

UB Knightlines

In Full Bloom

Cultivating life-saving plants and a bumper crop of one-of-a-kind opportunities for students and the community.



UNIVERSITY OF
BRIDGEPORT

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ALSO INSIDE A Library for the Community • Industrious Designers • Smart Money

President's Line



Neil Albert Salonen

Of all the duties I have as president of UB, one of my favorites is welcoming new students to campus at the beginning of the school year. This fall we anticipate to continue as a vibrant global community: domestic U.S. students will make up about 75 percent of our classes, while 25 percent of students will come from more than 80 countries around the world.

Our diversity is just one reason UB is unique—and enviable. Colleges and universities across the U.S. now devote much energy to attracting students of different backgrounds. With good reason: we live in an increasingly complex and international world. It's no longer enough to know a second language; today's young citizens

must be "fluent" global citizens, able to collaborate with people from vastly different backgrounds, faiths, and political cultures. Only then can they bridge differences and build trust needed to solve our most pressing problems—which are increasingly transnational—from tackling global debt crises to finding solutions to environmental issues to brokering peace in places of seemingly intractable conflict.

This kind of global fluency only comes from the kind of face-to-face experiences that are so abundant at UB. As I watch freshmen introduce themselves during the New Students Barbeque each year, I can't help wondering what these new friendships will yield: a new interest in other cultures? Collaborative research with a classmate who grew up halfway around the world? Perhaps it will be the start of a long-standing friendship that matures into an important professional partnership that spans years and miles. As many of our alumni can attest, UB's campus is an immediate, accessible gateway to a world of possibility, and students enter it the moment they arrive on campus.

This gateway reflects our mission to get students into the real world as quickly and often as possible. Yes, important learning takes place in the classroom, under the guidance of our dedicated faculty, but UB is an institution that defies traditional walls. As you'll read throughout this issue, our students have myriad opportunities to enhance their formal learning through paid internships, work-study jobs, research, and travel, and they're encouraged to pursue them. Consider undergraduates like Tasnah Moyer and Rebecca Ward from the International College. They both won highly competitive Critical Language Scholarships from the U.S. State Department, and as I write this, they are in the Middle East and Asia taking immersion courses in Arabic and Korean. Meanwhile, a group of our interior design students from Shintaro Akatsu School of Design (SASD) devoted their class project to helping Bridgeport Library redesign itself so it better serves its 500,000 patrons a year. Other SASD students spent the summer creating products for top companies like Safety First and Disney. At the same time, working professionals turn to UB time and time again to hone their skills and remain as competitive as possible. This summer, for example, we opened our new Human Anatomy Lab to professionals working in the field of allied health care so they could gain a deeper knowledge about how the body works. This innovative workshop, described in this issue, is just one of many opportunities UB provides to students and the larger community throughout the year. The gateway to a world of possibility remains open to all.

Neil Albert Salonen
President

UB Knightlines

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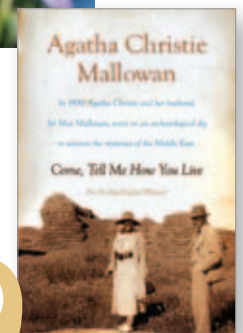


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Editor's Note

You don't have to travel far from campus to reach incredible landmarks: Boston's Quincy Market, the Statue of Liberty, the Guggenheim. But in the summer I'm lured by Connecticut's countryside. Hop in the car and within an hour you're driving past tidy red barns offering up "just-picked" tomatoes, corn, zucchini, berries, beans, and snap peas. Stopping by one farm stand recently (who can say no to fresh-baked blueberry pies?), I was reminded of the work that's done at UB throughout the year.

Universities' harvests peak on the day of graduation. After years of cultivating skills through studies, internships, and research, our graduates are officially ready to enjoy the fruits of their labor, and they rush from Commencement at the Webster Bank Arena eager to make their mark on the world. Yet even before they reach this milestone, many UB graduates have already harvested impressive achievements. Duanecia Evans '12 recalls her arrival at UB as "scary," yet she nonetheless became a leader on campus and used her influence to help others. Evans's many contributions include her efforts to bring the internship program Inroads to UB, and this summer, five students reaped the benefit of her work when they were selected for paying internships at Fortune 500 companies. Evans is just one of many impressive graduates profiled in "Faces From the Class of 2012" on page 10 and a potent reminder that work done by one has the potential to sustain many—just like any other bumper crop.

Long before harvest, however, plants need tending. Here again, I'm reminded of UB. Most classes don't begin until fall, yet for faculty, summer is a time to cultivate future opportunities for their students. At the College of Naturopathic Medicine, for instance, professors Eugene Zampieron and Jody Noé have spent decades conducting summertime research into plant-based medicine. As you'll read in "In Full Bloom" (page 22), this work has led to a recently opened herbarium at UB. It's the only herbarium located at a naturopathic college in the world, and it's funded, appropriately, by one of UB's Seed Money Grants.

That's not to say summer isn't a time to slow down. This year we asked faculty to help assemble a blockbuster summer reading list ("The Pleasure of Words" page 29). But since great books are timeless, we invite you back to campus to participate in The Big Read, when we'll celebrate Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. You'll find details about the program on page 31, or come cheer the Purple Knights (highlights of the coming season are on page 50), and tee-up for the UB Athletics annual golf outing (the ad's on the back cover).

Whatever the season, we hope to see you soon!



Leslie Geary
Editor, *Knightlines*

Pipelines



Hitting the High Notes

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the *Knighthlines* article “All in the Band” (Spring 2012). During the ’70s our Downtown Music Project was local opera. I sang my first *Die Fledermaus* with New Haven Opera in 1974. It was directed by Brenda Lewis and conducted by Yehudi Wyner! This was done at the urging of my UB voice teacher, Zelda Manacher (may she rest in peace). She lived in Greenwich and even invited me to sing for a City Opera friend at her wonderful house there on a Saturday morning. This was the start of a long opera career for me. I’ll be singing my 90th (!) professional production next March 2013: Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

UB gave me my start, and I am grateful for the wonderful music education I received while working towards my master’s degree. Life after UB led to a doctoral fellowship at Ball State University, a fellowship at Aspen Music Festival, and a fellowship at University of London! I’m retired from public school teaching, but moving along with technology; I teach one online music appreciation class.

Thomas Garrison ’75
Kansas City, MO

Dear Editor,

Just read *Knighthlines* and thought I would drop you a line. I have many fond memories from the UB music department; the early ’80s was a great time for music at UB, and most of the people I got to know and lived with went on to great things—most notably, Joel Rosenblatt, Dave Weckl, and Fred Vigdor. I actually lived next door to Joel and Dave for most of my time there; they were roommates. We lived in Schine Hall, second floor. Is that building still there? Much of what I learned was from the great teaching staff and my friends who, we didn’t know at the time, would become innovators in the field. Neil Slater was the jazz director, and there wasn’t a better “A” band for miles. Dave was the “A” band drummer for the first part of my years there, and Joel and I shared the “B” band. (When Dave left it was Joel and I were in the “A” band.) It was a great time.

I went on to music ed. and have been teaching music for the past 27 years. Joel, Dave, and I still keep in touch, and Joel and I remain very close friends.

John Simeone ’84
East Islip, NY



Innovation

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the Spring edition of *Knighthlines*. I thoroughly enjoyed the articles and cover art; both were true to the issue’s focus on innovation and creativity.

As a graduate of the University of Bridgeport (Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design) I must say that my education was the key step in my later becoming a registered architect. The result has been a lengthy and fulfilling career in architectural, interior, furniture, and graphic design, with projects completed throughout the United States.

Thanks once again to the University for all you have done and continue to do.

Geoffrey Scott ’78
Long Beach, CA

(continued on page 4)

Pipelines

Fired up for the SASD Kiln

Dear Editor,

I want to publicly thank the graphic design department at UB for coming to the rescue of the sculpture class of Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County.

Students of the sculpture class were preparing for a show of their work at a gallery in Westport that was scheduled for the end of June when the kiln that they were using broke down. There were still about eight pieces that needed firing. When I learned of this I called the University and explained the problem.

Mary-Jane Foster, vice president of University Relations, advised me that UB did have a kiln and she put me in touch with the graphic design department at UB's Shintaro Akatsu School of Design (SASD). Within hours I received a call saying that the department would be pleased to help, and a few days later Neighborhood Studios sculpture teacher Steffi Friedman and I visited SASD to make arrangements to use the kiln. Thanks to the University, all of the students of the Neighborhood Studio class were represented at the exhibit at the Nuartlink Gallery. The City of Bridgeport can be very proud of the education and culture that the University brings to the city.

**Harold Levine, Chairman,
Neighborhood Studios of
Fairfield County**
Bridgeport, CT

In the Zone

Dear Editor,

I am an alumnus from the Class of '89 and very much enjoy this publication. For a long spell, there was not much, if any, information about UB or what may be happening. The turf stadium [at Knights Field] is awesome, as well as the buzz around the school coming back to a bit of glory.

Hopefully you will get men's lacrosse as this sport is growing rapidly. Keep up the strong commitment to the alumni.

Lee Southren '89
Denville, NJ

Enriching Lives

Dear Editor,

My wife Carol Harelick, member of the Class of '61, Wisteria Hall resident counselor, and former Seeley Hall resident director ('67-'73), is a proud and successful alumna. Carol is a practicing psychotherapist in New York City. A lifelong learner, she earned her PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Lancaster, in the United Kingdom, and has been in practice for the past 30 years.

We enjoy the UB *Knightlines* and are delighted to find the University continuing to enrich the lives of its students and providing the City of Bridgeport and lower Fairfield County with a rich array of educational and cultural opportunities.

John T. Fitzsimons '63
New York, NY

Big Smile for Fones

Dear Editor,

This past spring I was a patient of Ms. Kayla Lashway, a first-year dental hygiene student at the Fones School of Dental Hygiene clinic, located on the UB campus. I am writing to you to share my experience under Ms. Lashway's care.

I imagine that the dental hygiene students may frequently encounter difficulties in recruiting people to be patients because of the normal apprehension of a novice professionally caring for someone. I must also admit that I also shared that same apprehension. During my first clinical visit, however, Ms. Lashway did a remarkable job in placating my anxieties. From the very beginning she explained patient's rights in a sensitive manner and answered my questions with confidence and vigor. This set the tone for the rest of my clinical experience. Establishing trust was paramount. Because of this trust I was able to provide sensitive health information during her comprehensive health-history inquiry without feeling intimidated.

Ms. Lashway displayed a number of other attributes that will not only serve her in her professional career but also shows the caliber of students that the University trains. She was professional in her greetings and good-byes, held a non-judgmental disposition, and she was sensitive in discussing maladies found during her assessments. She exuded confidence and was sincere and earnest. I was most impressed with her ability to recognize the moments where she needed assistance, and she did not hesitate to find an instructor to ask a question to ensure she was doing the right thing. I hope the school continues to applaud students during these moments. Once again, I remain impressed—well done!

I also want to thank the University for providing a wonderful service and all of the instructors at the Fones Clinic for the quality of their work, their ability to trust their students, their leadership, and their ability to maintain such a clean clinical work area. I would like to ask the program administrators to consider evaluating the experiences of the patients so as to give students real-time feedback, which I imagine will be paramount as they enter the field and provide care.

Well done!

Mark Waksmanski
Londonderry, NH

Standing Ovation for the Golden Knights

Dear Editor,

I want to thank the University for inviting me to become one of the Golden Knights at the 2012 graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 5. I had a wonderful time meeting some old friends. I enjoyed the breakfast and luncheon very much. Thank you also for the pretty pink corsage; it reminded me of the dances we had during my time at UB. I know the Alumni Relations Office did a lot of work to pull this event together for us, and I truly appreciate its efforts. What lovely memories!

Judith (Kovalsky) Solo '62, '65
Weston, CT

Dear Editor,

As an alumni and guest of my brother at the Golden Knights celebration this year, I want personally thank the University and President Neil Salonen for an impressive and wonderful day at the University. My brother traveled from North Carolina for the ceremony. He had not been on the campus for several years. I, in turn, live in Fairfield and try to visit when I can. It's great to see the University vibrant again.

If Dr. Cortright and Chancellor Halsey gave birth to the University of Bridgeport, it might be said that "Neil Salonen saved its life!"

Congratulations on the job you are doing, and much success in the future!

Larry Santora '69, '81
Fairfield, CT

Dear Editor,

I wanted to thank the Alumni Relations Office and its director Susan Butler for the wonderful hospitality and coordination of the Golden Knights ceremonies. The day was beautiful, the lunch excellent, and the company superb.

Although I was thoroughly impressed with the standing ovation given to us, I was fervently wishing the graduates were thinking, "Wow! That will be me in 50 years!"

Victoria (Nalle) Johnson '62
Portsmouth, RI

Dear Editor,

The University certainly outdid itself on the anniversary of our graduation as Golden Knights, and I am very proud to be a graduate of UB. In fact, I must share with you how well prepared I have always been to educate young people since graduating from the School of Education. When we moved to Tulsa, OK, and I wanted to teach there, I was told I would most definitely have to take other courses to get certified because no one gets certified easily from out of state. I sent in my transcripts and contacted officials to see what I had to do. Much to my surprise I received my lifetime teaching license in five days. The principal of the school I taught in was shocked and said that had never happened before. The same has happened in Texas. I attribute all this to UB.

Patricia (Stiriz) Parlman '62
Tomball, TX

Dear Editor,

The University of Bridgeport 2012 Graduation was terrific for the Class of 2012, but it was also extraordinary for the Class of 1962. To receive a standing ovation as a tribute to maintaining our appreciation for all of our experiences from which we benefitted during the early years of our University time was wonderful.

Much gratitude and many thanks to all in the administration who orchestrated this for us and the 50th-year graduates each and every year.

Bill Brew '52
Dunnellon, FL

What's on your mind?

Have something you'd like to share? A letter? Photos from your days at UB? Send them to Letters to Editor, *Knightlines*, Cortright Hall, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or by e-mail to knightlines@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!



Final Thoughts

For the Class of 2012: 3½ Rules for a “Wild and Precious Life”

By Leslie Geary

With national approval ratings for Congress hovering at a paltry 16 percent, an invitation to address the Class of 2012 at the University’s 102nd Commencement was “very, very welcome,” Congressman Jim Himes told more than 1,400 graduates as he began a Keynote Address that was, by turns, funny, wise, and bittersweet.

