

# UB Knightlines

The way  
we learn  
and live

What our classrooms and campus  
say about the people who learn,  
work, and teach at UB



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BRIDGEPORT**

Opening doors. Building futures.

ALSO INSIDE • Graduation '13 • In Situ • Spinning Kitchens, Sliding Walls

# President's Line

At Commencement we rush to bestow the last bits of wisdom we can upon graduates before they venture into the world. "Be proud," we tell them. "Make an impact. Follow your dreams."

At this time of year I can't help but adding another: Acknowledge your accomplishments.

As our graduates leave the stage to rush headlong into the world, toward newly minted careers or perhaps another round of higher education, it's easy to quickly forget the steps they took to get onto the stage in the first place. Who can blame them? So many of us hurry to tackle the next big thing. And while this drive is admirable—critical, even, to success—we too often neglect to give proper consideration to what's already been mastered.

The University's recent accomplishments deserve a moment of consideration, too, before we continue to work toward new levels of excellence. In the past year at the School of Engineering (SOE), for instance, our students won all of the awards for graduate research at the last regional American Society of Engineering Education's annual conference—an unprecedented milestone, never reached before by any other institution. Our students' success testifies to their innovative talents, the quality of their work, and their dedication – and to the ability of their supervisors as well. Teams of SOE students and faculty are working every day on cutting-edge ventures, such as the effort to develop a miniature model capable of flying 250 miles per hour while communicating with operators on the ground. They're also building small robotic devices designed to can accomplish a variety of tasks when combined. New funding from the Connecticut Space Grant Consortium is fueling various ventures, too. In fact, the Space Grant Consortium just awarded its annual Campus Director of the Year award to mechanical engineering professor Jani Pallis for increasing UB's participation in these important ventures with our national space agency. (See "Faculty Lines" on page 40 for details.)

Others are noticing these accomplishments—and they continue to approach UB to forge new partnerships. At the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design, students and their supervising adviser, Professor John Kandalraft, were recently tapped by a local developer to create a new generation of urban apartments for downtown Bridgeport (see "Sliding Doors" on page 22). SASD seniors Kevin Corrado, Kazuha Canak, and Jacob Cummings recently won top awards from Connecticut Art Directors Club.

Our Health Sciences programs continue to reap success. In May, after completing a grueling two-year program that prepares them to serve on the frontlines of health care, the first class graduated from UB's Physician Assistant Institute. Meanwhile, patients in Connecticut named our Acupuncture Clinic the best in Fairfield County—the first time ever that a university-based clinic has won the award. (For more, see "And the winner is . . ." on page 38).

These successes inspire us to accomplish more, and additional changes are on the horizon. As I write, the School of Business is upgrading more classrooms with advanced technology and is hiring additional faculty. This fall, the Business School will begin offering online courses and weekend courses on the Bridgeport campus to increase our flexibility in serving working professionals. Business School Dean Lloyd Gibson is leading the faculty in updating its graduate business curriculum, too. I look forward to these changes, but in the interim, I hope you will join me in applauding what we've mastered to date.



**Neil Albert Salonen**

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

Neil Albert Salonen  
President

President  
Neil Albert Salonen

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4



8



22



26

# Contents

## Features

### 4 Take a Bow Graduates!

Colleagues and family dedicate a memorial garden in honor of the English professor with “an endless appetite for other human beings.”

### 8 In Situ

Want to get to know someone? Knock on their door. What the offices and workspaces say about the people who work and teach at UB.

### 22 Spinning Kitchens, Sliding Walls

Bridgeport developer Phil Kuchma invited SASD design majors to contribute to his latest construction project: what they delivered surprised and delighted him.

### 26 Past/Present

The campus may have evolved with the times, but the way we live, work, and play has not really changed that much at all.

## News Lines

### 33 Ovation for SASD senior

### 33 Excellence by Design

### 34 Remembering George Blake

### 35 Bravo! Manga!

### 36 Visual Lyrics

### 37 Navy Honors Alumnus

### 37 Surviving the Nazis

### 38 And the Winner is...

### 38 Anthony Colucci Memorial Scholarship

## Departments

### 2 Pipelines

### 32 Book Lines

### 39 Focus On: John Paul '91

### 40 Faculty Lines

### 42 Alumni Lines

### 44 Side Lines

### 53 Closing Thought

## Editor's Note

Do you remember your first day at UB? Mine was in June 2009, and a colleague took advantage of the summer weather to walk me through campus. Marina Dining Hall, Cox Student Center, and Wheeler Rec. were fairly empty, but faculty and administrators had work to do, and they slipped into offices I longed to explore more fully.

This issue of *Knightlines* finally gave me the perfect excuse to invite myself into as many rooms on campus as possible. By generously opening their doors to their workspaces, faculty and staff not only have shown off the trappings of their trade, they've generously revealed invaluable parts of themselves: Photographs from research trips that were inspired by their insatiable curiosity, gifts from former students, awards on their walls—even prized collections of vintage locks and musical scores—paint a fuller picture of the people who comprise UB's unique community.

If our dwellings reveal much about who we are, then how do those environments adapt to our evolving needs?

That's something that a group of students from Shintaro Akatsu School of Design thought about recently when they helped local developer Phil Kuchma reconsider urban living. Kuchma's latest project—an apartment building in downtown Bridgeport—is catered to young professionals who don't necessarily want the same amenities as suburban families. To meet their needs, SASD students designed a series of innovative apartments outfitted with sliding walls, spinning kitchens, hidden closets, and counters that can be lowered to become handicap accessible. You can read more about this new generation of urban living in "Spinning Kitchens" on page 22.

UB has adapted, too. Thanks to numerous building projects and campus improvements, the walk I took through campus four years ago is different than the one I take today. Geology professor John Nicholas, known to generations of alums as "Doc Rock," has long witnessed campus life. He's seen offices redecorated, students graduate, and buildings upgraded to meet the demands of the day. But in his poignant reminiscence, "The Time of My Life," (page 53), Doc Rock reminds us that despite these exciting transformations, much about UB remains remarkably unchanged and appropriately timeless.



Leslie Geary  
Editor, *Knightlines*

## Pipelines

### General musings

Dear Editor,

I just received my copy of *Knightlines*. The magazine as a whole looks great, with a variety of articles and striking visuals. It's such an attractive vehicle for letting people know about what UB is up to these days. It has really helped reconnect me to the community.

I'm impressed and moved by all that UB students are doing and involved with, both academically and throughout the wider society. I was happy to see *Knightlines* tackling such important issues as poverty and healthy living ("Can she SNAP?") and gun violence ("A Call to End Gun Violence"). I was especially moved by the end piece, "Closing Thought: An Invitation to Read." Both the photograph of a student reading *Fahrenheit 451* (an actual book, no less!) and the article in praise of reading did my English teacher's heart good.

David Chura '87  
Leeds, MA

### Living on \$35 a week

Dear Editor,

I work at Southwest Community Health Center as a SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Outreach Coordinator. I not only provide outreach to the community to educate individuals and families about SNAP benefits but also facilitate SNAP enrollment.

I read the article that was written by Jackie Fitzpatrick Hennessey ("Can She Snap?", Summer 2013). It is sad to know that over 25 percent of eligible individuals and/or families are not receiving SNAP benefits. I also read that UB student Jessica DiNatale, who was featured in the article, would like to help end hunger. I would love to contact any students at UB about some of the different things that they can do to help others have a healthier grocery budget.

Tania Mayen  
SNAP Outreach Coordinator  
Southwest Community Health Center  
Bridgeport, CT



**George Moore finally tracked down old friends, Andy '68 and Candy Bhatia '65 after reading "Connected."**

## Connections

Dear Editor,

Reading the "Connected" article in the alumni magazine (Spring 2013) raised my curiosity, and I had to contact you.

You were kind enough to take the time to forward my inquiry to alumnus Inder Bhatia '98, who was featured in the story. As you have heard, Inder is the son of Andy and Candy Bhatia, and he provided me with his parents' contact information. I have since been in contact with both Andy '68 and Candy '65. Andy was the RA on the first floor of North Hall during the 1966–1967 school year, and I was an undergraduate adviser on the second floor. Not only was Andy my supervisor, but also a friend.

I have attached the photo Candy mentioned in her e-mail to me after I contacted her. Their wedding was July 1, 1967. I kept a copy of the photo in my yearbook and was able to give my friends a copy of it.

Thank you again for your assistance.

**George F. Moore '68**  
Amarillo, TX

Dear Editor,

I read the article about alumnus Andrew Rosca and my old professor Tarek Sobh ("Connected"). I can imagine Professor Sobh in the sports car. He always spoke fast and made everything seem easy! More important, he was always accessible to me. When I got my master's in Technology Management, I worked for him, managing the school website. His confidence in me was a great motivator. After I graduated, I'd occasionally stop by his office; he always welcomed me as a friend.

Thank you for writing about a professor who was so important to me. *Knightlines* has also helped me find old friends I lost touch with. After reading the last issue, I e-mailed some of them and reconnected.

**Hosik Choi '99**  
Stratford, CT

## Cheers from a Golden Knight

### What do you think?

Have an opinion about something you read? A story idea? Want to share a UB memory? *Knightlines* would love to hear from you – and so would your classmates! Please send your letters to [knightlines@bridgeport.edu](mailto:knightlines@bridgeport.edu) or *Knightlines*, Cortright Hall, University of Bridgeport, 219 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06604. Please be sure to include your full name, contact information, and UB class year, if applicable. Letters may be edited for length, clarity, style, or accuracy.



Dear Editor,

I want to say how much I enjoyed the entire Commencement ceremony, but I especially want to thank the Alumni Office and Alumni Director Susan Butler for making the Golden Knights feel so special. How exciting it was to once again to wear a cap and gown (gold, of course), to be on stage, and to be given such a fantastic cheer by the Class of 2013!

Susan always had time to talk to us and volunteered to take pictures while she was "keeping the show on the road." The brunch was excellent. It was wonderful to meet and speak with University dignitaries. The reminiscences were so much fun.

**Joyce Kemp '63**  
Fair Lawn, NJ

## An alum's request

Dear Editor,

How about some pictures of old UB from the 1960s, like old Fones Hall, Linden Hall, and a lot of stuff for us old alums?

**Leonard Levine '64**  
Bennington, VT

*Ed. Note: We've assembled some wonderful images in "Past/Present" on page 26 and hope they bring back happy memories of your time at the University.*



# Take a Bow



**Class of 2013 urged “to serve the world at large” at 103rd Commencement while UB’s first Physician Assistant Institute grads receive their diplomas.**

# Graduates!

By Leslie Geary

“You have an opportunity to serve the world at large,” University alumnus Dennis Walcott ’73, ’74 told nearly 1,400 graduates at the University’s 103rd Commencement, moments before he was honored by UB for his contributions.

Walcott, a self-described “kid from Queens” who is currently Chancellor of the New York City Schools, received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters for his longstanding dedication to improving opportunities for young people. His message of service was echoed by various speakers throughout the May 5 ceremony.

Addressing 668 undergraduates and 726 graduate students directly, Keynote Speaker Senator Richard Blumenthal added: “My generation is asking you now to participate in a democracy that in many ways is in need of repair . . . We’re counting on you to make it better.”

Blumenthal received the second Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

The message to serve others resonated with Darline Perpignan, who was awarded a master’s in Global Development and Peace. In 2010, she earned a bachelor’s in International Political Economy and Diplomacy from UB.



**Dennis Walcott, a “kid from Queens,” was honored at Commencement.**

“I’m from Haiti, and ever since I was seven I wanted to go into diplomacy,” said Perpignan, who immigrated to the United States when she was 12 years old. “Her UB education, Perpignan added, helped to advance her dream. “I’ve had great teachers who are so talented. I completed an internship at the Institute of Diplomacy in Amman, Jordan. I was there for 12 weeks. That helped me tremendously, because I was in the Department of Conflict Resolution, where I was exposed to details of putting together a NATO conference.”

*(continued on page 6)*

“My generation is asking you now to participate in a democracy that in many ways is in need of repair ... We’re counting on you to make it better.”

– Sen. Richard Blumenthal to the Class of 2013



All smiles for Health Sciences graduates

Class Speaker Tasnah Martinez, another graduate from CIPA, also spent time abroad. While at UB, Martinez was a two-time winner of the U.S. State Department’s highly competitive Critical Language Scholarship, which provides funds to send students around the world to take intensive language training.

“We have learned about our world, and most importantly, we have learned about ourselves,” said Martinez, who received a bachelor’s in World Religions. Martinez thanked families, friends, and others whose support and sacrifices made graduation possible. “Nothing,” she said, “is accomplished alone.”

As is tradition, alumni who graduated 50 years ago were formally recognized as the newest Golden Knights. As they made their way across the stage in bright yellow

caps and gowns, members of the Class of 1963 were jubilantly welcomed with boisterous cheers and applause.

A separate ceremony for 199 health science graduates was held on May 13 at the Arnold Bernhard Center. The Physician Assistant Program Class of 2013, the school’s first class, received degrees.

Dr. David Katz, a nominee for the post of Surgeon General in 2009 and founder and director of both Yale University’s Prevention Research Center and Integrative Medicine at Griffin Hospital, delivered the Keynote Address after receiving an honorary degree.

