

# UB INTERNATIONAL

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UB International

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## UB WELCOMES FIRST SCHOLARS AT RISK

By Charles Anzalone

An internationally known scholar facing immediate persecution in his native Ethiopia. A former tenured professor of early modern Ottoman history who was harassed, taken into custody and put on trial by a threatening Turkish government apparatus.



Professors Demirci (l) and Taye (Douglas Levere)

These two scholars are the first who have joined the UB faculty as part of the university's Scholars at Risk fellowship program.

Ethiopian scholar Mihreteab Tsighe Taye has joined the faculty of the School of Law, where he is focusing his research on human rights law and international courts, specifically the African Human Rights Court and the East African Community Court.

"I'll examine Tanzania's and Rwanda's engagement with these courts, shedding light on state behavior toward international human rights institutions and their impact on regional human rights protection," Taye says.

Suleyman Demirci, visiting assistant professor in the Department of History who is known for his work on Ottoman Turkish taxation from the 1620s-1700, is examin-

ing the higher educational system in the U.S. with particular references to the SUNY system.

"This will also help me in conducting research, enrolling teaching activities and writing up articles in a safe and secure scholarly environment," he says.

UB's Scholars at Risk program is open to any scholar of any country and any dis-

cipline with a terminal degree who has a documented record of scholarship that meets an appropriate standard in a field represented at UB, and who faces the risk of persecution in his/her own country. U.S. citizens and permanent residents, scholars with permanent residency in a third country, and scholars wishing to continue their studies at a U.S. institution are not eligible for the fellowship.

Residential fellowship appointments are for 12 months and may be renewed at the discretion of the dean based on an annual review. Residential fellows will normally have faculty appointments that entail research, teaching and service duties. As valued members of the UB community, fellowship recipients will contribute to the intellectual and cultural life of the campus

## SCHOLARS AT RISK

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and benefit from mentoring and collegial support from their host faculty.

The program allows them the opportunity to continue their research and teaching in a safe and supportive environment at UB.

"Scholars at risk have much to contribute to our university community and will help raise awareness at UB of the growing threats to academic freedom around the world," says A. Scott Weber, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "I'm pleased that Professor Taye and Professor Demirci have joined us this academic year to launch our program; I'm confident they will find UB a welcoming community."

Taye and Demirci were selected for the fellowship program through a process that involved UB's Scholars at Risk committee, the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network and the deans' offices.

"We are very pleased to be able to host two excellent scholars at risk this year, thanks to the new fellowship funded by Provost Scott Weber and the deans," says Nojin Kwak, vice provost for international education.

"My congratulations to the law school and the Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, for welcoming Prof. Taye and Prof. Demirci. These faculty fellows have distinguished scholarly records and much to contribute to their host units and the university community; in addition, they will help educate the campus about critical issues of academic freedom in higher education around the world."

Kwak also recognized the SAR Network for "working with us on scholar placement, and our UB SAR Committee for their help in vetting potential scholars."

Both UB fellows come from environments that are dangerous to scholars exercising their freedom of speech, which often is contrary to existing government regimes. This grim reality underscores the critical importance of initiatives like UB's Scholars at Risk program, which offers a safe haven for academics at risk and serves as a beacon of hope amid such challenges. Taye says.

"The risk of persecution in Ethiopia manifests in several ways, particularly for those who advocate for human rights and engage in scholarly work that challenges the status quo," he explains.

"Academics and researchers who address sensitive topics or expose human rights violations face threats to their personal safety and academic freedom. In the past two years, the risk of persecution has been deeply concerning, particularly regarding academics targeted based on their ethnicity, as seen during the conflict involving the Tigray region.

"The government's military campaign against Tigray gave rise to alarming instances of discrimination, arrest, harassment and even loss of life among Tigrayan intellectuals and academics," Taye says. "The conflict led to a distressing environment, where those of Tigrayan ethnicity, including scholars, were unfairly singled out and subjected to grave violations of their rights.

Many were arbitrarily arrested, detained or worse, highlighting the severe curtailment of academic freedom and the broader erosion of human rights."

Institutions like UB Law affirm the fundamental value of knowledge, dialogue and the unimpeded pursuit of understanding by providing a platform for persecuted scholars to continue their work, Taye notes.

Demirci is an international scholar who says he has done nothing outside the law. "But I didn't feel safe and secure, as I am pointed out or named as a 'terrorist or traitor' via social media and columnists," he wrote in an email to UB-Now.

He has been the subject of several government and related media attacks accusing him of being a traitor and danger to the existing government.

"I will take this opportunity to thank to University at UB and SAR initiative for providing me this academic position at UB that is threatened, de-legitimized and dehumanized in my own country," Demirci said.

"Turkey and the Turkish people do not deserve all this. I hope that we can soon see a political environment where the rule of law prevails and constitutional rights are distributed fairly and equally to everyone; where mutual respect and brotherhood and the art of living together flourish again; and where commitment to democracy and democratic values increases." ♦

Charles Anzalone is a senior editor for University Communications.

# SCHOLARS AT RISK

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## NETWORK



protection



advocacy

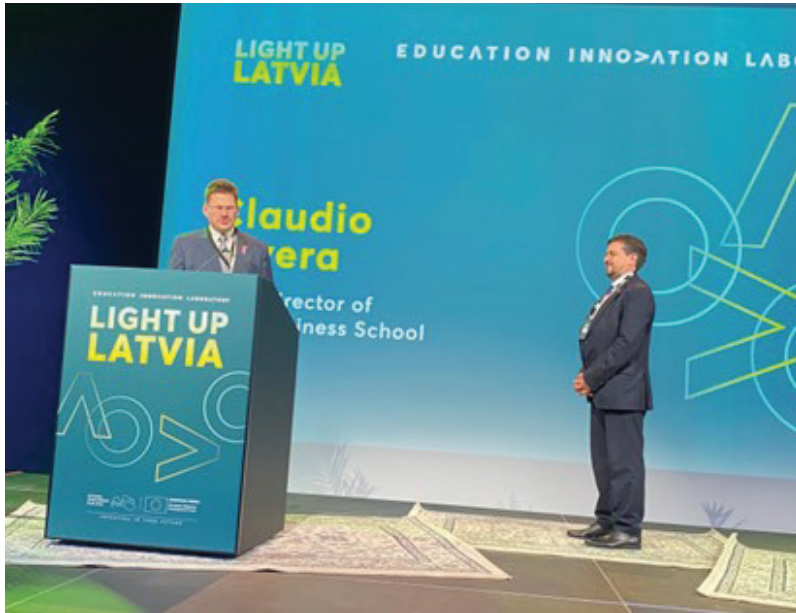


learning

## FROM THE VICE PROVOST

UB benefits in diverse ways from its many international partnerships around the world. This came home to me during a recent visit to two of UB's important partners in Europe—one an old friend of many years' standing, the other relatively new affiliation.

In November, I had the opportunity to travel to Riga, Latvia to visit our partners there for the first time and to represent UB at a conference they were organizing; then I



Dr. Janis Grevins (l), UB alum and past director of RBS, and Dr. Claudio Rivera, the new director

traveled to France to visit a more recent UB partner—the University of Burgundy.

For more than 30 years, UB has been a key collaborator of Riga Technical University (RTU), particularly its Riga Business School (RBS), which our School of Management helped establish in 1991 as the first US-style business school in the Baltic states following their independence from the Soviet Union. UB and RBS have worked together ever since, with many RBS faculty and students spending time in Buffalo, and UB faculty regularly teaching or making administrative visits to RBS.

RBS and its Education Innovation Laboratory was the lead organizer of the "Light Up, Latvia" conference on November 9 addressing the ways the country is fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. I was pleased to deliver a keynote presentation on behalf of President Satish K. Tripathi about UB's leadership in this domain.

The conference also formally marked the conclusion of

the five-year project sponsored by the Latvian government and facilitated by RBS that brought 70 faculty from various Latvian universities to spend a semester at UB for a training program in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

In addition, I took part in discussions with RTU counterparts, including Rector Tālis Juhna, regarding opportunities for future collaboration between UB and Latvian universities. My visit also included a visit to Riga Stradins University, a newer partner of UB whose rector, Aigars Pētersons, led a delegation to UB in April 2023.

From Latvia I traveled to the University of Burgundy in Dijon—which goes by the acronym "uB." During a busy day at their campus organized by my counterpart, Professor Gregory Wegmann, Vice President for International Affairs, I toured research laboratories and other facilities connected to uB's emerging research collaboration with counterparts at UB's Department of Materials Design and Innovation, under the leadership of Professor Krishna Rajan.

On behalf of President Tripathi, I joined uB President Vincent Thomas in signing an addendum to our MOU with uB that will help facilitate collaborative research activities. We also discussed the prospect of UB students participating in a study abroad program at uB in summer 2024.

While the Covid pandemic taught us much



Signing the MOU Addendum with uB President Vincent Thomas

about the possibilities of virtual meetings, I was reminded during this trip of the importance of face-to-face interactions with valued partners. ♦

## JANINA BRUTT-GRIFFLER HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

At its annual award luncheon in the Center for the Arts on December 1, the Council on International Studies and Programs (CISP) conferred its 2023 Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education at UB on Janina Brutt-Griffler, professor of learning and instruction (LAI) and associate dean for international education and language programs in the Graduate School of Education (GSE).

Brutt-Griffler's extensive contributions, citing two GSE colleagues who also wrote in support of the nomination—Lois Weis, SUNY Distinguished Professor of educational leadership and policy, and Stephen C. Dunnett, professor emeritus of learning and instruction and founding vice provost for international education.

"When I reviewed Dr. Brutt-Griffler's CV in preparation for this presentation," Gorlewski said, "I was struck by how

her research, publications, and presentations seemed to touch every part of the globe. To describe the totality of her work, I was reminded of the 2022 award-winning film, "Everything, Everywhere, All at Once."

In her remarks, Gorlewski highlighted four broad areas of the awardee's impact at UB—the "Polish Studies Program; her international research; her development and implementation of a Strategic Plan for International Education [in GSE]; and, most profoundly, her extensive work creating, developing, and revising the scope of international education curricula at both the graduate and undergraduate level."



Provost Weber and Vice Provost Kwak present the 2023 award to Janina Brutt-Griffler

A UB faculty member since 2005, Brutt-Griffler was recognized for her exceptional, longstanding efforts to advance international research, education and exchange in GSE and the university more broadly. She is the thirty-eighth recipient of the award since it was established in 2004, and the only one this year.

Presenting the award were A. Scott Weber, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, who offered remarks on the importance of faculty internationalization, and Nojin Kwak, vice provost for international education.

"In addition to honoring outstanding practitioners," Weber said, "the award serves to highlight the importance of international education at the university and the critical role of faculty and staff in promoting the internationalization of UB."

Brutt-Griffler's LAI colleague, Julie Gorlewski, professor and senior associate dean for academic affairs and teacher education, who nominated her for the award, spoke about

"Dr. Brutt-Griffler is an internationally recognized scholar in language education with a research agenda that focuses on educational policy with respect to English as a global language, understanding the historical context of its emergence, and its impact on other languages and speech communities," Gorlewski noted.

Gorlewski described Brutt-Griffler's work supporting international students throughout their careers at UB: "she continues to be deeply involved in recruiting, mentoring, and, most importantly, retaining international students."

"She has been academic advisor to large numbers of international graduate students; annually, she advises at least 10 international Ph.D. students and has directed dozens of dissertations of a highly accomplished group of advisees who hold tenured and tenure track positions in the US, East Asia, the Middle East, and Europe." These alumni have in turn helped facilitate GSE collaborations with institutions in their home countries. ♦

## NEW SUMMER “LADDER” PROGRAM OFFERS LANGUAGE TRAINING AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Nearly 50 college-age students from South Korea visited the University at Buffalo for four weeks in July 2023 as part of a “youth ladder” program established by UB and Gyeonggi Province—the largest province in South Korea—which sponsored the participants.

Through a competitive application process, the province selected young people ages 21 to 32 for an opportunity to study abroad in the US that they wouldn’t otherwise have access to. They were accompanied by a provincial official who served as chaperone.

Collaborating with ARI was the UB English Language Institute (ELI), which delivered the ESL instruction for the program. Timothy Cauller, ELI director, and Namsook Kim, assistant director, created the customized ESL curriculum designed around cultural and intellectual exchange with UB’s faculty and students, and special field trips and experiential learning opportunities that were part of the program.

Throughout the four weeks, the students participated in language classes and out-of-classroom activities, includ-



Participants from Gyeonggi Province and UB cultural liaisons, with Bruce Acker far left

The program combined semi-intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, six hours a week of cross-cultural experiences with UB students serving as specially trained peer mentors and cultural liaisons, and a variety of outings to local attractions like Niagara Falls and to cultural institutions. The participants stayed in Red Jacket Quad on the North Campus and interacted with other summer students in residence.

Developed by Professor Nojin Kwak, vice provost for international education, based on past programs he directed at the University of Michigan, the summer ladder program was authorized under an agreement signed in April 2023 by UB President Satish K. Tripathi and Dr. Dong Yeon Kim, Governor of Gyeonggi Province.

The lead organizer of the program was Bruce Acker, assistant director of the Asia Research Institute (ARI), with the assistance of Stephanie Choi, postdoctoral associate at ARI.

Acker notes that ARI plans to organize similar programs in future summers in partnership with Gyeonggi Province.

ing visits to Old Fort Niagara, UB’s Center for the Arts, St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy, the Village of East Aurora, the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, and Sahlen Field for a Buffalo Bisons baseball game, among other destinations.

On July 28, the program concluded with a poster session, allowing students to identify the learning experiences and opportunities that have been most meaningful to them.

Many of the participants highlighted the importance of the friendships they had formed with their UB teachers, mentors and hosts; the advances they made in their English proficiency; and their appreciation for the many attractions of Western New York.

