

SUMMER 2009

# UB Knightlines

## Soaring to the top

UB gymnasts win the 2009  
U.S.A. Gymnastics Collegiate Team  
National Championships



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BRIDGEPORT**

Opening doors. Building futures.

ALSO INSIDE • Graduation '09 • UB's \$438 Million Impact • Distinguished Alumni

# President's line

As we prepare to welcome UB's largest freshman class since the 1980s, we are joined by a new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Michael Spitzer, who will serve in the position held for the last nine years by Dr. Laurence (Larry) Conner, who is retiring. Larry will join my office in the fall, on a half-time basis, to work on special projects.

Dr. Spitzer's rich experience in higher education prepares him to help UB achieve its goals. He comes to us from St. Cloud State University, in Minnesota, where he was Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He was Vice President for Academic Affairs at Worcester State College and Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at the SUNY Institute of Technology, at Utica. Before that, Dr. Spitzer was Dean of the School of Humanities and Chair of the English Department at the New York Institute of Technology. We are delighted to have him with us.

Dr. Spitzer comes aboard at an exciting time as we advance plans for new program development in our Health Sciences Division. UB has a well-earned reputation for novel health science programming. The Fones School of Dental Hygiene was the first such school in the world, and the Colleges of Chiropractic and Naturopathic Medicine are the only such schools to be affiliated with a comprehensive university. Our Human Nutrition Institute offered the first program in the state of Connecticut to be given fully online. Against this background of "firsts," UB has now submitted licensure applications to the Connecticut Department of Higher Education for three new programs: the Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology, the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (with tracks in Environmental Health, Exercise and Fitness, Community Health, Nutrition, and pre-professional studies), and the Master of Science Physician Assistant. We expect to enroll students in these three new programs beginning in Fall 2010.

The University has entered into a partnership with St. Vincent's Medical Center to deliver programs that will enhance training, understanding, and collaboration among future health providers. Fourth-year student interns from the Colleges of Naturopathic Medicine and Chiropractic join physicians, residents, and medical students at St. Vincent's on observation rotations and case presentations during daily grand rounds. St. Vincent's also is supporting our development of the Physician Assistant program and will be the primary hospital-based clinical site and affiliate for students in the program. This relationship illustrates UB's commitment to fostering connections to key players in the city of Bridgeport and the University's growing stature in the community.

As you can see, even in these turbulent economic times, the University continues to advance its academic mission by offering career-oriented undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees and programs for people seeking personal and professional growth. A number of additional new cutting-edge projects are being developed to serve future students, and I will share news about those in coming editions of *Knightlines*.



Neil Albert Salonen  
President

## Letter to our readers:

*Knightlines* has a new look to reflect the exciting changes throughout the University, and we want to know what you think. Are there suggestions you have? Articles you'd like to see? Drop us a note at [knightlines@bridgeport.edu](mailto:knightlines@bridgeport.edu) or Letters to the Editor, *Knightlines*, Cortright Hall, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Please be sure to include your full name, contact information, and UB class year (if applicable).

President  
Neil Albert Salonen

Vice President for University Relations  
Mary-Jane Foster

Director of Alumni Relations  
Susan Butler

Director of Annual Giving  
Meems Ellenberg

Editor  
Leslie Geary

Sports Editor  
Chuck Sadowski

Contributing Editor  
Rebecca Salonen

Production Director  
Larry Orman

Photographer  
Kazuhiro Shoji

Designers  
Scott Greenlee and Price Carter,  
Creative Partners

Please send address changes and Letters to the Editor to: Knightlines, Cortright Hall, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or by e-mail to [knightlines@bridgeport.edu](mailto:knightlines@bridgeport.edu). Please include your full name, UB class year (if applicable), and contact information. For additional assistance, (203) 576-4625.

Knightlines is published three times a year for University of Bridgeport alumni and friends by the Office of University Relations.

**On the Cover:** Sophomore Lorraine Galow performs at the 2009 U.S.A. Gymnastics Collegiate Team National Championships held in April.

# Contents



## Features

- 2 Graduation '09**  
The Class of 2009 celebrated the University's 99th Commencement with bright hopes for their future.
- 3 Congressman Jim Himes visits UB**  
Connecticut's freshman Democrat makes his first official visit to the University.
- 4 Dental hygiene students bring smiles and care to the needy in Honduras**  
Fones students leave their mark in Honduras, providing critical care to the region's poorest residents.
- 8 UB pumps \$438 million into Connecticut economy**  
A much-anticipated economic impact report finds that UB's financial contribution to the state is even larger than expected.
- 10 Student-athletes star in the classroom**  
The 2008-09 year was a record-breaking year for University sports teams, whose athletes earned more academic honors than ever.
- 11 Soaring to the top**  
UB gymnasts defy odds to win the 2009 U.S.A. Gymnastics Collegiate Team National Championships for the first time in the school's history.

## News lines

- 5 Premier engineering conference held at UB**
- 5 The Business School and Deloitte help small businesses**
- 9 Mary-Jane Foster extends UB's relations**
- 10 Book Lines**

## Departments

- 7 Faculty Lines**
- 8 Alumni Lines**
- 11 Side Lines**



# Graduation '09 By Leslie Geary



**Sunny skies reflected the determined optimism of the members of the Class of 2009, who graduated May 9 amid repeated words of encouragement not to let the roiled economy dampen their hopes for the future.**



**Lambert Shell '92 came to UB "thinking basketball, basketball, basketball" but left "thinking education, education, education." He urged the Class of 2009 to use their education to help others.**

"Do what you love. If you're doing what you love, you're already a rich man," said Emmy Award-winning Russ Landau '77, who received the 2009 Alumni Recognition Award during the 99th annual Commencement.

The University also honored 18 Golden Knights from the Class of 1959 on the 50th anniversary of their graduation. Resplendent in bright yellow cap and gowns, they marched across the stage at Harbor Yard before degrees were awarded to more than 1,600 graduates.

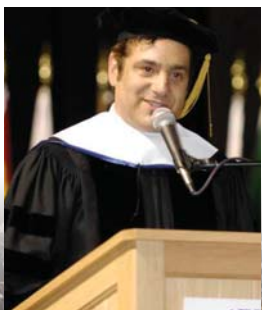
Alumnus Lambert Shell '92 received an Honorary Degree in recognition of his contributions to young people at the Queens N.Y. Library, where he started nationally recognized programs for children and teenagers. Shell, a former basketball star who led UB to two consecutive NCAA Division II finals and who was the Division II Basketball Player of the Year in 1992, told graduates to help those who are less fortunate.

Student speaker Ester Teo, 21, a biology major, urged peers: "Your dreams and goals are bigger than the recession."