Himes, who represents the Fourth Congressional District in Connecticut, received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the May 5 ceremony. He went on to recommend three and a half rules to live, as poet Mary Oliver once put it, “a wild and precious life.”

“Never look forward, always look back,” said Himes. “None of you has any real idea what you’ll be doing five years from now. Life’s too interesting for that. But every single one of you can visualize yourself 50 years from now. Let’s call that person ‘Old You.’ It may not be pretty, but it’s coming, I promise you. And here’s the question: when you stumble on a problem, what does Old You want you to do? Should you take that job that pays more but which means you’ll never see your family? Should you date that handsome guy with the motorcycle who’s broken all of your friends’ hearts? Ask Old You. I bet you’ll be surprised what Old You will tell you, looking back.”

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“Every single one of you can visualize yourself 50 years from now. Let’s call that person ‘Old You.’ It may not be pretty, but it’s coming, I promise you. And here’s the question: when you stumble on a problem, what does Old You want you to do?” — Rep. Jim Himes, D-CT



Rep. Jim Himes, D-CT, a longtime supporter of UB, received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.



Everyone celebrates! A UB grad poses for a happy photo before the start of the May 5 graduation ceremonies.

Fond reflections were the order of the day for members of the Class of 1962, who received a standing ovation as they were honored as Golden Knights on the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

Alumna Barbara James '70, '74, received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Separate graduation ceremonies for 170 graduates from the Division of Health Sciences were held on May 13.

This year's graduating class was made up of 796 undergraduates and 625 graduates who came from 44 states and 83 countries to study at Bridgeport. International students made up 37 percent of the graduating class.

"We are a diverse population, with elites hailing from New York to China to Saudi Arabia to Jamaica and back again. Through our diversity, we have been able to excel," said class speaker Constance Vickers, 22. A native of Pennsylvania, Vickers said she enrolled at UB because she was "drawn to the diverse community. The experience of being a member of a small global community at UB has been really special."

Four years ago, the graduates had made up one of the largest freshmen classes at UB in many years, and Vickers noted that during their time on campus, the Class of 2012 had been an active force "whose passion was undeniable."

"We founded cultural clubs," Vickers noted. "We were members of the four-time national championship women's gymnastics team. We are the young leaders who rewrote the Constitution and structure of the undergraduate student government. Our faces were on [UB] billboards. We chartered sororities . . . We're ready to disperse and spread our talents throughout the world." ■

"3½ RULES" NOW ONLINE!

Want to know more about living a "wild and precious life"? You can read the full text of Rep. Jim Himes's Keynote Address at www.bridgeport.edu/newsevents/himes.aspx



Family pride: Many in the Class of 2012 had children cheer their big day.

The Class of 2012 came from 44 states and 83 countries to study at UB. Here are some of their stories.

Faces from the Class of 2012

By Leslie Geary

Boarding the train to her future

Elegant, driven, and highly organized, 22-year-old Duanecia Evans has been a ubiquitous force on campus. She's served as president of more than a handful of organizations, including the SGA, launched programs to improve student life, volunteered with students in the city of Bridgeport, and worked in the University's Admissions, Special Events, and Alumni Relations offices.

But Evans, who graduated on May 5 with a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications, admits there was a time when she didn't feel like a leader. "I loved coming to UB, but it was a scary thing," she says. "I'm a first-generation college student. Nobody in my home had ever been."

She was raised in Harlem by her young single mother and grandmother. Both women bolstered Evans with love and encouragement. The day Evans was scheduled for an admissions interview at UB, her grandmother accompanied her on the Metro-North train from 125th Street to Bridgeport. Her mother came along

for registration after Evans was accepted.

"My family was very supportive despite the fact they didn't understand," says Evans, who quickly found her footing on campus. She was placed in the First-Year Studies Program, which provides academic assistance to freshmen who may need guidance transitioning to college. But after posting an almost-perfect 3.82 GPA at the end of her first semester, Evans was told she was ready to leave the program.

She quickly found other things to do. She volunteered to tutor middle-school students through a program that's run in Bridgeport by the Children's Defense Fund, and became a residence adviser. Her affable people skills served her well, too, when she greeted visitors and gave campus tours as an Admissions Office guide. Evans's other work at various university departments put her in contact with alumni, donors, and other friends of UB.

She was also devoted to reviving Greek life on campus. "These are 104-year-old organizations, some are older, and many parents have been a part of them. They've waited for that moment when their child is ready to go to



college and join them, too. Whether or not a university has Greek life can be a deciding factor if that child attends a school,” says Evans.

It was a persuasive argument, and in 2010, Evans was one of three charter members who brought Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority to campus. The sorority has already made an impact: it recently founded a chapter of the jobs-and-internship program Inroads, and this summer, it helped UB students get paid internships at Fortune 500 companies.

When Evans was elected vice president and president of the SGA in 2009 and 2010 respectively, few were surprised.

Yet Evans is quick to share her success with others. “UB was a very different environment for me when I got here: people were striving to be successful. It was scary,” she says. “But I learned not to be afraid to take a leap of faith. The people you depend on for mentors will be there to guide you whether you’re right or wrong. They’ll be there to help you clean up mistakes, and when you’re right, they’ll be your best cheerleaders.”

“I learned not to be afraid to take a leap of faith. The people you depend on for mentors will be there to guide you whether you’re right or wrong. They’ll be there to help you clean up mistakes, and when you’re right, they’ll be your best cheerleaders.”

— Duanecia Evans

(continued on page 12)



“It happened so fast. At that moment, I didn’t think of anything except for my training. But afterwards, and very quickly, I realized what had happened and felt someone was with me and protecting me. I was very happy to go home to see my son.”

— William Garay

Cop by night, Student by day

William Garay, 27, was a year away from earning his bachelor’s degree from UB in 2008 when he got word: the Stamford police department had accepted his application. He left school, and soon began working full-time as an investigator. “I didn’t finish,” he says.

Then someone told him about IDEAL, the University’s undergraduate program for adult students who started, but for various reasons, never completed getting their degrees. In 2010, Garay returned to the classroom, taking courses at UB’s Bridgeport campus and also at its Stamford location, which was near his job. “I’d go from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., then work the night shift,” says Garay, who received his Bachelor of Science in Human Services.

School and work complemented each other in more ways than proximity. “I had to take a lot of counseling and psychology, and I learned to relate and listen, and that’s been helpful to me every day,” he says.

But working the night shift in the city requires other skills, too. One night Garay got a call that a man was waving a gun at a pool hall. He was the first to

arrive and gave chase. Suddenly, the man turned, pointed his gun at Garay, and fired.

“It jammed,” he said. “It happened so fast. At that moment, I didn’t think of anything except for my training. But afterwards, and very quickly, I realized what had happened and felt someone was with me and protecting me. I was very happy to go home to see my son.”

Last fall, he was presented with the Blue Mass Award by the Diocese of Bridgeport. The award is given to one police officer, one firefighter, and one first responder each year. And in March, the Police Commissions Association of Connecticut awarded Garay its Distinguished Officer Award.

Getting his diploma in May was just as exciting, says Garay, whose son, 10-year-old William Giovanni Garay, cheered his accomplishment. “William saw his mom graduate from UConn and she’s getting her master’s from UB,” says Garay. “To see her finish and get a graduate degree has been a big motivation for me. William wants to go to college. He’s motivated, too. And I think it’s because he sees both of his parents studying and doing homework, just like he does.”

Someone to believe in you

It was a busy spring for senior Emily Repko. Just weeks before graduation, Repko and her teammates on UB's women's gymnastics team won their fourth consecutive USAG National Collegiate Championship. Repko had set a school record of 9.925 on the balance beam and came in third on the beam during the individual event of the three-day showdown that had been hosted by UB and Webster Bank Arena.

Not bad for a young woman who had been rejected by other college gymnastics programs only a few years ago.

"Coaches, they want the kids who are already good. I had a different set of skills. And there's a code you have to follow. What I did wasn't the norm. To them, that was not as easy to handle, I guess. They told me I wasn't right for their teams," says Repko, 22.

But UB gymnastics coach Byron Knox took a look at Repko and knew she had talent; it just had to be tapped. After four years, much of them spent at early morning practices in Wheeler Rec, Repko and the Purple Knights transformed into a national gymnastics force that's seemingly unbeatable.

"When I got here," says Repko, "I didn't even know about national championships. I didn't know what a conference meant. When you're in club gymnastics like I had been, you don't have conferences. College was way different. So, yeah, I wanted to win, but it was more for me proving that I was good enough. As the years went on, after we won the first [USAG title] it was like, 'Oh! We can win!'"

Ironically, Repko had never heard of UB, but her cousin Amanda Hass, who also is a gymnast, suggested Repko tour the campus with her.

"She was like, 'They have gymnastics. Why don't we take a look?'" says Repko.

So they called Knox and scheduled a visit. "What he said really caught my interest," says Repko. "He wanted to teach us more. At a lot of colleges, you maintain whatever you've been doing. But I felt I had a lot more stuff I needed to learn."

(continued on page 14)

"He wanted to teach us more. At a lot of colleges, you maintain whatever you've been doing. But I felt I had a lot more stuff I needed to learn."

— Emily Repko



Museums and books

Without the Bigelow, she wouldn't have made it.

At least, that's how Kali Mason tells the story. The 21-year-old honors student, who graduated with a Bachelor of Art in Literature and Civilization, was about to start her sophomore year at UB when her father was laid off. Without his income, Mason would have to delay college, get a job, and figure out Plan B.

“The Bigelow was significant. It made the difference between going back to school or not. And I’m not sure what I would have done if it hadn’t been for that. I was afraid I’d never finish college at all.”

— Kali Mason



Desperate, she contacted the Financial Aid Office. Because of her top marks (she had a 3.8 GPA at the time) Mason was invited to apply for a David and Eunice Bigelow Scholarship. Two weeks before the fall semester began in 2010, Mason got word: she was Bigelow Scholar.

“The Bigelow was significant. It made the difference between going back to school or not. And I’m not sure what I would have done if it hadn’t been for that. I was afraid I’d never finish college at all,” says Mason, who returned to campus with an intensity to learn and experience as much as possible.

Classes with history professor Thomas Juliusburger (enlivened by his personal accounts of England) and philosophy classes with Timothy Eves cultivated Mason’s curiosity about the subjects. During her junior spring, she went to school in Paros, Greece, where she spent the semester studying philosophy, art history, and ancient history.

Mason’s passion for those subjects made it easier to keep top marks as she balanced school with work-study jobs and won other scholarships. During her senior year, Mason also interned at the Museum of the City of New York, where she helped host and plan lectures, walking tours of Manhattan, and exhibition openings.

“There was one night where they had a chair on view from the 1930s. It was on loan from the Met [Metropolitan Museum of Art], and they didn’t want anything to happen to it, so they asked me to watch the gallery. I had to babysit the chair,” she recalls.

Mason will see a lot more art in the not-so-distant future: she was accepted to a master’s program in museum studies in Florence, Italy, that starts in the fall, and ultimately hopes to learn how to restore and preserve ancient documents and books, or be a museum curator. “I’ve already found a program,” she says with characteristic enthusiasm. “It’s in Canada!”

“People think engineering is too difficult, and we want to build an understanding, especially among U.S. students, that it’s not.”

— Kingsley Udeh

Making sense of engineering

When he was in high school in Nigeria, Kingsley Udeh dreamed of becoming a doctor. He could help people, make a difference.

Then he went to college.

“My intention was to study medicine,” he says. “But along the way, I just couldn’t keep up with the demands. It was my uncle who suggested computer science and engineering. He told me, ‘Why don’t you try it?’ When I realized I had an ability for it, I went into it. I changed plans.”

It was a far better fit. Udeh, 35, received his master’s in technology management with a concentration in project management. He hopes to use his degree in IT, banking, or engineering.

In the meantime, Udeh has sought out opportunities to use his skills to help others. He developed a software system for the Bridgeport chapter of the American Red Cross that allows the non-profit to match volunteer openings with individuals, based on their skills, availability, and interests.

In March, Google and the Connecticut Small Business Development Center ran a day of workshops and instructional seminars at the University that showed business owners how to build websites so they could get their ventures online. Udeh was among the first to volunteer.

“We helped design and make a website for a woman who owns a boutique in New Haven,” says Udeh. “It was exciting.”

He also worked on developing a website that encourages high school and college students to test their math and engineering skills by tackling a series of problems. “People think engineering is too difficult, and we want to build an understanding, especially among domestic students, that it’s not,” says Udeh. “This will be something where they’ll be able to log on to a web-based system and solve problems, and hopefully realize that engineering is not as complicated as they think.” ■



Located in downtown Bridgeport, the library's Burroughs Branch serves professionals to retirees, and patrons of all ages in between.



Plans for the library went on display in May.

A Library for the

SASD students unveil designs to revamp the Bridgeport Library to meet the needs of today's patrons

Once upon a time, the Italian author Umberto Eco was asked to speak at the Milan Public Library. Eco accepted, and according to accounts of the speech, began by asking, "What are libraries for?"

As a group of students from Shintaro Akatsu School of Design (SASD) discovered this spring when they were asked to help redesign one of Bridgeport's libraries, the answer's not so simple.

Thousands of years ago, for instance, rulers of various persuasions built libraries to safeguard private collections: cuneiform tablets, scrolls, illuminated texts, and the like. Then libraries morphed into bastions of erudition for gentlemen scholars. Later, public libraries served anyone



A SASD interior-design student shows off her plans to renovate the library's Popular Room.



SASD professor and architect Seung Hyeon Park (middle) at the opening exhibition of proposed library plans by his students

Community

By Leslie Geary

with a quiet voice and valid library card in search of a decent paperback, old *Life* magazine articles about the Apollo moon landing, audio-book recordings, or research assistance with term papers.

In the current era of e-readers, Wiki searches, and budget cuts, libraries must again reconsider their role, says Bridgeport City Librarian Scott Hughes.

“The culture has changed. Libraries are no longer sacred cows,” Hughes says. “They are becoming the community’s living room.”

To help the Bridgeport library adapt to the times, Hughes turned to SASD professor and architect Seung Hyeon Park for help in making the city’s downtown

Burroughs Branch more user-friendly.

The library, Hughes argued, must better serve the 500,000 patrons who use the branch each year—and attract newcomers who’ve never used it. So he asked Park and his junior interior-design class if they could help transform a 3,325-square-foot room on the library’s first floor that was originally opened in 1971 and is known as the Popular Room, into a usable public place. The library, he said, would like the room to house a café, banking area, and more expansive performance space to host lectures, exhibitions, readings, and other programs.