Some of the participants hope to be able to return to UB as enrolled students in the future. In turn, the Korean visitors sparked much interest among their UB peers in pursuing opportunities for education abroad in South Korea—already a popular destination for study abroad students at the university. ♦

## EXPERIENCE IN INDIA EXPANDS ARCHITECTURAL TRAINING

By John Archilla

An opportunity to work with architects in India and Japan advanced my knowledge, expanded experiences of design and the practice of architecture and opened my eyes to global culture. With the assistance of the Departments of Architecture and Asian Studies at the University at Buffalo and the support of UB's Experiential Learning Network, I was able to work with Studio Jugger-naut, an international architecture office with studios in India and Japan, during the summer of 2021. Working alongside Harsh Jain – the founder of the practice who is based in Delhi – and his colleague Teppei Izuka in Japan – I gained a deeper understanding of the impact of culture and climates on contemporary architecture.

My work focused on the design and construction of a house in a village in India and explored the potential of a brick. Brick is a common and inexpensive material in India and, working directly with Harsh Jain, I was able to explore its potential and assist in the design of a new building.

The site was close to brick kilns and consequently we were also able to work with local builders who were skilled in working with the material. The brick, familiar globally, has obvious structural potential. It also performs well as a natural insulator that can offer protection from climatic extremes.

The house was to be a prototype that explored the particular potentials of this material. It was also to be built alongside existing farmland and orchards. Consequently our design studies explored the potential of both a local material and surrounding patterns of local agriculture.

The design was based on long and narrow brick vaulted spaces that also echoed the pattern of surrounding fields. Interior spaces were planned to connect with surrounding landscapes and maximize the structural potential of a brick. Interior programs were zoned into two areas. Public spaces- living, dining and a kitchen- were located at the southern end of the house with more private spaces placed to the north. These two blocks were offset to create an entry and an enclosed courtyard that was open to the sky.

Our research into brick construction led to explorations of vaulting. Parabolic, catenary and corbelled vaults were investigated digitally and each tested with the construc-

tion of prototypes by local builders. Traditional corbelling was explored and subsequently bricks rotated to create a fish scaling system that added weight and helped to avoid rotational collapse.

This system also created gutters between vaults that made it possible to collect rainwater and channel it into a pool in the courtyard where it could be stored and subsequently re-used. The angled surfaces of the vaulted roof also made it possible to install solar panels and produce energy for the homeowner.

Harsh Vardhan Jain, principal architect at Studio Jugger-naut, commented that "collaborating with UB and working closely with John Archilla, a UB Architecture student, on the development of ideas for a new house in India was invaluable. John's research was instrumental in advancing our understanding of brick construction and helped set the direction for the design of the structure."

Working on this project and learning from local architects, builders and farmers has significantly shaped my views of design, place, materials and culture in architecture and collaborating with Harsh Jain has increased my awareness of the potential of design. Working globally has prompted me to look again at climate, land, people and architecture and to view them through very different lenses!

I have also been fortunate to see this house be built.

Learning through drawings and mockups, including the construction of prototype vaults on site and the subsequent completion of the house, has been very enlightening while ongoing contact with the architect Harsh Jain and local builders has inspired my subsequent design studies at UB. After beginning this study

I graduated from the undergraduate program in architecture and am currently enrolled in UB's Master of Architecture Program where I was recently appointed as an advanced digital fabrication assistant in UB's Fabrication Workshop and SMART Lab, where I am learning more about the potential of materials and how advancements in technology can expand our abilities as architects. ♦

John Archilla is currently an MArch student at UB.



Corbell weight testing in India (John Archilla 2021)

## JOSEPH HINDRAWAN REFLECTS ON IMPACTFUL CAREER

When Joe Hindrawan, Associate Vice Provost and Director of Overseas Programs and Partnerships, applied to UB's MBA program in the late 1980s, he had no idea that he would make the university his professional home and have a major impact on international education there. Now that he's retiring after more than 30 years in the Office of International Education (OIE), Hindrawan reflects on how far he's come.

"One of the main reasons that I came to the US for further education was that I wanted to change my life and my career. Before coming to the USA, I was working as a chemical engineer with an American oil field chemical company in Indonesia, my native country," Hindrawan said. "However, at that time, more than three decades ago, opportunities for career advancement in Indonesia were not as strong as they are today, so I decided to come to the USA for graduate studies."

Recruited by Professor Stephen Dunnett, the founding vice provost for international education, Hindrawan saw the MBA as an opportunity to pursue a business career in the US. However, an assistantship in OIE helped change his plans.

"During my assistantship work I realized that I liked working with students, especially international students", Hindrawan noted. "After I graduated, OIE hired me to assist with the administration of their program in Malaysia, a country that was very familiar to me."

"UB was considered one of the leading universities in international education at that time. There were many international cooperation and development program opportunities, and I was lucky to be working in that field at the right time," Hindrawan added.

Hindrawan's work administering the Malaysian program helped prepare him to have a central role in UB's more ambitious cooperative education program with the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) a decade later. It also readied him to take on a more immediate challenge—reversing the decline in UB's international enrollment that occurred in the early 1990s.

To address this challenge, UB in 1995 established a new international enrollment management unit within OIE to specialize in recruiting self-funded students from around the world, focusing particularly on undergraduates. Since the primary market for such students was Asia, then as now, Hindrawan was well-suited to lead this effort, know-

ing the local cultures and educational systems, and having a command of several Asian languages.

Beginning that year and for the next 25 years, Hindrawan was UB's lead student recruiter overseas, participating in multiple recruitment tours abroad each year that often lasted several weeks and included a number of countries. These were typically grueling trips with brief stops in many cities, and long days speaking to hundreds of students in trade show setting and local high schools.

"I was lucky that my work in international recruitment was so challenging and not at all boring. I like challenges, and I like learning and doing new things. I enjoy working with people, especially engaging prospective international students, explaining the admission requirements of UB programs and life at UB and in Buffalo," Hindrawan said.

"Witnessing our international students fulfill their academic ambitions, and having their parents express their gratitude to me and to UB, has been so rewarding! Besides, I also love travelling especially to new places. I was blessed to be born with a lot of energy, and I get restless if I haven't things to do or

places to go."

Hindrawan's energetic efforts yielded strong results, with UB moving into the top ranks of US institutions enrolling the most international students.

Forging lasting relationships was a key to Hindrawan's success as a recruiter. "I developed strong relationships with the international students I recruited. I kept in contact with them after they graduated and went back to their home countries. They became my good friends." This network of alumni friends served as potential advocates and recruiters in their home countries when Hindrawan visited.

"I think alumni relationships are about engagement. We need to engage our students from the moment they come to campus and maintain those relationships and engagements after they graduate. That is what I tried to do and it worked for me and for UB."

Hindrawan's international work leveraged his skills as a "bridge person" between cultures, not only representing UB to students overseas, but also supporting senior leadership and the university in visiting or receiving international partners.

"I realized that I could work effectively as a bridge per-

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President Tripathi honoring Joseph Hindrawan

## JOSEPH HINDRAWAN

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son when I was sent to Taipei to deal with a personnel issue in UB's English Center in Taipei. Having once lived and studied in Taiwan as well as speaking the Chinese language and understanding the local culture of Taiwan, I was able to solve the problems in the Taipei center which were mostly related to cultural misunderstandings."

"I guess I didn't realize then that I could do this work as a cultural interpreter and intercultural problem solver and negotiator quite well. But that became part of my job over time, and I came to love that work," he said.

Hindrawan's role as a bridge person was integral to the success of UB's undergraduate programs at SIM, launched in 2004 following the earlier success of the School of Management's Executive MBA program at SIM. He was a key administrator of the program over its nearly 20-year history, frequently conducting work visits to SIM as part of his recruitment trips to Asia and liaising on a daily basis with resident staff there.

"Part of our success was the design of the program by the founders, Professors Dunnett and John Thomas, the former Dean of the UB School of Management, but most of all it was based on maintaining good human relations with our sponsor, SIM. The founders stressed that we should always be ethical and always act in the best interests of UB and SIM and take good care of our students and faculty who we sent to Singapore."

"Another advantage UB had in Singapore was we had a staff working on that program who had worked overseas, especially in Asia, and we could understand Asian culture and values. It was helpful that I could speak Chinese and some of the main dialects of the Singaporeans. I could identify with them and they could connect with me since I came from the Straits region myself and understood their local cultures." Effective diplomacy based on good human relations is vital.

"Dr. Dunnett understood the art of compromise in dealing with our sponsors and taught us to always look for accommodation and an agreement that would be acceptable to both sides. Patience is important since it takes a long time for Asians to come to trust Western people and they don't decide things quickly like Americans do. "

Beyond the revenue generated for UB, transnational programs like UB's at SIM are not readily appreciated for their other benefits, Hindrawan says. "I am pleased that many colleagues understand the broader benefits of overseas programs, the opportunity to internationalize our campus and provide opportunities for UB faculty and students to go overseas. Bringing international students to our campus helps UB students become more familiar with people from other cultures."

Looking forward, Hindrawan hopes internationalization remains a strength for UB. "I hope OIE can continue to be a successful center of expertise on internationalization, and on transnational programs, on international enrollment management, collaborations with overseas universities, on study abroad and immigrations services etc., for our faculty, staff and students. I believe OIE is best as a service unit providing support, advice and assistance to faculty and staff who want to do international programs."

After reconnecting with family and friends during a trip to Asia this winter, Hindrawan expects to remain involved in international education in new ways. "I hope I can do some consulting in the future to help US and foreign universities to become more internationalized. I think I could teach others how to do effective recruitment and how to manage international enrollment. I want to continue to contribute to internationalization and to improving mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries."

"I would especially like to help improve the relationship between the US and China. We must educate the next generation of American students to better understand China and to speak Chinese, so we can compete and cooperate more successfully with that country. UB can play an important role in this respect due to the university's long history of engagement in China."

Asked what advice he would give young people entering the field of international education, Hindrawan says they should acquire a solid academic foundation as well as strong foreign language, cross-cultural and human-relations skills. In addition, "They should never lose sight of the importance of our work in improving understanding between the peoples of the world. The work we do in internationalization has never been as important as it is now in this very troubled world." ♦

## JOYCE MUSEUM

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etry Collection and coordinator of the UB Rare and Special Books Collection. "This new state funding ensures the vibrancy of the UB James Joyce Collection and gives us an opportunity to now enthusiastically extend a global invitation to experience the life and works of Ireland's James Joyce in what will be the UB James Joyce Museum."

The museum is expected to draw thousands of visitors annually as an international destination and cultural landmark. "We are delighted to welcome this news, which helps ensure UB's world-class James Joyce Collection will be seen by as many people as possible," said Helena Nolan, consul general of Ireland in New York. ♦

**Bert Gambini** is a news content manager for University Communications.



## JOYCE MUSEUM PROJECT RECEIVES \$10 MILLION FROM NEW YORK STATE

By Bert Gambini

The UB Libraries, home to the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of materials by and related to author and poet James Joyce, has received \$10 million in funding from New York State for the construction of the UB James Joyce Museum.

The facility aims to attract a broad global audience to discover and experience the achievements of the renowned Irish author, widely recognized as the most influential literary figure of the 20th century.

The funding, a capital-project priority for UB, was secured through the advocacy of New York State Senator Tim Kennedy and with the support of Gov. Kathy Hochul, was announced today (June 16) at a news conference in the Austin Flint Main Reading Room on the second floor of [Abbott Hall](#) on UB's South Campus.

"Moving our magnificent James Joyce Collection to a home worthy of its renown has been a key goal for our scholarly environment, and doing so reaffirms the significance of this distinctive scholarly gem to our university, our broader community in Buffalo and Western New York, and our friends and colleagues around the world," said UB President Satish K. Tripathi.

Kennedy, whose district includes UB's South Campus, has been a longtime supporter of the university's Joyce Collection, bringing leading representatives of the Irish government to visit, along with distinguished members of the Irish-American Diaspora. The collection highlights Buffalo's rich Irish-American legacy.

"This funding is transformational for the preservation of Irish heritage here in Buffalo and all of New York State, and will allow the University at Buffalo's extensive collection of James Joyce's work to be truly celebrated," Kennedy said. "I've fought for this state investment for years, because I firmly believe the UB James Joyce Museum will attract visitors from around the world, and further strengthen the relationship between the United States and Ireland.

"This is an example of true collaboration, and it would not have been possible without the partnership of UB President Satish K. Tripathi, James Maynard and the incredible team at UB," Kennedy said. "I'm thrilled to be able to deliver this funding alongside Governor Hochul, and look forward to seeing this museum open its doors."

The announcement arrives on Bloomsday, the annual commemoration of Joyce's life and career, named for Leopold Bloom, the main character in Joyce's masterpiece, "Ulysses," perhaps the most important English-language novel of the past 100 years, with a plot that takes place on a single day, June 16, 1904, in and around Dublin, Ireland.

UB's [James Joyce Collection](#), currently housed within the UB Libraries' [Poetry Collection](#) on the North Campus, is an unparalleled destination for scholars and visitors from around the world. The UB James Joyce Museum will increase that visibility and expand public access to the university's historical resources and literary treasures with a permanent exhibition space for visitors to study, learn and engage with these rare materials.

"On behalf of our entire university community, I would like to thank Senator Tim Kennedy for his

enduring support of UB and our mission of excellence. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Governor Hochul for her commitment to amplify our impact as New York State's flagship university," Tripathi added.

Since the arrival of the first archival pieces in 1950, UB's James Joyce Collection has grown to include more than 10,000 pages of Joyce's working papers, notebooks, manuscripts, photographs, correspondence, portraits, publishing records, ephemera, and personal artifacts, as well as Joyce's private library and the complete body of significant Joyce criticism.

"We're thrilled that we can move forward with a permanent exhibition space for the UB James Joyce Collection," said Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for UB Libraries. "This funding will enable us to present these resources in ways that have an even greater impact on local, national and international communities curious about the literary arts and the work of James Joyce."

Under the guidance of Kelly Hayes McAlonie, UB director of campus planning, UB Libraries has been preparing to begin work on a design consultation that includes dedicating roughly 5,000 square feet of the first-floor atrium in Abbott Hall as exhibition space for the museum.

"Since its inception more than 85 years ago, UB has served as the library of record for 20th- and 21st-century Anglophone poetry," said Maynard, curator of the UB Po-

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Senator Kennedy speaking at Abbott Library (Meredith Forrest Kulwicki)

## SEVAL YILDIRIM IS NEW VICE PROVOST FOR INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

By David J. Hill

**S**eval Yildirim, vice president for diversity initiatives and chief diversity officer at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, was appointed vice provost for inclusive excellence at the University at Buffalo, effective Nov. 20, 2023.