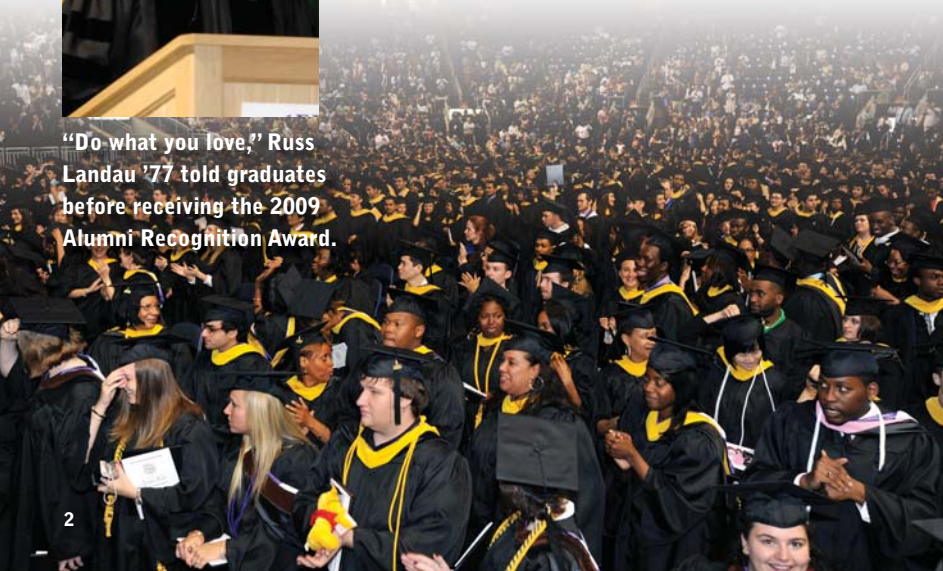
Messages of hope clearly resonated with students, many of whom said they already had overcome significant challenges in order to graduate. Among them was José Beltre, 40, who earned his associate's degree in dental hygiene. A married father of four and former New York City cab driver, Beltre worked the overnight shift before going directly to early morning classes at the Fones School. "Working full-time, going to school, having a family – it's been tough. I haven't seen much of them," he admitted.

Nevertheless, Beltre will return to UB in the fall to earn his bachelor's degree.

Erika Formanek, an interior design major, graduated with a bachelor's degree and something equally precious in hand: a job at Aviation Design, a Connecticut firm that designs interiors of private jets. Both achievements, Formanek said, capped a long journey that began during her childhood, when she used to create extravagant miniature "sets" out of foam board and boxes before appointing them with curtains and hand-made furniture. Recognizing her passion, her grandmother Joan Formanek, a former UB employee, recommended the interior design program. ■



**"Do what you love," Russ Landau '77 told graduates before receiving the 2009 Alumni Recognition Award.**



# Congressman Jim Himes tours UB

**Congressman Jim Himes made his first official visit to the University of Bridgeport in May, when he toured the campus to learn more about the school and its contributions to the 4th Electoral District that he represents.**

*“The University of Bridgeport provides the opportunity for top-notch career training right in the city’s backyard. These facilities, educators, and programs are great assets to our job creation and education efforts in Bridgeport and the surrounding communities.”*  
– Jim Himes

The freshman Democrat met with University President Neil Salonen to discuss UB, the fastest-growing University in his district. Himes also saw first-hand the programs and facilities that benefit campus and community groups alike.

Stating that he was “impressed,” Himes added: “The University of Bridgeport provides the opportunity for top-notch career training right in the city’s backyard. These facilities, educators, and programs are great assets to our job creation and education efforts in Bridgeport and the surrounding communities.”

Rebecca Salonen, Frank Zullo, chairman of the board of trustees, and Mary-Jane Foster, vice president of university relations, also guided Himes through the campus, stopping at the Fones School of Dental Hygiene Clinic, Knights Field, and Wahlstrom Library, all of which have undergone significant capital improvements.

They were fitting stops for Himes, a former Rhodes Scholar who has made education a top priority.

Wahlstrom’s educational technology, including a global database of books,

research, and other periodicals, enables students to access a world of research with just a few clicks on a computer keyboard.

At the Fones Clinic, student hygienists train on the most advanced equipment available, graduating with skills that are in increasing demand by the dental profession, Fones Dean Meg Zayan told Himes.

Knights Field, providing much-needed playing space in Bridgeport, is used by area sports groups and UB soccer teams.

Later, Himes met with the gymnastics team, congratulating members for winning the USA Gymnastics Collegiate Team National Championships. The team’s success stunned many who didn’t believe the Purple Knights could rise to the top. But Himes, who in defeating 21-year incumbent Christopher Shays knows something about surprising formidable opponents, was eager to talk to the athletes before posing for photographs. ■ – L.G.



**U.S. Rep. Jim Himes (D-Conn.) caught up with the men’s soccer team during his visit to UB.**



**Above: President Neil Salonen and Rep. Himes review UB’s contributions to Connecticut.**

**Right: Rep. Himes and the women’s championship gymnastics team discussed the satisfaction of victory.**





# Dental hygiene students bring smiles and care to needy in Honduras



Left: Children in Roatan, Honduras, who often lack access to critical dental care, accept new toothbrushes from Fones students, alumni, and faculty.

Below: Fones hygienists take a moment to pose for a photo during their weeklong trip to Honduras, where they treated hundreds of patients from May 30 to June 6.

**Armed with toothbrushes and determined to make a difference, professors and students from the Fones School of Dental Hygiene traveled this spring to Roatan, an island off the coast of Honduras, to provide oral health care to some of the poorest residents in the region.**



Led by professors Leigh-Lynn Vitukinas and Sandra Stramoski, five dental hygiene students and two recent graduates spent a whirlwind week from May 30 to June 6, treating hundreds of patients, including children and adults.

“I was surprised by how much of a need there is. I didn’t realize a community could be so forgotten,” said Vitukinas. “It was an exhausting week full of work and fun.”

This is the second summer Vitukinas and Stramoski have led the outreach trip to Roatan, a sun-drenched vacation spot where stunning natural habitat and resorts belie the harsh economic reality that many island residents live in poverty unseen by tourists.

The group distributed toothbrushes and invited villagers to come for free dental screenings, cleanings, fluoride treatments, and other services that the hygienists provided at a makeshift dental clinic set up at in a social hall in the town of Flowers Bay.

The trip was paid for through fundraisers and by students, who dug into personal savings. Fones hopes to attract sponsors for future trips. Even so, competition to participate was high: 23 Fones students submitted personal essays to apply for seven available slots.

