

UB INTERNATIONAL

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UB International

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POLISH SCHOLARS RETURN TO UB

Fifteen past participants in a visiting scholar program with the Jagiellonian University (JU) in Krakow, Poland, made a return visit to Buffalo last week to take part in a conference at UB that celebrated the success of the program.

In a series of panel presentations and individual talks April 4-6, the participating scholars discussed their current scholarship and how their work at UB has impact-

“Kathy’s far-sighted and strategic support for our visiting scholar program has paid rich dividends not only for the scholars themselves and their work, but for their collaborators at UB and our bilateral exchange with the Jagiellonian,” says Nojin Kwak, professor and vice provost for international education, who conceived of the conference.

“The scholars’ return is a thrill for Kathy



Jagiellonian Conference participants at the Darwin Martin House in Buffalo (Peter Sloane, Am-Pol Eagle)

ed their careers.

These mid-career scholars, many of whom are faculty at JU, conducted research visits to UB over the past 20 years — from 2004-21 — spending a month to two collaborating with host faculty at UB on their research and in some cases delivering lectures in their host departments. Their return visit has enabled them to reconnect with past collaborators and share updates on their scholarly activities.

These visits were facilitated through the generous ongoing philanthropic support of Katherine Kubala, who retired from UB as an assistant dean for the School of Architecture and Planning.

and everyone at UB who has worked with JU over the past two decades,” Kwak adds. “I have been impressed by the participants’ contributions to our conference and the ways they have each helped strengthen ties of scholarly affiliation between our universities.”

Kubala says it was “wonderful seeing so many old friends from the Jagiellonian and learning about their current work. It has been a pleasure being involved in a small way to help advance their scholarly endeavors and careers, and to strengthen ties between our universities.”

Kubala was honored for her contributions to the Jagiellonian program during a

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FROM THE VICE PROVOST

Our current issue features several examples of the power of philanthropy to advance UB's internationalization. As part of the university's Boldly Buffalo campaign, which concludes June 30 having already surpassed our stretch goal of \$1 billion, international education priorities have benefited handsomely.

For example, we recently noted the establishment of the Steven L. Shaw Memorial International Student Emergency Fund in honor of our late colleague who served for many years as Director of International Admissions. This fund has received generous support from colleagues, students, and alumni, and is assisting international students at UB who find themselves in financial crisis through no fault of their own.

Dozens of our students are benefiting each year from education abroad scholarships that depend on philanthropy. We are particularly grateful to retired UB colleagues who have endowed scholarship funds that make it possible for students with limited resources to go abroad.

Funds established and sustained by these generous colleagues, including Stephen Dunnett, Claude Welch and Jeannette Ludwig, and Bonnie Ott, enable our students to have truly transformative international experiences.

It is a privilege to likewise highlight the far-sighted gifts described in our spring newsletter. Kathy Kubala, who retired some years ago as assistant dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, has remained engaged with UB over the past two decades through her fund to support research visits to UB by senior PhD students and junior

faculty at our partner the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland (see p. 1).

A second recent example is the updated gift agreement with Dr. Vinod and Dr. Anil Rustgi, to honor their parents, Moti Lal and Kamla. Professor Moti Lal Rustgi was a distinguished UB faculty member in Physics for many years.

From 2018 to 2024, the two brothers funded the Rustgi Undergraduate Conference on South Asia, a unique conference featuring undergraduate research on South Asia. Their new endowment agreement with UB for the Moti Lal and Kamla Rustgi Annual Lectureship Series on India Fund will support conferences and symposia on diverse aspects of Indian history, culture, arts, society, and politics through the Asia Research Institute at UB.

In addition to individual donors, International Education benefits from institutional philanthropy, as exemplified by the recent \$2 million gift from the Korea Foundation to support faculty resources in Korean Studies at UB (p. 3). Such far-reaching gifts help UB respond to the increased demand among students for Korean studies and build a critical mass of faculty expertise in these important fields.

We are grateful to the team at University Advancement and particularly Wei Loon Leong, Director of International Alumni Engagement, for partnering with International Education to develop opportunities for philanthropy to support our internationalization efforts and advance university priorities. ♦

Nojin Kwak is Vice Provost for International Education and Professor of Communication.

POLISH SCHOLARS

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conference dinner for the returnees that celebrated them and the program. The event brought together past UB faculty mentors, current faculty and students from Poland at UB, as well as leaders from the local Polish-American community.

"We are grateful to the community for their engagement with our Jagiellonian exchange since its early days in the 1990s," Kwak says. "Community leaders like Kathy and the late Peter Gessner, a faculty member in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, leveraged our partnership for the benefit of both UB and Polonia."

The Jagiellonian University has been an important institutional partner of UB for more than 30 years. The two universities signed a cooperation agreement around the time Poland was emerging from Soviet dominance at the beginning of the 1990s.

Since that time, JU and UB have maintained a robust program of exchange involving faculty, students and scholars.



UNIWERSYTET
JAGIELLOŃSKI
W KRAKOWIE

In addition to the visiting scholar program, the two institutions have cooperated on opportunities for UB faculty to teach at JU, jointly taught courses, study abroad programs for UB students at JU and the exchange of publications and library materials.

In 1996, JU, UB and the Polish government collaborated on the launch of a Polish Academic Information Center website, which was a leading web-based resource for information about Poland. ♦

UB RECEIVES TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT FROM KOREA FOUNDATION

The University at Buffalo (UB) has received a \$2 million gift from the Korea Foundation in South Korea to establish a Korean studies professorship in the social sciences. The gift creates an endowment that will

fund a senior (tenured) professor in Korean studies to be appointed by the College of Arts and Sciences starting in the 2025-2026 academic year.

"We are most grateful to the Korea Foundation for this generous and impactful gift that will strengthen our faculty resources in Korean and Asian studies," said A. Scott Weber, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. "In keeping with the growing importance of Korea on the world stage, Korean language and culture are of increasing interest to our students. The new Korea Foundation Professor will add considerable depth to UB's research and teaching about Korea."

The professorship will be named the Korea Foundation Professorship of Korean Studies. In consultation with the Office of International Education, CAS will recruit and hire a senior faculty member whose research and teaching is based in the social sciences, with a primary focus in Korean studies, working with Korean language sources and potentially publishing in Korean. The new hire will assume a major role in developing new curricula and courses across multiple disciplines to strengthen Korean studies at UB.

The Korea Foundation gift also establishes a Korea Studies Program Fund for academic and educational programming in Korean studies at UB, with matching support anticipated from New York State through the University Centers Endowment Fund.

Professor Nojin Kwak, Vice Provost for International Education, who worked with the Korea Foundation to facilitate the gift, notes that the gift builds upon recent initiatives



to bolster Korean studies.

"The launch in 2023 of our Asia Research Institute (ARI) has brought renewed focus to Korean studies, making possible, among other programs, our annual Korean studies sym-

posium, the third of which is scheduled for October 18-19, 2024, and titled, '(Un)Defining Korean Architecture: Modernity, Stories and Transformation.'"

The fall symposium is jointly organized and cosponsored by ARI and the School of Architecture and Planning. Previous symposia have focused on Korean drama and film as well as the global cultural phenomenon of K-Pop.

"I am pleased to say that UB is currently conducting a search for a tenure-track faculty position in Korean culture in the Department of Media Study, to start in fall 2024," said Professor Robin Schulze, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "This is an important hire in light of the growing influence of Korean popular culture and media around the world."

Kwak reported that UB has already benefited from grants totaling \$240,000 from the Academy of Korean Studies, a unit of South Korea's Ministry of Education. This funding has provided support for research projects, pedagogical innovations, a postdoctoral fellowship, and cultural programming in Korean studies at UB. UB's partnership with Gyeonggi Province in South Korea has facilitated the launch in summer 2023 of the SUNY Global Learning Institute.

"With this significant gift from the Korea Foundation and other new initiatives in Korean studies," Kwak added, "I am excited to say that UB is well positioned to become an emerging leader in research and education in Korean studies." ♦

UB TO HOST NEW YORK CONFERENCE ON ASIAN STUDIES

UB is hosting the annual New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) on September 27-28, 2024 at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. The Asia Research Institute and the Asian Studies Program at UB are lead local organizers.

The 2024 conference theme, "Life in the Asian Century," explores the evolving idea of the 21st century as the Asian century based on economic growth and cultural influence

—and the implications of these changes.

NYCAS welcomes panel and individual paper proposals that may, but are not required to, address the roots, conditions, problems, promises and possible future outcomes of living in the Asian century from our current vantage point nearly one quarter of the way through it. Submit proposals at: <https://easychair.org/account2/sign-in?l=101993682361332772> ♦

EMPIRE AI SOLIDIFIES UB'S LEADERSHIP IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

By Jay Rey

President Satish K. Tripathi thanked Gov. Kathy Hochul and state lawmakers for finalizing a budget that makes UB home to the new public-private Empire AI research center for the public good, which is aimed at putting New York State at the forefront of responsible artificial intelligence innovation.

"University at Buffalo is delighted and honored to be a part of the groundbreaking Empire AI consortium, which will place our region, state and nation at the forefront of

Equally important is its mission to tackle societal challenges in medicine, education, social justice, climate change and other fields, while also serving as a trustworthy source of information as AI technologies continue to evolve.

In addition to UB and fellow SUNY University Centers—the University at Albany, Binghamton University and Stony Brook University—the new consortium is comprised of the City University of New York, Columbia University, Cornell University, New York University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the Flatiron Institute, as well as vital philanthropic backers.

Hochul in January spoke about her budget at UB's Center for the Arts, where she announced UB as the state-wide location for Empire AI in acknowledgment of the university's decades-long leadership in AI and data science.

The region's state legislators followed up with a visit to campus in March, when they lauded the governor's vision for Empire AI and threw their support behind her plan to make UB its home.

A SUNY flagship with a robust cyberinfrastructure, UB has long been recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in AI and data science.

The university has more than 200 researchers exploring how to use AI and data science to advance cybersecurity, drug discovery, robotics, education, environmental science, transportation and other fields that are critical to the future of the state and nation.

Additionally, UB is No. 1 in the state among public and private research universities in securing cyberinfrastructure program funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

And last year, the university was awarded a highly competitive, five-year, \$20 million grant from the NSF and the Department of Education to establish the National AI Institute for Exceptional Education, which brought Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan to UB earlier this month. ♦

Jay Rey is a public affairs communications manager for University Communications.



Governor Hochul at UB making Empire AI announcement (Meredith Kulwicki)

the artificial intelligence revolution," Tripathi said.

"As a university that is nationally and internationally recognized for our responsible AI research and application, UB is deeply committed to harnessing our multidisciplinary expertise in AI to serve the public good," he said.

Following Hochul's announcement of a state budget deal, the Legislature has been finalizing budget bills, including language that specifies the UB North Campus as the site of a new building to launch Empire AI and its state-of-the-art computing center.

"We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Gov. Kathy Hochul for her bold vision for New York State and to the New York State Legislature for their steadfast support of this transformative initiative," Tripathi said.

The governor proposed Empire AI as a consortium comprised of public and private higher education institutions statewide with the goal of accelerating research and innovation in AI, while driving sustained economic impact across the state.

UB PARTNERS WITH BITS PILANI IN RESEARCH AND DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM

By Cory Nealon

Leaders from UB and BITS Pilani, one of the leading private technical universities in India, have agreed to a long-term collaboration to foster advanced research and educational programs.

The memorandum of understanding, which leaders signed February 6, 2024 at UB following a semiconductor workshop, marks a significant milestone between the two institutions.

“Enhancing the partnership between UB and BITS Pilani will create extraordinary educational opportunities for students while further solidifying our institutions’ prominence in semiconductor research and other fields,” President Satish K. Tripathi said.

V. Ramgopal Rao, vice chancellor of BITS Pilani, which stands for Birla Institute of Technology and Science, led a delegation from the institute during the signing ceremony. He said the memorandum will strengthen an already robust partnership between UB and BITS Pilani. “We are delighted to begin this transformative journey of academic collaboration with the University at Buffalo,” he said.

“Through this memorandum of understanding, we hope to give our students access to top-notch education, promote global perspectives and equip them to face the difficulties of a fast-changing global environment. This collaboration is a prime example of BITS Pilani’s commitment to developing the next generation of leaders and advancing global knowledge.”

As part of the memorandum, BITS Pilani and UB will develop a 2+2 dual undergraduate program in engineering and related fields. Students in these programs will complete their first two years at BITS and then transfer to UB for the final two years and earn degrees from both institutions.

UB and BITS Pilani also plan to establish 2+2 cooperative bachelor of science (BS) programs in several engineering

disciplines. In this program, students will finish their first two years of undergraduate studies at BITS before transferring to UB to complete requirements for both the UB and BITS degrees. Future collaborations may include joint PhD and graduate programs.

The memorandum also includes a commitment to collaborate in areas such as teaching and research, including events like Tuesday’s semiconductor workshop. It is expected to support the Center for Advanced Semiconductor Technologies (CAST), which UB recently launched to cement its position nationally and globally as a leader



President Tripathi (r) and Vice-Chancellor Rao with participants at the MOU signing (Nancy Parisi)

in microelectronics and research innovation for the semiconductor industry. Participating in the hybrid workshop were CAST Director Jonathan Bird and SUNY Distinguished Professors Paras Prasad and Mark Swihart, as well as more than 20 other researchers from UB and BITS.