The vice provost for inclusive excellence serves as UB's chief diversity officer, reporting jointly to the president and to the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

"As a university committed to achieving social justice in all of our endeavors, we are delighted to welcome a scholar and leader with such an impressive record of advancing equity and inclusivity in higher education," President Satish K. Tripathi said.

"I have every confidence that Professor Yildirim, in this critical role, will harness her experience and creative vision to ensure that we continue translating our most cherished values into action and build upon UB's reputation as a welcoming scholarly community that celebrates, and thrives on, our diversity of backgrounds, cultures and lived experiences," President Satish Tripathi said.

Enhancing campus diversity and promoting a university-wide culture of equity and inclusion are critical to UB's goal of becoming one of the Top 25 public institutions in the nation. Within this context, Yildirim will lead and enable UB's efforts to further develop a culture of equity and inclusion across all units of the university.

She will be responsible for assessing current initiatives and shaping a unified, comprehensive strategy for inclusive excellence that is aligned with UB's mission and universitywide efforts to continue to cultivate innovation in the inclusive excellence space.

Provost Scott Weber and Tripathi noted that Yildirim brings to UB extensive administrative experience in equity, diversity and inclusion, including in the areas of recruiting and retaining faculty and students from underrepresented groups, promoting inclusive pedagogy and classrooms, and building high school-to-university pipelines.

"As vice provost, Professor Yildirim will play a key role in partnering with UB's other senior leaders, unit diversity officers, and academic and academic support units across campus to further UB's goals around inclusive excellence," they wrote.

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"She oversees the Office of Inclusive Excellence, which is responsible for leading, enabling and monitoring UB's efforts to institutionalize the culture of equity and inclusion university-wide to build campus diversity, enhance teaching and scholarship, increase cultural understanding, and foster a welcoming campus environment."

At UNLV, Yildirim was responsible for aligning and expanding the university's EDI-related initiatives to promote student, faculty and staff success. She oversaw the Office of Diversity Initiatives, the Intersection: Academic Multicultural Resource Center, the First Gen Network and the Undocumented Student Program.

During her tenure at UNLV, she led efforts to increase faculty diversity in STEM fields, and has worked on forming the University Council of Inclusive Excellence, forming the Native American Taskforce, and helping create a taskforce to make recommendations on addressing microaggressions and bullying.

In addition to her role as chief diversity officer at UNLV, Yildirim is a professor of interdisciplinary studies and law, focusing on secularism, religion and state relations and individual rights in liberal democracies. She also served as pro bono counsel and legal consultant on various individual rights cases across the United States.

"I am so impressed by all the diversity, equity and inclusion work that has already been accomplished at UB, and know that I will have an enthusiastic campus community supporting me as we continue to advance inclusive excellence at UB, Yildirim said."

A native of Turkey who came to the US as an international student, Yildirim holds a JD and LLM from New York University School of Law, an MA in international affairs from the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University, and a BA from Randolph-Macon Woman's College. ♦

David J. Hill is director of news content for University Communications.

## FOUR FACULTY HAVE FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIPS THIS YEAR

By Sue Wuetcher

**U**B faculty members Edith Gonzalez, Daniel Hess, Katarzyna “Kasia” Kordas and Amy VanScoy received prestigious Fulbright Scholar Awards to study and teach abroad during academic year 2023-24.

In addition, Georg Rafailidis, associate professor in the Department of Architecture, School of Architecture and Planning, was named to the Fulbright Specialist Roster for a three-year tenure. As a member of the roster, Rafailidis is part of a pool of candidates who can be matched to a Fulbright project designed by host institutions from over 150 countries.

The Fulbright program, coordinated by the U.S. Department of State, is devoted to improving intercultural relations, diplomacy and competence between the people of the U.S. and other nations through educational exchange.

Gonzalez, assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences, has received a U.S.-UK Fulbright Commission award to the British Library – Eccles Centre for American Studies. She is spending six months at the London library — and at other libraries around the country — conducting archival research on the traditional ecological knowledge of the Caribbean country of Antigua and Barbuda.

Gonzalez explains that a lot of the colonial records of Antigua and Barbuda cannot be accessed in the country. Rather, they can be found in the British Library, which has a large collection of 18th-century documents, and at libraries and archives around Britain.

The British consider the history of the English-speaking Caribbean — Antigua and Barbuda are among several Caribbean islands that are independent Commonwealth countries — to be shared history, she says, and so Britain retains artifacts, such as colonial records, as British cultural heritage resources.

Gonzalez notes the British Parliament in 1835 declared Barbudans to be Indigenous because of their relationship to the land. The island’s culture had developed around communal ownership of land, and “through this comes deep ecological knowledge” in areas such as farming, cattle ranching and medicine, she says. But after Hurricane Irma devastated the island in 2017, the central government

in Antigua privatized land ownership which, she says, will effectively eradicate Barbudan culture in favor of Antiguan culture.

Many are now questioning how Barbudans can be Indigenous when they are descendants of African slaves. During her Fulbright stint, she’ll bring the historical evidence forward to support Barbudans engaged in a fight to save their way of life, as well as document traditional ecological knowledge of Barbudans that has been handed down from their ancestors and further developed in close communion with the land since the 17th century.

Hess, professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, School of Architecture and Planning, is spend-



L to r: Edith Gonzalez, Daniel Hess, Katarzyna Kordas, Amy VanScoy (Douglas Levere)

ing the 2023-24 academic year at Tadeusz Kościuszko Cracow University of Technology in Poland, teaching urban planning and urban design courses, and continuing his research on the large, standardized apartment buildings built during the socialist era.

This is Hess’ second Fulbright Scholar Award: He was awarded a Fulbright in Estonia in 2010 at Tallinn University of Technology.

Hess says he will examine “housing estates” — what we in the U.S. call “housing projects” — that were rapidly built in Central and Eastern Europe after World War II and are estimated to still house as much as one-third to one-half of the population in these countries. The goal is to assess the potential for renovating this segment of the housing system in Poland, which would include upgrading it for energy efficiency, “giving it new life” and making it ready for new residents, he says.

As an urban planner, Hess says he also will be looking at “neighborhood amenities” that make housing attractive

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## FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIPS

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to residents, as well as how neighborhoods are able to absorb migrants from Ukraine.

He notes that 1.5 million Ukrainians have fled their country for Poland since the Russian invasion in February 2020. While many have since returned to their homeland despite the ongoing war, at one point Poland needed to house hundreds of thousands of additional residents, he says, adding that this influx comes on top of a general housing crisis in the country, where inflation has dramatically increased housing costs.

In addition to extending his research, Hess says he hopes his time in Poland will enable him to find and develop research collaborators in the country, noting that he had had difficulty finding collaborators in Poland while doing similar pan-European research a few years ago.

Kordas, associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (EEH), School of Public Health and Health Professions, has received a Distinguished Scholar Award to Masaryk University in the Czech Republic. She will spend the upcoming fall semester at the Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX), an internationally recognized center in environmental chemistry and toxicology at Masaryk University.

RECETOX offers multidisciplinary bachelor's and master's programs in environmental health sciences, and computational biology and biomedicine, with specializations in epidemiology and population modeling, and environmental health. It also offers a PhD program in environmental health.

Kordas notes that Masaryk University is one of only three Czech universities offering programs in epidemiology — and the first to include a sub-specialization in environmental epidemiology.

Kordas, who served as co-director of the Community for Global Health Equity (2018-23) and director of the MPH Epi concentration in EEH, will contribute to the review and further development of the new educational and research programs in environmental epidemiology at RECETOX, as well as teach and mentor students in environmental health, and give a public lecture on her environmental epidemiology research.

She will also develop research collaborations with RECETOX scientists working on exposure assessment and population health science.

Kordas says the major long-term goal of her Fulbright award is to establish joint research projects with Czech scientists and foster student exchange — both of which would benefit society through “collaborative international knowledge advancement to address the health effects

of environmental exposures — a problem that knows no borders.”

Maria Almanza, director of faculty recognition in the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, notes that Distinguished Scholar Awards, such as the one that Kordas received, are viewed as the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program.

VanScoy, associate professor of information science, Graduate School of Education, will spend the spring 2024 semester at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana to help develop a library and information science program at the university. She will also mentor librarians currently working on their doctorates and provide lectures and workshops to support these students and encourage more librarians to become involved in research and pursue doctoral studies.

In addition, as part of the teaching/research fellowship, she will collaborate with local scholars on research projects of mutual interest, including expanding her ongoing research on the professional orientations of librarians to the Ghanaian context.

VanScoy explains that there currently is only one library and information science program in the entire nation of Ghana — at the University of Ghana Legon — which leaves the country with not enough librarians to serve the information needs of its population.

“A side effect of this deficit is that the library and information services infrastructure, which provides information access, data literacy education and knowledge management, is not as robust as it could be,” she says. “This infrastructure is a critical component of sustainability and innovation, and requires professionally educated librarians to build and maintain it.”

VanScoy, who helped to develop UB's first information science doctoral program, will serve as a consultant, offering her insight and expertise as the University of Cape Coast develops its new program.

For the research component of the award, VanScoy plans to continue research into the professional orientations of librarians that she has previously conducted in Slovenia, South Africa and the United States. She will interview Ghanaian librarians from different regions of the country and from different types of libraries, and hopes to collaborate with these local librarians to further their own research.

“My previous work in other countries has taught me that I need local collaborators to do effective research,” she says. ♦

[Sue Wuetcher is the editor of UBNow.](#)

## FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR FROM UKRAINE STUDIES VETERANS AND LEADERSHIP

By Mary Durlak

Leaving Ukraine for the U.S. wasn't easy. "I postponed my visit twice," says Nataliia Kalmykova, a visiting Fulbright scholar in the Department of Organization and Human Resources in the School of Management.

Kalmykova became the executive director of the Ukrainian Veterans Foundation (UVF)—a state-sponsored organization under the administration of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine—on Feb. 2, 2022. Just over three weeks later, Russia launched its invasion.

"How could I leave Ukraine to do research when my country was at war?" she asks. The answer became clear as the number of active military members jumped from 250,000 before the war to 1.2 million today.

"Seventy percent of our veterans re-enlisted," Kalmykova says. "I know veterans with prosthetics who re-enlisted." More than 100,000 civilians volunteered to enlist, too, including thousands of women.

As the war continued, Kalmykova, who has a longstanding interest in the military and veterans, eventually did leave Ukraine. She arrived at UB in winter 2023 to research organizational culture, gender and diversity, and leadership.

"We have several faculty with expertise in these topics, so was a perfect fit for this Fulbright placement," says Kate Bezrukova, associate professor and chair of the Department of Organization and Human Resources.

Kalmykova's Fulbright visit focuses on female leadership in the military. But she is also working with the Veterans Administration and the U.S. Department of Labor to learn about the infrastructure the U.S. has developed to support veterans.

"We need to build a system like the Veteran's Administration here," she says. She is also interested in American programs that support veterans in business, such as preference to veteran-owned businesses in some government contracts.

The UVF has already established a microfinancing program that supports about 200 veteran-owned businesses and a crisis hotline that has received more than 12,500 calls since the war began.

"So much is lost," Kalmykova says, "so we need to make

sure that programs are in place to help veterans and Ukraine rebuild."

In May, Kalmykova took part in a conference, "Leadership Under Pressure: Rising to Today's Business Challenges," sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness and the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, both within the School of Management. Her



presentation, "Leadership Lessons from the War in Ukraine," analyzed the experience of teams that have survived and developed under uncertainty and stress.

Supporting women's right to serve in the military in any role remains firmly in Kalmykova's focus. She identifies two main barriers that hold female soldiers back: a belief that women cannot be effective in combat, and a belief that women cannot lead. "This is changing as women take part in the war in Ukraine," she explains.

Another barrier is that women are sometimes stigmatized for wanting to serve in the military. Even before the war, 20% of Ukraine's military personnel were women.

"At the moment, we have 5,000 women on the front lines and 42,000 in active duty," she says. In an article she co-authored with Bezrukova and Chester Spell, professor of management at Rutgers University School of Business, the authors note that war technology is changing drastically. As a result, arguments that an effective soldier needs physical strength and size are outdated. "War is pushing us to change," Kalmykova notes.

She also worked with American veterans to establish connections between them and Ukrainian soldiers and veterans. She spoke at a fundraising event, "Heroes support heroes," held in Washington, D.C., in April 2023. And, in a LinkedIn post honoring Memorial Day, she drew attention to the families of Americans who died fighting in and for Ukraine. "When we attain victory," she says, "the whole world can join us to celebrate." ♦

Mary Durlak is news contributor for University Communications.

## DES FORGES SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSES RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR

By Shaun Irlam

This past spring, after the world had witnessed carnage and death for over a year across Ukraine, the Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee convened its annual Symposium to try and decipher some of these atrocities.

The current war in Ukraine has sown war crimes and human rights violations on a scale not witnessed in Europe since World War II. The illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia on February 24, 2022 prompted the Committee to devote its April 2023 Symposium to the topic, "The Russo—Ukrainian War: Achievements and Limitations of Today's International System."

**Serhii Plokhii** (Mykhailo S. Hrushevs'kyi Professor of Ukrainian History and Director of the Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University) opened the symposium with "The Russo-Ukrainian War in Historical Perspective." He provided an incisive account of how important the misuse and abuse of history have been in the perpetration and justification of this war and contrasted this disinformation with the actual historical causes of the conflict. Plokhii demonstrated that Ukraine and Ukrainian history have remained central to Russia's idea of itself and traced the origins of the tensions between the two states to the fall of the USSR.

**Willard Sunderland** (Henry R. Winkler Professor of Modern History, University of Cincinnati) followed with his lecture on "The Protests that Were—and Weren't: Russian Society and the War." He examined the internal dissent and protest against the war among the Russian public and the considerable obstacles and risks citizens face in speaking out about it.

