

# UB Knightlines

## Take a Bow!

More than 1600  
graduate in May



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BRIDGEPORT**

Opening doors. Building futures.

ALSO INSIDE Faces from the Class of 2014 • Love Stories from UB • A Gathering of Talent

# President's Line



Neil Albert Salonen

We closed our academic year with much to celebrate and a palpable sense of momentum. As students prepared for final exams, wrapped up winning sports seasons, and attended end-of-the-year awards ceremonies, the University announced important new partnerships. As you'll read in this issue, these innovative collaborations will richly benefit UB and the larger community. It was particularly fitting, then, that during Commencement, UB awarded an honorary degree to Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, who noted: "The University of Bridgeport is in a transformative period, each year becoming more and more central to the growth of the regional economy while preparing students for 21st-century jobs in fields we are expanding right here in Connecticut."

In May, UB and Bridgeport Hospital announced plans to transfer the hospital's 130-year-old Nursing School's two-year diploma program (RN) to the University, where it would become part of a four-year baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) to respond to changing needs in the health care system. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, nurses with four-year bachelor's degrees have better patient outcomes, and the Institute of Medicine's "Future of Nursing Report" has recommended that the number of nurses entering the workforce with four-year degrees increase to 80 percent by 2020. UB is proud of this new partnership, which will help nurses meet this goal while expanding our already robust offerings in health care education. The agreement continues UB's provision of cutting-edge education, making our graduates competitive in the workforce.

Also in May, the University and FuelCell Energy announced an eco-friendly partnership to build a natural gas fuel cell on campus that will generate electricity for the campus while reducing carbon emissions by more than 7,000 tons annually—equivalent to taking 1,200 vehicles off the road. FuelCell will install and operate the fuel cell power plant next to Wheeler Recreation Center, providing 80 percent of the campus's electricity needs. What's good for the environment is good for UB, too: the partnership is expected to generate \$3.5 million in savings in the first ten years. It also builds upon our strategic plan to make the campus as energy- and cost-efficient as possible so we can remain one of the most affordable private universities in the state.

UB's School of Engineering proudly hosted this year's ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education) Conference. The prestigious event drew more than a thousand industry leaders, faculty, and students from over 135 colleges, universities, and companies throughout the Eastern U.S. and Canada to exchange news of their critical breakthroughs in areas of science, technology, energy, and more. Once again, as in each recent conference, UB students proudly swept all the awards in the Graduate Student Poster category and other awards for graduate student papers. The poster and paper presented by Tamer Abukhalil and Madhav Patil, both 2014 Graduates of the Computer Science & Engineering Doctoral program, won first place in both graduate categories. UB students presented 72 posters out of the 124 total, and 27 of the 94 student papers submitted, and received authentic peer recognition from academic colleagues. As I spoke with judges and presenters alike, I felt great optimism about the contributions our students will make as they use their knowledge and skills to produce positive change in the world.

Finally, to meet the growing demand for on-campus housing, Schine Hall (our last un-renovated residence hall) will be replaced by a new, modern 250-bed facility, scheduled to open in fall 2016.

Once again, I warmly invite all of you to make the time to visit the campus soon and let us show you the exciting developments at UB—I know you'll be as proud as we are!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Albert Salonen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Neil Albert Salonen  
President

# Contents

## Features

### 4 Take a Bow!

More than jubilant! 1600 received degrees in May as Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman delivered Commencement Addresses.

### 8 Faces from the Class of 2014

A movie actor. A girl raised by her grandmother. Another determined to heal the sick: their stories and more from graduates achieving their dreams.

### 13 Love Stories from UB

Alumni have a knack for meeting that special someone. Four of those couples share memories of falling in love and how their lives changed radically for the better.

### 18 A Gathering of Talent

Breakthrough research and technological innovation reign when the University hosted the ASEE conference.



## News Lines

### 21 Nursing School Debut

### 21 Zipcar Comes to UB

### 22 The Dream Team

### 23 Top Teacher

### 24 Giving Back

### 25 Power Up!

### 26 No, dear. That's a fish fork.

## Departments

### 3 Pipelines

### 27 Book Lines

### 28 Focus On: Adriana Reyes '13

### 30 Faculty Lines

### 31 Alumni Lines

### 33 Side Lines

### 37 Closing Thought

# 18





## Editor's Note

I could never resist a good love story, so planning this issue of *Knightlines* has been especially joyful. As you'll read in "Love Stories from UB" (page 14), our alumni have had particular luck in meeting that special someone when they were students. When two of our "UB couples" celebrated their 50th graduation anniversary as Golden Knights at Commencement this year, President Neil Salonen couldn't resist telling the Class of 2014: "Turn to your left. Turn to your right, and introduce yourself. You never know who you'll meet."

That parting shot drew plenty of laughs, but it's true. UB is a campus where relationships—be they academic, professional, or social—flourish. Many of the alums featured in "Love Stories" recall the joy of spending time with large groups of friends, not just their significant other. They formed study groups, cheered each other on at sports events, pooled talents to decorate residence halls for parties, collaborated on classwork, and recalled teachers who took great interest in their work.

In this regard, not much has changed. As newly minted alumna Trichelle July-Lindo '14 states in "Faces from the Class of 2014": "So many people have led me to different things and new experiences I wouldn't have imagined doing."

Relationships open doors of opportunity at UB. With a student-teacher ratio of 18:1, it's impossible to be anonymous or to hide your talents from peers or faculty. This visibility ensures that students are challenged to be their best.

That was evident when UB hosted the 2014 ASEE Conference (American Society for Engineering Education). For three days in May, more than 1000 industry experts, faculty, and students showcased work, attended panels on topics ranging from biomedical technology to energy and sustainability, and competed for highly vaunted research prizes. UB students teamed up with advisers to create devices and systems that may one day prove to be invaluable in the emergency room to factory floors (see "A Gathering of Talent" on page 19). They also walked away with the most prizes of all.

Friendships also helped the women's gymnastics team overcome a grueling season of debilitating injuries to win its sixth consecutive USA Gymnastics Women's Collegiate Team National Championship (see "Could Have Been Karma" on page 34). Older injured teammates could not compete, but they showed up, day after day, to encourage their less-experienced teammates.

Students choose colleges for various reasons. At UB, they can count on the fact that in addition to great academic programs, proximity to Seaside Park, and an abundance of internships, they'll also meet a special someone—a friend, a spouse, a teacher, a teammate—who will motivate them to soar to the top.



Leslie Geary  
Editor, *Knightlines*

## UB Knightlines

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT

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*Knightlines* is published three times a year for University of Bridgeport alumni and friends by the Office of University Relations.

# Pipelines

## Greek Life

Dear Editor,

Very nice articles in *Knightlines* about our fraternity and also the one on CZR Sorority (“Not Quite Animal House” and “Chi Zeta Rho . . . Where are you!?” Spring 2014). We interacted a lot and your publishing information like you do allows us to renew old friendships.

You cannot fathom what a great place UB was. It’s a part of all of our lives that we want to recall over and over, and we are all proud of our years at UB.

When I started in 1968, girls were not allowed on the boys’ dorms. Two years later, coed living was the norm. Ties had to be worn for Sunday lunch. Championship football. Championship basketball. Championship soccer. Streaking. Demonstrating. Closing down the school. Frats. Sororities. Parties . . . a good education that resulted in so many success stories. And most important: friends for life.

**Fred Burgerhoff ’72**  
Basking Ridge, NJ

Dear Editor,

I saw a recent article in *Knightlines* about Chi Zeta Rho. I’m not sure you are familiar with a rival sorority called Theta Epsilon, but we were an active group back in the ’70s. Through the marvel of Facebook, many sisters distanced through time have reunited and I would love to hear from more! Request to join the Facebook page of Theta Epsilon Sorority at University of Bridgeport!

**Elissa (Lisa Goldberg)  
Goldberg Belle ’75**  
Springfield, IL

a senior and she was a freshman. When she graduated in 1972, we were married two weeks later. Amazing how time goes by. We now live in Worcester, MA, and are going to make it a point to visit the campus in the near future, thanks to you and *Knightlines*.

It is not often that I spend too much time with these kinds of publications, not even from my grad school, but you “knocked it out of the park” so much so that I want to visit the campus to purchase a new UB T- or sweatshirt! Each piece inside was terrific. Certainly made us proud! Keep up the great work.

**Victor Somma ’69**  
Worcester, MA

## Purple Pride

Dear Editor,

I never knew very much about the University of Bridgeport until my daughter Rebecca applied to the master’s degree program in Global Development & Peace. She has had a great experience at UB. She has been down to the United Nations numerous times, has participated in several conferences as far away as Notre Dame, attended meetings in Stamford with global organizations, and the piece de resistance . . . she spent her summer in Jordan.

All along the way she was encouraged, supported, and guided by a great team of professors at the College of Public and International Affairs, all of whom went above and beyond to ensure that Rebecca and all the other students had an excellent, top-shelf experience. She did!

Rebecca went to NYU as an undergraduate (school color: purple) and UB

for her master’s degree (school color: purple), so when I went to have my nails done for Commencement I choose . . . yes, you guessed it: OPI’s “Purple with a Purpose.” We laugh that she has to find a PhD program where the school color is purple!

**Sara Witherington**  
Bridgeport, CT

## Back in the Day . . .

Dear Editor,

While I am not a graduate of UB, I did spend 21 years of my life on the faculty, my wife got her master’s degree there, and I almost came back as a dean of the Junior College.

At age 99, I suspect I might be the only person surviving from the last days of the Junior College. I joined that group in 1945, two years before the state granted it the right to become a four-year institution. I was hired out of industry, at a salary of \$2400 per year, to develop a one-year program for GIs coming out of the service. It was called Organizing and Operating Your Own Business, and it incorporated the business courses the college already gave. In the absence of Mr. Cortright, I was interviewed by Jim Halsey, Henry Littlefield, and Dr. Ropp. My appointment letter from Mr. Cortright mentions that I was the first person he had ever hired without his personal interview. As I was informed the day I was appointed, there were actually only 19 people employed within the small campus on Fairfield Avenue, about 250 students, and a small group of part-time instructors, each teaching one course.

**Dr. Charles F. Petitjean**  
Winston-Salem, NC

## Out of the Park

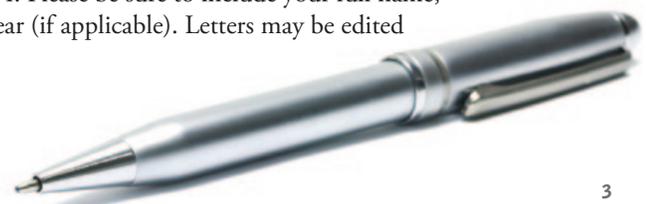
Dear Editor,

Just a quick note to let you know how impressed my wife, Carolyn Somma (Sorensen) and I were with your current edition of *Knightlines*.

Carolyn and I met at UB when I was

## We want to hear from you!

*Knightlines* would love to hear from you! Please send Letters to the Editor to [knightlines@bridgeport.edu](mailto:knightlines@bridgeport.edu) or to *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.



# Take a Bow!

**More than 1600 students graduate to cheers and dreams in May**

**By Leslie Geary**

Governor Dannel P. Malloy's Commencement Address to the Class of 2014 began with a startling admission: "I could not button my shirt or tie my shoes at eight," he said. "I was expected to be a failure."

Even when he sat for the Bar Exam, he had to dictate answers rather than writing them. He needed time to take exams. And yet, he reached levels of success that at one point seemed impossible.

