposomes can carry different drugs at once, say, dopamine and AZT for AIDS or antibiotics for Lyme and other diseases. Best, because the drugs are packed into a liposome instead of being chemically bound to B12, there is no chance that they'll be modified.

"It's a Trojan horse effect," said Petrus, who is currently applying for a National Institutes of Health grant to advance her research. While she would love for drugs to reach the brain one day, Petrus takes

"Research is always about building off the ideas that come before you: mine definitely is! So I hope that my research will develop a foundational delivery system that others can continue to build upon," she said. "It would be great if someone can take my work and my ideas and run with them." ■

A sunset over a body of water with ripples in the foreground. The sky is filled with soft, orange and purple clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The water in the foreground shows concentric ripples, suggesting a recent disturbance. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Ripple Effect

A car accident nearly destroyed Corey Mayberry's college career. Then he won a Roy and Aline Friedman Excellence in Engineering Scholarship.



By Leslie Geary

Corey Mayberry didn't see the car. It just slammed into the rear of his tiny sedan with a sudden screech of grinding metal that left Mayberry with two herniated discs and college plans as broken as the pieces of crumpled steel scattered along the highway.

"That's when everything went downhill," said Mayberry '17.

Because of his injured back, Mayberry had to stop working at UPS. And because he stopped working for UPS, he said he no longer qualified for the company's tuition reimbursement program, which had paid for his computer engineering classes at UB.

Thanks to a Roy and Aline Friedman Excellence in Engineering Scholarship, Mayberry was able to graduate with a B.S. in Computer Engineering in May 2017. Soon after, he was hired as an electrical engineer at Lockheed Martin in Stratford, Connecticut.

(continued on page 16)



Rebecca and Corey Mayberry '17 both enrolled at UB.



“ Corey seemed to be exactly the kind of student Mr. and Mrs. Friedman wanted to help He worked hard to be the best student possible. It would have been a terrible waste if the car accident forced him to abandon his studies. ”

UB President Neil A. Salonen and Roy and Aline Friedman (center) announced the couple's scholarship for engineering students.

Dr. Ausif Mahmood
Chairman, Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Mayberry calls it “a miracle.”

“There was no way I could pay for school after the accident,” said Mayberry, who was injured six months before he was due to graduate. “I didn’t think I could ever come back to UB.”

Tuition was just one of many worries for Mayberry. The accident affected his entire family. For years, he and his wife Rebecca had been working as a team to achieve their shared long-term goal; they both wanted to earn college degrees. That would help them to better provide for their son, a chatty three-year-old named Tyler. Their plan: Mayberry would work with computers or in engineering; Rebecca dreamed of working in health care.

But attaining those goals required

careful choreography that left little margin for error.

Prior to the accident, Mayberry’s hours at UPS typically ran from 1 a.m. to 9 a.m., at which point he headed straight to UB, where he changed out of his uniform in a bathroom before heading into full-time engineering classes. Then it was time to pick Tyler up from daycare. If he had evening courses, his parents and in-laws helped babysit.

Meanwhile, Rebecca was scrambling, working as an assistant in a medical office and taking part-time classes toward a bachelor’s in health science. She planned to increase her course load at UB after Mayberry graduated. It wasn’t easy, but they were a great team because they were both determined to

graduate. In fact, it had been Rebecca who encouraged Mayberry to go to college in the first place.

“I was laid off from Taco Bell in the summer of 2013, and Rebecca was the one who said, ‘Why don’t you do something you love?’” Mayberry recalls.

He instantly remembered his childhood. As a kid, Mayberry built computer towers with his father, an army veteran. As the two tinkered with computer components, Mayberry’s father talked about his days in the military. “He was all about radar, radio frequencies, keeping people in communication. He was into electronics and cars.”

The family also lived close to Lockheed Martin, formerly Sikorsky, in Stratford. Mayberry said he used to wait for

Outside the Engineering Building, where the Roy and Aline Friedman Excellence in Engineering Scholarship has been a driving force in helping its students earn their degrees.



the *chrr, chrr, chrr* of Blackhawk helicopters, great soaring feats of mechanics and engineering lifting high into the sky. Remembering this, and with encouragement from Rebecca and his father, Mayberry enrolled at UB as a computer engineering major. His first semester was bumpy. “I was put on academic probation,” he admits. Instead of giving up, he dug in, going to extra help at UB’s Tutoring and Learning Center. Dr. Ausif Mahmood, chairman of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, noticed Mayberry’s drive, and encouraged him. By the end of his second semester, Mayberry was “close to making the Dean’s List,” he recalls. He got into a routine. His grades rose (and he later made the Dean’s List), and soon he was

finishing his junior year at UB.

And then the accident upended it all. When Mahmood heard about it, he immediately thought of Roy Friedman ’46, president and CEO of Standard Oil of Connecticut. A steadfast supporter of UB, Friedman and his wife Aline have donated to the University for 35 years. In 2013, the couple established a scholarship for engineering majors.

Scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate good character, academic drive, and financial need.

“Corey seemed to be exactly the kind of student Mr. and Mrs. Friedman wanted to help,” Mahmood said. “Things have not always been easy for him, but Corey never gave up. He worked hard to be the best student possible. It would have

been a terrible waste if the car accident forced him to abandon his studies. [School of Engineering Dean Dr.] Tarek Sobh and I encouraged him to apply for the scholarship . . . It’s amazing to see somebody like Corey change his life. It’s one of the most rewarding things to see as a professor.”

Mayberry is equally thrilled.

“Rebecca stood by me. So did Professor Mahmood, and I would not have been able to graduate without the Friedmans’ scholarship, either,” he said. “Since I got my job, our family’s financial burden has been lifted, and Rebecca has been able to take more classes. She’s expected to walk [at Commencement] in May 2019. It’s more than our family could ever imagine.” ■

Amped Up: The Anatomy of a Design Project

Industrial design major Marc St. George '18 on playing and making his dream guitar

By Leslie Geary



As part of their undergraduate training, industrial design majors at the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design are invited to complete a comprehensive independent project of their own making.

“Our students are always working on interesting assignments, but we’ve found that independent projects present a unique opportunity to apply skills to things that deeply and personally interest them,” said Industrial Design Chairman Richard Yelle.

“Industrial design is applicable to so many things—medical devices, cars, espresso machines,” Yelle added. “So independent work is a great opportunity for our students to think more fully about where they want to take their degree.”

Senior Marc St. George agrees. His interests—industrial design and music—fused in perfect harmony when he built a guitar of his own. ■

Why a guitar?

I always wanted to build a guitar so this seemed like a perfect opportunity.

How long did it take you to build?

Six months. I designed everything. I was inspired by Standard Telecaster; it’s one of the most iconic guitars. It came out in the 1950s and 1960s. I play aggressive, heavy music, so I put my own metal edge to it. Normally, it would have 22 frets, but I put 24 on mine so I would have two octaves instead of one.

Tell us about the wood you used.

Swamp ash. It’s lightweight and you get a really good mid-range. It’s really good for heavy metal. I used bird’s-eye maple for the fret board. It literally looks like there are eyes in it the way the wood has natural knotting to it. Maple has a much brighter sound to it than rosewood or ebony. It just looks amazing.

When and where are you going to play it?

Once I get it tuned, anywhere really. I have friends I jam with, and I do a lot of bedroom guitar, for sure. I live in New Haven. I love it here.

As a designer, what have you learned?

I set out wet behind the ears. I thought I could just go for it. I thought making a guitar would take a month. My timeline was shattered when I started getting into the meat of it. But I’d definitely love to pursue guitar building as a career.

Mixing it up at the Economic Club of New York

Alumnus Howard Abner takes UB business students to listen in on a conversation with IBM CEO Virginia “Ginni” Rometty

By Leslie Geary

What’s the best strategy for embracing opportunities and facing obstacles in an evolving global marketplace? For University of Bridgeport business majors, a good place to start is by seeking input from executives with deep experience.

So on November 15, a group of MBA candidates from the Ernest C. Trefz School of Business made their way to the Economic Club of New York to hear a luncheon lecture with IBM CEO Virginia “Ginni” Rometty.

Rometty spoke about her experiences at the helm of IBM, which has faced more than its share of challenges. After 21 consecutive quarters of declining revenues, and several rounds of layoffs at its American offices, the company has been shifting operations to India. Yet, Rometty

spoke bullishly about the future of IBM and Watson, its cognitive intelligence platform (Rometty eschews the term “A.I.” or artificial intelligence).

“It was a great learning experience,” said business school Dean Lloyd Gibson.

Students were joined by alumnus Howard Abner ’59, who for the second consecutive year invited Trefz School students to the luncheon—one in a series that the nonprofit, nonpartisan Economic Club has hosted since 1907. (Past speakers have included Timothy Geithner, former secretary of the Treasury; Presidents Gerald R. Ford and Ronald Reagan; and economist and past Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volker.)