Because it’s geared to non-traditional library uses, the Popular Room will be open before and after the

(continued on page 18)

branch closes. That's critical in order for the library to help meet a variety of challenges, Hughes told the SASD group. The closest local coffee shop, for example, closes in the midafternoon, so a café is a must. Eighty percent of Bridgeport residents don't have a computer with Internet access at home, and patrons need access to the library's Wi-Fi. Even the bank should be "community minded," he said.

"We have a great need for financial literacy. I would hope we would partner with someone who's interested in providing that kind of information at the library. With the café, we have young people who would benefit by some career-readiness training," adds Hughes, who envisions a bank hosting a workshop on personal finances in the revamped room.

Park agreed. When not teaching interior design at SASD, he runs his own architecture studio that's located in The Arcade in downtown Bridgeport, and he embraced the idea of the library as a place for community-building. So he brought it back to SASD. "I thought," he said, "it would be good for my students to work on a real project so they get involved in the community."



Bryan Diaz and Anna G. Merino use the library for after-school study sessions.



The library's children's room hums with after-school activities and programs for the youngest readers.

Work began in January, when Parks's students first toured the branch. SASD student Letitia Charles approached the project with a measure of disbelief. She's a former probation officer who's returned to school to launch a new career in interior design, and at age 51, well remembers libraries of yesteryear.

"When I grew up and went to the library, I was afraid I'd get kicked out for dropping a pen," she says. "Today, inner-city libraries are working nonstop. The library is almost like a community center. There are people waiting for it to open, and you see the Teen Center. It's a busy place. To have a café, that's not taboo anymore, either."

Charles's classmate Richard Janvier used color to attract library patrons after being inspired by the bright canvases of abstract painter Wassily Kandinsky. "The colors were vivid and joyful," says Janvier. "There is the abstraction of the painting yet you could see everything that was in it."

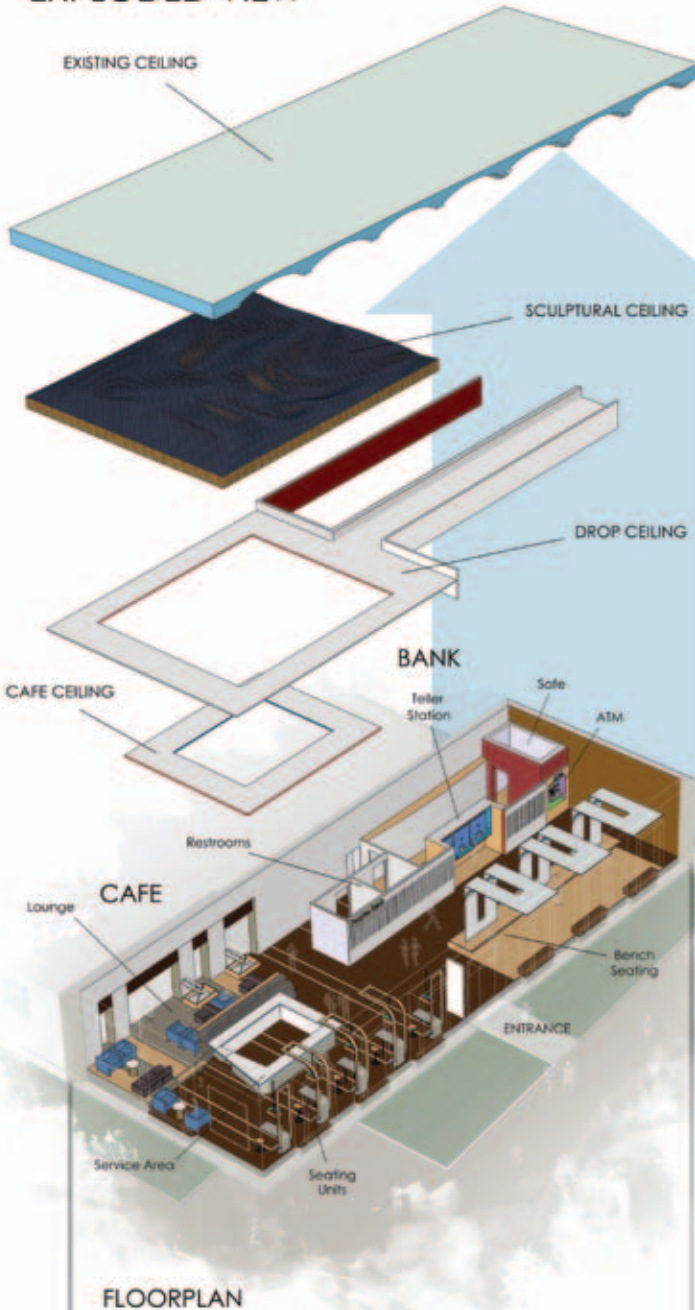
To help library users "see" throughout the room, Janvier also used light and glass to create a sense of fluidity and openness.

The students' designs were exhibited in May at a special exhibition held, fittingly, in the Popular Room. While plans haven't been finalized for the room, Hughes predicts many of the students' proposed ideas will be incorporated: he likes the individual seating, for example, because it can be rearranged to accommodate larger crowds for gatherings.

Lee Steele, design editor for the *Connecticut Post*, was impressed, too. "The SASD students clearly understand how a library has to engage the public, and be inviting and useful," he says.

"There's absolutely no excuse for a public library to be frozen in time, existing solely to lend books to the public. Information is much more dynamic today, and it's not contained in bound pages. The library also exists as a space for conversation, a place to spend an afternoon or an entire day, exchanging ideas. Any one of these designs would encourage this. It's not 1971 anymore, especially in libraries. Scott Hughes is correct to invoke community when he describes his vision for the library, and a hushed reading room with volumes of bound books and some card catalogs just won't cut it." ■

EXPLODED VIEW



FLOORPLAN



SHINTARO AKATSU SCHOOL OF DESIGN SPRING 2012

COMPUTER RENDERINGS



VIEW 1



VIEW 2



VIEW 3



VIEW 4



VIEW 5

STUDIO IV PROF PARK MICAH BOYD

One of several proposals created by SASD student Micah Boyd

Visiting teacher Joe Muscolino (in white) guides Allan Golabek, a blind masseuse. “Being able to touch the body,” said Golabek, “allowed me to finally see.”



An unusual workshop provides a rare opportunity to learn more about the human body for

Body of Knowledge

a blind masseuse, Madonna’s personal Pilates instructor, and other health professionals who jumped at the chance to study at UB’s new anatomy lab.

By Leslie Geary

When Allan Golabek studied anatomy as a massage-therapy student, he memorized endless facts about muscles, ligaments, bones, and connective tissue, but he had no idea what the inside of the body looked like: Golabek is blind.

“I had a textbook that was in Braille but not illustrations,” he said. “I used skeletons, clay models, but it was a struggle.”

This summer, Golabek finally got to “see” the human body when he took an unusual seminar on anatomy and cadaver dissection that was held at UB. “Being able to touch the human body, to palpate these muscles, has allowed me to finally see them in my mind exactly as they are,” said Golabek, who treats private

and corporate clients at his massage studio in Bethel, Connecticut, and at the GE headquarters in nearby Fairfield. “It’s been like a light bulb going off.”

His words were echoed by other professionals who participated in the training.

“We are such a fascinating amalgamation of muscles and tissue, and as you start going from the skin on down, you start to realize how important this is. You can’t help but marveling about what makes us tick. I feel like I’ve been given X-ray vision,” said seminar participant Brooke Siler, one of the country’s best-known Pilates instructors whose A-list clients include Madonna, Kirsten Dunst, and Liv Tyler. Siler also wrote the *New York Times*-bestselling book *The Pilates Body*.

Kevin Kelliher, who is an assistant professor in the College of Chiropractic and the coordinator of UB's Human Anatomy Lab, designed the five-day seminar with chiropractic doctor Joe Muscolino.

"Joe approached me, saying there was a real need for this type of workshop, and I thought UB was the perfect place to do it. We have a brand-new lab, and we make a perfect team with my experience in anatomy and Joe's experience in kinesiology, which is basically the science of human-muscle movement," said Kelliher. "I began working on the logistics and Joe reached out to the massage community and others who know of his work. We were amazed by how quickly the class filled up. There's a real demand for this kind of innovative training."

Muscolino said body experts like Golabek and Siler are eager to learn more because "training for manual and movement therapists includes anatomy and physiology, but it doesn't require human dissection. Access to anatomy labs is extremely limited, too. Universities are hesitant to allow anyone other than medical or physician assistant students into them. The curricula for these professionals have to evolve; to be a massage therapist or a Pilates instructor or a trainer and never go to a cadaver lab is like being a mechanic who's never lifted up the hood of a car."

UB is one of a few institutions that helps fill the knowledge gap, he added. "It has a reputation for being creative," says Muscolino, who got to know UB nearly two decades ago, when he began teaming up with its health science faculty to host a variety of continuing education classes for therapists and other professionals working in health-related fields.

Even though demand to get into the class was high, Kelliher and Muscolino capped the course at 18 students to ensure that they received sufficient opportunity for hands-on training. UB alumnus Alex Charmoz '12 was the third instructor.

"The students were a bit anxious the first day," says Charmoz. "But their level of comfort developed over the week. Joe teaches people how to think. The big lesson they're taking away from this week is how much more they can dive into this field."

UB and Muscolino will offer the workshop again. "This is the first of many learning and research opportunities," said Jim Lehman, director of Health Sciences Post-Graduate Education. "We intend to



collaborate with other academic institutions and corporations by offering the use of our world-class anatomy facility and exceptional faculty members."

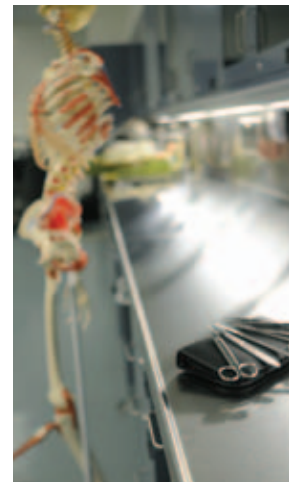
Celio Silva, a personal trainer from Sacramento, California, took the workshop this year. He'd never been to an anatomy lab, and admits he was "apprehensive and anxious" on the first day. "But as soon as we started, my sense of wonder took over," he says. "The body is an amazing organism, and it's made me respect it in a completely new way. There are a lot of little tiny muscles that get overlooked, and in my line of work that can be crucial. This is going to make me a lot more accurate and precise as a trainer."

A few moments earlier, for instance, Silva had been listening to Muscolino as he pointed out and discussed the function of the *longus colli*, a muscle that runs down the front of the neck and stabilizes it.

Years before, Muscolino told the class, he treated a patient who had fruitlessly visited specialists for more than a year because of severe neck pain. "His *longus colli* was tight; it needed to be massaged," said Muscolino. "It was a simple solution, really, but it's deeper in the neck and no one had even found it to know it needed to be massaged. Most therapists are afraid of the front of the neck because they don't know what's there. But if you don't really know your anatomy, it's like entering a dark room. It's scary because you don't know what you're going to bump into."

The seminar, he hoped, "would be like turning the light on." ■

Human anatomy lab coordinator Kevin Kelliher has taught students from UB's various health-sciences divisions, as well as pros who want to learn more about the body.



In Full



How professors Jody Noé and Eugene Zampieron brought their passion for leafy things to the College of Naturopathic Medicine to grow a one-of-a-kind program, a medical garden bursting with more than 100 healing plants, and the only naturopathic-university herbarium in the world.

Bloom

By Leslie Geary



Built by a team of UB naturopathic students in 2002, the medicinal-herb garden now flourishes with life-saving plants.

“Here we go.”

Reaching into a massive black metal storage cabinet, Dr. Joe Noé carefully pulls out pages of dried flowers and sets them on a table. Arranged side by side in bright daylight, the paw-shaped fig leaves, purple hyssop, balloon flowers, fever few, lavender, and chaste teaberry, look pretty enough to frame.

But while the untrained eye might see botanical art, naturopathic doctors (known as NDs) like Noé view them with very different eyes. Trained to strengthen and heal the body through a variety of natural solutions, NDs prescribe herbal and plant-based medicines, as well as lifestyle changes like diet and exercise, to treat patients. To Noé, a senior lecturer at the University’s College of Naturopathic Medicine (UBCNM), the gorgeously arrayed buds represent potential cures for a host of ailments ranging from an ordinary bout of upset stomach to more serious diseases, like cancer and HIV.

Those stocks of purple hyssop arranged just so on the page in front of you? Good for treating upper-respiratory cough. Bad case of premenstrual syndrome?

Hot flashes? Try the chaste teaberry. Noé ticks off the plants’ salutatory properties sounding like a proud parent extolling her children’s many virtues. “I’m so glad,” she adds, “that someone’s interested in this!”

Noé certainly is, and it’s why she proposed to the UB Office of Sponsored Research and Programs a plan to create a medical botanical herbarium at the University to preserve, collect, and study plants that are vital to naturopathic medicine and UB’s other health sciences programs like human nutrition, acupuncture, and chiropractic.

“It’s time that we look in our own proverbial back yard with the plant medicines and practices that have been used on our continent for thousands of years,” she says. “We have looked to the South American rain forest and indigenous native [healing] practices, but we have neglected our own indigenous peoples and the practices that are still used today.”

The Office of Sponsored Research agreed with her, and in 2008 it awarded a Noé a \$7,000 University-funded Seed Money Grant to build the herbarium.

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Echinacea, used to ward off colds and flus, soaks up the sun.



Small, but historic

Herbariums have been used by environmentalists, doctors, scholars, and researchers for hundreds of years and for various purposes. Mosses, roots, plants, and flowers can all yield an invaluable trove of data about biodiversity

or medicine or poisons, new plant species, changes in the earth's landscape—even scientific milestones of the past. The herbarium at

University of Cambridge in England, for instance, dates back to 1761 and houses specimens collected by the explorer Charles Darwin. The Bryophyte Herbarium at New York Botanical Garden showcases a specifically edited collection of mosses, hornworts, and hepatics.

In Belgium, the Herbarium of Vascular Plants bursts with 2.5 million specimens.

