

UB Knightlines

Mr. Akatsu's Gift

Businessman, alumnus, and art lover Shintaro Akatsu gives \$2 million for a revamped design school.



UNIVERSITY OF
BRIDGEPORT

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ALSO INSIDE Flying Soda Cans! • Purple Knights' Winning Season • Fashionable Destinations

President's Line

One of the opportunities I enjoy as President of the University of Bridgeport is meeting the dedicated and informed donors like those profiled in this issue of Knightlines. UB has always depended on the generosity and commitment of our splendid alumni, friends, faculty, and Trustees. Together, I believe, we are well on our way to creating a rich and vibrant culture of supporting and developing UB.

One of the ways by which a true culture of giving can be enriched is by making our constituents aware of what it means to be a donor to UB and what our donors help us to achieve. The stories of the forward-thinking alumni detailed in these pages reflect their shared commitment to maximizing civic progress and human potential, building and strengthening networks of connections, and providing opportunities for individual and social betterment. Giving is a life-changing activity.

I believe that any of the individuals profiled in these pages would confirm, without equivocation, that their lives have been transformed by making a gift, or by being the recipient of one. Those of you are already an invaluable part of the culture of giving at UB know what I mean. To those of you who are not yet part of this culture, I encourage you to join. You will be glad you did. And so will our current and future students.

Some donors are motivated by values and beliefs formed in childhood or later in life; others may feel the need to make a difference or want to give back what they have received. The University of Bridgeport salutes these remarkable individuals, whatever their reasons for their generosity, whose gifts provide invaluable support. On behalf of UB faculty, students, and staff—I thank you!



Neil Albert Salonen

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

Neil Albert Salonen
President

President
Neil Albert Salonen

Vice President for University Relations
Mary-Jane Foster

Director of Alumni Relations
Susan Butler

Director of Annual Giving
Meems Ellenberg

Editor
Leslie Geary

Sports Editor
Chuck Sadowski

Contributing Editor
Rebecca Salonen

Production Director
Larry Orman

Photographer
Kazuhiro Shoji

Designers
Scott Greenlee and Price Carter
Creative Partners

Please send address changes and Letters to the Editor to: Knightlines, Cortright Hall, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or by e-mail to knightlines@bridgeport.edu. Please include your full name, UB class year (if applicable), and contact information. For additional assistance, (203) 576-4625.

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Planting a seed for the Annual Fund



Meems Ellenberg

As I began writing the Annual Fund page for this issue of *Knightslines*, the Tri-State area was anticipating the arrival of a major snowstorm. The bright sunshine and longer days of recent weeks seemed to belie the weather reports, which assured us that “The Big One” for winter of 2010 was indeed on the way.

Having grown up in New England, I am certainly familiar with the quip attributed to Mark Twain about waiting a while if you don’t like the weather. By February, most of us (the grown-ups, anyway) have had just about enough of winter weather and are beginning to anticipate spring. Seed catalogs supplant other magazines as coveted reading material. Despite the bare branches and frigid winds, spring *will* come, although how soon is anybody’s guess.

University Relations is a far more rewarding field of endeavor than meteorology for me, since the work I do really can influence the outcome. Just as certainly as the trees along Park Avenue eventually will burst into bloom, I know that an appeal to the many generous alumni and friends of the University of Bridgeport will result in a response of gifts. One of the many outstanding things about this university is that our alumni are uniquely aware of how much of a difference their educations made in their lives, and are deeply committed to ensuring that current students are not denied this remarkable privilege.

The economic storms of the past year have challenged record numbers of our students and their families, and they have turned to us for more financial aid than ever before. For many students, an interruption to their academic careers can signal the end. UB is committed to providing financial aid wherever possible, and the Office of University Relations has been actively soliciting scholarship funds since the magnitude of the current financial crisis became clear. As each of the alumni profiled in this issue of *Knightslines* makes clear, gifts to UB really do make an enormous difference. By making your gift—in any amount—to the Annual Fund and designating it for scholarships, you are helping to ensure a bright future for UB.

The University of Bridgeport depends on you to make a difference, to influence the outcome, to change the future. And unlike with the weather, you can!

Meems Ellenberg

Director of Annual Giving

Pipelines



Dear Editor,

Congratulations on your excellent Winter 2010 edition of *Knightlines* and salutations to your tremendous alumnae.

Bill DeMayo '47
Lompoc, CA

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to express my gratitude on behalf of the 1959 soccer team that was recently inducted into the UB Athletic Hall of Fame. The joy of seeing those "old guys" was wonderful, and the camaraderie was immediate as it was 50 years ago. It was a joy.

The University's Athletics Department and all who decided to honor us are to be thanked a thousand times over.

Bill Brew '62
Dunnellon, FL

Dear Editor,

I'm thankful for the engineering foundation that the University of Bridgeport gave me on the way to a Master's of engineering degree from Yale University and a successful career in engineering at United Technologies and Boeing. I am very thankful for Professors Milton Greenhalgh and Tyrone Zandy at the University, and for many others whose faces I see but whose names I cannot recall.

Thirty-nine years ago in the western suburbs of Philadelphia I founded an HVAC business and today am blessed by its continued success. Even in the midst of this recession, we and our 160 employees are thriving.

Joseph M. Oliver '59
Morton, PA

Dear Editor,

I've enjoyed reading *Knightlines*, both in its old format and the new upscale version; it's a great way to keep up with what's going on with the University community. I graduated in 1972 with a BS in mechanical engineering and went to work for Ford Motor Company. I recently retired after 35 years. My UB education served me well, and I have started to reconnect with some of my college friends. While at UB I was a brother in the Theta Sigma fraternity; many of us have stayed in touch and get together when we can. I can't recall ever seeing anything in the past or current versions of the publication that mentions that UB once had a vibrant Greek community. Who could forget Pledge Week and the antics in the Student Center cafeteria and Seaside Park, or the Chariot races at halftime of the Homecoming football game?

While at Ford I held several management positions and strongly believe that in addition to the solid engineering education I received, the opportunity to also hold leadership positions in the fraternity helped develop the skills I later used at Ford. I'd love to hear from some of the people who were also part of the Greek community and what may have happened to those organizations over the years.

Can you do an article on that in one of the future issues?

John Lapetz '72
Northville, MI

Knightlines welcomes your letters! Please note that they may be edited for length, clarity, style, or accuracy. Send them to Letters to the Editor, Knightlines, Cortright Hall, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or knightlines@bridgeport.edu. Please be sure to include your full name, contact information, and UB class year (if applicable).



Mr. Akatsu's Gift

Shintaro Akatsu School of Design launches a bright new future.

By Leslie Geary

It's early January, and the lingering days of winter vacation and crisp winds blowing from Long Island Sound have quieted the University of Bridgeport. Sightings of staff and faculty are infrequent and brief. Swaddled in wool and hooded down, they hurry along outdoor walkways, exhaling cottony puffs of breath that quickly evaporate in the frigid air. Scooting into the warm safety of buildings, doors slam shut behind them. It's still again.

At the Arnold Bernhard Center, however, a symphony of activity emanates from the basement, where crews of maintenance workers wheel scaffolding into place and move metal shelving and assorted equipment—band and table saws, an enormous thickness planer, wiring, work benches—out of the way. They pop open five-gallon drums of white latex paint and apply it in long, decisive strips up 12-foot-high walls. Electricians, perched atop ladders like birds, install outlets and wiring for woodworking machines. A thin layer of sawdust skims the floor.

"This," says Richard Yelle, director of the design school and chair of industrial design program, "will be our new furniture and exhibition design lab. As you can see, we're already using Mr. Akatsu's money."

"Mr. Akatsu" is businessman Shintaro Akatsu, 48, president of Kamata Corporation, who graduated from the University with a BS in international business in 1988 before moving back to Japan to run his energy company. With a penchant for travel and a fascination with all things cultural, he has introduced Tokyo residents to the culinary delights of Italy with Grom, a specialty gelato store he opened to instant success in 2009. Akatsu's other passions include art and golf. He became skilled at reading the greens during his days at UB, when he traveled down to Greenwich, Connecticut, and worked as a caddy at Burning Tree Country Club.

To the University's good fortune, the highly active alumnus also has become one of UB's most loyal

supporters. He has sponsored international alumni events at his Berengo Akatsu Art Gallery in Tokyo, and has donated \$20,000 to upgrade the women's gymnastics team locker room, \$10,000 to renovate Hubbell Gymnasium, and \$10,000 toward the construction of Knights Field.

Last November, Akatsu pledged his most generous gift to date—\$2 million to expand and overhaul the University's industrial, graphic, and interior design programs. The gift, one of the largest from a single donor in the school's history, provides for several critical structural and capital improvements at the Arnold Bernhard Center, where the design programs are housed. More significantly, his gift promises to change the academic structure of the design programs by expanding the curriculum with several new graduate and undergraduate degree tracks geared to the professional design world. Those, in turn, will support ongoing campaigns to grow enrollment and faculty.

Shintaro Akatsu School of Design

For all the many improvements the gift provides, the most significant may be its effect on the identity of design at UB. The cluster of industrial, interior, and graphic design tracks are now being reorganized as the entirely new Shintaro Akatsu School of Design, or SASD. In coming months, the school's name will be prominently displayed on signage outside the Arnold Bernhard Center, on a completely revamped Web site, and on glossy fliers and brochures that will make their way to high school guidance counselors, art and design teachers, and prospective students.