Gibson noted that the Trefz School curriculum emphasizes real-world experi-

ences through a variety of programs, from internships to extensive support for student-entrepreneurs to a slew of on- and off-campus lectures, such as the Innovators Lecture Series.

“The Economic Club lunch fits perfectly with what we’re doing, so we’re grateful that Howard buys these tables for the students to attend,” said Gibson. “In addition to hearing the invited speaker, they also get to speak with him; he’s run his own business and takes a great interest in our students.”

Abner said he was similarly “impressed” by the students. “They came prepared and were engaging in our discussions,” he said.

Nada Abdelghani, who is earning an MBA in Finance, prepared for the event by conducting strategic and financial analyses of IBM. She and classmates then presented their reports to Gibson and their colleagues at the Trefz School. Abdelghani said she was especially interested to hear Rometty talk about IBM’s finances.

It was not to be.

“She didn’t mention anything about them,” said Abdelghani. “But she was so charismatic and so enthusiastic. Her character made you believe in the company.

“She also said, ‘You have to be comfortable with discomfort,’” Abdelghani continued. “I’ve been thinking about that. It was the most valuable thing I learned from the event; you have to have a strong character to be a good leader.” ■



Howard Abner '59 (center, above) with UB's newest MBA students. (Left) Big Blue CEO Ginni Rometty

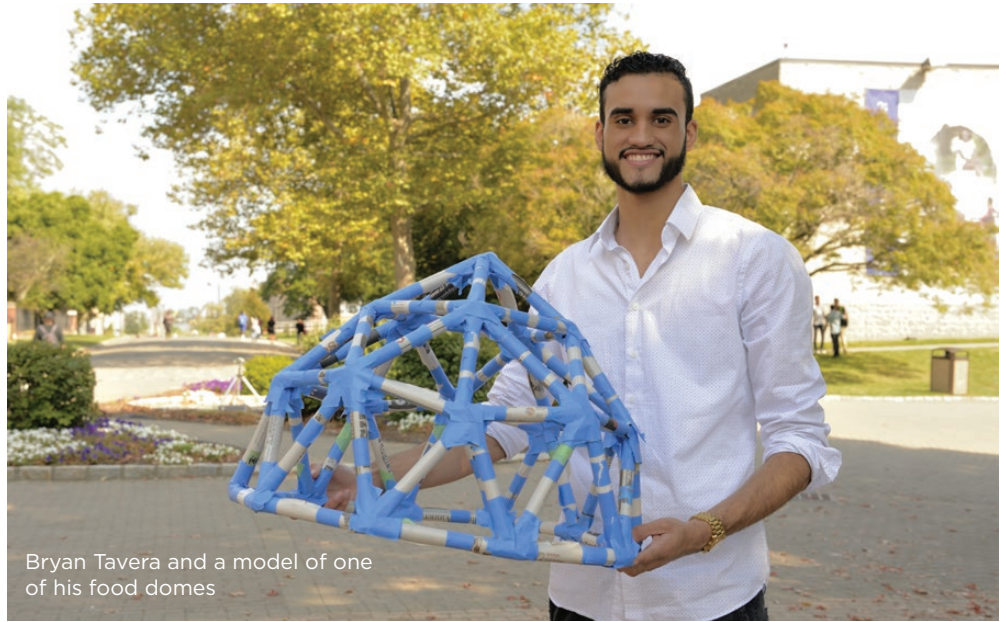
Building a Better World

Engineering student wins grant to build food domes

By Leslie Geary

Computer science major Bryan Tavera has been awarded a \$5,000 Green Technology grant from the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME) to develop no- to low-cost geodesic domes made of recycled materials, which can be used as greenhouses in Bridgeport.

Tavera is a member of Engineers Without Borders, which aims to solve the world's most pressing challenges through engineering and empowering communities to meet their basic human needs.



Bryan Tavera and a model of one of his food domes

“Areas of our Bridgeport community are considered ‘food deserts’ with limited access to nutritious foods,” said Tavera. “Part of my work will be to initiate a project plan and involve community stakeholders who can guide us on how geodesic dome greenhouses can be the most beneficial to our community. We’ll build them from materials we recycle.”

Tavera is advised by biomedical engineering Professor Alicia Petryk, Ph.D.

NACME is the largest provider of college scholarships for underrepresented minorities pursuing degrees at schools

of engineering. Its mission is to enrich society with an American workforce that champions diversity in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

“We’re excited about Bryan’s project and look forward to its development,” added Christopher Smith, Ph.D., NACME’s vice president for scholarships, university relations and research. ■

UB FACULTY RESEARCH DAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018

Schelfhault Gallery and Littlefield Recital Hall in the
Arnold Bernhard Arts and Humanities Center

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

BOGDAN M. VERNESCU

Vice Provost for Research
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Learn more at: frd.bridgeport.edu

School of Engineering Special Participant at Sikorsky's 2017 Family Day

Faculty and students are invited to inspire a new generation of engineers at company's much-anticipated event

By Leslie Geary

The School of Engineering teamed up with Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., a Lockheed Martin company, to help celebrate the wonders of flight during the company's Family Day on October 14.

Lockheed Martin hosts Family Days to honor its employees. The private celebration in Stratford, Connecticut, home of Sikorsky's H-60 Blackhawk and other iconic aircraft, drew more than 15,000 attendees.

Sikorsky invited the School of Engineering to lead a hands-on activity having to do with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), the theme of this year's Family Day festivities.

"We're excited to be part of this event," said Mechanical Engineering Professor Dr. Jani Macari Pallis. "Although we think of engineering as a specialized endeavor, it's also about experimentation and adventure—making, breaking, and trying again. That's often when aha! moments of understanding occur. So our outreach was geared toward helping people of all ages better understand their relatives' work at Sikorsky."

They built Magnus Fliers.

Constructed with simple materials—rubber bands, cups, and tape—the fliers elegantly demonstrate the Magnus effect, an aerodynamic phenomenon

observed in spinning spheres or cylinders where the flight path curves and has applications to sports balls, ballistics, certain aircraft, and rotor ships.

Jason Soper and his son Jacob, 5, were thrilled with the project. As electrical engineering major Joshua Estrada helped Jacob send a flier aloft with a hearty tug of a rubber band, Soper beamed. "I personally love physics and science," he said. "We watch a lot of YouTube videos and do stuff like this. I don't want to tell Jacob what to do, but I definitely give him a nudge."

Sharon Dephillips and her daughter, Grace, 4, worked with Professor Dr. Ruba Deeb, director of biomedical research development at UB. As Deeb and the young girl built a flier, Dephillips said she was particularly pleased for her daughter to interact with UB's female faculty and students.

"It's great to expose little girls to engineering," Dephillips said. "Growing up, I didn't have that. It was, 'You'll be a secretary.' But Grace will probably go back to nursery school and talk about how she saw helicopters and how she built a little plane." ■



(top) Professor Dr. Ruba Deeb teamed up with Grace Dephillips, 4, at Family Day. (bottom) Electrical engineering major Joshua Estrada helped Jacob Soper, 5, learn about the Magnus effect.

Fairfield Dentist Gives the Fones School Specialized Equipment

Dr. Dennis Ragoza and Sen. Tony Hwang present X-ray equipment to help UB clinicians treat area children

By Leslie Geary

Fairfield dentist Dr. Dennis Ragoza, accompanied by State Sen. Tony Hwang, gave a specialized X-ray machine to the Fones School of Dental Hygiene in December to help its faculty and student-clinicians enhance care for hundreds of Bridgeport students.

The presentation of the Panoramic X-ray unit, valued at over \$23,000, took place at the Jettie S. Tisdale Middle School in Bridgeport. That's where Fones School student-clinicians, led by faculty, provide free care for more than 350 students per year.

The Panoramic machine rotates around a patient's head, taking a single image of teeth and jaw.