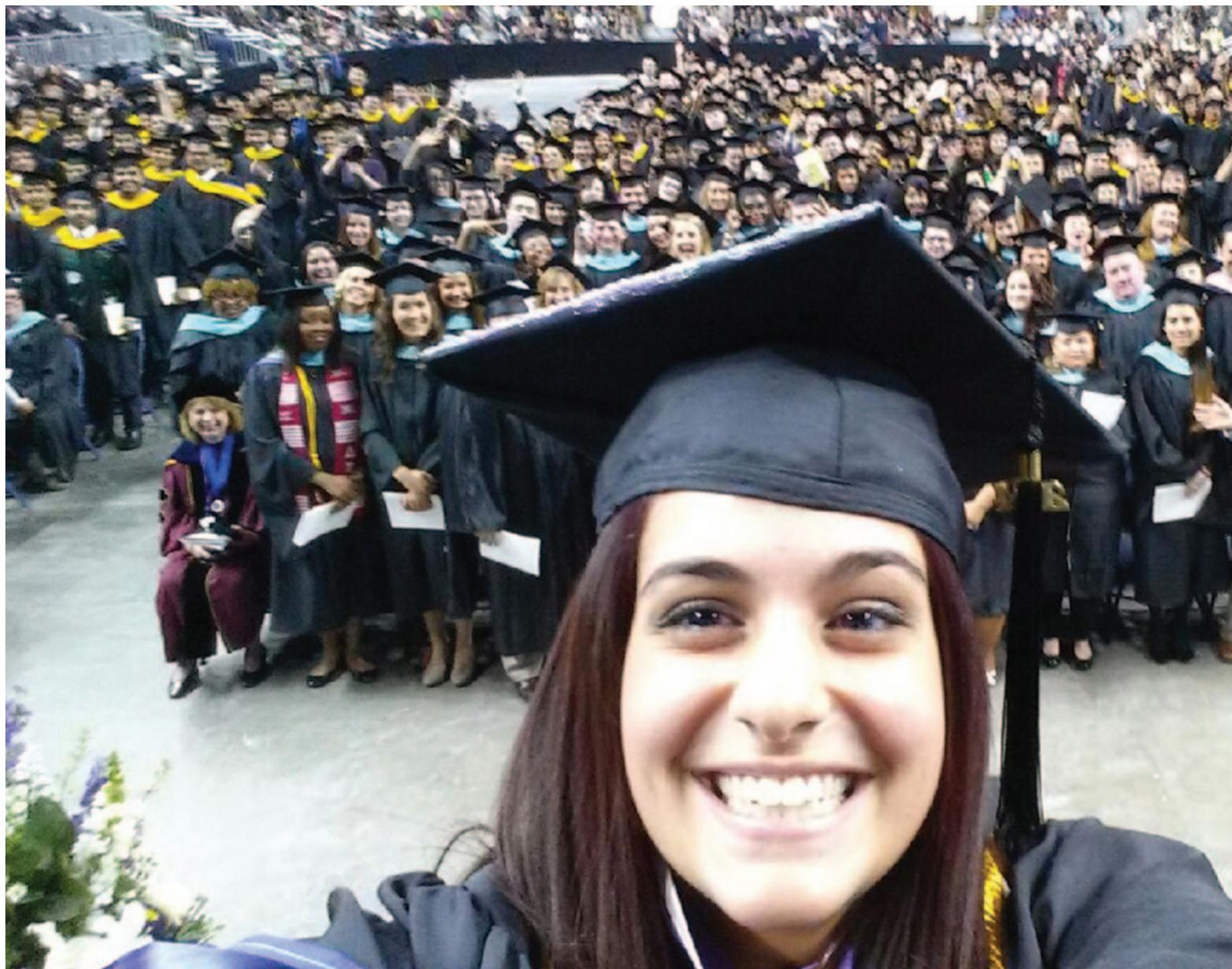
The take away? "Never, ever count yourselves out," Malloy continued. "What you've accomplished speaks volumes about what your future will be."

Malloy, who received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters moments before he addressed more than 1375 cheering graduates, encouraged them to "embrace change . . . keep an open heart and mind . . . [and] do something for others." >



Gov. Dannel P. Malloy  
addressing graduates





**Selfie time! Class Speaker Jessica DiNatale and fellow grads**

His message resonated with several graduates like Sheena Hines, who earned her master's in Clinical Mental Health.

"I worked *really* hard for this!" said Hines. "I'm the first person in my family to go to college and earn a bachelor's degree and now a master's degree, and today my cousin is earning a bachelor's. This is a day of celebration. It's a day to start a new legacy. It's a big deal for my family."

Hines credited the support of family and others for helping open doors of possibility. Among them: Marcia and Phil Pierz, owners of Sharff Darby Insurance in Norwalk, who attended graduation to see Hines get her master's. The couple met her years ago, when they began a scholarship program for Norwalk High School students to go to college.

"The scholarships were \$10,000 a year, and they

were for kids who had great courage and had to overcome handicaps in life. It wasn't about grades," said Phil Pierz.

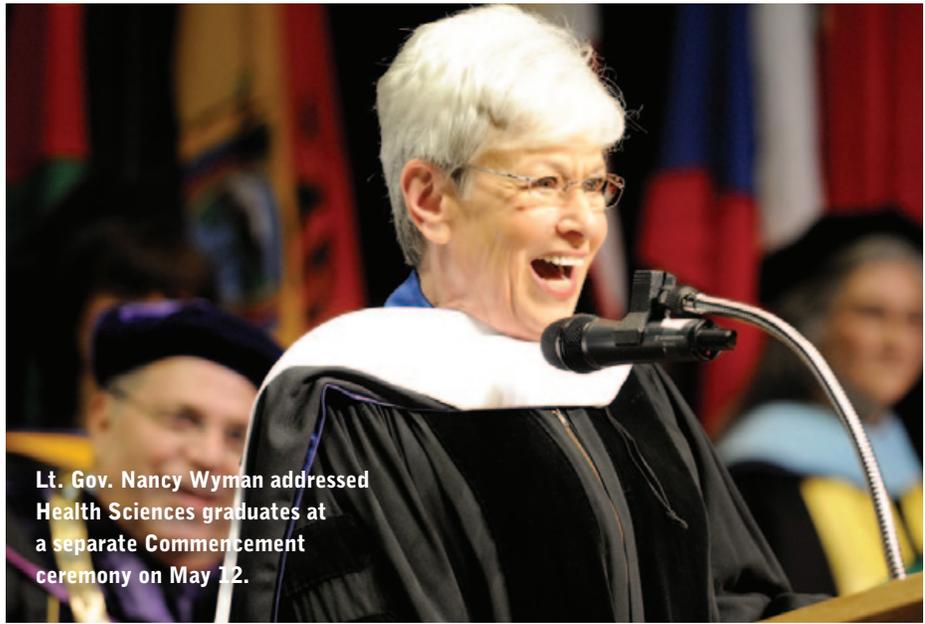
Hines fit the bill: Although she faced various challenges at home, Hines frequently volunteered in the community and helped other kids. Her desire to make a positive impact in her world was clear. "Sheena has a way with people. She's terrific," says Pierz, adding that he and his wife have remained close to her.

Class Speaker Jessica DiNatale, 21, shared that she was coming right back to UB in the fall for a master's degree so she can work with college students (for more, see "Faces From the Class of 2014 on page 8). She candidly admitted she wasn't in a rush to leave the University.

"From the first day I stepped on campus, it was the first time in a long time when I felt at home," she told fellow graduates. "With all that I've done, I became a new person."



UB President Neil Salonen presented Gov. Malloy with an honorary degree.



Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman addressed Health Sciences graduates at a separate Commencement ceremony on May 12.

## “I worked *really* hard for this!” -Sheena Hines

She then prompted everyone to stand before taking an enormous Class of 2014 selfie with her cell phone.

“Be sure to e-mail that to us,” quipped UB President Neil Salonen, who earlier reminded graduates that their degrees brought responsibility. “The solutions,” he said, “come from your hands . . . You are part of the solution.”

Members from the Class of 1964 were equally jubilant as they were honored as Golden Knights on the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

A few days later, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman delivered the Commencement Address at a separate ceremony for 228 Health Science graduates on May 12 at the Mertens Theater in the Arnold Bernhard Center. ■



All smiles for members of the Class of 2014 after they received their diplomas

**Their experiences  
and contributions  
in the classroom  
and off campus  
make the Class of 2014  
a special one indeed**



**“I wanted to  
know how to  
help people”**

**-Guy Fortt**

# Faces from the Class of

## **Racing to graduate before the kids do**

Guy Fortt seems to have it all: a smart, gorgeous wife he helped put through medical school, four great kids (one of whom was in the NFL draft this year), a former career as a firefighter, and an agent who's booked him dozens of roles on television (*Law & Order SVU*, *All My Children*, *The Sopranos*), in movies (*The Devil Wears Prada*, *The Interpreter*), Broadway plays (*The Color Purple*), and more television commercials that he can count. So what else could he possibly want? Simple: a college degree.

“My dream at the end of the day was to get my bachelor's degree before my children, and only one of them beat me,” says Fortt, 50. “I wanted to set my family up. I put my goals on hold for them. I tried to work and have money so I could provide for them.”

Fortt's devotion to family was cultivated early. The middle child of seven siblings, he was raised by a single mother who worked at a light bulb manufacturing plant, sacrificed everything to send her children to private school, but often took Fortt and his siblings to work because she had no cash for childcare. “I remember her

bringing us into the back room while she went to work,” says Fortt, who also recalls his mother's advice: “If you don't go get it, it ain't going to come to you.”

Fortt paid attention to those words, and he seized opportunities. When the school's drama club announced upcoming plays, for instance, he didn't think twice about auditioning. He was a good actor whose sonorous voice commanded attention and drew praise. But it was death of a friend that inspired Fortt to become a firefighter and EMT rather than pursue a career on screen and stage. “I wanted to know how to help people,” he says simply.

He was helping people at Ground Zero after 9/11 when CNN reporter Ashleigh Banfield approached him for an impromptu interview. Within days, casting directors who had seen him began calling. Had he ever considered acting? Fortt didn't need prompting. In no time, he began getting parts in commercials, plays, and television.

And yet . . . there was the missing college degree. It nagged at him. He really, really wanted one. When Fortt heard about the University's IDEAL program,

which allows adults who are 23 and older to complete their education, he headed back to school.

He began with a modest load—two to three classes the first few semesters. “That helped me get my writing skills on point,” he explains. Thanks to a pension from the Greenwich, Connecticut, Fire Department, he was able to scale back on acting and other work to devote most of his time to studies, which command more of his time.

Sometimes he took courses online, but he preferred going to school at UB’s Stamford campus, which was just minutes from his house. “I love the interaction between instructors and students!” he says. “It was an awesome experience.”

This fall, Fortt will be back in a classroom at Columbia University to earn an MBA in Sports Management and Entertainment. The timing couldn’t be better. The day of his UB graduation, Fortt’s son Khairi was drafted by the New Orleans Saints.

## A family growing stronger, and helping others to do the same

Lisette Cruz spent her childhood surrounded by family: cousins, uncles, aunts, her mother and father. They’d emigrated from Columbia to create a better life. “They were so poor, they didn’t have money for food,” recalls Cruz, 30, who grew up in Stratford, Connecticut.