UB's Medicinal-Plant Herbarium is not as grand (it's located in a roughly ten-by-ten-foot room on the sixth floor of the Health Sciences Building) but don't be fooled by size. "It is the *only* herbarium located within a naturopathic medical school," Noé points out. "It's pretty cool."

Noé shows off other things in the herbarium that are pretty cool, too, such as a new Zeiss compound microscope to look at plant cells and cell structures and a bisecting microscope for dissecting raw-plant materials. A tidy row of books with titles like *Plant*



Classes may adjourn for the season, but Dr. Eugene Zampieron returns to UB during the summer to oversee the medicinal-herb garden he uses in his naturopathic-medicine classes.

Science, Plant Physiology, and Wade Davis's influential *The Serpent and the Rainbow* are available for handy reference. The flowers and plants Noé has been showing off are preserved in the herbarium's wooden plant presses and driers, then kept safe and sound in fire-proof storage closets that were "built especially for the herbarium," she assures.

While the plants gathered at UB haven't been on the *Beagle* they represent singularly unique and growing collections. Take the milkweed given to Noé by Crosslin Smith, a Cherokee elder in Oklahoma. Noé met him more than 25 years ago when she was a graduate student at Old Dominion University and began studying the Cherokee's use of plants as potential treatments for cancer and HIV.

The bulk of the collection, however, comes from a very special medicinal-herb garden started at the University by Eugene Zampieron, ND, a senior lecturer at the UBCNM, and naturopathic college alumnus Judson Chaney '03, '06, both of whom share Noé's passion for leafy-green and flowering things.

Going local

Traditional medicine, dating back thousands of years and well before FedEx, has been largely a local gig.

"Let food be your medicine and your medicine food,"

Hippocrates famously instructed some 2,400 years ago as he likely thought of olives, figs, and other locally harvested food that made its way to his dinner plate. Today naturopathic doctors can order a world of medicinal plants and homeopathics from the Internet.

That doesn't always sit well with Zampieron. "I always tease my students; I don't want them to be a UPS naturopath who thinks herbs come from a guy in a brown truck, in a brown suit, who gives them to you in bottles," Zampieron says. "When students can see and touch the plants, they will remember them much more vividly than just reading about them in textbooks."

That's why Zampieron used to take his students on trips to look at plants in different locales, including his own garden where he grows medicinal plants for use at his private naturopathy clinic. Though the trips were successful, Zampieron's former student Judson Chaney nevertheless convinced him in 2002 that it was time plant a garden at UB.

"The Naturopathic Student Government asked me to design a garden. I paint. I sculpt. They knew I had a very large interest in botanical medicine and artistic endeavors and design," says Chaney, who currently practices naturopathic medicine and acupuncture at Mercer Bucks Hematology Oncology in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

Plans in hand, Chaney sought out Zampieron and made the pitch.

"Dr. Z is a fantastic storyteller. I remember him taking us outside to look at weeds growing out of the sidewalk and saying, 'You can use this for that,'" says Chaney. "Botanical medicine is an academic discipline that lends itself to that form of knowledge and learning more than many other medicines. Reading in a book is one thing, but plants are three-dimensional living things. Going outside you get to know them in a whole new way. You don't forget them."

Selling the idea of a garden was easy. Building the garden was not.

UB gave Zampieron and Chaney permission to plant the UBCNM Medicinal-Herb Garden, and even let them use a bunch of discarded granite blocks Chaney discovered one day in the back of Cox Student Center. (They'd been left from a renovation project.)

They chose a spot on the southwest corner of the Health Sciences Building. At the time it was nothing to look at—a patch covered with grass—and as they'd



Bella Donna berries: they can help restart the heart and dilate pupils.

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later discover, a lot of soil as hard and unforgiving as concrete.

“It was a tremendous amount of labor,” Chaney laughs. “We rented a Bobcat and shuttled huge blocks back and forth to the garden site and carted them into place, almost Egyptian style. There was this sense that the stones were the closest thing to permanent we could achieve. We had a meager budget. If we didn’t have the granite, the garden would have been a patch on the ground with tape that could be easily mowed down. We wanted to create a place where students, patients, and the community could enter into, that felt separate. Finding the granite, that was huge.”

Eventually, raised beds were filled with herbs, flowers, and plants that grow in Connecticut. Gilberti’s in Westport donated many of them, and Zampieron transplanted cuttings from his own collection. Today the garden brims with 100 species, which Zampieron continues to tend to with help from student volunteers.

“He’s the king of the garden,” says Noé with admiration. “You can walk in it now. It’s visual.”

Shoots, blooms, leaves, and cells

Zampieron still tells his stories when he takes his classes to the garden. He’s convinced it helps them learn. There’s the one about lobelia and its violet-blue flowers, often used as groundcover or in pots by weekend gardeners. Once, an herbalist named Samuel Thomson gave lobelia to his patients to make them vomit and rid their bodies of toxins. “It also helps people get off of tobacco,” Zampieron adds. “We use it at the College of Naturopathic Medicine Clinic to help people quit smoking.”

Thomson’s name came up again last August, at the ZRT Cup, an annual knowledge competition that’s like a naturopathic version of *Jeopardy!*. Hosted annually by the Naturopathic Medical School Association, it challenges student teams to survive multiday elimination rounds by successfully answering more than 400 questions about medical and biological sciences that are part of the naturopathic curriculum. First prize is \$7,500.

Last year’s final question: What’s the history, use, and chemistry of lobelia? Last year’s winner: Team UBCNM.

“I know answers we gave to questions that stumped other teams came from students remembering the stories I tell them as we walk in the garden,” Zampieron insists.



In the field: Naturopathic students learn in the garden, as well as the classroom and clinic, where they treat patients.



Dr. Jody Noé (left) and students examine plant cells in the new herbarium.

“As a teacher, I was very pleased.” (For more great plant stories, see “Root to All Health” on page 28.)

Students like Tani Panchal, a third-year naturopathic student from Long Beach, CA, are equally pleased. “I just feel more connected to the natural world,” she says. “I can identify the plants more easily. I know what they do.”

What’s more, Panchal and classmates are no longer hindered by Mother Nature’s timeline. Classes break for the summer, just before plants start to flower and bloom. “Thanks to the herbarium, students can have access to the plants at any time of the year, not only in their natural state, but as a preserved herbarium specimen as well,” says Noé.

Sylvia Cimoch, another third-year ND candidate, says this round-the-clock access is a lifesaver. “Plants are defined by different systems: cardio, digestive, neuro-endocrine, immune, and so on. But they overlap. Something that can help the reproductive system can help the thyroid,” she says. “We need to know this.”

The garden and herbarium are providing many other opportunities for learning, and the UBCNM has broadened its curriculum to reflect that. The new botanical-medicine curriculum now includes five semesters of clinical herbal education, with one semester of hands-on training in how to make different herbal preparations, a field known as phytopharmacy; one semester of plant biochemistry, or phytopharmacology; and three semesters



A monarch butterfly can't resist the flowers, either.



Students painted rocks to identify more than 100 plants in the garden.

of *materia medica*, which is the actual formulary and function of the medicinal plants.

"It's much more in depth," says Noé. "In plant science, we start with the macro and go down to the mico-level."

While UBCNM students learn in the garden, herbarium, and classrooms, much of the world's healers learn by tradition. So for more than three decades, Zampieron has traveled to the West Indies to apprentice with traditional Jamaican bush doctors and shamans to learn all that he can about medicinal plants grown in the rain forest. These healers pass lessons down by oral tradition. "Every time one of these healers dies without passing on their knowledge," he says, "it's like a whole library burning down."

Noé feels a similar urgency when she works with Crosslin Smith, grandson of Redbird Smith, who is founder of the modern day Keetoowah, and the Cherokee. Thanks to his permission and UB's new herbarium, Noé can document Smith's lessons and preserve the milkweed he's given her (there are more than 100 species) for future generations to study.

"This," says Noé, "is the opportunity of a lifetime for UBCNM—to have an elder of such high reputation willing to share the indigenous ethnobotanical information and the possibility of what that information or 'medicine' could be in our strategies to cure cancer."

As for others who want to know more? "There's rosemary, that's for remembrance. / Pray you, love, remember," Ophelia counsels Laertes in *Hamlet*. "And there is pansies, that's for thoughts." ■



Root to All Health

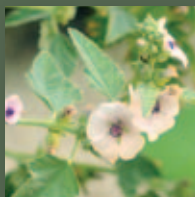
The Medicinal-Herb Garden is abloom with more than 100 species. Natural multitaskers, the plants can be used to treat a variety of ailments, but memorizing all of their properties can be a challenge. To help students remember, College of Naturopathic Medicine senior lecturer Dr. Eugene Zampieron frequently walks his classes through the garden's raised beds. "I tell them stories," he says. "I want them to be fascinated."



Teasel: The foreboding egg-shaped and comb-like plant "looks like a medieval weapon," jokes Zampieron, but gets its name from when its dried-out flowers were used both in Europe and the United States to tease sheep wool. The plant is frequently used today as a treatment for Lyme disease.

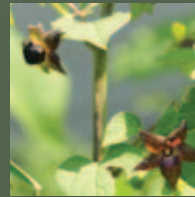


Passion Flower: The Jesuits used the flower to teach about the crucifixion and the Passion of Christ. Today, naturopathic docs use a thick molasses-like extract from the flower as an antianxiety botanical to alleviate stress.



Hawthorne: The dense and twiggly tree is planted at the UB garden in honor of the late William Mitchell, a naturopathic doctor who taught Zampieron and UB colleague Jody Noé when they were in naturopathic medical college.

"It was one of his favorite plants, and the stories he told me live on through me," says Zampieron. Hawthorne berries provide a solid extract that's used to make medicines for the heart, to lower cholesterol, and for cleaning out the arteries.



Deadly Nightshade: Also known as Bella Donna, the tiny flower's indigo berries contain juice that in medieval times was dropped in ladies' eyes to dilate their pupils and make them look more beautiful. Atropine extracted from

the flower is still used by optometrists to dilate patients' pupils and by emergency-room doctors to restart the heart. Atropine can also be used to dry nasal passages, to open lungs in asthma patients, or to relax muscles lining the body's respiratory and circulatory systems, says Zampieron.



Lobelia: Known as Indian tobacco, the plant was used by Native Americans to treat asthma, and in the 1800s physicians prescribed it to help patients get rid of toxins by inducing vomiting (the flower's other name is "puke weed").

Naturopathic doctors currently prescribe lobelia to help people quit smoking and to treat cough, bronchitis, and other respiratory illnesses.

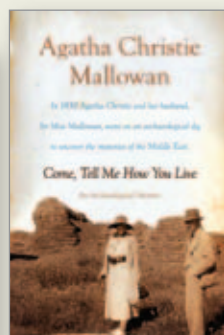
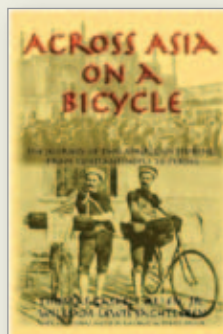
UB faculty are a bookish bunch, so we asked them to recommend their favorite titles for the summer—or any time of year. Their picks transport us around the world and back in time, make us laugh, and inspire us to consider God, morality, and our place in the world.

The Pleasure of Words

By Leslie Geary

Few other institutions require more on-the-job reading than a university, where ideas are the currency of trade. Books, journals, and documented research are all means to stay abreast of academic developments, enhance syllabi, gauge student progress, and even publish work of one's own.

Summer reading is different. Even if we don't go on vacation, a great book can transport us to far-flung corners of the world and let us experience vicariously the heroic, hysterical, mysterious, and sublime. And while we'd never suggest any rules for pleasure reading, *Knightlines* did ask UB's many book lovers to recommend "must-read" books to put on our reading lists. You may wish to consider them, too.



For readers who prefer armchair travel, **Rebecca Salonen**, editor of "UB Highlights," recommends *Come, Tell Me How You Live: An Archaeological Memoir* by Agatha Christie. "It's a delightful recounting of

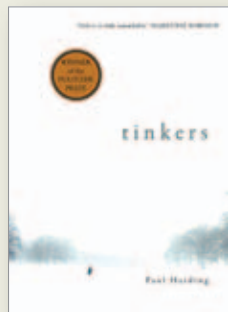
several seasons before World War II on her husband's archaeological digs in Syria," says Salonen. She also recommends "two very different memoirs" by Americans of adventurous bicycle tours: *Across Asia on a Bicycle: The Journey of Two American Students from Constantinople to Peking* by William Lewis Sachtleben and Thomas Gaskell Allen Jr. and *Around the World on a Bicycle* (two volumes) by Thomas Stevens, written some years before Sachtleben's and Allen's trip. "The latter accounts sometimes affront modern sensibilities, but they all give us a perspective on world affairs, travel, and ourselves—what has changed and what hasn't over the past 120 years," Salonen adds. "The first volume of Stevens's story recounts his travels from San Francisco across the U.S. in 1884 on his old-fashioned, large-wheeled penny farthing, and includes beautiful descriptions of the country."



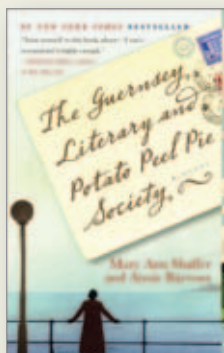
Edward Geist, director and associate professor of English, calls John Updike's *Gertrude and Claudius* "a must-read for anyone who has been curious about the events that led up to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. In addition to Gertrude and Claudius, Polonius's and Hamlet's

(continued on page 30)

father come vividly to life in a world of arranged marriages, court intrigue, blunted ambition, and sexual frustration. John Updike's understanding of who these characters are and what drives them is apparent on every page, making this novel one of those books that is hard to put down."

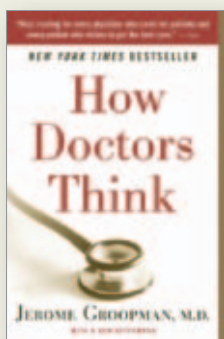


Sometimes it's hard to pick just one. So, English professor **Diane Krumrey** points us to two: *tinkers* by Paul Harding and *Leaving the Atocha Station* by Ben Lerner. "Here are two short fiction gems that disprove all the despairing critics who claim the American novel is in decline," says Krumrey. "*Tinkers*, won the Pulitzer Prize by surprise in 2010. It is a heartbreakingly beautiful meditation on mortality and life's meaning revealed through father-son relations over three generations in a small town in Maine. Harding's style is experimental, with washes of magical realism and the precision of a clock maker. *Leaving the Atocha Station* could not be more different. Seriously philosophical and horrifyingly funny in turns, it brings us into the thoughts of a young American poet on a fellowship in Madrid whose 'research' includes drinking and drugs, as well as language and art, as boundaries that separate us from others and ourselves. This book is an apt depiction of the confused yet sly self-wisdom of the new generation. The only thing that these two novels have in common is that the writing in each is stunning and original."



