

UB Knightlines

Innovation

How ideas, experimentation,
and creative breakthroughs at
UB point us in new directions



UNIVERSITY OF
BRIDGEPORT

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ALSO INSIDE The Populist Supercomputer • Furniture to Save the World • Shopping for Sony

President's Line

Commencement is a time of celebration, the final step our students take as they enter the global marketplace. But in today's worrisome economic and contentious political climates many are asking that we reassess the value of higher education. As this issue of *Knightlines* abundantly shows, a University of Bridgeport education—drawn not only from the classroom, lab, gym, and studio but also from student and faculty conversations in the Hub—builds upon core values that give purpose to everything we do. In this issue, we draw attention to student and faculty innovation, perhaps the most exciting proof of UB's success in educating for the future and evidence of the spirit that is essential to facing these uncertain times.



Neil Albert Salonen

Parents and politicians, faculty, staff, and university administrators—and students themselves—all know that the current job market is immensely challenging, and it appears likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. All of us would like to “create jobs” and “ensure a better tomorrow,” but rhetoric alone will not bring success. We must prepare students to see opportunities where others see problems and threats. Our graduates must possess skills of analysis, persuasion, community building, and collaboration. We have to prepare them to seek solutions, to craft novel methods of doing business, to raise standards of education and healing the sick, to envision new products and design them for usability and beauty, and to create institutions that can sustain healthy civic life for future generations. Taken together, the University's schools, colleges, and institutes are endowing students with this palette of skills. In brief, this is the spirit and practice of innovation.

With the current pace of change, some estimates hold that over the next 20 years—half the expected career-life of our graduates—half of the jobs they will hold do not yet exist. More than ever, our students must be ready to invent the future; they are required to be flexible, resilient, and adaptive. The narrow, careerist training of the past will not work in the future—nor will pie-in-the-sky theorizing. At UB, we bring the time-honored liberal arts into dialogue with career-oriented and globally enriched major programs.

A commitment to innovation opens vistas of cooperation that connect UB to partner universities in China, India, and around the world. Students from New York City, New Jersey, and Connecticut learn to appreciate the perspectives of students from Sweden, Brazil, Nepal, and Saudi Arabia. Differences matter, and at times they present challenges. But we overcome our differences at UB by working and learning together, striving to solve problems and see solutions. We have all witnessed UB's special sense of the possible: whether it's Muslim, Christian, and Jewish students working together, a group of African-American and European students discussing a divisive issue, or a diverse group of athletes claiming a trophy or award they have won as a team.

Education is expensive in time, effort, and money. A college education may be the greatest investment a family or individual makes. Very robust research shows, however, that even a single year of higher education dramatically increases an individual's lifetime earnings, far exceeding the cost of their education. With each successive year of education, earning power increases over the entire lifetime. And this is only measuring education's value monetarily. Add to this the student's lifelong friends, the global network, the enrichment of body and soul, and the professor-student interactions afforded by a UB education, and the value becomes greater than our capacity to measure.

In the northeast, and in the State of Connecticut in particular, the public purse funds only a small fraction of the cost of private education, dramatically less than what is spent in the public sector. Yet private, independent institutions bring more out-of-state students to Connecticut and award more degrees to minority and underserved populations, and more graduate degrees. Higher education enriches the local economy, produces workers with skills and knowledge, and collectively represents the state's third-largest employer. As the University's president, I believe, as I am sure you do, in the value of private education, and in particular what we offer at the University of Bridgeport.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Knightlines*, and I would very much enjoy learning about your accomplishments. Send me a note about how UB helped you get your start, and let's find a way to continue collaborating to build UB's present and future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Albert Salonen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Cover illustration by Toby Michaels '57, '78, *Abundance in the Void #2*

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Editor's Note

After editing this issue of *Knightlines* I've reached the conclusion that innovation is creativity's triumph over the ordinary.

And at UB, innovation abounds more than ever before.

Just a few weeks ago, the University hosted its annual Faculty Research Day, showcasing nearly 100 breathtaking research ventures. Our professors and students are working on projects for NASA, Architecture for Humanity, Sony, and the Cherokee Nation, among others. We've just launched Innovators, a new lecture series that features leaders in science and business, including alumnus Royce Friedman '46, who is featured in "Focus On" on page 28. And in early March, more than 100 guests filled The Gallery at the Arnold Bernhard Center for the opening of our first annual Alumni Art Show, a stunningly gorgeous exhibition of diverse creative talent. I'm delighted that one of the paintings in the show, *Abundance in the Void #2* by Toby Michaels '57, '78, graces the cover of this issue.

When *Knightlines* was redesigned in the summer of 2009, I hoped it would reflect the innovative energy on campus and the accomplishments of UB's inspiring alumni by giving readers a place to submit letters, make suggestions, send in their art and treasured photographs, and make other creative contributions. So if you haven't picked up a pen to write a letter (or sent an e-mail), please feel free to do so. This is *your* magazine.

In the meantime, staff and faculty have not been shy about contacting us. A few months ago, English professor Eric Lehman suggested that the magazine run thoughtful essays, written by faculty members, on a variety of topics. It's a great idea, and I'm pleased to introduce "Closing Thought," a new section that hands the microphone to some of the great minds of our UB community. Jani Pallis, an associate professor of mechanical engineering, inaugurates the feature on page 37 with her essay "A License to Play . . . And Not Get it Right."

Enjoy!



Leslie Geary
Editor, Knightlines

Pipelines

Fond Memories

Dear Editor,

Hello from Jacksonville, Florida. I'm an August 1963 graduate of UB, with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. So I don't know if I'm in the class of '63 or '64. In any case, I did graduate.

I entered the University in September 1961, after serving in the U.S. Army at the start of the Vietnam War. UB accepted me as a third-year student after my graduation from Westchester Community College in June 1959.

I am a CPA and a professor of accounting at DeVry University and Jones College in Jacksonville. Most of my career was spent as a CPA, and upon retirement I went into college teaching.

My memories of the University are fond. I was a little older than my classmates, 23, so I mainly spent my time studying. I was president of the accounting fraternity in my senior year.

I'm married and have four children and nine grandchildren. I hope to visit the campus sometime next year to see all the wonderful renovations. By the way, UB *Knightlines* is an excellent magazine, and allows me to remain connected to the school. I'm so glad that the school of my youth is progressing and giving the same opportunities to young people as it afforded me so many years ago.

Benjamin F. Mathews '63
Jacksonville, FL

Editor's note: Mr. Mathews, You are a proud member of the Class of 1963. We hope you'll return to the University for Commencement in May 2013, when your class will be honored as Golden Knights on the 50th anniversary of your graduation!

Dear Editor,

I enjoy getting *Knightlines* and seeing how UB has come back to life. One of the great things still missing is its football team.

My husband did a residency at the University of Florida, and then two of my daughters. There is nothing like football to give a school its spirit.

Sally Landis Laufer '76
Palm Harbor, FL

Building Excellence

Dear Editor,

My friend Jeanne Caggiano (also a UB graduate) sends me *Knighlines* regularly, which keeps me in touch with my alma mater. Great to see that UB is renovating and keeping buildings up-to-date, as well as ensuring that the curriculum is academically competitive.

I entered the University in 1958. At the time Chaffee and Cooper were brand-new girls' dorms; we in 1958 were the first occupants. The dorms were state-of-the-art, so wonderfully modern, light, and airy. Not surprising that they are now being renovated. It's been a lot of years.

My roommate and I shared a room on the fourth floor of Cooper. Boys were not allowed beyond the lower-floor lounge. This rule was strictly enforced. Not only that, but there was a weekday curfew of 10 p.m. and a weekend curfew of 12 a.m. (for girls only). Our housemother was strict and kept us in line. Penalties were imposed on those few who defied the rules. As I recall, a penalty usually consisted of being grounded the following weekend. In those days we accepted such restrictions without question. Times have changed a bit since then.

I've always been proud of being a UB alumna. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at our graduation in 1961. Although he was well-known at the time, his true fame came later.

Anne LaBarre O'Connor '61
Carrollton, TX

Dear Editor,

I always look forward to receiving my copy of *Knighlines* and especially the current Fall 2011 edition featuring the "Building Excellence" article. Seeing those photos of the Marina dining room, and especially the reopening of Chaffee Hall, brought much joy and many fond memories, especially since I lived in Chaffee for one of my years as a student.

I realize that my graduating class (1965) and those in that era are a long time ago. However there are lots of us older alumni who still have a strong kinship to UB and would like to see more emphasis on 'old UB' as we

remember it from the past. I would appreciate reading more about the students, the life, the campus, etc., from those great times. The '60s at UB were probably the best of UB, at least in my estimation.

Up until a few years ago I would always visit the campus in my travels between my hometown in New Jersey and my visits to Massachusetts to visit family. One time, I remember so well that my campus drive through was on a rainy weekend day. Even though it was raining, I parked my car and took a walking-nostalgia stroll through every street and alleyway of the campus, feeling very down and with tears in my eyes most of the way. Many buildings had boarded up windows, especially on the first few floors, where once these places were filled with excitement and learning. The bookstore open its shelves were bare and had no customers. But now, I am seeing a new UB and it makes me excited to know that we're back and stronger than ever.

So let's see if we can get more emphasis on the student body, the faculty, and the campus for us "old timers". Let's hear more about the era of Dr. James Halsey, Dr. Henry Littlefield, Dr. Rhocheck, Dr. Petitjean, just to name a few. How about some stories about some of the old fraternities and sororities, Campus Thunder, the *Scribe*?

Oh, to be young again and relive those great years at UB!

David Rubin '65
The Villages, FL

Dear Editor,

My wife (Anna Garfield '70) and I are glad to see the improvements being made to our alma mater.

However, as an Environmental Health and Safety professional, I was very disturbed that the cover photo for the Fall 2011 issue showed a construction worker balanced on the penultimate and top steps of a ladder. Clearly the selection of ladder was wrong. And while showing the improvements to Chaffee Hall in progress is important, showing that we care for the health of workers is something essential to an institution teaching others to be part of the health team.

Does our University have someone who can protect it from potential major incidents during construction projects? Is there someone

who reviews safety and health issues to prevent workers compensation or student injuries?

Henry Garfield '71
Savannah, GA

Smart Business

Dear Editor,

I have to write about the value from my relationship with CTech IncUBator@UB, the small-business incubator located on your campus.

I moved my start-up, Commerce Drivers, LLC, to its offices in October and have found its lunch seminars to be extremely helpful. I've also had great meetings with and feedback from Charlie Moret, managing director of Connecticut Innovations [co-sponsor of the incubator with the University].

It's so great to have access to CTech resources at UB to help me build my business. Much appreciated.

Carissa Ganelli, CEO and Founder
Commerce Drivers, LLC
Bridgeport, CT

Have an opinion?

We want to hear them!

Send your letters to Editor, *Knighlines*, Cortright Hall, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or by e-mail to knighlines@bridgeport.edu. Please be sure to include your full name, contact information, and class year (if applicable). Letters may be edited for length, clarity, or accuracy.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Innovators

By Leslie Geary



Gary Munch and one of his design students review font characters.

Font of Style

What's in a font? Readers typically don't notice them when they peruse the morning paper, scan Twitter feeds, or lose themselves in a good book. But take away the Garamonds, Times New Romans, and Bodonis that color our printed world, and things look pretty dull.