It also comes as UB continues to collaborate with other leading institutions of higher education in India, including several of the most prominent Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), to advance research and education in artificial intelligence, robotics, photonics, biotechnology and many other critical fields. ♦

Cory Nealon is a director of media relations for University Communications.

UB GAINS FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH UNITED NATIONS

The University at Buffalo will gain global recognition and representation at the United Nations, and will be involved in advocacy efforts to help monitor and implement international agreements thanks to its new formal association with the UN Department of Global Communications.

At its Dec. 15, 2023 meeting, the United Nations Department of Global Communications Civil Society Association Committee approved the University at Buffalo for association with the Department of Global Communications, effective immediately.

"With the approval, we are joining a large family of organizations that support the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and are committed to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals," says Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah, clinical associate professor of organization and human resources, faculty director of global programs and director of the Center for Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness in the UB School of Management.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to build the reputation of UB and the School of Management while making an impact on initiatives that align with UB's position as SUNY's flagship and support its ambition to become a top-25 public research institution."

Siaw-Asamoah headed-up the university's efforts to achieve the UN association. In her role as faculty director of global programs, she led School of Management Undergraduate Honors students to the inaugural Green Summit at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, in late 2022 and hosted a visit by UN Communications Officer Felipe Queipo as part of sustainability month in April, among many other initiatives.

Through the association, UB will have the opportunity to, among others:

- Help plan and participate in the United Nations Civil Society Conference
- Participate and contribute to the Thematic Civil Society Briefings
- Get access to materials, activities and events which promote the work of the United Nations
- Gain access to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at UN Headquarters in New York
- Exchange ideas between generations, with opportunities for experienced civil society leaders to work with youth representatives.
- Share expertise with other civil society organizations in different fields of work and from diverse backgrounds, including other higher-education institutions.
- Have the opportunity to use the Civil Society Resource Centre at UN Headquarters in New York as a meeting space

"This designation reflects the mission of the School of Management to create positive change in the world, and aligns with our vision of a world of agile, transformational leaders who roll up their sleeves and change society for the better," says Ananth Iyer, dean of the UB School of Management.

Now in its 100th year, the UB School of Management is recognized for its emphasis on real-world learning, community and economic impact, and the global perspective of its faculty, students and alumni.

The school also has been ranked by Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes and U.S. News & World Report for the quality of its programs and the return on investment it provides its graduates. ♦



CANCER CARE IN UGANDA

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forging interdisciplinary collaborations. "Rachel's commitment to social justice goes far beyond her already impressive ventures. Her intersectional, equity-minded approach is clear not only across all of her intellectual and professional endeavors, but also in the thoughtfulness and intentionality she brings to every interaction."

Coming across loud and clear is Sanyu's love of her re-

source-rich country with a troubled past. She is an advocate for "the people of Uganda's collective responsibilities to the communities around us."

After graduating from UB, Sanyu plans to do research next year, and enroll in a master's program — she's looking into experimental medicine or cancer biology. Then she'll apply to medical school.

Fogarty points out that Sanyu has remained humble and self-reflective without missing a beat as an "indomitable leader, collaborator and change-maker." ♦

PARTNERSHIP WITH UWI TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On May 20, 2024, UB and The University of the West Indies (UWI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding that creates a new partnership committed to achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

President Satish K. Tripathi hosted The UWI's Vice Chancellor, Sir Hilary Beckles, UWI Mona Campus Principal Densil A. Williams, and Her Excellency, Audrey P. Marks, Ambassador of Jamaica to the United States of America along with delegates from The University of the West Indies, the National Association of Jamaican and Supporting Organizations, and university and community leaders to celebrate the expanded partnership.



L to r: Satish Tripathi, Hilary Beckles, Audrey Marks, Densil Williams (Nancy Parisi)

In 2013, the initial SUNY-UWI system-level MOU was signed with a vision to implement the SUNY-UWI Center for Leadership and Sustainable Development (CLSD). As a first step, the CLSD requested that the SUNY Global Health Institute (GHI) initiate a partnership with The UWI Mona Campus to establish the SUNY-UWI Health Research Consortium was to provide joint leadership and build CLSD program infrastructure. CLSD announced that Public Health and Health Research would be addressed through the Consortium using a faculty-driven model that built collaborations and sought external funding.

In 2023, The UWI International School for Development Justice was created with funding from the International Development Bank to establish a Masters program focused on training individuals who could, in turn, build a global workforce in pursuit of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The SUNY-UWI CLSD is the strategic center that will mobilize SUNY, UWI and other invited faculty to provide mentorship for the Masters candidates enrolled in The UWI International School for Development Justice creating a solid research foundation to guide SDG projects around the globe. The CLSD will accomplish its mission of organizing SDG graduate studies through a new academic coordinating center that will be located at the University at Buffalo, a flagship campus of the SUNY system.

This plan is accompanied by the recent appointment of

SUNY Distinguished Professor Gene Morse as the Executive Director of the CLSD, and location of the CLSD leadership in the Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo. UWI Central remains The UWI system academic hub for CLSD and the linkage to the UWI International School of Development Justice.

This organizational structure will allow the UB and UWI Central offices to provide communications with participating Centers and Institutes and a seamless integration of faculty to mentor the SDG masters candidates.

CLSD will continue to be the organizational home for the SUNY-UWI Health Research Consortium and maximize the SUNY and UWI faculty collaborations that have resulted in the emergence of many new leaders within the initiative.

Recent program development efforts have included planning for a UWI School of Public Health that will also focus on the intersecting regions across Climate Change, Alternative Energy and Agricultural Innovation. Many of these collaborations also have natural interactions with business development and new economic development.

The UWI Global Health Institute at the Western Campus in Montego Bay will serve as an international hub for biomedical research and healthcare innovation, while also providing a training site for Latin America and Caribbean health professional and health technology companies in a global medical tourism hub.

UB/SUNY's Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences (CIGBS), is a global leader in research capacity building programs in LMICs with 25 years of experience and peer reviewed funding from the US National Institutes of Health including the esteemed Fogarty International Center. UB's CIGBS Sustainable Development Committee includes academic and business leaders and has developed a program with the UB School of Management that provides a Global Entrepreneur program that emphasizes the link between academic research and projects and sound business plans for sustainability. These mentored teams also benefit from CEO participation in the program and the result has been enthusiasm for in-country teams to work with government and academic programs as well. ♦

MBAH RECRUITED TO LEAD EDUCATIONAL REFORM IN NIGERIAN STATE

By Charles Anzalone

UB faculty member Ndubueze Mbah has been chosen commissioner of education for the Nigerian subnational Enugu State, taking on a mission of reforming the state's elementary and secondary school systems using learning models honed in UB's Experiential Learning Network as educational guides.

Mbah's task presents a chance for dramatic, comprehensive improvement in basic education for a key section of Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation. Mbah's immediate future will be what he calls "the litmus of development in the Global South" for about 228,800 Nigerian students.

"As it is, I find myself lighting the torch of an education revolution focused on experiential learning in the continent," says Mbah, associate professor of history, following his appointment championed by the governor of Enugu State. "And UB has made it possible."

Mbah, a UB faculty member for 10 years, was supported by the Department of History and the College of Arts and Sciences to reduce his teaching obligation for the fall so that he could take advantage of this opportunity. He has been active as commissioner since August.

Mbah sees and defines the educational problems in his native country clearly.

A "deficit" in the education infrastructure, a scarcity of teachers leading to poor pupil-to-teacher ratios and not enough "qualified teachers capable of delivering the basic education curriculum and leveraging education technologies to enhance learning" have all bred an education crisis, according to Mbah. Seventy-five percent of the children completing basic education lack "foundational literacy and numeracy," he says.

"After four years of schooling, 50% of K-6 pupils cannot read a single word in English, and even those who can read struggle with comprehension," says Mbah. "After six years of schooling, 50% of K-6 cannot solve simple subtraction problems."

International agencies, including the World Bank, UNICEF and UNESCO, as well as the Nigerian Ministry of Education call this Nigeria's "learning crisis" and the greatest threat to the nation's economic development.

Looking for a "holistic and sustainable solution," the UB professor/educational commissioner turned to the Experiential Learning Network (ELN), which connects students

with faculty-mentored projects and supports their engagement as they work toward earning digital badges.

"Following a period of research into the learning crisis and skills gap, which included solutions-seeking conferences and workshops, it became clear to us that experiential learning would be a meaningful intervention for Enugu State," says Mbah. "But it would have to be adapted to suit local needs, and must be locally driven and systematically

linked to sustainable development goals to succeed."

To achieve this, Mbah and Mara Huber, associate dean for undergraduate research and experiential learning, and director of the ELN, developed a customized experiential learning model

for Enugu — called the CASE-PEARL EL Model — that they piloted in Enugu schools last fall.

CASE supports teachers in developing experiential learning lessons and activities that feature collaboration, achievement, skill development and evidence of engagement. The PEARL EL framework supports students as they activate experiences in supporting academic and professional goals.

"The impact has been transformative for both teachers and pupils," says Mbah, "and we are now expanding the program to scale."

The significance of Mbah's work is vast.

The effort — a comprehensive reform of basic education, beginning with pre-primary grades and extending up to secondary, vocational, tertiary and teacher training while also integrating experiential learning and sustainable development goals with a focus on local solutions to global challenges — is unique and has implications for Nigeria and much of Africa.

Mbah, who continues traveling back and forth to UB from Enugu, says being a faculty member at UB enables him "to bring the benefits of research, scholarship and creative activities to international communities in ways that positively impact the world around us." ♦

Charles Anzalone is a news content manager for University Communications.



Prof. Mbah leading a workshop in Enugu, Nigeria in Nov. 2023

LAW STUDENTS IN NEW DOCTORAL PROGRAM SPAN GLOBE

The Law School's newly established Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD) program hit its stride in fall 2023 with the arrival of the first full cohort of students. The program is open to both U.S. and international students, but the inaugural group of JSD students is global in scope. They bring to Buffalo both a world of experience in legal practice and academia, and an ambitious roster of research projects to pursue.

"This program lets us build out the research side of the student experience," says Professor Mateo Tausig-Rubbo, who directs the JSD program, "both for these individual students and also in their interaction with our JD students. They'll be exposing our JDs to other ways of legal thinking they might not otherwise have."

Students in the JSD take a year's worth of courses—they can choose any course offered at UB, in the law school or other units—including a foundational law school colloquium that's intended to support their research and introduce them to ongoing faculty scholarship. Two additional years focused on research and writing ultimately leads to a doctoral thesis. Each student is assigned a faculty adviser, who helps gather the committee that oversees the thesis process.

As the four JSD students—all practicing lawyers—settle in for an intense period of academic work, they shared some of the ambitions that a doctorate in law can make possible.

"I love to be busy," says **Carlos Federico Aguirre Cárdenas**, a lawyer from Mexico who comes to UB Law with aspirations to transition from legal practice to full-time teaching. A specialist in foreign trade, customs, and free trade agreements, he founded a law firm that largely represents foreign companies seeking to do business in Mexico, as well as Mexican companies conducting international transactions.

But that's just one of many pursuits for Aguirre. He has written three books on international trade, served as a consultant, presented on his area of expertise, and for almost 20 years has taught at universities in Mexico and (remotely) in Colombia. "My idea is that at some point I will be concentrated more in academic and research interests rather than being a practitioner," he says. "That's my ideal future."

A friend earned a master of laws degree from UB Law and recommended the school. "It has just been a wonderful experience," Aguirre says. "I have learned more from the classes I have been taking in the first month than in a

complete semester of my previous classes in international law."

His research centers on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the free trade agreement that replaced NAFTA and took effect in 2020. Specifically, he's looking at the role of rules of origin—which determine whether products are eligible for duty-free status or reduced duties—in trade governed by the agreement. "I want to understand why the rules of origin are needed, how they have originated and evolved," Aguirre says. "It's a piece of analysis that will define the rules of origin and their importance and future."



L to r: A.B.M. Asrafuzzaman, Carlos Federico Aguirre Cárdenas, Bianca Robertson, Mateo Tausig-Rubbo, and Peiwei "Peter" Wang

Bianca Robertson, of Cape Town, South Africa, has wide experience as an international human rights lawyer. She has worked with the United Nations, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations and the South African Parliament. Robertson, who has a master's degree in international human rights law from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom, comes to UB Law as a Fulbright Scholar.

Her particular interest is in the rights of children, and the advancement of those rights through law reform. Her research project will focus on law reform in South Africa but will compare other countries' efforts.

"We had an unequal society before we had democracy in South Africa," Robertson says. "With democracy, we developed a comprehensive and progressive Constitution. It provides a specific section on the rights of children, and from that South Africa developed national laws to ensure those rights. It is essential to monitor and evaluate the body of law to assess how far we have come as a country. I aim to assess how South Africa has progressed in law reform on children's rights to make them more practical and sustainable."

After her JSD program is complete, Robertson says she

LAW STUDENTS SPAN GLOBE

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intends to return to South Africa to research and teach at the university level.

Peiwei “Peter” Wang is a partner in a southeast China law firm, where for two decades he has practiced in the area of financial transactions and international trade. His clients span the globe, from France to South Africa, Turkey to Australia to Hong Kong.

He earned a master of laws degree at William and Mary School of Law, then decided to take the New York State bar exam. He was assigned a Buffalo testing center, passed the bar, but rethought his career arc.

