



UNIVERSITY OF  
BRIDGEPORT

Opening doors. Building futures.



2009 Annual Report

## The University of Bridgeport

The University of Bridgeport offers career-oriented undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees and programs for people seeking personal and professional growth. The University promotes academic excellence, personal responsibility, and commitment to service. Distinctive curricula in an international, culturally diverse supportive learning environment prepare graduates for life and leadership in an increasingly interconnected world. The University is independent and non-sectarian.

*— Adopted by the Board of Trustees on April 23, 2004*



**President and Mrs. Neil Albert Salonen**

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# Impact

## Making an Impact

For over eight decades, the University of Bridgeport has exerted a significant impact on thousands of lives. Whether through the direct effect of education on undergraduate and graduate students, or through the indirect effect on students' families, local businesses, and residents of the city, state, and region, UB has made differences that are truly remarkable.

Some of our students are the first in their families to attend college; the power of this life-altering experience is enormous. Some students return to studies that were interrupted years ago; for them, re-entering student life, whether full- or part-time, is powerful. Some students attend UB to pursue a specific educational goal or professional certification; the results of their focused learning and commitment to a profession are immeasurable. Each of our students, including the largest class of incoming freshmen in nearly 20 years in 2009-10, has a story to tell of the impact education has made in their lives.

The University of Bridgeport offers career-oriented programs on a solid liberal arts base, which is of critical importance for today's generation of goal-minded students. In addition, the total learning experience at UB is characterized by remarkable diversity, which mirrors the world our students are preparing to enter. Faculty, students, and our loyal alumni collaborate in creating a dynamic academic environment, where excellence is fostered and every opportunity for enrichment is thoroughly explored. Through innovative mentoring and individualized attention, every student is encouraged to achieve his or her personal best. Programs like the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching and the Academic Resource Center help students gain crucial analytic and social skills that will serve them during their college years and beyond.

Through prudent fiscal stewardship and rigorous commitment to our strategic plan, UB's finances remain stable, even as we add new programs, enrich academics, and upgrade our facilities. The University, through its payroll, spending, and alumni, has a \$438 annual million positive impact on the city and state. We are proud of our financial contribution, and prouder still of our splendid community of hard-working men and women whose contributions of time and talent shape not only the city of Bridgeport and the state of Connecticut, but the world, as well.

The top priority of the University of Bridgeport always has been—and always will be—our students. Finding the financial resources to help our deserving students achieve their academic goals has been a challenge. It is, however, a challenge we are absolutely committed to meeting. By carefully managing tuition increases and significantly increasing financial aid, UB remains one of the most affordable of all private institutions of higher learning in the region.

UB is dedicated to forging links between funders and students, providing access to a wide range of competitive grants, scholarships, and work-study programs. Financial aid officers work with students individually, to better understand each student's unique needs. A new graduate assistantship program has been launched, allowing students to qualify for aid in their first semester of graduate work. Special programs for veterans have been instituted, in cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, to cover full undergraduate fees and tuition for qualifying students.

UB is also working with forward-thinking foundation, corporate, and individual donors to expand the establishment of a wide variety of scholarship funds. All of these initiatives will help achieve our goal of maintaining—and increasing—UB's ability to support students.

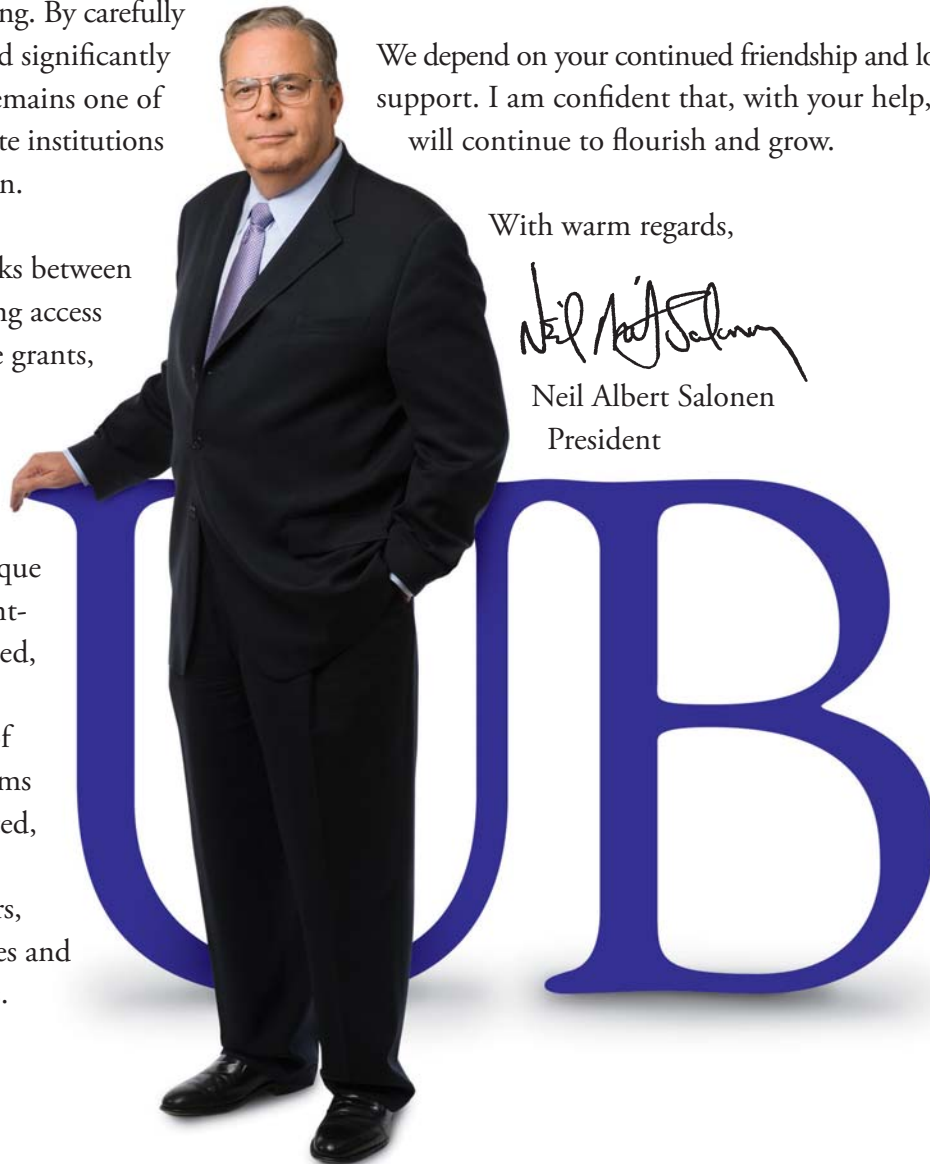
In these pages, you will learn of successful alumni, dedicated faculty, committed students, talented athletes, and institutional investments in cutting-edge technologies, programs, and services. The University of Bridgeport is weathering the currently uncertain economic climate through diligent attention to financial, social, and academic obligations. UB is working—and working hard—to build on past successes, and to forge a stable, bright future for our remarkable institution.