Crisp and modern—or curlicued and rooted in tradition—fonts' structure and appearance send strong subliminal messages about text, content, and image. Skeptical? Show one of Coca-Cola's cursive C's or the dromedary-like arches of the McDonald's golden M to consumers in the farthest reaches of the world, and odds are they'll match the fonts to company brands.

So yes, fonts matter—a lot. Just ask Joseph Erb, who runs education services and language-technology for the Cherokees. The Nation only had one font, designed in the 1820s, in which to express their language in writing because other fonts for Cherokee had been “designed by people who did not speak or write Cherokee and had characters that were not correct,” Erb says.

“Native languages across the world are disappearing, and Cherokee is at risk at being lost—even with all the successful programs we have had. How do you excite your community about your language again? Beautiful fonts are one of the answers. As we continue to grow our language back in the youth, they demand quality technology. Fonts are a very key part of that.”

So Erb attended a conference for letterpress designers called Typecon 2011 in New Orleans, searching for help. There, he met Gary Munch, an award-winning font designer who teaches graphic design at Shintaro Akatsu School of Design. Munch immediately offered to lend a hand.

The Cherokee font, says Munch, “had formalized letters that had similarly shaped but differently sounded letters in Latin, Greek, or Cyrillic, with a very high contrast of weight on strokes and very thin on horizontals. They were fashionable the early nineteenth century, but the Nation wanted a selection of typefaces that were different, expressive, even fun—just as anyone else who uses typefaces looks for just the right one for a variety of messages.”

Munch immediately set to work to produce three new options: Neogrotesk Thin Cherokee, a sleek sans serif semi-cursive font; a multipurpose “workhorse” design that he dubbed Neogrotesk Black Cherokee; and finally, the so-called Munch Chancery Cherokee, a calligraphic font that resembles handwriting, and, says Erb, “is beautiful to look at.” In fact, Munch Chancery is being used at the Cherokee Immersion School and by some of the Nation's translation staff.

“Gary did amazing work,” says Erb. He may not have the ability to read and write our language, but he has very good instincts and an ability to work with suggestions to create something new and exciting. He heard our plea for a better written word and used his talents to make our written world better. That is something special.”

Character
D
Neogrotesk Thin Cherokee

(continued on page 6)

Soy Good for You?

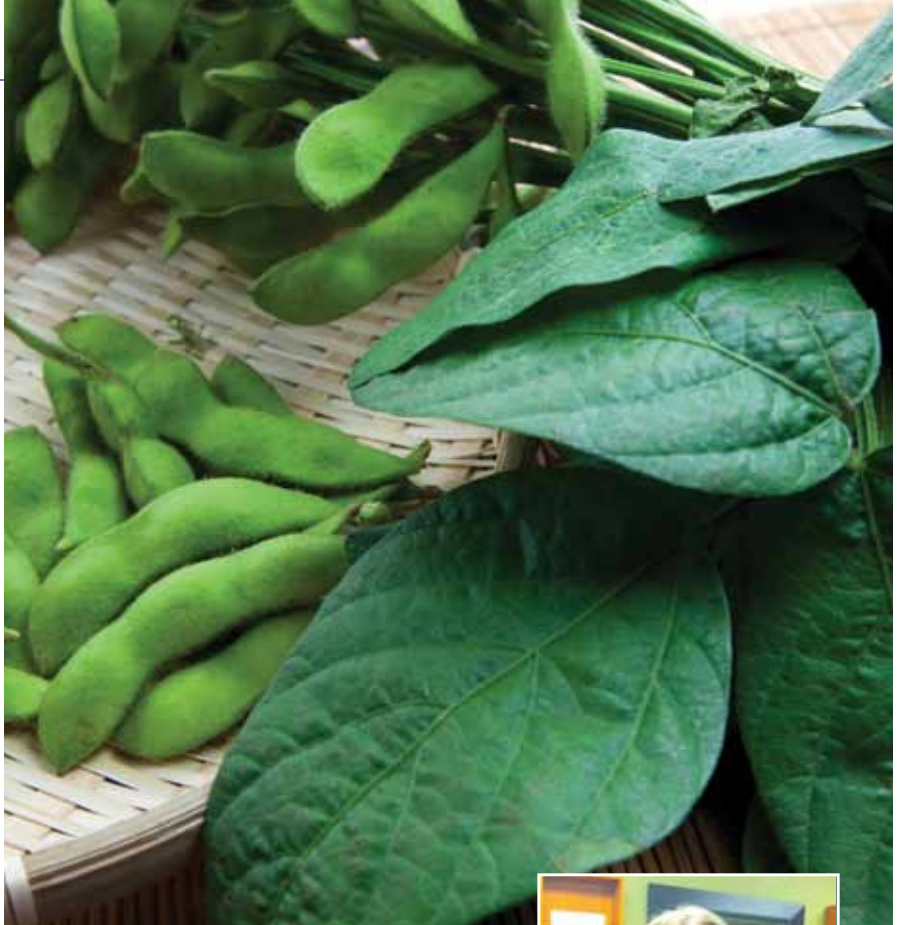
Ah, soy! That darling of legumes seems to offer something for everyone: the lactose-intolerant pour soy milk into coffee. Soy butter-and-jam sandwiches have found their way into peanut-free cafeterias. Edamame jazzes up salads. And soy-based ingredients and fillers, found in burgers to mayonnaise, ice cream, and salad dressing, are estimated to make up 10 percent of the calories we consume, whether we know it or not.

But this tiny little bean may be stirring big trouble for our thyroids, according to a startling new study by Chelsea Croskeys, a graduate student at the Human Nutrition Institute.

Croskeys was working as a licensed acupuncturist in Orlando, Florida, where she shares offices with a doctor and medical weight-loss clinic, when she began to suspect soy. Clients who wanted to shed pounds, she explains, were routinely given soy-based protein drinks. “The women were losing weight,” says Croskeys, “but then a high amount of them started having thyroid problems—specifically Hashimoto’s disease—after a year. I wanted to know if there was a link.”

In 2009 Croskeys enrolled at the Human Nutrition Institute, where she planned to do the research to find answers that eluded her. “Animal studies showed distinct connections between soy consumption and thyroid alternation, but human trials were limited with mixed results,” Croskeys notes. “There was not a lot of good data in terms of actual research. Many problems were attributed to the fact that soy may have been genetically modified.”

Croskeys’s thesis, “Effects of Soy Protein Isolate Function in Healthy Young Women: A Pilot Study,” used high-grade, non-genetically modified soy protein powder and a sample group of five women, between 20 to 30 years old, who appeared to be in excellent health. Croskeys ran pretrial blood tests to measure their levels of T3, T4 and TSH hormones, which are linked to thyroid function. She also ran thyroid peroxidase (TPO) antibody tests, which measure an enzyme that’s found in the thyroid gland and believed to trigger autoimmune disorders like Hashimoto’s disease. None of the women in her study ate diets that would contain high levels of soy, such as prepared salad dressings or



Too much of a good thing? Soy, which makes up 10 percent of the calories we eat, may be causing trouble for our thyroids.



Chelsea Croskeys

protein bars. And their initial blood tests showed normal thyroid-function levels.

Then for two months, the women were given 24 grams of soy protein powder a day. Within days, one woman dropped out of the study because of nausea and vomiting. And levels for the T4 hormone rose in all the other subjects. One woman developed a goiter, but Croskeys didn’t include it in her final thesis because “I’m not 100 percent sure I can link it to soy,” she said.

Her research, Croskeys admits, isn’t sufficiently expansive to make a final conclusion—yet.

“I need to do a yearlong study with at least 40 participants,” she says. “But I think there’s a strong connection. Every one of the study’s participants had an alternation in thyroid hormone levels.”

Barry Kendler, a professor at the Human Nutrition Institute and Croskey’s adviser, is equally excited by her findings. “Lots of nutraceuticals are based on soy, and soy is used in this country as a major food. But just because it’s a major food doesn’t mean it’s harmless,” says Kendler. “If it’s true that it produces an antibody that attacks the thyroid, then the results are exciting. It’s a major finding.”

The Populist Supercomputer

Computers may be the future, but educating the next generation of high-tech professionals can be financially prohibitive for schools and other institutions that can't afford technology costing tens of thousands of dollars.

That may change, thanks to School of Engineering professor Jeongku Lee and graduate student Omar Abuzaghleh.

By using Sony PlayStation 3 gaming devices, the two have created a supercomputer that costs no more than \$2,000. That low price tag, they say, can greatly help colleges and universities provide to their students enhanced computer science programs.

"In the market, supercomputers are very expensive—at least \$20,000 to several million dollars," said Lee. "That makes it almost impossible for small- or medium-sized schools, or non-research-intensive institutions, to equip their computing facilities."

The American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) agrees. It awarded Lee and Abuzaghleh its prestigious Best Paper Award for their work at the organization's annual conference.

Lee and Abuzaghleh's computer, ASEE judges wrote, "enables low-budget programs to offer courses with a hands-on experience. This is a huge plus to the CS [computer science] curriculum. . . . It's an excellent way to involve students at all levels."

Lee and Abuzaghleh created the device by using six PlayStation 3 consoles to do parallel processing and high-performance computing.

The system, which the two nicknamed UB PS3 Cluster, can be used for physics, medical imaging, or for educational purposes. In fact, UB PS3 was put to the test in the University's School of Engineering classrooms this spring, when it was used by undergraduate and graduate students.

"The research is very timely, given budget constraints of schools across the country and the testament to the timely value of this research is the ASEE award for the best paper of the year," says School of Engineering Dean and Vice President for Research Dr. Tarek Sobh.

Omar Abuzaghleh and Jeongku Lee were honored for using gaming devices to make an affordable supercomputer.



(continued on page 8)

Furniture to Save the World

Just a chair?

Think again. Ever since the first caveman dusted off a rock and proclaimed it his (or her) special seat, humans have had held emotionally charged feelings about their furniture. Hand-crafted from wood, encrusted with gems, woven with reeds, country chic or sleek-and-modern, the beds, tables, and seats in our homes reflect our individual tastes and aspirations, as well as larger social trends.

Concerns about deforestation and reports of illegal logging, for example, are currently spurring interest in so-called green furniture fashioned out of sustainable materials.

That's where Ken Benson and a group of industrial design students come in. Benson, who teaches furniture design at SASD when he's not creating pieces for the likes of Crate & Barrel and Design Within Reach, and his class have created chairs out of materials destined for the trash.

Their line includes seats fashioned out of old blue jeans ("You literally sit on the seat," Benson points out cheerfully), newspapers, corrugated cardboard, worn T-shirts, and unwanted linens that Benson's students picked up at thrift shops, fished out of the recycling bin, and plucked from garbage cans.

Recycled wood and metal were used to create the chair frames while elements like the blue jeans and T-shirts were molded into seats with clear resin. This allows for, say, newspaper headlines to be a visible and integral part of the design. Prototypes were reproduced by a Milford, Connecticut, company and final products were used and shown at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York City this spring.

"We're replacing expensive wood veneers from virgin forests with something we were going to throw away," says Benson. "When something ordinary like a T-shirt is presented in a new way, it becomes special: you've taken something with little value and created something that has a true higher value to the consumer. And if society feels it's important to do, they'll pay attention. So the designer's job is to grab their attention, and that's what we're trying to do—surprise them with a new approach."