As he talks about the new school, Richard Yelle refers frequently to its SASD acronym, which he pronounces as a long and satisfied *sass-deee*. Immediately, one thinks of another well-known design school located two hours up Route 95 in Providence, Rhode Island.

It's not an accidental similarity. University of Bridgeport's design programs have been much respected

Alumnus Shintaro Akatsu has given \$2 million to the University's design programs.

(continued)

for decades. Faculty work or consult for such recognized companies as Crate & Barrel, Black & Decker, Sony, MTV, and Dansk. Yelle himself launched the celebrated product- and furniture-design programs at Parsons School of Design in New York City before coming to UB. The work of Graphic Design Program Chairperson Emily Larned has been collected by more than 60 institutions, including the Tate Museum Library in London and the Brooklyn Museum. Before moving to academia, Interior Design Chair John Kandalaft enjoyed a high-profile career as project manager for GTE Corporation, where, among other accomplishments, he won an outstanding performance award for overseeing the interior design of the company's 800,000 square-foot headquarters in Dallas, Texas. Graphic design professor Gary Munch has designed typeface for Microsoft and Linotype. Such ties have forged UB's long-standing links to the professional world of design.

Students have benefited enormously. Since 2001, they have scooped up a dizzying 115 scholarships, awards, and grants for their work.

Many of these accolades are among the most coveted prizes awarded to student designers: the \$10,000 CTIA Wireless Fashion in Motion Award, first-place prizes for a Johnson & Johnson Student Contest, and top awards at the Automobile Safety Competition, which is held annually at New York's International Auto Show and is attended by designers and vehicle manufacturers from around the world. Closer to home, the Advertising Club of Connecticut and the Connecticut Art Directors Club have conferred many top prizes on UB students at events that are attended by firms scouting for fresh talent.

Nevertheless, UB's design programs, Yelle concedes, suffer from what Gertrude Stein would dub "no there, there."

Founded in 1949, the design programs at UB were originally a part of the College of Fine Arts or the School of Engineering, and their curriculum then included more expansive offerings of photography, print production, sculpture, and cinema. Later, design programs were tucked into the School of Arts and Sciences. So while there has always been talk of a "school of design," design at UB has been, technically speaking, a smaller entity within a larger whole.

Akatsu's gift changes this overnight. And, faculty quickly point out, moving design from under the aegis of Arts and Sciences will make it far easier to define, easier to promote, and—critically important—easier to brand and identify. "Creating the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design greatly elevates the visibility of the school in



Professors, who have worked for companies like Microsoft, MTV, and Sony, prepare design students for practical careers.



the competitive world of art and design," says Yelle. "It changes everything."

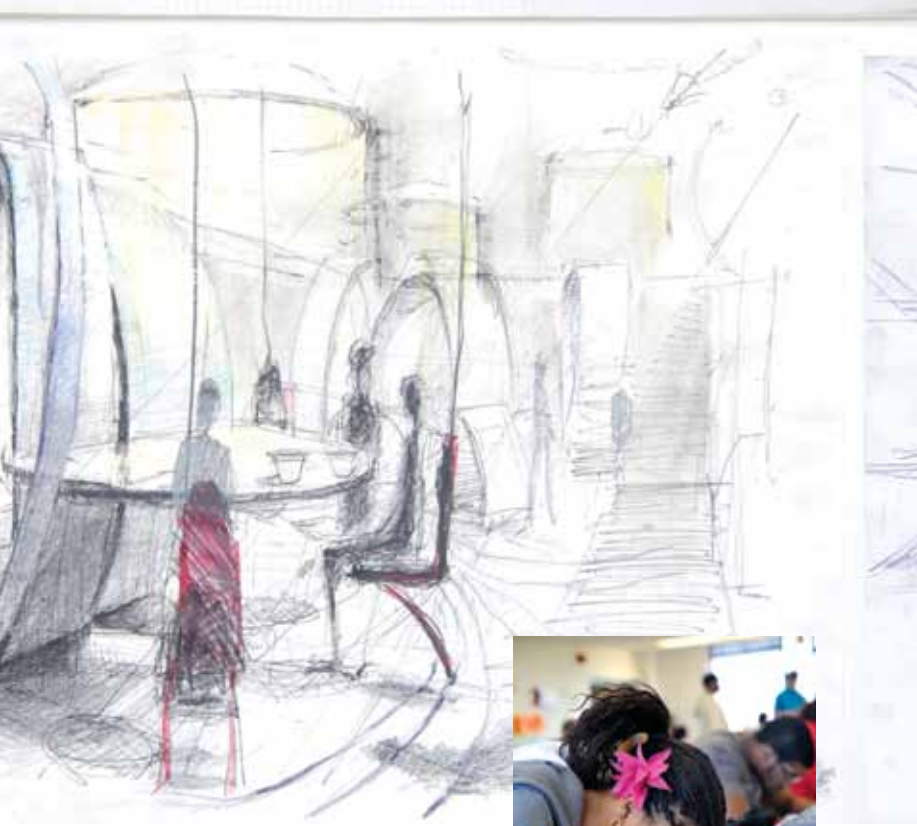
Brand identity

Soon after Akatsu made his pledge, Brian Miller, an adjunct professor at the school and owner of Brian Miller Design Group in Fairfield, Connecticut, was hired to create a logo for SASD. Miller's firm provides branding and identity campaigns for the likes of Delta, NBC, Callaway Golf, and Unilever, so he is keenly aware of what rides on SASD's new identity.

"We want to compete with Parsons, Pratt, all of these top-name schools, and I believe we can do that with the quality of education we offer," he says. "But as we all know, the quality of the education is missed if your brand isn't equal to the other big players'. We're creating a brand image so when people look at the experience of the professors at SASD, they'll realize the education their child is getting is equal to these other so-called top-name schools."

Still, he concedes, creating a logo for SASD is "challenging."

"I'm designing for a design school. And the logo will be critiqued by my design peers and faculty," says Miller, who met with staff before setting to work. The result: the SASD logo whose letters give a nod to the rounded shape of the "flying saucer" structure that juts from Arnold Bernhard Center's southwest corner. But the logo, which gracefully turns the D over to make the A in SASD, also honors Akatsu's Japanese heritage by incorporating the aesthetic of Wabi-sabi, a concept that includes



Since 2001, UB design students have won 115 awards and scholarships for their work.

an acceptance of transience, or change.

“It’s like using an old shoe for a doorstep,” says Miller. “In this case, rotating the D to make an A creates an elegant and timeless logo that has nothing to do with current trends of fonts. It’s meant to be just as relevant 50 years from now as it is today.”

The flair of Wabi-sabi

As it turns out, the idea of repurposing objects reflects a plucky resourcefulness that has come to characterize design at UB. Classrooms at the school are utilitarian, and students and staff produce award-winning work by creatively using limited resources. “We really believe that student work is what sells the design school,” says Miller, who is highlighting their portfolios on SASD’s new Web site. “It’s quite spectacular.”

Even so, resources are about to become far more plentiful, thanks to the Akatsu pledge. New equipment will include a three-dimensional printer, used to make design prototypes, and 25 MacPros for the school’s computer classroom. Lobby and classroom furniture, some of it dating back to the 1980s, is being replaced with sleek ergonomic seating. The building’s flying saucer, a former theater-in-the-round, will be reopened in the fall 2010 as a video and photography-production studio equipped with high-definition video cameras and digital cameras, lighting, and various audio gear. It will be used by motion graphics and video classes, and will also serve a new graphic design track in new media.



Hands-on, practical skills support innovation and creativity among all of the design classes.

S A S D

SHINTARO AKATSU SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Meanwhile, construction crews will finish the basement-level workshop, allowing UB design students to build full-size furniture and massive exhibition displays similar to those found at conventions and major sports events.

New equipment shifts focus

New tools and upgraded workshops and classrooms are expected to boost SASD admissions efforts and energize

the school. But, more significantly, capital improvements also will enhance the curriculum, giving students a competitive edge as they enter the workforce, says professor Ken Benson ’72, a design alumnus who teaches furniture design and who has designed for trendsetting Crate & Barrel.

“Designers are doing more work on computers than ever. But even if you’re designing furniture that will be produced overseas, you have to understand how it’s manufactured,” says Benson, gesturing to a band saw in the new shop. “You have to design efficiently so furniture can be made efficiently. You have to understand how materials work. Having this dose of hands-on reality is critical.”

As Benson speaks, electricians install outlets in SASD’s new ceramic design studio. Slated to open in the fall 2010, it will provide space for classes to make mass-produced lines of glassware and ceramics. Like the furniture shop, the new ceramics studio puts a focus on

(continued)

Laptop break: By using actual construction equipment, students learn how to design products and furniture that is efficient to build and aesthetically beautiful.

Workers prepare the new furniture and exhibition design lab, where displays, similar to those at major events, will be built.



practical, real-world issues of design by moving away from pottery and crafts and into the high-end arena of industrial design known as tabletop design.

The focus on tabletop design, as it turns out, is a move that resonates with Yelle and Akatsu. (While at Parsons, Yelle teamed up with Villeroy & Boch to create limited-edition ceramics. Akatsu's mother is a glassmaker, and he collects glass.)

Faculty also are excited about a new Bachelor of Arts track in pre-architecture, as well as a Master's of Professional Studies (MPS) in Design Management, both of which will be offered in the fall of 2011, pending approval by the UB Board of Trustees and state education accreditation officials.