“It was a very international group. Several of our students were from third world countries, and they had a strong desire to give back,” said Stramoski. Students Thatiane Faria and Margarita Restrepo, who graduated from Fones in May, both speak Spanish, and their fluency enabled the group to better communicate with patients.

Students Isaiah Campbell, Latoya Walton, Kangan Kaushal, Catherine Dysert, and alumna Margaret Horvay ’09 also participated. “Our students were 100 percent receptive,” Vitukinas said. “They told us it was a life-changing experience for them, and they do want to work in public health as a result of the experience.” ■ — L.G.

# Premier engineering conference held at UB

**How can engineering and technology enhance online learning and distance research? What's new for tomorrow's virtual laboratories? Can remote engineering be effectively used by researchers, academics, and professionals working oceans apart from one another?**



Those challenges drew more than 100 engineers from around the world to the University of Bridgeport from June 22 to 25 for the Sixth Annual International Conference on Remote Engineering, the world's premier consortium on distance technology.

Known as the REV Conference (for Remote Engineering and Virtual instrumentation), the four-day meeting brought together engineering researchers, educators, and professionals to explore the future and application of remote engineering in industry and academia. Participants delivered papers, presented demonstrations and research posters, and shared experiences in virtual engineering.

"These individuals are the leaders of the online community around the world," said Dr. Tarek M. Sobh, dean of the School of Engineering and cochairman

of the scientific advisory board of the International Association of Online Engineering (IAOE), which sponsored the conference.

"One of the biggest paradigms now in virtual engineering is education. It's easy if we're talking about something like an online MBA program. But what if you teach robotics?" Sobh said. "One of the things that's happening – and we're doing it here at UB, too – is we're putting lots of our machinery online so students can move equipment and work with it and understand it from across the world. It's very cool."

Based in Austria, the IAOE hosts the annual REV Conference at different institutions around the world. This year's meeting at the University of Bridgeport was the first time it has been held in the United States. ■ – L.G.

## Business School joins Deloitte to help small businesses

Small businesses got a helping hand from the School of Business on June 5, when its professors and students joined executives from Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, the global consulting firm, to host a day of free seminars aimed at helping entrepreneurs thrive during challenging economic times.

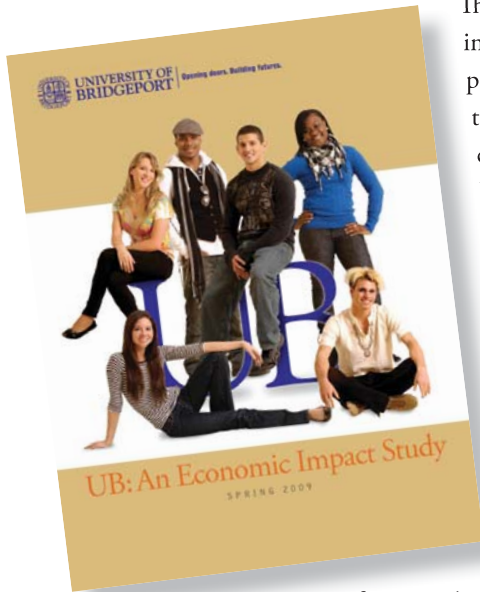
More than 60 participants attended the event at the business school, which was part of Deloitte's 10th Annual IMPACT Day devoted to community service. Sessions covered topics from more effectively managing personal and business finances to harnessing technology, enhancing business presentations, and an overview of the world's economy and how it affects small businesses.

Dean Paul Lerman said the battered economy made it even more imperative for universities and institutions like Deloitte to support small businesses by "providing them with the expertise and guidance necessary to navigate during difficult times. There are more than 329,000 small businesses in Connecticut, and their continued success is crucial to sustaining the state's economic vitality."

IMPACT Day is a national day of service involving more than 40,000 Deloitte employees who contribute their skills and time to improve the communities where they work and live. ■ – L.G.

# UB pumps \$438 million into Connecticut economy

**The University of Bridgeport contributes \$438 million to Connecticut's economy a year, providing jobs, social benefits, and revenue vital to the financial health and quality of life across the state, according to *UB: An Economic Impact Study*, an analysis released in June.**



The report, which measures both direct and indirect spending, jobs created, and services provided by UB, puts a dollar figure on the University's otherwise well-known contributions to the region, said President Neil Salonen.

"We have always known that we are a key economic asset," Salonen noted, "but even we didn't realize how significant we are."

Area business leaders echoed that sentiment. "As one of the city's largest employers," said Paul S. Timpanelli, president of Bridgeport Regional Business Council, "the University of Bridgeport has a direct impact on the economic

future and revitalization of Bridgeport. This impact study clearly underscores the important relationship between UB, the City of Bridgeport, and the state. As it prospers, the city will, too."

The 24-page report was prepared for the University by Kevin B. Stokes, a partner of EconImpact, a Louisville, Kentucky, consulting firm that conducts similar studies for colleges and universities throughout the United States.

"If UB were to disappear tomorrow," said Stokes, "the state would be \$438 million worse off. The University's contribution is extremely important, and its influence goes on and on. Moreover, UB is getting bigger every year, so its impact will get bigger still."

Among the key findings are:

- The University contributes \$438 million in additional spending to Connecticut and Bridgeport.
- \$177.1 million is added to the state's income through direct and indirect spending by students, employees, alumni, and other individuals associated with the University.

- The University provides \$37.3 million in social benefits and \$1.4 million in community service activities to Connecticut and its residents.
- More than 17,000 alumni reside, live, and work in Connecticut, contributing \$214 million to the state economy, of which \$123 million goes to Fairfield County and \$14.4 million positively impacts Bridgeport.
- The University supports employment for 1,096 individuals, including 1,312 other new jobs throughout Connecticut.

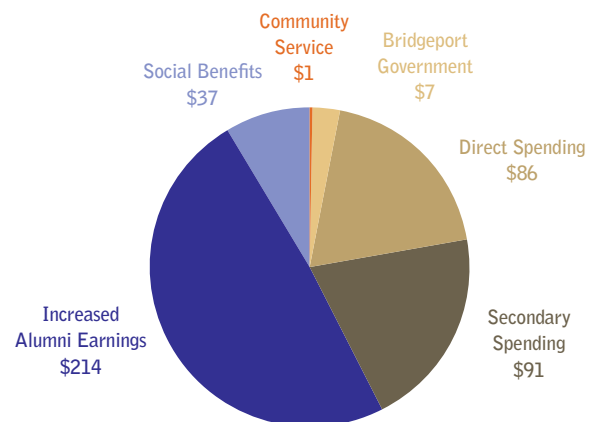
Area leaders said the University's economic impact study not only measured its significance on the local and state economy but is an acute reminder of how interconnected UB is to the state.