We depend on your continued friendship and loyal support. I am confident that, with your help, UB will continue to flourish and grow.

With warm regards,



Neil Albert Salonen  
President






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

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– Congressman Jim Himes

# Impact

## Making a Financial Impact

Fluctuating stock markets. Newly released housing reports. Shifting interest rates. Perhaps no other year in recent history has focused as much attention on finances as the past 12 months.

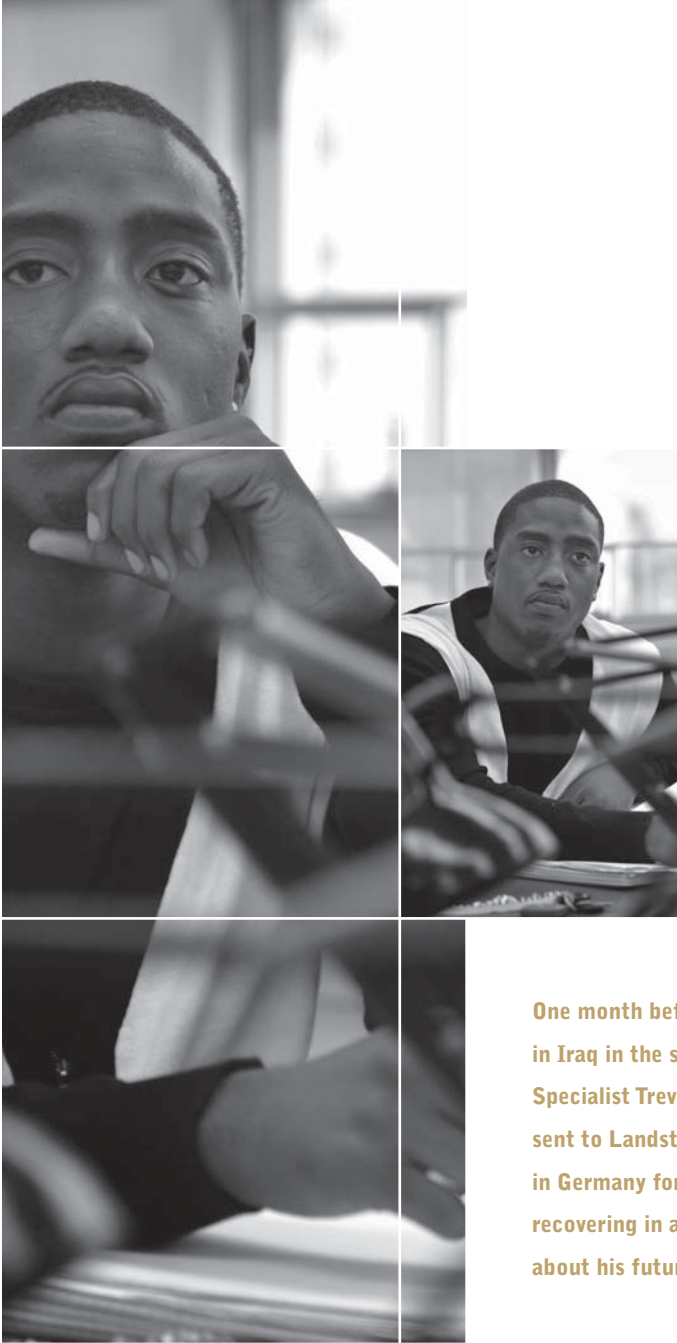
The University of Bridgeport has always been keenly aware that economics have an immediate and personal effect on the daily lives and long-term dreams of our students, staff, and faculty. As one of the largest employers in the region, whose graduates work in industries around the world, we also know that the University has enormous potential to shape the financial landscape in Bridgeport and beyond.

How significant is our impact? We hired economist Kevin Stokes to tally UB's financial contributions. His report, *UB: An Economic Impact Study*, released in early 2009, details our local economic importance:

- The University drives \$438 million annually into Connecticut's economy.
- Our students, employees, and alumni pump \$177.1 million into the state's income per year through direct and indirect spending.
- More than 17,000 alumni reside, live, and work in Connecticut, contributing \$214 million annually to the state's economy.
- UB provides \$37.3 million in social benefits to Connecticut and its residents.

Despite the economic challenges of the past year, UB remains one of New England's fastest-growing universities. Total enrollment for 2008-09 soared 12 percent to more than 5,300 students, and as we grow, so does our impact. As Congressman Jim Himes (D-Conn.) stated after touring the campus this spring: "The University of Bridgeport provides the opportunity for top-notch career training right in the city's backyard. These facilities, educators, and programs are great assets to our job creation and education efforts in Bridgeport and the surrounding communities."

We are not, however, immune to the financial uncertainty now challenging other institutions of higher education. But by hewing to our strategic plan, our finances remain strong, even as we expand, enhance academic programming, and upgrade infrastructure. Capital improvements made over the past year have visibly transformed the campus and improved our efficiency. To that end, we are collaborating with utility companies United



Illuminating and Southern Connecticut Gas, investing \$3.5 million in upgrades that already have earned the University \$325,000 in rebates from the state's Clean Energy Fund. These partnerships are only the beginning. New energy-efficient windows and boilers in classroom buildings and residence halls, and state-of-the-art lighting in the College of Chiropractic, are among the many changes that will improve our environmental footprint and generate considerable savings for years to come.