"We are so excited about this, and we can't thank Dr. Ragoza enough for his generosity," said Fones School Dean Marcia Lorentzen. "With the X-ray unit,

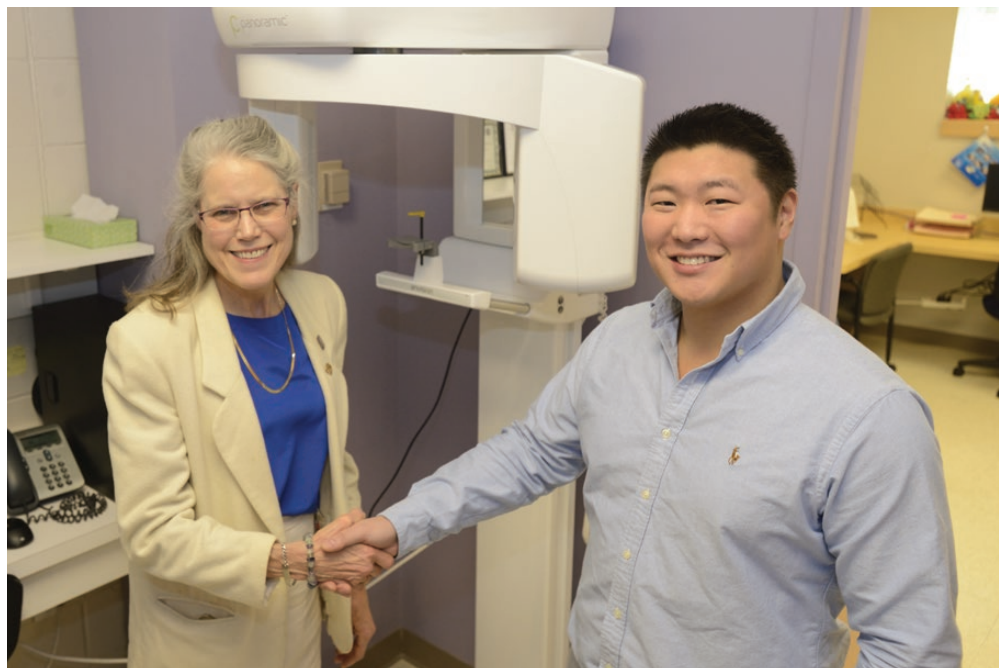
we can provide our patients with more comprehensive care, and we will be able to provide better referrals for further dental care beyond our services, should it be needed."

Dental care is a crucial academic issue as much as a health concern. American students miss more than 750,000 school days annually due to dental-related illnesses, according to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Moreover, dental decay affects 59 percent of kids between the ages of 5 and 17.

Dr. Ragoza said he wanted to donate an X-ray machine to the Fones School because it provides "a much-needed service in areas where receiving routine dental care may be a challenge." ■

Fones School Dean Marcia Lorentzen and Dr. Dennis Ragoza

American students miss more than 750,000 school days annually due to dental-related illnesses.





Harry Bell Gets His Day

Sen. Richard Blumenthal honors UB security guard's work with young people

By Leslie Geary

University of Bridgeport security guard Harry Bell, who has inspired hundreds of kids by providing them with coloring books and limitless positive thoughts, was honored when Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Bridgeport Mayor Joseph P. Ganim proclaimed November 26 to be “Harry Bell Day.”

The festive celebration was held at the Mayor’s Office.

“Every November 26 will be Harry Bell Day in the City of Bridgeport,” said Bell. “It’s amazing! I’m shocked, happy, and humbled all at once.”

Bell has become well known for *Color a Positive Thought* and *Color a Positive Thought 2*, inspirational coloring books he designed specifically for kids who are growing up without ample resources or hope for a better future.

Simple and direct, the *Color a Positive Thought* books are filled with images that pack unbound possibility. (The illustrations were co-created with fellow UB security guard Ed Hernandez.) In one panel, for example, a housing project is juxtaposed with the White House. The message, Bell said, is “out of every negative situation, there’s a way out.”

The books have been translated into Spanish, and the Bridgeport School District adopted them for its curriculum. They are also a central piece to a mentoring program Bell founded. It now has an eight-person staff who meet with kids twice a month. The goal: to empower youngsters and teens so they can achieve positive change. (One of Bell’s favorite commands is “Believe!”)

Blumenthal praised Bell’s work, call-



ing it “such a model of how lives can be changed.”

Bell grew up in Trumbull Gardens public housing located in Bridgeport’s North End. Though only a child at the time, Bell forced himself to write down positive thoughts on slips of paper, things like “It’s not where you start, it’s where you finish” and “If you can stand tall in the dark, you will be amazed of what you can do in the light.” ■

UB Earns Top Ranks from U.S. News & World Report

Online MBA and bachelor's degree programs among the best in the nation

By Leslie Geary

U.S. News & World Report has named University of Bridgeport online programs among the best in the nation in its 2018 “Best Online Programs,” an annual ranking that compares the academic quality of more than 1,200 U.S.-based distance-degree programs.

UB's online bachelor's degree programs ranked 60th out of 259 ranked programs in the nation. Its online MBA program ranked 116th out of 199 ranked programs.

Rankings were based on a variety of factors ranging from student engagement to technology and student services,

faculty credentials and training, and peer reputation. Programs with fewer than 10 students were not ranked.

This is the seventh year that *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked distance-learning programs and the sixth consecutive year that UB has been recognized for its online education.

UB was the first university in Connecticut to offer online classes when in 1997 it launched distance-learning courses in human nutrition. Today, the University offers more than 250 online undergraduate and graduate degree courses in business, computer science, the health

sciences, nursing, and more.

“As a pioneer in online education, UB is proud to be recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* for its continued leadership in distance learning,” said Deputy Provost Aaron Perkus. “Our online students consistently report high levels of engagement with faculty who are deeply committed to their academic success.” ■



Good at Differential Equations?

UB Math Club is—and they've got the SCUDEM prize to prove it!

By Leslie Geary

They computed and calculated, crunched numbers, and revised equations, and after five days of mathematical jockeying, UB Math Club snagged one of the top prizes at the SCUDEM 2017 Inaugural Competition.

The SCUDEM (short for Student Competition Using Differential Equations Modeling) event was held at Mt. St. Mary College in Newburgh, New York, on October 14.

UB Math Club members placed second out of 13 teams from New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

The SCUDEM Competition is aimed at enhancing students' acuity in modeling by using differential equations—a skill

that is critical to actuaries, engineers, and scientists.

Nicolas Zoghbi, the Math Club coach, said, “I have high hopes for the math program at UB. The team did UB proud!”

UB Math Club members include Gabriel Ferreira Araujo, Anastasiia Babenko, Christofer W. Berruz, Dat Tran, and Xuehao Zhang.

Teams were given a series of mathematical problems to solve one week prior to the competition. During that time, UB Math Club members developed a 10-minute presentation and executive summary modeling the optimal spread of an ad in different media at a minimized cost. ■



UB Math Club members Gabriel Ferreira Araujo, Christofer Berruz, Anastasiia Babenko, Xuehao Zhang (back row) Dat Tran and Profs. Ryan McCulloch and Nicolas Zoghbi

UB Clinics Get New Marketing Campaign

Collaboration with mass communication and graphic design students will help clinics expand their reach to the public

By Leslie Geary

Some come with toothaches or backaches. Others need to reduce their cholesterol levels, and some just want to make lifestyle changes. Whatever the reason, more than 20,000 individuals a year go to UB Clinics to receive free or low-cost health services.

Yet, despite the UB Clinics' extensive reach—services provided to the community are valued at over \$1.5 million annually—more individuals could be helped if they were aware that the clinics are open to the public, said Dr. David Brady, vice president for health sciences.

"Many people are still surprised to learn that UB Clinics provide services from dental care to chiropractic adjustments and more," Dr. Brady said. "We felt we needed to let them know."

Now they will, thanks to professor Susan Katz. Her Publicity Methods class recently put the finishing touches on an engaging new multimedia marketing campaign specially created for the clinics. Mass communication adjunct professor Peter van Geldern advised video production for the project.

It was presented to health sciences faculty on December 6.

Featuring radio spots, videos, brochures, a social media strategy, and articles, the campaign spotlights acupuncture, chiropractic, naturopathic medicine, and dental hygiene clinics that collectively make up the UB Clinics.

"We really look forward to being able to use this material to extend our reach into the Greater Bridgeport community," said Dr. Brady. "It really helps us up our game to get the message out about the clinics in a more effective, modern, slick way."



To see video for the new UB Clinic campaign: <https://vimeo.com/245853777>

Publicity Methods class students prepare to interview Dr. Marcia Prengruber.

Lani Akingbade, 20, a mass communication major, served as assistant creative director. "The goal of the campaign was to get [UB Clinics] to be more modern," she said.

Cammie Margione, clinical services coordinator, and Janice Faye, coordinator for health sciences, worked closely with the mass communication students.

"Health care is a very different market because it's really about the patient," said Faye, who called the campaign "relevant" and "modern."

To create a patient-first perspective, the UB Clinics brochure was updated

with eye-catching infographics and photos.

"People want information that's direct and easy to look at. When they see a lot of text, they don't even bother," said Nicolas Mancheno, a graphic design major who headed up the Art & Design Team. "We focused more on the interaction between clients and the clinics. If you can show them what to expect, it might push them to visit the clinic." ■

Catching up with Reem

Student-entrepreneur can't stop winning



By Leslie Geary

"I was a tomboy from Saudi Arabia," laughs graduate student Reem Alattas. "Girls aren't supposed to ride bikes, but my parents let me."

