



UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

January 2026

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UBAA Mission

The Association unites University of Bridgeport alumni to support the University's mission, strengthen alumni connections, and engage current students and graduates as the next generation of alumni.

From the UBAA President, Bill Moran Greetings!



Bill Moran

Happy New Year 2026, and welcome to the latest UB Alumni Newsletter! Also, a hearty welcome to our December graduates as the most recent members of the University of Bridgeport Alumni Association!

The UBAA had a strong year, achieving many of our goals. We welcomed

three new board members and completed a full update of our long-standing bylaws, creating a clearer document that defines our mission, outlines board expectations, and reaffirms our partnership with the University.

Alumni giving continued to grow, and your generosity has supported scholarships, UB RISE awards, facility renovations including Cortright Hall, the expansion of sports programs, and many other university priorities.

In 2025, UB hosted 22 alumni events, including Mardi Gras, Homecoming (Knight's Fest), the Saratoga networking event, our Golf Tournament, the Class of 1975 Golden Knights Reunion, and the Alumni Basketball Kickoff. Our third hybrid Annual UBAA Meeting was held on [October 23](#) and featured a "State of the University" update from Interim Provost Kierstyn Hunter, PhD, followed by committee reports and an in-person reception.

UB continues to thrive with new Health Sciences programs, the opening of the Interdisciplinary Emerging Technologies (IET) Center, and the addition of seven sports programs. Renovated facilities such as Hubbell Gym and the Wheeler Recreation Center enhance student experience, and the return of the Arnold Bernhard Center has renewed the arts presence on campus. UB was also ranked #12 in the U.S. for its Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence degree and was highlighted in [The Washington Post](#) for its role in Bridgeport's revitalization. Momentum continues to build as we approach [UB's Centennial Celebration](#) in 2027.

There is so much happening, and alumni involvement makes it all more meaningful. Visit [UB's website](#), contact Yvrose Romulus (Eve-Rose), UB Development Officer, yromulus@bridgeport.edu or 203-209-2824, or stop by Bates Hall when you're on campus.

From the UBAA Vice President, Gordon Stier Networking Events

After a successful year of highly attended alumni events, we are currently coordinating and planning our schedule for 2026. For event details, see the [UB Alumni Events webpage](#) for updates. The events scheduled for early 2026 are listed below:

- Planned Giving Luncheon: Planned for [January 28, 2026](#). Details to come.
- Valentine's Day Appreciation Event: To be held [February 12, 2026](#), in Bates Hall, 135 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT. [Register and further information](#)
- Mardi Gras Alumni Networking Event: To be held [February 17, 2026](#), at the Ukrainian American Club of Southport, 279 King's Drive, Southport, CT. Details to come.
- March Madness Alumni Event: Planned for [March 17, 2026](#). Details

to come.

Alumni Spotlight: Roshan Thiran '96



Roshan Thiran, Leaderonomics founder, an organization that helps people become leaders.

Roshan Thiran is grateful for the career he has built since graduating from UB in 1996, but he seems even more thankful for what he picked up on his way to the school.

“My wife and I were both scholarship students to UB, and we ended up seated together on the flight from Kuala Lumpur to New York,” he recalled in an interview. “By the time we landed, we’d already done the first important leadership exercise of adult life: learning how to talk to a stranger without being weird.”

Thiran said that the two were then picked up at JFK Airport in New York by someone from UB and driven to campus together “before heading to our dorms—me to Cooper Hall, her to Barnum.”

For Thiran, it was the first stop of many. “I lived in so many dorms that even Google Maps would ask follow-up questions,” he quipped. “I started in Cooper Hall, moved to Chaffee, then to Barnum, then Seeley, and then another place I honestly can’t remember.

“Because my scholarship covered housing, I went wherever I was placed. The best part: It gave me a “mini-United Nations” experience. I had at least six roommates from six different countries, including

Poland, Bosnia, Lithuania, Mexico, Malaysia, and Thailand.”

