

AFTERNOON ORAL PRESENTATIONS



(Left to right: Hannah Halloran, MSW; Liane Leedom, MD)

“The Search for Grants: Facilitating the Identification, Pursuit and Stewardship of Grant Funding”

UB’s Grants Office partners with members of the UB community in the pursuit and administration of grant funding that supports the institution’s mission, strategic priorities, students, research, programming, etc. We work to identify funding opportunities, review eligibility and other requirements, assist in proposal and budget development, and secure institutional review and approvals through to submission. With regards to grant awards, we negotiate grant acceptance, facilitate a smooth transition to grants management (which includes grants accounting), and provide continual oversight for compliance and reporting requirements through grant closeout. UB’s Grants Office also works closely with Goodwin University’s Grants Department to promote the overall growth of both institutions and enhance our standing in the broader community.

Two examples of federal grants currently being overseen by the Grants Office:

“RP! Radically Prepared! A Program to Develop a Skillful, Resilient, Professional Counselor Workforce for Southern Connecticut, Health Resources & Services Administration”

(Grant Authors: Allison Buller, PhD, Liane Leedom, MD, Fredrick Dombrowski, PhD)

UB received a 4-year grant totaling \$ 1,5334,334 for “Radically Prepared! A Program to Develop a Skillful, Resilient, Professional Counselor Workforce for Southern Connecticut” (RP!). This innovative initiative will increase the supply of highly qualified behavioral health professionals in the Southern Connecticut cities: Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Haven, and West Haven— all designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). RP! will supply this target region with clinical mental health counselors trained to deliver trauma-informed, evidence-based therapies. The overarching **goal** of this project is to increase Connecticut’s behavioral health workforce by training resilient, skilled clinical mental health counselors from underrepresented groups who are bilingual and culturally competent. Major trauma-informed evidence-based, therapy training components will include Motivational Interviewing (MI), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Skills (DBT-Skills) and Circle of Security Parenting (COSP), all of which promote self-regulation skills and facilitate healthy choices.

“UB Safer Campus, Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women”

The University received a 3-year grant award in the amount of \$300,000 for “UB Safer Campus.”

Through this grant, UB will implement a comprehensive approach to providing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking (DVDVSAS) education to reduce incidences, protect victims, raise awareness among all campus stakeholders, and create a seamless coordinated university-community effort to effectively address DVDVSAS.

Maria Gomes (Moderator) Director of Grants

Maria previously served as a Senior Grants Officer in Goodwin University’s Grants Department. Maria has extensive experience researching, applying for and managing government, foundation and corporate grants as well as in program development and implementation. In previous careers, Maria worked for non-profit organizations focused on Housing & Homelessness, Health & Human Services, and Elder Services.

Liane Leedom, M.D., Professor, Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) Program & Practicum and Internship Coordinator

Liane is a psychiatrist with specialty training in Consultation Liaison Psychiatry. Her professional identity includes *counselor educator*. In conjunction with Dr. Buller, she helped reshape the CMHC Program and obtain its CACREP accreditation. Dr. Leedom is a strong advocate for dissemination of evidence-based therapies and integrated care. She has supervision and training in MI, CBT, and DBT-Skills. She also advocates for prevention of mental illness through parenting education and is a member of the *Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health (where she participates in a "best practices" peer supervision group for human development professors)*. She is a *Circle of Security Parenting facilitator*.

Hannah Halloran, M.S.W., Project Director of UB Safer Campus

Hannah holds a Masters in Social Work Policy from the University of Connecticut, where she concentrated in Violence Prevention in Families and Communities. Before joining the UB, Hannah worked at the UConn Center for Career Development, the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF), and Naugatuck Valley Community College, where she helped launch its first Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Program (IPV-SAPP). Outside of work, Hannah enjoys performing with her band and volunteering as an advisor for a youth development group in her hometown of Monroe, CT.