Katz reminded the health science graduates to marry expertise with empathy. “You cannot have health care without care,” he said. “You cannot have care without feelings.” ■



Top: The newest Golden Knights received a standing ovation from the Class of 2013 (top) while Sen. Richard Blumenthal got a congratulatory embrace from Vice President of University Relations Mary-Jane Foster.



Want to know more about the men  
and women who work and teach at UB?  
Knock on their doors.

# In Situ

By Leslie Geary

Take the elevator up, up, up to that corner office commanding sweeping views of a dollhouse world below. Stop by a colleague's cubicle festooned with cut-out comic strips. Take note of the publications and tchotchkes lining a colleague's shelves: you can learn a great deal about people *in situ*—when they're simply doing what they do every day in their natural, undisturbed surroundings.

At UB, workspaces come in all shapes and sizes—from cavernous lecture halls to gleaming medical labs to offices appointed with cozy chairs and memorabilia from students long since graduated. Some of these rooms are as legendary as their inhabitants. Other less-trafficked places are tucked away like campus secrets. But all of these spaces reveal a great deal about the individuals who collectively make up the University's unique community.

Want to know more about your alma mater? Knock on the door, poke your head in, and step in.



DANA HALL,  
ROOM 16

### John “Doc Rock” Nicholas, Professor, Geology

My office is called “Rock City.” The rocks in here are organized in three major groups: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic, and there’s a table with minerals. What looks like chaos is not really chaos. Students are encouraged to touch them, to learn. Because I’ve had an opportunity to have my room, I’ve decorated it for my needs. I’ve always felt very fortunate about that.

The yellow boxes of slides on my shelves come from countries I’ve visited. When I went to NYU, all of my professors would say things like, “This past summer while diving off coast of Sardinia—” They taught us that you have to see geology; you can’t simply read about it in a book. I taught about the Grand Canyon for years, but I didn’t know a thing about it until I saw it. It’s like seeing a picture of someone. You know what their features look like, but until you speak to them, you don’t really know them. Places like Hawaii and Antarctica and New Zealand—they come alive when you see them. Students will listen to you more carefully if they’re aware of the fact that you’ve been there. You can see it on their faces.

I try not to brag. I always mention my wife so it’s not “When I was in . . .”

Students often ask me why they have to take geology. I was the same way when I was at NYU. I tell them about one student I had. He’d always ask, “I’m an accounting major, what do minerals and rocks have to do with accounting?” I could only give him a generic answer: to make you a better person. He wasn’t buying any of that.

Fast forward a couple of years. One day he came to my door. He had a suit and a tie on, an attaché case. He extends his hand and says, “I want to thank you.” I didn’t recognize him, so he told me, “I just came from a job interview and I got the job because I knew something about their product.” It turns out he was at AMAX, which at that time was the world’s largest mining company. When he went into the office, he saw all of the mineral specimens on the shelves and he started to name them: “This is chalcopyrite, this is galena. . .” The guy who interviewed him was so impressed. He told him, “A lot of people come in here with a 4.0 GPA but not many come in with a 4.0 GPA who can identify our products.” He got the job.



John Nicholas, aka “Doc Rock,” calls his office Rock City. He’s purposely filled the space with rocks and minerals, inviting students to touch them and learn more about the earth.

*(continued on page 10)*



## MAINTENANCE BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR

### **David Mosher and Robert Kasparek, University locksmiths**

**David:** We've been bounced around all over. Originally we were in a building off of Lafayette Street. It's knocked down now. Then we moved to 250 Myrtle Avenue, then 115 Broad Street. Now we're over here.

**Bobby:** We love it.

**David:** Me and Bobby are big history buffs. Where we're now is an old horse stable. I believe it used to belong to P.T. Barnum. When we came in we saw horse shoes lying around. We're still digging them up! I'm big into the luck thing so I keep them. They're sitting on my mantel at home right now. I have a picture of me and my wife that I put between them.

**Bobby:** The building was a church and a student center at one point, too. We found a pool table and church pews. We took the pews out. Our office is locked. It has to be for security. We have to keep track of every room key on campus—there are about 8,000 keys. Some keys fit into more than one door so there are a lot more doors than that, though.

**David:** There are boxes of pins to build the locks. And we have every key from A to Z that we copy and we make other keys off of. We cut keys here. We change locks, pin them, do door closures, panic hardware.

**Bobby:** David's the master—the brain. He knows everything. He taught me everything.

David Mosher (foreground) and Robert Kasparek spend hours refurbishing thousands of antique locks found in many of the University's buildings. "We're sticklers for keeping things the way they originally were," says Mosher.



**David:** When I was a kid I took everything apart: TVs, stereos, anything I could find. Then I put them back together to figure them out. I went to school in Pennsylvania and took locksmithing. The rest is time, experience, and learning as you go.

There are a lot of old locks here you can't buy parts for. You've got to fabricate the parts and rebuild them. We bend metal and make what we need, like a machinist. We take locks out of an abandoned house and use them. We took locks from Wisteria and reused them on the top floor of Cortright to keep the same nostalgic look.

**Bobby:** People don't know the workings of a lock. When we did [University CFO] Susan Williams's house, we refurbished the front lock, shined it up, and put it back together. It's beautiful.

**David:** It's all done with tweezers and tiny little springs and tiny little pins. You can have 20 to 30 different pins inside a lock. You've got to have a steady hand. Everywhere we go, I'm constantly staring at the locks.

*(continued on page 12)*

**Mary-Jane Foster,  
Vice President, University Relations**

Cortright Hall is home to University Relations, and in my view it should be a place that is welcoming to the public, and most especially to our alumni. I want to make sure it reflects the history and the community and the current things that are going on. So when you come into my office you see etchings of historic buildings on the UB campus. You'll also see a print of a primitive painting of Captains Cove. I have an antique Barnum and Bailey Circus poster and pictures of the women's gymnastics team as they've won the last few national titles.

A number of things in here mean a great deal to me. One is the picture of the ballpark at Harbor Yard, taken the first night game played there. If you look closely you see not only the field and baseball players and fans, but also the UB campus and the big UB sign and the Sound. I also have a print that was given to me when I passed the Bar Exam that says, "Justice, Justice, Shalt thou pursue." I loved it, but I loved it even more when I learned that Ruth Bader Ginsberg has it on her wall as well.

One is most meaningful photographs is me ringing the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange when Hudson Valley Bank became publicly traded. I was on the board of the bank and I was running for mayor then. My campaign manager said, "There's no way you're going to spend a half a day in New York." But I told him that anyone can run for mayor, not everyone can ring the opening bell. It was incredible! The company is greeted by the managers of the New York Stock Exchange, and you sit in the original Exchange room and hear about its history. You get to tour the floor, and there are television cameras and all of that good stuff, then you stand on a balcony overlooking it all: the energy and the noise. Then it gets very, very quiet, and the bell goes off and all hell breaks loose and no one pays any attention to you at all, but you're still grinning like a fool. I have wonderful pictures of my kids, my dogs, Bill Clinton, Governor Malloy, and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, too.

Treasured photos from Mary-Jane Foster's years in community service and politics





## CORTRIGHT HALL, ROOM 1

I've always been interested in community service. It's given me access to a broad range of people, and it has led me to some interesting and fun experiences. I spent ten minutes talking to President Clinton about the Violence Against Women Act. I met Madeline Albright at a Fund for Women and Girls luncheon; it turns out we were raised in the same town.

UB's exciting, too. There is something new happening here every day. I've been here for four years, going into my fifth year. I've had really little exposure to a broad range of cultures, and I have so loved the international side of UB. I've had graduate assistants from Jamaica and Ghana. Our current assistant is a student from Iraq who is Kurdish. What an extraordinary opportunity for me! And it's also well known that I love Bridgeport. I believe this city cannot be successful without a successful university and vice versa, so I regard this as very large work and very important work for the city and the University.

*(continued on page 14)*



Mary-Jane Foster at her desk. From that vantage point, she can see the "Justice" poster given to her when she passed the Bar Exam and a photo of the day she rang the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange.



## MANDEVILLE HALL, ROOM 309

### **William Greenspan, Professor, Business Law**

When some people see my office for the first time they say, “You must be a world traveler!” And I tell them, “No, the world comes to me.” I’ve only been out of the country once in my life. I went to Antigua to recover from a back injury.

The things on my shelves are gifts I’ve received over 43 years of teaching. There probably isn’t a country where I don’t have something from: Saudi Arabia, Israel, South America, India, and China. I have a lot of stuff from Bulgaria. I had 60 Bulgarians at one time, but until then, I never had a gift from Bulgaria. One Christmas

vacation I dropped three of them to the airport. As they were getting out of the car they said, “Thank you so much. We’ll bring you back a nice gift.” I told them, “I don’t want one nice gift. I want three small gifts.” So they brought me back three gifts. When the other Bulgarian students saw them, they asked, “Who gave you that?” They started giving me gifts — it was a little bit of one-upmanship.

Usually students don’t give me something until they’re graduating so there can be no question that it’s not a bribe. I had one father, a Russian, who had two sons come to UB. They were marginal students at best. When the first one made it, the father gave me some hand-carved horses pulling a chariot. The following year,





**Accessibility is the name of the game for William Greenspan. He's filled his office with chairs and he leaves his door open so students "can come in and hang out," he says.**

**Greenspan's collection of gifts from students he's taught during his 43 years at UB**

when his second son graduated, the father gave me a hand-painted ceramic box. I keep things like paper clips and rubber bands in it.

One of my favorite gifts is a tiny, cute dog made out of clay. It's probably not worth a dollar, but I had a black lab named Maxx for many years who used to come to the university with me. I'd walk him around campus and he'd go under my desk. When students walked in, he'd get up and smell their backpacks. If there was food, he'd just look up at them with those big brown eyes, begging. If there wasn't food, he'd go back under the desk. My parents came to UB one time and they asked a security guard for Professor Greenspan. He didn't know. So they said, "Maxx the Wonder Dog?"

And the guy said, "Oh, yeah, Maxx. Mandeville Hall, room 309." Everyone knew Maxx.

I want my office to be a place where students can come in and talk before and after class. I want to be the academic adviser I never had. I read a research paper once that said the professors who most effectively deal with students don't separate themselves with a desk. My desk is against the wall on purpose. When a student and I look at a computer screen, we sit next to each other. I post my office hours and leave the door open. I stay until the last person who wants to see me leaves. Sometimes that's not until midnight.

*(continued on page 16)*



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**Janet Albert,  
Professor, Fashion Merchandising**

I developed a love of costume history and a fascination with how vintage-costume design impacts the modern era during my graduate studies. Now I'm privileged to teach costume history at UB. Since I spend a lot of time with my students in my classroom and office, I've surrounded the rooms with a collection of historical costumes that I've displayed on mannequins.

I developed the collection through my association with the Fairfield Museum, where I've visited many times with my students. Occasionally, the museum received extra costumes that were over-subscribed, and they generously gave them to me.

I have a few pieces from the early 1900s. The workmanship on them is incredible: the buttons, fabric was cut on the bias to drape the body. I have a cape from 1900. At that time sleeve design was primitive, so to keep warm, people used a cape and slipped their arms through. There's a brown wedding dress. Brides didn't necessarily wear white. They usually wore a



All in the details: Janet Albert hopes students in her costume history classes will gain an appreciation for how clothing was made. "The workmanship," she says, "is incredible."

festive dress that could be used for other occasions. They were more practical then. Now some brides may have two dresses: one for the ceremony and one to dance in afterwards.

I also have two pieces from the 1930s that I inherited from my mother-in-law. One was her bridal gown and the other was the dress she wore when she met my father-in-law at a dance. These dresses reflect the high style of glamour and the beautiful satin fabrics used at that time. I've displayed it with a picture from a Ralph Lauren collection. It shows how designs of the past have been adapted by designers today.

*(continued on page 18)*

**Albert arranging a dress: She sometimes wears gowns in her collection to teach a class.**



**MANDEVILLE HALL,  
ROOM 22C**





## ARNOLD BERNHARD CENTER, ROOM 222

### **Frank Martignetti, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music**

I spend a lot of time coaching, advising, or tutoring students in my office. It's a place where I can be productive. I have a massive collection of sheet music, scores, and choral octavos. The bulk of it is in my office, and it reflects my own musical autobiography; the piano music and musical scores reflect my roots as a classical pianist and theatrical music director. There's also a great deal of solo vocal music, organ music, and a large collection of hymnals from 20 years as a church musician.

I've also collected about 80 hymnals from many denominations published between 1925 and 2006. I think they're fascinating historical and cultural documents. For example, my American Lutheran hymnals from 1956, 1978, and 2006 show how that

tradition has balanced continuity and change: one of the biggest changes is the increase in world or global folk music in the newest volume.

The largest part of my music collection includes thousands of choral octavos, ranging from early-Renaissance motets to brand-new works for which I've sung or directed the world premiere. I have music in Latin, German, Spanish, French, Russian, Cantonese, Portuguese, Hebrew, English, and various African languages.