While other kids played video games, Alattas preferred to ride her yellow bike in the mountains overlooking Ta'if, where her family escaped the summer heat back in Riyadh.

Alattas is now a "thirty-something" student earning a doctorate in computer science and engineering at UB, but not much has changed.

She still zooms fast, but these days as an award-winning inventor. Her most successful product to date is, perhaps inevitably, a smart bike helmet called Rumble that she began creating after taking a New Product Commercialization class at UB. Among other features, it's tricked out with GPS tracking, an alert system, and flashing directional signals operated by a tap of a button.

Thanks to support from entrepreneur-in-resident Mike Roer at UB's Student Entrepreneur Center, Alattas says Rumble will be ready for market in late 2018.

In the meantime, the helmet is creating plenty of buzz.

A few weeks into the fall semester, Alattas won \$12,000 at the CT Next Entrepreneur Innovator Competition, including a \$10,000 Grand Prize and the \$2,000 Judges' Favorite Award. She was then named season champion at Pitch Perfect, a televised competition for inventors. Reporters in the U.S. and Saudi Arabia who heard about her success, began calling her for interviews and appearances on TV news shows.

In January, Alattas not only qualified for, but advanced to a "field of 32" semifinalists at Student Startup Madness (SSM) at South by Southwest (SXSW), the annual celebration of tech-innovation,



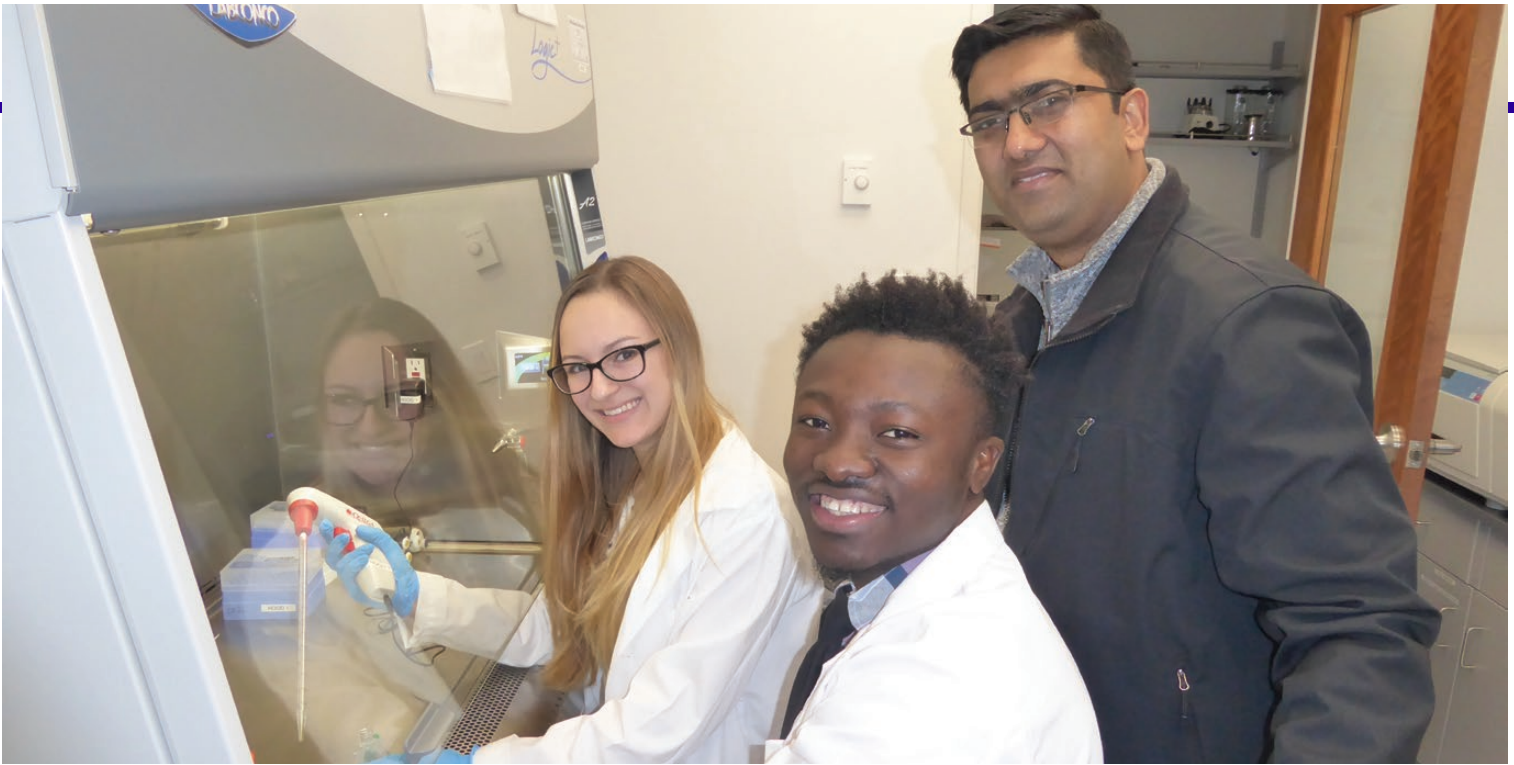
When not at UB, Reem Alattas has been busy winning awards, like Season Champion at the televised Pitch Perfect competition for inventors (above).

culture, and entrepreneurship that draws tens of thousands to San Antonio each March. (As of press time, she was waiting to hear if she made it to the final rounds on March 12.)

"I can't believe it!" says Alattas. "This is so exciting."

Roer, her adviser at the Student Entrepreneur Center, is equally pleased: "As her coach, I shared in the thrill of victory, but the success is all Reem," he said after she won the CT Next competition. "She did UB proud."

Not that Alattas is resting on her laurels. A self-described "inventor, serial tech engineer, and transformer," she is busy developing other inventions, like a robot called Revran and an IOT (Internet of Things) ergonomic-assistance device called BackRay. ■



Research by biology majors Emily Juliano and Feissal Djoule, advised by Dr. Isaac G. Macwan, is headed to the International Space Station.

Biology Students' Research Chosen for International Space Station

Undergraduates' project aims to shed light on the effects of microgravity on human health

By Leslie Geary

A research project by two University of Bridgeport biology students has been selected for the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program and will be conducted on the International Space Station in 2018.

The Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) is an initiative of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSSE) to create opportunities for student-proposed research to be conducted in a low-gravity environment aboard the International Space Station.

The research from UB, "The Effect of Microgravity on Nanoparticle-Cellular Interaction," aims to increase our understanding of the effects of space flight on the biological processes that are essential to human health.

It was proposed by undergraduate biology majors Feissal Djoule and Emily Juliano. They are advised by Dr. Isaac Macwan, a research associate at UB's Department of Biomedical Engineering.

"Emily and Feissal have designed an imaging protocol in which nanoparticles interact with proteins in human cells and freeze them in time," said Dr. Macwan. "The idea is that we know astronauts go through physiological changes in microgravity, such as bone demineralization, vestibular problems causing space motion sickness, cardiovascular problems, and reduction in plasma volume and red cell mass. If we can capture an image of the cellular process that's changing in space and analyze it, we can make a comparison to what happens on earth and can further monitor the changes to eventually repair or prevent them from happening in the first place."

The project is being funded by a grant from the NASA Connecticut Space Grant Consortium, UB, and donations from the community.

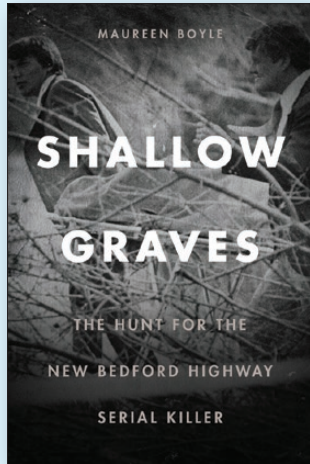
Competition to the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program began in the fall 2017, when 15 teams of UB undergraduates proposed projects to a panel

of internal UB judges headed by Director of Biomedical Research Development Dr. Ruba Deeb.

Three projects from the University were chosen to be forwarded to the NCESSSE, which received 1,959 student proposals from schools across the U.S.

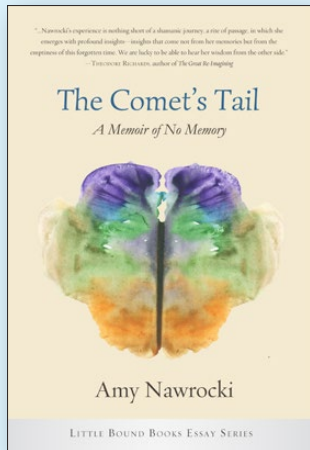
Sixty-one were named finalists, including all three projects proposed by UB undergraduates. They will be featured on the NCESSSE website in 2018. Djoule and Juliano's research is among 21 proposals that will be conducted on the International Space Station.