SPONSOR PANEL PRESENTATION

"UB Student Entrepreneurs Insights Beyond CT Mini-grant Support"



(Left to Right: Sherri Dente, Esq; Clovia McIntosh, MBA; Necas Collins, MBA, Judy Apicella, MS Nutrition)

CTNext, a subsidiary of Connecticut Innovations, had provided four years of grant support to the University of Bridgeport (UB) for the purpose of growing and expanding innovation, entrepreneurship, technology transfer and commercialization in Connecticut. The funding awarded a total of 39 mini grants to students and faculty at UB, Fairfield University, Housatonic Community College and Norwalk Community College for the acceleration of technology inventions and startups to build new capabilities. We continue to expand innovation and entrepreneurial capabilities with the ultimate goal of creating new jobs and businesses and improving the economic environment in Connecticut. Here are the stories of three UB student entrepreneurs.

Sherri Dente, Esq. (Moderator) Director, Bauer Hall Innovation Center & the Office of Technology Transfer and Venture Creation

Sherri received her JD with a concentration in Intellectual Property from Quinnipiac University School of Law and a BS in Industrial and Management Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). She is a patent attorney with over 13 years of experience at Wiggin & Dana LLP, General Electric, and RPI.

Clovia McIntosh, MBA, Founder, IRL (or In Real Life) Innovations LLC

With an eye towards "inventing real-life solutions for real life problems," Clovia has developed designs for three separate products, all intended to make everyday life just a little bit easier. She is graduating with a Master's of Business Administration degree in 2023 from UB's Ernest C. Trefz School of Business. Clovia's flagship product, and the one moving full speed ahead, is **Tube**, a foldable, standup bathtub insert designed to prevent young children under the age of four from slipping and falling in adult-sized bathtubs. Tube is patent pending and is currently in the prototyping stage with a final design confirmed.

Clovia has received awards from *MakeHaven's* annual pitch competition in June 2021 where she came first place for Tubee, her toddler tub. Also, in November 2021, she placed third in the *CT New Product Competition*. Clovia plans to leverage the business development, marketing, and legal mentoring services offered by UB's Student Entrepreneur Center to commercialize Tubee and make it available to parents everywhere.

Necas Collins, MBA, Co-Founder, BLACC Bottle

The BLACC Bottle, exists at the intersection between design and culture. "We created a bottle that has a message of honesty, integrity, and transparency," says Necas proudly. Born in the incubator of UB's Student Entrepreneur Center, this project has moved quickly from idea to reality. It is a branding initiative centered around an eco-friendly stainless steel 25-ounce bottle. This insulated bottle keeps liquid cold for 24 hours, has a deluxe feel to it when you hold it in your hand, and is painted with inspiring messages. BLACC Bottle is more than just a bottle, it's a canvas that promotes love, unity and positivity. BLACC represents: B.onafide L.ove A.dvancing C.ultural C.hange.

Necas won the first-place award at the *Virtual Techstars Startup Weekend* hosted by Sacred Heart University. The event took place from June 19-21, 2020. There were forty-four participants from all over the world. Twenty business ideas were submitted and only six were selected to be worked on during the competition.

Judy Apicella, MS Nutrition, Co-Owner, Bella Alpacas Farm/Sanctuary

Judy is a practicing herbalist and has been for 13 years. Judy created a unique line of herbal products that have given people (and some animals) relief from symptoms of Chronic Lyme. She also has products that may help those with eczema, viruses, flu, pain, and more. Prior to UB, Judy did a survey with over 60 people and six dogs for her herbal Lyme remedy and the results showed significant reduction or removal of pain, fatigue, and improvement in cognitive function. She went through a rigorous process of getting all of her internal remedies lab tested and licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection and filed with the FDA.

Currently, at UB, she is furthering her Lyme herbal product research by conducting high-performance liquid chromatography with her faculty mentor Dr. Stephen Jackowicz in the Acupuncture Institute of the College of Health Sciences and Dr. Abu Gafar Hossion in the Chemistry Department of the College of Science and Society. If the study is successful, Judy's intent is to conduct a clinical trial of the Lyme remedy herbal product.