Sunderland recommended that the demographic complexity of Russian society and range of responses to polls be understood in a more nuanced way. Sunderland also emphasized that research shows that the overwhelming majority of citizens – as high as 80% -- decline to be polled about the war, suggesting that there is a massive silent majority whose views about both the war and Russian leadership remain unknown.

In his talk on "A Collision of Histories? NATO Expansion and the Russo-Ukrainian War," **Timothy Andrews Sayle**, (Associate Professor of History and Director, International Relations Program, University of Toronto) turned the conversation to the prominent role of NATO. Sayle asked what relationships, if any, exist between the enlargement

of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Then he analyzed decisions to maintain and expand the alliance before, during and after the end of the Cold War, and suggested ways they have shaped – and continue to shape – today's international system.



Symposium participants in the Buffalo Room

**Marlies Glasius** (Professor in International Relations, Department of Politics, University of Amsterdam) launched the afternoon session with "Globalised Oligarchs." She noted that sanctions against Russian oligarchs are legally flawed and have been quite ineffective. However, she argued that understanding the phenomenon of the oligarchs helps explain the drift away from democratization in Russia and elsewhere in the last few decades. Glasius examined how globalization has given oligarchs

the opportunity to put assets beyond the reach of national taxation authorities in democratic states and has led to an era of diminishing accountability for these unregulated global actors.

**Kenneth Roth** (Former Executive Director, Human Rights Watch and currently the Charles and Marie Robertson Visiting Professor, School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University) spoke next, asking, "As Autocracies Fail, How Should Democracies Respond?" He noted the aggressive role the Russian government has taken in undermining the defense of human rights, largely by attacking through state-sponsored disinformation campaigns the fact-based analysis needed to enforce those rights. He observed that, although Russia's veto has stymied U.N. Security Council action, strong and encouraging initiatives have come from the U.N. General Assembly, the U.N. Human Rights Council, and the International Criminal Court.

**Angela Stent** (Director Emerita, Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies, Georgetown University and Senior Nonresident Fellow, The Brookings Institution) next addressed "Russia and the New World Disorder", asking what kind of world order might emerge after the Russia-Ukraine war. She observed that Putin had once consistently promoted a tripolar world divided between Russia, the United States and China.

Following Russia's attack on Ukraine, Stent argued that it is clear that Putin is now sponsoring a disruptive world order with few rules or norms and little predictability. In the emerging multipolar world that will follow this war, she predicted that the United States would remain the

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## UB FACULTY ORGANIZE CONFERENCE FOR APEC ECONOMICS LEADERS' WEEK

By Charles Anzalone

The co-directors of UB's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Study Center played vital roles in the recent international Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, organizing and hosting a key conference and addressing comprehensive issues of economic trade under the scrutiny of international leaders.

The co-directors — Meredith Kolsky Lewis, vice dean for

tainable future for all." It examined the changing trade policies of the U.S. and other major trade partners throughout Asia and the Western Hemisphere.

"The 2023 conference is very important because trade tension has been high between the U.S. and China," Poon explains. "The U.S., in particular, appears to be eschewing traditional textbook understandings of trade that see vehicles such as APEC as beneficial because they promote market integration and tariff elimination."



### Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

international and graduate programs, School of Law, and Jessie P.H. Poon, professor in the Department of Geography — organized the APEC Study Centers Consortium Conference, held concurrently with the APEC Economic Leaders' Week.

The conference was held at the University of California-Berkeley on Nov. 15 during the APEC Economic Leaders' Week, which took place Nov. 11-17, 2023 in San Francisco. International leaders from throughout the Asia-Pacific, including President Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping, addressed comprehensive trade issues during the leaders' week meetings.

Lewis and Poon were selected by their peers as co-chairs of the U.S. APEC Study Center Consortium and in this capacity planned the consortium conference.

They faced what officials called "a daunting task": how to organize an in-person conference at a venue 3,000 miles away with no initial sense of how much interest there would be in an in-person event after a lengthy stretch of virtual conferences due to the pandemic.

"We reached out to Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Study Centers in other countries, to the APEC Secretariat and to organizations such as the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) to brainstorm," says Lewis. "Ultimately, we decided on an in-person only format."

As the call for papers was distributed, it became clear that scholars and students from many universities, as well as nonprofit leaders, government officials, corporate executives and international media groups, were eager to attend the conference.

"Unfortunately, we had to turn away a lot of people," Lewis says. "It was exciting to generate so much interest. We just wished we could have accommodated more people, but we were at room capacity."

The conference, which was featured prominently on the website of leaders' week events, reflected the overall theme of the leaders' week: "creating a resilient and sus-

Recent trade policy increasingly favors a "small yard and high fence" model, according to Biden's security adviser, Jake Sullivan, a strategy that protects selected strategic assets without losing the wider benefits gained from an important economic partner.

"A good example is the recent CHIPS and Science Act that seeks to curtail the transfer of advanced semiconductor technology to China," says Poon. "In retaliation, China has imposed export restrictions on certain critical minerals that are important in the production of semiconductors.

"Many countries in the world, not just Asia, are grappling with what this new model means for international trade and investment. The conference provided a platform to address and clarify some of the confusion."

UB's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Study Center is one of six such centers in the U.S. that work to encourage institutional networks and academic research on trade and investment in the APEC region.

The U.S. Rustbelt has seen considerable offshoring of manufacturing and blue-collar worker displacement, according to the two UB scholars.

"Deindustrialization in the Midwest and Northeast has contributed to the U.S. turning to a new model of trade that puts climate change, inclusivity and middle-class prosperity at the center," says Poon. "It is symbolic that UB, located at the heart of the Rustbelt, was selected to organize the conference, whereas past conferences have been dominated by coastal universities.

"The Biden administration is ready to abandon the business-as-usual model of trade that is thought to have contributed to the Rustbelt's economic decline," Poon notes. "However, the new model has also prompted anxiety among countries in Asia that have benefitted from the old model. As the meetings in San Francisco showed, APEC remains a viable platform for countries with significant disagreements and anxieties to engage.

"The alternative could be disastrous for the world econ-

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## VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IN KENYA

**D**aniel Mirsch of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and Romeo Wahome of Makindu Hospital in Kenya, have developed a successful global partnership focused on point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) despite distance and limited resources. Using video conferencing, cloud image storage, and infrequent travel, they have built a longitudinal relationship and provided high-quality training to providers in Kenya.

Their partnership began through the PURE tele-ultrasound education program that Trish Henwood (Jefferson University) began, connecting highly trained providers in high-resource settings with those in low-resource settings. They met regularly online to review POCUS images and discuss techniques, and used virtual resources to share knowledge and resources.

Despite only meeting physically once for a week-long vacation, they have maintained a strong and productive relationship through virtual collaboration. They have published their work in the African Journal of Emergency Medicine, the online resource "Ultrasound in Resource-Limited Settings," and the American College of Emergency Medicine's Emergency Ultrasound Section Newsletter.

Last year, Fidele Dahn of Buffalo, met with Mirsch for training on a new handheld ultrasound to train his staff at the Koiyom clinic in South Sudan, which he heads. Wahome then traveled to South Sudan to provide hands-on training, along with JSMBS Class of 2025 student Joseph Iskander, who assisted with a needs assessment, and Fidele. Wahome trained providers at the Koiyom Clinic on ultrasound for pregnancy, trauma, pediatrics, soft tissue, and musculoskeletal applications.

The Koiyom Clinic, although extremely under-resourced, serves over 10,000 patients a year with over 30% of these patients seeking prenatal care. With the arrival of ultrasound technology and a skilled training program led by Wahome, the providers at the Koiyom clinic can offer a much higher level of care. They are now able to accurately determine gestation age and fetal position. This is crucial

in the Koiyom community as most women prefer to deliver at home with village midwives.

With their new ultrasound capabilities, providers can diagnose critical conditions that would prompt delivery at a hospital rather than at home. This has the potential to drastically decrease maternal and fetal mortality in the Koiyom community and offers just one example of the impact of Wahome's and Mirsch's partnership on healthcare in low-resource settings. The Koiyom Clinic is currently struggling to meet the increased demand for care due to the ongoing Sudanese Crisis and a refugee camp located 15 minutes away.

Mirsch and Wahome's partnership demonstrates the potential of virtual resources to achieve longitudinal relationships and high-quality training in global health partnerships. By leveraging newly trained experts in distant areas, they can extend their reach and impact. This comes at a critical time in global medicine as traditional approaches involving short-term service trips shift towards more sustainable, innovative, and equitable long-term partnerships.

Specific examples of their virtual resource use include:

- Video conferencing to review 900+ POCUS images together and demonstrating hands-on techniques.
- Cloud-based storage to share POCUS images and videos.
- Publishing new experiences to help the world adopt a new model of global health.
- Coordinating hands-on workshops in distant areas through coordination of virtually trained experts.
- Leveraging the Global UltraSound Institute (GUSI) to spread POCUS teaching all over the world.

Mirsch and Wahome are using virtual resources effectively to build a strong and productive partnership that is making a real difference in the lives of patients in Kenya, South Sudan, New York, and around the world. ♦

## APEC CONFERENCE

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omy," she says, "especially if the U.S. and China were to decouple from one another, given the importance of both countries in global supply chains, but also President Biden's commitment to slowing climate change and developing renewable energy technology. China and APEC countries' cooperation is relevant to accomplish these goals."

Both the conference and the leaders' week were important to send a vital message to the other countries participating in the global meetings, according to the UB co-chairs.

"The U.S. has gone from shaping the rules for expanded Asia-Pacific integration to sitting on the sidelines," says Lewis. "Many APEC members worry the U.S. has lost interest in the region and has ceased to provide a counterweight to China.

"The U.S. hosting APEC this year has provided a useful and important opportunity for the U.S. to demonstrate its continued interest in the region, and for other APEC members to be able to engage with the U.S." ♦



## LEE LECTURE EXAMINES WORLDWIDE LINK BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND CANCER

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Susan M. Gapstur, PhD, MPH, a former vice president at the American Cancer Society, addressed “Alcoholic Beverage Consumption and Cancer Risk: A Growing Body of Scientific Evidence” at the eighth annual Richard V. Lee, MD Lectureship in Global Health on November 3, 2023.

Her talk comes after the World Health Organization’s January announcement in “The Lancet Public Health” that “when it comes to alcohol consumption, there is no safe amount that does not affect health.” WHO has increased global

surveillance of alcohol consumption and encourages national efforts to apply evidence-based policies to reduce consumption, making Gapstur’s talk not only timely but also highly relevant for those concerned with global public health.

During the lecture, Gapstur emphasized that for millennia, alcohol consumption has played a role in cultural and religious activities, as well as having medicinal contexts in many societies. Nevertheless, alcohol contributes to 3 million deaths annually across the globe, as well as contributing to diseases and injuries.

Alcohol consumption per person is highest in parts of Europe, while people in regions such as north Africa consume relatively little alcohol. However, measuring alcohol consumption is complicated, and a “standard” drink—defined in the U.S. as a beverage containing 14 grams of pure ethanol—varies worldwide. Additionally, studies have shown that people consistently believe a “standard” drink is larger than it is, meaning that individual alcohol consumption is underreported.

Gapstur noted that the link between alcohol and cancer has been known for over 100 years. For the past several decades, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as part of the WHO, has convened panels three times to look at the evidence linking alcohol to cancer and

published monographs detailing their findings. According to the evidence reviewed by IARC, alcoholic beverages can cause cancer of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, liver, colorectum and female breast.

Recent studies have begun to examine this phenomenon with more precision and determine the number of drinks a person can consume daily before increasing their risk of developing specific types of cancers, especially if they engage in other known risky behaviors like smoking cigarettes.

For multiple types of cancer, including breast cancer, any daily alcohol consumption increases risk. Gapstur served on the 2007 IARC panel and is currently producing a comprehensive review and evaluation of the scientific evidence on the potential reduction in alcohol-related cancer risk due to reduction or cessation of alcoholic beverage consumption.

Gapstur is an epidemiologist who has co-authored over 400 peer-reviewed articles and received numerous grants from the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society.

Gapstur was the P.I. on the American Cancer Society’s Cancer Prevention Study-II, a prospective mortality study ongoing since 1982 which has enrolled 1.2 million Americans and continues to identify cancer causes and risks.

Gapstur previously held the prestigious positions of professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University, associate director of Cancer Prevention and Control in the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, and senior vice-president of the Behavioral and Epidemiology Research Group at the American Cancer Society.

The Office of Global Health Initiatives in the School of Public Health and Health Professions holds the Richard V. Lee, MD Lectureship in Global Health annually to celebrate the life and work of former UB faculty member Richard V. Lee, who engaged in research and service around the world and in Buffalo. ♦



## STUDY LINKS CHANGES IN GLOBAL WATER CYCLE TO HIGHER TEMPERATURES

By Tom Dinki and Talia Ogliore

**I**t's a multibillion-dollar question: What will happen to water as temperatures continue to rise? There will be winners and losers with any change that redistributes where, when and how much water is available for humans to drink and use.

To find answers and make informed predictions, a team of scientists has looked to the past.

A study published Nov. 2 in *Nature Geoscience* and co-authored by UB geologist Elizabeth Thomas takes an important step toward reconstructing a global history of water over the past 2,000 years.

Using geologic and biologic evidence preserved in natural archives — corals, trees, ice, cave formations and sediments — researchers from the Past Global Changes (PAGES) Iso2k project showed that the global water cycle has changed during periods of higher and lower temperatures in the recent past.

Thomas (r) with her collaborators in Greenland  
 (Margie Turrin)  
 "This suggests that the water cycle may also respond in step with today's rapid warming, with implications for water supply around the world," says Thomas, associate professor in the Department of Geology. "Understanding how the water cycle will respond to changes in Earth's temperature in the coming years is critical as our society and economy adapt to a rapidly changing climate."

Reconstructions of past climate change using geologic data have helped to show the far-reaching influence of human activity on temperatures since the Industrial Age, but assembling hydroclimate records for the same timeframe has proved to be much harder.

The water cycle is complex, and rainfall in particular has geographic variations that are much more drastic than air temperature.

"We decided to start with water isotope records because they reflect holistic signals and because they're recorded in all kinds of different natural archives," says Bronwen Konecky, assistant professor of earth, environmental and planetary sciences at Washington University in St. Louis and lead author of the study. "This is a first step toward reconstructing drought or rainfall patterns at the global scale during the past 2,000 years."