Campus reaction to the results of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program has been "ecstatic," said Deeb. "UB is enhancing its support of undergraduate research, so our students' success with the SSEP program affirms that we're heading in the right direction. Everyone's thrilled!" ■



Shallow Graves: The Hunt for the New Bedford Highway Serial Killer

During the spring and summer of 1988, 11 women were abducted and murdered in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Investigative reporter and alumna Maureen Boyle '78 broke the story and stayed with it for decades. In her latest book, *Shallow Graves: The Hunt for the New Bedford Highway Serial Killer* (University Press of New England, 2017), Boyle juxtaposes the crimes and search for justice against the backdrop of a community increasingly shaken by poverty and social ills. Drawing upon more than 100 interviews, police reports, first-person accounts, and her own field reporting, Boyle leads readers behind the scenes of an investigation that catapulted onto national news pages and into the homes of families still waiting for answers.



The Comet's Tail

The summer after her freshman year in college, Amy Nawrocki listened to James Brown then suddenly descended into a coma that lasted for six months.

In *The Comet's Tail* (Little Bound Books; 2018) Nawrocki attempts to retrieve the pieces of her missing life. The result is a rare gift from an accomplished writer: courageously honest, emotionally charged, and exquisitely wrought.

Nawrocki, an award-winning poet and professor of English at UB, gathers clues from medical transcripts, sometimes-conflicting interviews with friends and family, and her journal entries leading up to her inexplicable fall into darkness.

"24 February: today I am without sky. Diagnosis: I have fear. Chronologically, I'm due for a mood swing anytime soon," she writes with harrowing prescience. Four months later, she lies comatose in

Danbury Hospital, drooling, covered in rashes, and totally unaware that a tube has been inserted into her trachea.

Tests yield no answers.

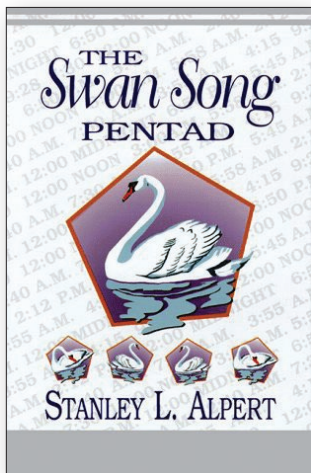
"My father, bewildered and frightened, could not fathom what was happening to his daughter," she writes.

Just as inexplicably, Nawrocki begins to recover. She relearns words, how to write, attends therapy sessions. "Remembering is an action," she concludes. Memories, of "pouring an ordinary cup of coffee," return, precious and permanent.



Pattie's Best Deal

After 17 years of practicing law, UB alumna Dawn Dittmar '85 began a new career as a writer. But the two tracks forge seamlessly in *Pattie's Best Deal* (Sunshine Publishing, 2017), a romantic legal thriller that rivets readers until the very last page. Set in lower Manhattan, the book follows the life of headstrong public defender Pattie Anwald. Just starting in her career, Anwald brims with integrity and bullish idealism: she wants the best for her clients. But the rigors of her job and the city itself, a client gone missing, and a mounting campaign of terror waged against her by an anonymous antagonist threatens to send Pattie out of control as she tries to determine the best deal to take.



The Swan Song Pentad

It's been more than 40 years since alumnus Stanley L. Alpert '64 began writing, and since then, he's published 45 books. "Every one . . . is different, and I have no favorite," he says. His novel *Gertrude and the Printed Page* (Alpert Books), published in 1998, was an early precursor to today's plentiful crop of dystopian mysteries. In it, book publishing is illegal and the government controls information. But 70-something Gertrude Johnson, a covert bookseller, finds hope when a stranger arrives at her doorstep to buy a book, then returns each week. Is he a fellow bibliophile or a spy? *The Swan Song Pentad*, a collection of five thoughtful and thought-provoking stories, encourages readers to consider what is meaningful at the end of life. Each story examines various political, social, cultural, and personal perspectives of the elderly. As for Mr. Alpert, "I am indeed a very lucky person for I am chasing my dream and will hopefully continue to write books until the last breath leaves my body," he says.

—Reviewed by Leslie Geary



Does Music Move the Stock Market?



By Leslie Geary

Does soothing music calm investors, and do complicated ballads make the markets jumpy?

Associate professor **Dr. Philip Z. Maymin** assumed so, but it turns out he was wrong. In fact, his study on how popular music affects Wall Street has not only astonished him, it's also captured the media's attention.

"Barbra Streisand tends to be more complicated. When you hear it, will the market be bouncy? I assumed so, but it turns out it's just the opposite," says Maymin.

Since releasing his findings, Maymin has been interviewed by *Forbes* and appeared on "Tell Me Something I Don't Know," the popular game show hosted by Stephen J. Dubner, co-author of *Freakonomics*.

According to Maymin's findings, people generally listen to calm, simple music 18 to 24 months before the stock market goes nuts. Consider "Take on Me" by the Norwegian pop band A-ha.

"It's one of the least complex songs," Maymin says. "It's fantastic, actually."

"Take on Me" also happened to be trending two years before the Crash of 1987, Maymin found.

It's not an anomaly. Maymin based his findings after running 50 years' worth of Billboard Top 100 songs through a music-analysis website to come up with a typical annual "variance" for those hits. He then compared those findings to market deviations for the S&P 500 index.

So should easy listening be required listening on Wall Street? Not at all, he says. "If you force people to listen to the kind of music they wouldn't choose, it can backfire."

Maymin teaches analytics and finance at the Trefz School of Business. He is the founding managing editor of *Algorithmic Finance* and the co-founder and co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Sports Analytics*. He has also been an analytics consultant with several NBA teams and is the chief analytics officer for Vantage Sports.

He holds a Ph.D. in Finance from the University of Chicago, a master's in Applied Mathematics from Harvard

University, and a bachelor's in Computer Science from Harvard University. He also holds a J.D. and is an attorney-at-law admitted to practice in California.

He has been a portfolio manager at Long-Term Capital Management, Ellington Management Group, and his own hedge fund, Maymin Capital Management. He has also been a policy scholar for a free-market think tank, a justice of the peace, a congressional candidate, and an assistant professor at the NYU School of Engineering. He was awarded a Wolfram Innovator Award in 2015, the Wolfram Live Coding Challenge in 2016, and the Wolfram One-Liner Competition in 2015 and 2016.

For more on Maymin's take on music, the markets, and other topics that interest him, visit Maymin's blog at

<http://philipmaymin.com> ■

Title IX



Gwaina Wauldon has been appointed as the new Title IX Coordinator and Director of Student Accessibility Service. A native of Buffalo, New York, Wauldon earned her Juris Doctor from University of Connecticut School of Law, a bachelor's degree from University of Buffalo, and her master's from Buffalo State College.

■ —L.G.

Role Model and Scholar



School of Professional Studies Lecturer **Stephen Balkaran** has been named among the "100 Most Influential Men of Color" at the annual Eleven28 Entertainment awards dinner, which since 2013 has honored change-makers and other role models throughout Connecticut.

At UB, Balkaran teaches courses in U.S. Civil Rights, African American History, and International Relations.

As a frequent contributor to the Huffington Post, Balkaran writes about diversity and inclusion, American foreign policy, immigration, and public policy.

■ —L.G.

Passing the Baton



More than 12 years ago, **Rebecca Salonen** sent an email to faculty and staff informing them of upcoming news and events. She called the electronic newsletter "UB Highlights," and thanks to her tireless efforts, 294 issues have been sent throughout campus since her debut issue. But on November 30, Mrs. Salonen emailed her last issue to the community. Happily, it is not end of "UB Highlights." Mrs. Salonen passed her baton to **Debra Kirouac**, who collaborated on the final issue and took over as editor for the e-newsletter in December.

Mrs. Salonen wanted to make the change before June 2018, when President Neil Salonen retires. "Debra will do a very good job, [and] we didn't want to have a sudden gap in 'Highlights' when

Neil and I ride off into the sunset in June," she joked.

The transition was seamless, with no interruption to the newsletter's bimonthly publication cycle. Notes Kirouac: "While working with Mrs. Salonen, I was struck not only by her intelligence but also her sense of humor, which catches one off guard—and also happens to complement my own! Going forward, I hope 'UB Highlights' not only reflects bits of my own voice but also continues to echo Rebecca's while delivering up-to-date information on sports, cultural events, and student and faculty achievements and awards." ■ —L.G.