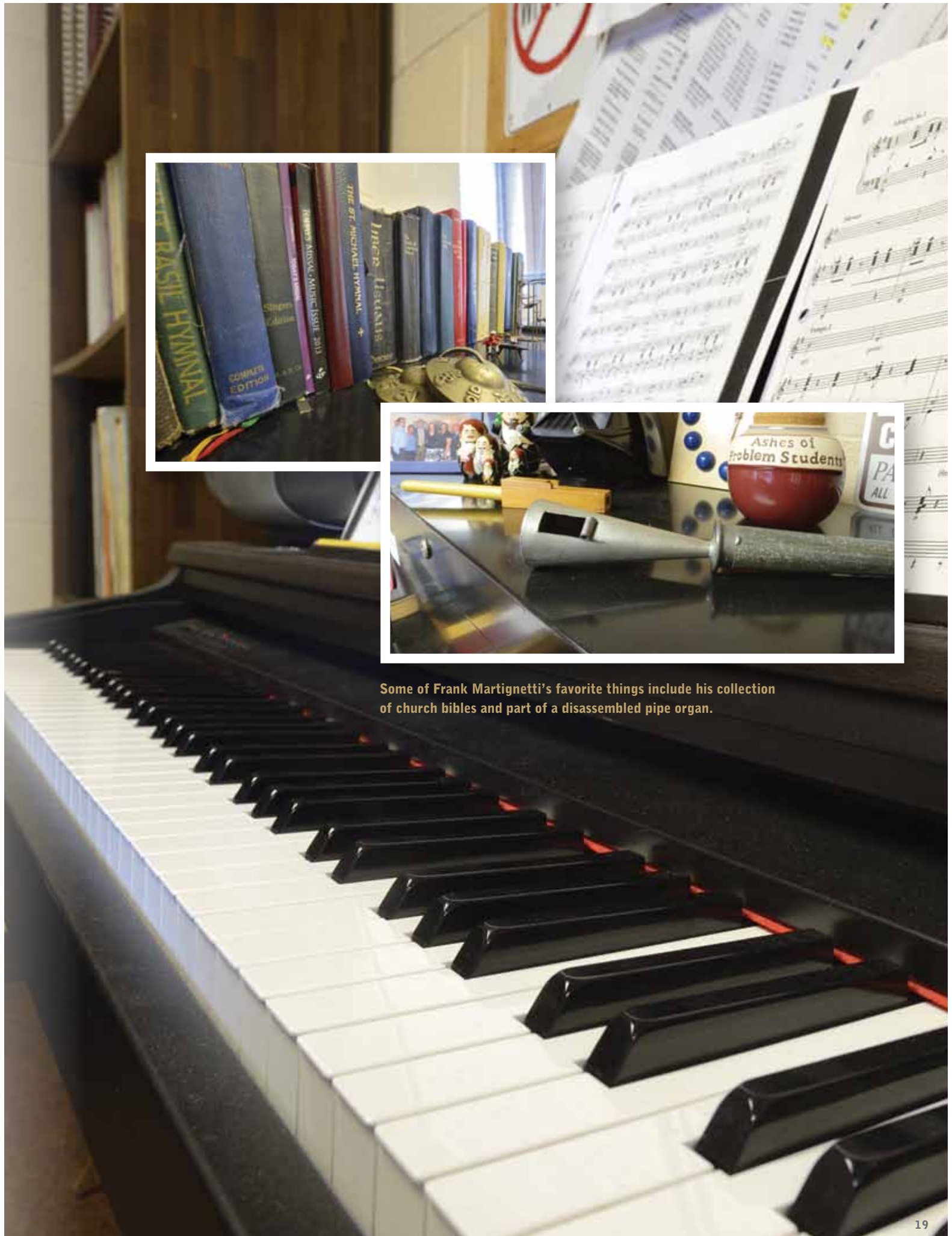
Each summer, I sift through my library looking for pieces for the UB choruses to sing the next year.

The two organ pipes on my cabinet were a gift from a friend who designs and builds pipe organs for a living. I like how pipe organs blend music, architecture, design and engineering. Mine came from the large theater organ that was in the Eastman Theatre of the Eastman School of Music, where I did my undergraduate studies.

*(continued on page 20)*



Some of Frank Martignetti's favorite things include his collection of church bibles and part of a disassembled pipe organ.





A Haitian statue of mother and children reflect Martha Peterson's interest in women's health.



**Martha Petersen,  
Associate Director, Physician Assistant Institute**

My office is one of first places people see, so feel that I'm often the face of the PA program. I want it to reflect a friendly, sunny environment. My window is my favorite part. I love to walk in and look at Seaside Park and the Sound. I think it helps to have nature around when I'm counseling students. It's a Mother Earth type of thing. That's why I'm a big plant person.

Having started out as a midwife and spending most of my career in women's health, I'm naturally drawn to different phases of a woman's life, most especially pregnancy and motherhood, and the art I've collected shows that. The wooden plaque on my bookshelf is a pregnant woman sitting on a lily pad. When I was in Brazil, there were huge lily pads on the Amazon—huge! When I saw the carving, it really resonated with me.

My stone statue of a mother and child is from Haiti. We took our students there, to the Central Plateau, on

a medical mission when I was teaching at Lock Haven University. We worked in the hospital, making rounds and helping with surgery and some emergencies, and doing practical things like helping with cleaning and observing public-health activities. We visited voodoo pharmacies. That was fascinating! Being in Haiti was also a really bonding experience, and I stay in touch with some of the students from that trip by e-mail or Facebook.

We have a course in Global Health at UB, too, and all of our faculty members have been involved in mission work. We feel very strongly that students at the Physician Assistant Institute should be exposed to different cultures, whether here or abroad. We have a strong international community in Bridgeport, and we're in process of establishing some community projects so they can shadow at AmeriCares. It's a free clinic for people with no insurance, so many of its patients are refugees, immigrants.

The class photos on my bookshelves are of the first classes I ever taught ever taught when I came into PA education. All the students signed them, so they're reminders of what I'm doing. ■

**ELEANOR DANA HALL,  
ROOM 20**



This spring, Bridgeport developer Phil Kuchma invited SASD's design majors to contribute to his latest venture: what they came up with surprised and delighted him.

# Spinning Kitchens

By Leslie Geary

“When the kitchen rotates, the wires rotate with it.”

Richard Janvier, an industrial design major from UB's Shintaro Akatsu School of Design (SASD), stood in front of a rendering of a studio apartment that was displayed on a massive movie screen at the Bijou Theater in downtown Bridgeport. It was early May, and Janvier and his SASD classmates were presenting ideas for apartments they had designed at the behest of local developer Philip Kuchma.

As Janvier pointed out certain features—walls that opened to reveal hidden closets, counters that dropped to be level with someone in a wheelchair, and spinning kitchens—Kuchma smiled broadly. He's slated to build a 50-unit apartment building at 285 Golden Hill Avenue in Bridgeport and fill it with 300-, 600-, and 750-square-foot studios marketed to 20-somethings—young professionals and graduate students not unlike Janvier and his classmates.

Which is why they were up on stage. Kuchma had tapped them for design ideas because, he said, “they'd have some interesting input” about making the building as appealing to young buyers as possible.

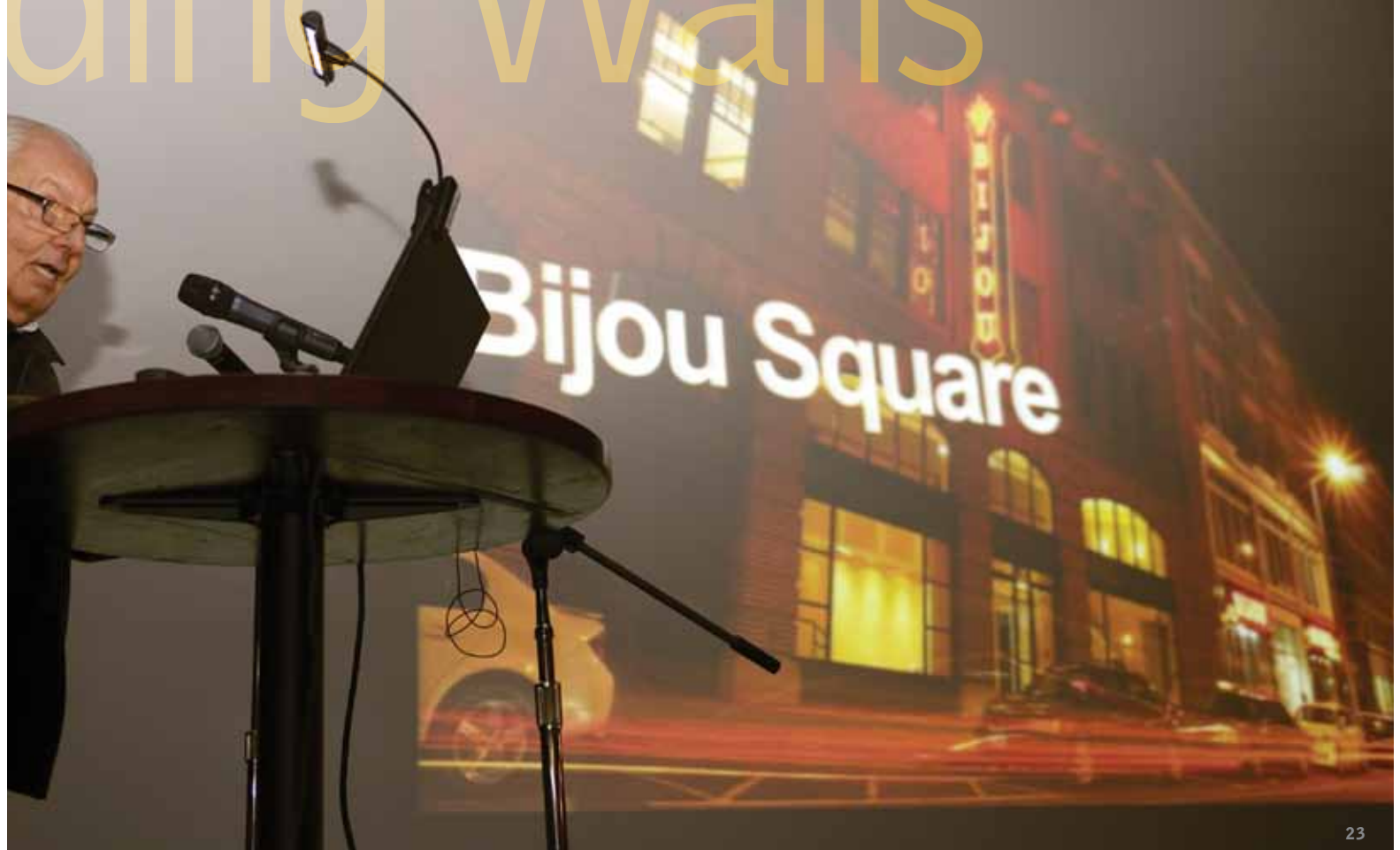
*(continued on page 24)*





Where others see ruin, developer Phil Kuchma sees a bright future. He's been buying and fixing up properties in downtown Bridgeport.

# ens, ding Walls





**Apartment life reconsidered by three different design teams**

“There are a lot of young adults who haven’t lived by themselves, who moved back in with their parents, because housing has been too expensive and the job market hasn’t been great,” said Kuchma. “When they do move out, they aren’t as eager to share apartments as before.”

In Bridgeport they wouldn’t have to, he adds. Kuchma bought his first property in the city in the early 1970s, and since then, he has reopened or built a string of sites, including the once-shuttered Bijou and various downtown condos, retail spaces, and restaurants. With its lower prices, commute-friendly location, and culture, Kuchma thinks the time’s never been better for the city. To get others on board, he’s invited members of the media and roughly 130 city officials, architects, engineers, developers, and other civic leaders to the SASD presentations.

**The pitch**

Kuchma first told Interior Design Chairman John Kandalaft and his students about the Golden Hill apartments in early spring. A few weeks later he returned to SASD and was presented with students’ design concepts. They featured different apartment layouts, specially designed appliances and hardware, and graphics for publicity materials to building signage.

“I was very, very positively impressed,” he says.

Led by Kandalaft, interior design students recruited peers from the industrial and graphic design departments in order to develop as many concepts as possible.

“The direction that was given to the students was, ‘Create a flexible, open environment,’” said Kandalaft.

Ideas came from buildings in Japan, China, and from Habitat 67, the iconic prefabricated community in Montreal by architect Moshe Safdie, who dared to take

**Bridgeport today, but Kuchma hopes projects like the one SASD students worked on will entice young professionals to the city.**



354 identical block-like forms of concrete and rearrange them to create 146 residences differing in size and configuration. Habitat 67 still makes headlines today. (A May 2013 article in the *Financial Times* called it “one of the weirdest, most memorable and most futuristic housing schemes ever built.”)

SASD students did rearranging of their own, too, replacing sheet rock and wood studs with sliding glass walls, fold-down beds that transform sleeping areas into living spaces, and moveable cabinetry and closets that “create a spacious feeling within an existing envelope because we’re working with 300-, 600-, and 750-foot studios,” said interior-design major Patricia Herson.