### **Increasing financial aid, assisting families**

Our disciplined approach to improving the campus infrastructure ensures that UB will continue to leverage finances to help students to the fullest extent possible. We are well aware that now more than ever many families are struggling to keep the dream of a college education alive for their children. To assist

**One month before his tour of duty ended in Iraq in the spring of 2008, U.S. Army Specialist Trevor King, 22, was injured and sent to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for surgery. It was there, while recovering in a hospital bed and thinking about his future, that he decided to enter**

**the medical field and become an anesthesiologist. "I've always liked to help people," says King. "After five years in the military, I was ready to go to college." King's full tuition is being paid through the Yellow Ribbon Program for veterans who served after 9/11 and UB matching funds.**





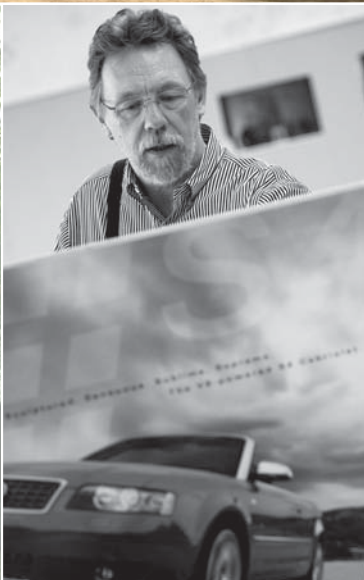
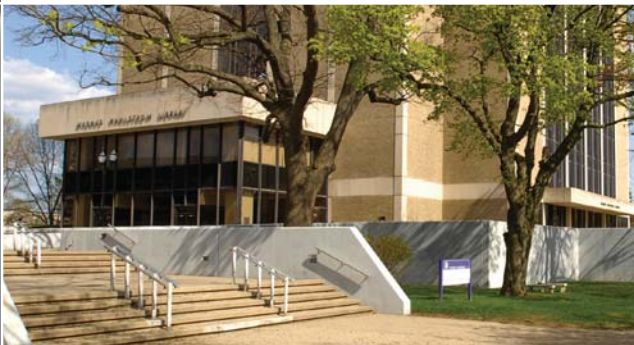
them, UB significantly increased its funding for undergraduate financial aid by over 18 percent for the 2009-10 academic year. Financial aid officers also began providing more one-to-one assistance, and students now receive counseling in person, on the phone, and even via the Internet, making it easier for them to apply for competitive grants, scholarships, and work-study opportunities that help make college a reality.

At the same time, the University unveiled new financial aid programs for graduate students. Among them: a new assistantship program that, starting in the fall 2009, enables graduate-level business and engineering students to reduce their tuition by up to \$5,000 annually. And as part of our participation in the national Yellow Ribbon Program, which provides tuition assistance for veterans who served after 9/11, the University began matching funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover full undergraduate tuition and fees for those veterans who qualify.

### **Putting students to work, helping companies grow**

Through generations, UB students have distinguished themselves with a desire to soar professionally. Engineers, doctors, and executives have long taken the University's weekend, evening, and online classes to earn advanced degrees, all while juggling the demands of work and family. Arriving freshmen are frequently the first in a family to attend college, and their academic achievement bears significant economic promise for their personal futures and for the ones they love. Veterans have come to UB to restart their civilian lives in our classrooms.

For all, our mission is simple: provide a career-oriented education that empowers every student to work toward a bright future. It's a mission that translates to more than \$386.3 million per year. That's the earnings impact of the 32,000 UB alumni currently residing in the United States, according to *UB: An Economic Impact Study*.



Even before they graduate, our students boast the skills, innovation, and talent that capture notice of companies that offer internships, part-time jobs, and co-operative work opportunities. Connections between UB and the professional world are strengthened at various departments, such as the College of Chiropractic, the Fones School of Dental Hygiene, the School of Business, and the School of Education, which all require students to work in their chosen fields in order to graduate. As they enter the workforce, students are encouraged by staff and professors, who promote them for jobs and other professional opportunities. The Cooperative Internship Program is part of this support network, and in 2008-09 it

placed 750 graduate and undergraduates in paying jobs that enabled students to earn classroom credit and gain invaluable work experience.

Employers benefit, too. The dedication and skills that UB students bring to their jobs have helped a countless number of firms remain competitive. And it's why employers return to UB to hire tomorrow's brightest workers. Yet our financial impact yields accomplishments that cannot be measured by salaries and jobs alone. As the following report demonstrates, the University's impact is felt in innumerable and lasting ways.

**As the world's leading accounting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers has its pick when it comes to hiring the best minds in business. And when recruiter Daniel Mastacciola visits schools to find tomorrow's top talent, he makes sure to include UB's School of Business on his rounds. Speaking with professors, he**

**says, "I find out who their best students are. Those recommendations are always spot on."**

**Those trusted referrals have proven fruitful for students and PricewaterhouseCoopers alike. Mastacciola typically recruits eight to ten UB students a year for sought-after winter and summer internships at the firm's tax and insurance divisions in Stamford, Connecticut.**

**"It's highly competitive to get the internships," says Mastacciola. "People**

**aren't here just to fill seats. Interns are rated based on a number of factors, from their ability to be team players and work independently, to their dedication. UB students come in very prepared."**

**Their superlative performance pays off: UB interns have gone on to work for the company, and their consistently high ratings have kept the door open for other students to participate in the internship program year after year.**



# Impact

## Making an Academic Impact

In the past year, the University of Bridgeport has opened the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, funded nearly \$100,000 in faculty research grants, and launched teaching partnerships and enrichment classes at area schools and other institutions throughout Connecticut. These educational opportunities do far more than energize the immediate UB campus; they reflect our commitment to provide educational resources for newly arrived freshman, senior faculty members, visiting scholars, and hundreds of others whose lives are enriched by their connections with UB.

### **Student and faculty: enhancing fundamentals**

Great education begins with great teachers. And with an intimate 15-to-1 student-teacher ratio, UB is a community where every student receives personalized attention. Athletes hone their performances under the encouraging watch of coaches. Graduate students work alongside professors. And new students find dedicated guidance from faculty and staff.