Necessary Voices

A few years ago, the English Department launched Necessary Voices, a lecture series to get people thinking about the arts and ideas. More popular than ever, it began its 2017-2018 series with a lecture from School of Education professor **Dr. Afrah Richmond**.

Richmond presented "Confronting Charlottesville: An Examination of Race in America" in September. An expert on social policy, diversity, and civil rights, she earned her B.A. in Government from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in History of Education from NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.

Richmond is a member of the Board of Trustees at Collegiate Academy for Mathematics and Personal Awareness in Brooklyn, NY. She also serves as a



consultant at Harlem Children's Zone, the widely regarded nonprofit that has successfully broken cycles of inter-generational poverty.

Her most recent book, *The Pedagogy of Race*, on black student activism at Harvard, will be released in 2018 by Wiley Books. Her essays and research have appeared in *Time* magazine.

Associate Provost **Aaron Perkus** and Graphic Design Chairperson **Emily Larned** were also featured Necessary Voices speakers. ■ —L.G.

Focus On: Vincencia Adusei '02, '05



Background: In 2016, when Vincencia Adusei MBA '05 was named to the Fairfield County Community Foundation Board of Directors, the organization noted that her “leadership, organizational, background, and project management capabilities” were a great addition to the board. Her skills would help to bring about “innovative and collaborative solutions to critical issues impacting the community.”

That kind of problem-solving vision is central to all Adusei does. As president and CEO of her own construction management firm, VASE Management, Adusei is one of a handful of women in that position across the state. Because she’s often the only woman at construction-project meetings, she has worked to make the industry more inclusive. “We work to provide opportunities to small firms, minority, women and veteran-run businesses,” she said.

Accomplishments: In November of 2017, VASE Management was awarded a contract with A. Prete Construction for the Construction Management of Elm City Communities/Housing Authority of the City of New Haven building renovations. This contract represents over \$11 million in construction opportunities for local and state contractors. “I love helping businesses and I love being a business owner. It will mean a lot of work in the next couple of years for a lot of families across the state,” she said. “I’m very excited about all that is ahead this year and to be a part of this great initiative.”

Since 2009, VASE has connected contractors and agencies and provided technical help to small businesses, minority-run businesses and women-run businesses. The result, said Adusei, is that more than 500 small businesses achieved over \$100 million in contract awards and that work continues this year. VASE regularly holds events that bring subcontractors together with construction managers and government agencies.

“ I saw development possibilities everywhere. The universe opened up. ”

Where did you learn about the construction business? My family ran a successful road construction company in Ghana, and my father and mother taught me about the construction business before I was 10 or ever since I can remember. I loved spending days at the construction sites, studying and watching projects take shape. I moved to New York to attend high school and I chose UB for my undergraduate and MBA studies. But when I got to UB, I wanted to start a business that wouldn't focus on the construction industry. I took a class in entrepreneurship at UB.

That led to your first opportunity from what I understand. Yes, I was organizing a Hispanic Business Conference Expo at UB when Frederick McKinney, of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council, noticed how well-run the Expo was. He asked me to organize an event for diverse businesses in the construction industry, but in order to be a paid consultant, I had to start a business. So I launched VASE, Vincencia Adusei Special Events. Ironically, during that first event I had to work with construction industry people from all over the state!

What did you discover? I quickly realized that I loved the construction business. It really was what I wanted to do.

Was there another course that helped you launch your business? In my Business Law class, Professor Emeritus William Greenspan discussed the legal intricacies of business ownership. As I took that class, I knew I wanted to create a company that blended the business lessons I learned at home with everything I was learning at UB.

In a short time, VASE has morphed into three businesses, a construction management company, a consulting service, and a web-based membership matching agencies with subcontractors. Can you tell us about that? VASE employs 20 staff members—including two who are UB graduates—staff architects, engineers and project consultants. We are currently at work on about 30 construction projects and our clients include Yale University, Elm City Communities/ Housing Authority of the City of New Haven, the town of Fairfield, and the state of Connecticut's Department of Housing where we repair homes in communities most impacted by Superstorm Sandy. We work on residential and commercial construction in Fairfield County, New Haven County and throughout Connecticut.

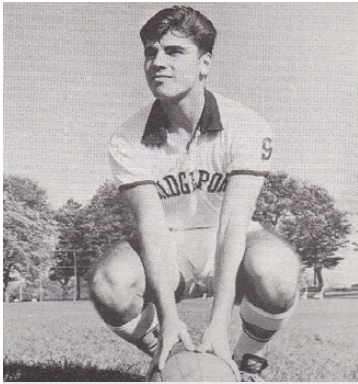


You have said in a number of news articles that you often lean on lessons you learned from your UB professors and your parents who encouraged you to use your skills well in your work and to give back. Yes, my work matters greatly to me. I love what I do. You're working on people's homes and that matters. You're creating jobs. That's important to me. I like being involved in the Fairfield County's Community Foundation board and being involved in the community. My parents taught me the importance of giving back and my professors did, too.

What is ahead for you? I want VASE to continue to grow. I'd like to eventually move into development. I recently took a vacation to East Africa with a friend. I saw development possibilities everywhere. The universe opened up.

—Interview by Jackie Hennessey

Class Notes



1969

Alex Popovich was inducted into the Ukrainian Sports Museum Hall of Fame. He was a member of the UB soccer teams in 1965, 1966, and 1967 (“Back when freshmen were not allowed to play varsity,” he writes) and was an All American in 1966. Now retired, he lives in Morristown, NJ.

1985

David Rickett writes in to remember the late **John Travers '84**. While he attended UB, Mr. Travers won a Student Academy Award (Oscar) for his film *Jenny*, which was filmed in Bridgeport and the surrounding area.

1989

Louise Casinelli Ryon is a day program manager at STAR, Inc. in Norwalk, Connecticut. “Our non-profit agency serves developmentally disabled children and adults. My weekends are spent with our 12-year-old son and my respite clients.”



1992

Alumnus **Scott Miller** organized a celebratory get together of alumni from the late 1980s through early 1990s at the GW Grill in Fort Lee, New Jersey, on December 9. (Miller also served on the 25th Reunion Homecoming Committee.) “All who braved the elements that day had an amazing time!” writes Miller. “Thanks to the UB Alumni Office for its support and also thank you for bringing us all together many, many years ago!”



2001

Sara Warfield was ordained a priest by the Episcopal Church on December 2 in Oakland, California. Warfield earned a bachelor's in mass communication from UB.



1975

For over 25 years, former UB quarterback **Mitchell Sanders** has hosted a holiday party at his home in Norwalk, CT. This year the party was moved to the Norwalk Inn and Conference Center. The UB alumni office sent the party-goers Purple Knights wine glasses as favors. UB alumni in this picture represent the football team and Arnold College from 1971-1976. Report from party-goer and alumna **Arlene Gottesman**: “Despite a massive snowstorm, the turnout was great!”



2002

Melissa Romano '02, '03, who has been previously recognized at the White House for her expertise in math education, has been named 2018 Montana Teacher of the Year. Romano is a fourth grade teacher at Four Georgians Elementary School in Helena. She is also a Democratic candidate for state Senate.

Romano earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences and a Master of Science in Elementary Education from UB. In 2012, she won a National Science Foundation President's Award for Excellence in Mathematics for her work as a K-8 math coach and as an elementary school math and science teacher. She was recognized at the White House for the prize in 2013.

In Memoriam

UB mourns the death of two trustees

Morton A. Kaplan and Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez, who served on the University of Bridgeport's Board of Trustees, have died.

Mr. Kaplan was a member of the board from 1992 through 2004.

Mr. Kaplan, a World War II veteran, was the distinguished service professor emeritus of political science and former chairman of the Committee on International Relations at the University of Chicago. His book, *System and Process in International Politics*, introduced a scientific framework for studying international systems. He is the former president of the Professors World Peace Academy International. He served on the advisory board of the *Washington Times* and consulted for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

He passed away on September 27, 2017, and was 96.

Mr. Sanchez was a member of the board from 1992 to 2015. He was the U.S. ambassador to Honduras as assistant director of the Office of Economic Opportunity during the administrations of Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan. His success epitomized the American Dream. At six, he worked alongside his single mother in the cotton fields of Fresno County. He graduated from Clovis High School, Coalinga College, and Fresno State. He also served in the army and had more than 40 years of military service.

In addition to his public service, Ambassador Sanchez was publisher of the *New York Tribune* and *Noticias del Mundo*. He served as president of CAUSA USA, a faith-based educational organization. He and his late wife, Juanita, helped place orphans in Honduras with American families and later founded an orphanage in Mexico.

Mr. Sanchez was 88 and died on October 16, 2017.

Professor Dick Allen dies at 78

Professor Emeritus Richard "Dick" Allen died on January 2, 2018. He was 78.