School of Education Associate Dean **Margaret Queenan** read *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann

Shaffer and Annie Barrows at the recommendation of her daughter-in-law's book club. "I loved this book. It's about the Holocaust—tangentially—but about a group who come together to thwart an oppressor, actually. They do it with grace and courage and humanity. I laughed and cried, always the sign of a good book, for me. I've read and taught many Holocaust books, none so poignant or telling about the effects on one society of a monolithic movement that doesn't even know about or care about the effects its policies have created in one tiny community. I read the book twice and enjoyed it each time. It's a great night table summer-reading book."



Stephen Perle, professor of clinical studies at the College of Chiropractic, says he was "quite fortunate" when he stumbled upon *How Doctors Think* by Jerome Groopman at O'Hare Airport. "Groopman, who is a practicing physician and AIDS researcher at Harvard, is also a staff writer for the *New Yorker*. This book is more written in the *New Yorker* style, not as a medical text, but it is informed by the

later. The book discusses cognitive research, which explains how doctors come to a diagnosis, and the cognitive errors that often lead to erroneous diagnoses. While I think this book is an absolute must for anyone in the health sciences, I really think it is a great book for a general audience. Cognitive errors are so common in all fields, and understanding these errors is a big step in preventing them."



Eric Lehmann, senior lecturer in the English Department, is dazzled by W.H. Hudson and his most unusual life. Hudson grew up on the Argentinean pampas, was a noted ornithologist, and spent his days with cut-throat gauchos, pursuing ostriches, getting dragged elbow-deep in the earth by burrowing armadillos, among other adventures. His writing matched his wits: Ford Madox Ford called Hudson "the greatest living writer of English." Hudson's memoir *Far Away & Long Ago*, agrees Lehman, is "possibly the most relaxing I have ever encountered in my vast campaigns into literature. His books spawn a desire in the reader to do nothing but roam the green countryside, watching birds, and lodge in villages. Most of Hudson's books produce this same feeling, whether in the West Country of England or La Plata in South America. *Far Away & Long Ago* is by far the most focused of Hudson's idyllic romps. This one generates a deeper river of intention. It explores childhood and what happens when we grow up. What do we lose? Belief. What do we gain? Truth. But Hudson says it better."

News Lines

The Big Read

UB brings the popular book campaign back to Bridgeport this fall.

By Leslie Geary

Big Read, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)-funded reading campaign held across America, will be held in Bridgeport this fall and is being cohosted by the University and other area institutions.

Frequently referred to as “a book club on steroids,” Big Read encourages local organizers to select a book that can be read, discussed, and enjoyed in their respective communities. The NEA began the program in 1996 in response to falling literacy rates in the U.S.

Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* has been selected as the featured book for the Big Read in Bridgeport, which will run from October 23 to November 30. An opening reception to launch program will be held on October 23 at the Arnold Bernhard Center, on the UB campus.

For more details and a full list of Bridgeport Big Read programs throughout October and November please go to www.neabigread.org/communities.

Edina Oestreicher, who is the Big Read program director at UB, called *Fahrenheit 451* “a perfect book” for the community.

Published in 1953, during the early years of McCarthyism, *Fahrenheit 451* sounds a prescient and chilling warning of a future America, where books are outlawed, firemen burn down houses that contain them, and despairing individuals commit suicide by self-immolation. Written after Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* (1932), George Orwell’s *1984* (1949), and playwright Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible* (1952), *Fahrenheit 451* is often compared to the three because of its dystopian themes of censorship, scapegoating, individualism and society, and television’s poisonous effect on culture.

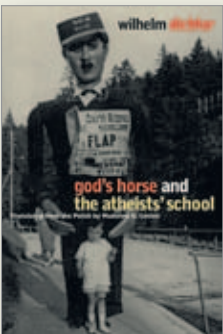
“There’s so much to talk about, to explore, debate, discuss. It captures so much about our contemporary society, such as reality television, social media, this 24/7 news feed,” Oestreicher said. “It’s a title that people have read for generations, and its timelessness provides a great opportunity for our alumni and students—really, for readers of all ages and backgrounds—to exchange perspectives about the book. I’m looking forward to a great month with a 24-hour read-a-thon, live performances, lectures, and other *Fahrenheit 451*-related events.”

Bradbury died on June 6, 2012.

Some of UB’s cohosts for the Big Read include Bridgeport Board of Education, Barnum Museum, Bridgeport Arts + Cultural Council, City Lights Gallery, Cox Media Group, Hearst Media Group, the Bridgeport Library, Downtown Special Services, The Klein, WPKN, and the Bijou Theatre. ■



Stephen Healey, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, has religion on the mind. The renewed debate between the new atheists and their critics has yielded plenty of titles to date, he says, but his favorite is Christopher Hitchens’s *Arguably: Essays*. “The Hitch died this year, and he continued to debate cultural motifs and religious notions until the end. Not everyone will be convinced by his antitheism, but his passion for ideas is worthy of emulation,” says Healey.



Julius Dichter, who is an associate professor of computer science and engineering, chooses the highly personal *god’s horse and the atheists’ school* by his father Wilhelm Dichter. “It is a translation from Polish of his first two novels. Originally released in 1996 and 2000 respectively, and highly acclaimed and awarded in Poland, the books have had translations into many languages, but this is the first English translation. The books are based on Wilhelm’s life experience as a child Holocaust survivor, and it follows him through age 17 as he grows up (surprisingly) in an up-and-coming affluent family in the new Communist era. The final book of the trilogy (*Learning English*) is currently in translation.” ■



News Lines



SASD student Ben Wisoff watches as master glassblowers from the Berengo Studio help him fire stereo components he designed.

Industrious Designers

Classes are all well and good, but these industrial-design majors also are appearing at world-renown exhibitions and creating products for the likes of Disney and Amazon.com.

Design classes at Shintaro Akatsu School of Design (SASD) at the University of Bridgeport weren't in session over the summer, but a trio of students nonetheless spent a productive season exhibiting furniture they created at SASD at international design shows while gaining experience by working for companies throughout the U.S.

Industrial design majors Ben Wisoff '12, David Clarkin, and Rich Lubrano recently exhibited furniture at the 25th Annual International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF). Held at the Javits Convention Center, the fair brands itself as the place "to map the



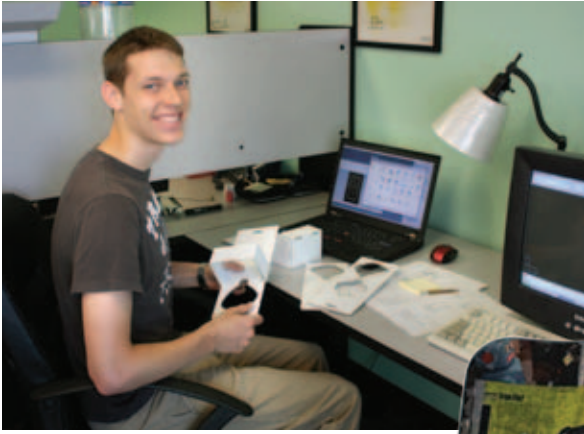
Ben Wisoff '12 sketches designs for glass stereo speakers he made in Murano, Italy.

newest frontier of what's best and what's next" in furniture design.

"ICFF is top tier, competing only with the Salone Internazionale del Mobile in Milan in April," said SASD Director Richard Yelle. "Many exhibitors show at both. What we recognize as a popular look now could have sprouted from the floor of ICFF three or more years ago."

The UB students were among more than 500 furniture-makers whose pieces were seen by an estimated 26,000 interior designers and architects, retailers, store-design experts, and manufacturers.

Many of the pros gave Wisoff, Lubrano, and Clarkin



David Clarkin, an industrial-design major at SASD, at InFold Package Design, where he spent the summer creating products for Disney. Right: a chair designed by Clarkin



Jay Lubin with his table at the ICFF show at New York's Javits Center.



Lubin's red glass-and-wood table was featured at the International Woodworking Fair, held this August in Atlanta.

“a great deal of interest and feedback,” said Ken Benson, the students’ furniture-design teacher at SASD who brought them to ICFF. “This is a learning experience that cannot be replicated in the classroom,” Benson added. “It motivates everyone to work harder, accomplish more, and become successful professional designers.”

Lubrano agreed, crediting the ICFF for radically changing his perspective about design—and his own plans for the future. “Before I went to the Javits Center, I didn’t know furniture was such a big deal. But when I got to the furniture fair, I was like, ‘There are a lot of people who are really into this, and they’re making beautiful, high-end stuff.’ So I’m trying really, really hard to be good at industrial design. I love it, and I’d like to start my own furniture company one day.”

In the interim, the bright red wood-and-glass coffee table that he exhibited at the ICCF also qualified for the International Woodworking Fair held in Atlanta, GA. Lubrano also interned at Rock Tenn, designing packaging for Amazon.com, one of Rock Tenn’s clients.

His classmate Ben Clarkin, who is from Coventry, Rhode Island, spent his fourth summer interning at InFold Package Design. “I’m working on a variety of

structural packaging for companies like Disney, Safety First, and Wilson,” he said. “If you go to a store it’s the packaging you buy a product in. It can be cardboard, paperboard, or plastic. I’ve had the job for four years, but there’s always some new challenge.”

Wisoff began a new job designing medical equipment at Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics in Tarrytown, New York, after he graduated in May. While at UB, Wisoff scooped up several prizes for his work, and at the ICFF he exhibited glass stereo speakers that he designed and created at the Berengo Glass Studio in Murano, Italy. That project was made possible by a Venice Projects scholarship funded by Shintaro Akatsu, after whom SASD is named, and Adriano Berengo, owner of the Berengo Studio, Yelle said. ■ – L.G.

News Lines

Bridge Builders

Using some of the world's most famous bridges as their models, UB engineering professors teach Bridgeport students how to use math, computer technology, and old-fashioned thinking to build some of their own.

By Leslie Geary

Imani Quintana peered out the car window as she and her mother went to New York City earlier this year, and as they made their way over the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, the 12-year-old took a long, hard look at the structure. Were those steel cables or another metal? How did the girders work to keep the whole thing from collapsing? When was it built?

Normally, Quintana wouldn't have bothered with the bridge. But she and other students from the South End School TAG (Talented and Gifted) Program had just spent the better part of the semester with UB engineering faculty, designing and creating models of famous bridges. The special class, which incorporated lessons in math, engineering, and computer modeling, had made her curious.

"I wanted to know how it was built. What did they use?" said Quintana, who is in the seventh grade.



Bridgeport teacher Ron Rapice (left) watches his students build model bridges that they designed with help from UB engineering faculty. "I want our kids to get exposure to the world and to higher-level thinking," he said.

Such questions thrill teacher Ron Rapice, who runs the TAG Program at the South End School.

"I want our kids to get exposure to the world and to higher-level thinking," he says. "Most of these students haven't been across a bridge to see New York, let alone a world-famous bridge. I wanted to expose them to geography and to working with professors in a college setting and working together as a team."

Rapice didn't have to search far for help. South End School is located on University Avenue, across the street from UB's Arnold Bernhard Center, and Rapice frequently turns to the University for resources that might enrich his students' education. He called upon engineering professors Navarun Gupta and Buket Barkana for help. They agreed the bridge-building project would be a tantalizing way for the students to learn more about science, technology, engineering, and math—known collectively as STEM—and to get them thinking about college.

"Ron approached us because he wanted the students to see how we work at UB. We would be like advisers and mentors," said Barkana, who happily volunteered.

The program kicked off in March with geographical research. Students were introduced to different types of bridges—beam, cantilever, truss, and suspension—before they were instructed to build two of their own. The catch: the class had to build replicas of real bridges.

Choices were plentiful. As he looked at options, including the Sydney Harbor Bridge in Australia, Iran's Si-o-seh Pol Bridge, the Tower Bridge in London, and closer to home—the Golden Gate and Brooklyn Bridge—Rock Cleveland, 12, "thought about all the bridges I've been over in my lifetime, like the [Moses Wheeler Bridge on Interstate 95] in Milford. I like the suspension ones the best. They have more support."

In the end, Cleveland and his classmates opted to replicate the Howrah Bridge—one of the world's longest cantilever bridges when it was built over the Hooghly River in India in 1943—and the Jubilee Bridge, a drawbridge in Queensferry, Wales.

Bridges selected, they had to be resized proportionally, or scaled, before the class wrote construction plans for their models. Gupta and Barkana took them to the Engineering Department computer lab and taught them how to use Google SketchUp, free architectural software that lets users create 3-D models.



UB engineering professor Buket Barkana encouraged students to use architectural software on UB computers. “They were frustrated at times,” she said. “But I told them, ‘This happens. Try again.’”

“SketchUp was a mess,” says Jorge Cordona, 12, bluntly. “At one point, after we typed in the dimensions we wanted, a big rectangle just appeared” on the screen.

But after two weeks—and with plenty of encouragement from Barkana and Gupta—they mastered the program.

“They were frustrated sometimes,” agrees Barkana. “But I told them, ‘This happens. Try again. Practice. It will happen.’ We wanted them to see how they should work to accomplish something.”

Barkana also had the students come to her Digital Signal Processing class. Graduate students typically take it to learn how to convert analogue signals to digital signals that are used by devices, such as computers or iPads.

But “the purpose of having them come wasn’t to teach them how to convert signals,” says Barkana. “It was to show them how a college professor teaches a course and how engineering students interact by asking and answering questions.” ■

Smart Money

UB teams spin \$100,000 into riches to win the Connecticut Stock Market Challenge.

Certain unnamed bankers making dubious headlines these days may want to get advice from a team of University of Bridgeport MBA students who in just ten weeks beat the market by double digits to win the Connecticut Stock Market Game™.

Krzysztof Wilk, Yemao He, and Zhu Wang turned a hypothetical \$100,000 into \$116,882.68 between February 21 and April 27, when the game was held. That’s 13.87 percent better than the S+P 500, the benchmark index of the overall market, during the same period.