Where others see trash, SASD's Ken Benson (middle) and his industrial design students see furniture for a greener planet.





Tomorrow's Bionic Man?

Exercise and lift weights, and over time, the body grows stronger. But that's not the case with artificial tissue and cartilage, which break down with use.

Until now, that is, thanks to UB engineering professor Prabir Patra and a research team from Rice University. They've developed a radical new material that for the first time ever gets stronger over time by self-stiffening under repeated use and loading.

That's a breakthrough for biomedical engineers who have long sought to develop a new generation of nanocomposite materials that are as adaptive as our body's natural tissues.

"We believe that this discovery will not only lead to interesting artificial biological structures but its implications likely extend beyond such applications," said Patra, who teaches biomedical and mechanical engineering. "If we can precisely control the nanocomposite interface, we can engineer exciting materials that will adapt to the loads that they are subjected to."

The breakthrough material, which was first announced in the Spring issue of *ACS Nano*, resembles

a carbon nanotube forest that's filled with polydimethyl siloxane rubber. Through stress and repeated use, materials interact to evolve and grow stronger, the researchers say.

Patra worked with Rice University graduate student Brent Carey and Pulickel Ajayan, Benjamin M. and Mary Greenwood Anderson Professor of Engineering, whose lab carried out the experiments.

"As long as you're regularly stressing a bone in the body, it will remain strong. For example, the bones in the racket arm of a tennis player are denser than those of limbs that aren't used as frequently," explains Carey. "Our material is similar in the sense that a static load on our composite doesn't cause a change. We can envision this response being attractive for developing artificial cartilage."

"People have been trying to address the question of how a polymer layer around a nanoparticle behaves," added Ajayan. "It's a very complicated problem. But fundamentally, it is important if you're an engineer of nanocomposites. From that perspective, I think this is a beautiful result."

Peering into the future: engineering professor Prabir Patra and a research team are discovering building materials that mimic the human body.

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Making the Pitch

Looking back on his college baseball career, Brian Krost is the first to admit that his time on the pitching mound wasn't always pretty.

"I think I have some dubious records for out-of-control pitches—kind of a Happy Gilmore resume. Some of them were pretty wild," says Krost, a graduate business student at UB. "I knew baseball wasn't going to be a moneymaker. So I decided to get an MBA."

But it turns out that baseball may prove to be lucrative for Krost, after all, thanks to a pitching machine he developed with UB classmates Robin Duan, Claudia Wei, and Anant Masalia. Named the Own Zone Pitching Simulator, the device uses laser technology to track balls, video monitoring, and a display screen for pitchers to check their performance in real-time, and a computer program that analyzes pitching patterns. The simulator will be marketed for use at batting cages, in parks, or anywhere else where people want to have fun trying to stay in the strike zone.

In the meantime, Own Zone Pitching has caught the attention of investors, who recently awarded Krost and teammates a \$1,000 grant at the annual Connecticut Business Plan Competition. The event is sponsored by the non-profit group Entrepreneurship Foundation, the Connecticut Venture Group, and the Department of Economic and Community Development, with support from Warbros Venture Partners, the Angel Investor Forum, Cliff Ennico, and Launch Capital, all of which scout for promising start-ups.

"Basically we turned the pitching machine inside out. Instead of balls coming at you, you're throwing them back," says Krost, who credits B-school professor Art McAdams for helping them identify potential markets for the simulator.

Says Krost, "We anticipate when the Little League player is done practicing, his little sister will want to play, too."

Brian Krost and a team of his MBA classmates scored a home run when they pitched to local venture capitalists.

Making Highways Less Deadly

The numbers are sobering: more than 2.2 million people are injured on U.S. highways and more than 37,000 are killed in a single year. While alcohol is the leading cause of accidents, excessive speeding accounts for 15 percent of fatalities, according to the most recent numbers from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

So when Ben Wisoff, 22, a senior majoring in industrial design at SASD, unveiled a safe-driving device that rewards careful motorists at the World Traffic Safety Symposium Competition, the industry noticed.

In fact, Wisoff's invention won first place and \$4,000 at the annual safety symposium, which is held in conjunction with the New York International Automobile Show that's held each spring in Manhattan and is among the biggest auto shows in the world.

Called TrackPoints, Wisoff's gadget uses rewards and monetary incentives to encourage drivers to stick to the speed limit. GPS navigational systems track a driver's speed and location, and drivers amass or lose so-called TrackPoints for traveling at, over, or under posted speed limits. Points can be redeemed for gift cards.

Posted speed limits and accumulated TrackPoints are displayed in real time on dashboards. As motorists accelerate, a glowing gauge follows the needle to highlight their speed. The gauge also turns blue if a driver is under the limit and red, when drivers break the limit.

"Companies are toying with idea of tracking driver statistics from a computer chip in a car," says Wisoff. "But I wanted to try a positive approach that rewards drivers rather than reprimanding them."

Ben Wisoff hopes to make the roads safer for everyone.



(continued on page 12)

Creating a Robot for NASA

Think picking up the house is a chore? Try doing it at zero gravity, and you've got the attention of associate professor Jeremy Li and a team of his mechanical engineering students.

Li and his students were chosen by NASA to compete in the final rounds of the agency's eXploration Habitat (X-Hab) Academic Innovation Challenge after they submitted plans for a robotic device that can collect samples from the moon.

They were among 21 university teams who vied to make the final cut of the Innovation Challenge, which invites university teams from across the U.S. to propose solutions to help NASA scientists solve a variety of mysteries about deep space. Li's team was just one of four whose designs were good enough to advance to final rounds and win \$20,000 from the National Space Grant Foundation to build their proposed device.

Li and students Tony Tong, Kevin Zhong, and Ravi Gahiwal caught NASA's attention by designing a remote-controlled exploration robot that can be used on the moon to collect geological samples for research. "It's not like you can just use your fingers to pick things up," says Li. "We had to have something for NASA that's fully automated and gives complete

views of what's going on outside the device."

Not quite the size of a household refrigerator, the machine is outfitted with a robotic arm that can turn 360 degrees, as well as vertically and horizontally, to better collect lunar samples. Five cameras and an on-board X-ray machine capture images.

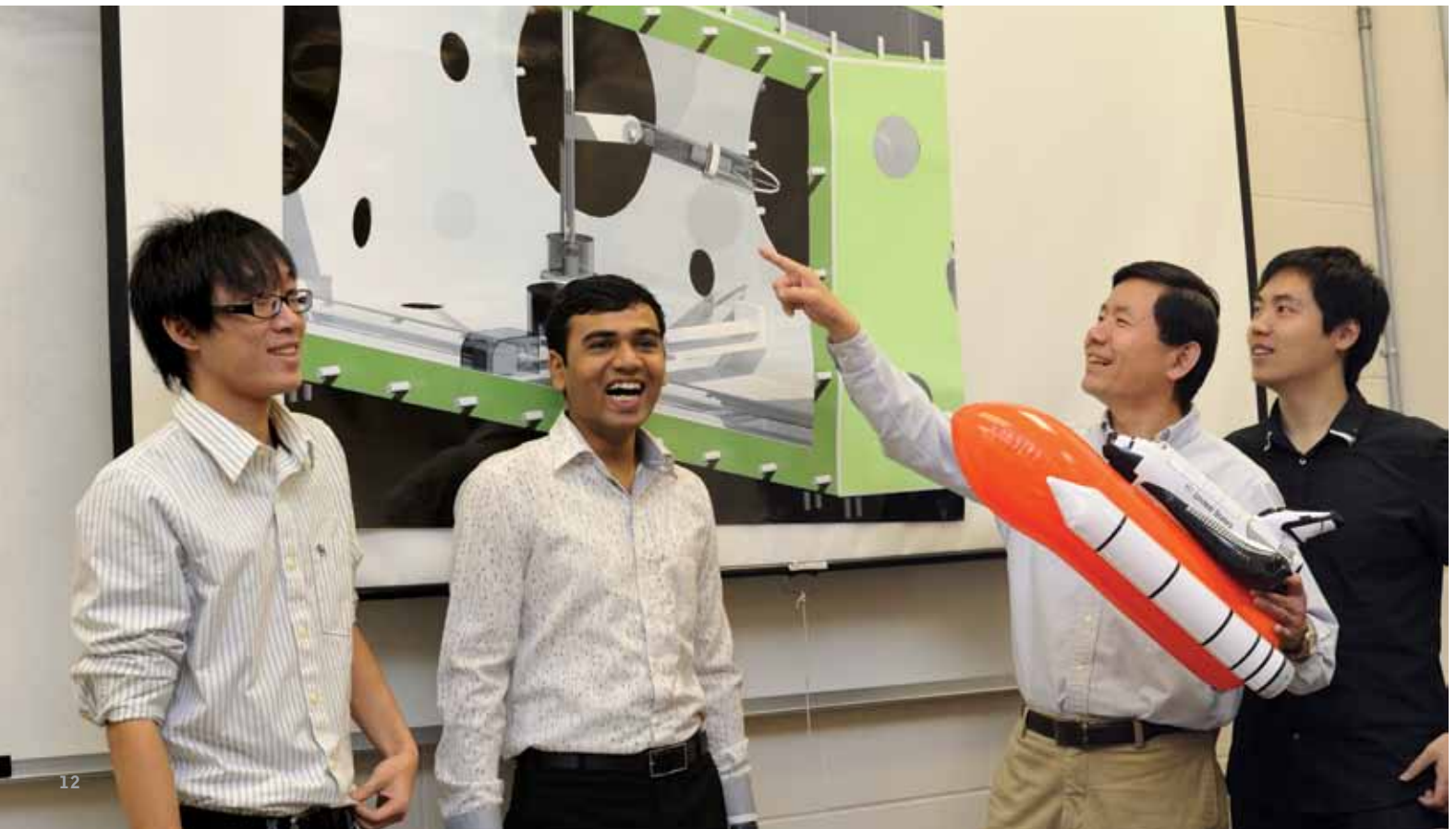
Work began in the fall of 2011. Various companies in Connecticut are manufacturing the components, but Li et company are assembling the parts, and have kept in constant contact with NASA engineers who monitor their progress.

Their final meeting was held in April 2012, weeks before the habitat was transported from the Tech Building on campus to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, where it was run through its paces and tested by the space agency.

"The outcomes of this research will be implemented and applied to the future NASA's International Space Station," says Li, as his eyes sparkle with barely concealed excitement. "To get a NASA grant is always difficult, and this has been a big honor. It's helped to elevate UB's reputation as a research institution and cultivate our relations with NASA."

In other words, research possibilities, like space, seem limitless.

Engineering professor Jeremy Li (with shuttle) and his students Tony Tong, Ravi Gahiwal, and Kevin Zhong were one of four teams in the U.S. selected by NASA to build a research device for the space agency.



To Market! To Market!

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg may be the most famous college entrepreneur, but he's not alone. These days, plenty of students launch companies of their own.