Allen dedicated 36 years of his life to UB, serving as the Charles A. Dana professor of English and director of creative writing. During his tenure he inspired countless students, faculty and staff who crossed his poetic path.

Allen also served in the honorary position of Connecticut's Poet Laureate from 2010-2015.

His poetry was selected six times for *The Best American Poetry*. His work also appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Poetry*, *Hudson Review*, the *New Republic*, and the *New Criterion*. Allen's accolades include the Robert Frost Prize, a Pushcart Prize, the Hart Crane Poetry Prize, and fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Ingram Merrill Poetry Foundation. His collection *Present Vanishing: Poems* received the 2009 Connecticut Book Award for Poetry.



2015

Desmond Ntseh has been busy growing Le Ruux, a bespoke shoe company for men. In February, he showed off his breathtaking line of hand-crafted, upscale footwear at New York Fashion Week in February. Best of all, Ntseh's site (<https://leruux.com>) allows shoppers to create their own shoes—from style to finish, sole, color, and more.





From left: Campus Thunder alumni Marvin Gelfand '55, Bill Bevacqua '55, and Mitzi (Vass) Goldberg '60

Musical Gathering

Music Department treats alumni to a special performance

Alumni, including many former Campus Thunder performers and music majors, were treated to a preview of the 2017 Holiday Concert by the UB Chamber Singers, which was led by Choral Director Frank Martignetti. A festive luncheon followed at Riverview Bistro in Stratford, where Martignetti shared the continued need to support UB's music and performing arts programs.

For more information on how to help, please contact Arielle Purcell, director of annual giving at apurcell@bridgeport.edu ■

Philadelphia Weekend

The Black Student Alliance reunion was bigger than ever this year

Black Student Alliance (BSA) Alumni celebrated their much-anticipated biannual reunion in Philadelphia from October 13-15. Dr. Gerry DeVaughn '75, Dr. Michael DeShields '75, and James Swain, Esq. '75 were hometown hosts as all enjoyed a jam-packed weekend of fun and festivities.

Highlights included a breakfast lecture featuring alumna Dennis Walcott '73, '74, who is president and CEO of Queens Library and the former chancel-

lor of education of NYC Public Schools. He spoke about "Closing the Achievement Gap."

Current BSA leadership from campus, Rachel Ferguson '18 and Alexandria Smith '18, joined alumni to talk about campus life today.

A special thanks goes to organizers of this wonderful weekend and their continued efforts stewarding/fundraising for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund.

If you are a former BSA member and missed this reunion, not to worry! The next one is planned for Homecoming Weekend 2019 back at UB.

For more information on the MLK Scholarship Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement at alumni@bridgeport.edu. ■

Photos by Helen Taylor '84



BSA members were all smiles at Philadelphia Museum of Art



From left: Rachel Ferguson '18, Alexandria Smith '18, BSA President and founding member Sid Buxton '74



President Neil A. Salonen, Angela Perez, mother of Adam Perez '10 (who joined the reception via Skype), Tochukwu Mbiampozie '16, Anika Joseph '13, Constance Vickers '11, 2017-2018 Alumni Association Scholarship recipient Ashlica Malcolm '18, and Alumni Board President Ramon Peralta '93

Rising Stars

Inaugural event celebrates young alumni

On October 7, the University hosted its first Rising Stars reception to celebrate the best and brightest of its young alumni under 40. The inaugural event honored Tijana Bokic '06, '08, Anika Joseph '13, Tochukwu Mbiampozie '16, Adam Perez '10, and Constance Vickers '11.

"So many of UB's young alumni have accomplished a great deal, so it wasn't an easy process to winnow down this year's Rising Star recipients, but what a great dilemma to have!" said Executive Director of Alumni and Family Engagement Aimee Marcella. "Rising Stars promises to become one of UB's premier alumni events. It's very exciting!"

About the 2017 Rising Stars:

Tijana Bokic is currently first secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations (UN). In that role, she has represented her country as a special envoy in support of the newly founded peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA). She earned her bachelor's in international business and a master's in global development and peace from UB.

Anika Joseph is the founder and CEO (Chief Empowerment Officer) of Women's Empire, a company promoting women's issues through programs in the areas of health and wellness, education, economic empowerment, and civic engagement. She earned a bachelor's in general studies from UB.

Tochukwu Mbiampozie earned his MBA from the Ernest C. Trefz School of Business. With guidance from the Student Entrepreneur Center, founded Tucci Polo Inc., a luxury footwear and accessory

brand, where he is also CEO. He is also a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Greater New York Chamber of Commerce.

Adam Perez earned his bachelor's in biology with a minor in chemistry at UB before obtaining a doctorate in biochemistry, microbiology, and molecular biology at Penn State University. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Louisville and recently started a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship in Amsterdam in early 2018.

Constance Vickers is the director of grants at the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford and actively involved with the Greater Bridgeport Young Democrats, Bridgeport Generation Now, Thrive Young Professionals, and other organizations. The former president of the Student Government Association, Vickers was Commencement speaker in 2011, when she earned her bachelor's in psychology from UB. ■

Homecoming

More Than 2,000 Celebrate Their UB Pride at Homecoming

Jam-packed fun at annual event draws record-breaking crowds

More than 2,000 alumni returned to the University of Bridgeport on October 6-8 for 2017 Homecoming, a record number for the annual three-day extravaganza.

Alumni representing the Class of 1951 up to the Class of 2017 reminisced, ran in the Purple Knight 5K at Seaside Park, squared off during the alumni soccer match—and took lots of selfies. They also marveled at the transformation of the campus during a special Historic Homes Tour within the Marina Park District that was led by two UB Alumni Board members. ■





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UB Hosts Inaugural UB Awards Dinner

Notable alumni, including the '91 and '92 NCAA championship men's basketball teams, honored during Homecoming Weekend

The University announced the recipients of its first UB Awards, which recognize its impressive and impactful alumni, during the inaugural UB Awards Dinner on October 7, during Homecoming Weekend.

Accolades presented included inductions into the Athletics Hall of Fame, the Fran Bacon Lifetime Achievement

& Coaching Award, the Purple Knight Shield of Merit Award, two Distinguished Alumni Awards, and the Honorary Alumnus Award for former head basketball coach Bruce Webster.

In addition, UB celebrated the '91 and '92 NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Championship players, who were presented championship game rings for

their respective year(s).

"Coach Webster and his players were a much-needed source of positivity in the early '90s, and continue to be models of perseverance and triumph for UB athletics today," said Anthony Vitti, Director of Athletics. "We are so excited to have them back to campus to receive the proper show of appreciation that they each deserve."

ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



1990-91 Men's Basketball Team: Glen Colello, Ron Guzas, Keith Hanley, Winston Jones, Brian Kumm, Rob Maurer, Ahia Mocha, Sean Morgan, Pat Morris, Derrick Russell, Lambert Shell, David Silverberg, Chris Tate, Joel Teague, Steve Wills

1991-92 Men's Basketball Team: Paul Coleman, Ian Ellis, Keith Hanley, Lamont Jones, Winston Jones, Rob Maurer, Sean Morgan, Pat Morris, Amadi Penn, Derrick Russell, Lambert Shell, Chris Tate, Steve Wills



Ivana Kovacevic-Jurasin '09: A three-time All-Conference performer in volleyball, Kovsacevic-Jurasin helped lead the Purple Knights to both conference and regional titles, as well as a national tournament appearance. During her four record-setting seasons, she totaled 1,515 kills and 1,388 digs in 498 career sets played, and finished in the national top 25 in service aces per set in both 2008 and 2009.



Monica Mesalles-Nassi '13: An Olympian who represented her home country of Spain in 2004, Mesalles-Nassi was part of the UB team that captured the USA Gymnastics National Collegiate Team crown and the ECAC Division II title each of her four seasons. In 2012, she won the USAG National Championship All-Around title, and in 2013 she earned the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches' NCAA Division II Women's Gymnast of the Year Award.

FRAN BACON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT & COACHING AWARDEE

Jesse Braverman '73: A 2015 inductee in the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame, Braverman taught and coached in the Bethlehem Central School District for 32 years, where he won his first of several Class AA sectional titles during his stellar career. For the last 17 years, Braverman has coached at La Salle Institute, where he helped the Cadets become the only Big 10 team in the league's history to win a Class AA title when his teams triumphed in 2005 and 2008.

PURPLE KNIGHT SHIELD OF MERIT AWARDEES

Howard Abner '59 & Maxine Abner '62: Longtime supporters of the University of Bridgeport, the Abners made a transformative and impactful gift to the UB Athletics program that paved the way for the expansion and development of the Abner Fitness Center in Hubbell Gym. The Abners have allowed UB athletics to reach new heights, as the strength and performance of its student athletes have been positively impacted by their generosity.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDEES

Dusan Bogunovic, Ph.D. '04: Bogunovic is an assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City and a pioneer in developing the world's first broad-spectrum antiviral drug.