“My previous study of U.S. law led me to realize that maybe there is something more important than earning money,” Wang says. “I’ve been a successful lawyer, but I realized something had to be done.” UB Law was the first school he applied to, with the goal of contributing to interdisciplinary scholarship on international trade and censorship.

Wang is interested in the relationship between government social controls, such as censorship, and international trade. Looking at China and other countries, he’s investigating whether crackdowns on free speech hinder the expansion of a country’s international trade, or promote trade growth. “Economic development and confinement of freedom of expression, can these two goals be attained?” he asks.

The next steps in his professional life are uncertain. “I just want to make some intellectual contribution,” Wang says. “I’m doing something that I believe is correct. And the harder I work, the luckier I will be.”

A.B.M. Asrafuzzaman is an associate professor of law at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and an advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He has also served repeatedly as a member of the Legal Education Committee of the Bangladesh Bar Council.

He’s no stranger to higher education, having earned master of laws degrees from the University of Dhaka and from the University of Washington, where he was a Barer Fellow in 2020. He joins UB Law as a BOS Scholar. His research interests include the law of inheritance, women’s rights, sustainable development law, family law, torts, international human rights, intellectual property, and constitutional law. He has published ten articles in highly regarded law journals.

“To me, UB is one of the leading research universities in the world,” Asrafuzzaman says. “The professors of law have wonderful academic backgrounds, and there are amazing research facilities to enable students to reach their goals.”

His thesis project bears the title “Women’s Unequal Inheritance Right Over Property in Bangladesh.”

Women’s rights to inherit property are complicated in Bangladesh by the strictures of religious law, Asrafuzzaman says. “In most cases,” he says, “Muslim women get a half share of what their male counterparts inherit from the deceased person’s property. There are some cases, where women do not get property at all. Hindu traditional religious law regulates Hindu and Buddhist women’s succession issues; they inherit only limited interest (a right to enjoy during their lifetime) in a few cases, but cannot exercise ownership over that property. The 1925 Succession Act determines Christian women’s inheritance issues, and women who have no religion; they generally inherit an equal share with their male counterparts. And the principles of customary laws govern indigenous women’s succession issues. In most cases, they do not get any property from inheritance when men are present.”

In the thesis, Asrafuzzaman says, he will put forth some proposed legal reforms so that the nation can fulfill its obligations under the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. ♦

GLOBAL STUDY

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guages. By having each investigator participate and thus check their own annotations, we add additional validity to our study.”

Each investigator-participant chose a song of national significance from their culture. Pfordresher selected “America the Beautiful.” Savage chose “Scarborough Fair.” Ozaki sang the Japanese folk song “Ōmori Jinku.”

Participants sang the song first; performed an instrumental version next on an instrument of their choice; and then recited the lyrics. They also provided an explanation for

their choice as a free-form speech condition of the study. All four conditions were recorded and then segmented.

To avoid the possibility of bias creeping into the data, Pfordresher explained that not all investigators were involved in generating the study’s initial set of hypotheses. All of the authors looked at the data, but did so to make sure there were no differences between the initial group and those others.

“We do hope to follow up this study with other research that has authors from around the world sample data from within their cultures,” says Pfordresher. ♦

Bert Gambini is a news content manager for University Communications.

ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING BUILDS ENGAGEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

UB's School of Architecture and Planning has long-established connections to the global south, and the school continues to advance design research, develop teaching, recruit faculty, and enroll students from Latin America.

A pioneering program on sustainable development launched by Professors Robert Shibley and Lynda Schneckloth in Costa Rica some 30 years ago has engaged hundreds of students since then.

More recent summer studios taught by Professor Martha Bohm and faculty colleagues including Stephanie Cramer, Randy Fernando, and Chris Romano, have enabled students in architecture and planning to study, design and build in the Monteverde Cloud Forest region on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica.

The recruitment of students and faculty at the school is fostering new ideas and collaborations. Increasing numbers of students from South America are seeking admission to UB's graduate programs in architecture, and recent

UB graduates from Ecuador, Brazil and Peru have received awards including the prestigious Future 100 prizes offered by the international design journal *Metropolis* and are now working in professional practice, conducting research and teaching.

Recent faculty research at the school has focused on Latin America. Daniela Sandler, associate professor and associate dean for inclusive excellence in the school, is engaged in research on participatory design in Brazil and recently saw her work selected for publication in the *Routledge Companion to Contemporary Architectural History*.

Kristine Stiphany, a registered architect who joined the faculty at UB in 2022, actively pursues research in Latin America. A contributor to the recent book *Vivienda en Arriendo en Latina America*, Stiphany focuses her research informal rental housing and community development in Sao Paulo.

Her work contributes valuable insights about the dynamics of urbanization, housing affordability, and socio-economic challenges faced by people in those rapidly evolving urban environments. An invited guest speaker on

community development in Brazil, she is the sole American scholar to contribute to the first edited volume on contemporary rental housing in Latin America.

In the last two years, some graduate design studios in architecture have focused on Latin America. One titled, "After the Shrimp: Scenario planning for promoting resilience in Ecuador's Coastal Landscapes," and directed by Stiphany, examined Guayaquil, the shrimp industry, its impact on the city, ecosystems, and Ecuadorian society.

That studio brought together UB students and specialists from Latin America to provide greater awareness of local and regional development alongside global ecosystems and enabled them to engage real-world urban issues. More recently a 2024 graduate design studio in Buffalo is prompting UB students to work with specialists in Latin America and investigate the design of housing in Brazil.

And prior to taking up her appointment as Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at UB in 2023 Professor Julia Czerniak worked with students in the Galapagos Islands to redesign existing systems of infrastructure to accommodate more-than-human species.

As teaching, research and service focusing on Latin America advance at the school, the office of graduate recruitment, directed by Kevin Donovan, is actively engaged with prospective applicants from Latin America and looking forward to the arrival of students from Ecuador and Peru in 2024.

There is growing enthusiasm for the stronger links forged between UB and institutions in the global south, and diverse initiatives promise new insights, collaborations and widening horizons as the school engages in design, teaching and research in Latin America. ♦



Kristine Stiphany (l) interviews a community leader in Brazil (Leo Alves)

GLOBAL STUDY FINDS ACOUSTIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LANGUAGES AND MUSIC

By Bert Gambini

A UB psychologist is part of a global research team that has identified specific acoustic relationships that distinguish speech, song and instrumental music across cultures.

The study published in the journal *Science Advances*, which involved experts in ethnomusicology, music psychology, linguistics and evolutionary biology, compared instrumental melodies along with songs, lyrics and speech in 55 languages. The findings provide an international perspective supporting ideas about how the world's music and languages evolved into their current states.

"There are many ways to look at the acoustic features of singing versus speaking, but we found the same three significant features across all the cultures we examined that distinguish song from speech," said Peter Pfordresher, a professor of psychology in the UB College of Arts and Sciences, and one of the 75 contributors to a unique project that involved the researchers assuming the dual roles of investigator and participant.

The three features are:

- Singing tends to be slower than speaking across all the cultures studied.
- People tend to produce more stable pitches when singing as opposed to speaking.
- Overall, singing pitch is higher than spoken pitch.

The exact evolutionary pressures responsible for shaping human behaviors are difficult to identify, but the new paper provides insights regarding the shared, cross-cultural similarities and differences in language and music – both of which are found in highly diverse forms across every human culture.

Pfordresher says the leading theory, advanced by the paper's senior author, Patrick Savage, PhD, senior research fellow at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, is that music evolved to promote social bonding.

"When people make music, and this is the case around the world, they tend to do so collectively. They synchronize and harmonize with each other," says Pfordresher. "The features we found that distinguish music from speech fit well with that theory."

Think about tempo as a mechanism to encourage music's social aspects. Being in sync becomes more difficult

as tempo increases. When the tempo slows, the rhythm becomes predictable and easier to follow. Music becomes a more social enterprise.

It's the same with pitch stability, according to Pfordresher.

"It's much easier to match a stable pitch with someone else, to be in sync with the collective, than is the case when a pitch is wavering," he says.

Similarly, it's possible that the higher pitches found in singing happen as a byproduct of songs being produced at a slower rate.

"Slower production rates require a greater volume of air in the lungs," explains Pfordresher. "Greater air pressure in the vocal system increases pitch."

Conversational speech, in contrast, is not synchronized. Conversations generally alternate between people.

"I would speculate that conversational speech is faster than song because people want to hold on to the stage. They don't want to provide false cues that they've finished,

in essence handing the conversation off to another speaker," says Pfordresher. "Pausing in a conversation or speaking slowly often indicates that it's another person's turn to speak."

The study's novel structure, with its investigators as participants, is part of the increasingly global nature of music cognition research. Savage and Yuto Ozaki, PhD, the lead author from Keio University in Japan, recruited researchers from Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific, who spoke languages that included Yoruba, Mandarin, Hindi, Hebrew, Arabic, Ukrainian, Russian, Balinese, Cherokee, Kannada, Spanish, Aynu, English and dozens more.

"First, we used this structure to counteract the unfortunate tradition of extractive research in cross-cultural musical studies in which researchers from the developed world collect, or extract, data from a culture in the developing world, and use the data to promote their own success," says Pfordresher.

The second reason has more to do with the validity of the data.

"Our analyses require annotation of syllable and note onsets in songs and speech from around the world," says Pfordresher. "No single investigator knows all of these lan-



OTTO'S CO-CURATED BAUHAUS EXHIBITION OPENS IN GERMANY

Bauhaus and National Socialism, an exhibit co-curated by Elizabeth (“Libby”) Otto, professor of modern and contemporary art history in the Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies and director of UB’s Humanities Institute, opened in Weimar, Germany, on May 8, 2024. Among the speakers at the opening were Claudia Roth, Germany’s Federal Minister for Culture and Media.

Germany’s Bauhaus (1919–1933) was arguably the most influential art, architecture, and design school of the twentieth century. Histories of its afterlife position it as exclusively a movement in exile after the school’s demise in 1933. “Bauhaus and National Socialism” offers a revised understanding of the movement as intimately intertwined and surprisingly compatible with Nazism.

The Weimar exhibition, featuring over 450 artworks and designed objects, is essentially three shows in one. These works tell the story of the Bauhaus’s complex political history from its opening in 1919 until its closure in 1933 and the widely varying paths taken by various Bauhaus members who remained in Nazi Germany. Part I, “The Bauhaus as a Politically Contested Site, 1919–1933,” in the Museum Neues Weimar, illuminates artistic and political conflicts within the Bauhaus.

These began with the founding of the art and design school in Weimar and continued unabated when the Bauhaus moved to Dessau and Berlin. Part II, in the Bauhaus Museum, “Removed – Confiscated – Assimilated, 1930/1937” focuses on the “Degenerate Art” confiscations in 1937 and the campaign that preceded it in Weimar.

As early as 1930, authorities had ordered the removal of over seventy works by artists such as Lyonel Feininger and Paul Klee from the Weimar Castle Museum. In 1937, more than 450 works were confiscated – a cultural loss to Weimar’s collections that still felt today.

Part III, the core of the exhibition, is at the Schiller-Museum. It deals with Bauhaus members “Living in the Dictatorship, 1933–1945.” It addresses the balancing acts they performed in the face of the new political circumstances after 1933. Many Bauhäusler had few choices; under an

anti-leftist and racist regime, they lost their jobs and were forced into exile.

Twenty-four Bauhaus members perished in Nazi prisons, ghettos, and concentration camps. However, the majority of Bauhaus members were not targets of the Nazi regime. In fact, they participated in propaganda exhibitions and design fairs; they designed film posters, furniture, household goods, and even busts of Hitler. For the duration of the exhibition, the gates of Buchenwald concentration camp will be situated in front of the Schiller-Museum, since they were designed by Bauhaus member and Buchenwald inmate Franz Ehrlich in 1938.

Together, the three parts of “Bauhaus and National Socialism” present a new, often difficult history of the Bauhaus and its legacies. Long after 1945, a particular illusion of modernism—and the Bauhaus with it—persisted, one that positioned it as uniquely “good” and “persecuted” under totalitarian regimes. As the fates of many Bauhaus members show, an innovative artistic attitude alone does not protect against the seductions of fascism.

The exhibition is the result of Otto’s three-year research project together with Prof. Patrick Rössler of Erfurt and Dr. Anke Blümm of the Bauhaus Museum Weimar. Accompanying the exhibition is a major new exhibition catalogue, for which Otto authored ten essays and co-authored two others.

Additionally, together with Blümm and Rössler, Otto will publish a scholarly edited volume in conjunction with the show, titled “...Ein Restchen alter Ideale”: Bauhäuslerinnen und Bauhäusler im Nationalsozialismus [“...A Remnant of Old Ideals”: Bauhaus Members and National Socialism] Otto’s essay in this book is titled “Das fehlende Archiv” [“The Missing Archive”].

Based on a key strand of her research in recent years, this essay brings together newly discovered works—including forged documents and secret camp songbooks—by Bauhaus members who were prisoners in concentration camps and in two cases perished as victims of the holocaust.

Otto has been researching the topic of Bauhaus members in Nazi Germany since 2019. She will continue this work as she completes her own single-authored book on the topic, which is under preliminary contract with MIT Press. ♦



VISITING SCHOLAR FROM RIGA INITIATES DENTAL SCHOOL COLLABORATION

By Laurie Kaiser

When Anete Vaškevica, a lecturer of conservative dentistry and oral health at Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) in Latvia, visited UB in September 2023, it marked the beginning of a new partnership.