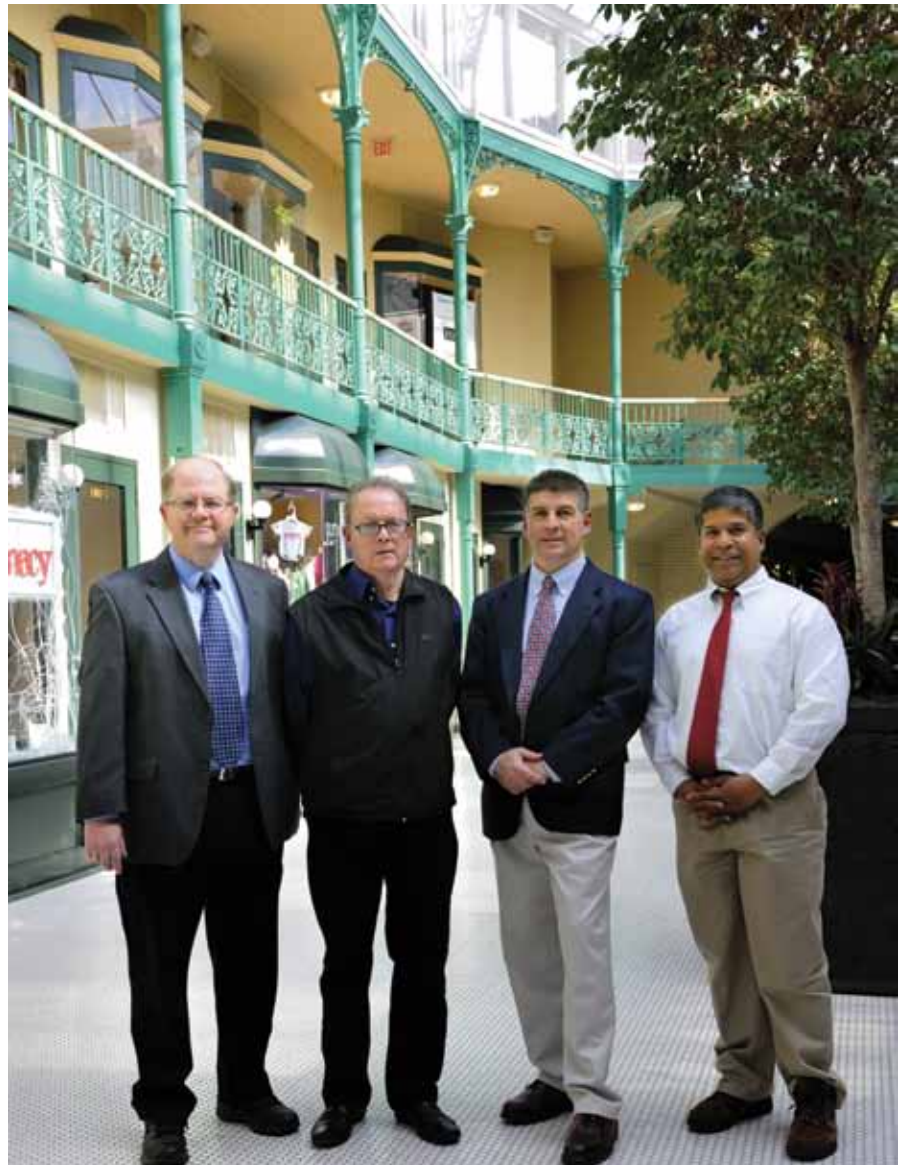
Would-be entrepreneurs at UB can now obtain the resources they need to turn ideas into bona fide money-makers, thanks to a team of professors from various academic departments who joined forces to create the Center for Student Entrepreneurship (CSE). As conceived, the CSE will provide step-by-step training in business, engineering, marketing, design, and other fields—plus potential seed money and access to professional mentors—that are necessary to take a great idea and turn it into a viable product in the open market.

“We’re trying to bring together interdisciplinary teams of students, which is what businesses do. They bring people together from different functions,” said Neal Lewis, a professor in the technology management department who previously spent nearly three decades, primarily in operations, at Proctor & Gamble and Bayer. “In business, no one function can do the entire project.”

Lewis—along with Art McAdams, who teaches management classes at the B-school; Jani Pallis, an associate professor of mechanical engineering; and electrical engineering professor Navarun Gupta—were inspired to launch the CSE after watching UB students repeatedly win the highly prestigious Connecticut Business Plan Competition, where teams compete by submitting proposals for start-up companies that are judged by venture capital firms and the state’s Department of Economic and Community Development. (For more, see “Making the Pitch” on page 10.)

“UB has an excellent track record of having really good ideas and winning the competition, but now we want to help our students go beyond that,” says McAdams. “Our concept is to have students build prototypes and take it to a level where, ultimately, they can commercialize their ideas.”

To do that, students need hands-on experience. So Lewis et al obtained an \$8,000 grant from National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIID) to design a new course called Product Commercialization, a highly creative, multifaceted program that incorporates engineering, business, marketing, and design. The first course will be offered in the fall of 2012.



From left: Neal Lewis, Richard Yelle, Art McAdams, Navarun Gupta

“We’ll show students how to take their ideas, prototype them by actually building working models, check against patents, and understand how to commercialize them,” said Pallis. “This is entirely an interdisciplinary approach.”

In the meantime, the team has applied for a second grant from NCIID. If approved, it would provide start-up funds to help students who enroll in the new Product Commercialization class to build prototypes of their business ideas before taking them to market.

“A lot more schools are moving in this direction,” says Lewis, “Part of what spurs small-business growth is when larger businesses aren’t hiring. So we’re encouraging our student entrepreneurs. We’re taking it to another level.” ■

UB and *New York Times*-bestselling author Dr. Peter J. D'Adamo sign an agreement to launch the Center of Excellence in Generative Medicine.

A New Prescription for Health Sciences

By Leslie Geary

The University and Dr. Peter J. D'Adamo, author of the bestselling *Eat Right 4 Your Type* series and an adjunct professor at the College of Naturopathic Medicine, have signed an agreement for the collaborative launch of the Center of Excellence in Generative Medicine (COE). It will open on campus in late 2012.

The COE—to be located at 115 Broad Street—will train naturopathic doctors while broadening the College of Naturopathic Medicine's curriculum. It also will serve as a research and teaching center in the areas of nutrigenomics and epigenetics—fields that examine how human genes interact and are affected by the environment, lifestyle, and diet.

As such, the COE will build upon D'Adamo's work, which first became popularized with the 1996 publication of *Eat Right 4 Your Type*. The book soared to the top of bestseller lists with the simple but radically innovative notion that individuals could maximize their health if they based nutrition on their blood types. Since then, D'Adamo has continued his research into human biochemical individuality, and he has published over 20 books, including the recent *Textbook of Generative Medicine*.

Inspiration for the COE, in fact, came from D'Adamo himself, said College of Naturopathic Medicine Interim Dean Dr. Elizabeth Pimentel. It was three years ago, soon after he'd arrived at UB to lead teaching clinics, when he sent Pimentel an e-mail wondering if UB would consider a more extensive partnership to create the COE. Though specifics had yet to be identified, UB was a ready partner. Said Pimentel, "We are thrilled that we are able to offer our students the opportunity to learn from someone who has been called 'the most creative scientist in the Western world' and who is a true pioneer in our profession."



From left: Health Sciences Director David Brady, Dr. Peter J. D'Adamo, UB President Neil Salonen, and College of Naturopathic Medicine Director Elizabeth Pimentel officially launched the Center for Excellence in Generative Medicine on January 24.

In addition to its teaching facilities and sponsored research, the COE will house an outpatient clinic, thus expanding UB's roster of treatment clinics. Located in the Health Sciences Building on Lafayette Street, the UB Clinics are run by the Colleges of Chiropractic and Naturopathic Medicine, the Acupuncture Institute, and Fones School of Dental Hygiene.

Said D'Adamo: "From our first discussions about the possibility of a Center of Excellence in Generative Medicines, almost three years ago, our goal was to investigate the use of new technologies, algorithms and philosophies as applied to a new type of patient care; one that is personalized and crafted according to these generative principles. I am especially proud that this initiative has found a partner in UB, a recognized educational world leader in the field of integrative medical education." ■

"We are thrilled that we are able to offer our students the opportunity to learn from someone who has been called 'the most creative scientist in the Western world' and who is a true pioneer in our profession."

– Dr. Elizabeth Pimentel



Opening Their Eyes

A visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind reveals the wonders of animal-assisted therapy to a group of psychology majors.



Yolo leads the way to class at UB.

By Leslie Geary

The name of her class is The Exceptional Child, and adjunct professor Jan Trifero makes sure that the students who take the introductory course to special education never forget it.

“The young men and women in my class are training for careers in psychology and human services. They may work with children and teenagers who have various learning disabilities and physical handicaps, who are in special-education programs, or who are gifted and talented. Learning to understand disabilities and tolerance is critical,” says Trifero.

So, Trifero regularly invites guest speakers to talk about living with various disabilities. In March, Andrea Guidice came with Yolo, a five-year-old yellow lab who is her seeing guide dog, to share her life stories as a blind person.

They were an instant hit.

“You are an inspiration and my motivation in life now,” student Sandy Tanner told Guidice. “Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

A Connecticut native, Guidice attended public schools



Andrea Guidice and Yolo visited UB's Exceptional Child class, an introduction to working with students who have special needs.

in Simsbury. She had one friend and early memories of bullying still trouble her. School administrators “didn’t know what to do with me,” Guidice said. “We hired a mother—Jessica—from the area who learned braille and became my classroom aide.”

Yet Guidice did well academically, thanks to Jessica and her mother, Janet Muldoon-Ellsworth, who was her biggest supporter. “She was an amazing advocate,” says Guidice. “She pushed the buttons to make sure I got the education and support I needed.”

When others fell short, her mother stepped in, teaching Guidice how to write the alphabet and constantly reminding her daughter: “You can do what you want to do.”

While she did well academically, peers still steered around Guidice and teachers remained unsure about how to introduce her to her classmates. “I received my first guide dog, Duchess, a three-year-old German shepherd, at the beginning of my senior year in high school,” recalled Guidice. “Until they saw me with Duchess, many did not realize I was blind. I guess they thought I was just this weird person.”

Weird, no. Determined, yes. Guidice eventually graduated from UConn cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Family Studies. But even with top marks, Guidice had a tough time finding work in her field.

Employers weren’t uncertain about hiring a blind person. So she began using her talents to help others who are blind.

“I’ve worn many professional hats,” says Guidice, who has served as a spokesperson for the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, as a national agency representative and peer counselor for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and as a major gifts associate for the non-profit group Blind Babies Association. In 2005, Governor M. Jodi Rell appointed her to the Connecticut State Rehabilitation Council. Guidice also facilitates low-vision support groups and cofounded the guide dog-user group Harness Up.

As part of her work, Guidice regularly returns to classrooms to educate students and their teachers about blindness and disability awareness. There is much opportunity to help make positive change, she reminded Trifero’s class. For example, technology for the blind and deaf is a fast-growing field, and demand is high for sign-language interpreters.

Lauren Maisto, a senior psychology major, welcomed the news. “Andrea was amazing,” said Maisto. “We just got a border terrier puppy, and I now plan to train her as a therapy dog after Andrea’s life stories about her guide dogs.” ■



All in the

The Downtown Music Program is introducing audiences to UB's talented students and helping Bridgeport redefine itself as a vibrant cultural hub.



Band

By Leslie Geary

It was quitting time in downtown Bridgeport. Workers streamed out of offices and onto the sidewalks where, like headlining acts at a nightclub, they stepped into puddles of light cast by streetlights before slipping into the shadows again. Still winter, the early evening sky was already canopied with winter stars.