“We wanted to create new ways of looking at the space that meet the needs of young, emerging professionals or graduate students that are efficient, adaptable, and flexible,” Herson added.

Eat-in kitchens, the heart of many single-family homes, were shrunk, tucked away, or completely reconfigured because they devoured too much studio space and were largely unnecessary for the 20-somethings Kuchma sought to attract. Appliances, lighting, door sliders, and other fixtures were created by industrial design majors. Meanwhile, graphic design students developed marketing and brand materials, from logos to building signage and publicity brochures.

Those who saw the presentations at the Bijou seemed receptive to their proposals.

“As a resident of a one-bedroom condo with a one-year-old baby, I ran home with ideas from the presentations to my wife with the hopes of implementing some of them ourselves,” said David Kooris, director of planning and economic development for Bridgeport. “The students generated ideas that I believe will evolve from fringe design to mainstream as Americans struggle to balance increasing housing and energy costs with quality-of-life desires.”

Kuchma agreed: “One design showed an area that was a circle with one half for the kitchen and one for entertainment,” he said. “You spin it depending on what you need. Those kinds of ideas don’t fall on deaf ears.” ■





Dana Hall  
then and now



Fones School has  
trained dental hygienists  
since 1914



Former Nursing  
School students with  
proud parents to be

Hemlines may rise and fall. International Week may have replaced the Wisteria Ball, and science labs gleam with updated materials, but a tour through campus reveals that while much has changed, plenty of places and customs remain timeless.

Past



**Dana Hall upgraded:**  
Its more transformative changes include labs for new health sciences programs.

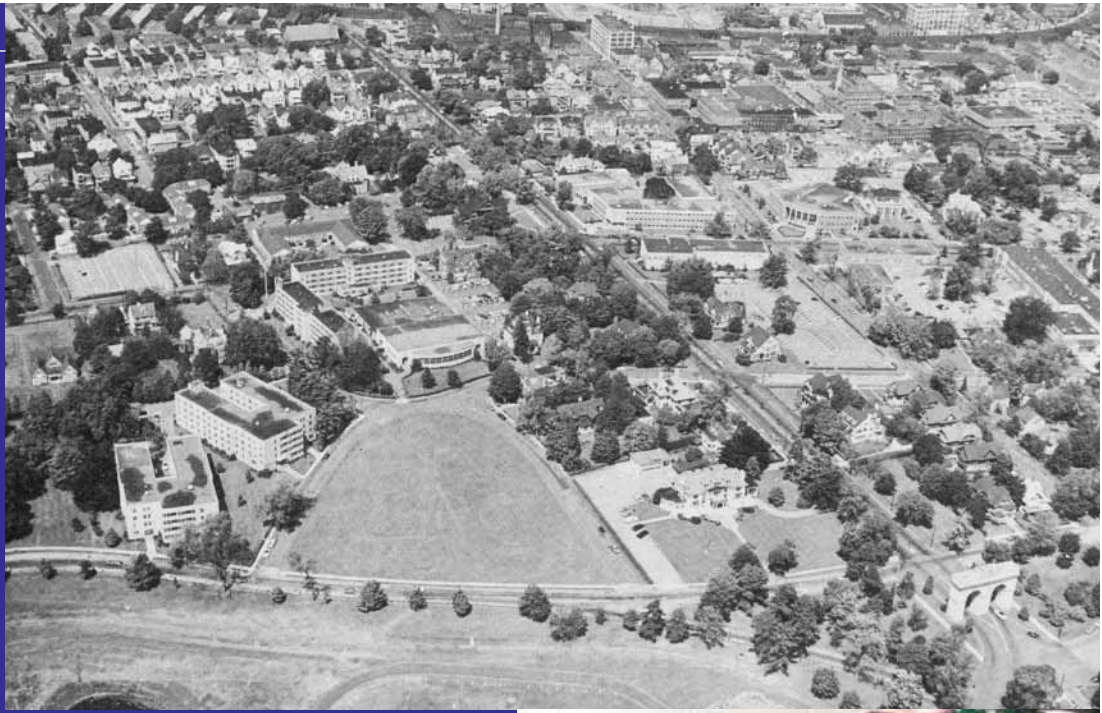


Students in one of the many labs that have been recently upgraded



**New this year: the Medical Lab Science program** trains students for jobs in health care.

# Present



The bird's eye view of campus has always been impressive.

Socially connected the old-fashioned way



Marina Dining Hall before its transformation in the summer of 2011



Abundant courses in sciences, and labs to train students, have long been integral to UB's offerings.



Past



An aerial view of campus now includes Knights Field.



No wires or phone cords needed.

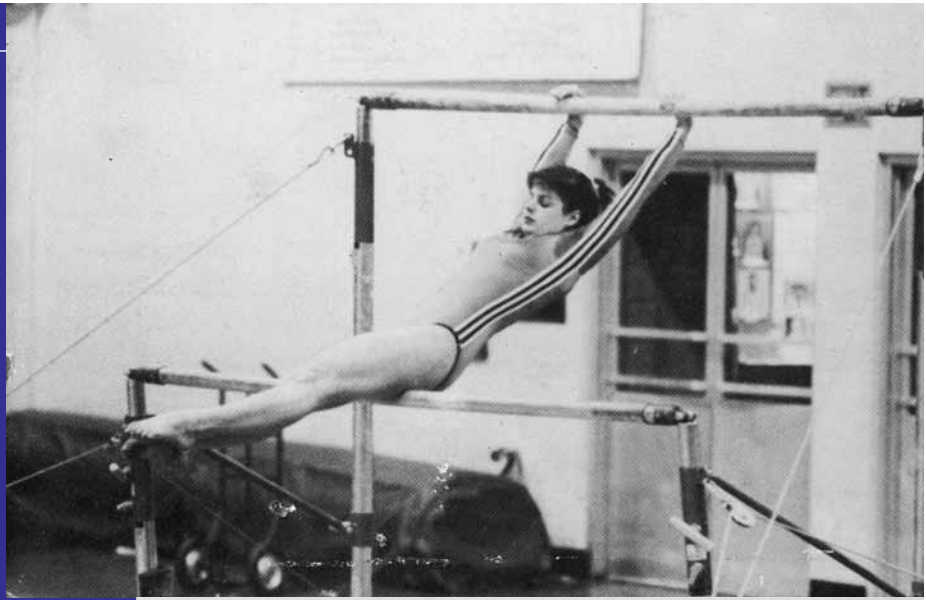


Marina Dining Hall remains as popular as ever, and still commands sweeping views of Seaside Park.



The upgraded Fones Dental Hygiene Clinic before student clinicians, supervising faculty, and patients arrive for the day.

# Present



Gymnastics then . . .



Alums remember football games with fondness.



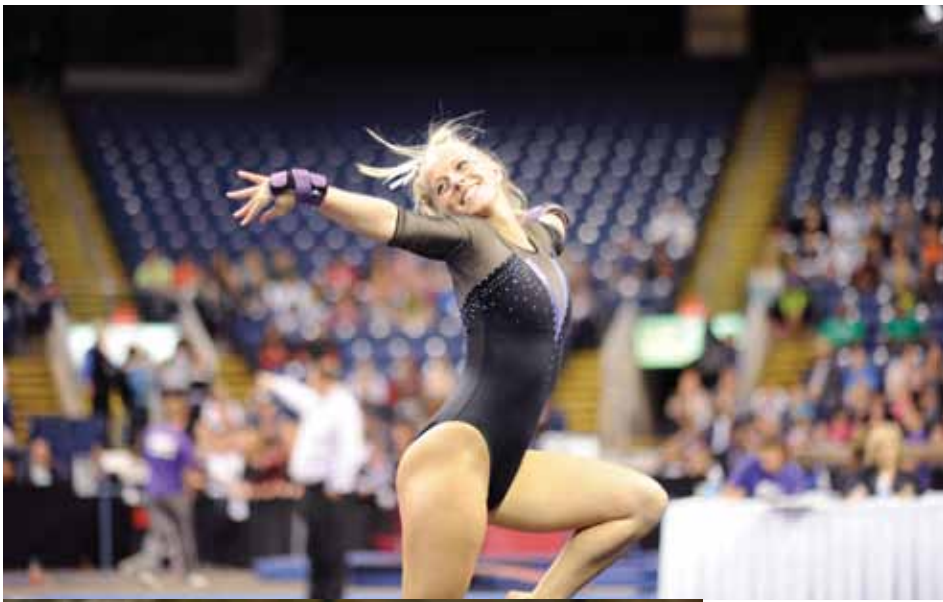
The Purple Knights on the diamond.

Commencement used to be held outside. Prayers for sun were not uncommon.



Past





... and now.  
The Purple Knights have  
five national titles to date.



Soccer games, held at  
Knights Field, draw  
hundreds of student fans  
to today's games.



The new women's lacrosse  
program took to the field in the  
spring of 2011 after playing the  
previous fall as a club team.



Graduation is now held at  
the Arena at Harbor Yard.

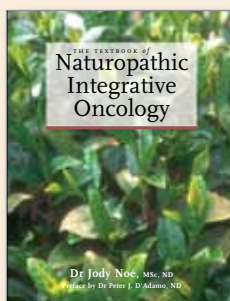
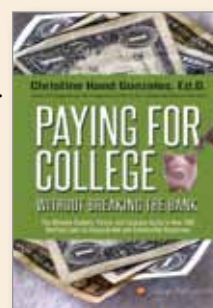
# Present

# Book Lines



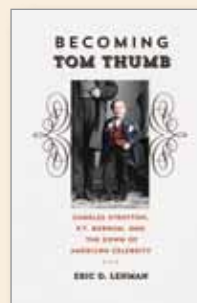
Heroes, by definition, are few and far between. So wouldn't it be wonderful to summon them from the dead when you're in a real bind? That's the starting point for "War Hero," a short story by **Brian Trent's '08** that appears in *L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future Volume 29* (Galaxy Press). Published annually, Hubbard's anthology features winners of his Writers of the Future Contest. As one of this year's winning authors, Trent was fêted at a black-tie, Oscar-style event. Trent is an alumnus of the English and Philosophy Departments whose writing has appeared in the *Humanist*, *COSMOS*, and *Apex* magazines. "This is a moment I've imagined for a long, long time," said Trent at the awards ceremony before crediting his family for "knowing I was working when I was daydreaming."

Nearly three out of four Americans believe getting a college or university education is critical, but just as many wonder how they'll pay tuition. Alumna **Christine M. Hand-Gonzales '80** has answers in her latest book, *Paying for College Without Breaking the Bank* (College Press). The biggest mistake people make? "Waiting too long to plan," says Hand-Gonzales, who has spent 25 years as a consultant, instructor, high school college counselor, and registered therapist. *Paying for College* explains various ways to plan and save for college and navigate the world of financial aid. Its tips from experts and families who found creative ways to pay for college are equally helpful.



Cancer may be cellular in nature, but treatment of the disease should be far more expansive, advises College of Naturopathic Professor **Jodi Noé** in *The Textbook of Naturopathic Integrative Oncology* (CCNM Press). Written for medical school students and patients alike, Noé says patients can participate in their own healing by combining conventional allopathic drug, radiation, and surgical approaches with naturopathic, complementary, and alternative strategies. "You can use chemo-radio treatments targeted specifically for each type of cancer at the genetic level, and also use Reiki, acupuncture, nutrition, massage, yoga or qigong to support the patient," says Noé. **Peter D'Adamo**, an adjunct professor at UB's Center for Excellence in Generative Medicine, wrote the forward.

When P. T. Barnum met 25-inch-tall Charles Stratton at a Bridgeport, Connecticut, hotel in 1843, one of the most well-known partnerships in entertainment history was born, writes **Eric D. Lehmann** in *Becoming Tom Thumb* (Wesleyan University Press). Thanks to Stratton's (aka: "General Tom Thumb") comedic talent and Barnum's promotional savvy, the two dazzled fans, including Queen Victoria, Charles Dickens, and Abraham Lincoln. Lehman—a senior lecturer of English at UB—recounts Stratton's days as a child star to his tragic early death. Stratton's unique brand of Yankee comedy, Lehman notes, earned him the "accolades of millions of fans and helped move little people into the limelight."



Many people would have thrown their hands up in despair when getting a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. Alumnus **Marc C. Sherman '78** wrote a book instead. The stories in *Memoirs of a Disgruntled Attorney* (Amazon) relate Sherman's experiences with the onset of the disease. "It took Parkinson's to get me to realize how good my life really is and to discover a passion for writing," says Sherman.

– Reviewed by Leslie Geary

## News Lines

# Ovation for SASD senior

**Melissa Matos's award-winning logo for UB Music gives department fresh new look.**

By Leslie Geary

Melissa Matos '13 has won an award from the Advertising Club of Connecticut for her logo for the UB Music Department. The project was completed under the direction of graphic design professor Gary Munch.

Matos took a primarily typographic approach with a clever device internal to the wordmark — the conductor — to typify the music program. With contemporary colors choices in a complete branding identity, UBMusic is set to attract visually and musically.