Judy, along with her husband and son, created a sanctuary for alpacas who needed a home. They have cared for many alpacas, and in fact, she has created herbal remedies for their related health needs. Judy loves helping people and animals with her herbal products. She provides advice on diet and teaches yoga to help people create a healthy and happy mindset.

GRADUATE SPEAKER

"Developing and Validating a Teacher Self-Efficacy Scale for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments"

The purpose of this research was to develop and validate an instrument to measure teacher self-efficacy for teachers of students with visual impairments (TSVIs). The mixed methods research resulted in the development of The Teacher Self-efficacy for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments Scale (TSE-TSVI). The researcher used a six step process for survey development and validation, which included 1) literature review; 2) a preliminary qualitative study; 3) synthesis of literature and qualitative data; 4) development of instrument items; 5) expert review using Lawshe's procedure (1975) for item reduction and retention; and 6) and cognitive pre-testing. After scale development was completed, the instrument was piloted with a sample of TSVIs and data were analyzed for validity and reliability using Exploratory Factor Analysis, Cronbach's alpha, and split-half reliability.

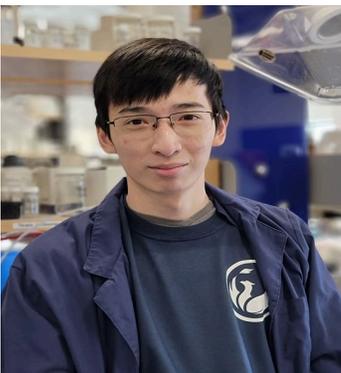


Michael Pompano is currently an ABD Ed.D with defense of his dissertation planned for April 2022. He holds a Sixth Year Degree in Educational Leadership from Quinnipiac University, a Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of Northern Colorado, and a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Education from the University of Vermont. Michael has eighteen years of experience as an Education Consultant at the Connecticut Bureau of Education Services for the Blind and serves as a Unit Coordinator for their Children's Services Program. Michael has been an adjunct professor for the Master of Science in Special Education program at Quinnipiac University for the past four years. His interest lies in helping pre-service and new special education teachers develop their skills. The research for his doctoral dissertation has focused on developing an instrument to measure teacher self-efficacy beliefs for teachers in the blindness education field.

UNDERGRADUATE SPEAKER

“Parametric Design Optimization of a Light and Strong Quadcopter Frame”

Small-scale drones have seen increased usage around the world for a lot of applications ranging from civilian, commercial, and military. They can be used for a lot of purposes such as light show, photograph, video recording, small package delivery, or reconnaissance. The technological advancement of the aerospace industry and manufacturing had helped created better drones every day. Within the drone itself, the frame is the most important structural component, and the quadcopter frame design is the most popular choice for all applications. One of the biggest challenges in designing the frame would be durability because the frame has to handle the most load. The goal of the project is to find a different methodology to optimize the durability of the frame that can withstand transient and failure operating cases, resistance to a crash with full load at a certain height and have a lightweight design. The project will be focusing on optimizing the parametric structure of the frame to achieve structural integrity and optimal weight reduction. Variants of the 3D modeled drone frame will be created with Creo and tested with FEA-based static structure analyses through SOLIDWORK Simulation. The optimization frames will be 3D printed and tested with a drop from a controlled height. In addition to the presenter, Nhat Pham, the senior design mechanical engineering team included Christian DeJarnette, Derek Cerulli and James Zakhour. They were advised by Professor and Chair of Mechanical Engineering Dr. Junling (Joyce) Hu.



Nhat (Mark) Pham is a Mechanical Engineering student, class of 2022. He is an R&D engineer at Eastern Tech company. In addition, he is UB's American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) Club President where he shares his skills, and work experience with other STEMS students to help them progress in their careers. Mark enjoys learning more about aerospace, and manufacturing, as well as doing research about technological current progression.