Some of the newly freed loosened their ties, slung bags across shoulders, and headed to Fairfield Avenue, where the Bijou Theatre's illuminated red marquee beckoned from down the block. Inside the brick building, musicians had been setting up drums, tuning a guitar, getting ready to play some jazz.

It was almost time for the latest installment of the Downtown Music Program (DMP), a series of short musical acts performed throughout Bridgeport by student musicians, professors, alums, or others who are in some way affiliated with UB's music department.

Ray Bryant '11, a guitarist who is earning his master's degree in music at UB, was among them. "We have a lot of talent at UB," he said, "And they're getting to know us everywhere."

As conceived by Jeffrey Johnson, who is chairman of the music department, the DMP is about opportunity: for musicians, audiences, and the city itself, which has worked to entice commuters and tourists to linger downtown instead of heading to SoNo, New Haven, or even New York for after-hours entertainment and culture.

Shows in the DMP lineup last about an hour and have been held at various public locations throughout downtown Bridgeport.

"The City of Bridgeport is also in transition," says Johnson, who reached out to the city's cultural movers-and-shakers to launch the series. "It's beginning



Lighting up Bridgeport: UB student musicians and their professors headline at the Bijou.



Ray Bryant '11, a graduate student at UB's music department says the DMP shows are all about innovation. "Bring your guitar or horn. We'll make room for you."

to redefine itself through the artists who have chosen to live and work here. The downtown area, with its chic new restaurants, The Arcade mall, the Bijou, and other new spaces in the works, has finally become a destination for people once again. The Downtown Music Project is a small bridge built in Bridgeport; it is a positive service for students and a positive service for the community."

Scene Building

The Bridgeport Arts + Culture Council embraced the idea, and in December 2010 student performers from UB began appearing at public spaces throughout the city, after work and during lunch, where anyone who ventured downtown might chance upon the live music. Shows also are frequently scheduled in conjunction with other cultural events—before a movie, for example.

This coupling of events, says Timothy Dennihan, the programming director at the Bijou, is the key to success.

“We need people to come and see that Bridgeport is alive, and it’s alive in a wonderful exciting way. But we can’t do it on our own. We need a scene, and to have that, you need events,” says Dennihan. “Variety is hugely important for us, too. We’re not a community theater. We’re an excellent theater in the community. We’re elevating expectations to where people will know that whatever is going to be on stage will be good because it’s the Bijou. So we partner with people who are worthy of being on stage.”

Who’s on stage, in terms of the DMP, varies by design. The program, says Bryant, is innovative, not only because it’s mobile and adaptable, but because it welcomes diversity.

“Bring your guitar or your horn. We’ll make room for you,” says Bryant, whose wife, a vocalist, has sung at some DMP events. “We’re about inclusion.”

The result: on any given day or night students might be joined by their professors, like Michael Goetz, who teaches electric and upright bass and courses in jazz history at UB. Goetz also has played on Broadway, in such hits as *The Producers*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Les Miserables*, and *Miss Saigon*. This professional experience, coupled with a more-the-merrier ethos, provides critical support for students as they prepare for professional music careers.

“They learn to instantly gauge the style of music and energy level that is required to make their particular event snap,” says music dean Johnson. “They practice ways of developing repertoire so that one piece might be able to be presented in several different levels of formality. They learn to learn music quickly.”

Getting to Know You, Again

As it happens, the DMP shows aren’t the community’s first introduction to the University’s music department, whose talented alums include drummer Dave Weckl, who’s played with George Benson and Madonna, among countless others; bassist Paul Adamy, and Emmy-winning composer Russ Landau ’77. Rather, the performance series provides a chance to reacquaint the music department and community audiences, some of whom may remember elaborate Campus Thunder performances or when Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein came to UB through events like the annual Mertens Festival back in the 1970s.

Yet there are notable differences between past and present. Most significantly, the Internet has ushered in an abundance of styles and possibilities for performers. And UB students “have embraced the new technologies that are shaping the recording, editing, and distribution of music, and they learn to perform music with a bewilderingly variety of influences,” says Johnson.

The Internet may be a far cry from the days when the University’s venerable jazz program, built by Neil Slater, created several LP recordings that featured compositions and improvisations by students who were at UB to promote their talent.

Yet at its core, it’s not so different. The DMP is simply doing what UB has always done best: nurturing student talent while providing avenues to share it with audiences. At DMP shows, for example, students get feedback after their performances. And playing at, say, the Farmer’s Market or other public spaces, allows for new and innovative ways for audiences and performers to connect.

“Downtown Music teaches students how successful musicians find work in places that are rarely thought of as venues,” says Johnson. “Campfires to Carnegie—whether music is played at just another pizza place or the New York Athletic Club, the program offers students possibilities that are longed for but rarely offered in traditional music programs.” ■

REMEMBER THE MUSIC?

The music program at UB is interested in hearing from you!

Were you inspired by a particular faculty member from the music program? What opportunities, ensembles, or particular performances changed your life? Wouldn’t it be great to be back in touch? Please feel free to contact Jeffrey Johnson directly at jjohnson@bridgeport.edu. ■

News Lines

Engineering a Dream

Laili Almazaydeh's pursuit of an education is inspiring young women to put school first.

By Leslie Geary



Laili Almazaydeh lobbied her parents for the right to finish high school. Now she is earning her PhD in engineering at UB.

Laili Hussein Almazaydeh's voice is soft and dulcet. She often prefaces comments with the smallest hint of a smile, and she waits to be invited before she takes a seat. But pity anyone who mistakes her ladylike sensibilities for weakness.

Almazaydeh, 31, is headstrong, passionate, and wildly successful at what she does—which right now is earning a PhD in computer engineering, a field she was drawn to because, she states simply, “it’s the most important revolution that’s changed the world of technology.”

It’s also a perfect fit for Almazaydeh, whose time at UB is spent largely at the University’s Wireless and Communications Lab. There, she researches bold new applications for networks that transmit data via radio waves, known as wireless sensor networks (WSNs).

“She is one of those students who is open and receptive to new ideas. Her research in the area of WSNs is innovative and constitutes valuable contributions in ongoing research,” says Khaled Elleithy, the associate dean of graduate programs at the School of Engineering and Almazaydeh’s academic adviser. “She is not afraid to explore creative ideas. She strives to learn and grow continuously from the research challenges they pose.”

Almazaydeh won’t graduate until 2015, but she’s wasted no time in coauthoring and publishing research papers in peer-reviewed journals and attracting professional attention. A top student with an unvarnished 4.0 GPA, she recently won a \$1,000 grant from Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the international honors society for computing and information sciences. The individual recognition is nice, Almazaydeh says, but what she really wants, is for other women to get the education she had to fight for ever since she was a teenager. To that end, she’s already spoken at the United Nations and other academic groups about women’s future in engineering.

“Education,” she says, “is most important to me.”

The youngest of seven girls, Almazaydeh grew up in Ma’am, Jordan. “I was expected to marry at 15 like my sisters and mother,” says Almazaydeh.

But when potential suitors asked about her mother and father about marriage, Almazaydeh balked. “I insisted that I complete my education to have a good career.”

After quite a bit of lobbying, she convinced her family to let her attend Al Hussein Bin Talal University, where she earned a bachelor’s in computer science. Graduate studies beckoned at Al Hussein, so she remained a student, and while earning a master’s in computer information systems she finally acquiesced to marriage.

How could she not?

She was 25. He was a bit older—a mechanical engineer named Mohammad who shared her enthusiasm for technology. Best of all, “he promised I could complete my education,” said Almazaydeh, who accepted Mohammad’s proposal. They married, and in 2009 their first child, a daughter named Ariam, was born.

Almazaydeh carries photos of the wide-eyed little girl in her purse, and as she shows them off proudly, her smile grows just a bit bigger. Her daughter was six months old when Almazaydeh won a scholarship to earn a PhD at UB. Yet she didn’t hesitate. She had her family’s blessing now, and her work is not yet finished.

“When I left my daughter this summer, she said, ‘Go study, Mommy. I won’t cry, I’m old,’” said Almazaydeh, who Skypes with her family nightly.

In February, Almazaydeh was invited to the United Nations in Manhattan to discuss how to attract more women into the field of science and technology. And the American Association of University Women asked her to talk about her education and life at a conference held to celebrate International Women’s Day. She hopes Ariam will be among tomorrow’s women engineers and scientists, too.

“I knew that to get married and to have a daughter and a son is a good thing,” says Almazaydeh, fingering the edges of her daughter’s photograph as she speaks. “But I will set an example for my daughter that women are powerful. They can do good things in life.” ■



Bon Appétit!

More dining choices than ever as UB officially opens The hUB @ Marina Hall



Standard favorites at Grill 155° are one of several options at The hUB.

The University's much-anticipated food court, The hUB @ Marina Hall, has opened to great fanfare, bringing to campus menus brimming with dishes whose diversity and freshness reflect the cosmopolitan tastes of students and staff alike.

The official grand opening celebration was held in September, with the presentation of a \$500 prize to the students who thought of food court's new name, an appearance by celebrity chef Mai Pham, and plenty of free samples.

"They had this whole empty space and now they have this! It's great," said Lawrence Spivey, 20, marveling at the once-empty front room at Marina, which was transformed into food court complete with large-screen televisions, wireless Internet, and a variety of seating, from café-style tables for two to clusters of lounge chairs and low-slung tables perfect for larger groups.

The hUB @ Marina's three dining stations cover the epicurean gamut: Ultimate Baja stars south-of-the-border fare. Grill 155° serves sandwiches, and other traditional favorites. And Star Ginger's Southeast Asian-style noodle dishes, soups, curries, and other vibrant offerings from Vietnam were created by chef Mai Pham, whose recipes have been featured in *bon appétit* magazine and the Food Network. The hUB also boasts a make-your-own milkshake machine.

The hUB is open late and meals can also be purchased for take-out, too.

That's good news to Donnell VanDuyne, 19, who commutes from his home in New York City to UB. "I always had to eat on the train. This is definitely a step up. It's beautiful in here and the food is great. This is what college is all about." ■ — L.G.

News Lines

Star Catchers

UB students point to the heavens for children during Connecticut's NASA Space Day



Rouzi Aikebaier, an electrical engineering major at UB, helps a young space enthusiast learn about Newton's third law of motion while launching a balloon rocket.

In appreciation of Connecticut's role in and contribution to the aerospace industry, Governor Daniel Malloy declared Sunday, April 1, 2012 to be NASA Space Day in Connecticut. In recognition, UB engineering and science students collaborated with the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport and created activities geared toward young explorers.

Through grants from the Connecticut Space Grant Consortium to the campus chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and Society of Women Engineers (SWE) section, the UB students created "make and take" projects for more than 200 young students and their families who attended the Space Day event to quickly perform at the museum, then take home to use again.

"I appreciated our students' time, energy, and commitment as they shared their love of science and engineering with young minds and represented UB," Jani Macari Pallis, who is the SWE faculty adviser and mechanical engineering professor.

Before she came to UB, Pallis was CEO of a San Francisco-based engineering firm that had three grants to create educational curricula for NASA geared to students in elementary school through high school.