Resources may have been scarce, but family ambition was not. Cruz’s parents worked hard and dreamed big. When her mother was laid off at one company, she used her severance to learn how to become a medical assistant. Her uncle John became an EMT, and listening to his stories about work sparked Cruz’s interest in medicine. “We were all really close, and we’d always see him,” she recalls. “He’d always talk about being an EMT.”

By age 12, Cruz knew medicine beckoned. This May, she graduated from the Physician Assistant Institute. “That’s when I realized I loved the human body, anatomy. I love knowing how it functions and what to do to fix it.”

# 2014

By Leslie Geary



**“That’s when I realized I loved the human body, anatomy. I love knowing how it functions and what to do to fix it.”**

**-Lisette Cruz**



**“I wanted to be involved in everything.”**

-Jessica DiNatale

Uncle John encouraged Cruz and her cousin Bryan, urging the teenagers to enroll in the EMT Explorers program in Stratford, which trains high school students to become certified EMTs. At the same time, Cruz earned a bachelor's degree in biology, then took a year off to work several jobs (one as a personal trainer at a local gym, an EMT, and as a bartender) while studying for her MCATs, the medical school entrance exam.

Plans changed when she spoke with one of her gym clients, an employee at Bridgeport Hospital who invited Cruz to speak with and shadow a PA. That encounter convinced her to apply to UB's Physician Assistant Institute, where she was one of 230 applicants accepted for the 34-member Class of 2014. She was also awarded a National Health Service Corps Scholarship to pay for her entire tuition. After working three jobs, Cruz felt sudden relief. “I cried,” she admits.

She knew PA programs, often referred to as med school in two years, are notoriously difficult. At UB, the Physician Assistant Institute urges students not to work while in school. Cruz didn't need convincing. Thanks to the scholarship, she stopped juggling jobs and “made a decision that for the next 24 months this is what I was going to devote my life to.”

She teamed up with classmates, and they quickly took over the lounge at Eleanor Dana Hall, where the PA Institute is located, to study. “We spent the night there until UB security kicked us out. Then we'd be there Saturday and Sunday, and we'd call every morning and

have security open the building for us. After a while, we didn't have to call. They opened the building first.”

Stopping to eat was too time-consuming so they ordered “a lot” of Fairfield Pizza, getting to know the delivery guys almost as well as the campus security guards.

The payoff: Cruz graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA. “It's such a huge responsibility to be responsible for human life, I put my all into it. It was easier to get the 4.0 for me because I loved every part of school.”

The most satisfying moment was during rotations, when she treated a patient who'd come in for a routine visit. Although she was reassured that the patient was fine, Cruz disagreed. He was lethargic, sleepy, and a gut feeling told Cruz to order tests. As it turned out, the medication he'd been taking slowed his breathing and had pushed carbon dioxide levels to dangerously high levels in his body. He was treated overnight, and the next morning when Cruz saw him, he was energetic and talkative. “He told me, ‘You saved my life!’”

Cruz began working as a primary care practitioner at Optimus Health Care after graduation. The Bridgeport nonprofit treats the underserved, and as it turns out, it's where her mother, Adriana, works as a medical assistant. As for the rest of the family: Uncle John became a nurse, as did her cousin Bryan. Her younger brother, a public health major, graduated this spring, too. Another cousin called recently. “She was interested in PA programs,” says Cruz. “I told her about UB.”

## Self-motivated to help others

“I’ve worked at an animal shelter, as an animal control warden, and a cashier at Home Depot. I’ve babysat and pet-sat, and I’ve had multiple jobs as an office receptionist. At one point I was working five jobs,” says Jessica DiNatale, ticking off the various gigs that helped her pay for college.

Unabashedly “self-motivated,” DiNatale, 21, is a force to reckon with. During her time at UB, she’s juggled jobs, volunteered, tutored, maintained a nearly perfect 4.0 GPA, and moved to campus from her East Haven, Connecticut-home in order to counsel, mentor, and tutor other students. She often wears a purple streak in her hair, in tribute to the Purple Knights. In May, she was chosen to be Class Speaker at Commencement.

Yet her unvarnished success wasn’t always a given, she says. “In high school, there were people who said I’d never make it through college.” She applied to UB to prove naysayers wrong, but then something strange happened. When she first visited the University, getting a degree suddenly wasn’t enough.

“The first time I walked on campus, I knew I wanted to be here,” says DiNatale. “I didn’t just want to get a degree. I wanted to be involved in everything.”

Plunging right in, DiNatale joined other UB students who traveled to New Orleans’ Ninth Ward, which was still reeling from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. They group spent a week volunteering with clean-up as part of the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) outreach program. Walking through the streets, DiNatale was haunted by the spray-painted marks on homes, indicating where people and animals had died.

She decided to major in psychology and committed much of her free time to reaching out.

She participated in two more ASB trips, serving as captain one year when UB students helped victims of Hurricane Sandy. An avid dog lover, she also organized volunteers to make biscuits for dogs in shelters during the University’s annual Martin Luther King Day of Service. During her sophomore year, she traveled to Ecuador to help build a school as part of a People Helping People team. Although food was scarce and life was hard, she was stunned to see how generous people were, even when they had next to nothing. “You could never say you liked something or someone would give it to you,” she recalled.

With each new experience, DiNatale found herself changing, wanting to do more. “You try new things,

sometimes hard things. You learn. You evolve,” she said. When the University’s community service program organized the SNAP Food Challenge, for instance, she didn’t hesitate to sign up. The weeklong campaign encouraged participants to live on \$5 a day for one week to better understand what it’s like for people getting by on food stamps. Armed with \$35, DiNatale stocked up on canned beans, apples, peanut butter, and water. She got the flu, eating very little made it hard to concentrate on studies, and the SNAP budget prohibited her from buying costly treats for her beloved dog Cocoa, but by the end of the week, she succeeded in sticking to the budget and finishing the challenge.

As an honors student who seemed to master the art of Juggling It All, it was important to DiNatale to help her peers. “It isn’t easy being a college student,” she says, “There are a lot of changes: studies, being away from family, new friends.”

She applied for and got a job tutoring students at the University’s Academic Resource Center and moved into Bodine Hall as a First-Year Studies Mentor. Those experiences inspired her to return to UB next year, when she’ll start her master’s program in counseling with a concentration in College Student Personnel.

“I love people my age, and I’d like to stick with it—” Pausing uncharacteristically, DiNatale waits a few seconds, then decides to go for it.

“What I’d really love to do is incorporate a program on campus where students could work with dogs,” she continues. “Learning about them, being with them, it changes your mood! It’d be like animal-assisted therapy when things are stressful. That’s my dream.”

## Opening doors, building bridges, helping others

When her mother died suddenly, Trichelle July-Lindo was just six—young enough to believe in fairy tales and magic. So it took a while before she grasped the magnitude of her loss. “I didn’t really think it was real. I just wondered, ‘When is my mom coming back?’ It didn’t register at all.”

Now, 22, July-Lindo hopes that she can use her new bachelor’s degree in psychology to help other young people who’ve suffered from various forms of trauma. She’s been accepted to Baruch College in New York, where this fall she will earn a graduate degree for mental health counseling.

“I want to work with teenagers. Adolescence is such a tough stage in life. There’s peer pressuring, making friends, making decisions about what you want to do in life, college,” she says.

**“I’ve met so many people who’ve led me to different things and new experiences I wouldn’t have imagined doing.”**

-Trichelle July-Lindo



July-Lindo credits her great aunt Bernice, big sister Tiffany, and her older cousins for helping her navigate the tricky transitions between childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. Bernice adopted the two girls when their mother died, showered them with love, took them to church on Sundays, made her famous pepper pot stew and homemade bread on Christmas, and provided much-needed stability at her Waterbury, Connecticut-home.

When it came time to choosing a college, Tiffany drove July-Lindo to campus and helped her to unpack her belongings. July-Lindo chose UB because she wanted the chance to make new friends instead of opting for a school where most of her high school classmates were going. But when Tiffany, whom July-Lindo calls “my role model,” hugged her good-bye, July-Lindo balked. “I thought, ‘Did I really mean this?’”

July-Lindo walked back into Bodine filled with trepidation and uncertainty when a trio of girls introduced themselves. They were her first friends, and from there, July-Lindo expanded her network with classmates and confidants whose warmth, encouragement, and enthusiasm have been invaluable.

“I’ve met so many people who’ve led me to different things and new experiences I wouldn’t have imagined doing,” she says. “When I came to UB as a freshman, I thought I’d go to class, make friends, and decorate my room. Now I do a lot more than that. I always wanted to give back.”

This year, July-Lindo was voted president of WEACT (Working and Educating to Achieve Community Togetherness), a club that raises funds and hosts events to support various good causes. Their annual “Big Mama’s Kitchen” dinner, for instance, raises funds for various nonprofits like The Hole in the Wall Gang, the camp started by the late Paul Newman for seriously ill children, and Save the Children. She also “felt the need” to pledge with Upsilon Omicron chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. “The sorority has a big part of community service, which is a big part of my life,” she says. “They also stand for women’s empowerment and do a lot of public service to uplift communities.”

Faculty also opened doors for her. After she told professor David Oberleitner she wanted to help other kids who’d endured trauma, he recommended she get a master’s in mental health counseling.

“When I read more about it, I thought, ‘This is exactly what I want to do!’” she says. “My mother’s death completely impacted my education and career choice. I had a family-support system, but it’s still tough. My mom wasn’t at my high school graduation. She didn’t see me get my driver’s license. She wasn’t at my UB graduation. But excuses won’t benefit you. You can’t let those experiences hold you back.” ■



**Who doesn't love a little romance? At UB, more than a handful of students met their true love on campus. Stories from those who fell hard.**

# Love Stories from UB

By Leslie Geary

**And they lived happily ever after.**

**So it is for many UB alumni, who in recent months have contacted the University in response to UB's first annual Valentine's Day Giving Campaign, a fundraiser crafted to honor couples who've fallen in love at the University.**

A few weeks before February 14, many had received a letter from Emily Brady, director of annual giving: "Whether you met one another at a Wisteria Ball or while rushing off to class or your romance budded from a friendship, UB is part of your story."

The response was overwhelming. Alums wrote in, sharing memories and mementos from some of their very best days on campus—the moment they fell in love and life as they knew it changed radically for the better. Here, four love stories from UB: ▶



### Flying through the air: Owen '64 and Charlotte Gallagher '64

Owen and Charlotte Gallagher were young, athletic, and no, they weren't in love—not at first, anyway—but they did love lots of the same things: feeling the strength of their muscles, playing sports, good meals, laughing hard.

They met just after Christmas, during their freshmen year. Both were majoring in physical education, and their coach asked if they could help him teach gymnastics classes. During their training to become assistants, Owen supervised the pommel horse while Charlotte went for it. Running, hitting her mark, sailing up, up into the air, her body bent at an angle—And then, his arms.

"He didn't like the way I was heading, and he caught me," says Charlotte. Thus introduced, their friendship was born. Actually they were part of a pack of eight. "Four girls and four guys," recalls Charlotte.

It was Owen who started it all—that lovely group of eight. A buddy of his asked for homework help, and soon he and three other fellows formed an impromptu study group, meeting at Wahlstrom Library a few times a week. Charlotte and her girlfriends noticed. They wanted in, so they joined. "We all began being responsible for one another making it," she explains.