Both degrees fit perfectly with the University's larger mission to provide students with a highly practical, career-oriented education. Students in the pre-architecture program, for example, will be trained to "develop visual acuity and technical knowledge in the process of designing architectural structures," says Kandalaft, the chair of interior design. "It also will give them opportunities to work within architectural offices or other ancillary trades/professions. It will add more value and prestige to the program."

Yet it's the MPS degree that promises to generate buzz among students and the professional design community. Like a souped-up MBA for the design world, the MPS encompasses training in design and business management (faculty from the University's business school will teach many of the classes) to groom design

and project managers to oversee creative teams in a variety of design industries. Once launched, SASD will be one of three schools in the Northeast to offer a MPS program in design management.

"Any advanced program that is structured for business within the design-management field will be an added cornerstone to building UB's design curriculum," says Karl Heine, who has been in the design recruitment business for the past 22 years and is principal of creativeplacement, a recruiting firm in South Norwalk, Connecticut. Heine graduated from UB in 1982, and regularly visits design schools across the United States to critique student portfolios and dispense career advice.

"Students have to be skilled in design and they have to know how to apply it in the workforce," he says. "If you don't have people like Brian Miller and people with outside expertise, students won't understand how the real design world does things. It's not just theory. There's a balance. So the MPS will provide an additional measure of attraction. It adds an extra. If the marketing and the branding of the program are done in the right way, the value will be recognized."

Promoting that and the other new offerings at SASD, of course, is a challenge that Yelle, Miller, and company are only too happy to embrace. ■

A conversation with Shintaro Akatsu

You studied business at UB, yet you've made this incredible gift to the school's design programs. Why?

International business has cultures and rules that are particular to different countries—Japan, Italy, the United States. It can be difficult, and it can make it difficult to communicate. Design doesn't have a barrier. If it's good design, people respond to it and appreciate it, wherever they are, not just in Japan or Italy or the United States. Also, I have businesses all over the world, and a lot of my time is devoted to designing products, to marketing, to branding. Design is very important in the business field these days. I am happy to think that UB design helps create more understanding.

Speaking of branding, the school has a new name: Shintaro Akatsu School of Design, or SASD.

Yes, I'm very excited. I told President Salonen and [SASD Director] Richard Yelle that it was not important to put my name on the school, but they have. What can I say? I am very happy and proud of it. I hope it will become as well known as RISD or Parsons, and that students from SASD will go out and get good jobs all over the world. I'm excited to see what they do: I've got more dreams for the school because of it. This is just the beginning.

Dreams, but no specific requests?

Richard has a passion. He's an artist, and my feeling is that I have to trust him and his team. I respect them. I'm just happy to see what they do—to see my name at the school, too. It's ironic because I was not the best student, but in the end, my name will end up in front of the school. Life is so funny. When I told my mother, I had to explain it to her a few times. She couldn't believe it. I'd like to bring her and my father to SASD and see their reactions; it's kind of a dream.

You own a gallery and you take a great interest in art—glass in particular. Where did these interests come from?

My mother was an artist. She makes stained glass. When I was in junior high school she



went to London to study. She left three kids at home and she studied glassmaking! After that, we had a lot of glass artwork at home. I was strongly affected by my mother and her passion.

Do you make glass, too?

Oh, no! My father is a successful businessman, and I inherited his gifts. I've been busy at work, and I've been fortunate. I don't have my mother's artistic talents. I can't be good at both. But I like design. I like glass. I like art. So now I enjoy supporting young artists and students.

Do you have any special memories of your days at UB?

In the beginning, my English was terrible, and I had to take a communications class and give oral presentations. In Japan, there's a system of arranged marriage, and one day I tried to explain it to the class. I was awful! Afterwards, the teacher said, "Mr. Shintaro, we need to talk." She told me, "No one understood what you said so I cannot give you a grade, but I know English is not your first language and you tried your best. Why don't you try again?" I did, and I got a C or a D, enough to pass the class. I was so happy! In Japan, this type of thing doesn't happen. But here in the United States, I did my best and I got another chance. And all of those oral presentations have been helpful in business.

Is it true that you also worked as a caddy while you were a student?

Yes, at the Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich. I woke up at 5 a.m. and came back to school with dirty hands from wiping off golf balls. I was so exhausted, but I liked it. I received a lot of tips—and I got two job offers. I followed the Japanese caddy system. I was very helpful, and I was very popular. They had to reserve my position.

And gelato?

One of my customers knew I travel to Firenze for work, and he said, "You go to Italy so often you should go to this very good gelato shop in Firenze called Grom. Why don't you see if they'd open a shop in Tokyo?" So I wrote a love letter to them, took a train, knocked on their door, and they were happy to see me. They asked me to come and learn how to make gelato. I went for a one-month training program. I started out cleaning floors. But eventually, I learned to make the cones. There's a lot of handiwork involved. I brought Grom to Tokyo. We've got lines down the block. I love to make small companies so it's been very rewarding. I think maybe I should make a gelato stand at Marina Hall. The students could enjoy some after lunch.

— Interview by Leslie Geary

Scholarships & Dreams

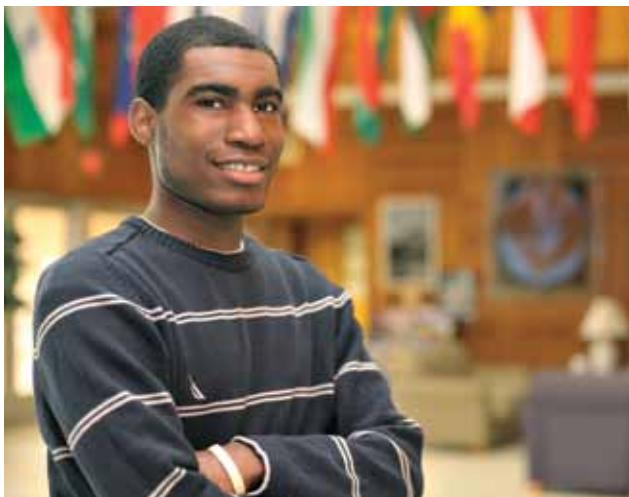
Financial aid has always played an integral part of the University's mission to open its doors to bright, dedicated students, regardless of their ability to pay.

By Leslie Geary

Stevaughn Bush

Kenneth R. Gray and Lancy A. Gray Scholar

For freshman Stevaughn Bush, 19, winning the Kenneth R. Gray and Lancy A. Gray Essay and Scholarship Contest was an important way to give back to his family. The \$800 award "is very helpful," says Bush, who is from Mount Vernon, New York. "I'm the oldest of four kids, so this eases the burden."



Eager to make his family proud, Bush arrived at UB ready to work. He typically devotes four hours a night to his studies, and does extra reading on weekends. The result: Bush completed his first semester with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. He speaks passionately

about political science, a subject he spent much time discussing with his grandmother as a young boy. "She was the one who warned me about the consequences of not being culturally understanding," says Bush, whose mother is from Honduras and whose father is African American. With students from 79 countries, UB is a perfect fit for the globally curious freshman. "A deeper purpose lies in fostering cultural understanding than simply knowing how not to offend someone of a different culture," Bush wrote in his winning essay for the scholarship. "Since cultures cannot and do not exist in a vacuum, developing cultural alliances must be made a priority."

Kali Mason

Winner, David and Eunice Bigelow Foundation Scholarship

Winning a \$1,900 Bigelow Scholarship last fall couldn't have come at a more critical time for sophomore Kali Mason. Her father had lost his job in April, and her family was unable to qualify for extra loans to cover her 2009-10 tuition.

"Our family had no income," says Mason, 19, who is from Monroe, Connecticut. "I didn't think I'd be able to return to school."

A top student with a 3.8 grade point average, Mason quickly scheduled a meeting with UB financial aid officers, and learned that she could compete for one of the David and Eunice Bigelow Foundation Scholarships that are awarded annually to eight undergraduates who are in good academic standing and who are from Bridgeport and the surrounding area. "It really knocked my tuition down quite a bit and helped out in a great time of need," she says.



Reginald “Malakhi” Eason UB Merit Scholar



When sophomore Reginald “Malakhi” Eason, 23, talks about paying for college, it sounds like he’s making a patchwork quilt. “I’ve got federal grants, education loans, and two jobs,” he says. But it’s a \$5,000 merit scholarship from UB, he adds, that’s “the make or break for me. It’s a huge help.”

The first in his family to attend college, Eason receives no financial help from his family to pay for his education. So he prays (“God is my boss”) and plans ahead. In fact, long before he came to UB as a mass communications major, Eason worried about providing for himself. With the ink barely dry on his high school diploma, he trained to become a licensed hairdresser so he’d always have a trade to rely on. The birth of his two-year-old son, Malakhi Eason Jr., convinced Eason to invest his salon tips in his education. “I want to give my son everything, and I want to him to look up to me more than anyone else,” says Eason. “I want him to live the dorm life and make his own decisions and become a man. He’s *definitely* going to have to go to college.”

Prasanthi Thunga Winner, UB Society of Women Engineers Scholarship

Late at night, Prasanthi Thunga turns on her computer and peers into a Web camera to talk to her five-year-old son, Dedeep. “I haven’t seen him since August 2008,” says Thunga, 26, whose child and family are in India. “I miss him. He always asks, ‘Mom, when are you going to send a visa so I can come?’”