The global water cycle is vast and intertwined. Water evaporates from the surface of the Earth, rises into the atmosphere, cools and condenses into rain or snow in clouds, and falls again to the surface as precipitation.

Each water molecule that is part of the cycle has a certain isotopic "fingerprint," or composition, which reflects small variations in the atomic weight of the oxygen and hydrogen atoms that comprise the molecule. So, individual water molecules can be heavier or lighter.

With this new study, scientists found that when global temperature is higher, rain and other environmental waters become more isotopically heavy. The researchers interpreted these isotopic changes and determined their timeline by synthesizing data from across a wide variety of natural archive sources from the past 2,000 years of Earth history.

The PAGES Iso2k project team—which includes more than 40 researchers from 10 countries—collected, collated and sometimes digitized datasets from hundreds of studies to build the database they used in their analysis. They ended up with 759 paleoclimate records from globally distributed time-series datasets, representing the world's largest integrated database of water isotope proxy records.

Thomas led the team that compiled water cycle records from organic molecules preserved in lake sediments.

"The next step, which led to this study, was to examine all the records in the database together to understand the patterns and processes controlling global water cycle change during past periods of warming and cooling," she says. "We met regularly for years to discuss figures, interpret the results and write the study."

They organized teleconference sessions at odd hours to accommodate time zones from Hawaii to Japan to Australia to Europe and in between.

"We even spent one New Year's Eve working on the database and the analyses that led to this paper," Konecky says.

Global scale relationships between temperature and the isotopic composition of certain environmental waters, like



## EXHIBIT ON WRIGHT'S IMPERIAL HOTEL DRAWS ON UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

By Bert Gambini

Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House, in association with University at Buffalo Libraries, is presenting the exhibit "Thought-Built: The Imperial Hotel at 100," from Nov. 17, 2023 through May 12, 2024 at The Barton House, 118 Summit Avenue, on the grounds of the Martin estate in Buffalo.

"Thought-Built" is a rare opportunity to explore the largest collection of artifacts from the lost Imperial Hotel in Chiyoda City, Tokyo, a hybrid of Japanese and Western ar-

chitectural traditions.

that doesn't often happen." And that perspective provides new insights into Wright's designs, according to Traynor.

"This exhibit creates a space for an appreciation and understanding of the Martin House that becomes richer through the context provided by the Imperial Hotel," she says.

The Imperial Hotel is the best known of the many buildings Wright designed in Japan. The reference "Imperial Ho-

tel," often used as an historical singular, can actually refer to different buildings and additions to buildings on the grounds of the current hotel's property.

The original Imperial Hotel opened in 1890 and was destroyed by fire in 1922.

Wright was commissioned

to design the second Imperial Hotel. Work began in 1919 and was completed in 1923.

Wright's Imperial Hotel endured two major earthquakes during its construction, the second of which, despite features intended to minimize earthquake damage, affected the building in ways that led to its eventual demolition in 1967.

Edgar Tafel, a quick-thinking, one-time Wright apprentice who became a prolific architect himself, was a step ahead of the wrecking ball.

Tafel's diligence and determination to preserve the Imperial Hotel portion of Wright's legacy is the opening narrative involving a cast that includes University Archives, the Martin House, Tafel, and former UB President Martin Meyerson in a complicated plotline that leads to the Imperial's surviving treasures arriving at UB.

UB purchased the Martin House in 1967 for use as the president's residence. Tafel was among the architects working on renovations to the property. He left for Japan at his own expense after unsuccessfully trying to raise the funds needed to preserve specific features of the Imperial. His ambitious primary goal being unattainable, Tafel de-

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A photograph of the banquet hall of Wright's Imperial Hotel in Japan (University Archives)

chitectural traditions.

"The Imperial Hotel represented a fusion of Wright's Prairie Style with the Japanese design aesthetic that was among his major influences," says Kerry Traynor, clinical assistant professor in the UB School of Architecture and Planning. "The artifacts from the now razed Imperial Hotel embody that fusion of the Japanese temple and horizontality of the Prairie Style."

University Archives holds a large collection of the Imperial's surviving architectural fragments, with smaller collections maintained at the Art Institute of Chicago and The Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan.

"This is an area where University Archives has something unique," says University Archivist Hope Dunbar. "Visitors to this exhibit will see items not found anywhere else in the world."

Staging "Thought-Built" in the Martin House also presents an intriguing comparison for appreciating Wright's work.

"This is an opportunity to see artifacts from a Frank Lloyd Wright building that no longer stands inside a standing example of his work," says Dunbar. "That's a perspective

## ASIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the University at Buffalo invites proposals for panel presentations at its second annual conference, “Climate Change: Social, Economic and Business Implications for Asia,” April 26-27, 2024. This interdisciplinary conference aims to examine contemporary perspectives on the challenges brought about by climate change drawing from multiple fields: social work, public health, economics, and business administration.

Climate scientists agree that the increase in heat-trapping gases is the main reason for the 1.8°F (1.0°C) rise in global average temperature since the late 19th century. Along with warming temperatures come rising sea levels and changes in weather patterns that result in widespread drought and flooding, all of which can disrupt the world in complex ways. These changes adversely affect agriculture and food supply chains, water and energy resources, urban and rural living spaces, wildlife and ecosystems, industrial supply chains, financial markets, human health, economic conditions, immigration patterns, and many other areas.

The primary objective of this conference is to examine the impacts and complex interactions of climate change on (1) public health, (2) social challenges, (3) economic conditions, and (4) business activity for people across Asia.

The conference planning committee includes Asianists from four UB schools: Filomena Critelli, School of Social Work; Zhiqiang Liu, Department of Economics, College of Arts and Sciences; Lina Mu, School of Public Health and Health Professions; and Nallan Suresh, School of Management.

For participants whose proposals are accepted and who are traveling to Buffalo for the conference, ARI will provide local hotel accommodations and meals during the conference.

Contributions are requested that incorporate state-of-the-art knowledge in various facets of climate change and/or examine innovative and proactive solutions for mitigation and response strategies.

Submissions are welcome from researchers of all disciplines and stages. Presenters must attend the conference in person, although it will be livestreamed. Proposed panel presentations should be approximately 15 minutes. Each panel will be accompanied by a featured keynote speaker and followed by Q&A and discussion.

To submit a proposal, please fill out the [Airtable form](https://airtable.com/appiShbCBU4vVtz2w/shrCX6E8cVf-nJAadO) at: <https://airtable.com/appiShbCBU4vVtz2w/shrCX6E8cVf-nJAadO>. You will be asked to upload an abstract of 250 words or less. The deadline is January 22, 2024. ♦

## GLOBAL WATER CYCLE

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seawater and glacial ice, have long been recognized as the planet moves in and out of ice age cycles. Local scale relationships with temperature on timescales of minutes to months are also well established.

But this study provides the first evidence that temperature and the isotopic composition of environmental waters go hand in hand at timescales in between these two — that is, over decades to centuries.

The changes scientists observed were driven by global ocean evaporation and condensation processes, with lower values during the period of time known as the Little Ice Age (1450-1850) and higher values after the onset of human-caused climate warming, starting around 1850.

As for how these changes impact future rainfall and water availability, it is too early to predict who will win and who will lose. But this study’s data from the last 2,000 years suggest that more water cycle changes are likely as global temperatures continue to increase. June, July and August of this year were the hottest months on record for our planet.

“The way water behaves when it leaves the oceans and moves around the atmosphere and rains out — that be-

havior is strongly impacted by changes in atmospheric temperature,” Konecky says. ♦

Tom Dinki is a news content manager for University Communications; Talia Oglioreis a senior news director at Washington University in St. Louis.

## IMPERIAL HOTEL ARCHIVES

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decided instead to salvage from the rubble that which was representative of the hotel’s design.

University Archives became the logical home for the collected items given Tafel’s relationship with the university, and with Meyerson, with whom he was directly working as part of the Martin House renovation. Even after the Martin House was no longer used as the president’s residence, UB maintained a connection to the Wright-designed home.

“University Archives was once in the basement of the Martin House,” says Dunbar. “Our offices and collections were kept on site, including the architectural fragments from the Imperial Hotel.

“In one way, this exhibit is a chance for visitors to see a collection that’s returning to its first home. It’s not to be missed.” ♦

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

### SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

#### Department of Architecture

**Miguel Guitart**, assistant professor, led the Study Abroad summer program in Spain in the summer 2023 - the fifth edition of the program in Spain since 2016. 13 graduate and undergraduate students from UB participated in the seven-week program with travel to Toledo, Escorial, Cáceres, Mérida, Córdoba, Sevilla, Cádiz, Granada, Bilbao, San Sebastián, Barcelona. Based in Madrid, the program included lecture and sketching seminars as well as a design studio that focused on the design of a cultural facility in Madrid.

**Joyce Hwang**, associate professor and director of graduate studies, has been awarded the 2024 WOJR/Civitella Ranieri Architecture Prize through an international nomination and jury process. The award includes a 6-week artist residency at the Ranieri Castle in Umbria, Italy, and a commission to design and build a site-responsive architectural installation, with a \$15,000 fund. Hwang's residency at the Ranieri Castle will be in June-July 2024.

#### Department of Urban and Regional Planning

**Daniel B. Hess**, professor, has won a Fulbright Scholar Award and will spend the 2023-24 academic year at Tadeusz Kościuszko Cracow University of Technology in Poland, teaching urban planning and urban design courses, and continuing his research on the large, standardized apartment buildings built during the socialist era. This is Hess' second Fulbright Scholar Award; he was awarded a Fulbright in Estonia in 2010 at Tallinn University of Technology. Hess also published a chapter entitled "The Influence of Nuclear Deterrence During the Cold War on the Growth and Decline of the Peripheral Town of Valga/Valka" (co-authored with K. Leetmaa, J. Tintêra, and T. Pae) in the book *Urban Planning During Socialism: Views from the Periphery* (edited by K. Leetmaa and J. Mariotti, Routledge, 2023).

### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

#### Department of Anthropology

**Ana Mariella Bacigalupo** professor, ran the workshop *Subversive Religiosities and More-than-Human Materialities in Latin America* "with Carlos Manrique at the University of Indiana Mexico Gateway. Mexico City. She also gave a paper titled "The Subversive Politics of Mountain Ancestors: Collective Ethics and Environmental Justice in Northern Peru" at the National Forum for Culture SI PONG. Organized by Apoyarte Peru in Trujillo, Peru.

**Edith Gonzalez**, assistant professor, received a 2023 Fulbright grant to continue her work with 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century manuscripts at the British Library. She will become a Research Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford University in the coming year. She presented *Cultural Heritage Landscapes post-Disaster in Barbuda, Lesser Antilles* at the Society for American Archaeology's 88<sup>th</sup> annual conference. Her National Science Foundation - International Research Experience for Students-funded project, entitled *At the Frontier of Big Climate, Disaster Capitalism, and Endangered Cultural Heritage in Barbuda, West Indies*, completed its first international field season in summer 2023, with plans already underway for the year 2 cohort of graduate students to participate in the UK and West Indies. In addition to receiving a 2023 UB Faculty Grant for Global and International Research to conduct research at archives in the UK, she received the 2023 Huntington Library Exchange Fellowship to Lincoln College of Oxford University to work with collections at the Bodleian Library.

#### Department of Art

**Abdi Osman**, assistant professor of practice, had a solo exhibition titled, "Interrelations: A third perspective," at the Campbell River Art Gallery, Campbell River, BC from June 5-August 19, 2023. He was also part of Black(Cite) a group exhibition at Gallery TPW in Toronto, Ontario from April 21-June 24, 2023. Earlier this year, he was on a panel on the Power of Art at Fordham University in Brooklyn, NY, and later this month he'll be presenting at Black Visual Culture/Black Visual Life symposium, Frederick Douglass Institute at the University of Rochester. In October 2023 he'll be giving an artist talk at Colorado College and in November, he'll be presenting a paper on a panel in Creative Historiographies at the American Studies Association Conference in Montreal, QC. His most recent pub-

lication titled "Modern Primitive (2020-Ongoing): Ink and Pencil Crayon on Paper" was published in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, vol.44 no.1 (2023).

**Victoria Udondian**, visiting associate professor, was invited to participate in the British Textile Biennial, UK, where she is showing a monumental Textile sculpture titled *Ofong Ufok*. This third edition of the British Textile Biennial (BTB23) traces the routes of fibres and fabrics across continents and centuries to and from the north of England in a series of commissions and exhibitions throughout October in the spaces left behind by the Lancashire textile industry. From the so-called 'slave cloth', spun and woven by hand on the Pennine moors, to the bales of used fast fashion that make their way from British high streets to the markets and toxic mountains of waste in West Africa, BTB23 follows that journey. *Ofong Ufok* is presented at the Blackburn Cotton Exchange. This work is part of a larger body of work exploring the role of immigrant labor within capitalist labor market system, where labor is exploited for capital gains. *Ofong Ufok* uses second-hand materials woven and stitched together by the artist and the local immigrant community in Buffalo, NY. Udondian collaborated with the organization Stitch Buffalo who operate a refugee integration program for immigrant women. The artwork was inspired by the 1910 garment workers strike in Chicago, which lasted until 1911. Fueled by tensions related to low wages, irregular work shifts and hazardous working conditions, the concessions gained from the strike did not impact or transform global systems of production. As such, the textile represents a weaving of global narratives from immigrant communities whose labor continues to be exploited by capitalism. Working with second-hand clothes is also significant as she begins to consider how fast fashion is produced mostly in the global south under repressive conditions. These clothes end up in landfills in Africa, having a huge impact on the environment and cultural identity. Udondian examines the intersectionality between immigration, labor, and global trade systems, and raises questions about our postcolonial condition.