The event at the Discovery Museum, Pallis said, "was a welcome opportunity to reconnect with young people—the next generation of engineers, scientists, and explorers—whose curiosity and energy seem boundless. Participants of all ages shared their interest in space, and it was an inspiring day for everyone involved."

Pallis's expertise in developing classroom programs for NASA makes her and other UB faculty and students, ideal partners for the Discovery Museum, said Dimitris Raptopoulos '94, '97, director of corporate relations at the Discovery Museum and an alumnus of the business school.

"It would be an oversight if the Discovery Museum didn't include engineering schools like University of Bridgeport's in endeavors like Space Day, said Raptopoulos.

"We're reaching out to students of all ages, and we have partnerships with schools like UB to develop preK-to-12 curriculum, we're training teachers so they can teach the subjects. Space Day is a part of this campaign. In order for it to be successful, we need the participation of graduate students either majoring in technology or engineering, or education with projects and ideas that are directly linked to STEM educational initiatives," he added. "The UB students and faculty who shared their knowledge at Space Day enhanced the experience for visitors of all ages, and we look forward to collaborating with the School of Engineering in the future." ■ — L.G.



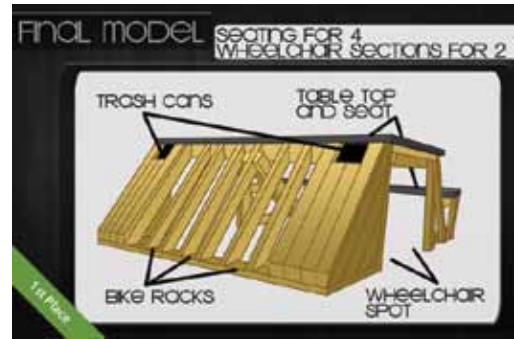
From left: Several School of Engineering graduate students, Chengcheng Ding, Alexandra Escalente, Xing Wei, Kingsley Udeh, Vignesh Shanmuganathan, Srivanthi Sanduri, and professor Jani Pallis (second from right) supported Connecticut's NASA Space Day by working on flight-related activities with children and their families.

Best Design

Three SASD sophomores beat professionals to win Architecture for Humanity ParkFEST Competition.

Josh Sikora and Sean Evelich are going to have at least one bench of their own in New Haven. The University sophomores, both industrial design majors, won first place in ParkFEST, a competition run by Architecture for Humanity that invited contestants to send in designs for prototype urban-park furniture for Long Wharf Park.

The competition required a park bench, a trash can, and a bike rack, and allowed a \$300 budget. More than two dozen teams, including professional designers, submitted entries, but what really separated from the pack Sikora and Evelich, both 19, was that they made their project for under the material budgets, a target



rarely met in the competition. Their entry was easy to build, sustainable, and functional, too, said Patrick McCauley, one of the competition's four judges who is an industrial designer at Centerbrook Architects in Essex, Connecticut.

"Those qualities were also important," said McCauley. ■ — L.G.

Smart Shopping

Which shopping app is best? Sony Home Entertainment recruits business school students to find out.

Pity the poor shopper back in the Dark Ages of, oh, 2007. Equipped with a laptop, he or she searched online for the best deals before venturing into malls and department stores.

Then came apps—hundreds of apps—ushering in the possibility for low-cost impulse buys. Spot something you like? Just whip out a Smartphone, scan an item's barcode and—voila!—instantly compare prices and obtain other critical data before buying.

Business majors Pei Zhang, Carrie Lu, and Sissy Chen tested shopping apps for a special study commissioned by Sony Home Entertainment.



Companies are taking notice, and they're directing precious advertising dollars to apps. But with so many to choose from, which of these e-shopping tools are advertising worthy?

That's a question Sony Home Entertainment put to a group of business school students, who this winter were tapped to run a special holiday marketing study for the company.

"This not only gives our students practical work experience during the break but also provides them with an opportunity to use their marketing and communication skills in a professional setting," said Steve Rashba, a professor at the University's School of Business, who through contacts helped establish the partnership with Sony. "If their feedback is good, it will be used when Sony makes decisions about future ad campaigns."

UB students involved in the program launched the study just before the December holiday rush, heading to Walmart, Target, and Best Buy to line up with other shoppers at midnight before Black Friday.

"Some apps can provide specific price and the others don't function as well," said MBA candidate Sissy Chen. That may affect shoppers' habits in the future. If they check prices and find that one store has better deal, they may just go directly there in the future." ■ — L.G.

Faculty Lines

The Envelope, Please...

Social media whiz and mass communications professor **Susan Katz** recently won two American Association of Political Consultants coveted Pollie Awards. The prizes, which have been called “the Oscars of political advertising,” recognize professionals in the communications industry who’ve demonstrated superlative work. Katz won a silver for the “Promises, Promises” radio campaign she created for former Bridgeport mayoral challenger Mary-Jane Foster (who is vice president of community relations) and a bronze medal for campaign materials for two-term incumbent Trumbull First Selectman Tim Herbst. At UB, Katz launched a new lecture series on campus called Inside the Media, featuring presentations by reporters and other pros. ■ – L.G.



A big “Like” for social media teacher Susan Katz



Behind the Seams

Professor **Janet Albert** visited the NYC markets with her costume history class as one of many trips to New York she takes with her students. “The trips to New York are an integral part of the program’s career-oriented curriculum, which combines classroom teaching with an exposure to the fashion industry and integration with top designers,” Albert explains.

A curator at the Costume Museum guided Albert’s students through the exhibition A-Z, a showcase of the museum’s collection. The class also visited Eileen Fisher’s Corporate headquarters to tour its new showroom and

hear from concept and merchandising coordinators, and a designer, as they reviewed the creation of a product from design to finished product. Human Resources Director Heather Vanier orchestrated the visit and spoke in depth about their internship programs, which a few of Albert’s students will be applying to this fall. Janine Zeccardi, one of Albert’s former students, works for the apparel company.

Albert also held a field trip her class closer to home, at the Fairfield Museum’s exhibit of “Bravo!” featuring a century of costumes used for productions at the Shakespeare Theater in Stratford, CT. ■ – L.G.

Transcendentalism for Today

Before Occupy Wall Street, there was New England Transcendentalism, whose well-educated adherents (Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Margaret Fuller among them) believed that social change should be actuated by individuals’ personal spiritual relationships with God (or as Emerson wrote: “A nation of men will for the first time exist, because each believes himself inspired by the Divine Soul which also inspires all men”). To help students better understand this important literary and social movement, English professor **Diane Krumrey** recently took her American Literature class to Walden Pond. She’s also been invited to talk to other educators about fresh approaches to teaching about the New England Transcendentalists at the prestigious 2013



By Walden Pond with Diane Krumrey and her literary students

Modern Language Association convention, to be held in Boston in January 2013. Her paper, “All These Times and Places are Now and Here”: Transcendentalism for Today,” argues that the liveliness of this challenging but seminal

school of American writing and thinking “can be recaptured for students by guiding them to discover how Emerson’s and Thoreau’s revolutionary ideas are seen anew.” ■ – L.G.

Sharing Interests, Bridging Boundaries

What could a naturopathic physician, graphic designer, and literature professor have in common? They might all work at the same institution, but their paths cross in a more unique way. Independently of the other, they have each researched some aspect of Cherokee heritage. Naturopathic physician **Jody E. Noé** has been studying the oral medicinal tradition of the Keetoowah Western Cherokee while graphic design professor **Gary Munch** was busy designing a modern Cherokee font for the Cherokee Nation (see “Font of Design,” page 4). On another part of campus, **Diane Krumrey**, who is an associate professor of English, has been an admirer of Cherokee literature. When the three met at the 2012 Faculty Research Day, they found the opportunity to exchange their ideas and enthusiasm. ■ – L.G.



Krumrey, Noé, and Munch

Picking up the Baton for Music Education

Frank Martignetti, who is an adjunct professor of music and UB’s choral director, has been busy presenting at conferences to help teachers in urban school districts launch and enhance music programs. “So often, urban schools are looked upon as deficient, and they certainly face many challenges. Yet elements in successful urban music programs, such as strong student engagement, innovative general music courses, sophisticated use of technology, a more multicultural curriculum, or a focus on creating original music, help show the profession a way to actively engage more of today’s students,” says Martignetti, who for once taught public school students for a decade in inner-city schools.

At the Northeastern Conference of the College Music Society, Martignetti shared his ongoing research in the New Haven Public Schools, which focuses on determining why eighth-grade band students opt to continue or stop playing music as they transition from middle school to high school. At the Rhode Island Music Educators’ Association, he ran a clinic to help music teachers build a productive, positive, and nurturing climate in their performing groups. A panel he chaired at Michigan State University featured practices used by successful urban music teachers that could serve as a models of revitalization for music education at large. ■ – L.G.

Painful Conclusions

An estimated 5.8 million Americans suffer from the chronic pain of fibromyalgia, and many are directed to get certain kinds of exercise and medications, eschew alcohol and caffeine, and reduce stress. Yet it’s often not effective enough. That’s because there’s a large disconnect between fibromyalgia-treatment plans prescribed by many physicians and current scientific research on the disorder, says **Dr. David M. Brady**, who is vice provost for the Division of Health Sciences and director of the Human Nutrition Institute.



Brady has spent many years examining hundreds of evidence-based research papers on fibromyalgia and comparing them to commonly prescribed treatments. “The way medical researchers look at this disorder is entirely different from how most standard medical providers treat it. The practice habits are ten years behind the research, and physicians often remain as uninformed about this disorder as most patients, which is inexcusable,” he says.

Brady was invited to share his findings as a featured speaker at the Integrative Healthcare Symposium in New York. His presentation, “Fibromyalgia: A Pain Disorder of the Central Nervous System,” generated a robust question-and-answer session.

Getting the message out to providers, including primary care physicians, about proper diagnosis has been the primary goal in publications by Brady, and his partners Dr. Michael Schneider of the University of Pittsburgh and **Dr. Stephen Perle** of UB. ■ – L.G.

Focus on: Royce H. Friedman '46 and Bishad J. Ghimire '00, '04

Background: Royce H. Friedman, an alumnus of UB's precursor, the Junior College of Connecticut, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Standard Oil of Connecticut and four other companies. Bishad J. Ghimire earned a bachelor's in computer engineering in 2000 at UB before completing a master's in electrical engineering in 2004. Ghimire is the Chief Information Officer at Standard Oil.

Shared accomplishment: Friedman and Ghimire, along with UB computer science and engineering professor Ausif Mahmood, created an innovative wireless billing, tracking, and delivery software system for Standard Oil that is in the process of being adopted by many other companies in the petroleum-delivery industry.

You're both UB graduates. Did you meet through the University?

Royce Friedman: It was in 2002, we advertised for a part-time network administrator. Bishad when he was working on his master's at the time, and our Executive Vice President David Cohen hired him. One of his first projects was to establish our network infrastructure.

Bishad Ghimire: When David e-mailed me, explaining what was needed, I thought, "Uh oh, they need help." At established companies you don't talk about creating a network because it's a given that it's already there. But again, I was able to do everything from scratch in the best possible way.

RF: Our executive vice president was sharing a dial-up line and one e-mail with the CFO!

So you've come a long way. What inspired the overhaul?