"It is clear," the report concludes, "that in addition to the University's profound contributions to the cultural life of the community, it is making sizable economic contributions as well."

To view the full report, go to [www.bridgeport.edu/include/pdf/alumni/UB\\_EconomicImpactStudy.pdf](http://www.bridgeport.edu/include/pdf/alumni/UB_EconomicImpactStudy.pdf). ■

— L.G.

**Total University of Bridgeport Impact**  
(in millions of dollars)





# Faculty Lines

Chiropractic doctors are legally required to continue their education to stay up-to-date. But when they attend seminars or receive other training, conflicts of interest are rarely disclosed. Is there a potential problem? **Drs. Matthew Funk** and **Anthony Lisi**, who teach at UB's College of Chiropractic, surveyed chiropractic colleges and associations in North America and found that only half have formal written conflict-of-interest policies. Their study, "Conflict-of-interest policies among institutions and organizations offering chiropractic continuing education," appeared in the May issue of *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*.

**Navarun Gupta**, assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer engineering, was named president-elect of the American Society of Engineering Education's Northeast Zone during the group's regional conference held at the University in April. Dr. Gupta's main areas of research include audio signal processing, bio-signal processing, and signal processing in astronomy.

Paintings by **John A. Kandalajt** were selected for the summer 2009 group exhibition at Kiley Court Gallery in Provincetown, MA. Kandalajt, chairman of the interior design program in the School of Arts and Sciences, studied at the École régionale Beaux-Arts in Rouen, France, under the direction of the late Jacques Ramondot and Robert Savary, winner of the Grand Prix de Rome. Kandalajt, who paints in a synthesized and fauve style, recently was the subject of a solo exhibition at White Space Gallery in New Haven, CT. He received his master's degree from the University of Montréal School of Architecture.

**Emily Larned** has been hired as the new assistant professor of graphic design, replacing Amy Papaelias, who stepped down as program chair in May. An artist, designer, and letterpress printer based in Bridgeport, Larned's work has been collected by more than 60 universities, libraries, and museums, including the Artist's Book Collections at the Brooklyn Museum and the Tate Museum Library in London. Larned earned a master's degree in graphic design from Yale and holds a B.A. from Wesleyan.

Trouble communicating with your IT consultant? You're not alone, according to Business School senior lecturer **Arthur C. McAdams**, whose recent study found a significant culture gap between users and providers of information technology. "Business professionals believe IT services are expensive and inflexible, while IT professionals believe they are underfunded," said McAdams, whose study, "An Investigation of the Relationships between Users and Providers of Information Technology Services for Improved IT Effectiveness," appeared in the May issue of *International Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Change Management*.

**John Mulcahy** spent the summer finishing *Leadership Analytics* (AuthorHouse) and *A Handbook of Statistics and Quantitative Analysis for Educational Leadership* (University Press of America, Inc.). Scheduled for publication in 2009, the books will be used by graduate schools of business and education.

**Dr. Pamela Tunnell**, director of clinical services at the College of Chiropractic, has been appointed to the Council on Chiropractic Education Site Team Visitors, which accredits all U.S. doctoral chiropractic programs. Academy members must evaluate programs in person, and Dr. Tunnell, who was selected for her expertise in clinical education, will assess programs' compliance with accreditation standards.

**Yanmin Yu**, professor of mass communications in the International College, has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship to research the role of the media in socioeconomic development in Senegal. This is the third time she has received the award, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Yu, the University's 2004 Distinguished Professor

of The Year, teaches Media Law, International Journalism, Intercultural Communication, and Communication Theory.

**Xingguo Xiong**, assistant professor of electrical engineering, won the Engineering Professor of the Year Award from the American Society of Engineering Education Northeast Region. The group praised Xiong, whose research focuses on electrical and mechanical systems, for his innovation and inspiration to students.

Federal securities laws let mutual funds use selected information in ad campaigns as long as it comes from prospectuses filed with the S.E.C. So what do they reveal? That was the focus of the research paper "Mutual Fund Ads" by Business School professor **Congsheng Wu**. After analyzing ads in popular personal finance magazines, Wu found that just 5 percent of mutual funds disclose sales charges while 64 percent include historical investment returns. Wu's paper was selected for publication in *Investment Management and Financial Innovations*, a peer-reviewed journal.

## Grant wrap-up

**The Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism** awarded the University \$100,000 to renovate the Lavinia L. Parmly House, a campus administrative building dating back to Bridgeport's days as a fashionable destination for New York aristocracy. Built in 1890 by society doyenne Lavinia Parmly, the brick building was acquired by the University in 1950 and renamed Cortright Hall.

**Fones School of Dental Hygiene** received three grants supporting its students and outreach programs: The Connecticut Department of Social



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Services awarded \$50,000 for a Fones professor and students to provide dental hygiene services to students at the Tisdale Elementary School in Bridgeport, many of whom lack insurance or other means

to obtain oral health care. Centrix, Inc., pledged \$25,000 to endow scholarships for dental hygiene students from Connecticut who demonstrate need and academic merit. And Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation awarded \$5,000 for scholarships. It is the second grant from Delta Dental, which in 2008 awarded \$50,000 toward the renovation of the school's dental hygiene clinic.

# Alumni Lines

Would you like to share news of your own? We're interested in what you're doing, and so are your classmates! Contact: *Knighlines* Cortright Hall 219 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604 or [knighlines@bridgeport.edu](mailto:knighlines@bridgeport.edu).

## 1948

**Kevin Menard** is a product manager at PerkinElmer and an adjunct professor of materials science engineering at the University of North Texas. He recently published the second edition of his textbook, *Dynamic Mechanical Analysis* and lives in Denton, TX.

## 1952

**Marcelle T. Caccioppoli** retired from education, but she is busy serving as Chair and Member of the Board of Trustees for Mother Cabrini High School and President of the Board of Directors at Milton Carpenter Foundation, which provides college scholarships.

**Stanley Drucker** retired from the garment industry and is "still friendly" with fellow alum **Lawrence Milwitz '52**. The two not only were classmates at UB, they also attended the same elementary and high schools. Drucker lives in Flushing, NY.

## 1953

**Charles Kellogg** is busy inventing products in his spare time. His Multi-Purpose Kitchen Handi Holder helps cooks with limited mobility peel fruit and vegetables. It sells on various Web sites, such as [www.seniorssuperstores.com](http://www.seniorssuperstores.com). Kellogg would like to hear from old UB friends and lives in Gilford, NH. He can be reached at [bdhk30@yahoo.com](mailto:bdhk30@yahoo.com).