#### Department of Economics

**Alex Anas**, Frank H. and Josephine L. Goodyear Professor and chair, won the Richard J. Arnott Overall Best Paper Prize for the paper entitled "Downs's Law Under the Lens of Theory: Roads Lower Congestion and Increase Distance Traveled," awarded by the Scientific Committee of the International Transportation Economics Association's Annual School and Conference 2023, held in Santander, Spain, from June 12 -16. Of the 184 papers submitted, 154 were accepted and 122 were presented. The paper was also presented remotely at the 2022 SMU-Jinan Conference on Urban and Regional Economics, Singapore Management University, 8,9 December 2022; and at the European Meetings of the Urban Economics Association, Bocconi University, Milan, May 5,6 2023. The paper corrects a major misconception and misspecification of how traffic congestion affects aggregate distance traveled, arising from an empirical study by Gilles Duranton (University of Pennsylvania) and Matthew Turner (Brown) published in 2011 in the *American Economic Review* and gathering over 1000 citations. In their paper they concluded that building more roads raises traffic congestion. More broadly, Dr. Anas's paper demonstrates the consequences of a trend in economic research that emerged in the past twenty years: that econometric application not grounded in theory often leads to wrong conclusions. Anas believes that his paper shows "there is nothing more applicable than good theory." The paper was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Urban Economics*.

#### Department of English

**Barbara J. Bono**, associate professor emerita, and **Maria S. Horne**, associate professor of theatre and dance, took their successful April 27-30, 2023 Folger Institute Workshop at Buffalo, "Gilding the Guilt: The Gilded Age, Craft Production, and the Construction of Cultural Capital" abroad this summer to the British Shakespeare Association Conference on "Re-locating Shakespeare" in Liverpool, England, where, together with representatives from the Folger Shakespeare Library and a companion Workshop in New Orleans, they reported on their extended project on American regional Shakespeares.

**Walter Hakala**, associate professor, organized with an outstanding student committee and the support of the UB Asia Research Institute the

fifth annual Rustgi Undergraduate Conference on South Asia on April 1, 2023. The daylong event featured thirteen presentations by undergraduate scholars from colleges and universities in Canada, India, Pakistan, and the United States as well as a keynote lecture on “Being the First Muslim Woman Elected to the New York City Council” by NYC Council Member Shahana Hanif. In January 2023, Hakala carried out fieldwork in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh (India) on Urdu epigraphy with the support of a UB Humanities Institute/VPRED Faculty Fellowship. Hakala was awarded an American Institute of Pakistan Studies Post-Doctoral (Senior) Fellowship to conduct research on the mosques of South Korea and a Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Multi-Country Research Fellowship to examine vernacular inscriptions and manuscript collections in India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan during the fall 2023 semester. In June 2023, he organized a panel with scholars from India, Pakistan, and the US on “Intermedial Pasts: Documenting South Asian Folk Cultures Across Oceans, Borders, and Media” at the Association for Asian Studies in Asia Conference, Kyungpook National University, Daegu, South Korea. His paper, “Brass Boatmen, Mechanical Dolls, and the Telegraph: Inscribing New Technologies in South Asia,” discussed early literary representations of robots and other new technologies in South Asian texts. He delivered the keynote address, “Set in Stone: Situating Urdu Epigraphy in South Asian History,” to the International Students’ Seminar at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, on September 25, 2023, and a lecture entitled “Between the Lines: Syphilis and Capsicum in Lexicographical Sources” as part of the Dialogues Lecture Series at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar on September 29, 2023. He has led several international workshops for graduate students, including “How to craft a Grant-winning Dissertation proposal” for the Society of Architectural Historians Minority Affiliate Group (February 2023) and “Developing a Research Proposal” in the Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (September 2023). He was recently elected to a three-year term on the South Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies.

**Nicole M. Morris Johnson**, assistant professor, delivered a talk titled “Creolizing Sound: Ghana, Guinea, and the Development of Maryse Condé’s Literary Sound” on a panel titled “Creating Meanings of Africa in Africana Literary and Spiritual Cultures” at the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora’s (ASWAD) 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The conference, with a focus on “Repatriating African Studies,” was hosted by the University of Ghana-Legon in Accra, Ghana.

**Carine Mardorossian**, professor of English and Global Gender and Sexuality Studies, was invited to participate in an international colloquium on the notorious Caribbean novelist, playwright and essayist Caryl Phillips (Yale University) at the University of Liège, Belgium on 15-16 June 2023. She presented an essay entitled “Caribbean Voice: The Radio’s Legacy in Caryl Phillips’s Work,” which has now been published in an anthology by Rodopi devoted to the author’s work. The collection’s release was announced and celebrated at the event. Caryl Phillips, one of the Caribbean authors whose work Professor Mardorossian focuses on in her scholarship, was in attendance, as were eminent colleagues from the Caribbean, South Africa, Australia, and the UK.

#### Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Jasmina Tumbas**, associate professor, co-organized a hybrid four-day symposium at UB (April 24-27, 2023), titled “Queer and Feminist Yugoslav Diaspora,” which included twenty-two contributors. An OIE Global Research Scholar in Residence Grant allowed Tumbas to collaborate with Dr. Dijana Jelača (Brooklyn College, New York), who was a Global Research Scholar in Residence from April 23 – April 28 (2023). Tumbas co-organized the symposium with Jelača, which included a keynote lecture and master-class by Jelača, along with a combination of zoom and in-person panels, video and film screenings, and a live-performance. This symposium was the first in North America to highlight queer and feminist Yugoslav diasporic art practices. Tumbas presented her talk, “Legacies of Queer and Feminist Performance in Socialist Yugoslavia and its Diasporas Today,” for the lecture series and art program, *MICROPOLITICS*, with the special topic: *Reading Art History As Feminist*, organized by *BLOK* in Zagreb, Croatia, May 2023. She also presented new research at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre, Munich, Germany, as an invited speaker for the annual Global Dis:connect conference in October. Tumbas delivered a talk for the *Balkan Circle Series*, organized by the Center for Russian, East Europe-

an, and Eurasian Studies and the Institute for Historical Studies, Dept. of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, University of Texas at Austin. She was invited by KRIK - Festival for Critical Culture and the feminist art organization, Tiiit!, to launch artist Šejla Kamerić’s artist book, *Šejla Kamerić: EYE* (Berlin: DISTANZ Verlag GmbH, 2023), at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Skopje, Macedonia, for which Tumbas wrote an essay published in the book. With the support of the Gender Institute Faculty Research Grant, Tumbas was able to conduct research in Europe during the fall, including in Zagreb, Croatia, Munich and Berlin in Germany, Belgrade, Serbia, and Skopje, Macedonia. Tumbas presented her talk, “Queer Yugoslavia: Želimir Žilnik’s Transgressive Legacy for the Yugoslav Diaspora,” for the symposium, *The Avant-Garde Does Not Surrender: The Cinema of Želimir Žilnik* organized by the East Central European Center, the Njegoš Endowment for Serbian Language and Culture, and the Harriman Institute at Columbia University. She also published an essay, “The Complicated Position of Ethnic Roma in Art and Culture today,” in Germany’s peer-reviewed art history journal, *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte*. Tumbas’s book, *I am Jugoslovenka: Feminist Performance Politics during and after Yugoslav Socialism* (Manchester University Press, 2022), was the winner of 2023 *Barbara Jelavich Book Prize*, granted by the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

#### Department of History

**Robin Mitchell**, College of Arts and Sciences Endowed Professor and associate professor of history, is currently writing, for Princeton University Press, a biography of Suzanne Simon Baptiste Louverture, wife of Haitian Revolutionary Leader, Toussaint Louverture, and First Lady of Saint Domingue during the Haitian Revolution. In addition to this endeavor, she, along with Canadian businessman Dave Champagne and Haitian-Canadian novelist Gabriel Osson have come together to launch the international *Friends of Suzanne Society*. This multi-faceted project – spanning participants in Haiti, the United States, Canada, and France – is designed to introduce Suzanne to a new generation of scholars. In addition, the Society will raise funds to create the statue of Suzanne, which will be realized by internationally acclaimed Haitian sculptor, Woody Caymitte, known as Filipo, whose incredible work commemorates slavery in the quay of the Garonne in the heart of Bordeaux, France. Finally, the Society will facilitate the placement of historical plaques in Agen, France, the last home and final resting place of Suzanne and her children.

**Erik Seeman**, professor, spent the Spring 2023 semester as a Fulbright Research and Teaching Fellow at the University of Erfurt in Germany. While there he read eighteenth-century German funeral sermons at the Gotha Forschungsbibliothek (Research Library) and completed “Deathbed Scenes in the Early Modern Atlantic World: Cross-Cultural Perspectives,” which will appear in a volume edited by two of his Erfurt colleagues. He took a research trip to the National Archives in London, UK for his current book project on Boston’s 1721 smallpox epidemic. He also taught an undergraduate seminar, “Death and Dying in America and Europe,” to fifteen strong Erfurt students.

**Tamara Plakins Thornton**, professor, delivered a paper on September 29, 2023, at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Symposium for the Study of Globes, held in Berlin, Germany. The paper was titled “The ‘Unencumbered’ Globe: The Rising Dominance and Cultural Context of the Cartographic Globe in the 19<sup>th</sup>-Century United States.”

#### Department of Jewish Thought

**Sergey Dolgopolski**, Gordon and Gretchen Gross Professor of Jewish Thought, gave invited talks, “Talmud Today: The Politics of Forgetting” April 27, 2023 as a part of Lille University Symposium “Talmud, Diaspora and the Jewish (No-)State,” in Lille, France (via zoom); “Talmud and (modern) Subjectivity: Towards a Conceptual Cross-History of Legal Reasoning” at the “Shia Islamic-Jewish Legal Reasoning in Dialogue” Opening Colloquium for 2023 Indiana University-Bloomington Center for the Study of the Middle East (CSME) in Jerusalem January 4 and 5 2023 and in Indiana University Bloomington, IN, June 28 2023; “Dress of the World: Simple Wholes” at the conference “Spiritual Engagement with the World” in University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, June 1 2023. He is also organizing an international book-launch “Talmud and Deconstruction” between Lille University, France, Oxford U. UK, and UB, to take place on October 25, on zoom and is scheduled to participate to partici-

pate in the international panel at AJS (Association of Jewish Studies) in December on the political thought and the political crisis in Israel today. In the summer 2023 he, along with co-editors finished two coedited volumes embracing the works of international scholars from Israel, Europe and US: *When Jews Argue: Between the University and the Beit-Midrash* (with Ethan Katz and Elisha Anselovitch) to be published with Routledge in October 2023 and *Talmud /AND / Philosophy* (with James Redfield), forthcoming with Indiana U. Press in 2024.

#### Department of Mathematics

In June 2023, **Richard Hollister**, visiting assistant professor, presented new research at the 25<sup>th</sup> conference of the International Linear Algebra Society in Madrid, Spain. In May 2024, he will be co-organizing and presenting at the mini-symposium during the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics' Applied Linear Algebra conference in Paris, France."

In August 2023, **Jie Ren**, visiting assistant professor, visited Institute des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHES) in France as an invited researcher.

#### Department of Psychology

**Kenneth DeMarree**, associate professor, was recently awarded a grant from the Templeton World Charity Foundation with his co-PI, Guy Itzchakov, at Haifa University in Israel. The project examines whether goals to learn about an interaction partner's views might foster more constructive, less polarized, disagreements. It includes collaborators at the University of Reading in the UK (Netta Weinstein) and the National University of Singapore (Ya Hui Michelle See).

**Micheal Dent**, professor, is giving two invited talks, "Complex sound perception by laboratory mice" and "The effects of noise exposure on complex sound perception by laboratory mice" and is a co-author on a third talk "Birds: a unique animal model for studying hearing loss and recovery", at the upcoming Acoustics 23 conference in Sydney, Australia.

#### Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

**David Castillo**, professor and co-director of the Center for Information Integrity, gave keynote public YouTube lecture titled, "The Classics Today: Variations on a Transhistorical and Transcultural Approach to the Teaching of Cervantes," through the Faculty Enrichment Program in India on May 22, 2023.

#### Department of Theatre and Dance

**Lindsay Brandon Hunter**, associate professor of theatre, will join scholars and artists from Canada and the US at University of Toronto's first annual *Interpolations* symposium on digital performance, sponsored by UT's BMO Lab in Creative Research in the Arts, Performance, Emerging Technologies, and AI. The event features roundtable discussions on artificial intelligence, immersive virtual stages, and the impact of online platforms on performance communities, and culminates in a keynote address from Annie Dorsen and Samsheer Gill: "The Work of Art in the Age of Digital Commodification."

### SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

#### Department of Oral Biology

**Andreea Didilescu**, dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania, is visiting the department from September to December 2023 as a Fulbright visiting scholar. She had spent time in Buffalo from 2002-3 in the laboratory of **Frank Scarnapico**, SUNY Distinguished Professor. She will work with the research group of **Ashu Sharma**, professor and interim chair, to develop a research project to explore the effect of lipopolysaccharides from gram-negative bacteria associated with periodontal disease on NLRP3 activation in the non-canonical inflammasome pathway. Didilescu hopes to strengthen links between UB and the Carol Davila University Faculty of Dentistry's recently launched English language program for dental medicine students.

#### UB Microbiome Center

**Patricia Diaz**, Empire Innovation Professor and director of the UB Microbiome Center, received a \$1 million award from the National Institute of Health's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and Fogarty International Center to create a training program at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica to train dentists and scientists in periodontal

research. This program, a collaboration between the University at Buffalo, Rush University, and the University of the West Indies, will expand inter-disciplinary research capacity at the University of the West Indies Mona Campus to study the determinants of periodontitis and associated non-communicable chronic diseases in Jamaica. This program was created in response to the need for research in periodontitis, a highly prevalent non-communicable chronic condition with implications for oral and systemic health, for which there is lack of knowledge with respect to its epidemiology and pathophysiology in the Caribbean region. This program is focused on expanding the clinical, epidemiology and basic science research capacity at the Department of Basic Medical Sciences and the Mona School of Dentistry in collaboration with The Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR). Trainees will have a short-term (6 months) training experience in US laboratories directed by faculty mentors with extensive experience in epidemiology, periodontology, microbiome, bioinformatics, immunology and cardiometabolic disease, while completing their research degree or postdoctoral programs at the University of the West Indies. Co-principal investigators include Alan Landay, professor of internal medicine at Rush University Medical Center, and Paul Brown, professor of molecular biology at the University of the West Indies.