To enhance these personal connections, to provide faculty professional development, and to increase student success, the Center for Excellence in Learning

and Teaching (CELT) was opened in the fall of 2008. Located in Wahlstrom Library, the physical heart of the campus, CELT equips professors with resources to better help those students who require extra academic guidance. This year it resonated with energy as faculty from all academic departments, many of whom had never worked together previously, joined in workshops, exchanged ideas, and learned about new teaching practices that help students in fresh, innovative ways. CELT also is providing tools to help improve student retention, such as an online tracking system that analyzes data, including grades and attendance records, to identify students as soon as they begin to falter.



Helping students achieve excellence is a responsibility shared by all of our staff and faculty, and they encourage in ways that reflect their broad experiences. For women's gymnastics coach Byron Knox, getting students to perform their best boils down to a simple formula: believe in them.

Knox's unwavering faith in his team helped the Purple Knights win the 2009 U.S.A. Gymnastics Collegiate Team National Championships for the first time in the school's history.



It was a stunning victory. "No one gave UB a chance. Everyone was surprised," said Knox. "But I knew we could do it."

A maverick in the coaching world, Knox didn't assign his athletes to their usual routines, but instead asked each woman what she wanted to learn. His contagious belief in the possibility of personal best,

combined with many hours of disciplined practice, helped team members perfect new routines and soar to the top. And when they did, others believed anything is possible, too.

Because learning also takes place outside of classrooms, the University opened the First Year Achievement Floor (FYA) at Barnum Residence Hall. Home to 60 freshmen who live, socialize, and work under the guidance of a resident director, FYA is a community within the larger UB community. Students who choose to live on the floor study together at mandatory homework sessions and receive personalized help from resident advisers, tutors, career counselors, and other staff. At the same time, students enjoy social time and special programs that ease the transition to college, enhance bonds, and encourage freshmen to stay fast to their goal of graduation.

### **Faculty awards and success**

Research elevates scholarship on campus and enables faculty to make lasting contributions to their fields. To help our professors, the University this year unveiled Seed Money Research Grants for Faculty.

Totaling \$99,636, the grants funded 23 projects for the spring and fall 2009 semesters, and are overseen by the Division of Graduate Studies and Research and the Faculty Research Council. Funding of early-stage research is important because it enables our professors to develop applications for much larger federal, state, or private grants to advance studies in their fields. Recipients of the new grants represent all academic departments—from mechanical engineering to biology, business, and international relations.

Our professors' achievements have drawn notice outside of UB, too, and many were honored this year by prestigious academic organizations. For the third time, the U.S. Department of Education awarded its highly competitive Fulbright-Hayes Fellowship to Yanmin Yu, a professor of mass communications at the International College, enabling her to study the role of the media in socioeconomic development in Senegal.

The Northeast Chapter of the American Society of Engineering Education named Xingguo Xiong, an assistant professor of electrical engineering, its 2009 Engineering Professor of the Year. In awarding him its highest teaching honor, the group praised Xiong's innovation and inspiration to students. And the Council on Chiropractic Education invited Dr. Pamela Tunnell, from the College of Chiropractic, to serve on the committee responsible for accrediting all doctoral chiropractic programs in the United States.

### **Health partnerships**

As UB faculty lend their expertise to the academic community, they bring honor to the University and highlight their impressive reach. UB's contributions increased considerably, too, this year as faculty and student interns from our Colleges of Chiropractic and Naturopathic Medicine began attending observation rotations and case presentations during daily grand rounds at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport.

The program presents UB interns with experience in an acute-care environment and gives St. Vincent's physicians and residents a better understanding of integrative medicines. This collaboration also sets new standards for education excellence in the medical community, which is seeking to provide treatment options for both preventive and chronic care.

We look forward to many more joint ventures with St. Vincent's, including an exciting new physician's assistant master's degree track due to begin in 2011. The relationship with St. Vincent's builds upon the University's established intern and residency programs with other medical institutions throughout Connecticut, including Veterans Administration Hospital in West Haven, Integrative Medical Center at Griffin Hospital in Derby, and Yale-New Haven and Norwalk Hospitals.

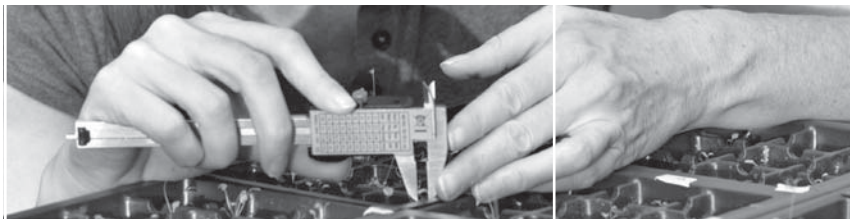
What is it specifically that enables some plants to deal with climate fluctuations more effectively than others?

Answering that question is a passion for biology professor Kathleen Englemann, who began tracking down answers after receiving one of 23 new University-funded Seed Money Research Grants.

Using hybrid strains of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, or Mouse-ear Cress, Englemann hopes to identify and isolate the genes that are responsible for the plant's ability to tolerate temperature changes. With so much focus on global warming, it's a popular and important area of research. But unlike other studies, which are conducted in climate-controlled environments, Englemann's research is done in conditions where

temperatures change as much as 40 degrees Fahrenheit in a day.

"The ability for plants to tolerate fluctuations in temperature has a tremendous impact on agriculture, on medicinal plants, crop material, and wild plants and conservation issues," she says. "With climate change, knowing how plants adapt becomes more and more imperative."



### Work with K-12 schools

At UB, the promise of education belongs to students of all ages—to the grandmother reaching a long-held goal of earning a bachelor's degree through our IDEAL program, to the sales rep earning an MBA, to hundreds of Bridgeport school children, who are given a peek at college life through an abundance of programs both on and off our campus.

In the fall 2008, Columbus School temporarily relocated to a former University building that had been purchased by the Bridgeport school system. Transformed into gleaming new classrooms, a cavernous gymnasium, cafeteria, and library, this so-called swing school will house Columbus School while the district renovates its permanent home.