The physical separation is wrenching, but Thunga and her family are convinced that she belongs at UB,



A Note From Kathy Gailor, Director of Financial Aid

There’s a sense of urgency at the Office of Financial Aid these days. The economic downturn that has rattled markets around the world has also impacted our students, and they are turning to us for more support than ever. In fact, the number of UB students eligible for federal Pell grants jumped 22 percent in the fall 2009 from the year before.

Yet federal financial aid does not fully cover costs. Many students use government and private loans to bridge the difference. But now these sources of funding are drying up as lenders tighten credit restrictions and make it difficult for families to borrow. The result is visible in our office, where numerous students have come to us seeking additional assistance.

As my staff and I counsel families, we guide them toward scholarships, grants, work-study opportunities, and potential loans. Many students already hold down one or more jobs when they come to see us; they know the value of investing in their education, and they’re willing to work hard for their futures. That’s why it is difficult to tell them that this year we are running out of options for them. Donations, however, greatly help students achieve their educational goals and affirm something I know for sure: nothing is more gratifying than the smile on a student’s face when we find a way to help some more.

where she is earning her master’s degree in computer science. “My father-in-law encouraged me to come. In his house no one studied properly. They went up to 12th grade, but they didn’t do anything post-graduation,” she says. “My father-in-law told me a woman should not depend on anyone. She should have individual qualities.”

Thunga’s qualities—hard work, earnest ambition, and a 3.9 grade point average—caught the attention of School of Engineering professors, who two years ago began

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Why They Give

Their generosity upholds a tradition of supporting students' dreams.

By Leslie Geary

Mark Fries '73
Member, UB Board of Trustees

"I came to UB on an athletic scholarship. So someone was donating, and someone made that opportunity available for me. I'm grateful that in some small way I can provide a similar opportunity for young students today. It was only because of the generosity of alumni and other donors that I was able to afford UB and get an education. So why do I give? I give because we need to be the next generation to provide for young people. Then they can go develop their skills and careers, and when they do, I hope they'll consider the needs of others who will follow them. It's a cycle. When your time comes, fulfill your responsibility."



Cindi Bigelow
David and Eunice Bigelow Foundation

"We have seen such an increase in the need for young students to be able to afford a solid education like the one provided at the University of Bridgeport. That is what makes these scholarships from the David and Eunice Bigelow Foundation have more importance than ever. As a family, we are committed to higher education, and this is our way of giving back. We have been delighted with the caliber of students who have been scholarship recipients, and we are thrilled to support UB."

Elif Kongar
Professor, Department of Technology Management and Mechanical Engineering

"If we believe in encouraging our students, then this is what we should do—support them. The Engineering School faculty, under the leadership of Dr. Jani Pallis, created a Society of Women Engineers Scholarship to provide financial aid for female and male students, undergraduates and graduates. I do believe students appreciate this encouragement. They are honored to become recipients of scholarships that are made available to them. They tell us they feel very proud to break the news to their parents. Most of our students in engineering are international students, and they leave their families, even their children, to get their degrees here. With those sacrifices, it's the least we can do."



Alexander Oji '05
Alumnus, UB School of Education

“I graduated in 2005, and I have given ever since then because I wouldn't have a career if it wasn't for the University of Bridgeport. I always imagined being a teacher, and I've been one for five years. I love it! But if it weren't for the internship teaching program that UB set up for me, I wouldn't have been able to afford to go to school and get my master's degree. During my internship, I was a permanent substitute at a school in Bridgeport, and I was able to do some assistant teaching. In exchange, my education was paid for. The experience was invaluable, and it prepared me for my own classroom. When I give to UB, I like to designate my donation to the School of Education because I want the internship program to continue. I want other students to benefit from the same experiences I had.” ■



By the numbers...

98 percent of University of Bridgeport students currently receive some kind of financial aid, including scholarships, grants, loans, or work-study and assistantship opportunities.

UB has awarded **\$13 million** in scholarship funds in the past year.

UB has **56 named scholarships** that are partially funded by private donors.

To help families cover tuition in challenging economic times, UB increased funding for financial aid by nearly **18 percent** for 2009-10.

52 percent of undergraduate scholarships are awarded to students based on merit.

Scholarships & Dreams

(Story continued from page 11)

funding UB Society of Women Engineers Scholarships for students in their department.

With graduation just months away, Thunga is eager to work and reunite with her family. But the engineering professors who funded her scholarship also will play a part in her future. “They are my role models,” she says. “I won't forget them. When I am settled, I want to help sponsor scholarships for other students. That is how I will show my gratitude.” ■



Bridgeport students eager to learn Chinese are taking classes from international graduate students at UB's School of Education.

By Leslie Geary

After writing the Chinese characters for various family members on a blackboard, University of Bridgeport graduate student Lei "Gordon" Cheng turns to a class of high school students and challenges them: "If my father had five brothers, how would you say oldest uncle?"

Eager to answer, students shoot their hands in the air: *bo bo!* Cheng smiles with approval, but doesn't let up the pace: "And the youngest?" Again, answers are volleyed back with quick precision: *Shu shu!*

"And my mother's brother?" *Jiu jiu!*

It's impressive, considering the 20 students from Warren Harding High School in Bridgeport have been studying Mandarin Chinese with Cheng for just a few months.

Smooth Transla

Their classes, which began in the fall semester, are part of a program that teams up international students earning master's degrees in education at UB with area students who want to learn Chinese. The Bridgeport high schoolers don't receive credit for the extra work, although that may change, say organizers, who would like to expand the wildly popular program.

"We'd like to have the kids earn credit, maybe even have a chance to go to China," says Ricardo Perez, a teacher at Harding's World Language Academy, a smaller program within the high school, where the Chinese classes were offered.

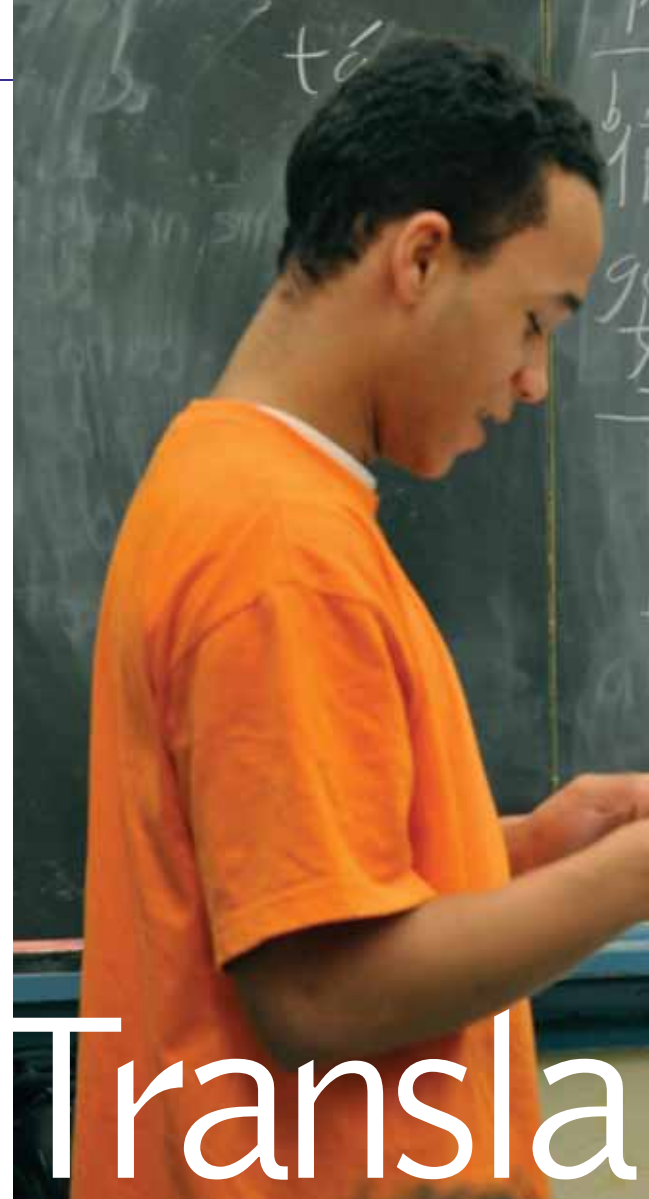
It was Perez, Harding High School Principal and alumna Carol Birks '04, and William Jassey, director of the international degree program at UB, who brought the Chinese classes to Harding. Similar Chinese language classes are offered at Columbus School, the city's middle school across the street from the University's Arnold Bernhard Center.

Though in its nascent stages, the program already

has proven to be both beneficial and fun. Graduates like Cheng hone their teaching skills, as well as their own mastery of English. Bridgeport students relish the opportunity to learn Chinese, which isn't offered as part of their regular school curriculum. And both teachers and students are exposed to different cultures. As Cheng points out during this particular lesson, the word for a cousin, aunt, uncle, or grandparent will be different, depending on whether a relative hails from a mother's or father's side of the family. Distinctions are important.

"Pay attention to this," he says, writing characters that can be translated as *t'ang*, or "cousins from a father's side of the family."

With its intricate characters and vastly different intonations from English and other romance languages, Chinese isn't a snap to learn, even for the most accomplished linguist. But the students are determined. Twice a week, after the last school bell has rung and Harding's halls are drained empty, Cheng and the students climb the stairs to meet in a small second-floor classroom for





tions

90 minutes.

Time zips by in a flash. On one December afternoon, students perfected their pronunciation by acting out dialogues that Cheng gave them to perform in front of the class.