The hope for the partnership, between the School of Dental Medicine and RSU's school of dental medicine, is to encourage exchanges of faculty and students, and create opportunities to develop joint research projects.

"Anete, who is a mid-career periodontist, came as a pioneer to observe our teaching and research methodology," says Stefan Ruhl, professor of oral biology who served as the interim dean of the dental school during 2022 and spring of 2023. He was one of four UB delegates,

including President Satish Tripathi, who signed a formal memorandum of understanding with RSU in April 2023.

Vaškevica's visit was followed by a virtual meeting in November between leaders of both institutions to discuss opportunities for future interactions, especially in the areas of oral biology, oral diagnostic sciences, periodontics and endodontics.

"While she was here, Anete interacted with some 70 members of the dental school, attended lectures and later shared what she learned with her colleagues and dean in Latvia," Ruhl says.

"She was so impressed with UB and the city that she told us she agreed with the Reader's Digest 2023 assessment of Buffalo as the nicest place in America."

Located in northeastern Europe, Latvia is the middle of the three Baltic states. Once part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the country gained independence in 1990, and was admitted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and European Union in 2004. Rīga Stradiņš University, which has five schools of medical science including dentistry, is the only university in Latvia that has traditionally been integrated into the nation's health care system.

"UB has had unofficial interactions with Riga for the past 30 years, soon after the Iron Curtain fell," notes Mirdza

Neiders, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emerita in the dental school and a Latvian native who sponsored Vaškevica's visit.

UB's School of Management and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences established partnerships with schools in Riga years ago, spearheaded by Voldemars Innus, retired UB vice president and chief information officer.

In the early 1990s, Innus, who is also of Latvian nationality, decided to create a Western-style business school at Riga Technical University when the Soviet Union broke up, Neiders says.

For his efforts, Innus was awarded the Order of the Three Stars, Latvia's highest state award, for distinguished and longstanding service to the country.

Neiders, who turned 90 last year, retired from UB in 2018 after serving as an oral pathologist in the dental school for 56 years.

She says she wants to ex-

pand UB's connection to Latvia, where she spent her early childhood, before the Soviet and German invasions. She immigrated with her family to the United States in 1950.

"I sponsored this visiting scholar because I want to make sure the interactions between Latvian dentists and those at UB continue for years to come," she says. "Anete's visit was a good start."

Benefits of the partnership include a potential influx of students at UB from Latvia, joint research projects and exchanges of information, Neiders says.

"It also will encourage more research in growing areas of dentistry, such as digital dentistry and dental tissue engineering," says Neiders, adding that in Latvia, dentistry has traditionally been a women's profession.

"While more men are entering the profession now in Latvia, the country's dental schools don't have the 50/50 split between male and female students that you see in the United States.

With this partnership, both institutions can provide more opportunities to students and faculty who want to advance in the oral health professions." ♦

Laurie Kaiser is a news content director for University Communications.



UB SENIOR RECEIVES GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP

By Charles Anzalone

A 2023 Goldwater scholarship recipient, UB biomedical engineering senior Sydney Swedick has added another prestigious fellowship to her extensive scholarly honors: the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, which awards her a full scholarship to pursue a postgraduate degree at the University of Cambridge in the UK.

Swedick's award is the first time since 2016 that a UB student has won this international award, according to



Photo: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

Megan Stewart, director of UB's Office of Fellowships and Scholarships.

"Sydney amazes me at everything she does, and winning the Gates Cambridge is a testament to her exceptional academic and leadership potential, and demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of others," says Stewart.

"Winning this scholarship is an impressive feat, and it reflects the University at Buffalo's commitment to academic excellence. It underscores its reputation as a diverse, inclusive scholarly community dedicated to bringing the benefits of our research to local and global communities."

Swedick can be proud of her growing legacy and the object lesson she has become for other UB students — and the Cambridge Gates is just the latest example. About 1% of Gates Cambridge applicants receive the award, which comes with a "maintenance fee" stipend throughout her three-year PhD program, in addition to the full scholarship.

"Conducting this work and having this opportunity," Swedick says, "is part of the next step toward me becoming a physician-scientist and leading in finding new therapies and treatments for those with peripheral nerve and spinal cord injuries, while starting my own biotech company one day."

Then there is her roll call of awards. So far Swedick's academic honors include selection to the All-USA Academic Team while attending SUNY Schenectady, one of only 20 community college students in the country to receive this award, and the 2022 New Century Transfer Scholar Award —she was the top applicant in New York State—given to community college students demonstrating intellect and leadership. She was also one of 15 students selected for the Johns Hopkins University Amgen Scholar U.S. Program and one of only six in the nation to conduct research through the HEART/SHURP MD/PhD summer internship program at Harvard Medical School.

Not to mention the Goldwater, considered the most prestigious and competitive research scholarship offered for undergraduate STEM students. By the way, respected international rankings recognize Cambridge as the No. 2 university in the world.

That's a partial list of her accomplishments. And she's only 21 years old. Not bad for a native of Johnstown, a small city of 8,070 in upstate New York, whose ambitions include strengthening ties to her hometown and breaking down educational barriers.

She says her life would look very different if it weren't for her family—she has four siblings she is very close to—and lifelong friends.

"The odds were against me," she says.

"It's really, I think, a creation of all my siblings and my parents, and the work of us together because I really could not have done it without them."

Swedick's research interest in biomedical engineering and neurology, along with her hopes of entering a prominent medical school, trace back to her childhood, when she battled through serious medical conditions. When Swedick was just 12, she had two titanium rods and 11 screws placed in her spine during a 10-hour spinal fusion surgery. At that point, she knew she wanted to eventually go into biomedical research, which evolved into her present ambition to blend neurology and engineering as a physician-scientist.

Medical challenges followed her through high school and continued when she attended SUNY Schenectady. Swedick was diagnosed a couple years ago with severe forms of the autoimmune diseases Thyroid Eye Disease and Graves' disease, immune system disorders that result in the overproduction of thyroid hormones, affecting many body systems. Her condition went undiagnosed for years because her symptoms were attributed to allergies.

The more she struggled with her health and the busier she got academically, the more she discovered the need

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REFLECTIONS OF A FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT IN GUATEMALA

By Ryan Best

As we first explored the cobblestone streets of Antigua, Guatemala, we could be forgiven for briefly forgetting our purpose there. Built by 16th-century Conquistadors, Antigua feels truly unique, with each house painted a vividly different color and the entire town being ringed by volcanoes. Furthermore, we were lucky enough to visit in December, during which time the town celebrates the Virgin of Guadalupe.

While the fireworks-laden children and near-constant cannon blasts took a moment to adjust to, we settled into the festivities and came to deeply admire the town's beauty. However, we had another reason for being there, and we were all excited to get to work.

After a 30-minute ride on a "chicken bus" (so named as the passengers' heads tend to resemble chickens due to Nascar-level driving), we arrived at the clinic where we would spend the next week. We were to be working with "Mis Años Dorados", a local program that provides medical care, meals, and companionship to the town's elderly, many of whom are without family.

With few resources at their disposal and many people to look after, we quickly came to appreciate the work done by the women running the program. Each day we were there, our group separated into three parts, with some students providing check-ups in the clinic, others assisting with physical therapy, and the rest spending time with the elderly, doing art projects and the like.

Our penultimate day there, we hosted a "spa day", where we shaved the mens' beards, painted the womens' nails, and gave numerous shoulder massages. On our last day, they threw a party for us which involved eating delicious

food, dancing outside and playing hot potato.

Regarding the medical side of our experience, however, I can't help but feel somewhat conflicted. While each and every Jacobs student was fantastic in the care they provided and the compassion with which they did so, we also felt somewhat like we were putting a Band-aid on an amputation. The clinic had not seen a doctor in four months, and many of the people we saw were suffering from ailments far-beyond our capabilities to assist. However, there were enough positive moments to give me hope.

For example, we saw one patient who was an elderly woman, and after learning she had diabetes we decided to provide a foot exam. Upon cleaning her feet, we were able to see a small cut that was borderline-gangrenous, which we then cleaned before providing the woman with medicine.

While I cannot say for certain (especially as an M1) that the cut would have worsened, I feel this was a tangible, potentially limb-saving effect that we had. For another example, I will never forget the adorable 12-year-old girl who had tragically acquired a body-wide skin infection. After helping her to feel comfortable, we explained the importance of not scratching and provided her with a topical ointment. The next day, she returned to the clinic and stated she felt better already.

While our experience was unforgettable for many reasons, being it riding horses up a volcano, taking salsa lessons on a roof, or meeting some of the kindest and warmest people on the planet, our experiences helping people were surely the ones that will stand out to us forever. During this time, our group came to a deeper understanding of the importance of global health work, and we all know there is more to do. ♦

GATES CAMBRIDGE

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for balance and what mattered in her life. Swedick says she believes she would have succeeded in her accomplishments, despite her health challenges, due to the work ethic and determination she received from her parents. These were the cards she was dealt, she says, and she would make the most of it. Yet, the struggles were important, as it provided her with a strong sense that the people in her life made it worth living, and she would take those she met along her journey wherever she went.

That sense of balance comes into play when she remembers the conversations she had with her high school friends about the world beyond Johnstown. She promises to continue to advocate for educational equity and bridging the disparities of the system—activism that began during her time at SUNY Schenectady.

She plans to continue breaking down those same educational barriers while at Cambridge, where she hopes to volunteer at the Cambridge Science Centre, while joining sustainability organizations such as Cambridge Zero.

Even though her next step means moving halfway across the world, she remains steadfast to her hometown, from her family to her friends to the values still vivid from growing up in a small town at the base of the Adirondack Mountains. She isn't leaving these people behind; she's bringing pieces of them with her until she returns, once again, to help others in her situation.

"One day I will look to my sides and see my people standing firmly with me, and I will say we made it," she says. "My people, we made it." ♦

Charles Anzalone is a news content manager for University Communications.

STUDENT'S PASSION IS TO IMPROVE CANCER CARE IN UGANDA

By Charles Anzalone

Among the moments that shaped UB senior Rachel Sanyu's young but eventful life, none was more formative than her visit as a teenager to Mulago Hospital, the main hospital in Kampala, Uganda.

Because of her talent and interest in becoming a doctor, she had the opportunity to visit the heart and cancer institutes during high school. She observed treatment for heart patients, but for those treated for cancer, there was a completely different mood.

"In the cancer institute, there was ... I don't want to call it a sense of doom, but there was a certain level of hopelessness," says Sanyu, a pharmacology and toxicology major. "A lot of things have changed, but at that time, most of the patients that were diagnosed were told to travel outside the country."

Sanyu, known for her upbeat demeanor, lowers and shakes her head, trying to catch her emotions.

"It was heartbreaking, honestly," she says. "Even at that young age, I could see that level of pain and loss of hope. A hospital is supposed to be a place of hope. It's supposed to be a place where people can get help, get a cure, get treated. And that wasn't the case with cancer. Third World countries don't have the same access. Many Third World patients are referred to the U.S., India and the U.K., and they can't afford it. And once that happens, it means we're losing many patients."

"Why not start a new wave of doctors who can come, get the qualifications they can, and then take those qualifications back home?"

Fast forward to the present. Sanyu has honed her ambition to be a doctor by altering the lockstep course structure of most aspiring medical students by taking a more diverse set of classes. And she has already displayed a remarkable combination of entrepreneurship and research, founding MedScript, a digital service addressing limitations in cross-country communication, learning and networking that hinder health care exchanges.

No doubt she has started her path toward her goal, which is nothing less than changing the way cancer patients are treated in her native country.

She recently won UB's first McCall MacBain Regional Award, a \$10,000 scholarship recognizing engaged student leaders demonstrating "exceptional character, community engagement, leadership potential, entrepreneurial spirit, academic strength and intellectual curiosity."

And Sanyu will probably be embarrassed reading this.

Having the limelight on anything personal clashes with her British pedagogic influence, part of which is her refined English accent. Nevertheless, she has things to say — and can't help being a role model.

"I am not just passionate about reforming Uganda's cancer care, but rather driving that transformation," she has written, and is a little sheepish when reminded of that quote.

Then she takes a breath and doubles down on that bold statement.

"It takes a visionary to get certain things," she says.



Photo: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

Sanyu says Uganda lags in clinical trials and experimental procedures. "A lot of that is based on things that have been done long term, rather than taking up newer technology."

And Sanyu will not rest until she changes that.

"My goal with my medical degree in the future will be to take home all the knowledge I have gained from all the experiences I have had, and drive change."

H. Fogarty, postdoctoral researcher in equity and inclusion, Department of Engineering Education, helped Sanyu with the McCall MacBain application when Fogarty worked for UB's Office of Fellowships and Scholarships. Fogarty calls Sanyu one of those notable students they are "deeply grateful and honored to know."

"One of Rachel's most notable characteristics is her creative problem-solving," says Fogarty, who praises Sanyu's health equity research credentials and professional contributions, including her accomplishments in expanding access to medical information worldwide with MedScript.

"Rather than waiting for someone else to fix a problem," Fogarty says, "Rachel finds a way to do it herself, mastering new skill sets, taking on additional responsibilities and

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INFECTIOUS DISEASE PARTNERSHIP IN GHANA

By Ellen Goldbaum

Traditional medical missions often involve medical professionals from well-resourced, high-income countries traveling to under-resourced, low-income countries to provide health care to a local population for a limited period of time. Earlier this year, a group of University at Buffalo infectious disease physicians traveled to Ghana with a plan to do things a little differently.