"We all did things together. We went to the Guggenheim. Patricia Murphy's, which was a good restaurant in Manhattan. Fishing. Hiking," Charlotte continues. "Owen and I were very good

"I told Charlotte she could have a bigger house and no travel or stay put and travel."

friends throughout college. It was wonderful, healthy, unpressured, maturing."

Then came senior year. Charlotte had been away for the summer, so Owen decided to ask her for dinner. When she couldn't make it, he started to call another girl but put the phone back. "I realized I didn't want to ask anyone else."

By the fall, they had paired off, and a few months after graduation in November 1964, they married. Both got jobs teaching physical education. Most of Owen's career was spent at the Newtown, Connecticut school district. Charlotte stopped teaching when she became a mom (they have four children, 11 grandkids, and one great grandchild).

It was a big family in a small house with just one bathroom. "I told Charlotte she could have a bigger house and no travel or stay put and travel."

They opted for the open road, and during their marriage the two of them packed up the kids—sometimes bringing along an entire pack of Campfire Girls—to visit the nation's 49 states. Now Owen's retired, and they've relocated to Georgia ("I told her I would not shovel any more snow," says Owen), but the dream of seeing every state never faded.

This May, Charlotte and Owen packed up their silver Ford van—trusty, even with 105,000 miles on the odometer—and drove clear across the country to the last unvisited state, California, to dip their toes in the Pacific Ocean.

They took highways when absolutely necessary, but often stuck to back roads. "I like to look at nature, the animals," explained Owen, who long ago taught Charlotte how to dive fearlessly into lakes and love the great cathedral of open sky as much as he does.



“Fifty years. It seems quick. Then I think of everything we’ve done, our grandchildren and children.”

### Tomatoes and a plastic sword: Richard Lorigan '64 and Sandra Miller Lorigan '63

Forget Cupid’s arrow. When Richard Lorigan first set eyes on Sandra Miller, his heart was pierced by tomatoes.

“Honest to God, she was the prettiest girl on campus. She wore this skirt with big red tomatoes on the back pockets. Well! I thought she wasn’t only good looking; she was kind of daring!” says Richard, who wasted no time to introduce himself.

They were both in art class. She had to take it as a requirement for her fashion merchandising degree. He was an industrial design major. They began taking walks at Seaside Park during breaks, returning to the Arnold Bernhard Center hours after class had already let out to collect their art materials. He was proud to be a “SIG Man” from Sigma Iota Gamma fraternity and prouder to have her on his arm, when he took her to foreign films that were shown on Friday nights at the Cox Student Center. (It was only after they got married that Miller told the truth: “I didn’t like to read and watch the movie, but I lied. Rich was a great guy. I wanted to go with him,” she says.)

Subtitles, walks, and not a little bit of flirting blossomed into something more. Within a year, Miller was wearing Lorigan’s SIG pin. They were going steady. It was serious, time to meet the family.

Lorigan brandished a sword.

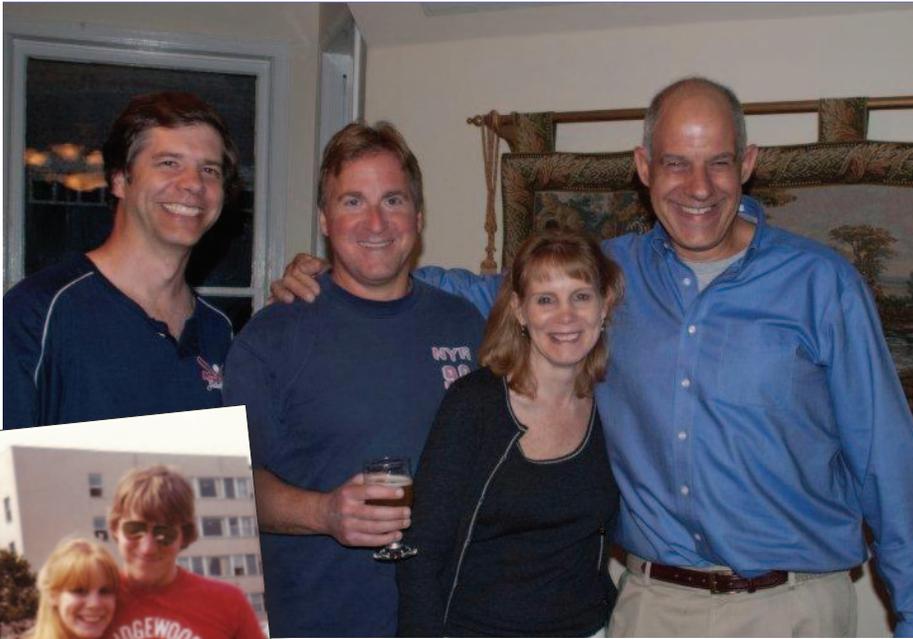
“The Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo was performing *Scheherazade* at the Klein. It’d contacted some of the fraternities looking for six guys who could play Cossacks, and one of my SIG buddies and I said ‘OK,’” he says. “I told Sandy I was going to be in it and asked if she wanted to go. She looked at me kind of funny, but she said yes.”

Adds Sandra: “You have to realize my father worked at a Texaco station.”

When the night of the ballet/meeting arrived, Lorigan borrowed a fraternity brother’s car and headed to Miller’s house in Monroe. “I didn’t know what they were going to think of me: here was a guy from the University in a Cossack uniform, who was dancing in a ballet. But it turned out alright. I pranced out on stage with a plastic sword, and slew all the ballerinas.”

They were married on October 10, 1964, and will celebrate their 50th anniversary this Thanksgiving in New Orleans with their two children and four grandchildren.

“Fifty years. It seems quick. Then I think of everything we’ve done, our grandchildren and children,” says Richard. “I sometimes wonder, ‘What if I had taken a different art class, at a different time of the week?’ ▶



“I told Joe I thought she was the cutest girl in the world.”

### Waiting in line: Michael Schneider '83 and Lynn Eaton Schneider '83

Lynn Eaton Schneider met her husband, Michael, because of a coin toss. Heads, she'd get her psychology degree at the University of Greensboro. Tails, she'd go to college at UB.

She flipped. The coin landed. And Eaton packed her bags for Connecticut.

A few months later, she was queuing up for dinner at Marina Dining Hall when she spotted a classmate, a friendly guy named Joe Bokan who sometimes hired Eaton to type up his papers. She headed over to say hello.

Michael Schneider stared. Hard. He'd spotted her as soon as she walked into Marina, and now, could it be?! She was headed in his buddy's direction. “I was thinking, ‘Oh! This is good. Joe knows this girl somehow.’ He introduced us. I told Joe I thought she was the cutest girl in the world.”

After that, Schneider ran into Eaton a lot. It was easy enough to do. In those days, they recall, big groups of friends moved in amicable packs across campus. From classes to mixers and lots and lots of parties.

“The weekends basically began on Thursday,” says Michael. “There was something to do every night. Dorm parties were constant. Sometimes we went to Barnaby's, a bar off campus. The drinking age was 18 when we got to UB, but by the time we became juniors and seniors, the freshmen were no longer allowed. The law changed.”

Schneider's heart, however, remained steadfast. Eaton was just so cute, how was it that she wasn't dating? “I even asked Joe about it one day. Why wasn't every guy on campus trying to get to her?” he recalls.

Mind you, they were different as night and day: strong and big, he filled rooms with his energy and

humor. She was petite, a little quiet. He loved “every sport under the sun,” especially hockey. He started an intramural floor hockey league that competed at Wheeler Rec. “We were the Schine Wharf Rats. “We still have the jerseys!” says Michael with trademark enthusiasm.

Eaton wasn't a massive jock, but she did get a kick out of watching those crazy floor hockey games, a pack of guys whooping it up, filled with delirium when they made a goal. Schneider grew on her. He won her heart.

“By sophomore year, we were pretty much inseparable,” says Michael.

He didn't wait long to pop the question. It was after his junior year, when he got a job managing the parking lot at a fancy restaurant where the tips were good. “I knew we were going to get married one day. I had money in my pocket, so I thought, ‘I might as well do it now. When will I have all of this disposable income again?’ ”

So he bought Eaton a pretty diamond ring and gave it to her after midnight mass on Christmas Eve and made it official on May 26, 1985. Joe Bokan was the best man, and he's remained one of their closest friends after nearly three decades. To illustrate the point, Schneider tells a quick story:

“Joe owns a hotel in Saratoga, New York, and I asked him if he'd ever consider renting it out for a weekend so we could have our families for our 25th anniversary.”

No. Joe wouldn't rent it. He gave it to them. And he'll do it again in May 2015, when the couple, their families, and former UB classmates come help them celebrate their 30th anniversary at Joe's place.



### Not the kind of girl he'd date:

#### Douglas '82 and Diane Bellone Farrington '83

They were different. She was new to UB and the first in her family to attend college. He was a sophomore, a member of the Student Government Association, and serious about his studies. Hand him a baseball bat, a soccer ball, a hockey stick, and he was all in. Sure, she'd played some field hockey in high school, but when it came to sports, she preferred to watch. He hated, absolutely hated smoking. She smoked. That was the deal breaker.

Except . . . she was easy and fun to talk to. And two other girls were after him.

So Douglas Farrington decided to ask Diane Bellone to Winter Prelude, the big dance just before Thanksgiving Weekend. They had met at Cooper Hall. He worked the night shift as the hall's security guard, and there was a pool table just inside the doors. Cooper was a men's dorm, but she walked in, as natural as can be, to hang out and shoot pool.

"She was very, very good," recalls Douglas.

"I had four brothers," Diane explains. "Even through high school, most of my friends were guys. Not that I dated anybody. I was always more comfortable with guys. Hanging out in Cooper wasn't a big deal. All my friends, they were on the hunt for a guy. But I was never on the hunt."

She was safe—and that made her perfect for Winter Prelude, recalls Farrington. At the time, he'd been dating a few girls. He knew they both had their sights trained on him. Each wanted to be the one he picked for dance, but "I didn't want to be exclusive, and I didn't want to hurt their feelings," he admits.

So he asked Diane. She was a friend, and he liked talking with her. They did that a lot, actually. But the smoking thing: it'd never happen. He'd go to the dance, have fun, and avoid getting anyone upset.

"Yes, I knew. There were two girls after him," Diane laughs. She didn't mind being a safety draft, as it were. Still, she went to the mall and bought a black dress with a zig-zaggy hem. "It was a great dress," she says.

The dance was fun. She tried not to smoke in front of him. They felt a chemistry. But she also knew she had a choice: Doug or the cigarettes

"Giving smoking up that wasn't a bad thing," she said. "I relapsed at one time, that didn't go over big."

They dated throughout UB. One year, when he was a residence adviser in Cooper, they cooked an entire Thanksgiving dinner—browning the gizzards and making homemade stuffing—in his tiny kitchen for a handful of friends. They spent lots of time with on her



father's boat. They hung out. And they went to parties.

"The drinking age was 18 then. It was a different time," Farrington says. It wasn't just the drinks, though. The parties were elaborate. Students would transform entire residence halls into castles fashioned out of supermarket boxes or floors in residence halls would sponsor parties. "The fourth floor of Cooper—they were like the playboys," laughs Diane. "One time they brought in sand. They turned it into a beach."

It'd be easy not to study, except Farrington, an accounting major, was determined to do well. "He studied so I did," she admits. "He was definitely good for me. Even at that young age, he had good old-fashioned values."