Matos earned graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's in graphic design this May, and is the recipient of the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design Graphic Design Academic Achievement Award. ■

# UBMusic

University of Bridgeport Music Program



From left: Graphic design professor Emily Larned and award-winning Melissa Matos '13

# Excellence by Design

**Art Landi '74 receives Lifetime Achievement Award and Alumni Chair.**

Art Landi, whose chance decision to major in industrial design led him to develop and expand Display Producers, Inc., one of the top packaging-design firms in the country, has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for Industrial Design and the Alumni Chair from the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design.

Landi '74 took his first design course at UB after learning about the subject from a family friend. It was a perfect fit, and Landi proved to be a meticulous, creative, and driven student. After graduation, he joined Display Producers, Inc., where he currently serves as president.

The firm has designed and built cases for top-name and luxury brands like Braun, Lancôme, Duracell,

Ralph Lauren, and Sony for more than 30 years.

Meanwhile, Landi's connection to UB never waned. He's hosted annual SASD alumni gatherings, supports several Alumni Office initiatives, hires SASD graduates, sponsors internships, and currently serves on the University Board of Trustees.

"Art has made himself accessible to students on countless occasions, listening to their ideas and providing invaluable feedback," said UB President Neil Salonen. "Our design programs have benefitted richly because of his commitment." ■ — L.G.



Art Landi had trenchant and humorous points to make when he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from SASD.



## Remembering George Blake

Colleagues and friends dedicate outdoor space to the professor “with an endless appetite for other human beings.”



Ed Geist remembers being hired by Blake after revealing things about himself “I didn’t want anyone to know.”



Blake’s wife, Virginia, said her late husband “loved this place so much.”

When Ed Geist, UB’s director of English, applied for a teaching job at UB 27 years ago, he was prepared to talk about his qualifications. Instead, George Blake asked him, “What kind of car do you drive?”

The question was vintage Blake, who was then a professor in the English Department. “He had an endless appetite for other human beings,” Geist said. “By the end of the interview I realized he knew all sorts of things about me I didn’t want anyone to know. I felt I had known him all my life.”

Blake died of lung cancer in 2001. In May, family members and former colleagues dedicated a garden seating area in his memory. Ringed by trees and plants, the outdoor space next to Charles Dana Hall is as welcoming as Blake was himself.

“He was always on the brink: you didn’t know if he was going to say something profound or hilarious,” said Susan Birge, UB’s former director of counseling and former associate dean of students. “He left an indelible mark on those who knew him.”

Blake, who held a bachelor’s from Harvard and a PhD from New York University, came to UB in 1971 and taught British and world literature, composition, and humanities classes. Brimming with intelligence, curiosity, and wit, he was brilliant and outrageous.

“I turned to him [one day] and said, ‘Isn’t it great talking about literature so much? I can’t believe they’re *paying us*,’” recalled *professor emeritus* of English Wilson Kinnach, who frequently carpooled with Blake when one of their cars broke down. “He said, ‘Well, that’s debatable.’”

Blake left UB in 1971 to work with the General Assembly’s Educational Committee, but returned to the University after a year. He went on to create and direct the Basic Studies program, which has helped hundreds of students by providing them with remedial and other academic support.

“He had a way of treating students with such respect; they gravitated toward him,” said Provost Hans van der Giessen. “He was more of a role model to our students than anyone ever had been. He gave them hope.”

In 1980, the University awarded Blake a Presidential Fellowship, under a program created by late UB President Leland Miles and the Faculty Council. Blake directed assignments from Miles, participated in Cabinet meetings, and worked on University and state relations. “Everyone wanted him on their committee,” said Barbara Maryak, former dean of admissions.

When Blake was diagnosed with lung cancer, word swept through campus, and a meeting was called. “No one knew what to do but everyone felt they had to do something,” said van der Giessen. “The decision was made to purchase some gifts for him, but no one knew what to buy. Eventually it was decided that we would buy one of original copies of T.S. Eliot’s *Wasteland*.”

Colleagues raised funds for Blake’s memorial garden because “the imperative to do something is still with us,” said van der Giessen.

The admiration was mutual, assured Virginia Blake. “George loved this place so much,” she said. “I’m so glad this place loved him back.” ■ – L.G.

## Bravo! Manga!

**University Singers and the Hamden Symphony Orchestra perform Fauré’s *Requiem* to help local food banks.**



**UB Choral Director  
Frank Martignetti**

Music may be the food of love, but it provided physical nourishment when the University Singers and Hamden Symphony Orchestra teamed up to support area food banks.

The group’s free two-hour concert included performances of Fauré’s *Requiem*, Dvorak’s *Symphony No. 7*, and the world premiere of *The Banquet*, composed by Neely Bruce. Audience members were asked to bring nonperishable food items in lieu of purchasing tickets.

Frank Martignetti, director of choral activities at UB, said more than 20 students from University Singers and the Hamden Symphony Orchestra — whose trumpet player is music alumnus Mark Dennis ’89 — were proud to “perform some of the most beautiful music imaginable to help those in need.”

Vocalists and musicians mingled with the audience at a reception following the event. “There were alumni who hadn’t been to UB for years. It was great to welcome them back,” said Martignetti. ■ – L.G.



# News Lines

## Visual Lyrics

### Spoken-word poet Sarah Kay comes to UB.

Sarah Kay, the spoken-word poet whose high-octane performances have attracted nearly 3 million fans worldwide, dazzled a few hundred more in April, when she appeared before a sold-out crowd at the Arnold Bernhard Center.

Kay's appearance at UB was organized by the Student Government Association (SGA).

Kay was preceded by members of the campus poetry-and-arts group, SLAM, and Clay Whitaker, a seventh grader from Roosevelt School in Bridgeport who read an original poem about inner-city boys forfeiting or forging their futures depending on the choices they make.

SGA member Virginia Orman said she was amazed by the audience's response. "People were talking about it the next day," said Orman, who spearheaded the evening for SGA. "They want her to come back."

That kind of buzz is typical for Kay. She became an overnight sensation when her March 2011 TED Talk went viral (it currently has over 2.7 million hits). Since then, she's traveled the world to teach, lecture, and perform Spoken-word



Sarah Kay filled Littlefield Theater when she performed her spoken-word poetry.

poetry. Her appearance at UB followed two months in Asia, and she told the audience it felt great to be home.

A New York City kid, Kay shared her first furtive attempts at poetry during open-mic nights at Bowery Bar in the East Village. At the time, she was an awkward but determined 14-year-old who was encouraged by her mom and dad.

As she spoke about her childhood, Kay, 24, seamlessly launched into "Montauk," a poem about her family's annual summer vacation. Told from Kay's varying vantage points as a 7-year-old up through her teens, "Montauk" is both a paean to her family and the wonder of childhood.

"We followed that yellow spot of highway until we couldn't go any farther," Kay began. "This is where I learned to swim . . . how to drive a car in a hardware store parking lot, how to kiss a boy with sand between my toes. / Time goes to Montauk to take a break, loosens its belt, takes a seat on the front porch next to my father and his Weber Grill. / It puttters around the kitchen while my mother is kneading the bread and tells no one in particular, 'We should roast peaches tonight.'"

It was one of seven poems Kay performed before answering questions from audience members who had driven as far as New Jersey to hear her.

"What advice do I have for someone who wants to start writing or get back into writing?" she responded.

"Stop being scared of yourself. It's OK to write bad poems."

■ — L.G.



# Surviving the Nazis

A lecture with Holocaust survivor Stanley Ronnell

Six million Jews were killed in World War II, and to survive the genocide was nothing less than a miracle, as Stanley Ronnell made clear when he spoke at UB about his childhood.

Ronnell's visit was sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA) and he used the opportunity to urge those in attendance to share his extraordinary story. "After we're gone," he asked, "who will tell these stories? Don't be a bystander."

That message resonated with student Taikan Kanai. "I've read *Diary of Anne Frank* and studied the Holocaust in class, but readings have limitations. It's better to hear from the people who've experienced it first-hand," Kanai said after the talk. "He's giving us information so we can prevent it from happening again. We shouldn't forget."

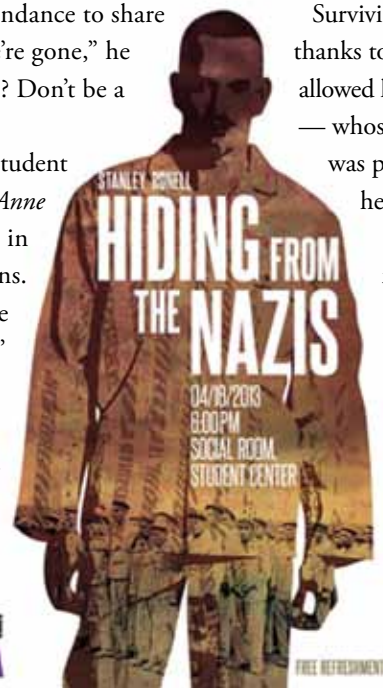
Born in Krakow, Poland, Ronnell was the only child of two working parents. His father was a banker,

his mother was a pharmacist, and their tranquil, middle-class life was violently uprooted when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. Ronnell was five.

He would not have many days with his father, who was soon arrested by the Nazis and sent to Auschwitz, where he perished.

Surviving was marginally easier for Ronnell's mother, thanks to her blonde hair and fair complexion, which allowed her to pass as a German. But shielding Ronnell — whose dark eyes and hair marked him as a Jew — was problematic. Mother and son escaped with help from the Polish underground.

After the war, Ronnell and his mother moved to the United States. Ronnell earned degrees in engineering and business at the City College of New York, but one of his children is a University of Bridgeport graduate, he said. ■ — L.G.



# Navy honors alumnus

Raymond Travelyn's '87 invention dramatically improves submarine transmissions, saves millions.



Raymond Travelyn

Raymond F. Travelyn '87, an electrical engineering alumnus who has worked for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center for nearly three decades, has been named a cowinner of the Office of Naval Research Vice Adm. Harold G. Bowen Award for Patented Inventions.

Travelyn and retired employee David Culbertson invented the Full Duplex Transceiver (FDT), a communications device more commonly known as the TravPak.

Precursors to the FDT required at least two days to

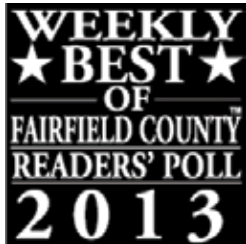
transfer data for threat verification — putting both the platform and the crew at risk. Travelyn and Culbertson's TravPak reduces the time needed to transfer data error-free by 1,000 times. Moreover, the FDT uses existing antenna hardware, saving the Navy approximately \$60 million by eliminating the need to design, develop, test, and install new antennas.

Travelyn, an electronics engineer also in the Undersea Warfare Electromagnetic Systems Department, has worked at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport in Newport, Rhode Island, for 26 years. He also serves as the lead systems engineer, directing the day-to-day work of subject matter experts for each Common Submarine Radio Room subsystem. ■ — L.G.

## News Lines

# And the winner is . . .

Readers pick UB Acupuncture Clinic as the “Best of Fairfield County.”



Could it have been the Tui Na?

Whatever the reason, readers in Fairfield County have voted, and they agree that UB's Acupuncture Clinic is the best around.

That collective vote of confidence was officially announced on May 23, when *Fairfield County Weekly* released its much-anticipated Best of Fairfield County's Readers' Poll.

The annual survey invites the public to nominate and cast votes for the best in dozens of categories: from the best Mexican restaurant to top dance club, dog groomer, local hardware store, and apartment complex.

The survey includes awards for professionals in a variety of health and medical fields.

This year, the “Best Acupuncturist” award was given to the clinic run UB Acupuncture Institute.

“It's a great honor that the people of Fairfield County chose a teaching clinic as the best acupuncture clinic in the area,” said Acupuncture Institute Dean Jennifer Brett. “Kudos to our clinical faculty and students!”

Located on campus, the Acupuncture Clinic is open to the public and treats more than 3,500 patients a year. Services include dietary counseling, qi gong exercise advising, cupping, acupuncture, and Tui Na, a form of Chinese massage that's growing in popularity, says Brett. Student clinicians are supervised by faculty, and with fees ranging from \$15 to \$35 and discounts for seniors, the clinic's affordable services are tough to beat, too. ■ — L.G.

## Anthony F. Colucci Jr. Memorial Scholarship established

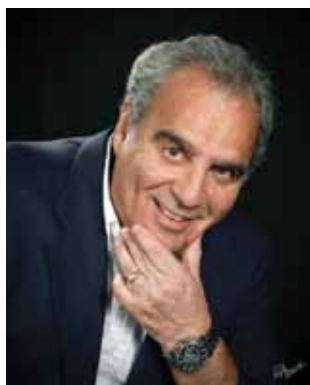
Funds will support veterans and accounting majors.

Before he enrolled at UB as an accounting major, the late Anthony Colucci Jr. '75 volunteered to serve in the Air Force during Vietnam. Now veterans and accounting majors studying at UB are eligible to apply for a scholarship that has been established in his honor, the University announced in June.

Funded by a generous gift from his wife Geraldine Colucci and their daughter Dana, the Anthony F. Colucci Jr. Memorial Scholarship is worth

\$1,000 per academic year. It will be awarded to a veteran entering his or her senior year with a major in accounting at the end of each spring semester.