"There's this concept of global health that in some ways can be an extension of colonialism, where you go into this

"Infectious disease is such a geographic and locality-driven practice, we really learn from each other in terms of the disease process but also how hurdles are tackled with different levels of resources."

He notes that while the conventional perspective is that African countries are low- to middle-resourced, the HIV research he observed in Ghana is world-class.

John Hu led the medical portion of the trip, along with Seth Glassman, Alyssa S. Shon, Patrick Kenney and Shipra Goel. Kenney, who will be joining UB's clinical faculty this summer, says that in a way, his experience in Ghana was exactly the experience he was seeking.

"My goal in medicine was to work in under-resourced areas," he says. "That's why I went into infectious disease in the first place."

Working with colleagues from the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences led by Gina Prescott, PharmD, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice and director of global and community outreach, the UB physicians conducted four clinics and saw 650 patients.

Kenney says the focus on partnering with local providers was especially appealing.

"One of the things we were trying to do was to engage with the local health care system, more than just bringing medicines into this country without hope of follow-up or building systems," Kenney says.

Kenney is one of only about a dozen current fellows in the US who have chosen to specialize in infectious diseases in both adult and pediatric patients. "I chose this specialty because I wanted to be in a position where I can treat whoever needs treatment, no matter who walks in the door," he says.

Those skills served him well on the trip, where he was able to treat both children and adults. But sometimes the most helpful thing physicians can do on such trips is less about treating patients than about providing health information. "A big part of what we did was patient education," says Hu. For example, when they diagnosed hypertension in a person, they would work on making referrals to local health care providers, to establish continuity of care.

Hu, Kenney and Glassman are partnering with physicians and researchers they met in Ghana, and plans are being made for next year's trip. "This is a reframing of global health trips," says Hu. "We want to empower local health care providers. We want to turn over to them the care of these patients; we don't want to take away from the health care system that already exists there." ♦

Ellen Goldbaum is a news content manager for University Communications.



John Hu (far left) with colleagues at the clinic in Cape Coast, Ghana

country to 'save' the local population with your advanced medical care," says John C. Hu, clinical assistant professor of medicine and Clinical and Translational Science Institute K Scholar in the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB.

"That's the wrong way to look at it. As infectious disease physicians, we want to have the humility to approach it in a different way," he explains. "The important aspect is to try and build something bidirectional, to not come in as outsiders but to partner with ongoing initiatives in Ghana."

The trip was led by Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah, clinical professor of organization and human resources and faculty director for global programs in the UB School of Management.

Hu led the medical portion of the trip, along with Seth Glassman, clinical assistant professor of medicine; Alyssa S. Shon, clinical assistant professor of medicine; Patrick Kenney, who is finishing up his adult/pediatric infectious disease fellowship at UB this semester; and Shipra Goel, UB internal medicine resident with the Catholic Health System-Sisters of Charity Program.

"The ultimate goal is to establish education, clinical and research exchanges with our partners in Ghana," says Hu.

NURSING AND PHARMACY STUDENTS PROVIDE SERVICE IN BELIZE

By Charles Anzalone

Nursing graduate student Caitlyn Tiedemann describes her experience during which she and a small group of UB nursing and pharmacy students and faculty spent their winter break providing service in rural Belize: “This was definitely a humbling and enriching experience,” says Tiedemann, an adult-gerontology nurse practitioner student who is no stranger to fieldwork in underserved communities.

“This trip to Belize has changed my outlook on life and has made me rethink the things I value.

“Also, this experience empowered me and increased my confidence in providing diverse health care,” she says.

The photos coming back from the group’s two-week experience in Belize tell the story. UB students and faculty meet with children and parents in modest surroundings. They carry backpacks past towering plants on their way to local homes. They treat children in an ad-hoc clinic at a local school.

“The biggest impression I had from Belize was the people’s strength and emphasis on family and sense of community,” says Tiedemann. “For example, when we visited homes, many families were not available, since they were at work. However, neighbors and friends said they would let those who were working know about the clinic so they could receive treatment as well. It also seemed like everyone knew each other and were happy to be around one another.”

Tiedemann’s deep impressions were not unusual, according to Molli Oldenburg, clinical associate professor and global initiatives coordinator in the School of Nursing, who along with faculty from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, supervised the experience.

Both schools wanted to provide students with an inter-professional clinical experience to learn and explore another culture and environment, Oldenburg explains. Taking part in clinicals in a health care system vastly different from what students are used to helps them appreciate the challenges of public health and deepens their understanding of global health disparities, she says. The trip allowed students to learn from, and work alongside, local Belizean nurses, community health workers, pharmacists and doctors.

“It’s one thing to teach students about social determinants of health,” Oldenburg notes. “And it’s another for them to see the impact firsthand. The goal is to boost their knowledge in hopes for better retention that they will use moving forward in their professional careers.”

The students taking part in the Belize trip were no strangers to fieldwork, and their experience left a deep impression on those participating.

The trip to the Central American country included orientation about Belizean history, food, culture and language. Students performed home visits working with a community health worker in San Juan and a Belizean nurse who was working at the local northern regional hospital. The team split into groups visiting homes assessing living conditions, the need for acute health care and providing health promotion education.

“This was an important piece of learning. It was a great clinical experience for students to see and remember that social determinants of health affect individuals long before the health care system ever gets involved,” says Oldenburg.

“It was also vital for the students to have this experience of home visits to bring back to their clinical practice at home, as it is a reminder that you cannot assume that the walls that surround a patient in the hospital or clinic will be similar to the walls that surround them at home; meaning a patient may not have access to items that we may take for granted, like running water, flushable toilets, transportation, education.”

The nursing and pharmacy students also set up a clinic in a local school. Each clinic included a nurse practitioner student, undergraduate nursing student, pharmacy student and either a UB nursing faculty member or local Belizean doctor.

o continue to treat the community. The program included daily post-clinic conferences led by the local health care workers to discuss cases and sustainability.

There was also a station set up where UB pharmacy students and faculty worked with a Belizean pharmacist to dispense medications and counsel patients on medication recommendations and use. ♦



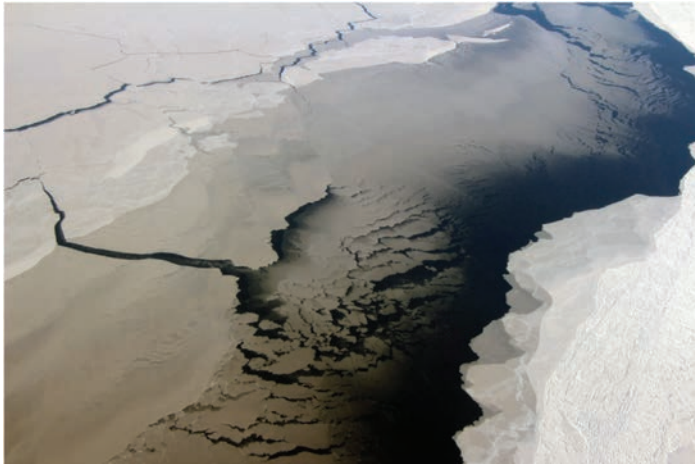
Molli Oldenburg (4th from l) with colleagues and UB students in Belize

UB RESEARCHERS SUPPORT NASA MONITORING OF CLIMATE CHANGE

By Tom Dinki and Lauren Fimbres Wood

UB scientists are part of an international team selected by NASA to conceptualize a future satellite mission that can advance understanding of Earth's response to climate change.

Sophie Nowicki, Empire Innovation Professor, and Beata Csatho, professor and associate chair, both in the Department of Geology, are members of the Earth Dynamics Geodetic Explorer (EDGE) team. Led by the University of California San Diego, EDGE proposes using satellite laser



Opening in Antarctic sea ice (John Sonntag, NASA, 2018)

altimetry for an unprecedented, real-time look at both carbon stored in forests and ice at the poles.

It was one of four proposals selected by NASA's new Earth System Explorers Program, which is seeking satellite-based missions that will advance understanding of climate change factors like greenhouse gases and changes in ice and glaciers around the world.

The four finalists will each receive \$5 million to conduct a one-year mission concept study. After the study period, NASA will choose two proposals for satellites to launch in 2030 and 2032, with a budget of \$310 million for each chosen investigation.

The goal of EDGE is to observe the three-dimensional structure of terrestrial ecosystems like forests and the surface features of glaciers, ice sheets and sea ice as they change in response to human activity. This will be done by laser altimetry, which sends laser pulses to Earth's surface and records the time it takes them to return to the spacecraft.

EDGE will build on two ongoing NASA space laser altimeter missions that first launched in 2018: Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2) and Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI).

EDGE advances the technology on ICESat-2 and GEDI

through an increased density of laser beams that will map the planet using five 120-meter-wide strips. This unprecedented resolution and accuracy will allow scientists to precisely measure changes as they are happening, providing a real-time look at whether the planet is crossing critical tipping points that will cause abrupt or irreversible change.

"The EDGE team brings together vegetation and cryosphere scientists to work toward a shared goal of developing an instrument to measure these vital signs of our planet," says EDGE team leader Helen Amanda Fricker, professor of geophysics at UC San Diego's Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics. "EDGE will have the capability to measure the density of the rainforest in the Amazon and depths of individual cracks in glaciers, enabling improved tracking and understanding of our planet's biodiversity, changes in carbon storage and rate of ice loss contributing to sea-level rise."

EDGE, flying on Maxar's 500 spacecraft, will also expand the footprint of Earth that is monitored. The GEDI instrument on the International Space Station only covers as far north as Canada and south to Australia, but EDGE's orbit goes all the way to the poles, providing global coverage of vegetation and allowing for dense mapping around the edges of ice sheets and sea ice pack.

The data from EDGE will be used to inform Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports and policymakers about projected future conditions, helping society prepare for and adapt to climate change.

Nowicki and Csatho have both been involved in previous NASA satellite laser altimeter missions. Csatho served on the science team for the ICESat-2 and original ICESat missions, as well as the follow-on missions between the two, known as Operation IceBridge. Nowicki, who is also director of the UB Center for Geological and Climate Hazards, served on the Operation IceBridge team.

Nowicki will be EDGE's cryosphere application lead, tasked with coordinating and expanding ice sheet modeling, as well as community engagement with the team's dataset. Csatho will be a land ice products co-lead in charge of elevation change products over glaciers and ice sheets.

Altogether, the EDGE team is composed of 25 scientists and engineers from around the world. In the next year, the EDGE team will finalize the technical capabilities of the mission, demonstrate feasibility and refine satellite design so the missions can be executed on time and on budget. NASA will then choose two of the four accepted proposals to move forward to launch. ♦

Tom Dinki is a news content manager for University Communications; Lauren Fimbres Wood is with the University of California San Diego.

IN RETIREMENT, DAVID ENGEL CONTINUES TO MENTOR SCHOLARS IN ASIA

When he stepped down from full-time teaching in 2019, David M. Engel, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, had already embarked on what he calls his retirement project: a series of biannual workshops to train Law and Society scholars in Asia.

That project, called TRIALS (Training Initiative for Asian Law and Society Scholars) and based at the National University of Singapore, is thriving, and now Engel has also published “The Asian Law and Society Reader” (Cambridge University Press). The co-edited volume gathers recent scholarship from leading Asia-based scholars in Law and Society, a research approach that looks at the place of law in social, political, economic and cultural life. It’s the first collection of Law and Society scholarship featuring that entire region.

Engel is fully invested in this approach to the study of law; he’s a former president of the Law & Society Association and serves as a founding co-editor of the Asian Journal of Law and Society.

Engel interviewed from his home in California, on the eve of yet another trip to Singapore, and asked him to elaborate on his intellectual life in retirement.

Congratulations on the publication of “The Asian Law and Society Reader.” Given that this is a developing field in Asian scholarship, was it difficult to find enough strong contributors? How do you hope the book will be used?

Across Asia, there is a growing demand among policymakers for law-related research that goes beyond the study of legal theory and philosophy and asks how Asian legal systems actually work. My co-authors, Lynette Chua and Sida Liu, have been key figures in addressing this need. We’ve witnessed exciting initiatives in the training of Asian law students and a new generation of scholars eager to learn about Law and Society research in their own countries.

This reader is meant to benefit them, but it’s also designed for a general audience interested in learning more about the countries and cultures of Asia. We considered hundreds of books and articles—there were plenty to choose from—and ended up with studies of 29 countries. We also provide extensive commentaries on each topic. This book is intended as a general introduction to the field

of Law and Society scholarship and to the laws, cultures and societies of Asia.

The new book’s cover image is a photo you took. Can you speak to the discussions that led to that choice?

Working with Cambridge University Press to find an appropriate image for the cover raised some of the same issues

that the book itself deals with. Typically, books about Asia feature images of temples or religious art or dance, but our book deals with many different religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity among them. We didn’t want to feature one religious tradition to

the exclusion of others. Moreover, in some belief systems it might be offensive to portray any sentient being at all. So it became a challenge to find an image that seemed “Asian” yet was not religious and didn’t show people or animals.