The move did more than provide physical space for crowded elementary school classes: its proximity to UB provided for rich educational opportunities that no one envisioned. UB's international students began teaching Chinese language classes, and have started similar courses at other Bridgeport schools. Our UB education majors ran math camps. University English professor and award-winning

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“The University of Bridgeport students who taught the Chinese program at Columbus School not only were outstanding teachers, they were wonderful role models for our students. Their lessons were creative, pertinent, and always fun. Our students learned valuable lessons that will hopefully last a lifetime, and that go far beyond the Chinese phrases, numbers, and intonations that were described in the lesson plans. They learned that it’s not so difficult to form relationships with people from another culture on the other side of the world. They learned that humor and thoughtfulness can translate easily into any language. They learned that learning itself is highly valued in other countries. In short, they have taken some beginning steps toward becoming citizens of the world. Columbus School was indeed fortunate to have worked with this group. They will always have a place in our memory and in our hearts.”

– Columbus School Principal Manuel Rocha to Dr. William Jassey, Director of International Programs at UB School of Education and Human Resources

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poet Amy Nawrocki led creative writing workshops with the school’s second- and sixth-grade students. And each Friday, a different class from Columbus ate lunch at Marina Dining Hall as guests of UB.

For most of the youngsters, the lunches marked their first visit to a university, and the children were welcomed by our students, who answered many questions about college life. We are proud that between bites of sandwiches and snatches of conversation, UB served up something far more nourishing than lunch: potent reminders that for students who work hard and get a college education, the “maybes” and “it’s possibles” of childhood dreams do become real.

### **Gear-Up!**

University professors worked to improve the quality of education at other Bridgeport schools through initiatives such as Gear-Up! Funded with a \$6.8 million federal education grant and headed by Yale University, Gear-Up! is a partnership of area universities, including UB, working to prepare Bridgeport students for college. In its role, UB is responsible for improving teachers’ understanding of mathematics. Need for this work is bolstered by

numerous studies linking teacher comprehension with student performance and test scores.

Another one of our most successful education initiatives in Bridgeport remains the ConnCAP Pre-Engineering Program, which this summer caught the attention of Rep. Jim Himes, who visited the program as a potential national model. Open to Bridgeport middle and high school students, ConnCAP accepts young men and women who agree to take extra classes at UB in advanced mathematics, robotics, physics, engineering, and chemistry. The work pays off: 90 percent of graduating high school seniors who complete ConnCAP attend college.

The University’s academic reach also extended to 65 school districts across Connecticut and New York. This year, more than 200 of our graduate students clocked 1,100 hours teaching classes and working in administrative positions. This on-the-ground experience, a requirement for master’s degree candidates in education, assures that teacher training isn’t based on pedagogy alone, but remains fresh, inspired, and highly effective.





# Impact

## Making a Social Impact

In the spring, a canopy of cherry blossoms covers Park Avenue, creating a fragrant thoroughfare for thousands who walk and drive through campus on their way to Seaside Park. This parade of citizenry reflects the University's longstanding connection to the city: we are not an institution made separate by imposing gates or walls, but a place where ties to the community are strengthened daily.

Our global reach is reflected on campus. With students from more than 79 nations, ours is among the most diverse universities in the United States. Our numerous internships, exchanges, fellowships, and other professional programs encourage connections in Bridgeport and beyond. Well before they don cap and gown, our students are keenly aware that the work they do has a direct and important role in the community.

The University continues to build upon treasured partnerships with old friends and forge new relationships that underscore the powerful role that UB plays for so many.

Among our interactions:

- More than 1,000 students donated over 10,000 volunteer hours in 2008-09, preparing meals for the homeless, visiting the elderly, mentoring children, and providing other community services in cities and towns throughout Connecticut.
- Patient treatment and other health services valued at \$1.4 million were provided to the public through our naturopathy, dental hygiene, acupuncture, and chiropractic clinics in the past year.
- Research by UB professors is leading to the development of solutions to some of our most pressing problems—from advanced new biomedical devices for patient care to green technologies that reduce pollution.
- The University art gallery, sports facilities, and lecture halls were filled with visitors, scholars, musicians, and others participating in cultural and academic events open to the public.

## **Health Sciences: caring for others**

Bedside manner. For some, it's a quaint notion that recalls a time when doctors knew patients' names without referring to charts, and health care was dispensed with equal measures of skill and sympathy.

That hasn't changed at UB. Treatment rooms at our health clinics are equipped with the most modern medical equipment available, but the curricula for our dental hygiene, naturopathy, human nutrition, acupuncture, and chiropractic schools are firmly rooted in a longstanding commitment to provide personalized care that respects the dignity of patients.

As part of our commitment to service, Student Health Services kicked off the 2008-09 year with an expansive health fair in September that provided complimentary blood pressure screening, STD testing, vision screening, mammograms, low-cost cholesterol testing, and flu shots. The College of Chiropractic conducted free posture screenings. And Student Health Services teamed up with the Sickle Cell Disease Association's Southern Connecticut Chapter to provide free testing for the sickle cell trait, an indicator of the potentially life-threatening sickle cell disease.

At the same time, health sciences professors lent their expertise to numerous off-campus health initiatives. Dr. Anthony Lisi from the College of Chiropractic continued his work overseeing chiropractic care at Veterans Affairs hospitals across the United States. The University also cohosted the first ever Summer Family Wellness Program with the Bridgeport YMCA, taking aim at childhood obesity, a growing health crisis that has reached critical levels among the urban poor. And for the second summer in a row, Fones School of Dental Hygiene faculty, students, and alumni organized a mission to Roatan, an island off the coast of Honduras, to treat patients who don't

have access to dental care. Working in a makeshift clinic set up at a local social hall, the UB team provided fluoride treatments, oral health screenings, and cleanings, and donated toothbrushes to hundreds of patients, in just one week. Fones School also provided care for 13,000 Connecticut residents last year.

In recognition of its service, Fones received several grants to strengthen its impact. Among them: Connecticut Department of Social Services granted \$50,000 for Fones students and professors to treat students at the Tisdale Elementary School in Bridgeport. That program was launched in the fall semester 2009, further strengthening UB's role in community health care.