## 1959

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation, Class of '59 alumni **Howard Abner, Lynn Azzam, Lloyd Banquer, Otha Brown, Carol Cohen, Louis D'Amato, Karen E. Friedberg, Bernard Goldberg, Charles Huestis, Judy Krause, Richard Moore, Norene Robinson, Helen Serencha, Richard Shepard, Edward Wolf, and Shirley Zaccara** marched in the 2009 Commencement exercises as the newest members of the UB Golden Knights before attending a luncheon in their honor hosted by President and Mrs. Neil Salonen.

## 1965

**Toby Ulman Grandberg** writes that she "would love to hear from classmates!" She just celebrated her 40th wedding anniversary with husband Martin and the one-year birthday of her first granddaughter, Isabella. Grandberg's son is engaged to be married. Grandberg lives in Sharon, MA, and can be reached at [tgrandberg@aol.com](mailto:tgrandberg@aol.com).

## 1982

**Cheryl Rinaldi** has been "working for the same two dentists for the past 27 years and loving it." She's also involved with her local and state dental hygiene associations. She lives in Waterbury and would like to hear from former Fones classmates. She can be reached at (203) 574-0295.

## 1989

**Clodomiro Falcon** is president and CEO of Hispanic Commercial Guide, Inc., which publishes *La Guia Hispana*, a Spanish Yellow Pages serving Fairfield County's growing Hispanic community. Falcon also is CEO and president of Falcon Advertising, a Spanish multimedia advertising company. He lives in Trumbull with wife, Aida, and can be reached at [cfacon@laguiaonline.com](mailto:cfacon@laguiaonline.com).

## 2005

**Alexander Oji** just completed his fourth year of teaching at Lincoln-Bassett School in New Haven, CT, and writes that "kindergarten is a blast! Thanks, UB, for everything!"

## 2006

**Shalishea Laws** is pursuing her master's degree in social work at Southern Connecticut State University while working as a case coordinator at St. Francis Home for Children in New Haven, CT. She hopes to volunteer in Africa doing social work after graduating in 2011. Laws lives in Bridgeport and can be reached at [shalishea@yahoo.com](mailto:shalishea@yahoo.com).

## 2007

**Valerie Lee** is earning a master's of fine arts degree in creative writing at Fairfield University while looking for work in marketing or procurement, where she can put her MBA from UB to use. She lives in Stamford, CT, and can be reached at [vxlee@hotmail.com](mailto:vxlee@hotmail.com).

**Luis Rodriguez** is earning a master's degree in library science, taking online classes at North Carolina Central University. He hopes to work in a public library after completing the program in three years. Rodriguez lives in Bridgeport and can be reached at [lrodriguez1978@yahoo.com](mailto:lrodriguez1978@yahoo.com).



UB honored five of its own in June, at the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Dinner, the annual celebration of former graduates who, in various fields from economics to politics to science, harnessed their talent and education to leave lasting marks in their communities. This year's Distinguished Alumni were **Ivan Barbalic '97**, the ambassador to the United Nations for Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Dennis L. Brotherton '86**, a diagnostics engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft known for his volunteering with the Boy Scouts; **Clayton A. Friedberg '84**, CPA and longtime member of UB's auditing board; **Karen E. Smith Friedberg '59**, former corporate and alumni relations director for the University and active member in the community; and **Merle Berke-Schlessel '86**, president and CEO of United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, who has devoted much of her career as a lawyer to deal with many of today's most pressing social issues, from homelessness to education.





Orlando Tomasi presents Lillian Donnard Rodricks '75 with her lost UB class ring.

## A ring lost, then found, after three decades

Lillian Donnard Rodricks '75 was reunited in May with the class ring she lost more than 30 years ago, thanks to the perseverance of a Good Samaritan who refused to give up his hunt for the ring's rightful owner.

With television cameras rolling, Orlando Tomasi, of Torrington, CT, returned the 10-carat gold ring to a stunned Rodricks. "I never thought I'd see it again," she admitted.

But returned it was, thanks to a worldwide ring cycle that would leave Richard Wagner breathless.

Nestled amid dust bunnies, the ring was lost in a Bridgeport apartment once rented by Rodricks, and later, by Tomasi, who found it when he decided to give the place a good scrub.

"I found it under the refrigerator at 3880 Main Street, where I was living with a buddy of mine. When I moved the refrigerator, I found the ring," he said. "We contacted the University but were told, 'We can't find that person.' But I kept it all these years, and I thought, someday I'll find the rightful owner."

Tomasi tucked the ring safely in his jewelry box, where it stayed when he moved from Bridgeport to Stamford, Manhattan – then, when he got a job with the State Department – all the way to Moscow and Minsk, Belarus. "The ring always followed me and every couple of months, I'd run into it in my jewelry box," said Tomasi.

Now retired, the 71-year-old Tomasi felt a renewed urgency to find the ring's owner. In March he called Director of Alumni Relations Susan Butler, asking for help.

There were clues: Greek sorority letters were etched on the ring's amethyst stone, which was flanked by dates from the class of 1975. The letters LD, slightly worn, were visible on the interior of its band. Butler searched old yearbooks and records to find "LD."

That was Lillian Donnard, who happily slipped it on her finger. Safe and sound at last. ■ – L.G.

## Mary-Jane Foster: Extending UB relations



Foster

Mary-Jane Foster, a prominent businesswoman and tireless community leader, has been appointed vice president for university relations.

A longtime champion of Bridgeport, she brings to the job both an insider's knowledge of and connections to the city leadership. Those relationships will greatly assist the University as she guides its alumni, community, media, and government relations; fundraising; and development efforts, said President Neil Salonen.

"We are a University built with a strong commitment to this city and the region, and I know that Ms. Foster will affirm those ties and help make them even stronger," said Salonen. "With her knowledge of the region and wide acquaintance with the leaders of the Greater Bridgeport community, she will share with them the great gains the University has made and involve them in our goals."

Foster, who officially began her duties April 28, said, "UB means so much to this city and region. Its strong growth, the educational opportunities it provides, and the economic impact and vitality it brings are precious assets all of us want to support. I am looking forward to bringing the community into the University and the University into the region. There are many ways we can all benefit by working together."

Foster is well known as the co-founder and former CEO and co-owner of the Bridgeport Bluefish Professional Baseball Club, which she sold in 2008. During her tenure, she became a recognized promoter of the team's civic commitment and all that it brought to Bridgeport's revival.

Yet her ties to Bridgeport, where she lives with her husband, Jack McGregor, also are forged by her personal commitments to the city.