Sponsored by SIMFA Foundation for Investor Education, the Stock Market Game invites teams of students to invest an imaginary \$100,000 with a simple challenge: whoever posts the biggest profits after the game is up wins.

UB teams have finished first, second or third every competition since 2004.



From left: Heran Xing, Yemao He, Zhu Wang, Le Sheng. Krzysztof Wilk is seated.

Wilk and his team invested heavily in Apple, said team adviser and business professor Steven Rashba. “They also rode out the storm of volatility when Apple’s stock moved up and down dramatically.”

A second team from UB, Heran Xing and Le Sheng, also invested in Apple, among other stocks, and accumulated \$113,099.71, outperforming the S&P 500 benchmark by 10.08 percent. ■ — L.G.

News Lines

Girls Go Tech

UB professors encourage girls to tune into their inner-engineers at annual STEM expo.

Sure, she was propped up on crutches as she leaned over a laptop, but Kerry, a 13-year-old seventh grader from Roger Ludlowe Middle School in Fairfield Connecticut, wasn't giving up. The challenge: using the laptop's mouse to move and arrange, from largest to smallest, eight different-sized discs amid three pegs. It would take just 255 moves if she successfully completed the challenge in as few moves as possible.

As she strategized, UB engineering professor Abhilash Tibrewal looked on with a large smile. "This is more fun for them than asking, 'What's an exponential algorithm?'" she said. "It's a puzzle, a game."

And indeed, games and other mind-teasers were the order of the day at the Girls in Tech Expo that was held in May at Housatonic Community College to spark girls' interest and participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

More than 100 seventh- and eighth-grade girls from ten schools in Fairfield County attended the daylong

event, which quickly took on a party atmosphere—complete with confetti, thanks to Tibrewal and fellow UB engineering professor Joyce Hu. The two were asked to participate at the invitation of Housatonic's career services director Kimberly Wood.

"It was wonderful having professors Hu and Tibrewal share their personal experiences as to how their career paths were chosen and to encourage the girls to consider and explore STEM careers," said Wood. "We would love to have them come back and join us for this annual event."

Hu and Tibrewal launched the day with a bang when they ran a morning workshop that challenged the girls to design and build confetti launchers using simple office supplies. Ashley Hayes, 13, from Fairfield Woods Middle School, attempted to hurl her confetti across the room using a device fashioned out of a cup and paint stick. "It didn't go very far, but it was a lot of fun," said Hayes. "The best one was this catapult made out of rubber bands."

As the students admired each other's work, they talked and made new friends from other schools. Nor were they shy about talking to Hu, Tibrewal, and other Girls in Tech guides, who came from 17 organizations including Yale University, Alloy Engineering, the Beardsley Zoo, Discovery Museum, Shelton First Robotics Team, Schwerdtle Stamp Company, and Sisters Under Sail.

Kristin Labanca, 13, from Hillcrest Middle School in Trumbull, said she enjoyed the girls-only atmosphere "because you can be yourself." Plus, thanks to Hu, she got to see what a two-stroke engine looked like and how it worked. "It's more efficient than some other engines we have today. It's pretty cool." ■ — L.G.



UB engineering professor Abhilash Tibrewal taught young women from Fairfield County schools about exponential algorithms by using a computer game. "It's more fun," she said.

SASD alumnus wins UB's Lifetime Achievement Award

With passion, and little sleep, Peter Clarke built award-winning product ventures.



Peter Clarke

The University has presented Peter Clarke, CEO and founder of Product Ventures, with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his lasting and innovative impact in the field of design.

University President Neil Albert Salonen also; presented Clarke '90, who is an alumnus of the industrial design program at UB's Shintaro Akatsu School of Design, with an Alumni Chair.

Clarke founded Product Ventures in 1994 when he was 29. Unable to get a bank loan at the time, he used

more than one dozen credit cards to buy necessary design supplies, regularly worked until 3 a.m., and asked a friend to drive him to client meetings so he could catch up on sleep while he built his business.

Today, the Fairfield, Connecticut-based firm has more than 50 employees and clients include Heinz, Folger's, Duracell, and Febreze, including many other best-known brands. His work was recently featured in the *New York Times*. ■ — L.G.

Perfect Prescription

The first student from a dynamic new health-sciences partnership between UB and UConn is admitted to UConn's School of Pharmacy.



Arnold Hitoaliaj

In May, Arnold Hitoaliaj '12 finished the last of his science and anatomy courses needed to qualify for a graduate pharmacy program. In June, he was in Storrs, Connecticut, attending orientation at UConn, where he will begin studies toward a doctorate in pharmacy this fall.

Officials from both universities hope that many other UB students will follow in his footsteps.

Hitoaliaj, 21, is the first student to graduate from an innovative new program that was cocreated by UB and UConn with the aim of increasing diversity at UConn's highly competitive School of Pharmacy.

The collaboration, known as the UConn-UB Pre-Pharmacy Program, was launched in June 2010. It allows UB students to complete a two-year pre-pharmacy program at UB, where they take courses in the basic sciences and the liberal arts. Students who successfully complete work at UB are then eligible to apply to UConn to continue pharmacy studies and earn the Bachelor of Pharmacy Studies in their second year at UConn and the Doctor of Pharmacy two years after that.

Hitoaliaj was already at student at UB, majoring in computer engineering, when the UConn-UB Pre-Pharmacy program was announced. When he heard about it, he decided to change tracks.

"I always liked health care but I was not sure if I wanted to go to medical school or pharmacy," Hitoaliaj said. He's since been hired as a CVS pharmacy technician and the part-time job, coupled with the pre-pharmacy program "has amplified my interest in the field. I'm extremely happy to be able to continue my studies at UConn."

UB Dean of Arts and Sciences Stephen Healey said that "the School of Arts and Sciences is delighted that Arnold is the first UB student to benefit from this partnership with the UConn School of Pharmacy. Arnold's hard work in this unique program brings to fruition the cooperative work of our two institutions."

David Brady, who is vice provost of UB's Division of Health Sciences, agreed. "This is the first of many quality students from diverse backgrounds who hope to send to the UConn School of Pharmacy. It is wonderful to see this collaboration, which started several years ago as a way for UB could help UConn recruit excellent candidates from backgrounds that are under-represented into the pharmacy field, finally bearing fruit." ■ — L.G.

News Lines

World of Words

Two International College students win coveted Critical Language Scholarships from the U.S. State Department.

Tasnah Moyer and Rebecca Ward, two honors students majoring in World Religions at the International College, were among a highly select group of American students tapped by the U.S. Department of State to participate in the prestigious Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) program this summer.

Moyer spent eight weeks studying Korean at the Language Center of Chonbuk National University in Jeonju, South Korea. Ward '11, who graduated from UB in May, studied Arabic for ten weeks at Dhofar University in Salalah, Oman.

The CLS program was founded to increase the number of American students who can speak any one of 13 languages—from Azerbaijani to Urdu—that the State Department has deemed to be critical. CLS scholars spend up to ten weeks during the summer taking intensive language courses at universities, research centers, and other international institutions.

The program's rigorous academic demands reflect its prestige: odds of winning a CLS are long, and the program is considered to be among the most competitive scholarships

available to college students. This year, the CLS attracted 5,225 applicants for just 631 spaces. Applications required students to submit numerous essays that were reviewed by independent experts, then sent to a panel of judges in Washington, D.C., who selected winners out of a pool of roughly 1,700 finalists.

This was the second summer in a row that Ward has won the Critical Language Scholarship, and she and Moyer are among four UB students who have won the award since the program was established in 2006.

Moyer wrote to CLS judges that she began studying Korean when she was a little girl. She also speaks Russian, German, and Spanish.

"My best friend was half Korean and through my interactions with her and other friends' Asian moms I learned about Korean food, traditions, folk stories, and customs," she wrote. "Drawn to the culture, I began taking weekly Korean classes with several of my friends."

Although she continues to study Korean at UB—and keeps her language skills sharp by watching Korean television dramas with her roommates—Moyer said she was eager to spend the summer in South Korea.

"I believe that language is inextricably tied to culture," she said. "The study of language is greatly enhanced when coupled with immersion and experience within the culture and with its people."

International College Dean Thomas Ward said the CLS program "plays a crucial strategic role. It is helping the next generation of Americans to acquire the skills needed in critical languages. Proficiency in languages such as Arabic and Korean can help us to bridge gaps and further understanding between the United States and nations with which our futures are inextricably entwined." ■ — L.G.

Polyglot Tasnah Moyer used her CLS to study Korean. She already speaks Russian, German, and Spanish.

Rebecca Ward won her second CLS from the U.S. State Department and returned to the Middle East to perfect her Arabic.

Faculty Lines

Lobbying for Science

When the laser was invented in 1960 it was described as a “solution seeking a problem” or a “physicist’s plaything,” because no application had been identified for it, says mathematics professor **David Kraft**. Yet today, lasers are used to our scan groceries, repair tissue in the human body, play music and movies, and much, much more. In fact, says Kraft, “the economic impact of the laser is estimated at one-third to one-half of the nation’s GDP.”



Kraft made the same point in April, when he and other officers from the American Physical Society (APS) traveled to Washington, D.C., for the non-profit’s annual lobbying event known as Congressional Visitation Day.

The APS promotes the knowledge and diffusion of physics, and it is concerned that federal funding remains robust for agencies that support the sciences, says Kraft. In particular, the group wants Congress to adopt President Obama’s proposed budgets for the National Science Foundation, NASA, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the National Institutes of Health. These and other federal agencies fund and promote scientific research at universities like UB, thus impacting the creation of jobs for graduate students and post-docs, equipment purchases, construction of new facilities, and even undergraduate STEM education, Kraft points out.

While in Washington, Kraft met with representatives of Connecticut Senators Joe Lieberman and Richard Blumenthal, Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT), Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), and Rep. Bill Keating. (D-MASS). This is the third time that he’s participated in Congressional Visitation Day. ■ – **Leslie Geary**



Pleasure Beach Redux

In 1996, a fire destroyed the bridge connecting Bridgeport to Pleasure Beach, the now-defunct amusement park. Crowds drifted, the last cottages on the land were bulldozed, and in their stead came wildlife, flora, and fauna. “It features the grand architectural ruins that are so emblematic of Bridgeport, but shows what happens when nature reclaims land,” says **Emily Larned**, chair of the graphic design program and assistant professor at Shintaro Akatsu School of Design.

Larned believes the park is perfect for artists, and would like Pleasure Beach to be reopened as an eco-friendly art park, reachable by boat. A jury selected by the Bridgeport Arts + Cultural Council liked what Larned dubs a “grassroots” idea, and this summer it awarded her a Mayor’s Neighborhood Arts & Heritage grant so she could create a poster to present “A Proposal for Pleasure Beach” to the public at the July 7 Bridgeport Arts Fest.

“There’s cacti, roses, turtles, rabbits, sea birds, and miles of empty beach. It is urban seaside decay, naturally reborn—a truly inspiring site,” says Larned. “I believe bringing people to experience and to make eco-sensitive site-specific art work in this spectacular outdoor setting will be transformative for the city. I’m envisioning something that will be a place of wonder for Bridgeport residents and visitors alike.”

To learn more about Larned’s idea, go to <http://pleasurebeachlives.org>. ■ – **L.G.**

Woman on the Go

As Coordinator for the Division of Health Sciences, **Lena Minervino** keeps things running like clockwork for not one, but five schools: the Human Nutrition Institute, Fones School of Dental Hygiene, the Colleges of Naturopathic Medicine and Chiropractic, and the Physician Assistant Institute. “It gets a little crazy at times,” Minervino admits. “But I love working with professionals who are so committed to health and wellness.”

She can count herself among them. A certified personal trainer with a bachelor’s in health fitness, Minervino runs an in-home personal-training practice in Fairfield County and was recently featured in two issues of *Healthy Life* magazine for the articles “Walking off the Weight” and “Core Strengthening.”



Minervino’s oldest client is 80, and he still does push-ups, squats, and planks. Her youngest work-out partner is her 9-year-old son Rocco. A little more than three years ago, Minervino taught him how to ride a dirt bike, and now he’s competing in motocross races while Minervino is getting amped up to ride her Ducati 848 Superbike in a 9/11 fundraiser to benefit the families of September 11. Calling herself a “newish” runner, she also wrapped up her first Zombie Run in

Amesbury, MA, earlier in the summer.

“As my colleagues at UB keep reminding me, health is a way of life, and it should be fun and rewarding,” Minervino says. “My job at UB and training practice provide me with the opportunity to get others excited about being their best. I can’t think of anything better!” ■ – **L.G.**

Faculty Lines



Sadowski (left) gets his award.

Talking about Sports

Some guys have to wait until quitting time to get their sports fix. Not **Chuck Sadowski**, UB's tireless sports information director. At the height of sports season, Sadowski fields media requests for the Athletics Department like Henrik Lundqvist facing a break-away without a defenseman in sight. For that, Sadowski was presented with a 25-year Award plaque from the College Sports Information Directors of America.

"I really can't see myself working in any other profession," says Sadowski. "Being a SID has allowed me work all over the country and to meet folks that have become lifelong friends. In my wildest dreams, I could have never imagined that that something that started out as basically as a way for me to make some extra money while I was getting a master's degree in French studies at New York University would become this wonderful career that I continue to enjoy." ■ — **L.G.**



From left: Orman and Kojima before the feast.

Summer Roll!

Larry Orman decided to celebrate summer by making a sushi feast for his colleagues at UB's Communications Department, which is responsible for designing and producing everything from faculty business cards to event posters, admissions and alumni mailings, and more. Orman is executive director of the department.

"I figured it's a good time of year to do it, when things are a little quieter," says Orman, who spent more than five hours creating giant platters brimming with sushi filled with everything from avocado with mango to rolls stuffed with tuna, salmon, beef and cream cheese, eel, and various vegetables. "Sushi's so versatile," says Orman. "It lends itself to

a fusion cuisine style."

Dan Alves (web manager), **Leslie Geary** (editor), **Shoji Kazuhiro** (photographer), and **Takafumi Kojima** (designer and multimedia specialist) savored every bite. President **Neil Salonen** stopped by for a few pieces, too.

A culinary autodidact who speaks poetically and passionately about food, Orman said he decided to learn how to make sushi three years ago after he bought a rice cooker on Amazon.com. "They had popup that said, 'People who bought this also bought *Sushi for Dummies*.' So I got the book."

Orman's specialty? A peanut butter roll he invented for his son, Sam. "I roll the peanut butter in rice," says Orman. "He loves it." ■ — **L.G.**

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.