## **Coloring the arts**

The arts have long illuminated the campus and amplified UB's presence in the community. As alumni well remember, some of the most legendary artists and entertainers have graced performance spaces, the gallery, and studios at the Arnold Bernhard Arts and Humanities Center: Joan Fontaine. Alice Neel. Ossie Davis. Billy Crystal. Leonard Bernstein. Red Grooms. Aaron Copland.

Today, the Center still pulsates with creative energy at events, like the Greater Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra's Carlson-Horn Competition, which was held in the Center's Littlefield Recital Hall. Jeffrey Johnson, chair of the music department, served on the panel of judges. One of the nation's most prestigious competitions for young musicians, Carlson-Horn each year attracts dozens of performers from across the state who are connected by their passion for music. For many, the competition is a launching pad to professional careers, and past winners include the celebrated violinist Alexander Markov and cellist Allison Eldredge.

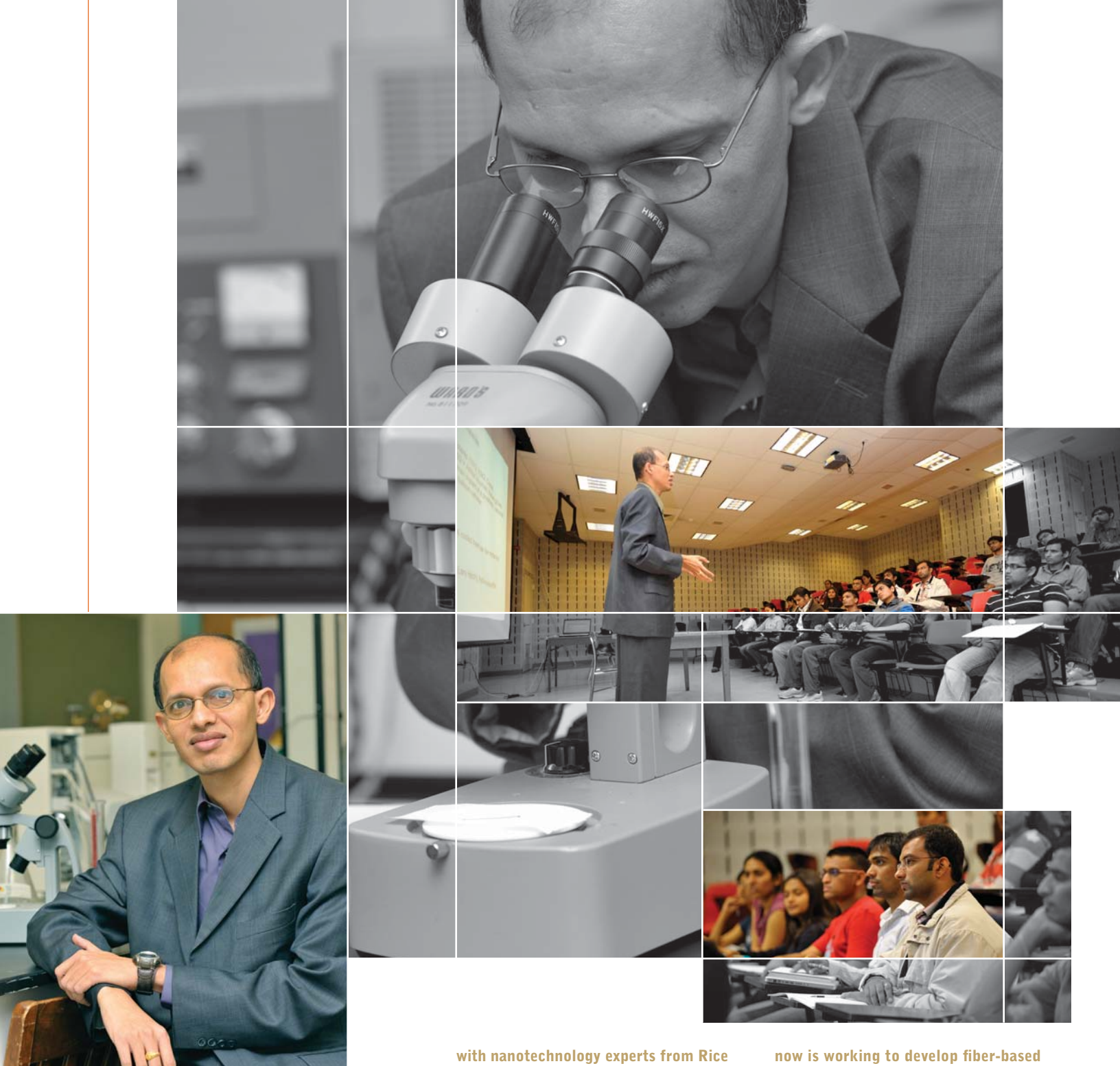
Arnold Bernhard Center's classrooms and studios are also home to professors, students, and returning alumni, whose creative visions shape the artistic landscape today. This year, the University honored one of those artists, Emmy Award-winning alumnus Russ Landau '77, whose original scores for hit shows like *Survivor* and *Lost* have set new musical standards for TV and the Big Screen. Far from playing a supporting part in film and television, Landau's music stars on its own as it transports audiences into worlds made more palpable and vibrant by its rhythms and tone.

Contributions to the arts, while typically made after years of dedicated work, are not exclusive to experts. In the University's industrial, interior, and graphic design programs, innovation and creativity are anchored by an emphasis on applying design to the marketplace. This focus on the practical places our students at the forefront of design even before they graduate. Connecticut's premier industry groups have acknowledged their excellence in competitions that are closely monitored by art directors searching for fresh talent. This year, they again selected UB students for awards: Abigail Zambon, a junior, captured the sought-after Student Prize from the Connecticut Art Directors Club. Senad Ibrahimbegovic, Luv Bajaj, and Kathie Cote won highly competitive awards from the Advertising Club of Connecticut.