#### Department of Oral Biology

**Hyuk-Jae Edward Kwon**, assistant professor, was invited to give a research presentation, entitled "MLL4 regulation of palatal development," and serve as Session Chair and Referee at the 15th World Congress of the International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation, an international conference held in Seoul, Korea in June 2023.

**Stefan Ruhl**, professor, visited Riga Stradiņš University, Latvia in October 2022 and presented a talk at the anniversary celebration of 100 Years of Dentistry in Latvia, titled "*Dental Medicine Education in the US*." In March 2023, Ruhl was invited to deliver a virtual keynote lecture at the RSU Research Week 2023, entitled "*What You Always Wanted to Know about Saliva*." In May 2023, Ruhl was an invited speaker for the Saliva Symposium in Egmont aan Zee, the Netherlands, where he delivered a symposium talk entitled "*Evolution of Salivary Proteins*" and a workshop on the *Human Salivary Proteome Wiki* database. In September 2023, **Anete Vaškevica**, a professor of dentistry from Riga Stradiņš University, visited the school for three weeks. Her stay and activities were hosted and sponsored by a generous donation from Professor Emerita **Mirdza Neiders**. Ruhl served as host for the research part of this visit.

### GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

#### Department of Information Science

In fall 2023, **Africa Hands**, assistant professor, presented poster on research examining the role of public libraries in facilitating college literacy at the annual conference of the Association for Information Science and Technology in London, UK. Also at the conference, she will present the poster "Which Information Behavior Concepts Bridge the Gap from Research to Reference Practice?" with **Amy VanScoy**, associate professor.

### SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

#### Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

**Rudiyanto Gunawan**, associate professor, was an invited speaker at the 9<sup>th</sup> Metabolic Pathway Analysis International Conference, held in Seoul, South Korea between July 24-27, 2023. He presented a talk on "Bridging Transcriptome to Metabolic Fluxes via Flux Balance Analysis and Machine Learning."

In January and March 2023, **Ashlee N. Ford Versypt**, associate professor, was an invited participant in two week-long workshops at the Banff International Research Station in Banff, Alberta, Canada. The first workshop was titled: "Computational Modelling of Cancer Biology and Treatments." The second workshop was titled: "Sex Differences in Physiology: Mathematical Modelling and Analysis". In the 2nd workshop, Ford Versypt had two major roles. She presented a keynote titled "Sex Differences in Biological Aging: Hormonal Influences on the Immune System and Functional Outcomes in the Gut and Bone." She also led a team of early career women in mathematics from the US, UK, Canada, Belgium, Norway, and China in a research project related to mathematical modeling of surgical menopause. In June 2023, she attended the European Symposium on Computer-Aided Process Engineering (ESCAPE33) in Athens,

Greece where she presented a poster titled “Modeling the Progression of Fibrosis with Dysregulation of TGF-Beta in COVID19 Patients” with co-author Mohammad Aminul Islam, a postdoctoral researcher in her lab. After the meeting, she was invited to serve on the Scientific Committee for the 2024 meeting in the series that will be held in Florence, Italy in conjunction with the International Symposium on Process Systems Engineering (ESCAPE34-PSE24). Also in June 2023, Ford Versypt presented two in-person departmental seminars in England in the Mathematical Institute at Oxford University and in the Department of Chemical Engineering at University College London.

*Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering*

**Michel Bruneau**, SUNY Distinguished Professor and emeritus director of the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research, has authored the well-received book, *The Blessings of Disaster: The Lessons that Catastrophes Teach Us and Why Our Future Depends on It* (Prometheus Books, 2022). Written for a general audience, the book draws on Bruneau’s extensive experience studying disasters around the world. It aims to show readers how, by rethinking their approach to disasters, it is possible to make society stronger and more resilient. The book includes examples from Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Mexico, Italy, China and more (including the USA of course), but it has received positive reviews nationally and internationally. Bruneau was invited to give multiple presentations on the book, nationally and internationally, including a Keynote Lecture at the joint Canadian-Pacific Conference on Earthquake Engineering in Vancouver on June 30. That conference brought together more than 500 experts from countries along the Pacific Rim (where seismic activity is strongest on the globe), which includes Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, Argentina and more. Other international presentations included in-person presentations in Montreal and in Quebec City, Canada on November 13 and 14, 2023, a webinar on December 12, 2023, for all members of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, a webinar on March 1, 2023, to the University of British Columbia’s Green Construction Research & Training Centre as part of its Distinguished Lecture Series on Urban Resilience, an EIS Council webinar on March 2, and a webinar for the Natural Hazards Center, all in all attended by participants from 32 countries on all continents.

*Department of Materials Design and Innovation*

**Prathima Nalam**, assistant professor, gave an invited talk at the 11th International Conference on Industrial Tribology (ICIT) Theme: “Tribology for Energy, Environment and Society,” December 2022 Delhi, India. This conference was organized under the aegis of the Tribology Society of India (TSI). As an outcome of the collaboration, she contributed as a co-editor of the Book titled “Tribology for Energy, Environment and Society: Proceedings of International Conference on Industrial Tribology (ICIT).” She also presented an invited talk at the Early Career Tribologists Symposium (JAST-STLE Joint Session) organized by the 9<sup>th</sup> International Tribology Conference, Fukuoka, Japan, September 2023.

*Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering*

**Deborah Chung**, professor, was inducted to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, MA, on Sept. 30, 2023. This recognition is due to her significant research accomplishment in materials science and engineering. Chung is one of 11 elected in 2023 in the Section of the Academy on Engineering and Technology. Chung is the first UB faculty member in science/engineering to be elected to the American Academy. Founded in 1780, the American Academy honors excellence and convenes leaders from every field of human endeavor to examine new ideas, and address issues of importance to the nation and the world. Notable early members include John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington. Chung’s “letter of acceptance” (an Academy tradition) has been chosen for display on the wall of the Academy House in perpetuity. Other displayed letters include those from Einstein, Darwin and Washington. Chung gave the following invited lectures in “Materials Science and Technology 2023” International Conference held in Columbus, OH, on Oct. 2, 2023. The lectures are (i) “Piezopermittivity for capacitance-based stress/strain sensing” in Symposium on Advances in Dielectric Materials and Electronic Devices, and (ii) “Dielectric behavior of carbon fiber polymer-matrix structural composites and its relevance to structural self-sensing” in the Symposium on Recent Developments in Light-Weight Composites and Materials. Chung gave a webinar on Oct. 26, 2023, as a part of the Global Composites Experts Webinar Series 2023-24 organized by

Purdue University. The title of the lecture is “Structural self-sensing based on measuring the resistance, capacitance or inductance of the structural material, without sensor incorporation.” The audience was international.

**SCHOOL OF LAW**

**Mark Bartholomew**, professor, was quoted by the HuffingtonPost (UK edition) in a January 2023 article on protecting children’s digital privacy.

**Irus Braverman**, professor and William J. Magavern Faculty Scholar, delivered the presentation, “Settling Nature: The Conservation Regime in Palestine-Israel,” at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study’s Public Lecture Series held at the STIAS Wallenberg Research Centre, in Stellenbosch, South Africa, on March 16, 2023. In July 2023, **Braverman** was a guest on TVL1’s English-language podcast, *The Forces of Nature*, based in Tel-Aviv, where she discussed her book, *Settling Nature: The Conservation Regime in Palestine-Israel* (University of Minnesota Press, 2023). In October 2023, *Settling Nature* was recognized by the Western Political Science Association as Best Book in Environmental Political Theory.

**Kim Diana Connolly**, professor and vice dean for advocacy and experiential education, was a designated speaker, giving the closing remarks at the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands held in November in Geneva, Switzerland in November of 2022.

**David Engel**, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, authored *The Asian Law and Society Reader* (with Lynette Chua and Sida Liu) Cambridge University Press (2023).

**Jorge Fabra-Zamora**, associate professor, presented “Law as Normative Political Communities” at the Cambridge Legal Theory Discussion Group, a virtual forum for discussing new and original research in legal, moral and political philosophy, held at the University of Cambridge’s Faculty of Law on February 1, 2023. In March of 2023, *Fabra-Zamora* accompanied a group of law students on a tour of the United Nations headquarters where they received a briefing on international treaty law and observed the UN Economic and Social Council Meeting on International Tax Cooperation. The trip was organized by the International Law Students Association.

**Lucinda Finley**, Frank G. Raichle Professor of Trial and Appellate Advocacy, served as an expert consultant on reproductive rights for a virtual session of the European Union Youth Congress in the Czech Republic, held on November 12, 2022.

**James Gardner**, SUNY Distinguished Bridget and Thomas Black Professor, was interviewed by Brazilian news channel, Tv 247, on September 30, 2023, in a segment on former President Donald Trump’s indictments. Gardner was also quoted by *The Economist* in a June 2023 article about former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and allegations that he abused his powers and undermined public trust in Brazil’s electoral process.

**Meredith Kolsky Lewis**, professor and vice dean for international and graduate programs, has been appointed co-chair of the United States APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Study Centers Consortium and recently joined the editorial board of the *Journal of World Investment and Trade*. **Lewis** also presented a paper and moderated a panel at the biennial Global Conference of the Society of International Economic Law in Bogota, Colombia held July 12-14, 2023, and she recently authored International Trade Agreements: Laboratories of Innovation or Propellers of Fragmentation? in the *Journal of International Economic Law*, vol. 26, no.1 (2023).

**Paul Linden-Retek**, associate professor, authored *Postnational Constitutionalism: Europe and the Time of Law* (Oxford University Press, 2023), and *Constitutional Patriotism as Europe’s Public Philosophy? On the Responsiveness of Post-National Law*, in *European Constitutional Imaginaries: Between Ideology and Utopia* (J. Komárek, ed.) (Oxford University Press, 2023).

**Stephen Paskey**, Legal Analysis, Writing and Research lecturer emeritus, conducted a five-session remote workshop in May 2023 on drafting contracts in English for Ukrainian law students at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Kyiv, Ukraine.

**Matthew Steilen**, professor, has been invited to visit the University of



Cambridge Faculty of Law, where he will concurrently be a senior visitor at Emmanuel College and a visiting fellow at Wolfson College, both in Cambridge. While in residence, he will work on completing his book manuscript, tentatively titled *Legislative Power in Early English Parliaments: A Constitutional History*.

**David “Bert” Westbrook**, Louis A. Del Cotto Professor, presented “Anticipation, Social Theory, and the Stories We Tell Ourselves” (with Mark Maguire) at the Forms of War Conference organized by Telos/Paul Piconne Institute, in collaboration with the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College/CUNY, and the International Center for Critical Theory at New York University. The conference was held in New York City on March 31 through April 1, 2023.

#### JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

*Department of Biomedical Informatics*

**Peter L. Elkin**, UB Distinguished Professor, gave an invited lecture at the University of Sydney entitled: Artificial Intelligence in Health; Human-Computer Partnerships. He also ran a meeting in Sydney in August 2023 on Context Sensitive Health Informatics. Elkin also co-Chaired the ACM-BCB international meeting which is the premier computer science meeting on artificial intelligence in Health.

**Ram Samudrala**, professor and chief of the Division of Bioinformatics, presented a lecture on titled “Computational Analysis of Novel Drug Opportunities” at Mahidol University in Bangkok Thailand on August 8, 2023. This was done at the invitation of Prasit Palittapongarnpim, Professor, Department of Microbiology, former vice president at Mahidol and former deputy director of the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), who is also a longtime collaborator with Samudrala. During his visit during summer 2023, Samudrala met with four faculty from Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi. All these faculty are former mentees of Samudrala and who returned to Thailand to continue as independent scientists and educators in academia. The Division of Bioinformatics has ongoing collaborations with various Thai institutions, including the use of the CANDO multiscale drug discovery, repurposing, and design platform to identify drug candidates against mammalian pathogen *Pythium insidiosum*, which produced a number of positive hits. This is important as the cell walls of *Pythium insidiosum*, an oomycete, are composed of beta-glucans and cellulose (compared to the chitin walls of fungi), and their cytoplasmic membranes lack sterols, molecules that are targets of antifungals. For this reason, infection caused by *Pythium insidiosum* is difficult to treat. The CANDO prediction could lead the way to valuable drugs for use in Thailand where this pathogen is endemic. Overall, Samudrala has a close connection to faculty and Thai institutions, having trained over a dozen of them and some others being long time collaborators. The *Pythium*-CANDO project is an example of a successful outcome from such collaborations.

*Department of Medicine*

**Jessy J. Alexander**, research professor, was invited to co-chair the session entitled ‘Complement in kidney disease’ at the 29<sup>th</sup> International Complement Workshop, 2023 in Newcastle. Her abstract was chosen for oral presentation at the same meeting. She also received the *AAI Travel Grant for IUIS 2023*, the 18th International Congress of Immunology, to be held November 27-December 2, 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa, where she will present the abstract entitled, “Novel functions of complement factor H modulated through C3a/C3aR signaling in macrophages.”

**Anne Curtis**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, delivered a lecture (virtually) on “Sex and Race Differences and Disparities in the Management of Cardiac Arrhythmias” to the 31st Annual International Congress on Preventive and Optimal Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease with Emphasis on EP held in Arusha, Tanzania in July 2023.

*Department of Neurology*

**Robert Zivadinov**, SUNY Distinguished Professor and director of the Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center, attended the 39th Congress of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS) in Milan, Italy on October 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Zivadinov and Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center had a significant presence, as ECTRIMS accepted a total of 19 abstracts from Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Cen-

ter; 2 platforms and 17 posters. In addition, he was invited to speak at the 17th World Congress of Controversies in Neurology, Multiple Sclerosis (MS2), in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on March 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There, he presented “Artificial intelligence (AI) allows more accurate prediction of disease prognosis than conventional measures.” Zivadinov received an invitation from American Academy of Neurology to present “Measures related to neurodegeneration in multiple sclerosis: PRLs, SELs and chronic inflammation” in Boston, Massachusetts on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Zivadinov also attended the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers Annual Meeting, on June 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. The Annual Meeting of the CMSC is the largest North American meeting for healthcare professionals and researchers engaged in MS care. Zivadinov had two platforms at this meeting, which were titled as followed, “Iron neurotoxicity in multiple sclerosis” and “Relationship between baseline cognitive performance and brain volume outcomes in patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis in ENLIGHTEN: Phase 3b study of ozanimod”. Zivadinov attended the Congress of the Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS) is a community of leaders from the United States and Canada who are dedicated to the treatment and research in MS and other demyelinating diseases. It was there that Dr. Robert Zivadinov had 18 accepted abstracts. Zivadinov also had the pleasure in 2023 to perform grant reviews for the Croatian Science Foundation.