“This gift is a lovely way to remember a UB graduate who went on to not only a successful career but to serve his country and his community. We are honored that



Anthony F. Colucci Jr.

Mrs. Colucci will recognize a student who exhibits the same character,” said Vice President of University Relations Mary-Jane Foster.

Mr. Colucci passed away on November 15, 2012.

A Bridgeport native, he enrolled at UB upon receiving his honorable discharge and earned a bachelor's in accounting. He went on to work in the private and public sectors in Connecticut and South Carolina for nearly four decades.

An avid reader and music lover, his many other hobbies included golf, motorcycling, billiards, technology, chess, and guitar.

Mr. Colucci ended his career as Comptroller at St. Luke's Church in Hilton Head, South Carolina, where he served as a Eucharistic minister and an usher. ■ — L.G.



# Focus on: John Paul '90

## Background:

Born in Trumbull, Connecticut, to a family with strong Bridgeport roots, John Paul graduated from the University in 1990. While still in school, he worked at Sikorsky, and at the age of 21 bought his first house — not to move into, but to renovate and resell.

## Most recent accomplishments:

John Paul says he is very close to pinning down the next “big” real estate project with an announcement due soon, pending approvals. “Aspen took two and a half years to get approved. Meanwhile, I’ve got six rehabs going right now and ten planned for this year.” These days Paul makes executive decisions for his firm, John Paul Development, LLC, but he once did so for the state — including a stint as chair of the state Lottery Board of Directors. Now he has vowed to recruit hearts, minds, and dollars for UB.

## You were pretty young to buy a house.

I had no idea what I was doing. I renovated it myself with a hammer in one hand and a Home Depot book in the other. I think I paid \$3,000 down in those days, and I actually lost money! But I learned a lot. Now I’m 46, and I’ve done one or two renovations a year since then for a total of 35 so far. And they’ve all sold.

## So you formed John Paul Development early on?

No, I had another career first — ten years in state government. My family had a political toe in Bridgeport. I got involved when John Rowland ran for governor in the mid-’90s. Eventually, I ended up at the Department of Economic and Community Development, trying to attract international and domestic companies to Connecticut. Then later at the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, and finally [Governor] Jodi Rell asked me to head up the Connecticut Lottery board. I served as chairman there for three years.



“There have been 20 years of graduates since I was a student at UB. That’s a lot of people who may not know about the improvements. It’s important for alumni to take another look.”

## But all along you also had a more personal goal.

I had a vision. I wanted to build houses.

## And did.

And did. I came home and formed John Paul Development, and we built Aspen Ridge Estates in Shelton. They’re pretty stunning townhomes that quickly sold out and went on to win a 2009 National Association of Home Builders award. Another project for us, also in Shelton, is a beautiful wooded development of custom homes called Audubon Preserve.

## What did your UB experience mean to you throughout the years?

Frankly, not a lot. My generation in the ’80s and ’90s saw a lot of loss at the school. Loss of sports programs and courses and teachers. By the time I left, one-third of the buildings on campus were empty. Memories of those hard times left a sour taste in our mouths.

## Has that changed for you?

It’s been 23 years, but I began paying attention to UB. I couldn’t believe what I saw. Driving across campus, there were new athletic fields, new facilities. And I learned about the physician’s assistant, chiropractor, and nutrition programs: courses that create jobs.

## A lot of people are noticing, but you took further action.

I called [Vice President of University Relations] Mary-Jane Foster and offered to contribute. There have been 20 years of graduates since I was a student at UB. That’s a lot of people who may not know about the improvements. It’s important for alumni to take another look. I told Mary-Jane it feels like a new beginning. It’ll take some time, but in my opinion, UB has turned an important corner.

– Interview by Dianne Wildman

# Faculty Lines

## Emergency Response

Hurricane Sandy. The Boston Marathon. 9/11.

When disasters strike, the impulse to help is laudable and understandable. Yet all too often, an influx of volunteers undermines relief efforts, says Professor **Martha Petersen**, who is associate director of the Physician Assistant Institute.

"After Katrina, there was a mess of people rushing in to volunteer. But having PAs, doctors, and EMTs just showing up complicated things," explains Petersen. "They needed a license to practice in Louisiana. They had to be housed and fed, and that strained the system."



When Katrina's floodwaters subsided, experts began figuring out how to respond more effectively. They've created regional disaster plans and began outreach to train individuals how to prepare for emergencies. As part of the improvements, Peterson was invited to co-author "Mass Casualty and Disaster Management," a chapter that appears in the latest edition of *Physician Assistant: A Guide to Clinical Practice*. Now in its fifth edition, *Physician Assistant* has been used and updated since first PAs were trained in the 1970s.

The good news: Disaster responses have evolved since Katrina, Peterson reports. "There has to be a coordination of care and a chain of command that's activated. That happened in Boston." ■ – **Leslie Geary**

## Rewarding Good Works



As UB's VISTA coordinator, **Jennifer Turner** works hard to provide students with opportunities to get involved in the community. Most notably, she was interviewed by national media after refereeing a SNAP

food challenge to see if Newark Mayor Cory Booker could dine on only \$35 a week. The contest was held the same week as the SNAP challenge Turner planned for UB students.

Her work has not gone unnoticed. In April, Turner received a Connecticut Higher Education Community Service award. The awards are given to college and university students and faculty who make extraordinary efforts to help others.

In announcing the award, the judges noted that "Turner has strengthened the culture of service on campus by starting several new service opportunities, including a 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, a Challenge Day of Service, a Domestic Violence Vigil and a Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, all of which raised student service hours from 7,800 to 10,000 hours in one year." ■ – **L.G.**

## To France on a Fulbright!

**Thomas J. Ward**, dean of the College of Public and International Affairs, was selected by the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Board to participate in an International Education Administrators (IEA) seminar that will be held in France in the fall of 2013.



Ward, who studied at the University of Paris, said that he is "very grateful" to have been chosen for the program. In his proposal, Ward outlined his interest in understanding how educational reforms within the European

Union over the past 15 years have affected the French educational system. Ward added that he hopes that the program will afford opportunities to explore further academic exchanges between UB and French institutions of higher education.

The IEA is one of several Fulbright Scholar programs for students, faculty, and administrators, such as the flagship Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program and various visiting-scholar, specialist, lecturer, and distinguished-chair initiatives. ■ – **L.G.**



## Artist on View

**Peter Konsterlie**, who directs the Shelfhaudt Gallery at the Arnold Bernhard Center and is an adjunct professor at the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design, has been busy showing his own works. He participated in a "Meet the Artists" event at the Spring Art Exhibition in Red Hook, Brooklyn, in May. In June, he was among several artists in a 2000-square-foot pop-up gallery in downtown Norwalk. ■ – **L.G.**

## New Yorker Nutrition



Load up on veggies, fruit, and lean protein. Ditch sugar, fat, and white bread.

When it comes to dietary advice, we've heard it all before. But Human Nutrition Institute professor **Barry S. Kendler's** take on healthy eating

took a far more creative and entertaining turn when was invited to give advice at the Fairfield Public libraries. During his lecture, "New Yorker Nutrition," Kendler made serious points about smart eating by using entertaining cartoons from the *New Yorker* magazine.

Kendler discussed the importance of minimizing the consumption of foods whose sugar is absorbed quickly and maximizing the intake of foods that provide protein, vitamins, and minerals. He also reminded participants why eating adequate amounts of often-neglected nutrients is critical to their health. ■ – **L.G.**



## Blowing in the Wind

Call it playing for your supper on overdrive: In May, music professor and saxophonist **Bill Harris** blew into Tokyo to perform two nights with Sam Moore (from the R&B duo Sam & Dave) before jetting back to the States. “It was so short I didn’t get jet lag,” says an indefatigable Harris.

In fact, touring is nothing new for Harris. When he’s not on the road (sax, clarinet, or flute in hand) Harris teaches woodwinds classes at UB—or juggles performing with teaching. In March, Harris played with the Allman Brothers Band at New York’s iconic Beacon Theater, but his gigs and audiences run the gamut. Harris was part of the house band at the 2012 Republican National Convention

and has played in more than a handful of off-Broadway musicals. This summer he accompanied Jakob Dylan and Norah Jones at the Stones Fest at the Bowery Ballroom in Manhattan. Other recent gigs brought him closer to UB, where he made played at Bridgeport’s Bijou Theater and at the Ridgefield Playhouse with Lucie Arnaz (daughter of Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball).

“I’m the guy who could play classical clarinet and flute, then blow a rock ’n’ roll saxophone solo,” says Harris. “It’s worked.” Music fans can catch up with him by checking his website at [www.saxbro.com](http://www.saxbro.com). ■ — **L.G.**

## Heavenly Praise

**Jani Macari Pallis** has been named Campus Director of the Year by the Connecticut Space Grant Consortium (CSGC) because she has significantly increased the number of UB students and faculty working on applied aerospace projects that support NASA initiatives.



Pallis, an associate professor of mechanical engineering, is the CSGC’s campus director at UB. In that role, she is responsible for promoting the consortium to UB faculty and students, and by extension, boosting their presence in various scholarships, research, and other campaigns.

The CSGC was founded in 1991 to increase participation by college and university students in NASA research programs, and it awards NASA funds to Connecticut colleges and universities that are members of its consortium.

The CSGC awarded \$64,660 to UB students and faculty since Pallis became the university’s campus director last fall. That “significantly” increases the number of UB students and faculty who’ve applied to the consortium for various projects, said CSGC Director Thomas Filburn. “Jani has done an exemplary job.” ■ — **L.G.**

# Alumni Lines

Would you like to share news of your own or nominate an alumnus 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](mailto:knightlines@bridgeport.edu). Be sure to include your full name, contact information, and class year.

## 1943

**Barbara Lawless** passed away on January 13, 2013. A noted muralist and portrait artist, Lawless's works grace libraries, homes, post offices, the governor's mansion, and other buildings throughout Connecticut. She was featured in UB's first annual Alumni Art Show held in 2012. In 2004, she was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award for her contributions to the arts.

## 1950

**Robert M. Marx** writes *Knightlines* with a stirring tribute to former classmate and longtime friend, **Lawrence R. Seamon '51**, who passed away in June 2010. Seamon and Marx met in high school and were roommates at UB. Seamon played varsity football for the Purple Knights, pledged with Sigma Phi Alpha Fraternity, and earned a bachelor's in Psychology. After graduation, Marx enlisted in the army and Seamon attended Marine Officer Candidate School. Seamon was wounded in three separate

occasions during his service in Korea. "His military service was outstanding," writes Marx, who praised Seamon's "service, loyalty, and dedication to our country."

## 1954

**Violet Scialla** passed away on April 10.

## 1957

**Thora Ann Carr Russell** passed away on April 18. A Fairfield native, Mrs. Russell earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from UB in 1950 and 1957. After graduation, she worked for Pan American Airways, during which time she visited many destinations. She is survived by John Russell, her husband of 54 years, daughter Betsy Milicia, and son, Doug. She was predeceased by two grown sons.

## 1964

**John Chaco** was inducted into the Connecticut Wrestling Hall of Fame this spring after receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award for his breathtaking 50-year coaching career. The ceremony was held at MGM Grand Hotel at the Foxwoods Casino, and 80 of Chaco's former wrestlers and friends attended to "congratulate their 'old' coach," says Chaco. "It was a very special evening."



## 1965

**Toby Ulman Grandberg** writes that she and her husband Marty have cooked up a delicious retirement. The duo, who retired from careers in health care, started a successful Kosher catering business. "We have always enjoyed cooking and participating in refreshment committees. Grandberg writes from her home in Sharon, MA. "Word-of-mouth is an amazing thing. We catered Kosher functions on a part-time basis for years."

Meanwhile, her family has grown. Their son Harris and wife Elana are expecting their first child in the fall. Her daughter Rachel and son-in-law Shad Weinstein are about to celebrate their eighth anniversary this September with her daughters Isabella and Sarah. "Our life is full," concludes Grandberg, who hopes UB friends will contact her at [Tgrandberg@aol.com](mailto:Tgrandberg@aol.com).

## 1968

**Richard Zimmer** has passed away. He worked most recently for New York Life in financial services. He was also the president of R. O. Zimmer & Associates.

## 1970

**Frederick R. Pivarnik** has passed away. A Bridgeport native, he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Sociology at

UB and would become a loyal and generous supporter of the University. A World War II veteran who served in the U.S. army, he later worked for the federal administrative court system and became assistant chief of probation. In later years he volunteered at his local PBS station and guided tours at the U.S. Capitol. His wife of nearly 60 years, Bernice, passed away 24 days after his death. The couple is survived by daughter Susan Nicholson, son Matthew, and three grandchildren.

## 1972

**Bill Smitrovich** is getting rave reviews for his current role in David Mamet's *American Buffalo*, playing at Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles. Smitrovich, a business school alumnus and former Distinguished Alumnus, made his theatrical debut at UB, when he auditioned for John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. Since then, he's acted in a number of films, television dramas, and Broadway plays, including the ABC series *Life Goes On*. More recently, he was profiled in the *Los Angeles Times*.