Faculty, staff, and alumni who published new books in the past year did far more than entertain: they testified to the human experience and inspired readers. By telling the personal stories of some of Bridgeport's most celebrated citizens in *Bridgeport: Tales from the Park City*, Eric Lehman brought the city's glory days to life. In numerous appearances throughout Fairfield County, Lehman, a senior lecturer in the English Department, riveted audiences, who learned more about the city they call home. Alumna Linda Merlino '67, author of *Belly of the Whale*, was named runner-up



for the 2009 Connecticut Press Club Award for Best Fiction. Joseph Conlin, adjunct professor of English, was a finalist in three international writing competitions for his novel, *Orlando Tales*. And Sharmaine Himes, a secretary in the Admissions Office who is earning her bachelor's degree through the IDEAL program, conveyed the insight of a wise and knowing survivor in *Teach My Daughters to Fight*. An unvarnished recollection of a childhood rocked by violence and alcoholism, Himes created a better life for her daughters and wrote her remarkable memoir to give hope to others.



At UB, Professor Prabir Patra is pioneering research in the fast-growing field of biomedical engineering. His work includes developing nanostructured scaffolds from polymers to generate artificial skin cells for the treatment of burn victims. Dr. Patra, who directs UB's Biomedical Engineering Program, also is collaborating

with nanotechnology experts from Rice University to create medical gels that may one day be used to detect tumors before releasing drugs in precise, controlled dosages to infected organs.

His work extends to environmental issues, too. Part of a team of researchers who recently received a \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, he

now is working to develop fiber-based nanotechnology to clean polluted ions and bacteria in water. This critical research may potentially address growing shortages of safe drinking water that are increasingly the main causes of disease, hunger, and poverty in much of the world.

## **Engineering a better future**

Accelerating its already breathtaking pace, the School of Engineering continued to amass honors and break records throughout 2008-09: It boasted more graduate students than any other engineering school in Connecticut, and now stands as the second-largest engineering school in New England. Its students captured the most prizes at the American Society of Engineering Education regional conference in the spring of 2009, when UB professor Dr. Navarun Gupta was appointed to head the society's Northeast Chapter. Engineering faculty opened a chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, headed up by Professor Jani Macari Pallis, a former investigator with NASA and the newly appointed Chair of the Technology Management Department.

Changes at the school perfectly reflect engineering's expanding role and growing importance in other fields. At UB, the Engineering School breaks tradition by encouraging students to merge several majors in interdisciplinary fields like nanotechnology, alternative and renewable energy engineering, information security, and intellectual property management. Today, UB is among the leaders in this new era of engineering.

That role was underscored by UB's prominence during several international conferences hosted by the school. Colloquiums such as the "Engineering in Greentech Innovation" in the spring of 2009 brought speakers from institutions such as Yale and Rutgers, who joined University faculty as they explored ways in which computer sciences and engineering can be used to reduce pollution, improve power generation, and make positive environmental changes. Other conferences at UB addressed equally critical issues, from mobile computing and sustainable development to the use of remote engineering and virtual instrumentation in industry.

Engineering also plays an increasing role in the field of medicine, and UB again is setting the pace with its Biomedical Engineering Program, which launched in the fall 2009. A sweeping, transdisciplinary field, biomedical engineering draws from nearly all areas of science, from biology to chemistry, electrical and mechanical engineering. Its potential applications are equally vast, and UB professors are developing a range of technology—from cameras that travel through and photograph the small intestine to tumor-detecting gels—that have the potential to help doctors better deliver care and treat patients.

## **The Business School: providing guidance in uncertain times**

The big names—Merrill, Bank of America, AIG—may be splashed on the front pages of the world's newspapers. But at the School of Business, focus also has been turned to the more than 329,000 family-run shops and small businesses that sustain much of the state's economy.

Throughout 2008-09, Business School faculty and students provided guidance and other assistance to help these small ventures navigate in choppy economic waters. Undergraduate marketing students developed free logos for start-ups. Over two dozen graduate students volunteered to provide administrative support for the Barnum Museum, Stanley Works, FactSet Research, and other businesses and non-profits.

The Business School also sponsored several events, including the 2008 National Small Business Innovation Research Conference. Attended by one-man start-ups to large multinationals, the NSBIR event each year attracts hundreds of participants seeking help with a range of issues related to growing their businesses: manufacturing, outsourcing, design, and intellectual property development. Business School Assistant Dean Ward Thrasher was among the experts invited to guide NSBIR participants and help them identify potential resources needed to grow their ventures.

Small businesses also got a helping hand when the Business School teamed up with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu to host the global consulting firm's 10th Annual IMPACT Day. Featuring a series of free seminars and workshops that were held at the University, IMPACT Day was specifically geared to helping entrepreneurs prosper by showing them how to better manage finances, use technology to increase profits, and leverage a host of other skills.

### **Alumni: inspiring change**

Sometimes it's a phone call. Other times, it's letters, e-mails—even neatly folded press clippings sent to us from across the country. News of UB graduates traveled far and fast this year as alumni made important and lasting social contributions with their time, expertise, and resources. And as it does every year, the University faced the formidable task of selecting a handful of these dedicated men and women for the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards. This year, the honors went to five:



**Ivan Barbalic '97** was just a teenager in the 1990s when his family sent him to Ansonia, Connecticut, to escape the war in his former homeland of Yugoslavia. Today, Barbalic serves as ambassador to the United Nations for Bosnia and Herzegovina, bringing with him a talent for politics that was first nurtured while he was at UB, serving as president of the Student Center Board of Directors. Formerly with George Soros's Open Society Institute, Barbalic is one of the youngest ambassadors ever appointed to the UN.



**Dennis L. Brotherton '86**, a diagnostics engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft, came to UB as a night student and earned both associate's and bachelor's degrees in physics. A longtime member of the University's Alumni Board of Directors, Brotherton has served as a leader in the Boy Scouts. His dedication to enriching the lives of the boys who participate in scouting has earned Brotherton the President's Award from the Boy Scouts Housatonic Council.



**Clayton A. Friedberg '84**, a CPA and member of the accounting firm Friedberg, Smith & Company, has close and lasting ties to the University and to



the City of Bridgeport. He is an adjunct professor of accounting and taxation, and for nearly 30 years has served on UB's auditing board. He has served on boards of the American Cancer Society, the Barnum Festival, United Way, and the Board of Finance in Redding, Connecticut.



**Merle Berke-Schlessel** '86 has devoted her professional life as a lawyer addressing some of the most pressing social issues of the day, from homelessness to strengthening families to education. She is President and CEO of United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, a former hearing officer for the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, and past Director of the New Haven-based Livable Cities Program.