#### SCHOOL OF NURSING

**Carleara Weiss**, research assistant professor, gave an invited virtual presentation at the International Post-Graduation Seminar and International Symposium of the MARCA Program. The conference, which was held on September 25-29, focuses on nursing science as part of the 133 anniversary of the Alfredo Pinto School of Nursing, UNRIO University, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Weiss’ presentation, “Challenges and Opportunities for Translational Research,” focused on guidance and opportunities for translational nursing research.

#### SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

*Department of Community Health and Health Behavior*

**Lucia Leone**, associate professor, recently completed a sabbatical in Panama City, Panama. She received a Office of International Education grant to conduct a pilot study on “Understanding solutions to food access disparities among lower-income Central Americans.” For this research, she is conducting key-informant interviews with organizations in Panama engaged in food access research and focus groups with lower-income individuals served by these organizations. In addition, she had the opportunity to visit produce markets in Costa Rica, Panama and Columbia and is conducting interviews with local farmers. Research will be used to identify potential interventions to increase access to healthy food and may lead to future collaborations to implement evidence-based intervention with partners in Central America.

*Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health*

**Dennis E.N. Daniels, Jr**, clinical assistant professor, presented with clinical assistant professor **Shauna Zorich**, on their pedagogical framework to facilitate a more inclusive, culturally response, interactive learning experience for university level health sciences courses, at the 2023 International Conference on Humanities, Social and Education Sciences, in Denver, CO. This framework sought to apply a critical lens to conventional, teacher-centered practices in many health sciences courses, while clarifying a conceptual basis for active learning and experiential pedagogical practices that prioritize knowledge application, inclusive teaching, and cost-effectiveness in an increasingly diverse student body.

**Jo Freudenheim**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, served as the overall chair for a working group convened by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the World Health Organization in fall 2022. The working group of 15 scientists from eight countries met throughout spring 2023 to prepare the upcoming *IARC Handbook of Cancer Prevention*, examining whether reduction in alcohol consumption affects risk of cancers that are known to be caused by alcohol consumption.

#### Office of Global Health Initiatives

The Office of Global Health Initiatives is offering a new micro-credential with the goal of enabling students to build on their foundational public health knowledge to engage in focused, in-depth study of major glob-

al health issues. Students can choose from myriad activities outside of the traditional classroom to better understand social determinants of health, environmental health, non-communicable diseases, infectious disease, pandemics and more. Upon successful completion of the micro-credential, students will emerge with global and intercultural fluency, critical-thinking and problem-solving abilities, and skills in teamwork and collaboration. They will also receive a digital badge that they can include in their CV. The Public Health from Global Perspectives Micro-Credential is open to UB graduate students who have earned a four-year degree from an accredited college or who have graduate-student status in a combined undergraduate/graduate degree program. UB graduate students in schools other than Public Health and Health Professions must have completed a UB graduate-level course on the topic of global health, medicine or development.

#### SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**Krisztina Baltimore**, alumna, and **Wooksoo Kim**, associate professor, had their paper, “Mental health service use among Middle Eastern migrant women: Focusing on mental health literacy”, accepted for publication in *Advances in Social Work*. They also will be presenting their paper, *Assessing predictors of help-seeking behavior among Middle Eastern migrant women*, at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, D.C., in January 2024.

**Filomena Critelli**, associate professor, received \$500 funding from the UB Office of International Education for the project *#Me Too and the Implementation of Sexual Harassment Legislation in Pakistan: Advancing from Law to Practice*.

**Catherine Dulmus**, professor, **Braden Linn**, visiting assistant professor, and **Amy Manning**, alumna, presented a poster, *Utilizing Technology for Remote Treatment: Success and Policy Implications*, at the 29th Symposium Controversies on Psychiatry in Barcelona, Spain, in April 2023.

**Michelle Fortunado-Kewin**, adjunct faculty and alumna, did a presentation on Asian American and Pacific Islander mental health with colleagues U. Thakore-Dunlap and P. Tito on May 10, 2023, at the *Breaking Barriers Forum* at Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc., San Francisco, CA.

**Hannah Ginn**, doctoral student, presented *Interrogating and remedying institutionalized sexual ableism: A conceptual critique of capacity to sexual consent policies*, at the Sexuality and Social Work International Conference, in Glasgow, Scotland in July 2023. In November she presented *Rights restrictions in practice: Critiquing capacity to sexual consent assessments* in a poster session at the 26th Congress of the World Association for Sexual Health, Antalya, Türkiye.

**Min Hu**, doctoral student, presented *Financial health of floating population in China* with colleagues L. Zhou and D. Zhang at the International Academy of Financial Consumers Annual Conference, the 10th Global Forum for Financial Consumers in Tokyo, Japan on July 28, 2023. She also received a Sungkyunkwan University Travel Scholarship (\$300) to attend that same conference.

**Laura Lewis**, clinical associate professor, was appointed as a member of the Council on Global Social Issues of the Council on Social Work Education.

**Wooksoo Kim**, associate professor, was invited to participate in the Pan-Asian American Roundtable Meeting in Buffalo that was organized by the Asian American Federation on October 12, 2023. She also presented to the senior undergrad students at UB Department of Architecture-ARC 403 (Architectural Design Studio 7), October 3, 2023, on *Refugee Communities in Buffalo: Who They Are & Where They Came From*. Finally, she was invited to give a virtual presentation about *Refugee Resettlement in the United States: Policies, Processes, and Challenges* by Save the Children International in South Korea on October 12, 2023. Finally, Dr. Kim organized and will be chairing the symposium *Beyond self-sufficiency: Examining economic integration of refugees*, at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, D.C., in January 2024.

**JoAnn Lee**, associate professor, and colleagues G. Gimm and M. Villodas, presented *Association of independent living service receipt and disability*

*type among foster youth in the U.S.* at the European Scientific Association on Residential and Family Care for Children and Adolescents (EUSARF), in Brighton, United Kingdom during September 2023.

**Micheal Lynch**, clinical associate professor, and **Elizabeth Bowen** published an article, “Evaluating an interdisciplinary and multi-pedagogical approach to equipping students to create social change”, in the *International Journal for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, 35 (2), 1-10.

**Nadine Murshid**, associate professor, with colleagues F. Khan, F. Misha, B. Talukdar, & A. Rabbani, has an accepted paper, “The wellbeing of garment workers in Bangladesh during COVID 19 - does gender matter?” In *International Journal of Gender Studies in Developing Societies*. Dr. Murshid also presented two papers in October 2023 at the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin: *Bangladeshis in Motion: Gender, Place, and Transnationalism*, and *Dialectical Aunties in Panel: Configuring the Sisterhood: Friends, Kins, and Weak Ties*.

**Yunju Nam**, associate professor, presented a research paper, *Individual Development Accounts and Savings Outcomes among Self-Sufficiency Program Participants in Korea: Quantitative Evidence from a Nationwide Probability Sample* with three Korean researchers (Jang, Woo, & Seo) at an annual conference of the International Academy of Financial Consumers at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan (July 27-28, 2023). The paper examined the impacts of an asset-building program on low-income individuals and found positive effects on savings outcomes. She also delivered an invited presentation of *Social Safety Net Policies during the Covid-19 Pandemic in the United States* at Global Trends of Health & Social Welfare Entering the Endemic Era in Sejong, South Korea (July 20, 2023). The conference was organized by Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, government-funded research institute for social policy development and evaluation. Dr. Nam was also appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Academy of Financial Consumers (IAFICO). Finally, Dr. Nam and colleagues E. Choi, C. Won, and J. Lee had the paper, “The Role of Racial/Ethnic Discrimination in Financial Access and Material Hardship: Findings from Korean Immigrants Living in the Deep South”, accepted for publication in the *Journal of Consumer Affairs*.

**Michelle Sperllich**, associate professor, and **Whitney Mendel**, alumna, have a chapter, “Screening for child abuse and trauma during the perinatal period”, that will be published in the forthcoming international book by R. Brunton & R. Dryer (Eds.), *Perinatal care and considerations for survivors of sexual abuse: Challenges and opportunities*, with Palgrave MacMillan. Also, in June 2023, Dr. Sperllich reviewed research proposals for the Swiss National Science Foundation, Switzerland’s largest research funding organization.

**The Institute for Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care (ITTIC)**, part of the School’s research center, the Buffalo Center for Social Research, began three international collaborations: **Niagara Community Legal Clinic (St. Catharines & Welland, Ontario)**: The Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care (ITTIC) began working with the Ontario-based Niagara Community Legal Clinic (NCLC) in June 2023 to assist in their process of becoming a more trauma-informed agency. The collaboration consists of a baseline and post-evaluation of trauma-informed culture, climate, and organizational policies, a monthly trauma-informed training series for staff, development of a trauma-informed committee to lead the work, participating in their anti-racist, anti-oppression, and decolonization (ARAO-D) committee work, and assisting the management team in drafting and reviewing human resource policies. ITTIC will be working with NCLC through May 2024.

**Collaboration with Global Shepherds (Malaysia)**: ITTIC started a six-month partnership with the Malaysia branch of Global Shepherds in August 2023 to build a foundation for trauma-informed care. The collaboration includes the provision of 5.5 hours of virtual trauma-informed training for all staff, and the development of a trauma-informed “champion team.” The champions are learning the trauma-informed organizational change model to be able to plan for, implement, and monitor the change process after ITTIC’s involvement ends.

**Psychiatric Nursing Collaboration (Switzerland & Germany)**: ITTIC has been working with a group of four psychiatric nursing colleagues in Swit-

Switzerland and Germany over the past year since their initial reach-out to have the *Trauma-Informed Organizational Change Manual* translated into German. Recently, **Susan Green**, clinical professor and co-director of ITTIC, and

**Samantha Koury**, co-director of ITTIC, were invited to present a full-day trauma-informed training at the Universitäre Psychiatrische Kliniken Basel in Switzerland, as well as provided one of the keynote presentations and a workshop on trauma-informed organizations at the Dreiländerkongress in Bielefeld, Germany. ITTIC will continue to partner with the small group as the translation is finalized and will be meeting later in the fall to discuss additional opportunities for collaboration.

#### OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

*Office of Curriculum, Assessment and Teaching Transformation*

**Carol Van Zile Tamsen**, associate vice provost and director, was an invited virtual speaker on “Transformative Teaching Methodologies” for the Department of English at Kristu Jayanti College in Bangalore, India on September 1, 2023.

#### OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

**John J. Wood**, senior associate vice provost, chaired a session titled, “Connecting to Host Cultures: Improving Retention of New International Students through Inclusion Strategies” at the annual conference of the European Association for International Education (EAIE) in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in September 2023.

## NARENDRA MODI

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Singh, for a collaborative partnership between UB and India’s prestigious Amrita University. Under his leadership, UB and six Indian institutions of higher learning signed a 2022 memorandum of understanding to collaborate in educational initiatives and research related to nanomaterials and nanotechnology, biotechnology, advanced sensors, photonics and artificial intelligence.

Tripathi also co-chairs the Association of American Universities’ Task Force on Expanding US-India University Partnerships.

President Biden welcomed Modi to Washington, D.C., for an official state visit in June. During the trip leaders discussed ways to elevate technology partnerships and expand educational exchanges, among other shared interests. ♦

## DES FORGES

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predominant power; however, the dual challenge that Russia and China pose individually and together should galvanize the U.S., and other parts of Europe and Asia into even closer cooperation.

The afternoon sessions concluded with **George Packer** (Staff Writer, *The Atlantic*), who asked “What Does America Owe Ukraine?” He began with his trip to Ukraine in 2022 and situated the war in a larger geopolitical context. He examined how the U.S. and the West justify the extraordinary amount of support—military, economic, diplomatic—given to Ukraine, while much of the world has taken a neutral stance or even sympathizes with Russia. Roger Des Forges concluded the Symposium with a toast of thanks to speakers and sponsors, and offered his reflections on the key roles of the superpowers Russia and the United States in the catastrophe.

Preparations for the Spring 2024 Symposium are already well-advanced. On April 16, 2024 our panelists will address the topic, “Sexual and Reproductive Autonomy in Human Rights Perspective.”

The symposium promises to offer lively and vigorous debate around the issues of gender equality and reproductive rights. As always, the symposium will be free and open to the public, and we are always glad to welcome you in person or on Zoom. ♦

**Shaun Irlam** is an associate professor of comparative literature and co-chair of the Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee.

## DIRECTORY

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(716) 645-2368, 645-2528 (Fax)  
Email: vpinted@buffalo.edu  
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Office of International Education  
University at Buffalo  
The State University of New York  
411 Capen Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260-1604  
U.S.A.

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## TRIPATHI MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER MODI

President Satish K. Tripathi attended an address to a joint session of Congress by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the guest of Rep. Brian Higgins during Modi's state visit to the US in June 2023.

"Under President Tripathi's leadership, the University at Buffalo has grown its standing as a research, innovation and education leader locally, nationally and globally," Higgins said.

"As a native of India and one who clearly understands the value of international and multidisciplinary collaborations, we are pleased to welcome President Tripathi to this historic binational event."

Tripathi grew up in a village in Patna in Uttar Pradesh, India, and graduated from Banaras Hindu University in northern India before moving to Can-

ada to pursue additional master's and doctoral degrees.



India, as well as a strong community of Indian postdocs and faculty scholars."

As UB's 15th president and leader of SUNY's flagship university, Tripathi has sought to expand UB's international programs and relationships.

As UB provost, he entered into an agreement with Modi's predecessor, former Prime Minister Manmohan

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Tripathi met with Modi along with other US higher education leaders when the prime minister was at the Indian Consulate in New York prior to going to Washington.

"The University at Buffalo is proud to be one of the most internationalized universities in the nation, with a very robust student population from

### UB INTERNATIONAL

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John J. Wood, Editor