RF: We had a manual process for deliveries: tickets for deliveries were preprinted, stored in bins, and when an oil delivery was scheduled, the tickets were taken out of the bins and handed to our drivers based on each town they were in. When the driver returned, the delivery information was entered manually in a computer. It wasn't efficient, and it led to errors. But that's the way a vast majority of companies in the industry do business. If you go to a



From left: Royce Friedman, David Cohen, and Bishad Ghimire

typical company, you'll see they have a dispatcher reading a name and address on the phone to a driver. And computer systems that could increase efficiency and cut risk weren't that good. So we started from scratch to create a paperless system that was seamless.

How did you begin?

RF: We realized we didn't need eight programmers sitting in a room telling us what we needed to do; we had everyone right here. Bishad and Ausif also talked to other managers, customer-service people, and accounting people to come up with a plan. We got their input.

Any extra benefits?

RF: We've been able to increase efficiency and cut-costs—and we've cut risk, too. We were also the first company to lock-in oil price on the Internet. People want a fixed price for oil. We used to send a letter out offering a price for the next year. Customers had six weeks to

respond. In the meantime, the oil market moved up or down, and you've had to buy a lot of inventory. For those six weeks, you're very exposed. Bishad and Ausif created a system that allows our customers to lock in the price in real-time on the Internet. It's a huge improvement in the way we manage risk.

I hear other companies have followed your lead.

RF: Yes. A lot of companies have gone bankrupt because of their inability to manage risk, and customers thought they were covered. They thought they had bought contracts, but when it came to deliveries, they weren't getting them. They started complaining. We were invited to give a demonstration of our system to the Attorney General's Office. They liked it and now several companies are using similar systems. ■

– Interview by Leslie Geary

Alumni Lines

Would you like to share news of your own or nominate an alum to be interviewed for a "Focus On" interview? We're interested in what you're doing, and so are your classmates! Contact:

Knightlines, Cortright Hall, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or knightlines@bridgeport.edu. Be sure to include your full name, contact information, and class year.

1929

Jesse James Hamblin died on March 11 at age 104. As a professional, he was co-owner with his son Jesse Jr. of the architectural firm of Hamblin Associates. He was an active member of AIA, ARA, Church Guild of Architecture and Ansantawae Masonic Lodge #89 AF & AM, where he was the oldest member. Mr. Hamblin is survived by his sons Jesse Jr., Andrew, and Timothy; his daughter Elizabeth Pember; five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

1949

Joseph L. Roman writes that his beloved wife Betty passed away on July 21, 2011. "We had a good run for 69 ½ years," he writes from Beverly Hills, FL. The couple married on October 9, 1948, while Roman was a student at UB. They have two daughters, Kathy Brogan and Nancy Love, son David Roman, three grandchildren, and two great granddaughters.

1959

Carol (Cooperstain) Cohen is "finally" retired after practicing dental hygiene for 50 years.

1963

David Simpson recently retired and has relocated to Peterborough, NH, where he is active in civic affairs. Most recently, he was elected as trustee of the Peterborough Town Library.

1966



Kenneth L. Broad passed away in February 2009, writes his wife **Laura '62, '65**. A Marine Corps sergeant from 1956 to 1962, Broad later earned his bachelor's in business administration from UB, and worked as a manufacturer's representative for several apparel companies, and for his own firm. For 39 years, he was a devoted member of the Springfield, MA, Symphony Chorus, where he was president from 1972-1974. He was also a member of the Hartford Chorale and enjoyed a pre-Olympics singing tour in China with Laura. He is survived by his children Elaine (Roye) Ginsberg and Daniel (Wendy Krom) Broad, granddaughter Maya-Grace Ginsberg, and brother Charles. Memorial contributions may be made to the Boston University Tanglewood Institute c/o the Kenneth L. Broad Memorial Scholarship Fund, 855 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215.

William J. Carroll

became a Florida resident in 2011, but he writes that he and his wife Sharon "still spend a lot of time in Connecticut. We spent Thanksgiving at Disney for a week with our three sons, their wives, and nine— soon to be ten— grandchildren." He retired from Merit Insurance nine years ago.

1967

G. Marshall Sanford retired from teaching and is now an EMT for the Redding and Bethel Fire Department, where he also serves as vice president.

1970

Linda Sigmund graduated from UB with a humanities degree then switched tracks to earn a PhD from Georgetown School of Medicine. Now she writes that she is the director of the Neurology Center of Fairfax Movement Disorder Center in Virginia.

David J. VanBuskirk recently retired after a 39-year career in banking, but he's still busy in his multiple civic roles. He is a board of trustee at the Chamber of Commerce in New Canaan, CT, a board member for the Brian McMahon High School Alumni Association, secretary of the New Canaan Lion's Club, and a volunteer with Junior Achievement of Southwestern Connecticut.

1971

Harry B. Hollis retired last year after 29 years at the New York State Supreme Court, where he was a senior court officer. He reports that he is enjoying retirement "immensely."



Alumni celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the College of Chiropractic.



A guest at the inaugural Alumni Art Show opening reception takes a closer look. The March gala attracted more than 100 guests to The Gallery at the Arnold Bernhard Center.



Artist Ralph Levesque '74 discusses his work at the Alumni Art Show.



From left: Dan Routhie, graduate student Aimee Marcella, Rebecca Salonen, Dennis Brotherton '86, Amy Warren, and Ken Graham '71 at the Alumni Wine Tasting in March.

Alumni Lines

1972

Niccolo N. Donzella is practicing law in Baltimore and “enjoying life with my wife, Liz, and daughter Nicole.”

Fabian Napolsky earned a degree in psychology at UB, and eventually became a licensed mental health counselor. But 12 years ago Napolsky picked up watercolor brushes after watching a public television show on painting and began working on landscapes in earnest. “There is a huge spiritual quality to creating art. It encompasses the world and has a certain energy,” Napolsky recently told the *Spokesman-Review* (Spokane, WA). He was interviewed on the occasion of his upcoming exhibition at Art on the Green in Coeur d’Alene and ArtFest in Spokane. Napolsky also hosts an annual exhibition at his home during the first weekend of December and his work has been shown at galleries in Oregon and Idaho. You can see some of it at www.artbyfabian.net.

1980



John Quinn was elected as secretary of the board of directors for the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC), where since 2009 he has served as president and CEO. Quinn is no stranger to leadership roles: after earning his master’s degree from UB, Quinn represented the 132nd District in Fairfield in the Connecticut House of Representatives for four terms.

1982

Cathleen Adamczyk recently started a new job at the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities as a disability-policy specialist. She is married with five children, one of whom has autism.

1984

Yvonne Martin has been setting new standards of excellence since she received her bachelor’s in accounting from UB (she also holds an MBA from Northeastern). The director for strategic accounts of the Integrated Building Solutions team at United Technologies Corp., Martin cofounded UTC’s Hispanic Leadership Forum. But she’s a leader elsewhere: in February she was elected board chair of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs. She’s also been inducted into the Academy of Women Leaders, YWCA New York City.

1985

Protul Shrikant is working at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and made recent headlines when he discovered that a drug used with organ transplants may be an effective vaccine for cancer. The drug works, he explained, because it produces immune cells that have the ability to remember that cancer cells are bad and should be attacked. “It’s kind of serendipitous because we just tested this concept that came from nowhere in a laboratory setting, and it did work,” Shrikant told television reporters. Clinical trials for the potential vaccine are about to begin. Shrikant joined Roswell Park Cancer Institute in 2000 as an assistant member of the Department of Immunology and as a Special Fellow of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America. He also currently serves as an associate professor in the Department of Immunology

and holds a position with the Departments of Microbiology and Immunology for the University at Buffalo School of Medicine.

1986

School of Education alumnus **Lawrence P. DiPalma**, who is now principal of John G. Prendergast School in Ansonia, CT, was honored as a National Distinguished Principal by NAESP (National Association of Elementary School Principals) for the State of Connecticut, which makes him a candidate for the National Distinction.

1990

Charles Kallay retired from the Connecticut State Police Department in 1994, and for the past three years has worked for the U.S. Department of State as a senior passport specialist.

1991

Lori Brum Donelan now loves teaching art to elementary school students after working many years in design.

1994

Marco DePalma, who earned his MBA in finance at UB, is now president of the Belaire Group, which develops senior living communities and is based in Texas.

2003

Jean Paul Cardichon is working in the area of wealth and retirement-fund management, and for the past seven years has been doing accounting and finance work. When not at Pentegra Retirement Services Corp, he’s hitting the road in his running shoes. He’s a regular at the annual Hartford Marathon, which he completed in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

2007



Ivan Barbalic, who graduated from the School of Business and went on to serve as permanent representative of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, was granted a Doctor of Humane Letters *honoris causa* from UB in February. “He’s a young man who has already made his mark in the world,” said International College Dean Thomas Ward. “Ambassador Barbalic was the youngest president of the Security Council in the history of the United Nations. He often attributes his success to the fact that, while at UB, he decided to find his own way. Instead of looking for a high-paying job in international finance in the U.S., he returned to his country to serve his people. He has set a high standard for all of our students.”

2011



Pranaya Rana is heading to Nepal for the summer, where he has been publishing newspaper

articles about the country's efforts to rebuild after its civil war ended in 2006. "I'm going back to Nepal during a critical stage in the peace-building process. We're almost at the last deadline for constitution-building," says Rana, who earned his master's degree in Global Development and Peace at the International College. Rana previously served in his country's military, and that experience inspired him to work for peace. In 2010, he joined the United Nations' peacekeeping forces in Haiti, helping victims of Haiti's devastating earthquake. Rana will leave Nepal in the fall of 2012 to earn his PhD in International Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA. "They provided me with a fellowship," he says. ■



"Alternative Spring Break," which sends UB students to Habitat for Humanity projects, was held in Phoenix, AZ, in March. Partial funds to underwrite the trip were provided by the Alumni Association.

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Alumnus and host Ken Graham '71 (left), Alice Lennon '87, and Janet Warren celebrate Fat Tuesday with friends at the Third Annual Mardi Gras Celebration held at Two Boots Restaurant in Bridgeport.

Unbeat



Side Lines

able!

UB gymnasts win the USAG Collegiate National Championships for the fourth year in a row.

By Leslie Geary



Repeat performances: UB's Byron Knox was named Coach of the Year for the third time in four years while his team collected their fourth trophy since 2009.

Extending its stunning winning streak, the University of Bridgeport (UB) women's gymnastics team won its fourth straight USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championships at the Webster Bank Arena in front of more than 1,600 cheering fans who in only a handful of years have watched the team catapult from virtual obscurity to establish itself as an unbeatable juggernaut.

UB's Purple Knights topped the championships, which were held April 12-14, with 195.575 points, outpacing second-place Texas Woman's University (193.7), third-place Pennsylvania (193.475), and the U.S. Air Force Academy (191.075), which came in fourth.

UB Coach Byron Knox won Coach of the Year for the third time in four years.

"We set the bar high for ourselves, and that's what kept us motivated," said Knox. "For the last three years, we've been telling everyone how exciting the championships were, but this year, with it being hosted by UB, they could see first-hand, and the response has been unbelievable. We've been getting calls and e-mails from alumni from all over the country."

With its victory on April 13, the Purple Knights join Texas Woman's as only two teams to have won four consecutive national titles.

"We are making history," junior Monica Mesalles Sallares told the *Hartford Courant*.

Mesalles Sallares won the individual all-round competition and three gold medals in individual events for vault, balance beam, and floor.