1951

Al Falcone celebrated his 90th birthday being feted and lauded by residents at Terra Ceia Village Encore Resort in Charlottesville, VA, where he resides. A massive cake, hats, and decorations were in his sole honor (residents normally enjoy shared parties) as Falcone was appreciated for his tireless commitments to the community. A business major while at UB, Falcone typically spends his birthday painting the fire hydrants in his retirement village. He also assembles and donates tools for crafters in the village, donates hand-made pens, birds, and butterflies for various good-service events, and pitches in at the Southeastern Guide Dog walk-a-thon.

1952

Mary R. Whelan is celebrating her own Jubilee Year as a UB graduate. "I'm proud to be an alumna of UB where I met my husband of 48 years," she writes. "UB has come a long way since then."

1959

Robert Feury retired as a manager at Aetna Life Insurance and is currently working as a substitute teacher in Tolland, CT.



1965

Toby Ulman Grandberg writes that she would "love to hear from classmates" and that she and her husband Marty have cooked up a delicious retirement. Literally. The couple retired from jobs in health care when they started a successful catering business quite by chance. "We have always enjoyed cooking and participating in refreshment committees. One day, years ago, friends needed help preparing for a son's bar mitzvah and asked us to join in the celebration, and we did," she writes from her home in Sharon, MASS. "Word of mouth is an amazing thing. We catered/accommodated kosher functions in synagogues and homes on a part-time basis for years. And most of the functions are happy ones." Meanwhile, her family has grown. Their son Harris is married and daughter Rachel, who is engaged, has two daughters, Isabella and Sarah. The couple recently celebrated their 50th high school reunions last fall. "Our life is full," concludes Grandberg, who hopes UB friends will contact her at Tgrandberg@aol.com.

1968

Charles Wargo retired in 1991 after teaching in Bridgeport schools for 31 years. A widower, he has seven children, 17 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

1969

Robert Beatty writes that he "just found out that **Russe Bakke** '88 and I are both alumni of the

University of Bridgeport!" The two have more in common than UB, though. They met through Mensa, where Beatty served as the group's national chairman from 1999-2001. Bakke served as national chairman from 2005-2009.

1971

Harry Hollis writes us from his home in Jackson Heights, NY, to exult: "For wisdom, prosperity, and happiness, thanks be to the Good Lord and UB! Have a great summer!" You, too, Mr. Hollis.

1974

Kristen Key Kreis Westermann writes "my dear friend **Robert Wilcox**, aka 'Spaceman' and 'Boots,' died on May 23, 2011, having battled a brain tumor. He was well known on campus for his sardonic wit, ridiculous intelligence, and gracious social community. He went on to make a lovely family, wife, and two boys, and he earned a master's degree in computer programming. He retired, much too briefly, from the State of Connecticut. He was 58."

1984

Donald Goodson retired from the Bridgeport school system after 38 years.

1999

Augustine Tan Minh Nguyen was ordained as a priest in the Diocese of Bridgeport in May. "I would not be here today if God did not have a plan for me," he told the *Connecticut Post*, which ran a story about Nguyen's life. He was 11 when he boarded a fishing boat in Vietnam to become a refugee in the U.S.



SASD alumnus Peter Clarke '90, Vice President of University Relations Mary-Jane Foster, and Mrs. Rebecca Salonen celebrated Clarke's achievements when UB awarded him a Lifetime Achievement Award.



SASD alums stick together: Kelsey McAuliff '11, who now works for Peter Clarke '90, chats with Art Landi '74 (right).

Alumni Lines

2009

Dave James sent us the most flattering note and shares great news: “I love your publication! I started reading it back when you ran a piece on my running a few years ago.” The former captain of UB’s cross country team in 2009, James is one of the world’s top ultra-marathoners. In 2011 he was a member of Team USA in Ireland for the IAU World Trail Championships. His most recent victories include first place at both the USATF 100-Mile National Championship and the Mozart 100K in Salzburg, Austria. James remains a student, too. “I am pursuing a medical degree,” he adds. His best achievement to date? “I got married to the woman of my dreams,” writes James. “We have a puppy and live in Arizona.” To read more about James’s incredible story (he began running when at 270 pounds he decided to get healthy) see “Going the Distance” in the Winter 2010 issue of *Knightlines* at www.bridgeport.edu/knightlines.

2012

Jimi Han '05, '12 will attend Columbia University Teachers College this fall to pursue a Master of Arts in Music & Music Education. The talented coloratura soprano earned her bachelor’s in music *summa cum laude* in May, and was presented with the Academic Achievement Award for music this year.



Alumni from South America traveled to UB in April to visit the campus. The group included (from left, back row) Joaquin Crespo, Sergio Borrero, Kevin Rydosz, Patrick Grumieaux, Alvaro-Enrique Gomez, Giovanni DiBenedetto, Fotis Konstantinidis, Kostas Kambourelis (from left, middle) Elizabeth Bueno-Rydosz, Leka Kambourelis, Irma Salinas, Rosa DiBenedetto, Ganimedes Barrera, Chris Louca, Androula Vouvakos, and Enrique Gallegos (front).



Malcolm Pray generously opened his Bedford, New York, antique-car showroom to host a UB alumni gathering.

Focus on: Dennis Walcott '73, '74

Background: Dennis Walcott grew up in Queens, New York, and graduated from Francis Lewis High School before enrolling at UB. He earned his bachelor's in sociology in 1973 and a master's in education in 1974.

Accomplishment: Walcott has taught kindergarten, founded a mentoring program for young boys, and served as President of the New York Urban League, which assists kids in poverty. As Deputy Mayor of New York, he served as liaison to the Board of Education and oversaw the City University of New York. In 2011, Mayor Michael Bloomberg appointed him Chancellor of New York City schools, the nation's biggest education system with 1.1 million students and some 1,700 schools. He won UB's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003.

How did you learn about UB?

A couple of things. Someone I knew attended it, and it came to my attention that way. I also remembered UB being on television for a basketball game. And it fit what I was interested in. One of the personal reasons for selecting UB was its proximity to home. I made frequent visits to home.

Special memories?

When I attended UB it was during the height of the Vietnam War, student protests, Kent State, Jackson State. It was a unique period of time with a lot of turmoil on college campuses. It was also a period of meeting people from different states and making new friends, learning new things. It was very exciting. There were challenges of just going to college and adapting to a college environment.

Were you a first-generation college student?

My mother graduated from college but she wasn't married to my father at that point, so I'm the first Walcott to graduate from college. My father was a high school drop-out. He worked for the city. My mother worked for the city, too, for the Department of Social Services.



Dennis Walcott

Not long after you graduated from UB—about two years I think—you founded the Frederick Douglas Brother-to-Brother Mentoring program. Most newly minted grads are focused on establishing professional roots but you wanted to give back. What did the mentoring program do and why did you start it?

A couple of things happened. While I was at Bridgeport, between my junior and senior year, my father passed away, and a month before I graduated my mother passed away. I decided to continue at Bridgeport to get my master's in education. I went to UB summer, fall, and spring, and graduated in one year. I taught kindergarten for a year, and as a result of seeing a number of boys without fathers in their home, and being a black male, I decided I wanted to start a mentoring program in South Jamaica, Queens.

At that stage in life, early 20s, people are often long on enthusiasm and short on practical experience. How did you do?

Funny you should ask the question! I was just talking about this the other day. I had a lot of vision and zeal, but I got too much publicity too soon. I didn't have the infrastructure to handle the volume of requests, both from men wanting to be big brothers and families who wanted to have their children mentored. [But] taking risks to achieve your dream is something I believe in strongly.

Many UB freshmen are first-generation college students. What advice do you have for their families and for students coming to largely uncharted academic territory?

A couple of things: One is that support network shouldn't just be your family. I was lucky and very blessed to have family members who were supportive all through my school career. I also remember a friend of my mom's who lived in Bridgeport. My mother and father brought me up beforehand to meet her family in case I ever needed support. I can't say I did once I started college, but to have the forethought to do that: my parents always looked one step ahead so I could navigate something different. Also, as an individual you have to find comfort level in who you reach out to for support. You can't do it by yourself. I've had great mentors throughout my life.

There's a lot of finger pointing when it comes to schools. What homework would you give various constituencies—parents, politicians, teachers, unions—to improve education?

It's about the student. Keep the student in mind, whether it's [creating] policies or the personal relationships or the educational relationship. It's about how you support the student to help them accomplish his or her goals. That cuts across all kinds of areas.

I read you set a goal to visit all of the schools in NY—how many left?

I'm up to 950 since I've been chancellor. I'm getting close to 1,000.

You're overseeing the opening of 78 new schools by the fall of 2012, and you just ran the New York City Marathon. What's the bigger accomplishment?

For my 60th birthday I wanted to challenge myself, so I started to train for the marathon in January, and I ran it in November [2011]. It was fantastic. This year I'm training for a triathlon. At 50, I went skydiving. Five years ago I started to sing in my church choir. It's about learning new things. ■

– Interview by Leslie Geary



UB GYMNASTICS HALL OF HEROES

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Side Lines

Behind Every Athlete . . .

Before the country's best college gymnasts hit the mat, beam, and uneven bars at the National Championships, a small army of donors helped UB make it all possible.

By Leslie Geary

They spent hundreds, possibly thousands, of hours honing routines to get to the top.

And in May, the Purple Knights and nine of the country's best college women's gymnastics teams qualified to compete at the USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championships, which were hosted by the University.



UB's fourth consecutive USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championship victory gave the team and more than 2,000 fans plenty to cheer about.

But long before Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy welcomed the crowd with opening remarks, a dedicated army of organizers and generous donors worked equally hard to ensure the event was a seamless success.

Their generosity and effort paid off in spades: nearly 2,000 fans came from across the United States to cheer on the teams at Webster Bank Arena, making the championships "probably the first national championship ever held in Bridgeport and certainly a singular event for UB," said Vice President of University Relations Mary-Jane Foster.

"Coach Byron Knox and his Purple Knights captured their fourth consecutive title, but I created my own 'Hall of Heroes' for the donors who worked with UB to make it all possible," Foster added. "We couldn't have done it without them. Even now, months after the competition, I hear how much fun everyone had and how great this was for the University and the city of Bridgeport."

Knox and his team took a well-deserved one-day break from practice before resuming their early morning workouts at Wheeler Recreation Center for the 2012-13 season. Foster said the Office of University Relations has "also hit the ground running" to fundraise for various athletic and other events.

"Still, it's important to take a breath and savor the moment," she said. "It was a great victory and we had some amazing partners. They should to be recognized for their very special contributions." ■



Akil Pompey's fancy footwork on Knights Field helped groom him for the pros.

Chasing a Soccer Dream to the Other Side of the World

Former men's soccer captain Akil Pompey signs a professional contract in Mongolia.

By Chuck Sadowski

Former University of Bridgeport men's soccer standout Akil Pompey '10 has signed a professional contract with Khoromkhon FC for the 2012 Mongolian Niislel League season, which began play in late June. Khoromkhon FC is based in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia.

A native of Trinidad, Pompey served as the Purple Knights' team captain during the 2009 season and earned First Team All-East Coast Conference honors. His time at UB, Pompey said, "helped prepare me both as a player and a person to take advantage of this tremendous opportunity in a part of the world many people do not get to visit.

"I'm very thrilled about this Mongolia opportunity and I view this as a stepping stone for my career in Asia," he added. "I want to help the team win the League Championship and qualify for the Asian President's Cup. I will not only become the first Trinidadian to play in Mongolia but also the first Trinidadian to play in the prestigious Asian tournament."

UB head coach Brian Quinn said, "We are excited for Akil to continue his playing career on the professional level. It speaks volumes about his ability as player and is a positive reflection on the quality of program here at the University of Bridgeport." ■

Side Lines

New Skipper at the Helm of UB Baseball

Joe Tonelli takes charge as the team's new coach.

By Chuck Sadowski

University of Bridgeport Director of Athletics Jay Moran announced in early June that Joe Tonelli has been selected as the Purple Knights new head baseball coach. Tonelli, who has been on the UB baseball staff since the fall of 2009 and also serves as the University's director of the Wheeler Recreation Center, takes over from John Anquillare, who led program for the past nine seasons.

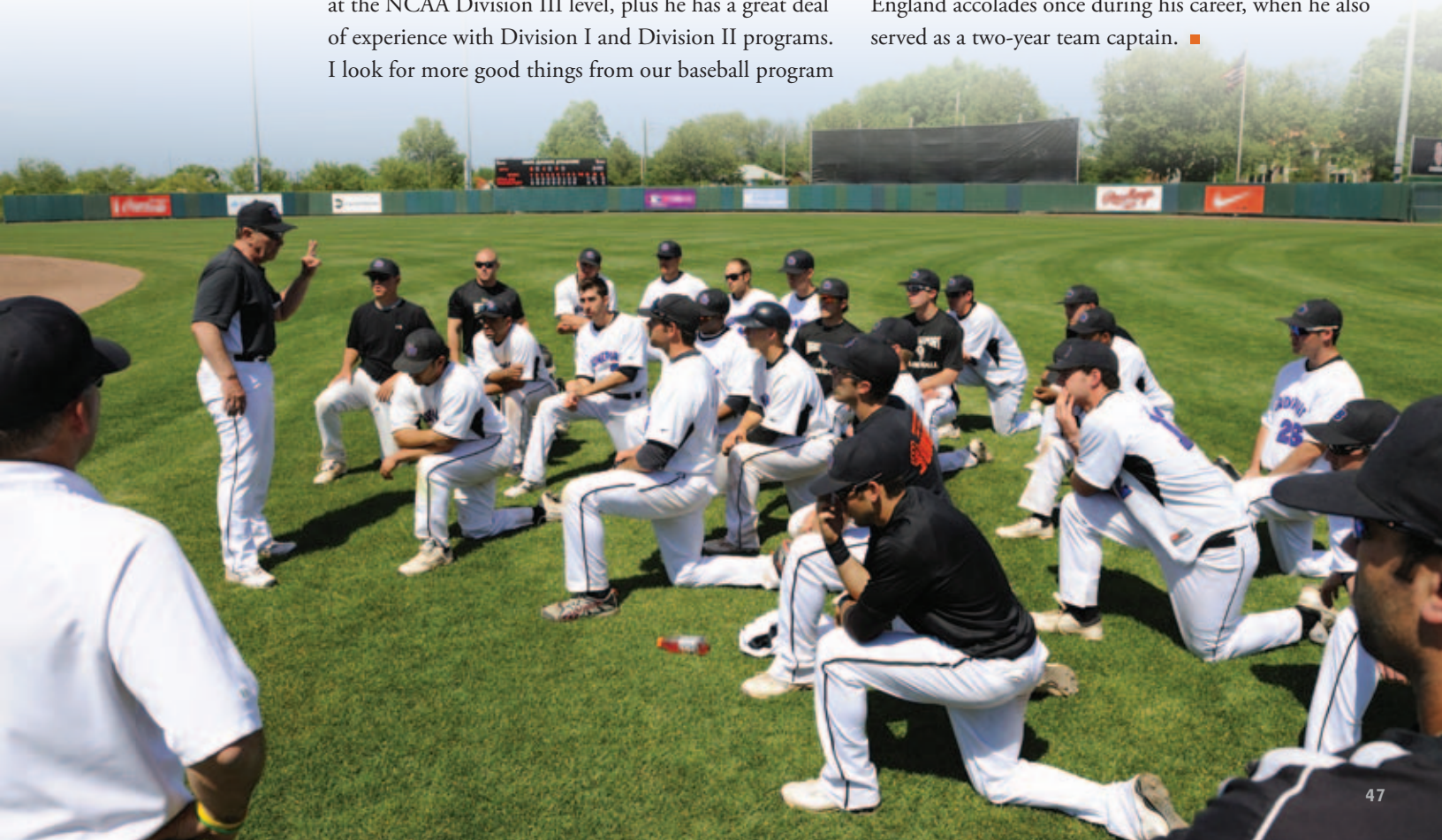
"I can think of no better person to keep our baseball program moving in the right direction than Joe Tonelli," said Moran. "He has been an integral part of a team that reached the conference tournament finals in the past two years and set a school record for wins in 2011. His baseball knowledge is impeccable, having served as a head coach at the NCAA Division III level, plus he has a great deal of experience with Division I and Division II programs. I look for more good things from our baseball program



in the coming years, and I see coach Tonelli as the leader to take us to another level."