Cheng then reviewed a vocabulary lesson for body parts by calling out words for arms, hands, teeth, tongue, chin, and stomach in Mandarin and having students point to their own bodies as quickly as possible. The effect resembled a madcap bilingual game of Simon Says. Students burst into laughter when they made a mistake. Applause filled the room when they correctly identified legs and arms. Then it's on to more vocabulary, with Cheng yielding chalk like a baton.

"Pay attention to this," he says again. "There are so many words you need to know."

So many words, and little time. To accelerate their learning, students have adopted creative techniques for practicing lessons. Marco Aguilar, 16, uses an iPod to download an app called "Chinese 900" so he can learn

more phrases and expand his vocabulary.

Alberto Santiago and Griselle Lopez, both 17, practice at lunch. "The pronunciations are funny," says Santiago, who isn't shy about trying out newly learned phrases when he goes to a Chinese restaurant.

Why so much effort for a class that, as of yet, doesn't offer any extra academic credit?

That's a question Cheng put to his students on their first day of class. "I asked them to examine their reasons for wanting to learn Chinese. They need to know why, and then they will be motivated."

For Leticia Castro, who at 16 already is a senior at Harding, the answer is simple. "I want to be an engineer and work in China," she says. "Their technology is so advanced, and I want to be a part of it."

Lopez, who already speaks fluent Spanish and English, has a quick answer, too: "I really like it. It's fun to learn." A reason, no doubt, that's music to any teacher's ears, no matter which language it's given in. ■

Gordon Cheng teaches each week at Harding High School in Bridgeport.

Flying Soda Cans!

The School of Engineering is part of a group getting \$2.4 million to build a new breed of projectiles for the U.S. Army.

By Leslie Geary

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a soda can!?

Make that a spying soda can, thanks to the School of Engineering, which is part of a group that was recently awarded \$2.4 million to develop next-generation projectiles for the U.S. Army.

"It's very cool," said Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies and School of Engineering Dean Tarek Sobh.

Sobh and other UB engineering professors who are involved in the Applied Nanotechnology Consortium are developing unmanned projectiles that are no bigger than a soda can and can be used for a variety of purposes, including combat and surveillance. "The whole concept," Sobh says, "is to develop projectiles that can be maneuvered while in flight. This is the next generation of projectiles that aren't as big as an airplane but are miniaturized."

UB is responsible for developing computer-vision technologies, like algorithms and miniature cameras, which will process images in the projectiles, and communications. Once launched, the projectiles will fly at 150 miles per hour and stay aloft for 40 seconds. Because the Army will decide how to use the projectiles, Sobh and other consortium members face the task of making the devices as functional and versatile as possible.

"The communications affect both pictures and control signals that come and go from the actual projectile to the ground so we can move it around," said Sobh. UB also will develop miniaturized technologies. "This is a very big step for us." ■

Tarek Sobh, vice president for research and graduate studies, is leading UB's work on developing projectiles.



News Lines

Fashionable destinations

UB fashion merchandising students have been pounding the pavement in New York's Garment District with Professor Janet Albert to get an up-close look at the industry.



Fashion merchandising students at UB make regular visits to New York to meet with top designers.

Recently, Albert's Advanced Textiles class visited lingerie maker Carole Hochman Design Group, which produces merchandise for Ralph Lauren, Betsey Johnson, and Oscar de la Renta. Company founder and owner Carole Hochman told students about her career in fashion, and former UB student Shannon Green, who works as a design executive with the company, chatted with the class about internships.

The group also ventured to Textile Design Group, a library that boasts more than 4,000 swatches of fabrics from around the world. Although largely unknown outside the fashion world, the rare collection is a destination for leading designers, who visit the collection for inspiration. The group also toured Donna Karan International.

"All three stops emphasized the importance of manufacturing and marketing in global markets," said Albert. "We also discussed the possibility of internships for the students."

Closer to home, the group met Joyce Baran, a leading initiate apparel designer and president of Stratford, Connecticut-based JBD Design.

Baran spoke with the class and CAD operators showed students the latest manufacturing and sewing techniques in creating intimate apparel.

Albert's freshman class, Fashion Fundamentals, also traveled to the Big Apple to observe operations at clothing manufacturers Liz Claiborne, Inc., and Kenneth Cole Productions. Jennifer Anderson, a trend forecaster at Liz Claiborne, spoke about the importance of forecasting. At Kenneth Cole, Community Outreach Director Charlynn Walker gave a tour before talking to students about the marketing philosophy of the company.

"It's a huge advantage to meet the people behind the companies," said Rachel Howard, one of the Albert's students. ■ — L.G.

News Lines



MLK Day volunteers make (radio) waves

UB students honored Martin Luther King Jr. by working with local children, part of more than 10,000 hours they spend annually volunteering in the Bridgeport area.

Claude Germaine, a biology major from Haiti, frets about her family, whose home in Port-au-Prince was destroyed by the earthquake that devastated the country on January 12.

Nevertheless, less than a week after the earthquake hit, Germaine spent Martin Luther King Day entertaining local children at the Field of Hope Carnival, one of several community Day of Service events hosted by UB student volunteers in honor of the civil rights leader.

Day of Service programs are held annually on MLK Day in communities nationwide. Locally, events were co-organized by UB students, the nonprofit group Service for Peace, and other area organizations.

“Over there in Haiti, everyone is working together, so it’s related to what Martin Luther King wanted,” Germaine,

19, told reporter Craig LeMoult of National Public Radio member station WSHU. “If you look around, we have every race and every background here, everyone’s coming together.”

As it turned out, Germaine also had an opportunity to talk with Congressman Jim Himes (D-CT), who stopped by the carnival that was held at Wheeler Recreation Center.

The indoor extravaganza offered something for everyone: face painting, health evaluations by the Colleges of Chiropractic and Naturopathic Medicine, visits from the Bridgeport Fire Department, MLK-theme rounds of bingo, and demonstrations by the University’s women’s gymnastics team and the UB Tae Kwon Do Team.

The event, LeMoult told listeners, was “about creating fun ways for kids to learn about MLK.”

Donning bright yellow T-shirts, UB students were among more than 400 volunteers who hosted the carnival and also visited and served meals to the elderly, cleaned up housing centers, sorted food and clothing donations at the Connecticut Food Bank, baked cupcakes and played basketball with area children, knit caps for cancer patients, sorted books at the Bridgeport Library, and painted the local offices of Habitat for Humanity.

It was a whirlwind day, but not unusual, said Dean of Students Kenneth Holmes.

“Here at the University of Bridgeport, we have a spirit of service,” he said. “Our students donated over 10,000 volunteer hours in communities throughout Connecticut last year, and this holiday helps us concentrate this spirit of service to the community. Service is the best way to honor the memory of Dr. King.” ■ — L.G.

Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT) talked with UB student Claude Germaine from Haiti.



Helping hand

The University of Bridgeport has signed an agreement with three local colleges that enhances safety for the more than 20,000 students who are enrolled at the schools in the event of a disaster.

Under a memorandum of understanding that was signed in November, UB, Fairfield University, Sacred Heart University, and St. Vincent's College agreed to provide each other with temporary housing, classroom space, food, and other services to assist students from partner schools who are evacuated or otherwise affected by an emergency. The universities also will provide each other with emergency communications and information technology when necessary.



At the same time, the four schools will develop and maintain emergency operations centers at their respective campuses to maximize resources available for public safety.

April J. Vournelis, campus security executive director at UB, said international and other students who live far away “have no place to go if they have to leave campus as the result of an emergency. This agreement provides shelter and resources for them.” ■ – L.G.

Smart gift for business school

Longtime pals Howard Abner '59 and Richard Lifton '61 team up to give.

Alumni Howard J. Abner and Richard Lifton have given \$30,000 to the School of Business for two classrooms equipped with Smart boards and other technology that allows faculty to incorporate online content, video-conferencing, and software into multimedia teaching lessons.

The Howard J. Abner and Richard Lifton Classrooms are the first at Mandeville Hall, where the Business School is located, to be upgraded with interactive technology.

“Were it not for the generosity of these two gentlemen, we would not yet have this technology available to our students. It's the type of thing they will find in

a corporate environment,” said Ward Thrasher, the school's assistant dean. “They've provided a tremendous service to make this technology available. We're looking, through grants, donors, and hopefully government sources, to further expand technology at the school, so this is an invaluable start.”

Abner and Lifton have maintained a close friendship since their days as undergraduate business majors. “We were roommates, and we've been friends ever since. We just discussed it, and Howard said he was giving money for a Smart classroom, and I thought it would be something nice to do, to give back a little bit,” said Lifton.

“It has been my pleasure and privilege to be able to give back to this great University,” said Abner. “UB provided me with a wonderful education that was the basis to help me succeed in life.” ■ – L.G.

Howard Abner (left) and Richard Lifton have given two Smart classrooms to the School of Business.



News Lines

Type directors exhibition comes to University Gallery

The University Gallery is pleased to host the annual TDC/ Type Directors Club of New York Exhibition, featuring more than 225 works showcasing the best typography in publishing, apparel, motion graphics, branding, and other

design. The show runs through Tuesday, April 20 at the University Gallery located in the Arnold Bernhard Center, 84 Iranistan Avenue, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.



"Cigarette" by Jackie Chen



"Vai" by Liz Defossez Ramalho, Artur Rebelo



"Tapas" by Daniel Ayuso, Mirja Japcoms

Best new venture

UB technology students awarded top prize from state venture capitalists looking for great new inventions.

They did it again.

A team of engineering students from the University of Bridgeport won the fall 2009 Connecticut Collegiate Business Plan Competition for their newest invention, eco-friendly construction materials.