Thiran majored in international business and played soccer for the Purple Knights from 1993 to 1996. Upon graduating from UB, he had already been working for General Electric for almost a year. NBC was then owned by GE, so he joined NBC Universal in its Rockefeller Centre office in New York before moving to London managing GE Capital’s acquisition integration process.

“I returned to the U.S. to manage GE’s Y2K project before getting a role in Asia to run its aviation business in Malaysia,” Thiran said. “After a turnaround in that business, I moved to Singapore, Tokyo, and finally to Shanghai for a few years, before joining Johnson & Johnson in a global role. I finally moved back to Malaysia to start my own startup and social enterprise in 2009.”

Thiran is the founder of Leaderonomics, which he says, “is essentially about solving problems by helping people grow into leaders -- and helping organizations stay human while still performing in a world moving at AI-speed.”

“I wanted to build something focused on developing people and transforming cultures -- not just hitting numbers,” he added. “Today, my work includes advising leaders, building leadership and culture programs, hosting interviews with leaders globally, and growing a platform of initiatives and ventures aimed at strengthening organizations and communities.”

Thiran calls his UB experience “one of the biggest turning points of my life.”

“It didn’t just give me a degree,” he insisted.

“It gave me global exposure, lifelong friendships, an expanded worldview, and (quite literally) my wife.

“I came to Bridgeport thinking I was going to ‘study abroad.’ I left realizing I was being shaped for a much bigger journey. UB really opened my eyes to possibilities and made me unafraid to challenge status quo, assumptions and even leadership.”

Do You Remember? UB Bookstore and Richard Hebert

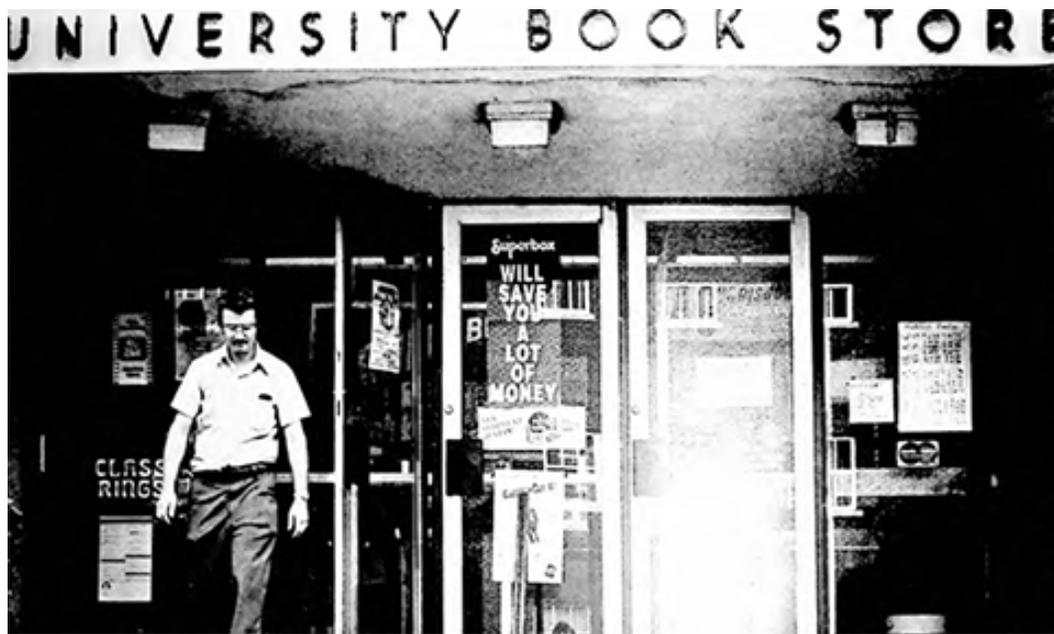


Image of the UB Bookstore as it appeared in the Wistarian Yearbook, 1974.

As manager of the bookstore for more than a decade, Richard Hebert has become somewhat of an institution at UB. And UB seems to have gotten into his blood.