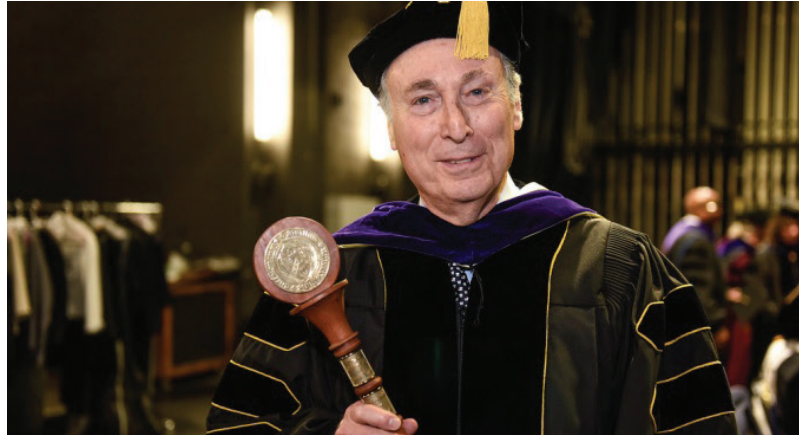
We settled on a photo I had taken while walking in the mountains of northern Thailand. It shows this amazingly beautiful pond full of reflected palms and flowers and the image—and reflection—of a pink water lily. In its totality, this photograph seemed to capture some of the deeper meanings of our book.

Through your workshops in Singapore, you’ve put great energy into developing Law and Society scholarship among Asian academics. Are there aspects of Asian societies that particularly lend themselves to study through this lens?

Almost all Asian societies feature legal systems that have been transplanted from other countries, including England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the U.S. and Russia. These foreign laws were superimposed on centuries-old legal traditions and on localized village-level customary practices. As a result, there are striking differences between the official legal system of judges, lawyers and legal scholars and the law-related practices and beliefs that are more familiar to Asian people.

Japanese legal scholars in the early 20th century were among the first to recognize the importance of these dif-

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DAVID ENGEL

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ferences, and they helped to create the field of Law and Society worldwide. Many other researchers came to recognize that studying transplanted legal doctrine alone would tell them very little about the hybrid, pluralistic quality of law in Asian settings. Perhaps for that reason, scholars of Asian law have been drawn to the Law and Society field in growing numbers.

Another recent project is co-editing a compilation of U.S. and international scholars writing about the civil justice system. What draws you to this area of study, and how might this volume inform thinking about making the civil justice system more accessible to all who might have a claim?

Anne Bloom, Richard Jolly and I are preparing the Research Handbook on the Civil Justice System (Elgar Publishing) with contributions from 28 distinguished scholars based in the U.S. and in other countries. All of them are concerned with how and whether legal institutions offer meaningful remedies for individuals who seek justice when their rights are infringed.

My own interest draws on my four decades as a torts professor and on my interviews with hundreds of individuals who have been injured or whose civil rights have been violated yet feel hopeless when it comes to seeking help from the legal system. The task of making the civil justice system more accessible may be a bit like pushing the same

boulder repeatedly up the mountain, yet the authors contributing to this volume have never given up hope.

Your book “The Myth of the Litigious Society: Why We Don’t Sue” has drawn the attention of, among others, Ralph Nader, who recently invited you to present in a panel discussion he chaired. What if anything has changed in Americans’ attitudes toward the tort system since its publication in 2016?

Americans will always have an ambivalent attitude toward the tort system. They will cheer Erin Brockovich for fighting the system on behalf of the little guy, but ridicule Saul Goodman for trying to convert human misfortune into big bucks. I don’t expect that to change.

But there has been a gradual shift. We don’t see the strident anti-tort PR campaign featured quite so prominently in political contests, and there has been more of an effort to educate the public on the essential benefits injury law confers in every legal system in the world.

There was even a documentary film, *Hot Coffee*, about the real facts in the McDonald’s coffee case. Ralph Nader in recent years has turned his attention increasingly toward public education – that was the purpose of the panel in which I took part. Different views on tort law must be welcomed and respected, but I certainly favor informed debate over misinformation and vilification! ♦

This interview was originally published in the UB Law’s “Law Links.”

HOMECOMING

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In July 2020, Sherene was appointed Registrar, Office of Student and Academic Affairs, for the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She had the opportunity to relocate to the new Jacobs building on the downtown campus.

This complex position involved the management of the school’s academic records, oversight of student registration processes, development and enforcement of school policies, beginning- and end-of-term processing in Peoplesoft, degree audits and much more.

While this challenging senior role at Jacobs leveraged her extensive experience both in admissions and graduate student services, Sherene was drawn back to OIE by the opportunity to manage UB’s highly successful program at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM).

Working with colleagues both at SIM and across UB, she is responsible for the day-to-day administration of UB’s seven undergraduate degree programs conducted at SIM, which currently enroll some 1,300 students.

Just in the past month, Sherene paid her first visit to SIM

as director, in part to help prepare for the events in mid-July to celebrate the 20th anniversary of UB-SIM Program.

Organized in conjunction with the program’s annual commencement ceremonies, the events include a Global Alumni Conference at SIM and a 20th anniversary celebratory dinner. The UB delegation visiting SIM in July will be led by President Satish Tripathi, Vice Provost Nojin Kwak, and Deans Ananth Iyer and Robin Schulze.

Sherene looks forward to helping advance OIE’s mission through the development of new international programs and overseas centers.

Beyond her professional roles at UB, Sherene has been an active participant in various committees and working groups at the university, including the Professional Staff Senate and the University at Buffalo Child Care Center (UB-CCC). She remains deeply committed to initiatives aimed at enhancing equitable childcare in Western New York.

Sherene and her husband Peter, a UB alumnus in computer science whom she met early in her time at UB, have two children—Emma (11) and Evan (9), who both “graduated” from the UBCCC. ♦

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Department of Architecture

Kristine Stiphany, assistant professor, authored a book chapter, “Vivienda de alquiler informal en São Paulo: una realidad ignorada (Informal rental housing in São Paulo: An ignored reality),” in *Vivienda en Arriendo en América Latina*. Felipe Link, Adriana Toró (eds.) Centro de Estudios de Conflicto y Cohesión Social – COES; Instituto de Estudios Urbanos e Territorial UC – IEUT UC, 2023. While rental housing has historically existed within informal settlements, its prevalence was relatively limited compared to ownership. This book marks a second wave of scholarship that specifically examines the substantial increase in rental housing within large urban informal settlements worldwide. By focusing on this trend, Stiphany’s chapter contributes insights into the dynamics of urbanization, housing affordability, and socio-economic challenges faced by residents in these rapidly evolving urban environments. Stiphany’s inclusion as the sole American scholar invited to contribute to the first edited volume about contemporary rental housing in Latin American settlements underscores her unique expertise and perspective on this important and understudied aspect of urban development in the region. This extends to her teaching about how critical issues of urbanization impact disadvantaged communities in Latin America and along the U.S. – Mexico border. Her goal is to foster a nuanced understanding of how global urban challenges articulate in local built environments among her students. Her recent graduate studio at UB “After Shrimp: Scenario planning for promoting resilience in Ecuador’s Coastal Landscapes (The Guayas River Delta)” exemplifies her dedication to practical, solution-oriented research that directly addresses the uneven development of Latin American urban landscapes.

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Wiesye Violent Pelupessy, Ph.D. candidate, was awarded the 2023 Natural Hazards Student Research Grant from the Center for Geological and Climate Hazards at UB. The grant intends to support her study on Indonesian Coastal Community Seismic Awareness. **Robert Silverman**, professor, has co-authored the submission for publication.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Anthropology

In February 2024, **Ana Mariella Bacigalupo**, professor, is giving a lecture titled “The Subversive Cosmopolitics of Mountain Ancestors: Challenges to Extractivism for Collective Ethics and Environmental Justice” at the *Alternatives to extractivism (A2E) workshop* in Maputo, Mozambique, funded by Point Sud: Centre de Recherche sur le Savoir Local.

Department of Art

L. Vance Watrous, professor, has been invited to give a lecture, “Excavating Gournia, A Town on Late Bronze Age Crete” on April 23, 2024 at the American Institute of Archaeology, University of Toronto, Canada.

Arts Management Program

The book *Art Work: Invisible Labour and the Legacy of Yugoslav Socialism* (Uni of Toronto Press, 2021) by **Katja Praznik**, associate professor of global gender studies, was translated into Slovenian and published by *Založba Maska* (*Delo umetnosti: nevidno delo in zapuščina jugoslovanskega socializma*). Featuring an introduction by the renowned early social reproduction theorist Silvia Federici, the book was launched at a special event organized by the publisher in Ljubljana, Slovenia in December, 2023. In January 2024 a talk show “Panoptikum” produced by the Slovenian National Television was dedicated to Praznik’s book and featured a discussion with Praznik and three other guests, a scholar Katja Kobolt, an artist Maja Hodošček and the director of cultural policy directorate at the Ministry of Culture Tjaša Pureber. Praznik wrote an essay commissioned by the Kunst Haus Graz (Austria) for the catalogue of the exhibition *24/7 Work between Meaning and Imbalance* curated by Katia Huemer and Martin Grabner. The exhibition will be on view from May 1, 2024 until January 29, 2025. She was also invited to contribute to an edited volume *Nocturnalities: Bargaining Beyond Rest* edited by Andrea Knezović and Agata Bar. In June 2024, Praznik will be one of the speakers at the “Labor Transfer Summer School” taking place in Buggeru, Sardinia (Italy). Summer school is an international initiative of global labor scholars interested in collaborations, synergies and knowledge exchange between academia and social organizations, aiming at producing emancipatory knowledge on labor and social issues.

Asian Studies Program

Thomas W. Burkman, research professor emeritus, authored “The Faith Life of Nitobe Inazo: A Legacy of Philadelphia Quakerism,” in Linda H. Chance, Paul B. Reagan, and Tetsuko Toda, eds., *Friendly Connections: Philadelphia Quakers and Japan since the Late Nineteenth Century* (Lanham, Lexington Books, 2024), pp. 63-75.

Mimi Okabe, assistant teaching professor, is an organizer of the *Replaying Japan International Game Studies Conference* in August 2024. Since 2012, the Replaying Japan conference has hosted researchers from various fields conducting research on Japanese and Asian game culture. In August 2024, Western New York will become a hub for Game Studies scholars as Replaying Japan makes its way to Buffalo, alongside the Video Game Preservation Conference, which will take place at The Strong Museum of Play in Rochester. In celebration of this synergy between cities and conferences, the 12th International Japan Game Studies Conference will be held at UB in cooperation with The Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester. For the 2024 Replaying Japan conference, Yoko Taro, a game industry legend, with a focus on the theme of A.I. and Creativity. His work *Nier Automata* (2017), which has achieved a global circulation of over 7 million copies and received numerous accolades, is renowned for its focus on AI-themed storytelling, making him a perfect fit for the conference’s theme. Tentatively titled, “World Building in an AI-Integrated Society from the Perspective of Japanese Game Creators,” Yoko’s presentation will explore various aspects of his creative process in relation to topics such as how AI became a central feature in game experiences long before technology became as ubiquitous. Another prominent keynote speaker, Jon-Paul Dyson, director of the International Center for the History of Electronic Games and Vice President for Exhibits at the Strong National Museum of Play, has supervised the growth of the collection to more than 65,000 video games and related artifacts and hundreds of thousands of associated library and archival materials, the most comprehensive such collection in the world. He is also in charge of the research, development, fabrication, and maintenance of highly interactive, artifact-rich exhibits at The Strong that explore the past and present of play and are visited by nearly 700,000 people a year. In 2023, the museum opened a 90,000 sq. ft. expansion that included Digital Worlds, a series of exhibits on the history of video games.

Department of Chemistry

Emanuela Gionfriddo, associate professor, has been recognized for her scientific accomplishments with two national awards: the Rising Star in Measurement Science from the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the Young Investigation Award (YIA) from the Chinese American Chromatography Association (C.A.C.A.) Gionfriddo’s research centers on analytical chemistry, which focuses on measuring chemicals and developing new methodologies to increase the precision of measurements. Her research is largely funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF); over the course of her brief career, she already has published more than 60 articles in peer-reviewed publications and holds a patent. Gionfriddo earned a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and PhD in chemistry from the University of Calabria in Italy. She then joined the University of Waterloo (Ontario, Canada) as a postdoctoral fellow and manager of the Gas-Chromatography section of the Industrially Focused Analytical Research Laboratory (InFAReL). She joined the UB faculty in January 2024.

Department of Economics

Alex Anas, professor, was a visiting scholar from November 1 through November 28, 2023, at the Department of Spatial Economics, School of Business, Vrije Universiteit (Free University) Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Anas gave a seminar on November 16 attended by the department’s faculty, visitors and PhD students, titled: “Pigouvian pricing and the Henry George Theorem in the presence of distortionary taxation.” The paper on which the seminar is based, synthesizes the contributions of the economists Arthur Pigou and Henry George with the theory of optimal taxation in the context of urban economics.

Department of English

Carrie Tirado Bramen, professor, will be a Fellow-in-Residence at the Rothmere American Institute at Oxford University in the UK this spring (Trinity term, 2024). While there, she will be speaking on her current book

project, *“Journey-work of the Stars”: A Cultural History of Astrology*. She will also be speaking on “American Niceness, Then and Now” at the Arctic University of Norway in April, co-sponsored by the US Embassy in Norway. In March 2024, she will be giving two lectures at the University of Toronto, Canada, one on her current work on a cultural history of astrology, and the other on her previous book, *American Niceness: A Cultural History*.