The co-chair of the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County's "Success by Six" early childhood initiative, Foster also serves on the boards of the Hudson Valley Bank, Fairfield County Community Foundation, and Fairfield County Teach for America. She also has been a volunteer court advocate for victims of domestic violence and served on the Bridgeport Mayor's Commission Against Violence in the Home.

She is past director and former president of the board of trustees of the Center for Women and Families. Her considerable volunteer efforts have earned Foster the Philip Morris Companies Doors of Hope Outstanding Volunteer Award, the YWCA Volunteer of the Year, the United Way Community Builder Award, the Arthritis Foundation's Woman in Motion Award, and the Connecticut Post's Woman of the Year in 2003.

Before attending law school, Foster was an actress in New York, performing on stage and in film, television, and radio. She appeared in more than 200 television and radio commercials. ■ – L.G.



Sidney Parsons was one of a record number of UB athletes who were recognized for top performances in the classroom.

# Student-athletes star in the classroom

By Chuck Sadokski

Along with being arguably the most successful season in UB athletics history, the 2008-2009 academic year was one of unprecedented classroom excellence for Purple Knights student-athletes.

A total of 42 Bridgeport student-athletes earned spots on the 2009 East Coast Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll, which recognizes those who earned a minimum 3.25 cumulative grade point average for the academic year and were members of a team that competed for an ECC-sponsored championship.

Two more Purple Knights, junior Sidney Parsons in women's basketball and senior Amanda Wentz in softball, were named East Coast Conference Scholar-Athletes of the Year in their respective sports. Parsons, a psychology and sociology major, has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average in her six semesters on campus.

A record number of UB athletes also earned ESPN the Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District standings in 2008-09. A total of eight Purple Knights were

recognized by the College Sports Information Directors Association of America for their academic prowess, with four earning First Team Academic All-District accolades.

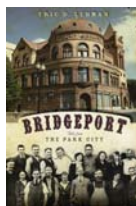
Sophomore Henrik Karlsson from the men's soccer team, junior Sophia Hoflin from the women's soccer team, and two women's basketball players, juniors Sidney Parsons and Shannon Malone, all earned First Team ESPN the Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District honors.

Sophomore Rakel Hinriksdottir from the women's soccer team and softball's Amanda Wentz, a senior, were Second Team ESPN the Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District honorees, and women's soccer's Emma Woolley, a junior, and senior Hannah Larson from the softball team were Third Team ESPN the Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District picks. ■

## Book Lines

Her childhood was rocked by abuse and alcoholism, but **Sharmain Hines**, a secretary in the admissions office, was determined to carve a better life for herself. Today Hines is an ordained minister, wife, mother of four daughters, and first-time author. In April, she published *Teach My Daughters to Fight* (Outskirts Press). Told with unvarnished candor, the memoir recounts Hines's physical and emotional journey from Bridgeport – where she cared for her brother while her physically abused mother turned to alcohol for relief – to Virginia, where she pieced together shards of a tumultuous past to create a stable, loving family life. Hines's next venture: earning her bachelor's degree through UB's IDEAL program.

English department senior lecturer **Eric Lehman** has published *Bridgeport: Tales from the Park City* (The History Press). Spanning the 19th and 20th centuries, the book traces the lives of some of the city's most



incandescent residents, using their personal histories to tell the larger story of Bridgeport as a bulwark of industry, commercial enterprise, and artistic and cultural activity. "I could have written a book on each of the chapters," said Lehman, who features the likes of P.T. Barnum, Colonel Henry Mucci and Joseph Frisbee.

Alumna **Linda Merlino** '67, author of *Belly of the Whale* (Kunati Books), was named runner-up for the 2009 Connecticut Press Club Award for Best Fiction. Harrowing and emotionally charged, *Belly of the Whale* traces a day in the life of Hudson Catalina, a wife and young mother who has given up against her battle with breast cancer but is then taken hostage by a gunman. Terrorized and facing certain death, Hudson finds unknown strength and vows to do whatever it takes to see her husband and children again. Merlino, who calls her ballpoint pen her "most trustworthy partner," writes whenever she can. ■ – L.G.



## Have you made plans?

Including the University in your estate plans enables you to make a more generous gift than might be possible during your life. There are several different kinds of bequests, and your attorney will work with you to develop a gift strategy that is right for you. The simplest and most common kind of bequest is an *unrestricted bequest for general purposes*. Because an unrestricted bequest can be used for the University's most pressing needs – which can change over time – this type of posthumous gift allows UB administrators and trustees the most flexibility in its distribution.

To ensure that your Will is legally valid and effective, we strongly advise that you engage a competent attorney to work with you in its preparation.

For more information about making a planned gift to UB, please contact Meems Ellenberg at 203-576-4542 or mellenbe@bridgeport.edu. All discussions are conducted in strictest confidence. ■



# Soaring to the top

**UB gymnasts defy odds to win the 2009 U.S.A. Gymnastics Collegiate Team National Championships for the first time in the school's history.**

April 10, 2009 was Good Friday, but in the annals of University athletics, it turned out to be far more than the start of the Easter weekend: it was the day the Purple Knights gymnastics team won its first national championship, tying Cornell University with a score of 191.675.

The breathtaking finish at the USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championships (USAG) crowned a dream season that was built on hard work and the unwavering faith of Head Coach Byron Knox, who was named USA Gymnastics and Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Coach of the Year.

"No one gave UB a chance. But I recruited kids who were willing to work hard – not the best athletes but the hardest-working athletes," said Knox, who filled his roster with 27 athletes, making it one of the largest teams in the country. Knox promised new recruits that if they came to UB, they'd learn new skills, a radical idea for most college gymnasts, who rarely break out of their finely tuned routines.

"I'm extremely proud of how they've accomplished the championship," said Knox. "They did it the old-fashioned way, through hard work. Everyone else was surprised, but not us. I knew we could do this."

The Purple Knights came back in the final two events to share the title with Cornell University. Earlier in the year, they captured the ECAC team title, and the day after winning the USAG Team title, five Purple Knights earned all-American honors in individual events at the national championships.

Sophomore Lorraine Galow was a big part of the Purple Knights' success, winning the all-around competition during the USAG team event, with a score of 38.850. Galow also distinguished herself as the only Division II gymnast to make a second consecutive trip to the NCAA Division I Regional Championships in the all-around in 2009.

Also in the team competition, freshman Miranda Der was fifth in the all-around, with a total of 37.225. Emily Repko took second place on the balance beam, and sophomore Breanna Collins grabbed third in the floor exercise. She also tied for third on the beam during the Nationals.