When it came time to marry, Farrington asked her father first. That was in 1984, two years after she graduated and people were beginning to wonder if he'd ever pop the question. "I remember telling myself, 'You're graduating now, you're going into to the real world and she's not. How will we survive that?' Then she graduated a year later, and I told her, 'Now you have to experience life.' Year three, I ran out of stories."

That was 34 years ago. Now they have three children, two out of college and one nearly finished. The kids surprised them on their 25th anniversary by hosting a massive party at their Massachusetts home. They don't have a pool table but if one's there, they'll always play. Speaking out of earshot from each other, he swears his wife is the strongest player. She disagrees. "He beats me every time."

In truth, they both sound like they've won the prize:

"I love coming home every day," Douglas says.

"She's an outstanding mother and an outstanding wife. I'm proud of our marriage."

And Diane: "I still sit there when he speaks and think, 'Oh my God, I'm so lucky. He's incredible!'" ■



"I still sit there when he speaks and think, 'Oh my God, I'm so lucky. He's incredible!'"



Breakthrough research and innovation reign as the University hosts the ASEE conference

# A Gathering of Talent

By Leslie Geary

It's bad enough when a car or flashlight battery dies. But the inconvenience of being stranded by the road pales in comparison when pacemakers lose their charge. Patients who rely on the medical devices to regulate their heartbeat generally have to change them every five to ten years.

That concerned UB engineering student Nazar Fadhil. "Getting a new pacemaker is expensive and patients have to spend time in the hospital. There's also a small risk of infection."

He began wondering if there was some way to prolong a pacemaker's lifespan. >

Illustration by Joe Tenerelli

With guidance from Biomedical Engineering Department Chairman Prabir Patra, Fadhil developed a thin film composed of graphene nanoplates and a polymer known as PVDF to harnesses energy created by the body's mechanical movement (in this case, an artery or the actual heartbeat) and generate electricity for the pacemaker.

Their work was presented for review in April, when Fadhil and more than 500 other presenters showcased research at the American Academy of Engineering Schools (ASEE) Zone Conference, which this year was held at was held at the University's Cox Student Center.

For three days, industry experts, faculty, and students from more than 135 colleges, universities, and companies throughout the eastern U.S. and Canada attended tutorials and panels about topics ranging from biomedical nanotechnology to automation, robotics, and technologies.

They competed in conference competitions for professional papers, outstanding teaching, and research, while experts, such as Dr. Damir Novosel from Quanta-Technology, spoke about energy and sustainability. Dr. David McLaughlin, from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, lectured on "Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere."

"It's a great place for professionals, faculty, and students to exchange ideas," said School of Engineering Dean and Senior Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research Tarek Sobh, who called the conference "an outstanding success and a pivotal accomplishment for UB as a national engineering and STEM leader."

More than 430 posters and papers were submitted to the conference, and by the end of the three-day

event, the University captured most of the awards for student research.

In the Graduate Research Paper Competition, Tamer Abukhalil and Madhav Patil won first place in a field of 150 competitors. The duo, who were advised by Sobh, used specially designed robots that work in parallel with a control framework to accomplish complicated physical tasks at low cost and optimal speeds. (In all, UB won two out of the out of three awards, and two out of three honorable mentions

for the research paper category.)

Wafa Mohammed Elmannai won the Big Data Analytics Professional Paper Award from Decisyon, Inc. Her work with adviser and Professor Khaled Elleithy creates new methods for managing and extending the life of wireless networks underwater.

Meanwhile, Sarosh Patel, a PhD student majoring in Computer Science and Engineering, won first place in the Graduate Student Research

Poster Competition for his work with robotics. UB students also won second and third prize, as well as all three honorable mentions, in a field of more than 100 students.

In his research Patel used algorithms to create systems that customize standardized robots that are frequently used in industries to manufacture goods, handle materials, and other tasks.

Robots work well enough, Patel explained, but because they are standardized, work frequently needs to be designed around the devices' mechanical abilities and limitations. That drives prices up, reduces efficiency, and lowers performance. His research eliminates such problems

"I did not expect to win," added Patel. "It felt great." ■



Illustration by Joe Tenerelli

## News Lines

# Nursing School to move to UB

**A plan with Bridgeport Hospital to provide more training for health providers** By Leslie Geary

The University and Bridgeport Hospital have signed an agreement to develop plans to relocate the hospital's School of Nursing to UB.

If approved by various accrediting bodies, the University would assume full responsibility for the program and develop it into a four-year bachelor's degree program from its current two-year model.

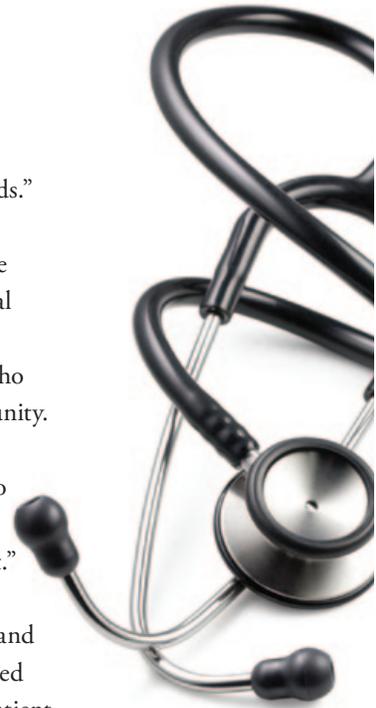
In the interim, the agreement offers UB students priority admission to the nursing school—a plan called Pathway to Nursing—effective immediately. To qualify, students must successfully complete pre-professional coursework at the University.

“Signing the agreement is consistent with the University’s strategic plan to engage the Bridgeport community, region, and world, and this agreement reflects that commitment,” said UB President Neil Salonen. “UB and the Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing have long-established records of excellence serving the community. This agreement allows us to leverage our resources to train top-quality nurses, who

are critical to serving the community’s healthcare needs.”

William M. Jennings, President and CEO of Bridgeport Hospital and Executive Vice President Yale New Haven Health System, said, “Bridgeport Hospital and the University of Bridgeport share a common commitment to groom future generations of nurses who can meet the evolving healthcare needs of our community. Working together, we believe we can capitalize on the strengths of both organizations to produce nurses who have the academic and clinical training to adapt and succeed in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.”

“We believe that the integration of our two programs will strengthen what Bridgeport Hospital and UB can do for nursing education on their own,” added Mary Ellen Hope Kosturko, senior vice president, Patient Care Operations and chief nursing officer at Bridgeport Hospital. “The result will be a nursing workforce that is better equipped to meet the more demanding academic and clinical requirements of the profession—and a higher quality of care for patients.” ■



## Zipcar Comes to UB

**Car-sharing service puts students on the open road**

University students can now channel their inner-Jack Kerouacs and hit the open road, thanks to Zipcar, the car-use company that began offering its services on campus this April.

“This is a win-win for the environment and our students,” said Dean of Students Edina Oestreicher. “Many of our students are eager to explore Connecticut and other places not currently served by public transportation. Our agreement with Zipcar will help get them on the road, while reducing our carbon footprint, too.”

Students can reserve one of three Zipcars on campus by using a mobile application on iPhones and



Androids, over the phone, or on Zipcar’s website.

The service is available to licensed drivers who are at least 18 years and who’ve enrolled with a Zipcar membership. ■ — L.G.

**Students checked out one of the cars that will be available to use, thanks to a new program with Zipcar.**

## News Lines



**Ryan Howard (left), one of seven School of Education alumni on Connecticut's Dream Team, which is creating materials to help state teachers implement the Common Core into their classrooms**

## Leading the Way

**School of Education alums are tapped for the “Dream Team” charged with helping Connecticut schools adopt the Common Core**

Got questions about Common Core, the name given for a host of new national education standards for kids in kindergarten through grade 12?

You're not alone. It's enough to say that kids should be “college ready” by the time they graduate from high school, but at what age and grade level should they hit certain standards along the way? Moreover, how do you help millions of kids reach learning targets on time? How do the overall goals of Common Core translate into the quotidian life of a real classroom setting?

“Teachers are a little apprehensive about the new standards and how they'll work in the classroom,” agrees teacher Andrew Deacon '11, an alumnus of UB's School of Education.

Now Deacon hopes he can help. He's among a group of 97 public school teachers, seven of whom earned their degrees at UB's School of Education, who were recently tapped from a pool of applicants by Connecticut education officials to join the state's

“Dream Team.” Their job: to help fellow teachers navigate Common Core and incorporate it into their daily teaching.

School of Education alumni Steven Gionfriddo, Andrew Hill, Ryan Howard, Monica Lloyd, Courtney Warner, and Mary Woods also serve on the Dream Team.

In April, they gathered in Hartford for TeachFest to exchange ideas and begin creating lesson plans and other free resources tailored to the Common Core.

“They want materials, so we're creating resources for them,” says Deacon, who teaches second grade at Colebrook Consolidated Schools in Colebrook, Connecticut, and is collaborating with roughly 60 other Dream Team teachers to create English and Language Arts lessons that incorporate Common Core standards.

“We're really proud of our alums and their dedication to the teaching profession, and more important, to the children of Connecticut,” said School of Education Dean Allen Cook. “They are embracing the best in education and are making an important impact on their students, their schools, and communities that look to them for guidance. These are teachers with a future, and we're thrilled that they've been recognized on the Dream Team.” ■ — L.G.

## News Lines

# Teacher of the Year

**Education alum who makes “magic in the classroom” with technology is named Teacher of the Year; other UB grads nominated for top awards**

Praising him for “purposefully incorporating technology into his teaching, his students’ learning, and his communication with parents,” Stamford Public School officials named Jimmy Sapia ’03, ’10, an alumnus from the School of Education, as the district’s 2014-15 Teacher of the Year.

Two other UB School of Education alums were in the running for the honors in May: Stamford High School math teacher Isaac Idoom was one of the three finalists. Lawrence Keller, a business technology teacher in the district, was also nominated.

In Brookfield (Connecticut) School District, School of Education alumna Mollie Prizio ’10 won Teacher of the Year at Huckleberry Hill Elementary School. “Being a third-year teacher, I’m incredibly honored,” said Prizio, who teaches second grade.

Candidates for the Teacher of the Year awards in both Brookfield and the Stamford school districts were nominated by their colleagues. Prizio won after she was chosen by vote. In Stamford, Sapia and other nominees were evaluated by a committee that selected three finalists, who were required to submit a video of themselves teaching. The committee then picked the district winner.

“Receiving this award is a springboard to continue to motivate and inspire a student’s love of learning in innovative and engaging ways,” said Sapia, who teaches fourth grade at Springdale Elementary School. “There are some very, very strong teachers in this district. I am incredibly proud and honored.”

Sapia earned his master’s degree with a K-6 certification and an administrative degree from the University. A big advocate of education technology, he nonetheless cautioned that “using technology in the classroom has to be purposeful.”

During a class one day, for instance, Sapia worked in small groups, and met with the entire class—kneeling in front of them, gesticulating, drawing them in with humor and energy—then asked students work at some of five computer math stations where they did lessons on their own. The programs he uses give video and written



hints, thus acting as a teacher’s aide to help Sapia instruct as he made his way through the classroom, careful to meet with each student individually.

His use of technology is inspired by advice he gets online. He loves Twitter sites like #edchat and #fourthchat that allow him to confer with teachers from around the world.

“We share resources and Websites and best practices,” he says. “I have conversations with teachers from around the globe. I call it ‘flattening professional walls.’ Once a week, all the fourth grade teachers around the world decide on a topic! We share ideas.”