Individual events were held April 15 at Hubbell Gymnasium.

In individual rounds, UB's Lissette La Fex came in second in the uneven bars. Senior Emily Repko placed third in the balance beam. And Sasha Tsikhanovich finished third in floor exercise.

President Neil Salonen said the three-day effort, which kicked off with welcoming remarks from Governor Dannel Malloy and Senator Richard Blumenthal, was a true team effort.

"Congratulations to Coach Byron Knox and all members of the UB women's gymnastics team for their phenomenal fourth straight national championship title! A success on this grand scale could not have been accomplished without the incredibly dedicated efforts of a very large number of people supporting our athletes—the athletic staff, facilities, University Relations, publications, and our partners in UNICCO, Securitas, and Sodexo—and the very enthusiastic cheering from the fellow athletes and students, faculty, and staff who were able to attend—in many cases with members of their families. A victory for one is a victory for all."

Maybe number five? Knox didn't miss a beat. "We took that Monday off but, yeah, we were there at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, working for next year. ■

Photo by Stephen Perle



Purple Pride: The Knights' high-flying performance and victory gave fans a lot to cheer about.

Side Lines

Put a Bow on It!

UB athletic teams wrapped up their seasons with big wins on the national level.

By Chuck Sadowski

Along with the UB women's gymnastics team winning its fourth consecutive USA Gymnastics Collegiate Team title this season, several Purple Knights' programs made an impact on both the regional and national levels during the 2011-12 academic year.

Senior forward Kasey Kenny (number 8) was named 2011 ECC Offensive Player of Year and the ECAC Division II Women's Soccer Player of the Year as she led the team points with 27 on ten goals and seven assists. Junior Julia Colley (number 29) tied Kenny for the team lead in goals on the season.

Women's soccer kicks off season

The women's soccer program got the school year off to an impressive start as it held on to the No. 1 one spot in the nation in the National Soccer Coaches' Association of America (NSCAA) NCAA Division II Poll for the final six weeks of the regular season. The Purple Knights finished the season with an undefeated 16-0-2 record and reached the second round of the NCAA National Tournament before not advancing to the East Regional Final in a penalty kick shootout versus UMass Lowell. Sophomore goalkeeper Julia Hansson anchored the UB defense all season long, allowing only five total goals in 18 matches as she notched a school record 12 shutouts. Hansson, a First Team All-American and East Coast



Sophomore goalkeeper Julia Hansson anchored the UB defense all season long, allowing only five total goals in 18 matches as she notched a school record of 12 shutouts. Hansson, a First Team All-American and East Coast Conference Goalkeeper of the Year, finished 2011 as the national leader in goals against average (0.271) and save percentage (0.955).



The volleyball team made history in the fall, capturing the school's first-ever NCAA Division II East Regional Title and moving on the NCAA Elite Eight hosted by Cal State San Bernardino.

Freshman Biljana Savic was named East Coast Conference and ECAC Division II Women's Volleyball Rookie of the Year in 2011. She also earned Honorable Mention All-American accolades.

Conference Goalkeeper of the Year, finished 2011 as the national leader in goals against average (0.271) and save percentage (0.955). Senior forward Kasey Kenny was named 2011 ECC Offensive Player of Year and the ECAC Division II Women's Soccer Player of the Year as she led the team points with 27 on 10 goals and seven assists. Junior Julia Colley tied Kenny for the team lead in goals with 10 on the season.

Serving up a title win for women's volleyball

Head coach Leo Uzategui's team made history on the volleyball court in 2011, as Bridgeport won the NCAA Division II East Regional Title for the first time ever. UB topped conference rival Dowling College in five sets in the regional semifinal and then defeated the host University of New Haven Chargers in four sets to advance to the NCAA Division II Women's Volleyball Championship hosted by California State University, San Bernardino in early December. The volleyball team, which wrapped up the season with a 21-8 overall record, made its fourth straight NCAA appearance in 2011.

Big splash for men's swimming

In only its third year at the varsity level, the men's swimming program continued to make waves on the national level as the Purple Knights finished ninth in the nation at the 2012 NCAA Division II National Championship Meet held in March in Mansfield, Texas. UB added two national championships to its swimming

trophy case in 2012, as sophomore Oscar Pereiro took first place in the 100-yard Backstroke in an NCAA national record time of 46.99 and the 200-yard Medley Relay Team of Pereiro, sophomore Ruben Gimenez and juniors Ilkka Hanhineva and Krzysztof Wilk won that event in a time of 1:28.38. A total of six Bridgeport male swimmers earned All-American honors at the 2012 NCAA Division II National Championship. ■



Sophomore Oscar Pereiro took first place in the 100-yard backstroke at the 2012 NCAA II Championship Meet in a national record time of 46.99.



The UB men's swimming team made fans stand up and take notice during the 2011-12 season.

Side Lines

Five inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame



Left to Right: Winston Jones ('94), Vito Montelli ('54), Mark Windsor ('76), Jay Moran (Director of Athletics), Lilja Valthorsdottir ('06), Chico Chacurrian (Coach) and Norman Taylor ('88).



Vito Montelli Winston Jones Norman Taylor Mark Windsor Lilja Valthorsdottir

Five new members were inducted into the UB Athletic Hall of Fame, and Vito Montelli received the inaugural Fran Bacon Award for Lifetime Achievement in Coaching.

The Hall of Fame Class of 2011 includes Efrian “Chico” Chacurrian (coach of men’s and women’s soccer teams) and four standout student-athletes: Winston Jones '94 (men’s basketball), Norman Taylor '88 (men’s basketball), Lilja Valthorsdottir '06 (women’s soccer), and Mark Windsor '76 (baseball)

The UB Athletic Hall of Fame was formed in 1981, and this year marks the sixth year of a revitalization that began in 2006 after 15 years without a class being inducted. This year’s five inductees bring the total number of members to 75.

■ – L.G.

Book Lines

UB English professor **Eric Lehman**, whose guides to Connecticut’s various communities have introduced readers to some of the Nutmeg State’s most beloved treasures, released *Insider’s Guide to Connecticut* (Globe Pequot Press) in February. The comprehensive guide includes recommended attractions—including shopping, entertainment, and family activities—as well as Lehman’s warm, personal thoughts and reviews on everything from off-the-path restaurants to historic homesteads and area vineyards.



“Having explored Connecticut for many years, it was a joy to be able to share some of my insider information with other travelers,” said Lehman, who teaches travel literature and creative writing at the University. “My favorite part of the job was probably trying all the ridiculously good food our state has to offer.”

Lehman’s essays, reviews, and short stories have appeared in *Venture Magazine*, *Identity Theory*, *Nexus: The International Henry Miller Journal*, *Rackelhanen*, *Fly Fishing Journal*, *Housatonic Quill*, *Post Road Review*, and *Strong Verse*, among dozens of other magazines and journals.

His previous books include *Bridgeport: Tales in the Park City*, *Hamden: Tales from the Sleeping Giant*, and *A History of Connecticut Wine*, which he coauthored with his wife, the poet Amy Nawrocki, who also teaches English at UB. They live in Hamden with two cats.

– Reviewed by Leslie Geary

Save the date!



The 2012 University of Bridgeport Athletics Golf Classic

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pdoneit@bridgeport.edu

Closing Thought:

A License to Play... And Not Get It Right

By Jani Macari Pallis

My colleagues in elementary-school education convinced me years ago that “scientists are born in kindergarten.” These friends have always been emphatic: before the stigma of what is currently considered to be cool or the concept of failing grades set in, young children are curious and rather fearless. They experiment through play and are not particularly concerned about “getting it right” the first time.

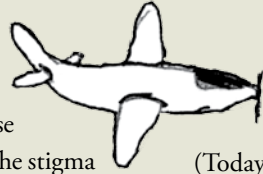
As a practicing engineer and an educator, I would note that these same characteristics—curiosity, fearlessness, perseverance—are critical traits of a successful scientist or engineer.

I have observed these qualities among colleagues and students. However, never were these attributes more pronounced than when I had the opportunity to work with the original artifacts and papers of Orville and Wilbur Wright, the developers of the first powered airplane.

Orville wrote of his childhood and parents: “We were lucky enough to grow up in an environment where there was always much encouragement to children to pursue intellectual interests; to investigate whatever aroused curiosity.”

In addition to Wilbur and Orville there were two older brothers and a younger sister in the Wright clan. Their father was a clergyman (later a bishop) and traveled a great deal. The children looked forward to their father’s return home after each trip, since the reunion meant a small gift. When Orville was 7 years old and Wilbur 11, their father brought home a toy that resembled a small helicopter. Rubber band powered and made from cork, bamboo, and paper, it fascinated the two young boys who played and played with it—until it broke.

Their mother, the daughter of a carriage maker, had acquired considerable mechanical skills. She built toys for her children, as well as household appliances, and could fix anything. The brothers also developed this mechanical aptitude at a young age, and when their toy flying machine



broke they built new and larger and larger models. However, some of the large models did not fly and the young boys did not understand why.

(Today we know that the weight of the larger toys was greater than the lift it could create.) Years later, Orville would refer to this childhood experience and state in a patent court case disposition that this was when the brothers’ fascination with flight began.

Author and educator John Holt described the learning style of young children in his book, *How Children Learn*:

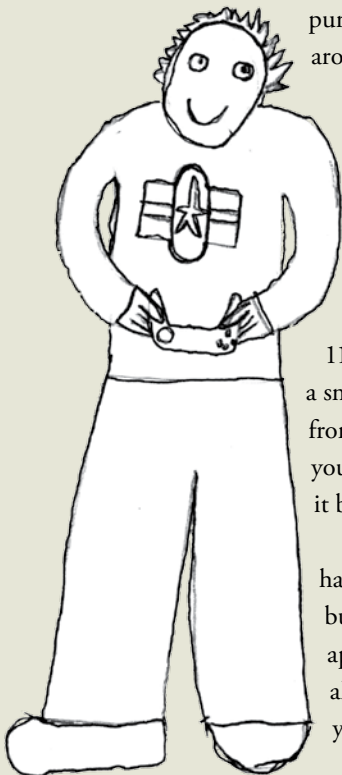
The child is curious. He wants to make sense out of things, find out how things work, gain competence and control over himself and his environment, and do what he can see other people doing. He is open, perceptive, and experimental. He does not merely observe the world around him. He does not shut himself off from the strange, complicated world around him, but tastes it, touches it, hefts it, bends it, breaks it. To find out how reality works, he works on it. He is bold. He is not afraid of making mistakes. And he is patient. He can tolerate an extraordinary amount of uncertainty, confusion, ignorance, and suspense.

The papers of the Wright brothers are filled with almost daily examples of this as they developed a manned kite, then glider, and finally the powered airplane. The brothers would hypothesize, modify their vehicle, test, refine, rethink, and rebuild over the four-year period leading to the historic first flight in December 1903.

My own doctoral adviser would tell us that we had made a “partial success” when one of us reported a “failure.” He believed we had still learned, even if we had not succeeded the first time. He was correct.

As parents, educators, and mentors, this encouragement to experiment, explore, and persist may be some of the greatest gifts and legacies we provide in the education of the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Jani Macari Pallis, PhD, is an associate professor at the mechanical engineering department. Inspired by the early U.S. space program, she decided to become an aerospace engineer when she was 12 years old. ■





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