Barbara James '74: A member of the University of Bridgeport Board of Trustees and the Industry Advisory Board, James serves as the managing director at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited. She is a consistent supporter of UB and its students, and received the President's Distinguished Alumni Recognition Award in 2012.



Maxine '62 and Howard Abner '59 with Athletic Director Anthony Vitti '03



Lambert Shell '92



Lore and Keith Webster: the Honorary Alumnus Award was awarded posthumously to their father, former basketball coach Bruce Webster.



Taking it to the Next Level

New strength-and-conditioning coach, revamped workout room make for smarter training, stronger athletes

By Mike Patrick

When Tristan McLaren was a high school football player, the only fitness regimen offered to his team took place on the field, during a game or in practice.

But in the 20 or so years since, athletic philosophies have changed. Practice time is now reserved for bettering players in the sport.

McLaren, 35, recently became the University's first head strength and conditioning coach. He works with all of UB's teams.

"The biggest thing is that a strength-and-conditioning regimen helps you physically prepare for the season; it gets you ready to handle the workloads and the intensity of practice," McLaren said. "The whole goal is to prepare the athletes so they are healthy and they can handle the workloads and performance in a way that their coach needs them to at practice."

Welcoming McLaren to UB is one of two ways the University has invested in making players better and teams stronger.

Thanks to a sizeable gift from long-time donors Howard J. '59 and Maxine '62 Abner, the Abner Fitness Room, used for team workouts, has been expanded to include state-of-the-art modular fitness equipment and enough room and gear to accommodate entire teams.

"We couldn't be more thankful for their continued support of our athletes," UB Athletic Director Anthony Vitti said. "Mr. and Mrs. Abner doubled the size of our original weight room in 2012. These newest enhancements are really going to help the performance of our teams. I can't say enough positive things about that."

After McLaren was hired, Vitti said, the new coach had some concerns that

“The Abners gave us a really generous donation, which was able to provide us with all the equipment we have now. We’ve really enhanced the program for our student-athletes.”

Tristan McLaren
Strength and Conditioning Coach



the existing equipment was a bit dated. So, they approached the Abners, who had expressed an interest in donating to the athletics program.

“The Abners gave us a really generous donation, which was able to provide us with all the equipment we have now,” McLaren said, noting the weightlifting racks that can serve several players at a time, and are branded with the Purple Knights logo. “We’ve really enhanced the program for our student-athletes.”

It’s McLaren’s role to ensure the Purple Knights are getting the most out of the new equipment.

McLaren earned his master’s degree in human performance at Ithaca College in New York, and later served as assistant strength coach for the New York Mets.

At UB, he’s designed workouts so specific members of the same team might individually exercise in entirely different ways, catered to their personal needs.

“A soccer goalie versus a forward have completely different demands on their bodies during the course of a soccer game,” McLaren said. “In football, quarterbacks need to be a lot more aware of their shoulder health. At the end of the day, the quarterback has to have a healthy throwing arm.”

McLaren recently guided the entire basketball team in a workout.

“With Tristan, it’s a next-level workout,” said Sharif Cobb ’18, an exercise science major who serves as a point guard/

shooting guard for the Purple Knights.

“With him, I feel healthier, and the workouts are smarter,” he said. “Last year it was more like we just lifted for no reason. Now we’re doing legs, we’re going to work on scar tissue this year. It’s tailored to your sport.”

Teammate Karamu Camara ’18 said the workout room has much improved, thanks to the Abners.

“It’s very new and it’s like a welcoming environment,” the health science major said. “Tristan comes in here and he lets us know that we’re here to be focused and get better and do greater things with our athletics.”

Geovanna Ferreira ’19, women’s lacrosse captain, said the combination of the revamped workout room and addition of McLaren has made her and her teammates better athletes.

“Tristan motivates us. He knows every athlete by their first name, and that alone has a huge impact,” she said. “We don’t have our coaches with us most of the time. When we don’t have the coach cheering us on, we have Tristan.” ■

Lift. Review. Repeat. Tristan McLaren and the men’s basketball team at the new-and-improved Abner Fitness Center





Play Ball!

The University and City of Bridgeport break ground on a new baseball field

By Leslie Geary

The University and City of Bridgeport have broken ground on renovations to Diamond #1 at Seaside Park, a facility that is widely used by area youth groups, recreational teams, and UB teams.

UB is providing a 2:1 investment match for the design and development of the baseball diamond, stadium seating, press box, and other assets. It also assumes responsibility for establishing an

initial budget and development timeline, as well as future maintenance of the field.

The field is the latest project between UB and the City to bring the love of sports to the people of Bridgeport. In 2013, UB joined forces with its home city to build Diamond #2, a brand new softball field, also located at Seaside Park, to benefit both community teams and the school's softball program. ■



Chiropractic Students Train at Pro Football Hall of Fame Academy

National program trains chiropractors to help athletes avoid injury and optimize performance

By Leslie Geary

A select group of students from the College of Chiropractic (UBCC) traveled to the Professional Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, to assist with injury-prevention testing for 300 of the nation's top middle and high school football players.

Brent Chuma, Celeste Holder, Brett Poniros, and Michael Simeoli were invited to attend the Pro Football Hall of Fame Academy by alumnus Donald Shrump, DC '17. Shrump is owner of NJ Shore Fit and is involved in the Pro Football Hall of Fame Academy.

Chuma, Holder, Poniros, and Simeoli are all undergraduates who are focusing on sports-related chiropractic care.

"It was a fantastic opportunity," said Chuma.

The four students guided players through performance tests that identify faulty movement patterns, which in turn put athletes at higher risk of injury.

UBCC Dean Michael Ciolfi called Pro Football Hall of Fame Academy "a perfect complement" to sports-focused chiropractic training that some chiropractic students opt to take at the Human Performance Lab, located on the UB campus in Eleanor Dana Hall.

"The Human Performance Lab allows young chiropractic students to dive deeper into the world of biomechanics and sport science," Ciolfi said. "And both programs provide real, hands-on education for UBCC students to learn about proper movement mechanics and muscle function. In doing this, we hope to create a population of sports healthcare practitioners who will continue to shift the paradigm of athletic injury toward one centered on preventative sports medicine."

Students' expenses were covered by the Pro Football Hall of Fame. ■

From Left, UBCC Student Doctors: Brett Poniros, Brent Chuma, Celeste Holder, and Michael Simeoli at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Academy.

Bright Holidays for Kids in Need

The Purple Knights collect gifts to help the Cardinal Shehan Center provide Christmas cheer to local children

By Leslie Geary

University of Bridgeport athletics teams made sure that area youngsters had a joyful holiday by collecting sparkling new toys for needy children in Fairfield County.

The student-athletes collected close to 100 games, trucks, puzzles, and stuffed animals at the men's and women's home basketball games against the NYIT Bears in early December. They later delivered the toys to the Cardinal Shehan Center in Bridgeport in advance of the Center's annual Christmas party on December 16.

The Shehan Center serves 4,500 low-income young people in lower Fairfield County annually through various recreational/sports, social, and educational programs.

"Our department as a whole thought it would be important to give back to the community; everyone pitched in," said UB Assistant Athletic Director Sara Richwine. "We chose the Shehan Center because it serves kids of all ages through many different programs. During the holidays, it tries to give two to four gifts per kid, and there are a lot of kids, so this is very exciting."

Cardinal Shehan Executive Director Terry O'Connor said, "We're very grateful to UB, its students, and the coaches who got involved. This year, we gave out gifts to over 200 youngsters, and each one will get three, four, or five toys that are age- and gender-appropriate. There's always a lot of children."

Gymnast Kelli Tereshko, 21, and her teammates wanted to help Cardinal Shehan collect enough presents so no child would go wanting, she said. The team bought 21 toys—one from each athlete—instead of buying secret Santa gifts for each other.

"I can't even imagine if I were younger and didn't get anything for Christmas. That's why we did this; we want the Bridgeport community to have a really

good Christmas," said Tereshko.

The toy drive capped off a semester of giving by the Purple Knights during which student-athletes have tutored students at Roosevelt School in Bridgeport, hosted a safe "Trunk or Treat" Halloween party for area children, run free after-school sports clinics at Wakeman Boys & Girls Club, and participated in other activities. ■

“UB student-athletes are aware that even in Connecticut, there's still a great need. You'll find them giving back throughout the year. That's what makes them champions; they take their team spirit into the community. We're proud of them.”

Anthony Vitti
Director of Athletics





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