## 1978

**Joseph Diorio** received a Models of Excellence Award from the University of Pennsylvania for his participation in establishing the Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archives at Penn's Van Pelt Library. Diorio is presently director of communication at the Annenberg School for Communication.

1980



**Marie Bakitas** joined the University of Alabama School of Nursing faculty this spring as the Marie L. O’Koren Endowed Chair and professor, with a secondary appointment at UAB’s School of Medicine. Dr. Bakitas, who was formerly associate professor at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and the Dartmouth Institute of Health Policy and Critical Practice, is nationally recognized for her extensive contributions to the fields of oncology nursing and palliative care.

1984

**Thomas O’Hara** delighted roughly 100 audience members when he helped launch the Business School’s new Executive Speakers Series in April. O’Hara, who is president and owner of International Marketing Systems Ltd. and a B-school alumnus, was invited to speak about “Exploring the Challenges of Global Food Supply.” O’Hara assigned audience members to various roles—from farmers to producers, customs officers, FDA officials, and customer—and directed them to role play in order to fully understand how food makes its way from international producers to U.S. supermarket shelves and onto our dinner plates.

1989

**Joyce DeCesare** was awarded member status and the designation of Board Certified Professional Counselor by the American Board of Professional Counselors. DeCesare, who received a master’s in Counseling in 1969 and her Sixth-Year Degree in 1989, is a licensed professional counselor practicing in Middlebury, CT. “I always refer to the Counseling program at UB as the best,” she writes.

2000

**Manish Chowdhary** and **James McDougal ’03** continue to reap awards for their company, GoECart. The duo’s won the Gold Award in the 2013 Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Competition in June. It is the second consecutive year the company has grabbed the CQIA’s top prize for its all-in-one ecommerce suite, GoECart 360. “We are thrilled,” said Chowdhary. “This award underscores GoECart’s commitment to keeping its clients at the forefront of digital commerce through rapid and continuous innovation that is delivered seamlessly and frequently.”

2009

Fairfield County locals have been raving about Jay & Ray’s Music for Everybody, founded by alumnus **Ray Bryant** and his business partner Jason Pharr in Westport, CT. Now the world knows about the music school, too; it was recently featured in the *Huffington Post*. Catered to the young Sippy Cup set and their caregivers, Jay & Ray’s was heralded for its “non-judgmental format . . . perfect for learning how to get your groove on.” ■ — L.G.



UB alumni Howard ’59 and Maxine ’62 Abner hosted a private luncheon for fellow alums at the Ritz-Carlton in Palm Beach in March. Guests included former Alumni Board Member Sandy Lutz ’00 (middle) with President and Mrs. Neil Salonen.



Alumni Board Members Miguel Arroyo, Duanecia Evans, Dennis Brotherton, Gordon Stier, Kenneth Graham (standing, from left), James Sheridan; Suzanne Payls; and Andrea Andrews.



Outgoing Alumni Board President Gordon Stier congratulating incoming Alumni Board President Dennis Brotherton on his appointment.

## Side Lines

# Men's Basketball Storms into NCAA Division II East Regional Finals

**Purple Knights rebound from slow start to grab conference title.**

By Chuck Sadowski

It was a slow start and awesome finish for the 2012-13 edition of the University of Bridgeport men's basketball team, as the Purple Knights, after going 2-6 in their first eight games of the year, captured the 2013 East Coast Conference title and fell just one win shy of reaching the NCAA Division II Elite Eight, as UB advanced to this season's NCAA East Regional Final.

This year's NCAA Tournament appearance marked the 19th time in school history and the seventh time in thirteen seasons under current head coach Mike Ruane that Bridgeport has reached the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Championship Tournament.

After the team's slow start, the Purple Knights would win 22 of their final 26 games to finish 2012-13 with a 23-10 overall record and a 15-3 mark in conference play. Included in that strong run of play for the team was a 12-game winning streak that saw UB not lose from January 12 through February 27, 2013.

Leading this year's team was the dynamic duo of First Team All-Conference and All-Region performers, seniors Darian David and Dion Waiters. David, who earned his second consecutive First Team All-East Coast Conference recognition this year, led the team in scoring averaging 17.0 points per game.

Waiters, who also averaged 10.3 points per game and led the Purple Knights with 121 assists in 2012-13, was a force to be reckoned with on defense all season long, as he led not only Division II but all of NCAA men's basketball in steals averaging 4.44 thefts per game. ■

Senior Darian David became the 29th player in UB history to reach the 1,000-career-point plateau as he led the Purple Knights in scoring for the second straight season in 2012-13.



Senior Dion Waiters not only led all of Division II men's basketball but every level of NCAA play, averaging 4.44 steals per game in 2012-13.





# Blazing Stars

## **Purple Knights claim fifth consecutive USAG team title and ECAC Division II Crown plus make history by qualifying for NCAA Regional.**

**By Chuck Sadowski**

The juggernaut that is the University of Bridgeport women's gymnastics program continued to roll along in 2013 as the dynastic squad under the direction of head coach Byron Knox captured its fifth consecutive USA Gymnastics (USAG) Women's Collegiate National Team Championship and won its fifth straight ECAC Division II team title.

The Purple Knights also made history this past season as UB became just the second non-Division I institution to receive an invitation to the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Regionals as a team since the current non-divisional format was implemented in 1987. At the NCAA's, Bridgeport put up a solid team showing and finished sixth at the Gainesville Regional hosted by the University of Florida.

At the Gainesville Regional, the 2013 National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches Women's

Awards were announced, and Bridgeport's Monica Mesalles Sallares was named the Division II Gymnast of the Year, plus head coach Byron Knox was named Division II National Coach of the Year and assistant coach Becky Caravetta was selected Division II National Assistant Coach of the Year.

In winning its fifth straight USAG National Championship in April, the Purple Knights simply dominated the competition at the meet hosted by Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana from April. At the team finals, the Purple Knights led from wire-to-wire posting a school-record score of 196.500 to top second place Texas Women's University (194.800), third place and host Centenary College of Louisiana (193.975) and fourth place Brown University (193.575). UB won all four events (Bars, Beam, Vault and Floor Exercise) on the night. The previous record score for Bridgeport



## Side Lines

# Beating the Odds

**UB's Lorraine Galow wins John Smillie, Jr. Award for helping Purple Knights win fifth title after recovering from serious injury.**

**By Chuck Sadowski**

Graduate student Lorraine Galow of the women's gymnastics team has been named the 2013 recipients of the John Smillie, Jr. Award.

This award is given in honor of NYIT Athletic Trainer, John Smillie, Jr. who passed away two years after battling cancer. The John Smillie, Jr. Award is given annually to a student-athlete or student-athletes who have overcome personal or physical challenges and hardships to pursue their intercollegiate athletic careers. John Smillie's children were in attendance to present the awards.

After competing for three successful seasons with Bridgeport, the team was expecting Galow's senior season of 2010-2011 to be nothing short of spectacular. At the first meet of that season, Galow was competing bars, stuck her dismount and endured a career-changing injury.

She had damaged both of her knees in one shot. In her right knee, Lorraine tore her ACL and medial meniscus. She also had a posterior medial tibial plateau

compression fracture, along with a patellar dislocation. In her left knee, she tore her ACL, and both her medial and lateral meniscus. She also had a posterior medial tibial compression fracture. She was told her return to the sport of gymnastics was questionable.

Following her surgeries, Lorraine was a fixture in the UB athletic training room doing rehab. She returned to the classroom for the 2011-2012 season to finish her degree in psychology and human services, and continue her rehab but could only serve as a volunteer assistant coach.

In 2012-13, Lorraine enrolled as a graduate student at UB and returned to gymnastics as a team member, working her way back to competing on both the uneven bar and balance beam. Her return did not come easy as she endured an additional surgery this past January to remove part of her meniscus that she re-tore.

However, this season was one of Lorraine's best. She was a huge contributor for the team and its success. During nationals in Shreveport, La. this April, Lorraine scored a career high during the team finals to help the UB gymnastics team to another national title and secured her spot in the event finals, where she placed fifth. ■

**Head Coach Byron Knox helped direct the women's gymnastics team to its fifth consecutive USAG National Collegiate Team Title in 2013.**

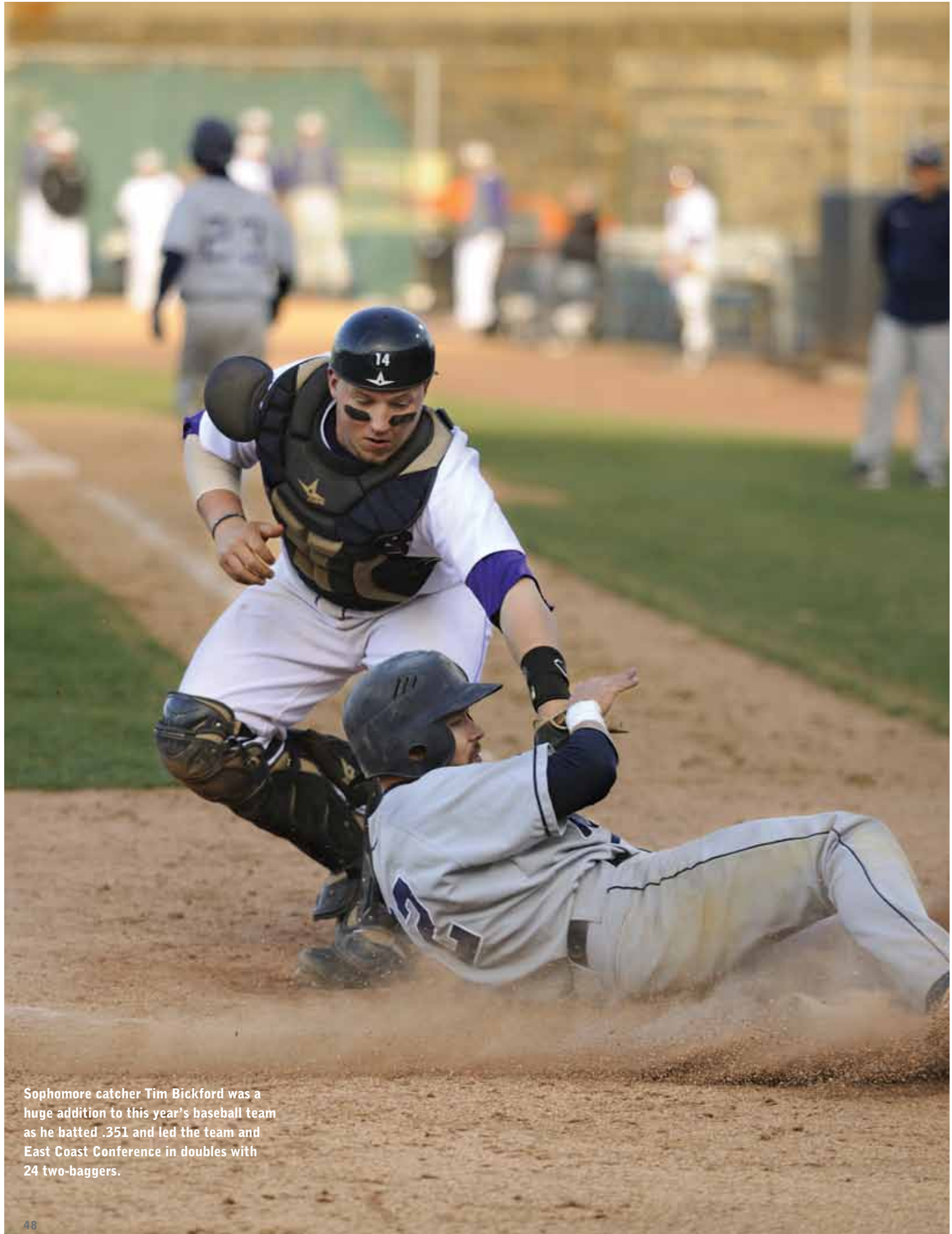


**Graduate student Lorraine Galow was one of three East Coast Conference student-athletes to receive the John Smillie Jr. Award.**

in a meet came on March 4, 2012, when the team won a four-team meet hosted by the University of New Hampshire with a total of 196.350.

UB sophomore Sasha Tsikhanovich, who was outstanding all through the 2013 season, wrapped up her second season in the Park City by winning the USAG All-Around and Floor Exercise titles.

The Purple Knights captured their fifth consecutive ECAC Division II team title at home in late March topping Southern Connecticut State and West Chester. At that meet, Sasha Tsikhanovich was named the ECAC Division II Women's Gymnastics Athlete of the Year, Becky Caravetta was selected ECAC Assistant Coach of the Year and Byron Knox was named ECAC Coach of the Year. ■



Sophomore catcher Tim Bickford was a huge addition to this year's baseball team as he batted .351 and led the team and East Coast Conference in doubles with 24 two-baggers.

## Side Lines

# Baseball Reaches Conference Title Game for Third Consecutive Season

**UB also well-represented on several postseason all-region teams**

By Alex Magliocco

For the third consecutive season the University of Bridgeport baseball team reached the East Coast Conference Championship Tournament final game, capping a successful season for first-year head coach Joe Tonelli.