Going online to prepare and learn the best new teaching techniques, he says, creates a dynamic experience for his students. “When I started out, I was very much in control. At this point, I give my students a voice. I plan engaging lessons. Kids are completely engaged in technology,” he said. “Nothing will ever replace a great educator, but if we can use tools to get kids interested, we can make magic in the classroom.” ■ — L.G.

**“Nothing will ever replace a great educator, but if we can use tools to get kids interested, we can make magic in the classroom.”**

—Jimmy Sapia,  
Teacher of the Year 2014-2015  
and School of Education alumnus

# News Lines



## Alternative Spring Break

**UB students spend vacation giving back in South Los Angeles**

**UB Alumni Board Chairman Dennis Brotherton (center) presents a check to help fund students' Alternative Spring Break trip to Los Angeles in March.**

More than a dozen University of Bridgeport students headed to sunny California in March, when they spent their spring vacation feeding the homeless, cleaning up around South Los Angeles, meeting with elected officials, and learning about gang-prevention for high-risk teenagers.

Their campaign, known as Alternative Spring Break, is part of an annual outreach program held each March that invites young people to use their free time to make a difference in various communities.

Students financed their trip by hosting numerous fundraisers and through funding from Taco Loco Restaurant and Fire Engine Pizza in Bridgeport, the UB Alumni Board, the Student Government Association, and the Student Programming Board. Other restaurants and businesses donated prizes for a raffle, added Samantha Gerber, the UB student captain for Alternative Spring Break this year.

"We could not have done this without them," she added.

Gerber and 14 UB peers spent a week helping to beautify the South Los Angeles area, working with children, and pitching in at soup kitchens, among other service projects.

They also met with Los Angeles City Council Member Herb Wesson regarding issues facing South Los Angeles and toured Homeboy Industries, an organization dedicated to preventing gang violence by working with and employing formerly gang-involved men and women through its restaurant, catering company, and job-training programs.

In the past, UB students have used Alternative Spring Break to rebuild homes for victims of Hurricane Sandy and have teamed up with Habitat for Humanity. Gerber, a veteran of two previous trips, said she's learned that "giving is like a chain reaction. Maybe the woman we helped build a house for [via Habitat] will help someone when she's on her feet. Maybe youth we work with in California will stay in school and help others. It only takes a group of students to come together and get it started." ■ — L.G.

# News Lines

## Power Up!

**UB and FuelCell Energy announce an eco-friendly deal to slash carbon emissions by more than 7,000 tons annually**

The University of Bridgeport and FuelCell Energy (FCE) have reached an agreement to generate electricity on campus with a fuel cell that will slash carbon emissions by 7,000 tons a year—equivalent to taking 1220 vehicles off the road annually—and save UB \$3.5 million in energy costs by 2026.

Under the agreement, FuelCell Energy will install, own, and operate the 1.4 megawatt fuel cell power plant next to Wheeler Recreation Center for 12 years and will sell electricity to UB to heat and power campus buildings.

The fuel cell will be connected to the campus power grid. Exhaust heat will generate hot water for Wheeler Recreation Center and its pool and University Place Apartments, where it will offset natural gas consumed in heating and air conditioning in those buildings.

The deal also includes an Academic Collaboration Agreement under which FuelCell will work with faculty, staff, and students to track, monitor, and evaluate the fuel cell's performance.

Students will have access to FCE facilities for learning tours and internship opportunities, thus enhancing existing research and educational programs at UB and its various labs, including the Renewable Energy Research Lab, which evaluates technologies in energy conversion, utilization, and storage in fuel cells, solar, wind, and hybrid systems.

"This living lab is motivated by the strong need to prepare the next generation of inter-disciplinary engineers who have a comprehensive background in sustainable energy, and this fuel cell installation will help us achieve our goals by enabling us to practice what we teach," said UB President Neil Salonen.

Since 2008, UB has reduced its energy use and made substantial savings by upgrading the campus electrical grid, installing high-efficiency boilers, insulated roofing systems, energy-efficiency windows,



and making LED and induction lighting retrofits throughout campus.

"We are pleased to be providing the University of Bridgeport with an on-site power generation solution that meets their financial returns and sustainability goals and enhances campus energy security," said FuelCell President and CEO Chip Bottone.

Fuel cells convert chemical energy from hydrogen-rich fuels, such as renewable bio gas or natural gas, into electrical power and usable high quality heat in an electrochemical process that is virtually absent of pollutants.

Similar to a battery, a fuel cell is comprised of many individual cells that are grouped together to form a fuel cell stack. Each individual cell contains an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte layer. When clean natural gas or renewable biogas enters the fuel cell stack, it reacts electrochemically with oxygen to produce electric current, heat and water. While a typical battery has a fixed supply of energy, fuel cells continuously generate electricity as long as fuel is supplied. ■ — L.G.

**A fuel cell similar to this will be operated next to Wheeler Recreation Center.**

# News Lines



## No, dear. That's the fish fork.

Over dinner, students master the art of dining and business etiquette

**Pleasure to meet you: a student practices her handshake with UB alumnus John Dobos '85**

It's all well and good to have a flair for work, but social skills also count if you want to climb the corporate ladder.

Grasp utensils like a hammer, inhale your food, or ignore your dinner partner, and you quickly signal that you lack good manners and sophistication needed to establish strong professional ties and advance your career.

That's where UB's first annual Business Etiquette Dinner comes into play. Held in March by the UB Alumni Association in partnership with the Ernest C. Trefz School of Business, the evening was specially planned to help students navigate the perilous shoals of professional (read: formal) dining.

More than 75 students met with local corporate partners who volunteered as table captains at the unique career-development event. As they dined on chicken and rice pilaf, Karen Hinds, president of the business-consulting firm Workplace Success Group, spoke about business etiquette, networking, and tips for interviewing over a meal.

Fast-food dining and the demise of nightly sit-down suppers make formal dining a wholly

unfamiliar and often intimidating experience for many of—be they college students or newly arrived to the corporate world, said Hinds. Nonetheless, she said, "It's important for them to learn so they not only present themselves well but also the organizations they represent."

Universities like UB are responding, and business-etiquette dinners are becoming increasingly popular on college campuses, says Hinds, who consults nationwide. "People do business with people they like, know, and trust," she added, "so it's important not to make a faux pas that can derail relationship before it even starts.

As the evening unfolded, students felt comfortable to ask questions: Is it OK to drink alcohol? (No, a business dinner is not a party.) What if you're served meat but you're a vegetarian? (You don't have to eat it, but be polite and brief when you explain why you are requesting a different meal.) Do you pre-cut food? (No, tiny bits of food may belong on a child's plate, but not an adult's.)

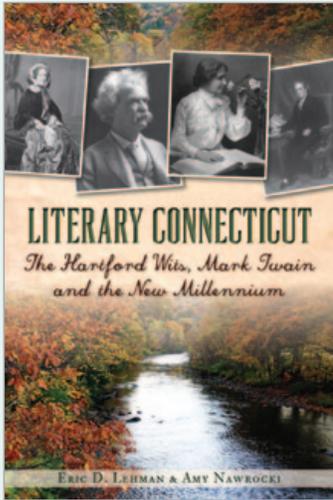


Karen Hinds

As the dinner wrapped up, senior Tara Drinks said, "I definitely feel more confident in attending more business events . . . For me, learning about the proper placement of utensils was most helpful. I learned to cross my T's and dot my i's."

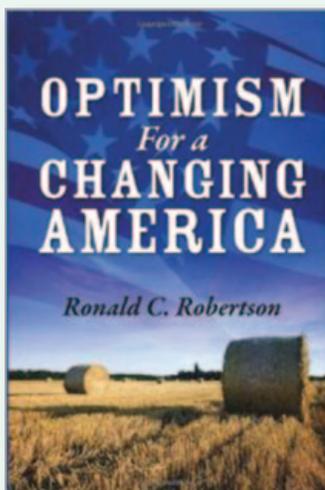
Alumnus John Dobos Jr. '85 has had plenty of dining experience as director of external affairs at Southern Connecticut Gas. The business school alumnus said he returned to campus to volunteer as a table captains because he "wanted to help students learn how to make good impressions on individuals who can make decisions about their future." ■ — L.G.

# Book Lines



Serious readers know that Connecticut has produced and inspired a dazzling array of literary talent. Now they can become more familiar with the likes of Eugene O'Neill and Mark Twain, thanks to Amy Nawrocki and Eric D. Lehman's latest book, *Literary Connecticut* (History Press). Lehman and Nawrocki, who teach at UB's English Department and previously coauthored *A History of Connecticut Food* and *A History of Connecticut Wines*, take readers to James Merrill's study in Stonington, Hartford's Nook Farm neighborhood, a home to Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mark Twain and William Gillette, and to Hellen Keller's stomping grounds in Easton, among other literary stops.

Readers who wonder "what's next?" for the various fields of technology may want to check out *Emerging Trends in Computing, Informatics, Systems Sciences, and Engineering* (Springer), to be released in July. Written by School of Engineering Dean Tarek Sobh and Associate Vice President of Graduate Research Khaled Elleithy, *New Trends* explores the future of computing, informatics, systems sciences, and engineering in a tone that's accessible to a wide readership, from professors to students to those who just want to know more about the devices and STEM-related fields we often don't know enough about.



Forget naysayers. In *Optimism for a Changing America* (Outskirts Press) alumnus Robert C. Robertson '75 counters that the U.S. has plenty of competitive advantages to maintain its status as a global leader. Robertson, who earned his MBA at UB, points to manufacturing and service sectors, growing exports, and new technologies and innovation to support his thesis. ■

– Reviewed by Leslie Geary

## Focus on: Adriana Reyes '13



Adriana Reyes '13 hopes to make the world a better place. But for Reyes, desire is not enough. Soon before she graduated with a master's in Global Development and Peace from the University's College of Public and International Affairs, she accompanied a humanitarian mission to document the Syrian crisis in that country and refugee camps in Jordan and Turkey. Now back in the Connecticut, Reyes has turned her lens on the state's cities and its poorest residents.

**You came to UB to study at the College of Public and International Affairs because you had an interest in international affairs. At what point did you decide to focus on the Middle East?**

In 2012, I did my internship in Amman, Jordan, which was a requirement to graduate. I spent two months studying, working, and traveling throughout Jordan, Palestine, and Jerusalem. While I was in Amman, I was fortunate to meet a journalist from Amman News Agency who took me to Baqa'a refugee camp. It was then that I became interested

refugee issues. I was determined to go back.

**How were you able to return as a photographer?**

My professor, Dr. Robert Riggs, heard that the Syrian American Medical Society and National Arab Medical Association needed a photographer to cover the refugee crisis in order to bring attention to the devastation of the war. He encouraged me to get in touch with them, and I seized the chance. I photographed the mission inside of the Zaatari refugee camp, which is one of the largest camps in the world, and local hospitals and villages.

**But you had no formal photography training before this? You weren't actually a photographer?**

No, none whatsoever. I'm self-taught. I was provided with lenses, camera equipment, and off I went—boots on the ground. I was absolutely terrified and told them, "I have no experience" but they said, "You seem to be doing a good job."

**You've done remarkably well. The Huffington Post ran a feature about you, showcasing some of your photographs. Have you considered journalism?**

I've considered it, absolutely. It'd be an honor to represent an established global news agency.