This is the sixth time in five years that a UB team has won a top prize at the semi-annual competition, which is sponsored by Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, CT Innovations, and the Entrepreneurship Foundation.

This year's event, held at the New Haven Lawn Club in December, attracted 30 teams from colleges and universities across Connecticut, including Yale, UCONN, and Quinnipiac.

UB's winning team, called the Green Splinter Company, won the \$1,000 prize in the "Best Venture Enterprise" category for creating a building material that

can be used as a substitute for wood panels and drywall and that's made from agricultural waste. Team members, all of whom are majoring in technology management, include Jawahar Ponnuswami, Bhaskara Phani Datla, Nithin Bharath Ravichandran, and Ramvignesh Guruswami Mathivanan.

A second UB team comprised of engineering and business school graduate students also made it to the finals in the "Best Venture Enterprise" category for their cups and tableware, which are made from coconut fiber. Gad J. Selig, associate dean for business development and research at the Graduate Studies and Research Division, advised both teams.

The competition is meant to foster more ventures in Connecticut, and "prize money is given so winning teams can move forward and fully develop their businesses," said Charles Moret, a judge from CT Innovations, the state's venture capital fund.

UB's Green Splinter Company won its division, Moret added, because "they had a very well thought-out business plan and a well-developed team. Ideas are great, but the execution of them of them—the originality of the concept, funding requirements, the management team, and the ability to execute on the plan—is what's always important."

Dr. Selig added: "Given the caliber of the finalists representing such universities as Yale, UCONN, Quinnipiac and others, and the state-wide nature of the competition, this is a great accomplishment for UB."

From 2005 through 2009, UB graduate teams representing the Schools of Business or Engineering, or a combination of both schools, have won the competition every year except 2008, and UB teams have been in the statewide finals every year from 2005 to 2009. ■ — L.G.

“They had a very well thought-out business plan and a developed team. Ideas are great, but the execution of them—the originality of the concept, funding requirements, the management team, and the ability to execute on the plan—is what’s always important.”

— Charles Moret, Managing Director,
Business Development, CT Innovations

Faculty Lines

David M. Brady, vice provost of the Division of Health Sciences and director of the Human Nutrition Institute, has been invited to be a featured speaker

and panelist for the American Clinical Board of Nutrition Annual Symposium in April. Dr. Brady's presentation, "Current Evidence-Based Approaches in the Diagnosis and Management of Autoimmune Diseases," will review the new models of autoimmune disease emerging in medical research and how clinicians can look to new ways of diagnosing and treating these conditions in a more predictive, rather than reactive, manner.

Can we change teachers' attitudes about the inclusion of students with mild to moderate disabilities in a regular education classroom? And what tool can be used to accurately measure these attitudes? School of Education professors **Jess Gregory** and **Lori Noto** set out to find answers by using an assessment method known as the Teachers' Attitudes Toward Inclusion Scale (TATIS). "There are various tools, but they don't measure the three components of teacher attitudes as effectively as TATIS does," said Gregory. She and Noto delivered their findings at the Eastern Educational Research Association Conference in February. "Teachers' attitudes are the biggest determinate whether an inclusion effort will be successful," Gregory added, "so you want to assess them. This tool can see if attitudes have changed or moved, and can be used by school districts, universities, or researchers."

Lawrence Hmurcik, professor of electrical engineering, recently completed an investigation into

the smoke-inhalation death of a young girl in the Bronx, New York. The investigation revealed that the apartment building fire resulted when a space heater was mistakenly set upside down. Fluids surrounding the heating elements flowed away, and the elements got too hot and set the building on fire.

Sarah Hutton, head information specialist for library services, and **Andrea Sicari**, an instruction and information literacy librarian, presented a report about the University of Bridgeport's evidence-based approach to information literacy at the December meeting of the Association of College and Research Libraries' New England Library Instruction Group.

Emily Larned, chair of graphic design, spent a week in January at Florida State University, which invited her to be a visiting artist at its new Small Craft Advisory Press. While there, Larned developed a new modular reusable wood font for letterpress printing and gave a talk about her work. In February, she presented her work at the College Art Association Conference, where she served on a panel, "Hypo-technology: artists remix the Anachronistic and the Obsolete with the Present." For more information about Larned's work, visit her Web site at <http://redcharming.com/modular.html>.

Paul Lerman, dean of the School of Business, spent a week in China to lecture students who will matriculate to UB in the fall from eight universities located in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Nanjing,



and Anhui. Lerman talked about events leading up to the current state of the U.S. economy.

The Association for the Advancement of Education Research and National Academy for Education Research (AAER/NAER) honored **John Mulcahy** by establishing



an award in his name. The Dr. John W. Mulcahy Award for

Doctoral Research will be presented annually to a student who has completed a doctoral dissertation that "exemplifies outstanding research." The first award will be given at the AAER/NAER conference in November 2010. "The award is given in recognition of Dr. Mulcahy's years of service and contributions to AAER/NAER, his outstanding research and scholarship in the education profession, and his excellence in his years of schooling," said AAER Executive Director Dr. Mervyn Lynch. Mulcahy is the Dana Professor of Educational Leadership and a senior professor at the School of Education, where he is director of the Doctor of Education Program. He also is a senior professor of management at the business school.

Patricia Mulcahy-Ernt,



professor of education and director of the University's Center for Excellence in Learning and

Teaching, has been invited to lead a workshop, "Retaining, Remembering, and Reflecting: Strategies for College Students," at the International Reading Association's annual conference in April. In March, CELT hosted the spring meeting of the College

Reading and Learning Association's Northeast Region.

The nonessential amino acid known as glutamine is used for a variety of applications in naturopathic medicine. But can it help treat cancer patients? College of Naturopathic professor **Jody Noe** set out to study the issue, and results of her research were recently published in the peer-reviewed journal *Integrative Cancer Therapies*. Her study, "L-Glutamine Use in the Treatment and Prevention of Mucositis and Cachexia: A Naturopathic Perspective," addresses glutamine's efficacy and toxicity when used for treatment, as well as dosing strategies.



Margaret Queenan, an assistant professor at the School of Education, was a speaker at the National Reading Conference, which was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in December. Her paper, "Reading strategies sometimes lead to a better-comprehension world" examines the strengths and challenges faced by five fourth-grade classes in an impoverished urban school district trying to learn science. "Students in an urban school district frequently don't have in their hands books they can read, yet they are able to learn comprehension strategies that are important for readers to know," says Queenan. "One of the most important findings is when the teacher has the time to engage with children in small groups discussing the text, the more engaged students become. Teachers are enormously busy keeping records for No Child Left Behind. So when they are able to steal or make that time, the children do better. And when students are given more time on a topic, they learn more because

Book Lines

they have the concepts and the vocabulary they need; vocabulary becomes like Velcro to which concepts can stick.”

Steven Rashba, professor of business English, was recently named vice president of public relations at the Greater Bridgeport Toastmasters Club. Rashba and ten of his international MBA students are active members of the organization, which aims to promote public-speaking skills. Rashba’s student, Ping “Sherry” Yin, was named an officer of the club, as well.

Business school associate professor **James Sagner’s** book, *Cashflow Reengineering*, has been selected among 100 titles that are “the most influential finance books of all time,” by QFinance. The book is the only selection on the top-100 list devoted to treasury and working capital management. In addition, Sagner’s article, “Today’s Catalyst is Working Capital,” appears in *The Ultimate Resource*, which was recently published by Bloomsbury.

Tarek Sobh, dean of the School of Engineering and a dual citizen of Egypt and the U.S., was elected as a fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS).

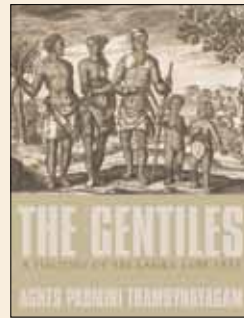


Similar to the American National Academy of Sciences, the AAS fellowship program honors distinguished scientists whose origins belong to one of the countries in Africa and who are internationally renowned in their respective fields. Professor Sobh joins 14 other distinguished scientists of Egyptian origin who are part of this select group. You can learn more about the AAS at <http://aasciences.org>. Dr. Sobh also was invited serve as chairman of the International

Association of Science and Technology for Development’s fall conference on robotics in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Daniel Whitman, professor at the School of Business, spent two weeks in China in January teaching prerequisite classes to students who will enroll at UB in the fall 2010 to begin earning their MBAs. **Ward Thrasher**, assistant dean of the business school, also traveled to China under the same program.

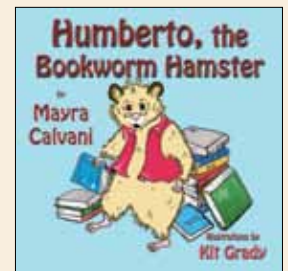
Eugene Zampieron, a senior lecturer at the College of Naturopathic, traveled to Jamaica in March with his graduate students to study herbal medicine with traditional healers. This is 13th year he has taken the trip, which has been written about in the *Lonely Planet Travel Guide to Jamaica* and in Air Jamaica’s travel magazine, *Skywritings*. “People think Jamaica is a vacation spot, but we visit areas of the island where people live a traditional African life that hasn’t changed since colonial periods,” said Zampieron. “Their knowledge of herbal medicine involves a deep understanding of the local flora and the making of traditional remedies.” Zampieron’s students saw “hundreds” of herbs and learned to prepare them for healing. To learn more about the trip, go to www.ecotoursforcures.com. ■



The Gentiles: A History of Sri Lanka 1498-1833, by alumna **Agnes Padmini Thambynayagam** ’00 (AuthorHouse) was published in November 2009, soon after the defeat of the Tamil Tigers and subsequent end of the country’s 26-year civil war. *The Gentiles* is a perfect place to start reading, for those eager for some perspective to today’s headlines. Formally

named Ceylon, Sri Lanka is home to Muslims, Burghers, Tamils, and Sinhalese—a pluralistic society that is a direct result of the occupation by the Dutch, Portuguese, and other Europeans. The impact of the colonialists, states Thambynayagam, was sweeping in scope, and 300 year later still affects the country’s social institutions and religions. “*The Gentiles*,” wrote Midwest Book Review, “is a fine addition to any history collection focusing on Southeast Asia.”