Tonelli led the Purple Knights to a 22-26 overall record with a 13-11 ECC record. The 2013 team was well represented in post-season awards, too; UB had at least one player on each of the three major all-region teams.

Junior shortstop John Ascenzia and sophomore catcher Tim Bickford were named to the 2013 Daktronics All-East Region Baseball Second Team by votes of sports information directors of the institutions in the three NCAA Division II regional conferences. In addition, Bickford was selected to the 2013 Rawlings/American Baseball Coaches Association NCAA Division II All-East Region Second Team, in a vote of regional coaches and Ascenzia was named to the 2013 National Collegiate Baseball Writers' Association All-East Region Second team.

Junior Jesse Solar was recognized for his outstanding centerfield defense with a 2013 East Region Rawlings/ABCA Gold Glove award, as Jesse completed the entire season without committing an error.

The Purple Knights also had five players make the 2013 All East Coast Conference First and Second teams. ■



**Junior shortstop John Ascenzia earned First Team All-East Coast Conference honors and batted .345 in 2013.**

## Side Lines

# The Standout Team

Alumnus Edward DeChent named to New England Basketball Hall of Fame.

By Mike Patrick



Edward DeChent

When Edward DeChent '89 was recruited as an undergraduate by the University of Bridgeport basketball program back in the mid-1980s, there was one prospective teammate he was most excited about sharing the court with.

"The thought of playing alongside Manute Bol really sparked an interest with me," he said. "I thought it was a great opportunity.

It never happened. The 7-foot, 6-inch Sudanese was drafted by the NBA just before the 6-foot, 5-inch DeChent arrived at UB.

More than a quarter-century later, the two are finally, in a way, on the same team. In June, DeChent was named to the New England Basketball Hall of Fame, where the late Bol (who died in 2010), has been a member since 2004.

"I'm humbled. It's a great accomplishment. It's a proud moment in my life," DeChent said. "I worked really hard all my life, from the time I was in junior high, playing basketball every day."

DeChent had been a standout player for Yonkers High School in New York and Post Junior College in Waterbury, Conn., before being recruited as a Purple Knight.

Though Bol was gone, DeChent didn't lose his motivation to play. He found plenty of that in then-Head Coach Bruce Webster.

"I really loved playing for Coach Webster," he said. "He was a tough coach, but his heart was always in the right place."

Under Webster, DeChent scored a UB career high of 2,298 points and 918 rebounds. In 1989, as a senior, his game point average was 22 with an additional seven rebounds.

And while that helped place the Purple Knights in the Division II regional finals that year, DeChent doesn't take all the credit.

"I was fortunate enough to play with teammates Lambert Shell and Steve Ray, who were great players and great friends. And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Norman Taylor, who was a great player for UB," he said. "Playing with guys like that, it frees you up on the



DeChent scored big at UB.

outside, and when you get open shots, you knock them down."

DeChent pointed out all three of those teammates are in the UB Athletic Hall of Fame, and Shell and Ray are also in the New England Basketball Hall of Fame.

Toward the end of his UB career, DeChent said, he realized his goal of going pro would not materialize.

"Every college and high school player has dreams of playing professionally," he said. "By my senior year, I realized that wasn't in the cards for me."

So, armed with his bachelor's degree in psychology, DeChent decided to continue to build his academic skills. He earned another bachelor's degree and two master's degrees, and is now assistant principal at Early College High School, an inner-city school for academically challenged students in his hometown of Yonkers.

The school, he said, is specifically geared to give students "an opportunity and open their eyes to college and what can become them if they improve their academics and education."

And what he brings to the job every day, he said, are both the wisdom of Coach Webster and the lessons he learned on the basketball court.

Webster, he said, instilled in him the value of a work ethic, of practicing during the off season and on off-practice days, of hitting the weight room when he'd rather be getting a slice at Famous Pizza.

"I would say that's my ultimate approach to education," he said. "I'm extremely tough with them, and ultimately, they appreciate it."

But he tempers that hard approach, he said, by sharing his own experience with them.

"I talk to them about basketball and education," he said. "I tell them I got a full scholarship because I was lucky and worked hard, but your education is going to move you forward."

And that approach, he said, also works for him.

"You go out there and work on those weaknesses and try to develop them into strengths," he said. "As an administrator I do that; I look at my deficiencies and put in the extra time to work on and improve them."

DeChent returns to UB a couple times a year to catch a basketball game.

"I'm so impressed with the new coach [Mike Ruane]; it's nice to see them back in great standing and in a good position to win games," he said. "And he's such a cordial guy and always receptive when an alumni comes in and makes time for them. Every time you go up there as an alumnus, they make you feel like you're at home again." ■

## Three new members for Athletic Hall of Fame

**Pepin, Savo, Tabor inducted; other awards go to Ellis and Valuckas.**

By Chuck Sadowski

Three new members were inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in June, when Richard Ellis '55 won the Fran Bacon Award for Lifetime Achievement and Tommy Valuckas '75 was awarded the inaugural Purple Knights Shield of Merit.

This year's new members are the late Craig Pepin '72, Vito Savo '78, and Diahann Tabor '93.

"One of the highlights of every year is the evening of the University of Bridgeport Hall of Fame dinner," said Athletic Director Jay Moran. "It is an honor to recognize our three new Hall of Famers, plus the other award winners. Our 2013 group is a special one that definitely helped our athletic department reach the level of excellence it has attained in recent years," said Athletic Director Jay Moran.

Pepin backstopped the men's soccer team in net from 1969 to 1972, when the Purple Knights finished second in the New England College Division. He stands fourth all-time in career shut-outs for a Bridgeport goalkeeper with 16.

Savo was the Purple Knights' ace on the mound from 1974 to 1977. Voted a New England Region All Star in 1977, he ranked second in the region in earned-run average.



**2013 Fran Bacon Award winner Richard Ellis addresses the crowd at this year's UB Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner.**

Tabor was one of the true bright spots on the University of Bridgeport women's basketball teams from 1989 to 1993. She ranks second all-time in career points scored (1,537) and career rebounds (800).

Ellis served as captain of the swim team while serving as class president his freshman and junior years. He holds numerous United States Masters Swimming records and hundreds of Master Championship medals. Ellis has coached members of the New York Athletic Club swim team, including several Olympic swimmers, for 30 years.

Valuckas began his association with the UB Department of Athletics when his voice could be heard as the public address announcer for the men's and women's basketball teams, and when he covered the Purple Knights as Sports Editor for the campus newspaper, the Scribe. ■



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## **Katie Stanley earns a spot on the Great Britain Women's National Team.**

**By Chuck Sadowski**

Former University of Bridgeport women's soccer standout Katie Stanley '12 was called up to the Great Britain Women's National Team for the 2013 World University Games that will take place in Kazan, Russia in July.

Stanley, who is a current member of the Oxford United Ladies Football Club, received her first international cap when she played in two friendly matches during the final week of June for

the Great Britain U-23 Team versus Sweden and Norway as part of the squad's preparation for the 2013 World University Games. Stanley played at UB from 2008-2011 and completed her studies in the Park City following the fall semester of 2012.

Stanley played in 75 matches for UB during her four-year career amassing 76 career points on 25 goals and 26 assists. ■

# Closing Thought:

## The Time of My Life

By John “Doc Rock” Nicholas

Growing up in New York City, I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would spend almost 50 years first studying and then teaching geology. My interest, and now passion, for the subject did not ignite until my sophomore year at NYU, when I was advised to take science, humanities, and social science courses as an undecided major.

Geology, unknown to me at the time, sounded less threatening than chemistry and physics, so I chose to take it.

Fast forward to the present and enter room 16 in the basement of Dana Hall of Science, and you become instantly aware of what subject is being taught. Room 16 has been nicknamed “Rock City,” and its landlord and keeper: “Doc Rock.”

I acquired the nickname when I first came to UB. One of my students waiting for a class to begin noticed that “Dr.” was printed before my name on the door. She asked, “Why, are you a doctor?”

“Because I have a PhD in geology,” I answered.

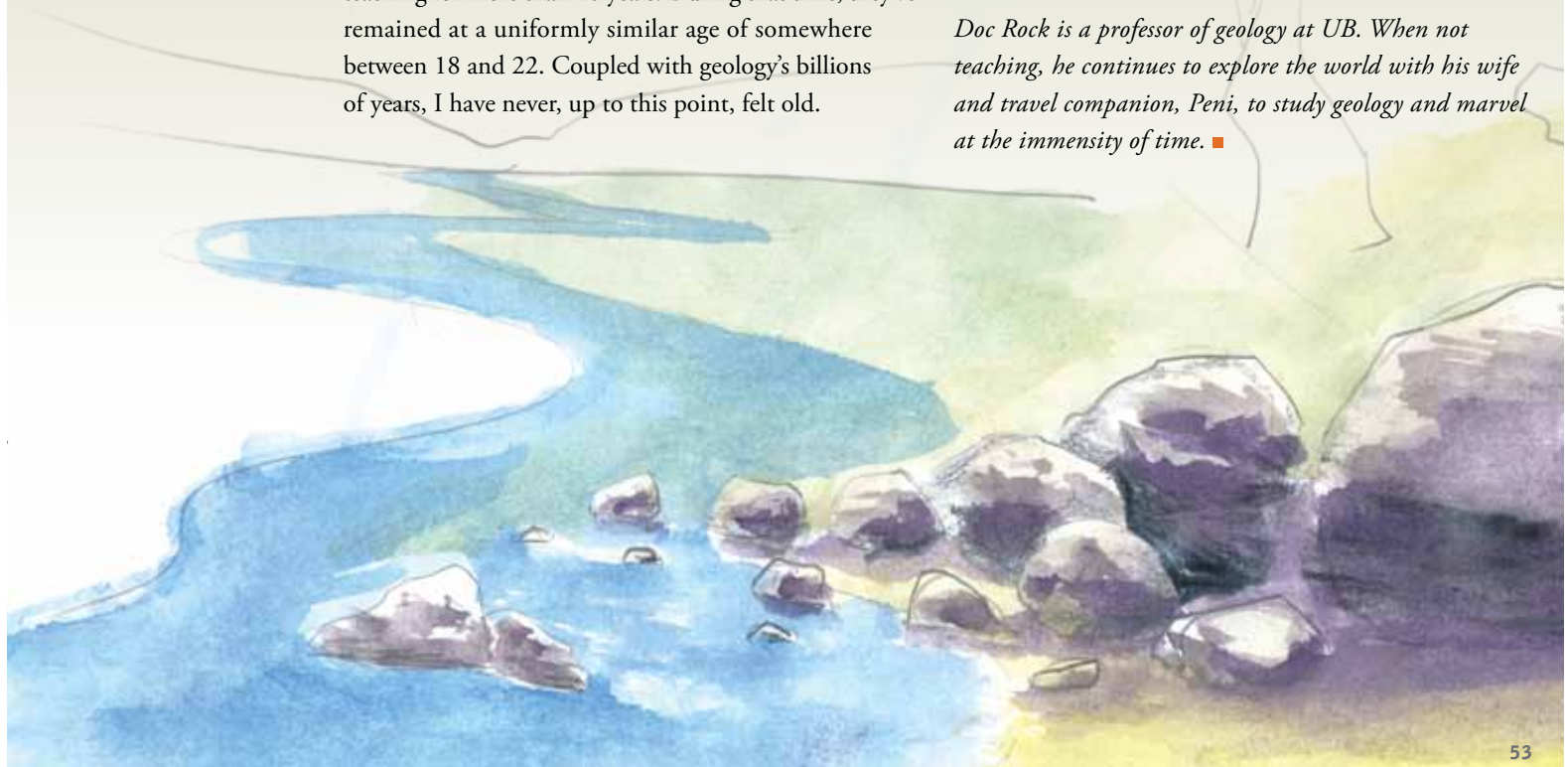
“Then you are a doctor of rocks,” she said. “You’re ‘Doc Rock.’” Since then I have been Doc Rock to more than 8,000 students who I have had the privilege of teaching for more than 40 years. During that time, they’ve remained at a uniformly similar age of somewhere between 18 and 22. Coupled with geology’s billions of years, I have never, up to this point, felt old.

Getting back to the room and its contents—there are six long tables filed with attractive mineral, rock, and fossil specimens designed to engage anyone who enters the room. Wall maps and charts are displayed throughout. There is a saying in geology that the best geologists are the ones who have seen the most geology. Over the years, I have tried to do best by this saying, and Rock City also contains bright yellow boxes of 35-millimeter slides from more than 100 countries and other places I have visited: Antarctica, New Zealand, Indonesia, Iceland, Norway, the Galapagos Islands . . .

All of these are meant to indicate to students the expansive ways geology impacts our lives and shapes our planet, as most don’t have a clue. They are in my classroom for the same reason I was in that geology class many years ago at NYU. My challenge is to try to suggest the value of studying the earth—to teach them that it can be kind and yield its riches: gold, diamonds, etc. And it can be cruel, rupturing during earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and other natural disasters. By understanding geology, we might become better at solving some of earth’s problems.

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*Doc Rock is a professor of geology at UB. When not teaching, he continues to explore the world with his wife and travel companion, Peni, to study geology and marvel at the immensity of time. ■*





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