Walter Hakala, associate professor, was awarded 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. On November 8, 2023, he gave the introductory speech at the commencement of the “Archiving and Sustainable Research” panel during the ICH International Research Symposium at the University of Visual and Performing Arts in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The title of his lecture was “Reading the Past: Post-custodial Perspectives on the Preservation and Renewal of Vernacular Inscriptions.” The event was televised on Sri Lankan national television. On November 9 he delivered a paper, entitled “The Brass Boatman: Early Instances of Artificial Intelligence in South Asian Literature,” as part of the Encounters Lecture Series in the Department of English at the University of Peradeniya. On November 13, 2023, he led a workshop on Research Methodology and Research Writing for undergraduate students enrolled in the Department of Musicology at the University of the Visual and Performing Arts in Colombo. In Lahore, Pakistan, he delivered on November 21, 2023, a lecture to the Forman Christian College University Department of English on “Victorian Literary Representations of non-English Speech.” The following day, he presented another paper in the FCCU Department of English, entitled “The Brass Boatman: Early Instances of Artificial Intelligence in South Asian Literature.” On November 23, 2023, Hakala ran a workshop for FCCU social sciences undergraduates on “Basic Steps in Social Sciences Research.” On Thursday, November 30, he delivered a paper, entitled “Like a Sparrow’s Nest: Balancing Preservation with Renewal in South Asia Islamic Spaces,” to the Institute of English Studies at the University of the Punjab. On December 4, 2023, Hakala ran a second 3-hour workshop for FCCU social sciences postgraduates on “Formulating a Research Proposal.” Hakala was able to carry out extensive work with Urdu and Persian manuscripts housed in the Sherani Collection of the University of the Punjab libraries over several days in late November 2023. He presented the preliminary results of this research on Indo-Persian literature in the public lecture to the Institute for Business Administration at the University of Karachi. His talk was entitled “The Divine by Any Other Name: Multilingual Vocabularies and Sufi Romances.” He was invited by Dr. Riaz Ahmed Mangrio to give a lecture on premodern depictions of robots and artificial intelligence in South Asian literature on December 12 at the Sindh Madressatul Islam University in Karachi. Over 100 students and faculty attended the event, which was widely covered in Karachi’s English-, Sindh-, and Urdu-language newspapers. He also met with Dr. Mujeeb ud Din Sehrai Memon, SMIU’s vice-chancellor, and Dr. Jamsheed Adil Halepota, dean of the Faculty of Language & Culture Studies. On December 14, 2024, Hakala met members of the board of the Anjuman Taraqqi-yi Urdu (Society for the Advancement of Urdu) and the staff of the Urdu Dictionary Board. He continues to serve on the South Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies.

Department of Geography

Jessie Poon, professor, one of the world’s leading economic geographers, with a substantial record of research that includes four co-authored books and more than one hundred journal articles and book chapters, has been named a Fellow of the American Association of Geographers (AAG). Her research—from early path-breaking work on the geographical structure of trade patterns and dynamics of regionalization to more recent explorations of social, cultural, transportation, and information networks and to digital economies more generally—has been remarkably consistent over the last three decades, with uniformly high-quality writings distributed across leading journals in human geography and into related fields of regional science, business, communications, trade and development, and allied social sciences. In many leadership roles, Poon was also chair of the Regional Studies Association, Committee Member of the Council of the AAG, Chair of the Southeast Section of the Asian Geography Specialty Group, member of the AAG Research Grants Committee, and editor or member of the Editorial Board of numerous top journals in her field. A longtime member of the AAG, Poon has also worked tirelessly to make geography, and the academy more broadly, a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive community. She has published extensively on the

state of women in her field, advocated for other female scholars, championed increasing representation of female scholars in research journals, including editorial boards, while serving as the first female editor of *Papers in Regional Science*. Her trailblazing efforts have opened space within economic geography for women to both contribute to important debates and flourish while doing so.

Marion Werner, professor, traveled to Costa Rica in January as part of her research project on global networks of pesticide trade and production, funded by the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The project explores how low-cost supplies of pesticide technical material (i.e., active ingredient) and formulations from China and India are changing the Central American pesticide market through more availability and competition, while farmers face increasing weed, fungal, and pest resistance challenges. Together with her Costa Rican collaborators, Drs. Fernando Ramírez (Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica) and María Soledad Castro (University of Zürich), Werner conducted interviews with local pesticide manufacturers, agro-service distributors, and downstream consumers in the export banana, pineapple, and palm oil sectors. She also participated in a civil society workshop on the challenges of pesticide regulation and use at the University of Costa Rica.

Adam Wilson, professor, is principal investigator for the \$12 million NASA-funded project—Biodiversity Survey of the Cape, or BioScape, a new biodiversity-focused collaborative research project that has launched in the Western and Eastern Cape of South Africa in October 2023. The project will link satellite and airborne data with field observations to better understand the biodiversity of the Greater Cape Floristic Region and nature’s contributions to people. The BioScape domain covers two global biodiversity hotspots, with the richest temperate flora and the third-highest marine endemism in the world. BioScape will help scientists understand where biodiversity is, what it is doing, and why it matters. This information will be used to address the information and decision-support needs of stakeholders in the region and internationally. BioScape is a collaboration between the US and South Africa, supported by the United States government (NASA), the South African government (National Research Foundation, NRF), the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The project is led by scientists at the University at Buffalo, the University of California Merced, and the University of Cape Town. Approximately half of the BioScape research team is affiliated with South African institutions and are deeply invested in its success. BioScape is committed to capacity building and education in South Africa. The project, in partnership with NASA ARSET, has created a free online course to teach researchers about the data being collected and has partnered with the GLOBE program to run education outreach programs in local schools. BioScape will benefit the world by improving understanding of biodiversity and developing new technologies for monitoring and managing nature’s contributions to people.

Department of History

Hal Langfur, associate professor, was awarded the Brazilian Studies Association’s 2023 Roberto Reis Prize for his book *Adrift on an Inland Sea: Misinformation and the Limits of Empire in the Brazilian Backlands* (Stanford, 2023). With support from the History Department Faculty Research Fund, he spent June 2023 in Lisbon, working in the Ajuda Palace Library and archive, formerly the Portuguese royal library.

Department of Mathematics

Barbara Prinari, professor, is one of the organizers of the international program on “Emergent phenomena in nonlinear dispersive waves” which will take place in Newcastle, UK, from July 22 to Aug 16, 2024. The program is sponsored by the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge, UK, with support from the US National Science Foundation for the participation of US-based early-career scholars.

Department of Music

In September 2023, **James Currie**, associate professor, was invited to present on a panel at the annual meeting of the International Association of Environmental Philosophy in Toronto, Canada, on Margret Grebowicz’s book *Mountains and Desire: Climbing vs. the End of the World* (Repeater Books, 2021). Other panelists: Steven Shaviro and Heather Davis. In February 2024, Currie participated on a panel run by the Music and Philosophy

Study Group of the Royal Musical Association (UK) on “Music, Philosophy, and the Political.” The other panelists were Naomi Waltham-Smith and Marie Thompson. Currie has been commissioned by the Aix-en-Provence festival to write the libretto for a solo cantata by the Singaporean/French composer (and UB Music Graduate Alumna) **Diana Soh**, which will be performed by the Ensemble Intercontemporain and the soprano Claron McFadden. It will be performed in July 2024. Currie’s essay, “Remaking the Past or Heading to the Future: Beethoven’s Piano Sonata, Op. 110, Movement 3,” is forthcoming in China in the publication, *The Essay Collection Celebrating Beethoven’s 250th Birthday* (Shanghai, China: Shanghai Conservatory of Music Press).

Department of Sociology

Yige Dong, assistant professor in Sociology and Global Gender & Sexuality Studies, gave an online talk “Warps and Wefts of Life: Service and Reproductive Labor during China’s Socialist Industrialization” at the Department of Sociology, Peking University, on October 25, 2023. She gave another online talk “Straddling between Production and Livelihood: Reconstructing Social Reproduction Theory through an Industrial History” at the Conference on Reproduction, Care, and Social Reproduction, organized by the Chinese Sociological Association, on March 25, 2024. Dong’s article, “The Dilemma of Foxconn Moms: Social Reproduction and the Rise of ‘Gig Manufacturing’ in China” published in *Critical Sociology* in 2023, has been translated into Chinese and Hungarian and published in China and Hungary respectively.

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Department of Oral Biology

Praveen Arany, associate professor, with adjunct appointments in Surgery and Biomedical Engineering, was awarded the Dr. TMA Pai Endowed Chair for 2023 by the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, India. This award recognizes eminent global scholars in their field to promote excellence in teaching and research. Arany was recognized for his contributions and leadership with the use of low-dose light treatments termed Photobiomodulation (PBM) Therapy. He is the immediate past-president of the World Association for Photobiomodulation Therapy, Chair-elect of the Lasers and Biophotonics Group, International Association for Dental Research, and current chair of the PBM technical group, Optica where he serves as a senior member.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology

Jaekyung Lee, professor, has received a visiting researcher award from the World Education Research Association, International Association for the Evaluation of the Educational Experience, with funding and mentoring support for a 6-week research visit at the University of Pretoria, South Africa in fall 2024. Lee’s project is titled, “Protective Factors for At-Risk Children’s Resilience in Trauma-Affected Nations: Translating Large-scale Data Analysis into Evidence-based Practice.” The goal of this project is to inform global education policies for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Specifically, it is aimed at identifying and improving key school protective factors for at-risk children’s resilience and success particularly in South Korea and South Africa, which followed different trajectories of educational excellence and equity over the past decades. It would offer actionable policy recommendations that translate large-scale data analysis into evidence-based practice.

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

Melinda Lemke, associate professor of educational policy, and her co-authors, Erin Bascug (former Ph.D. student, U.B. Social Work) and Ahlea Howard (LMSW, Coordinator of Human Trafficking Programs, International Institute of Buffalo), were awarded the 2023 Paula Silver Case Award for their *Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership* article on (im)migration, human trafficking, and educational policy, “Seen yet unseen: A case of human trafficking at Harris High School.” This award was created in 1999 by the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) to memorialize the work of Dr. Paula Silver, former UCEA associate director and president, who researched and advocated for women in educational leadership. Lemke coauthored the following publication with UB Learning and Instruction PhD student, **Anthony L. White, II**: Lemke, M. & White, A. (2024). Student adversity and leader stress: A critical race contextualization and analysis of state social emotional learning policy. In B.

W. Carpenter, J. Mahfouz, & K. Washington (Eds.), *Supporting leaders for school improvement through self-care and well-being* (pp. 151-174). Information Age Publishing. She also published: Lemke, M. (2024). Critical and feminist cartographies of observation: Procedural, personal, and political considerations in the documentation and analysis of life worlds. In M. D. Young & S. Diem (Eds.) *Handbook of critical education research: Qualitative, quantitative, and emerging approaches* (pp. 590-611). Routledge.

Department of Information Science

In October 2023, **Heidi Julien**, professor, spoke on two refereed panels at the annual conference of the Association for Information Science and Technology in London, UK. In May 2024, she will keynote the Workshop for Instruction in Library Use in Vancouver, Canada, and she will be hosted as a visiting professor at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia. In August 2024, she will keynote the Information Seeking in Context conference in Aalborg, Denmark, and in September 2024 she will be a visiting professor in South Korea. In November, she will host Dr. Ali Fauzi, a visiting scholar from Universiti Malaya, Malaysia, with whom she and **Christopher Hollister**, Head of Scholarly Communication at UB Libraries, have a joint research project.

Amy VanScoy, associate professor, is currently a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana. She is working with UCC librarians who are completing doctoral degrees to prepare them to support the new library and information science program. She is also collaborating with two local scholars to study Ghanaian librarians’ orientations to reference practice. VanScoy is also working with Dr. Muhammad Rafiq, associate professor in the Department of Information Management at the University of the Punjab, on a study of Pakistani librarians’ orientations to practice. Her visit to Lahore to present a keynote and conduct the research was funded by the OIE Associate Professor Fund for Global and International Research.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

In June 2023 **Paschalis Alexandridis**, SUNY Distinguished Professor, presented a seminar on “Pluronic Block Copolymer Self-Assembly: Fundamentals and Applications” at the Department of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Engineering, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in Sofia, Bulgaria, hosted by Slavka Tcholakova, head of the department. In June 2023 Alexandridis delivered a keynote lecture on the “Valorization of Plastic Waste: Research Advances in Molecular Recycling” at the 10th International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management held in Chania, Greece. In July 2023 Alexandridis lectured on “Polymer Recycling” at a short course on “Green Soft Matter and Applications” organized by the Institute of Electronic Structure and Lasers (IESL), Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), Heraklion, Greece. In November 2023 Alexandridis presented the ‘IAAM Scientist Medal’ Lecture at the Advanced Materials World Congress (AMWC), International Association of Advanced Materials (IAAM), in recognition for distinctive contributions to developing green processes in the materials field. In January 2024 Alexandridis visited the Theoretical and Physical Chemistry Institute at the National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens, Greece, and the Department of Chemistry at the International Hellenic University, Kavala, Greece.

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Anarghya Das, Ph.D. candidate, visited the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) as part of the UB-IIT research initiative. During his visit, Das had the opportunity to explore the Madhav Lab at IIT Kanpur, which specializes in the intersection of theory and application of machine learning, mainly focusing on applications in audio and physics. While at the Madhav Lab, Das presented his ongoing research on enhancing speech recognition using brain and speech data for individuals with speech impairments. He engaged in enriching conversations and idea exchanges with fellow students in the lab, benefiting both parties. Additionally, he gained insights into intriguing projects undertaken by the lab, such as converting audio signals of the harmonium, an Indian musical instrument, into MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) data and other innovative ventures exploring the realms of music and speech.

Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering

Diana Ramirez-Rios, assistant professor, was invited to the Forum on Transportation and Mobility that took place in Bucaramanga, Colombia,

South America, from August 28 to September 1st 2023. She presented a lecture on Urban Freight Transportation and Logistics for Resilient Communities. As part of the workshop, she attended the first working group with stakeholders from the metropolitan area of Bucaramanga (trucking associations, chamber of commerce, transit authority, city planning, industry groups, and academia). She continues to participate in this working group as an honorary member, advising the group towards new initiatives to improve freight transportation in the city. During the visit Ramirez-Rios was able to meet with the leadership of the hosting university, Universidad Autonoma de Bucaramanga (UNAB). This workshop also marked the beginning of America's T-Mob Alliance, a research partnership with transportation and mobility research centers in the Americas. As founding members, the alliance starts with female professors in engineering at three different countries: Jessica Maradey (Colombia), Andrea Santos (Brazil), and Diana Ramirez-Rios (USA).

Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Deborah Chung, professor, delivered an international webinar on March 19, 2024, "My 50-year journey in science", hosted by Hunan University, China, in celebration of the 120th anniversary of their College of Civil Engineering.

In the summer of 2023, **Mostafa Nouh**, associate professor, gave an invited talk at "Phononics 2023": The 6th International Conference on Phononic Crystals/Metamaterials/Metasurfaces, Phonon Transport, and Topological Phononics. The conference was held at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom and is globally considered to be the largest scientific gathering of scientists in the field of phononics and acoustic metamaterials. The Phononics 20xx series is held every two years on a different continent. In December of 2023, Nouh gave another invited lecture at the Acoustics'23 conference which was held in Sydney, Australia. The conference was part of a large joint meeting between the Australian Acoustical Society (AAS) and the Acoustical Society of America (ASA).

LAW SCHOOL

Meredith Kolsky Lewis, professor and vice dean for international and graduate programs, served as a senior commentator for the *Journal of International Economic Law's* Third Annual Junior Faculty Forum in September 2023. Lewis also recently became a committee member of the US Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (US-PECC). In November 2023, Lewis participated in an Experts Roundtable for The Weaponized Trade Project, a joint initiative of researchers from several Australian universities. Also in November, Lewis co-chaired (together with Professor Jessie Poon, Geography) the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Study Centers Consortium Conference at UC-Berkeley; she also gave a presentation and moderated a panel at the conference. In December 2023, Lewis gave presentations at the International Law Association – American Society of International Law Asia-Pacific Research Forum and at the Asian International Economic Law Network Biennial Conference, The New Generation of Economic Agreements in the Asia-Pacific, both in Taipei, Taiwan. While in Taiwan, Lewis also moderated a book launch at National Tsing Hua University (Hsinchu) for Professor Shin-yi Peng's book *International Economic Law in the Era of Datafication* published by Cambridge University Press. In February 2024, Lewis was interviewed for, and quoted in, a Yahoo Finance article about the impact of recent European Union legislation on US companies.

JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Teresa Quattrin, UB Distinguished Professor and associate dean for research integration, was nominated to the International Scientific Advisory Board of the Health System Santobono Pausillipon, affiliated with the Medical School Federico II. Located in Naples, it is the main pediatric tertiary referral center for the entire South Italy (population 13.4 million in 2022). The International Scientific Advisory Board has been instituted to help planning further expansion of the research portfolio.

Clinical and Translational Science Institute

CTSI hosted a delegation of public health leaders from Uzbekistan on February 1. During the visit to the Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, the delegation gathered information to assist with the country's plans to establish a national public health institute. The delegation was invited to the United States under the auspices of the US State Department International Visitor Leadership Program. The CTRC visit also involved representatives from UB's Jacobs

School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and School of Public Health and Health Professions, the Erie County Department of Health, and the Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network. The Uzbekistan delegation was invited to the United States under the auspices of the US State Department International Visitor Leadership Program. The program included a grant to the International Institute of Buffalo (IIB). Representatives from the IIB, one of the CTSI's community partners, contacted CTSI Recruitment and Special Populations Core Director **Teresa Quattrin**, who organized the CTRC visit. CTSI Director **Timothy F. Murphy**, and Quattrin, the coordinator of the program for the CTSI, outlined the work of the CTSI and discussed public-private partnerships for improving health nationwide. In addition, a discussion of the Buffalo Translational Consortium focused on improving health through community public-private partnerships. The visit also involved representatives from UB's Jacobs School and School of Public Health and Health Professions, the Erie County Department of Health, and the Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network.

Department of Bioinformatics

Peter L. Elkin, UB Distinguished Professor, has been appointed the Editor in Chief of the Taylor and Francis *Journal of Translational Research*. The journal has six sections, on Translational Sciences, Translational Informatics, New Basic Science Methods, Translational Public Health, Implementation Sciences and Translational Community Engagement. This is one of the premier journals worldwide in translational research. Elkin was also elected to the Board of Directors of the Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) and is also currently on the Board of Directors of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA). ACTS and AMIA are both international health societies.

Department of Ophthalmology

Steven J. Fliesler, SUNY Distinguished Professor, gave the Keynote Lecture at the European Frontiers in Neurosciences (EFN23) Meeting, University of Catania (Catania, Sicily), in October 31, 2023, and the Keynote Lecture at the Symposium: "When Clinic Meets Science: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue", at Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Berlin, Germany) on January 12, 2024. He also gave a series of lectures in China in April of 2024, including the Plenary Lecture at the 24th International Congress of Ophthalmology and Optometry China (Shanghai, China) and lectures at the School of Medicine, Xiamen University (Xiamen, Fujian, China) and the Aier Eye Institute, Aier Eye Hospital Group (Changsha, Hunan, China).

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Molli Oldenburg, clinical associate professor, initiated and collaborated with the UB School of Pharmacy and University Cape Coast, Ghana School of Nursing and Pharmacy on the UB Nursing School's first Collaborative Online International Learning course. Undergraduate and graduate nursing students participated in the 7-week course. Each week a different faculty member across all disciplines posted a case study to the students in advance. The students were placed in groups working both inter-professionally and internationally over a video conference platform to exchange ideas about diagnosis and management, and how the impact of resources in various settings may affect outcomes of care for case studies on various topics such as cerebral malaria, maternal hemorrhage, schistosomiasis, and diabetes mellitus, before each weekly class. The scheduled weekly class session encompassed all students and faculty to meet via video conference, for a faculty-led lecture on the topic, review of the weekly case study, and answer any questions.

Tania Von Visger, assistant professor, presented an abstract titled, "Associations between Mindfulness Knowledge and Practice and Symptom Severity among Adults living with Cardiopulmonary Conditions," at the 2023 Global Sigma Theta Tau International Conference, held July 20-23, in Abu Dhabi, UAE. This descriptive survey data indicated that participants who practice mindfulness reported significantly lower severity scores of anxiety, breathlessness, fatigue, and insomnia. This study highlights the importance of integrating the practice benefiting clinical outcomes.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Elizabeth Bowen, associate professor, and **Meghan Holtan**, a PhD student in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, presented a webinar titled, "The relationship between Housing Security and Health: Implications for Health Equity," on April 12, 2024 on behalf of the UB Pan American Health Organization Collaborating Center.

Filomena Critelli, associate professor, led a First-year Global Experience in Costa Rica, an initiative that is open to UB first-year students January 6 – 15, 2024. This program interdisciplinary program combined an academic course with an embedded 10-day international study abroad experience in Costa Rica focused on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This was done through her 3-credit course titled SW 112 Children's Rights Are Human Rights: Centering Children in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, she will also be presenting two papers at the XXXVIII International Congress on Law and Mental Health Barcelona July 22nd – 26th, 2024: 1) #MeToo and the Implementation of Sexual Harassment Legislation in Pakistan and 2) with associate professor, **Lisa Butler**, Institutional Betrayal and Its Sequelae in the Wake of the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Susan A. Green, clinical professor, **Denise Krause**, clinical professor, and **Samantha Koury**, alumna and co-director of the Institute for Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care, will be presenting at the 38th International Congress on Law and Mental Health in Barcelona, Spain in July 2024. Green and Koury are presenting *Trauma-informed organizations: What does it take?* and also *Trauma-informed higher education: A model for becoming a trauma-informed educational unit, school, or department*. Krause and Green are presenting *Beyond trigger warnings: Building a trauma-informed curriculum*.

Laura Lewis, clinical associate professor, is leading a study abroad / alternative spring break program to Costa Rica entitled, UN SDGs and Global Action. Students will engage in a service project and visit a range of social service organizations; examples of how social work is advancing approaches to sustainable development and human rights. In addition, she will be presenting the paper *Media Advocacy and the Social Work Curriculum - Teaching Students to Live and Lead in a Global World* at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development which will be held from April 4 to 7, 2024 in Panama City, Panama. The conference is jointly sponsored by The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), the International Association of Schools of Social Work (AIETS) and the International Council of Social Work (ICSW).

On April 24, the School of Social Work sponsored an Earth Day presentation and luncheon, "Social Work and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals", featuring case studies from the Global South.

Jangmin Kim, assistant professor, has a forthcoming paper with colleagues T. Park, B. Pierce, and H. Lee in the journal *Child Welfare* entitled "Culturally responsive services for immigrant and refugee families in child welfare: The interaction between cultural competence at individual and organizational levels."

Kyler Knapp (post-doc), **Braden Linn** (alumna), **Paul Stasiewicz** (professor and Janet B.

Wattles Endowed Chair) and **Clara Bradizza** (professor) will be presenting a poster, *Daily mindfulness homework completion is associated with reduced drinking during a mindfulness-enriched emotion regulation treatment for alcohol use disorder*, at the International Conference on Psychology, Prague, Czech Republic, in July 2024.

Jo Ann S. Lee, associate professor, presented *Association of independent living service receipt and disability type among foster youth in the U.S.*, with her colleagues G. Gimm and M. Villodas at the International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care, a virtual disability thematic interest group, Feb. 2024.

Nadine S. Murshid, associate professor, has commenced research examining the potential of arts-based solidarity through participation in art projects to become an insider-outsider. She participated in Zain Alam's "I am Sounding a Sacred Space" at The 8th Floor in NYC where she recited the azaan/Muslim call for prayer, Surer Dhara's segment at a Bangla New Year event in Queens, NY, and two iterations of Navine Murshid's "Rabindra Adda" in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This is a transnational project in which she compare art practice among Bangladeshis in Bangladesh and the diaspora as a space for organic forms of anti-oppression solidarity-building. Murshid has in press a review of the book *Ethical Encounters: Transnational Feminism, Human Rights, and War Cinema in Bangladesh* by Elora Halim Chowdhury, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2022, in the journal *Feminist Formations*. She also received \$3,300 in funding from the UB Gender Institute, for the project *Transnational Middle-Class Bangladeshis Resisting Oppression*, 12/15/2023 – 8/31/2025.

Yunju Nam, associate professor, received the Activist Researcher award from the Partnership for the Public Good in Buffalo, NY for her "amazing contributions to our language access work" for people whose first language isn't English.

Dina Pilgrim, doctoral student, presenting at the Social Work Social Development 2024 Conference on Post-pandemic Social Work and Social Development April 4 - 6, 2024 in Panama City, Panama. With colleagues, Denise Torres, Rogelio Thomas, Sr., Rogelio Thomas, Jr., and James McFarlane, she will be presenting *Build it and they will come: Interdisciplinary and inter-organizational collaboration for developing inclusive systems in a post-COVID landscape in New York City*.

Michelle Sperlich, associate professor, and **Whitney Mendel**, alumna, published the chapter, "Screening for child abuse and trauma during the perinatal period" (pp. 125-151) in a coedited book by Australian Scholars R. Brunton & R. Dryer, *Perinatal care and considerations for survivors of sexual abuse: Challenges and opportunities*. that was published by Palgrave MacMillan. ♦

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A HOMECOMING IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

When she took up her new appointment as Director of Overseas and Intercultural Programs at the beginning of this year, Sherene P. Milizia, a longtime professional staff member at UB, experienced a kind of homecoming in the Office of International Education (OIE).

Originally from Penang, Malaysia, Sherene began her UB career in OIE in 2002 as an international graduate assistant beginning her degree program in the Graduate School of Education.

After serving as a graduate assistant in the Office of International Admissions for two years, Sherene was hired in 2004 as an international admissions assistant, a role she continued in until she was promoted in 2008 to the position of international admissions advisor and office manager.

Sherene was involved in all aspects of admissions review, marketing and outreach, and records management. She contributed in many important ways to the growth of UB's international enrollment at that time.

Her early career at UB was great-



ly influenced by three exceptional mentors in OIE: Joseph Hindrawan, Director of International Enrollment Management; the late Steven Shaw, Director of International Admissions; and Elizabeth White, Assistant Director of International Admissions. From these highly experienced profession-

als Sherene acquired admissions expertise and administrative skills, while at the same time developing a passion for international education that has continued to this day.

In January 2014, Sherene took up a new opportunity as assistant director of student services in the Office of Student Services, The Graduate School—nearby on the fourth floor of Capen Hall. Her responsibilities included supervising office operations, graduate student advising, records management, degree audits, curriculum maps, fellowship administration, and electronic dissertations and theses.

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John J. Wood, Editor