The pull of the written word inspired alumna **Mayra Calvani** ’88 to pen her most recent children’s book, *Humberto, the Bookworm Hamster* (Garden Angel Publishing). Shy and lonely, Calvani’s furry protagonist turns to books to inspire his dreams. But when a flood washes his beloved books away one day,



Humberto finds the courage to help other animals find safe, dry ground while all but one of his beloved books are destroyed by the natural disaster. Once safe, Humberto reads it to his new friends. “It’s about the love of reading, how it stimulates our imaginations, and how books are better when they’re shared,” says Calvani, who admits that she, too, “gets caught up with my writing and my characters. As a writer, it’s hard sometimes not to become a recluse.” Calvani, who majored in creative writing and fondly remembers classes with professor Bill Allen, also has published children’s books *The Magic Violin* and *Crash!*, as well as *Sunstrick*, a parody for adults. She is coauthor of a nonfiction guide, *The Slippery Art of Book Reviewing*, which won *ForeWord* magazine’s 2009 Best Book of the Year Award for writing. For more about Calvani’s books, go to her Web site, www.myrassecretbookcase.com

— Leslie Geary

Focus on: Frank McLaughlin '55

Background: Frank McLaughlin attended the University of Bridgeport from 1953 to 1955 as an art student before becoming a professional cartoonist. He illustrated popular newspaper comic strips like *The Heart of Juliet Jones* and *Gil Thorp*, created a number of heroes and villains for the now defunct Charlton Comics in Derby, Connecticut, and illustrated the popular *Justice League* comic book featuring Superman, Batman, and other superheroes.

Most recent accomplishment: After more than a half a century in the comic book business, McLaughlin published another comic book—a graphic novel called *White Viper* about a heroine fighting evil in the Himalayan mountains.

Did you always intend to be a cartoonist?

I just wanted to be an artist. We all wanted to be magazine illustrators because at that time that was big. But soon photography was taking over and all of the top illustrators just kind of retired. I had a friend at UB whose brother worked at Charlton Comics and through him I got an appointment to meet the editor there. He hired me, and I worked as an editor. We edited 26 bimonthly comics, *Real West* magazine, and some gag cartoon magazines. Then I invented a character called Judo Master, which Charlton published and later on was sold to DC Comics.

Do you know of any classmates who met with similar success?

A couple of guys in the industrial design program went on to Detroit to work for car manufacturers.

Who were some of your most inspiring teachers?

James Jackson and Charles Webber. They were very encouraging. I learned a lot of fine art from them.

Do you really need to know fine art to be a cartoonist?

You must know life drawing. You do a lot of figure drawing. That was one of the courses at UB. You get to the point you could draw them off the top of your head without a model posing. You have to draw three hours



a day to keep in practice. If I stop for three or four days and come back from vacation, I'm awful. Now, I draw eight hours a day.

What are some of your best memories of UB?

Playing baseball. At that time I was a young kid. I was 18, and the other players were veterans from the Korean War. These guys were well into their 20s. I played baseball with Julius Douglas, the only other person in the art program who played baseball, and I played semi-pro baseball with him in Ansonia. I had some good friends at the school.

Who is your role model?

There are too many to mention. There's Stan Drake; I worked with him on the comic strip *The Heart of Juliet Jones*. And there's Orlando Busino. He used to be the greatest gag cartoonist in 1950s and '60s, and he was my letterer on the comic strip *Gil Thorp*.

What work do you do now?

I just finished a graphic novel called *White Viper* on Comicmix.com. My daughter, Erin Holroyd writes it, [fellow cartoonist] Dick Giordano pencils it, and I ink it and plot it and own it. I teach cartooning for kids at the Sterling House Community Center in Stratford. I teach at Paier College of Art in Hamden with Jack O'Hara, who used to be a dean in the UB art department.

What courses do you teach?

I'm teaching Comic Book Storytelling, Markers, Continuity Storyboarding, and Comic Strips.

What kinds of students do you have?

They fall into two categories: kids who are really interested in becoming artists and others whose parents would just rather see them in school and out of the house. One of my former students works on the TV cartoon series *Family Guy*.

Do any of your students remind you of yourself at their age?

Some of them do. Some are always looking for a place to goof off, but there are others who are really serious about it. They can't be ignored and you must give them more time and effort.

Have you returned to UB since graduating?

I was there a few years ago and I got lost! When I was there, Cortright Hall and the library were the only two brick buildings; the rest were converted homes. Some of the girls' dorms were down by the water and then they built the gym later on. I was surprised; UB had changed quite a bit!

— Interview by Mike Patrick

Alumni Lines

Would you like to share news of your own? 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. Be sure to include your full name, contact information, and class year.

1947

Bill DeMayo and his family have saved over 560 American wild horses from being euthanized and have sheltered more than 200 wild horses and burros at American Wild Horse Sanctuary, the ranch founded by DeMayo's daughter Neda. DeMayo, who attended UB when it was still known as the Junior College of Connecticut, remembers his time as captain of the basketball team. He then worked as a tax partner at Ernst & Young before retiring in 1981 to start a second career teaching graduate tax programs at the University of New Haven. After Neda and her sister Diane moved to California, DeMayo retired from teaching and followed them. "I like being on the ranch," says DeMayo, who is now 89.



"I never expected anything like this in my life, to take advantage of this wonderful environment. Saving wild horses is fantastic! It's opened up a whole new world." He sends "salutations to UB's tremendous alumnae." To learn more about the American Wild Horse Sanctuary in Lompoc, CA, go to www.returntofreedom.org.

1951

Albert N. Falcone just celebrated his 88th birthday and the publication of his memoir, *My Time in History*. He currently spends winters in Florida, where he makes sculptures and writing pens from select pieces of wood. "Over the years I sensed a need for a good working relationship to serve students," he writes. "Therefore I am kicking off 2010 with a gift to UB."

1952

Stanley Drucker writes that he and his "lovely wife, Sylvia, just celebrated our 50th anniversary on October 31st." The couple lives in Flushing, Queens.

1955

Doris Giammatteo recently sent the Office of University Relations greeting cards with scenes from Bridgeport that she painted. "I have finally finished a watercolor of a UB building," she writes. "I chose to paint this particular building because it is the gateway to the UB campus." Giammatteo, who lives in Bridgeport, took classes in oil painting and sketching at UB but "didn't do anything until I retired. All of a sudden it evolved to painting historical buildings, which I have a passion for." Her work has been exhibited at the Burr Mansion and Borders Books in Fairfield, City Lights Gallery in Bridgeport, and at the Fairfield and Trumbull Town Halls.



1957

Mary Lou Sanders, a nursing school alumna, is now the chair of Connecticut's State Board of Examiners for Physical Therapists, as well as the Chair of New Britain Board of Assessment Appeals. She also has served as Past President of the Connecticut chapter of Health Care Financial Management Association and works part-time as a coordinator at RSVP of Central Connecticut.

1959

Mary Bankowski, who earned her master's in gerontology at UB, retired as the Head of Business Department at Westhill High School in Stamford, CT. She's been married to her husband, Edward, for 56 years, and the couple recently visited Dr. Charles Petitjean in Naples, FL.

1961

Gale Spitalnik informs us that her husband and alumnus Jeffrey Spitalnik '61 has passed. "We met at UB and we chaired the Social Activities Committee directed by Miss. Hotchkiss. He came to all of my rehearsals for many campus theater productions under Al Dickenson," she writes. The couple was married for 47 years.

1962

George N. Sepe moved to Richmond, TX, in 2008 to be with his son and grandchildren.

"I thought leaving our beautiful Connecticut home of over 40 years would be very difficult," he writes, "But the beauty, size, and cost of homes here is awesome." He was just elected to Vice President of the Board of Directors for his homeowners' association and has stayed busy running social activities. He wonders if Joe Kelley and Artie Holtzinger are "still smelling the roses," and would love to hear from friends, classmates, and fraternity brothers from Kappa Sigma Kappa. Sepe can be reached at geosep@comcast.net or at (281) 762-7122.

1971

Levi Newsome was featured in a recent article in the *News Times* (Danbury, CT) about his 36-year career as a teacher and principal in Danbury's elementary schools. He enrolled at UB's School of Education and earned his Six-Year Degree after Danbury Principal Milton Haitsch and Assistant Principal Bob Simonelli "asked me if I had ever thought about becoming a principal." He retired in 1998 and is now Director of Operations at the Danbury Museum. "I think my wife wrote [the job description] to get me out of the house!" he told the newspaper.