We are proud to celebrate the contributions of these and other alumni, whose gifts continue to inspire, promote change, and lift the lives of others.



**Karen E. Smith Friedberg** '59, is the former Corporate and Alumni Relations Director for the University. An active community advocate, she is past Director of Development for Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut and serves on the boards of the Greater Bridgeport Symphony, the Girl Scout Council, Child Guidance Center, and the Bridgeport Regional Business Council.

Not long ago, restive teenagers in Queens, New York, with nothing but free time on their hands used to gather at the local library to fight and destroy property. Where others might have chased off a bunch of bored troublemakers, University alumnus **Lambert Shell** '92, took a far more radical approach: he created a youth program so innovative it enticed even the most cynical teenagers to come inside the library, stick around, and do something productive.

Shell's award-winning Youth Empowerment Program at the Queens New York Library now stands as a model for communities nationwide, and his work includes outreach

with kids ages 7 to 15. "Kids need someone to communicate with," says Shell, who received an honorary degree from University President Neil Salonen at the 2009 Commencement. "When a kid enters the library, the first thing I do is ask, 'How was your day? What's going on?'"

As the library's coordinator for youth enrichment programs, Shell has created for teenagers science-themed videoconferences conducted with zoos in Australia, workshops on community activism, creative writing classes, a computer cyber center, and workshops on health and stress management. There's even GED training for their parents.

Success is no stranger to Shell, who was one of UB's greatest basketball players and a three-time Division II All-American. As a senior he was named the NCAA Division II Player of the Year, and he led the Purple Knights to national championship games in 1991 and 1992. Not a traditional training ground for a career in education or libraries, but Shell's time on the court may have given him more credibility with kids than anything else. "I came to UB thinking, basketball, basketball, basketball," Shell told the Class of 2009 as he exhorted them to make their own impact. "But I left thinking, education, education, education."

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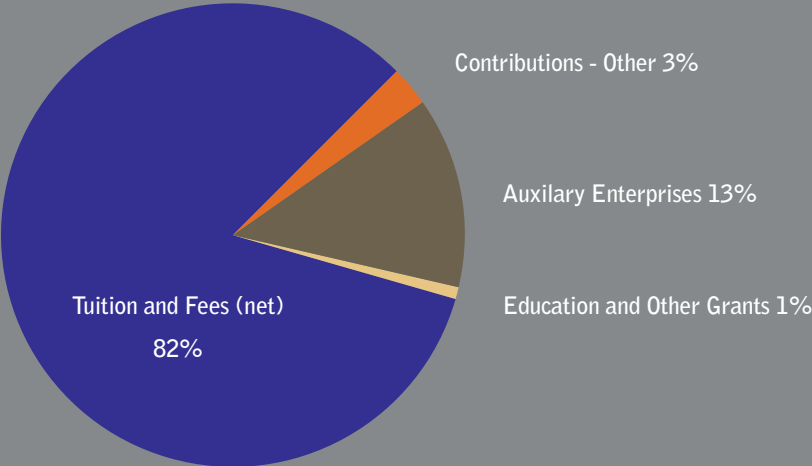
Despite myriad challenges, the University of Bridgeport has maintained stability in its finances through fiscal year 2008-09. We have continued to create new partnerships, launched a new program for graduate assistantships, and held enrollment steady. In the current volatile economic atmosphere, the University has continued to practice disciplined fiscal management, while working to meet the need for increased financial aid for our students. UB depends on the generous support of all of our dedicated partners—individuals, corporations, government sources, and foundations—who remain diligent in their collective commitment to the crucial mission of this institution. With our shared vision of continuing to provide first-class career-oriented educations for our current students, we are dedicated to working tirelessly to train a new generation of leaders.

## Consolidated Statement of Activities

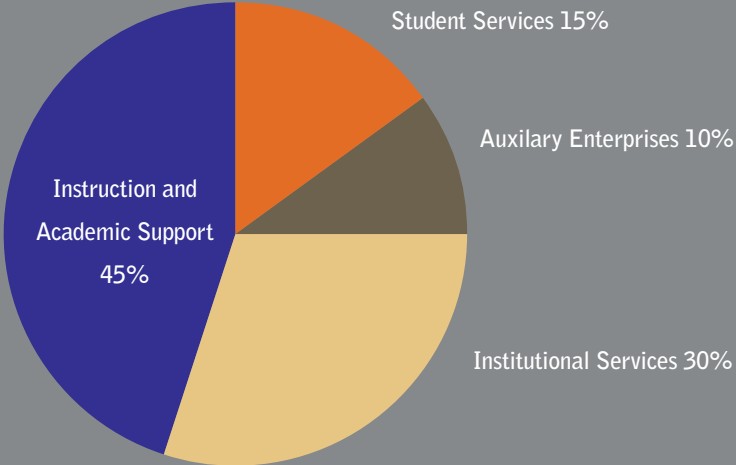
*Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009*  
*(Dollars in thousands)*

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
<b>Operating revenues:</b>			
Tuition and fees (net)	\$62,770	\$ —	\$62,770
Auxiliary enterprises	9,709	—	9,709
Contributions - other	1,043	—	1,043
Education and other grants	1,143	—	1,143
Interest and dividend income	352	—	352
Realized investment losses	(97)	—	(97)
Unrealized investment gains	(163)	—	(163)
Other additions	1,535	—	1,535
Released from restrictions	0	—	0
<b>Total revenues and net assets released from restrictions</b>	<u>\$ 76,292</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$76,292</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Instruction	\$29,905	\$ —	\$29,905
Academic support	3,059	—	3,059
Student services	11,186	—	11,186
Institutional services	21,164	—	21,164
Development	1,249	—	1,249
Auxiliary enterprises	7,110	—	7,110
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<u>\$73,673</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$73,673</u>
<b>Other gains and (losses) and other changes in net assets:</b>			
	<u>\$ 6,080</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 6,080</u>
Change in net assets	8,699	—	8,699
Net assets, Beginning of year	34,051	27	34,078
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$42,750</u>	<u>\$ 27</u>	<u>\$42,777</u>

# Operating Revenues



# Expenditures





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