Along with their outstanding performances in the team competition, Collins, Der, Galow, Repko, and freshman Caroline McAvity earned individual USAG all-American honors. In winning the 2009 ECAC crown, UB won all four events, and Lorraine Galow took the all-around



**Freshman Emily Repko (left) and Miranda Der (center and right) earned the All-American honors at the 2009 USGA Collegiate Team National Championships.**

with a total score of 38.750. On the vault, Miranda Der, who was selected as the ECAC D II Rookie of the Year, and tied for first place with Galow with a score of 9.700. In the floor exercise, the duo of Der and Galow, plus Breanna Collins, tied for first with a score of 9.800. On the balance beam, Emily Repko took first place with a score of 9.825. Der tied for second on the beam with a 9.675 score.

While 2009 was record-breaking, just three of the team's athletes graduated, assuring a bright future for the UB gymnastics program on the national stage. And that's just how Knox and his team like it. ■ – C.S.

## Side Lines

### 2009 Men's Soccer Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Time
Friday	August 28	vs. Southern CT State University	6:00pm
Friday	September 4	@ Franklin Pierce University	7:00pm
Sunday	September 6	vs. Bentley University @ Franklin Pierce	4:00pm
Tuesday	September 8	@ Wilmington College	4:00pm
Tuesday	September 15	vs. Felician College	6:00pm
Saturday	September 19	vs. Post University	6:00pm
Wednesday	September 23	@ American International College	5:00pm
Tuesday	September 29	vs. Concordia College	6:00pm
Saturday	October 3	vs. C.W. Post Campus/LIU*	1:00pm
Tuesday	October 6	@ St. Thomas Aquinas College*	1:00pm
Saturday	October 10	@ Queens College*	1:00pm
Tuesday	October 13	vs. Caldwell College	6:00pm
Saturday	October 17	@ Molloy College*	8:00pm
Tuesday	October 20	@ Mercy College*	3:00pm
Saturday	October 24	vs. Dowling College*	6:00pm
Wednesday	October 28	vs. Southern New Hampshire University	4:00pm
Saturday	October 31	vs. New York Institute of Technology*	3:00pm

\* Denotes East Coast Conference Games

**Home Games in Bold**

Home Games played at Knights Field



## 2009-2010 Men's Basketball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Time
Sunday	November 15	@ Southern New Hampshire University	3:30pm
Saturday	November 21	<b>Purple Knight Classic</b> NYIT vs. SCSU	2:00pm
		UB vs. Post University	4:00pm
Sunday	November 22	<b>Purple Knight Classic</b> NYIT vs. Post University	2:00pm
		UB vs. SCSU	4:00pm
Wednesday	December 2	vs. C.W. Post Campus/LIU*	
Saturday	December 5	vs. Dowling College*	3:00pm
Wednesday	December 9	@ Mercy College*	TBA
Saturday	December 12	@ Molloy College*	TBA
Tuesday	December 22	@ Merrimack College	TBA
Tuesday	December 29	<b>Bridgeport Tournament</b> Saint Anselm College vs. Post University	3:00pm
		UB vs. Bentley University	5:00pm
Wednesday	December 30	<b>Bridgeport Tournament</b> Bentley University vs. Post University	3:00pm
		UB vs. Saint Anselm College	5:00pm
Wednesday	January 6	vs. New York Institute of Technology	7:00pm
Saturday	January 9	@ Queens College*	TBA
Monday	January 11	vs. St. Thomas Aquinas College*	7:00pm
Wednesday	January 13	@ C.W. Post Campus/LIU*	TBA
Saturday	January 16	@ Dowling College*	TBA
Wednesday	January 20	vs. Mercy College*	7:00pm
Saturday	January 23	vs. Molloy College*	3:00pm
Wednesday	January 27	@ New York Institute of Technology*	TBA
Saturday	January 30	vs. Queens College*	3:00pm
Wednesday	February 3	@ St. Thomas Aquinas College*	TBA
Saturday	February 6	vs. C.W. Post Campus/LIU*	3:00pm
Wednesday	February 10	vs. Dowling College*	TBA
Saturday	February 13	@ Mercy College*	TBA
Wednesday	February 17	@ Molloy College*	TBA
Saturday	February 20	vs. New York Institute of Technology*	3:00pm
Wednesday	February 24	@ Queens College*	TBA
Saturday	February 27	vs. St. Thomas Aquinas College*	3:00pm

\* Denotes East Coast Conference Games

**Home Games in Bold**

Home Games played at Harvey Hubbell Gymnasium



## 2009 Women's Volleyball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Time
Saturday	August 29	@ Dowling College Tournament Bridgeport vs. Pace University	3:00pm
		Bridgeport vs. Dowling College	5:00pm
Friday	September 4	<b>University of Bridgeport Tournament</b> Bridgeport vs. Caldwell College	11:00am
		Merrimack vs. UMASS – Lowell	1:00pm
		Holy Family vs. Caldwell College	3:00pm
		Merrimack vs. Holy Family	5:00pm
		Bridgeport vs. UMASS – Lowell	7:00pm
Saturday	September 5	<b>University of Bridgeport Tournament</b> UMASS – Lowell vs. Caldwell	11:00am
		Holy Family vs. UMASS – Lowell	1:00pm
		Caldwell vs. Merrimack	
		Bridgeport vs. Holy Family	5:00pm
		Bridgeport vs. Merrimack	7:00pm
Thursday	September 10	vs. Concordia College	7:00pm
Saturday	September 12	@ Bentley University Tournament (@ UMASS Lowell)	
		Bridgeport vs. New Haven	1:00pm
		Bridgeport vs. Rollins	3:00pm
Sunday	September 13	@ Bentley University Tournament (@ UMASS Lowell)	
		Bridgeport vs. Bloomfield	10:00am
Wednesday	September 16	vs. Stonehill College	7:00pm
Friday	September 18	@ Merrimack College	4:00pm
Saturday	September 19	@ Bentley University with Franklin Pierce	10am & 1pm
Tuesday	September 22	vs. Bloomfield College	7:00pm
Thursday	September 24	vs. Queens College*	7:00pm
Saturday	September 26	@ East Stroudsburg University w/ WCU	4&6pm
Tuesday	September 29	@ New York Institute of Technology*	7:00pm
Thursday	October 1	@ Molloy College*	7:00pm
Friday	October 2	vs. American International College	6:00pm
Tuesday	October 6	@ Mercy College*	7:00pm
Friday	October 9	@ Dowling College*	7:00pm
Saturday	October 10	@ SCSU with The College of St. Rose	2&4pm
Tuesday	October 13	vs. C.W. Post Campus/LIU*	7:00pm
Wednesday	October 14	vs. University of New Haven	7:00pm
Tuesday	October 20	@ Queens College*	7:00pm
Thursday	October 22	vs. New York Institute of Technology* (ECC Dig Pink for Breast Cancer Week)	7:00pm
Sunday	October 25	@ Adelphi University with LeMoyne College	3&5pm
Tuesday	October 27	vs. Molloy College*	7:00pm
Thursday	October 29	vs. Mercy College*	7:00pm
Tuesday	November 3	vs. Dowling College*	7:00pm
Thursday	November 5	@ C.W. Post Campus/LIU*	7:00pm

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## Softball Wrap

The UB softball team posted a 12-27 overall record and a 5-13 East Coast Conference mark in 2009.