**You've said that "photography became my precious, vivid tool with which I could show the world's beauty and sad reality simultaneously."**

You see a child picking up trash or walking with no shoes on in the winter, and it breaks your heart. But when you look at the children, look into their eyes, and they smile, it's a beautiful moment. I believe that even in a time of despair, you have to find the means to survive, pick up the pieces. Everyone has two sides, even in a refugee camp. People still have to live their lives and go on.

**I was surprised you're working at Catholic Charities instead of taking photographs. How come?**

My heart has always been with working with nonprofit organizations and with the underprivileged. That's important to me. To say photography is everything to me, it's not. It's a passion. My goal is to continue to take photos, whether it's a hobby or a career, we'll see. I'm currently working on a storyboard for a documentary about homelessness in Connecticut, which I've come to realize is a rising epidemic that requires much attention.

**So, "stay tuned?"**

Yes! ■

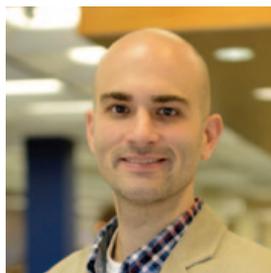
– Interview by Leslie Geary





Photographs by Adriana Reyes

# Faculty Lines



## 25 years after Tiananmen

So, what's really going on with China? Twenty-five years after protestors filled Tiananmen Square, that's what Congress wants to know. In May, lawmakers invited a select group of human rights representatives, journalists, and other China experts at Congress's US-China Economic and Security Commission. **Steve Hess**, an adjunct professor at the College of Public and International Affairs (CPIA), was among them.

Calling it "flattering" and "scary" to be summoned by members of Congress, Hess said he talked about how social unrest has evolved in China in the past quarter century. "Many of the causes of unrest are the same—economic uncertainty and inequality—those are the drivers," says Hess. Today, however, protests are localized. "There's no national movement because the state has reformed itself; it's delegated more power to local governments so people vilify local officials and have a more favorable view of the national government."

What does that mean to the US? "China is the world's second largest economy. We think of it as a really stable place where people are fearful of the government, when in fact it has 160,000 protests every year, and some of them have as many as 10,000 demonstrators. Domestic

instability is the No. 1 concern of the Chinese government, so anything they do internationally is impacted by reaction at home. People think China's government is very strong. It's actually very weak."

A webcast of the hearing is available at: <http://www.uscc.gov/Hearings/hearing-stability-china-lessons-tiananmen-and-implications-united-states-webcast>. ■ — **Leslie Geary**



## Innovative Leader

Engineering professor **Elif Kongar** has been recognized as a leading innovator in the field of engineering by the Connecticut Technology Council (CTC).

The Women of Innovation® program recognizes women across Connecticut who are innovators, role models, and leaders in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

"These Connecticut women are extraordinary and outstanding contributors to their professions, to their employers, and in many cases to their communities," said Beth Alquist, planning committee chair for the Women of Innovation® awards program.

Recipients included researchers, educators, engineers, managers, and entrepreneurs who work in biotech, pharmaceuticals, software, computer hardware, advanced materials, medical devices, and Information Technology. ■ — **L.G.**



## ASEE Chair

**Navarun Gupta**, associate professor of electrical engineering, was elected Chairman of American Association of Engineering Education (ASEE) Zone 1 region, which represents colleges and universities in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Gupta will begin his one-year term as Zone 1 Chair in June, and during his tenure, he will develop an ASEE campus representative program, act as a liaison between the ASEE board of directors and section chairs, and assist in nominating members for various awards granted by ASEE each year. ■ — **L.G.**



## CPIA professor wins Fulbright

**Chunjuan Nancy Wei**, an associate professor at the College of Public and International Affairs (CPIA), has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship.

The Fulbright Scholar Program, the country's premier academic-exchange, sends hundreds of U.S. faculty, students, and

professionals each year to countries around the world to conduct research, teach, and lecture.

Dr. Wei is the fourth CPIA faculty member to be named a Fulbright Fellow.

As a Fellow, she will travel to Taiwan and the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the spring and summer of 2015 to conduct research on Cross-Strait Relations between Taiwan and the PRC. ■ — **L.G.**



## Thank you, Professor Greenspan

**William Greenspan** has retired after teaching business law for 44 years. He frequently met with students until nearly midnight and left his Mandeville Hall office open for them to come in and study, hang out, and make themselves at home. In May, President Neil A. Salonen, Provost Hans Van der Giessen, Ernest C. Trefz School of Business Dean Lloyd Gibson, and colleagues bid him farewell at a special party at Arnold Bernhard Center, where he was presented with a rocking chair adorned with his name and the UB seal.

"Bill Greenspan's retirement marks the end of 40-plus years of teaching and service that will be sorely missed. We wish him all the best and take comfort in the knowledge that, as a newly minted emeritus professor, his presence on the campus will not completely disappear," said Van der Giessen. ■ — **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.*

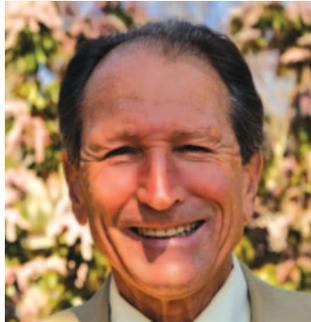
## 1947

**Bill DeMayo**, who led highly successful careers in finance and education before opening a 300-acre ranch to save wild horses, has died. A veteran who served in the U.S. army as a bombardier/navigator in WWII, he returned to UB on the G.I. Bill to become an accounting. He worked for Ernst & young for over 22 years, retiring to teach. In 1998 the DeMayo family sold their assets in order to purchase their ranch in Santa Barbara County, California, where he co-founded Return to Freedom Wild Horse Sanctuary with his eldest daughter, Neda DeMayo. He is survived by his wife, Stella DeMayo; daughters, Neda DeMayo and Diana DeMayo-Brown; son-in-law, Thomas A. Brown; and grandson, Thomas William Elijah Brown.

## 1951

There’s no slowing down for **Al Falcone**. His tireless contributions to Home Instead Senior Care—the assisted-living residence where he lives in Charlottesville, Virginia—have improved the quality of lives for residents and staffers alike. On his 92nd birthday, for instance, Falcone thoroughly scrubbed the center’s kitchen and installed shelving. He also helps the gardeners and does repairs. This spring, Falcone was honored for his extraordinary service when he

received the Commonwealth of Virginia’s “Salute Senior Service Award” and \$500, which he promptly donated back to the center. “I feel like if I volunteer, it’s a helping me stay alive,” Falcone told a local television station.



## 1969

After a five-plus decade career as a community organizer, educator, and political activist, **Mitch Kahn** will receive the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Lifetime Achievement Award in July. Kahn majored in American history at UB and is founder and *professor emeritus* of the Social Work Program at Ramapo College of New Jersey. In his community, Kahn has served as executive director of the Bergen County Housing Coalition, which has provided housing and counseling services to more than 60,000 since 1979. In addition, he is a founding board member of New Jersey Citizen Action and vice president and director of organizing for the New Jersey Tenants Organization.

He writes, “UB was an exciting place to be in the 1960s. I spent four of the best years of my life there in the midst of the great social, cultural, and political upheaval of that era. It was a great time to be studying American history, and I recall with fondness my wonderful professor, Christopher Collier.”



## 1975

**Michael P. Cook** is teaching marketing research and shopper marketing at the University of Cincinnati College of Business. Cook earned a B.S. in Psychology at UB, and he recently accepted a position as senior vice president, consulting & insights at StrataMark Dynamic Solutions in Cincinnati, where he works with global consumer companies as a consumer psychologist and research consultant. He and his wife, Marianne, live in Loveland, Ohio. Their son Nathan is studying for a PhD in Environmental Policy at the University of Colorado in Boulder, and David is a consultant for a health care software company in Denver.

**Lawrence Miller**, who was a longtime Republican state representative in Connecticut, has passed away. In a statement, Sen. John McKinney called Miller “a tireless advocate” for his district, which included Trumbull, Shelton, and Stratford.

## 1987

**Terry Mangan** was recently included on *Institutional Investor* magazine’s 2014 All-America Executive Team List for Excellence. Mangan earned his MBA from UB, and is currently senior vice president at Webster

Financial Corp., where he’s led the organization’s investor relations function since 2003.



**Lori Smith-Lalla**, an attorney with the international law firm Greenberg Traurig, has been recognized in the 2014 Chambers USA Guide for her practice in Public Finance. The annual guide selects attorneys and practices for inclusion based on thousands of interviews with practicing lawyers and clients throughout the world. The official rankings were announced in May.



## 1988

**Paul Renaud** was recently named vice president of engineering for NSTAR Electric and Western Massachusetts Electric Company. Renaud, who earned his master’s in electrical engineering at UB, will lead the strategic and tactical direction >

# Alumni Lines



Members of Chi Zeta Rho (listed below) display sorority paddles that had been missing for years at their 2014 reunion in West Nyak, NY, in May. The paddles were returned shortly before the annual gathering by TKE brothers, who had taken the mementos as a prank in the 1950s and wished to return them. The CZR keepsakes are now safely on display in the Alumni Office in Cortright Hall. CZR alumna hope to meet up with the TKE alumni again and invite any sisters who they've lost touch with to contact the Alumni Office to be included in their next reunion.

Back Row: L-R Jean (Ohlweiler) Pirina, Cheryl (Stevenson) Saposnick, Pat (Stefan) Gould, Jan (Liberth) Hickman, Cindy Avery, Phyllis Trapani  
 Middle Row: L-R Fern (Kirschner) Lehrman, Barbara (Estrin) Rubin, Maddie (Davis) Litoff, Mollie (Kroll) Abend, Jeannette Fish-Brown  
 Front Row: L-R Veronica Kelly, Pamela (Suttan) Bader, Lynn (Geller) Fleisher, Gale (Green) Egan

of the companies' electric system engineering, including oversight of new transmission, substation and system protection projects.

### 1996

School of Education alumnus **Christopher Moretti** has been hired as the new principal of Hawley Elementary School in Newtown, CT. Moretti was most recently a principal at Long Meadow Elementary School. Newtown School Board officials said they selected him for the job because of his list of educational accomplishments.

### 1997

**Mary Faulkner**, an alumna from the School of Education, informs us that she was recently appointed to Dean of Faculty at the Unquowa School in Fairfield, Connecticut, where for the past 17 years she has taught classes at its Upper and Lower Schools and directed the summer Farm Camp. In her new role, she will oversee faculty professional growth and collaborate with department chairs on curriculum development. She'll also continue to teach fifth grade. ■ – L.G.



Friendly rivalry: UB basketball coach Mike Ruane with former player Erik Smiles '01. Smiles returned to campus to coach C.W. Post, which faced off against the Purple Knights on Feb. 12.



From left: UB alums Dennis Eannotti '01, Bobby Holm '03, Mike Liacos '03, Adam Bajko '03, Erik Smiles '01, Peter Rodrigues '04 with baby Lola, Matthew Caluor '04, UB associate athletics director Anthony Vitti, and TJ Neuman

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## Side Lines



UB catcher Tim Bickford

# Diamond Doings

**Baseball battles back while softball ups its season win**

By Chuck Sadowski

After starting their East Coast Conference season with a disappointing 0-8 record, the University baseball team rebounded with 11 wins in their final 16 conference games to grab a spot in the 2014 ECC Championship Tournament. The Purple Knights finished the 2014 campaign with a 17-28-1 overall record and an 11-13 conference mark.

Juniors Tim Bickford and Brian O'Keefe were named First Team All-Conference, and senior Jesse Solar and junior Mike Perry were chosen Second Team All-ECC in recognition of their outstanding play in 2014.