Before coming to Bridgeport in 2009, Tonelli served as assistant baseball coach at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut, from 2005-2009. Previously, he helped start the baseball program at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut, serving as the Falcons' head coach from 1990-2003. During his time at Albertus, the team won two conference titles, and he was twice named conference Coach of the Year.

Tonelli is a 1990 graduate of Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he was a standout third baseman for the Greyhounds earning All-Northeast Ten conference honors twice and First Team All-New England accolades once during his career, when he also served as a two-year team captain. ■



Side Lines

For Gaetano Giunta, baseball runs in the family

The 2011 UB grad hopes his days as a Purple Knight and current spot on an independent team will launch him into the major leagues.

By Mike Patrick

Gaetano Giunta has been playing baseball for more than 21 years. That's quite an accomplishment, considering he's only 24 years old now.

But the 2011 UB graduate and infielder for the New Jersey Jackals pro team comes from a long line of high school and college ballplayers who made sure that, even at the tender age of two-and-a-half, he knew his way around the bases.

"It just runs in my family. My brother, my uncle—they all played in high school and college,"

Giunta said. "It basically is our family sport."

Giunta's high school play was impressive enough to score him a place on the Purple Knights roster on a baseball scholarship.

"We had an awesome team; we actually broke the school record for wins," Giunta said of his senior year. "If I had to pick one memory, it would be that year. It was an amazing year."

Giunta was part of the team that won the playoffs and made it to the championships.

Those days, he said, a lot of the baseball players rented houses on the beach in Milford, and exercised together.

"We all worked out at the same time; there was a lot of interaction," he said. "That was a lot of fun, being able to hang out and be productive at the same time."

And Giunta was certainly productive, said Jay Moran, UB's director of athletics.

"He was an exceptional player and leader on the field," Moran said. "I'm not surprised or shocked he's playing on another level because he's got the ability and drive to do it."

Giunta scored academically, too, earning a degree in advertising and marketing he hopes to someday pair with his baseball interests.

"I'm looking at maybe promoting major league baseball or advertising major league baseball internationally," he said. "I loved that UB wasn't too big of a school. No matter where you went, you knew somebody. It was like a little community and a big family."

As a Purple Knight, Giunta was scouted and earned tryouts with the Boston Red Sox and Philadelphia Phillies. Without a major league offer, Giunta ended up on the spring training roster of the Bridgeport Bluefish, an independent pro club that plays at Harbor Yard, a stone's throw from the UB campus.



Hitting it big: Gaetano Giunta dazzled as a member of the UB men's baseball team; now he's in the minor leagues.



But, Giunta said, that was just about the time Pedro López, a minor-leaguer who had a few major-league games under his belt, found his way to the Bluefish, too. The Bluefish went for the big name and sent Giunta on his way. But they didn't just kick him to the curb.

"When they were releasing me, they wanted to send me somewhere so I could keep playing," he said. "They sent me over to the New Jersey Jackals, who needed an infielder. They signed me, so it kind of worked out."

"Kind of" is kind of an understatement.

Giunta's Brooklyn, New York, home is just 30 minutes away from Yogi Berra Stadium, the ballfield at Montclair State University in Little Falls, New Jersey, where the Jackals play.

That's convenient not only for him, but for his biggest fans—his baseball-loving family.

"They all love it. They're coming to my games as much as they can," Giunta said. "This is something I've been pursuing my whole life. They're really happy I got picked up."

And the Jackals are glad to have him.

"Great hustle, great grit," Jackals field manager Joe Calfapietra described "G.G.," as his team calls him. "He works extremely hard at what he does and constantly works to get better at his craft. It's a pleasure to have him around."

Although the Jackals have no major-league affiliation—the team is part of the independent Canadian-American Association of Professional Baseball (known as the "Can-Am League")—Giunta has his sights set on larger stadiums, like that famous one in the Bronx.

"That's my goal," he said. "In this league, a lot of guys get signed on affiliated teams. That's the whole point of this league."

Moran said the baseball program at UB prepares its players to move on to higher-level teams because the division II teams the Purple Knights play are very competitive.

"It gives you an arm up to go pro," he said. "Guys like Gaetano are setting a path for other players to be selected." ■

Giunta in the infield at Yogi Berra Stadium in Little Falls, New Jersey, where he recently signed on with the Jackals

Side Lines

Seventh Heaven

Seven not-to-miss events for the Purple Knights in 2012-13

By Chuck Sadowski

1

The men's soccer team is the first squad to see 2012 regular-season action on campus as head coach Brian Quinn and his charges host the UB Classic at Knights Field on Thursday, August 30 and Saturday, September 2. Joining Bridgeport in season-opening action will be LIU Post, Wilmington, and Bloomfield. Matches get underway each day at 4 p.m.

2

After being ranked number one in the nation for six weeks and making their fifth consecutive trip to the NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament in 2011, the Bridgeport women's soccer team opens its 2012 home schedule against Queens College on Wednesday, September 19 at 6 p.m.

3

The 16th Annual University of Bridgeport Department of Athletics Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 24 at the Race Brook Country Club in Orange, Connecticut. The event begins with a shotgun start at noon. For more information please contact Pete Doneit at (203) 576-4017 or pdoneit@bridgeport.edu.

4

After defeating the University of New Haven on the Chargers' home court to win the 2011 NCAA Division II East Regional Title, head coach Leo Uzategui and his volleyball team will host UNH in Hubbell Gym on Thursday, October 11 at 7 p.m. The Purple Knight spikers will host arch East Coast Conference rival Dowling College on Tuesday, October 16 at 7 p.m.

5

The East Coast Conference continues to expand. After adding the University of the District of Columbia last season, Roberts Wesleyan College from Rochester, New York, becomes the conference's tenth member this fall. The Redhawks will make their first appearance in the Park City for a men's and women's soccer double header on Sunday, October 14. The RWC volleyball team comes to town the following Sunday, October 21.

6

The UB women's and men's basketball teams will both open their 2012-13 seasons by hosting four-team tournaments on Saturday, November 10 and Sunday, November 11. Games will be played at noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. each day. Joining the Bridgeport women will be Wilmington, St. Michael's College, and Molloy. The men will host Adelphi, Goldey-Beacom, and Southern Connecticut State.

7

After winning the program's fourth consecutive USA Gymnastics Collegiate Team National Championship at home in April 2012, the University of Bridgeport women's gymnastics team will look for one for the thumb at the 2013 at the 2012 USAG National Championship hosted by Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. The 2013 National Championship is tentatively scheduled to be held from April 11-13, 2013.

Book Lines

Lune de Miel, the latest chapbook by **Amy Nawrocki**, an award-winning poet and senior lecturer at the University, was published by Finishing Line Press on August 31.

Filled with descriptions of Paris as seen and experienced by two honeymooners, *Lune de Miel* was inspired by Nawrocki's own honeymoon to the City of Light in 2008 with her husband, the writer Eric Lehman, who also teaches at UB's English Department.

"We made a point of following the footsteps of artists and writers who had gone before us [and] we took time to write every day," says Nawrocki. "I always keep a travel journal, but I knew I wanted to get a collection of Paris poetry out of it."



That trip—with its pilgrimages to landmarks and great art, and exploratory meanderings through the avenues and bars of Montparnasse, the Latin Quarter, and other locales favored by writers Ernest Hemingway, James Joyce, Anais Nin, and Henry Miller—does not unfurl in *Lune de Miel* with the frenzied swirl of action one typically associates with travel. Instead, Nawrocki's poems are filled with detail that is patient, evocative, and almost holy.

"My husband closes his book; we leave on the table / a handprint of coins and a pocket of space," writes Nawrocki in "History of a Table," a poem that was inspired after spending an afternoon writing in a bar where Henry Miller once drank.

Or later, as the honeymooners wander out to see the Eiffel Tower in "The Price":

Small puffs of tea-light clouds succumb to blue,
collect like posies and rebuff the Paris cold.
We tumble out from the red café, two fools
on honeymoon, and with afternoon gilding
into evening,
we clasp hands and escape
toward the Seine.

"Writing for me is akin to taking a photograph," says Nawrocki. "You can capture a place visually, and often emotionally, by writing. You slow down."

– Reviewed by Leslie Geary

Aphrodite's Reach

The arms and hands of Venus de Milo
have never been found, lost limbs
left behind to rubble away and erode
without her. Her stumps draw out gazes,
but imagine the placement of those boughs:
how would they reach?—akimbo in boredom,
or outstretched calming the lover
she's refused; perhaps they'd shield
her eyes from the bright burden
of history, or raise a fist to the crowds
who feign to adore her.

– Amy Nawrocki



Closing Thought:

Conversing with the World By Amy Nawrocki

On a slim bookshelf in the corner of the room, I spy the bright green cover of *Letters to a Young Artist*. It's a collection of letters written by established artists offering advice to a young novice. On page 69 I find sculptor John McCracken telling me: "You can't be completely alive unless you're conversing with the world."

This conversation begins in the immediate space of my office. I watch two blue jays interact outside my window; their prattling purposeful since a nest's exact construction is at stake. The computer hums, the cat purrs. Framed on the wall, Seurat's moody model contemplates something I want to ask her about. All these conversations around me, and none of us (save the jays) open a mouth. There's a lot of listening, though.

As a poet, I seek to converse with the world through art. In literature and in writing, the conversation begins when the writer settles on words. She interviews these words, analyzing and evaluating which of them is the best fit for the end result—the story, the poem, the essay, the e-mail. At this stage it's essentially one-sided. But this is the baseline from which those "truer" conversations, those that engage "the world," are begun. The reader picks up the thread, and if the work is successfully rendered, she is prompted by inquiry to say something back. Whether the answer is a question, the beginnings of an argument, relevant or tangential, what matters is the prompting of a potential partnership. In the best scenario, the conference is open; others join in.

McCracken's counsel is unfortunately out of context: the reader doesn't have the original correspondence to refer to. The dialogue is a monologue. Thus reading these letters becomes an exercise in deduction, to puzzle out what inquiries the young artist started with. The advice seems to exist in an ethereal world without prompts—like a message from God. This, too, is important. From the perspective of a literary exercise, it's beneficial *not* to have the writer tell us what she meant. We're better thinkers for it, even if we're sometimes frustrated, wishing for the explicit answer.

We have more means of conversing with the world than ever before (computers, televisions, phones), and multiple venues (the office, home, school) compete for our time and for our voice. In real time, I can chat by videophone with friends in New Zealand or catch up through an almost defunct landline with old classmates in Arkansas. Seemingly, these live conversations are reserved as special because increasingly they are rare.

More often, I'm posting, starting the parley by e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, and texting. In an instant I can engage in an electronic conversation and both reach the singular, intimate listener, and canvass the collective, far away readers whose numbers are limitless. This is the artist's dream. There are no longer boundaries to conversing with the world.

However, I wonder about these larger-reaching conversations. How alive are we when our talkative natures manifest as one-way exchanges where the response is held off (momentarily perhaps) by the send button? Even our language has changed. Our verbs are active ("text me later"), though strangely transitive ("Google that recipe," "I'll Skype you when I get home tonight"). Someone or something (or we ourselves) becomes the object, the thing acted upon. Are we kidding ourselves that we're conversing more, engaging more, feeling more alive? And because we're expecting the immediate response, when do we take the time to listen?

As a teacher, I seek out discourse and encourage, as Socrates taught us, the art of inquiry. We set up the classroom as a place for the open exchange of ideas. These are the foundations for conversing with the world, and I believe this is the heart of what education can provide for us. When we come together in the classroom, we have the opportunity to evaluate both sides of the conversation, but we can only do this through listening. As our means of conversing become enriched, more than ever we need to reinforce the skills necessary for both sides of the exchange to be meaningful. We must teach not only how to ask the right questions to open the forum but also the art of listening, the art of being patient, of truly loving the silence of the inner monologue before we cast off gibberish that amounts to nothing more than noise. Practicing this, we can enhance the conversation, and become more alive in doing so.

I'm still waiting on the blue jays to tell me the secret to building a beautiful, functional nest. And Seurat's woman is as mute as the ink she's printed with. But they are great company, and in the end, listening to a variety of voices, wherever they may come from, is as much a part of this give and take. If we're lucky, the world e-mails us back.

Amy Nawrocki began conversing with the world when she was a girl—kicking up leaves and telling moon stories on the walk home from the bus stop. ■





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