“My goal is absolutely to finish my career here,” he said in an interview.

“I have a son that's a freshman in high school, and the other one's in seventh grade, and my goal is to make sure that my kids are also going to become part of the UB family and get that UB DNA in them.

“I want my kids to be able to experience what UB gives to the students.” The Ansonia, CT, native indicated that he considers himself fortunate to find himself at UB.

“I'm super grateful,” he stated. “That community finds a way to touch your heart, and it really is just something special.”



Richard Hebert, UB Bookstore manager.

Hebert started working at UB in the dining services department during August 2013 before moving over to the bookstore the following year. The most gratifying thing about the position, he said, “is to be able to watch the students transition with their school education and turn it into success.”

“Going through that process at UB to jumpstart their career and watching them become successful and making it through that process is the most rewarding thing about my job.”

Hebert’s standing and value is such that he was awarded the Honorary Knight Award at last year’s gala dinner during Homecoming Weekend. “Getting that award that night with the alumni, with the faculty, staff, administration, with the students, with the Board of Trustees - it was the most memorable, heartfelt moment of my career here,” he said.

“It helps to continue to drive me to want to do better and help the students succeed.”

Visit the University of Bridgeport Campus Store. Every purchase directly benefits the University of Bridgeport campus community. Free shipping is available. The UB Bookstore is located at Wahlstrom Library (garden level) at [126 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT](#), or at the [UB Bookstore webpage](#).

Recent Events

UB Annual Phonathon: Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this a successful event! We were able to contact 1,452 alumni and raise over \$35,000. The event was held on December 1 in preparation for Giving Tuesday, a global generosity movement celebrated to promote charitable giving, including support for educational institutions. For more information contact Yvrose Romulus (Eve-Rose), UB Development Officer, 203-576-4801 or yromulus@bridgeport.edu.

Saratoga Springs Alumni Event: Held on **November 15** at Anne's Washington Inn, this was a weekend gathering of University of Bridgeport alumni in Saratoga Springs. UB President Danielle Wilken attended along with VP Elena Cahill. Michael Schneider '84, and Joe Bokan '82, sponsored the event.

Alumni Reunion at the UB Basketball Opener: Games were played on **November 16**, including the UB Men's Opening Team Game. Many alumni were in attendance, bringing their Purple Knight spirit. In addition, a ribbon-cutting was held to celebrate the newly remodeled [Harvey Hubbell Gymnasium](#).

Financial Literacy for Bridgeport High School Students: One of the highlights of the semester was a collaborative project led by UB Ernst C. Trefz School of Business faculty members Director Tim Raynor, DBA, Gew-rae Kim, PhD, and Robin Avant, Ed.D, who introduced Bridgeport High School students to the fundamentals of investing and the stock market. Over four weeks, students engaged with real market data and tools, building financial literacy and confidence.



Bridgeport High School students receive certificates for successfully completing the Financial Literacy program on November 4, 2025.

The final session, held on **November 4** in the Bloomberg Lab in Mandeville Hall, was a special moment. UB alumnus and UB Alumni Association Vice President Gordon Stier '77, who generously sponsored the initiative, awarded certificates to the students and shared insights from his

professional experience. His continued support helps inspire and prepare the next generation of business leaders.

We're proud of the students' achievements and grateful to everyone who helped make this program a success. Here's to another year of meaningful connections, community engagement, and opportunities to support future leaders at UB.

Get Connected

- [University of Bridgeport Alumni Association](#)
- [Donate Today!](#)
- [Connect with UB alumni businesses!](#)
- [UB's Centennial Celebration \(2027\)](#)

Larry Santora '69

A UB Golden Knight and UB Alumni Association board member, Larry Santora '69 passed away on 12/7/25 in his home surrounded by his family. He served as chair of the Historians Committee and dedicated himself to the UB community with grace and passion. Larry will be sorely missed.

For more details, please see the [obituary link](#).