Two members of the squad earned All-Conference recognition. Senior designated player Hannah Larson was selected First Team All-East Coast Conference, and senior third baseman Amanda Wentz has been named Third Team All-ECC. Larson finished the season with a .319 batting average to go along with five home runs and 24 runs batted in. Wentz had a team-best .385 batting average, and she led the Purple Knights with seven homers and 27 RBIs. Wentz also was named as the 2009 East Coast Conference Softball Scholar Athlete of the Year. ■

- C.S



## 2009 Women's Soccer Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Time
Friday	August 28	@ Southern New Hampshire University	7:00pm
Sunday	August 30	@ Saint Anselm College	2:00pm
Friday	September 4	@ Philadelphia University	4:30pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>September 6</b>	<b>vs. Post University</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
Wednesday	September 9	@ Saint Michael's College	4:00pm
Tuesday	September 15	@ Holy Family University	4:00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>September 20</b>	<b>vs. UMASS Lowell</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>September 23</b>	<b>vs. Georgian Court University</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>September 28</b>	<b>vs. Stonehill College</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>October 1</b>	<b>vs. Caldwell College</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
Saturday	October 3	@ St. Thomas Aquinas College*	1:00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>October 7</b>	<b>vs. Queens College*</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 10</b>	<b>vs. Dominican College</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
Tuesday	October 13	@ New York Institute of Technology*	3:30pm
Saturday	October 17	@ Molloy College*	5:00pm
Wednesday	October 21	@ Mercy College*	3:00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 24</b>	<b>vs. Dowling College*</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 31</b>	<b>vs. C.W. Post Campus/LIU*</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>

\* Denotes East Coast Conference Games

**Home Games in Bold**

Home Games played at Knights Field



## 2009-2010 Women's Basketball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Time
Sunday	November 15	@ Southern CT State University	2:00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 18</b>	<b>vs. Post University</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
Saturday	November 28	@ Molloy College*	1:00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 2</b>	<b>vs. C. W. Post Campus/LIU*</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 5</b>	<b>vs. Dowling College*</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
Wednesday	December 9	@ Mercy College*	5:00pm
Saturday	December 12	@ The College of Saint Rose	3:00pm
Tuesday	December 29	@ Dowling College Tournament UB vs. (Bentley, or SNHU)	TBA
Wednesday	December 30	@ Dowling College Tournament UB vs. (Bentley, or SNHU)	TBA
Saturday	January 2	@ American International College	2:00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 6</b>	<b>vs. New York Institute of Technology*</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
Saturday	January 9	@ Queens College*	TBA
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 11</b>	<b>vs. St. Thomas Aquinas College*</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
Wednesday	January 13	@ C.W. Post Campus/LIU*	5:00pm
Saturday	January 16	@ Dowling College*	1:00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 20</b>	<b>vs. Mercy College*</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 23</b>	<b>vs. Molloy College*</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
Wednesday	January 27	@ New York Institute of Technology*	5:00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 30</b>	<b>vs. Queens College*</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
Wednesday	February 3	@ St. Thomas Aquinas College*	5:00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 6</b>	<b>vs. C. W. Post Campus/LIU*</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 10</b>	<b>vs. Dowling College*</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
Saturday	February 13	@ Mercy College*	1:00pm
Wednesday	February 17	@ Molloy College*	5:00pm
Saturday	February 20	vs. New York Institute of Technology*	1:00pm
Wednesday	February 24	@ Queens College*	5:00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 27</b>	<b>vs. St. Thomas Aquinas College*</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>

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## Golf Classic

The 2008-09 year in UB athletics wrapped up in fine style with the huge success of 13th Annual Department of Athletics Golf Classic. This year's June event raised \$20,500, nearly three times the amount raised a year ago. Proceeds will fund upgrades and minor renovation projects in the Harvey Hubbell Gymnasium.

The tournament had a new look this year with a change in golf course, as this year's venue was Tashua Knolls Golf Course in Trumbull, CT. Over 80 golfers filled the course and enjoyed a fun-filled day that included lunch, 18 holes of golf, a fabulous dinner, contests, raffle, prizes, and a silent auction.

Much of the success of this year's tournament was based on an increased number of sponsors. Major sponsors included New Alliance Bank, Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C.; KBE Building Corporation, HRP Associates, Inc.; The Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center; UHY Advisors, Inc.; SH Smith & Company, Inc.; Securitas Security Services U.S.A.; Baker Liturgical Art; Carlson Construction; Beardsley, Brown & Bassett; and MacKenzie Painting. Thanks to all of these quality businesses. ■ - C.S.



Above: Golfers enjoyed a fun-filled day, and raised \$20,500 for UB athletics, during the 13th Annual Golf Classic.

## Baseball Wrap

The University of Bridgeport baseball team went 13-18 in 2009 and posted an 11-13 East Coast Conference record to earn a spot in the conference postseason tournament.

Pitching was the team's strength throughout the season, as UB finished fifth in all of Division II in earned-run average, with a sterling 3.19 mark.

Three Purple Knights earned All-Conference recognition in the spring: junior designated hitter Kevin Clements was selected to the Second Team All-East Coast Conference Team, and sophomore second baseman Gaetano Giunta and senior pitcher Riley Shuckerow were named to the Third Team All-ECC.

Giunta also finished the year with a .283 batting average, and tied for the team lead in RBIs with 16 and stolen bases with four. Plus he had an excellent year in the field, handling 168 chances with only four errors.

Shuckerow finished the year with a 3-2 record plus one save and a 3.23 ERA, as he led the Purple Knights in innings pitched at 55.2. Riley also limited opponents to a batting average against of only .203. ■

- C.S.



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**(from left) Brian Lim '96, Shintaro Akatsu '88, President Neil Salonen, Kats Hayashi '85, Sayaka Makizoe, Yuriko Honjo, Yasutaka Mochizuki, Hiroshi Fujiwara '98, Takayoshi Enomoto '08, and admissions counselor Chika Honjo pose during the international alumni reception held in Tokyo on July 26. The event was generously sponsored by Shintaro Akatsu '88.**