Bickford, the team's catcher, led UB with a .308 batting average plus a team-best two home runs and 27 runs batted in. O'Keefe, the team-leader on the mound all season, posted a 5-7 record with a 2.49 earned run average.

Solar, an outfielder who did not make an error handling 95 chances in the field to garner Second Team

Rawlings/ABCA East region Gold Glove accolades, posted a .262 batting average with 19 RBI and stole a team and conference-leading 24 bases.

For the fourth straight season, the Bridgeport softball team increased its season win total from the previous year, as the 2014 edition of the Purple Knights went 19-29 overall and fell just shy of an ECC Championship Tournament bid.

Senior pitcher Tiffany Irrera, who was selected as a Second Team All-East Coast Conference performer, led UB in the circle posting a 6-4 record with a 3.27 earned run average. Irrera also amassed eight saves, and she worked a total of 98.1 innings in which she struck out 84 and allowed only 14 walks.

On offense, junior second baseman Jessica Griesinger led the team in batting average at .324, and classmate Sydney Phillips batted .322 with a team-high six home runs and 32 runs batted in. ■



Tiffany Irrera

## Side Lines

# Could Have Been Karma

**Counted out by competitors,  
injured gymnasts score historic win**

By Mike Patrick



**Rough landing, tough athlete: Senior gymnast Erin Turner injured her knee in the first meet of the season in January. She underwent surgery and just a few weeks later was back in competition.**

The women's gymnastics team set out to make history at the beginning of the season. But when four team members fell right off the balance beam at a finals match, it looked like the Purple Knights would make it into the history books for the wrong reason.

Add to that no fewer than 11 player injuries—including two team captains—and it seemed fate was picking off Head Coach Byron Knox's best players like ducks in a carnival game.

Word soon spread in the college gymnastics world that the five-time national champions would pose no threat this season.

"I think the other teams definitely saw where we were vulnerable," freshman Christine Liautaud, 19, a business administration major from Cary, Illinois,

said. "They saw we couldn't stay on the beam. The same doubt creeping into us was giving them hope."

But Knox knew something the other teams didn't. He was employing an elaborate psychological tactic against them, building his wounded team up from the inside.

He started by bringing his injured players back to the gym to provide coaching and moral support for healthy but inexperienced freshmen—the first step in leading the Purple Knights to a history-making sixth national championship win this year.

"It helped a lot that the competition counted us out. They smelled blood," Knox said. "They were counting their chickens before they hatched."

By all accounts, the season began with a great deal of hope and excitement.

All-around Monica Mesalles Sallares had graduated, but pretty much everyone else was returning. There was also a large contingent of freshmen who brought considerable skills to the team.

"There was no guarantee that we were going to win," Knox said. "But we were well-prepared."

Then, in January, junior Sasha Tsikhanovich became the first player to fall to injury. She broke a bone in the lower part of her leg which required surgery and a pin.

"She was our reigning all-around champ. She was our top athlete," Knox said. "That kind of took the wind out of our sails."

It was 22-year-old senior Lissette LaFex's third and final year on the team, and she began to worry she'd go out on a bad season.

"People one by one were getting hurt, and it wasn't just like fall injuries, it was season-ending injuries," she said. "They weren't one-eventers, they were three- and four-eventers, and it was hard to replace them."

Later, she said, when so many team members fell off the balance beam, it turned out to be oddly satisfying because they knew to win that meet they'd have to shine in every other event—and they did.

"What was also killer was that the other teams were kind of, like, watching us on the beams, seeing

us falling and getting a kick out of that,” she said. “I don’t believe in karma, but I think that might have had something to do with it.”

Junior Caitlin Perry, 20, said Tsikhanovich’s and other players’ loyalty to the team was both inspiring and encouraging.

“They were in the gym every day and helped us with our workouts. They were at all the meets they could be at,” she said. “It was definitely incredible to see Sasha come and cheer us on and not be sad for herself. She really put herself into the team, which really helped us.”

Kamri Riles was also there. Riles’s injury was even more devastating; she tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) on a bars dismount at the ECAC Championships, and it not only ended her season, but her career.

“I wasn’t thinking about me; it was, ‘Oh, my Gosh. What will the team do now?’” Riles said. “I was definitely down, but I knew we were going to nationals, and moping was not going to help them.”

What was going to help was her encouragement, freshmen stepping up their game, and Knox’s psych-out strategy. While the Purple Knights’ woes became a hot topic among other teams on Facebook and Twitter, Knox put his players on a social media blackout.

It drove the other teams crazy.

“We had nothing to say,” said LaFex. “Other teams were like, ‘Why are they not sharing anything?’”

Then, she said, Knox told them to return to Facebook and Twitter just before an important meet and post a photo of the team with a message that it had been a great week.

“Psych them out,” LaFex said, still amused.

But there was still the matter of all those freshmen. They were all talented gymnasts, but now the pressure was on them to carry the team.

“Amongst the freshmen, especially, there was definitely that doubt. We didn’t want to be the class that lost the championship, and we felt that a little bit,” Liautaud said. “I, personally, have never competed in a national competition at all, so walking into the arena there was



definitely that fear that ‘Oh, my gosh, this is nationals.’”

Knox knew he had to get them out of the newbie frame of mind right away if the team was going to stand a chance at that sixth win. So he pushed them hard. If one athlete complained of fatigue, his typical response was, “I’m going to win this championship with or without you.” They worked harder still.

During competitions he’d say, “Go in there and do your best and let the chips fall where they may,” like it was a *Rocky* movie. “We used countless boxing analogies,” Knox added. “We had to teach these kids how to fight.”

They learned well. In April, the squad earned a season-high score of 195.225, taking its sixth straight USA Gymnastics Women’s Collegiate Team National Championship in Providence, Rhode Island.

“It was like I couldn’t even, like, breathe for two seconds,” LaFex said. “So far there’s no feeling I’ve ever felt like it, even last year and the year before. Those were great feelings, but this, I can’t even describe it.”

And freshman Liautaud said being pushed to her limit this year will make her a better player in her upcoming sophomore year.

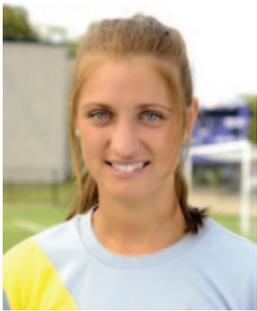
“I think if we learned anything this year, it’s that anything is possible if you’re willing to put in the work,” she said. “No matter what happens during the season, if you come into the gym every day with a positive attitude and willing to work, you can accomplish anything.” ■

## Side Lines



# Glad She Stuck Around

UB soccer star wins conference title after four-year award streak **By Mike Patrick**



**Julia Hansson**

During her freshman year, a homesick Julia Hansson missed her family in Sweden and decided to withdraw from UB. When she brought the paperwork to her soccer coach, Magnus Nilerud, he knew just what to do.

"I ripped the paper out of her hand and I hid it in my office. Then I called the registrar and said, 'If this kid comes back, do not grant her a withdrawal,'" Nilerud recalled with a laugh. "She ended up staying and both she and I are extremely grateful for it."

Hansson spent the next four years winning every conceivable award and honor for her prowess as a goalkeeper for the women's soccer team, as well as earning a 3.94 grade point average.

Just before she graduated this year, she was named an East Coast Conference Scholar Athlete for 2014.

"Every year they pick a male and a female student athlete that stands out," Nilerud said. "It's for all schools and for all sports. It's pretty prestigious."

It wasn't, however, much of a surprise to Nilerud, who said he'd seen Hansson grow into a player the rest of the team admired, and one of the best

goalkeepers he's had.

A good goalkeeper, he said, obviously needs to be a skilled shot-stopper. But as the only player with a full-field view of the game, Nilerud said, the goalkeeper becomes the eyes and ears of the field.

"She had great leadership characteristics; she would organize the rest of the team," he said. "She was so good with her feet, too, so we could almost afford to use her as an extra player. She could come up the line and play much higher than most goalkeepers could. It was almost like she was a defender/goalkeeper."

Reached at her home in Tockfors, Sweden, where she returned after earning her degree in health science, Hansson said during her time at UB and career with the Purple Knights, she matured as an athlete, a student, and a person.

"As with everything that is outside of your comfort zone, you just have to dare to take on challenges and experience new things," she said. "With time I just became more confident in all aspects of my life at UB." ■

# Closing Thought:

## Success 101 for Grads



By Betsy Orman

For the past nine years, I've had the privilege and opportunity to work with students at UB as a mentor, advisor, student, and teacher. In that time, I've witnessed many successful students as they moved on. Those who have made it could be described as having "grit." Researchers now realize it's not the smartest or most capable person who succeeds, it's the person who sees the need, takes responsibility, moves forward, and doesn't give up. There are other important ways to develop grit that can help the newly graduated integrate their academic success into any chosen field of endeavor.

**Find your own path:** You have a unique character. Honor it by recognizing that your success will be unique. Find your own path and follow it. Don't let anyone's concept of who they think you are limit you. When your heart says, "Do it," just do it! Single-minded focus and unchanging determination will get you further faster.

**Count to 10,000—and then some:** At some point in your life, your life will be roiled by difficulty—the death of a loved one, job loss, or other professional or personal hardship. The question is: What happens next? Thomas Edison made more than 10,000 prototypes before developing a light bulb that worked. "I have not failed 10,000 times," he famously said. "I have succeeded in proving that those 10,000 ways won't work." When you hit a brick wall, look for at least three alternatives—maybe even 10,000. Go under over or around that wall, but don't give up.

**Embrace discomfort:** We have a tendency to put everything into neat little boxes and not step outside of our comfort zone. Success is often developed outside the box. Look at Albert Einstein, Bill Gates, or Mother Theresa. They challenged the norm and the impossible became possible. Challenge your limitations every day.

**Take responsibility:** Don't make excuses. Instead of justifying bad behavior, humbly apologize when you're wrong. This will win the trust of everyone.

When you are going to be late let people know. When you promise something, keep your promises. Integrity speaks volumes, irresponsibility speaks even louder. Become a respected individual. If you have lost your integrity, you have lost everything.

**Empower others:** Look for the good points in those with whom you work and help them become successful. Becoming a team player—giving credit where it's due and being sincere—will demonstrate to others that you're a natural leader. Define your standards, and stick to them; that means treating others with respect, even if they are unfair or inconsiderate. Unseen eyes may be watching, and good behavior never goes unrecognized for long.

**Get your hands dirty:** Volunteer for the toughest jobs, work the longest hours, and undertake the most difficult situations. Your bosses will notice those who sacrifice. Don't think something or someone is beneath you. Value the lowest person on the totem pole as much as the highest. Everyone's effort is necessary to succeed.

**Reflect:** It's not important if you call it prayer, meditation, or thoughtful consideration, but do take time each day to reflect upon your life. Are you making purposeful, moral decisions to positively impact and contribute to the world? What is your role? Are you using your natural gifts and talents? Prayer and study heighten your vision. Intuition is the highest level of intellect, and it comes as we develop a connection to a higher truth. The deeper the connection, the greater your success will be, no matter what religion or belief system you follow.

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*Betsy Orman '10, '14, will complete her master's in Counseling College Student Personnel this summer. She has worked in the field of character education and leadership training for over twenty years. She is currently seeking to integrate character and leadership training programs into First-Year Studies courses at UB to help students achieve their greatest potential.*



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