Alumni Lines



Alums from several classes gathered for a Mardi Gras party on Feb. 16 at Two Boots Restaurant in Bridgeport. The event was hosted by Kenneth Graham '71, a member of the UB Alumni Board of Directors.



Fashion merchandising professor Janet Albert, Board of Trustees Chairman Frank Zullo, and Board of Trustees member Dexter Brooks enjoy President and Mrs. Neil Salonen's annual holiday party.



Ann Owens '90 and friend Jack McGregor caught up at the Mardi Gras party.

1972

George Matthew Jr. writes: "I'm in my 24th year as carillonneur of Middlebury & Norwich University and in my third year as Minister of Music, First United Methodist Church of Burlington, VT." After 23 years, Matthew retired from teaching in the Stamford, CT, public schools in 1995.

1975

Neill Borowski recently joined the *Press of Atlantic City* (Jersey City, NJ) as Executive Editor and Content Director. "I oversee both the newspaper and Web site," writes the former UB journalism alumnus. "Previously, I was Managing Editor of the *Democrat and Chronicle* (Rochester, NY) and Assistant Managing Editor/Local News at the Indianapolis Star. Most of my career, 21 years, was spent at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. I often think back to my days at UB and the *Scribe* and the wonderful group of friends I made—many of whom have stayed in touch. If anyone would like to say "hello," look me up on Facebook."

1978

Maureen Boyle, a reporter at the *Enterprise* (Brockton, MA), won the 2009 Community Reporting Award from the New England Society of Newspaper Editors (NESNE) for her three-day series "Deadly Silence," a look on the impact on families and crime investigations when witnesses to murders refuse to talk with law enforcement officials. This is the second time in three years Boyle has received the award. The former journalism student says she still keeps in touch with classmates who wrote for the *Scribe*. In addition to her most recent award, Boyle also has been named "Journalist of the Year" three times by NESNE.

1979

Angela De Girolamo, who earned her bachelor's in biology from UB in 1978 before graduating with a medical technology degree a year later, has put her education to good use at Bridgeport Hospital, where she works as a medical technologist in the blood bank laboratory. "In August 2009, I celebrated my 30th year in the department," she writes. "But I'm still learning new things."

1983

Donald N. Ivanoff recently joined Sanford-Brown Institute, a division of Career Education Corporation, as Northeast Regional Alumni Relations Manager. He is responsible for running alumni events and services for the school's five campuses in New York and New Jersey. He and his wife, Denise, live in Brooklyn, NY.

1989

Ken Toso was appointed Vice President Product Development at T2 Biosystems, Inc., a private biotechnology company that develops medical diagnostic products using proprietary technology, combining nanotechnology and miniaturized magnetic resonance technology. Toso, who earned his MBA from the University, holds more than 20 U.S. patents. He currently resides in Boston.

2003

Jean-Paul Cardichon writes that he is living in Hamden, CT, and works as an accounting supervisor at Yale University.

2007

Samiur Talukder, a business school alumnus, reports that the Business Council for the United Nations recently profiled his non-profit, ESB Group, in its latest newsletter. ESB Group works to alleviate poverty in Africa and south Asia by providing social-enterprise consulting and micro loans. Fellow UB alums **Malvern Ngoh '06**, **Lesbie Abbey '07**, and **Martin Kalema '07** helped start the nonprofit. "Our main goal was to create a more socially equitable platform for micro-finance," says Talukder, who says the United Nations article has "increased publicity" for the group's work. "What we ultimately want to do is empower the poor to have their voices heard. They may not know all the jargon in running a business, but they are creative and smart." To find out more about ESB Group, go to www.theesbgrouppllc.com.

2009

Danielle Luzzo opened Greenwich Chiropractic & Nutrition in Greenwich, CT, in November. Luzzo earned her doctoral degree in chiropractic and a master's in human nutrition at UB, and said her practice will offer nutritional counseling and non-surgical treatment for musculoskeletal complaints.

Side Lines

Where Olympians Go

Olympic gymnast Monica Mesalles joins the women's gymnastics team.

By Justin Fong '06

Twenty-two-year-old Monica Mesalles from Barcelona, Spain, is not your average freshman gymnast. Standing 5 feet, 3 inches in her bare feet, she may blend into the team, but it has just been a few years since she was a world-ranked Olympic champion. Mesalles arrived at UB in January, and while either hitting the books or hitting the mat, she handles the new environment with a can-do attitude that brought her thus far.

At age four, Mesalles was enrolled in ballet classes, the almost universal rite of passage for little girls. But plies and glissades failed to excite her. "I didn't like it. I wanted to do something faster, with more movement," she said. "For me, ballet was kind of boring."

Gymnastics was a perfect combination of graceful movement and powerful athletic displays to focus her energies. At six, Mesalles began training and quickly accelerated to Spain's national scene. By nine, she was competing nationally, and by 11, was qualifying internationally.

As her skills developed, especially in floor exercise and the vault, so grew her ambitions. "I dreamed of making it into the Olympics. I knew I had to be 16 to qualify, so I took the time before it very seriously," says Mesalles.

Life became a marathon of training, from 90 minutes twice a week to seven days a week, eight hours a day.

"That time period was tough," Mesalles said. "I was so exhausted. You can't go out. You can't meet boys—nothing."

After the European championship, held in Paris in 2000, Mesalles knew she had to improve to make it to the Olympics in 2004. She moved to Madrid and switched clubs to train under former Spanish national coach Jesus Carballo, whose family is recognized as one of the sport's biggest dynasties (Jesus Carballo Sr. was one of Spain's best gymnasts in the '60s and '70s, and all five Carballo children excelled in the sport).

After a year of preparation, Monica and the Spanish national team of seven arrived



in Athens in the summer of 2004. "I was so happy to be there. It was such a good experience to meet so many world-class athletes and to finally conclude that time period," said Mesalles. ■

Side Lines

Leading By Example

Senior point guard and aspiring lawyer Sidney Parsons stars on the hardwood and in the classroom.

By Chuck Sadowski

It's often been said that the most important position on a basketball court is the point guard. Like the quarterback in football, the catcher in baseball, or the conductor of an orchestra, the point guard is the engine that runs the team, directing the other players in ways to maximize their potential.

Physical talent is important, but the best point guards bring a mental sharpness to the court to give their game an extra edge. Followers of the University of Bridgeport women's basketball team for the last four seasons have had the pleasure to watch a point guard that excels in all facets of the game, plus she just happens to be a 4.0-grade-point-average student. That point guard is Sidney Parsons.

A native of Chandler, Arizona, Parsons arrived on campus in the fall of 2006 after a stellar prep career at Hamilton High School, where, as a senior, she was named the school's Female Athlete of the Year. A fixture in the Purple Knights' lineup, Parsons (as of February 15) has started 107 straight games. When asked what her campus experience has been like, Parsons said, "Originally, I had been looking at some other schools and wasn't sure where I wanted to go, but after visiting campus and meeting everyone, it just felt right, and I knew this was where I wanted to go. The student body is very diverse, and with the amount of students here, it's easy to get to know everyone, which I really enjoy."

A highlight of Parsons's playing career in a UB uniform came this season on January 20, when she became the 13th player in school history to surpass the 1,000 career, when she netted eight points against Mercy College.

"I don't think I can put everything she meant to this program into words; she simply is in one of the best ambassadors UB has both on the court and in the classroom," said Head Coach Mark McCaleb. "As a player, Sid has truly evolved since her freshman



year, and is probably the most improved player I've ever had the pleasure of working with."

Heading into the final two weeks of 2009-10 regular season, Parsons has a career scoring average that is just shy of double figures at 9.8 points per game, and she also is averaging 3.5 assists, 3.4 rebounds, and 1.3 steals per game over her four years.

Another special part of her basketball experience at the University has been the international flavor of the women's program. A true League of Nations, Parsons is one of four Americans on this year's roster, which

has players who also hail from England, Australia, Romania, Serbia, Austria, and Germany.

"It's been a lot of fun playing with teammates from different countries," said Parsons with a big smile. "I think the diversity of our team, and the University, is what has made my experience here so unique. We don't always agree on our taste in music, certain styles, or even food – especially Vegemite from Australia! – but it's fun playing with such a different group of girls. On the court, everyone brings a different style of basketball with them, so it has allowed me to get a different experience of the game and change the way I play.

"Having teammates from all around the world has also been a lot of fun off the court, as I was able to go to Europe and Australia over the summer visit and stay with friends I've made through basketball. Having a squad that is so diverse is an experience I would have never been able to get at any other school and has been what has made basketball here so enjoyable."

In the classroom

Off the court, Parsons is a social science major with minors in psychology, history, sociology and a concentration in pre-law. She plans on going to law school.



Senior point guard Sidney Parsons became the 13th player in UB women's basketball history to reach 1,000 career points.

“Originally I had enrolled at UB as a psychology major; however, after taking some social science courses, I really enjoyed them and wanted to double major in psychology and social sciences. After I found out I couldn't major in both, I decided to follow the social sciences major because I felt it would give me a better background and preparation for law school in the future,” said Parsons. “My adviser [social sciences professor Beth Skott] was the first person to get me interested in going to law school. She got me to take a few pre-law courses and also arranged an internship for me with a law firm in Syracuse so I could get a better understanding of the field. I've really enjoyed all of these classes and the internship, and I have become extremely interested in pursuing a career as an international human rights lawyer.”

A truly modest individual, Parson states, “I wouldn't really say that I'm a 'success.' I just always do all of my work in the classroom and work hard on the court and that's taken me where I am.”

When Parson's basketball career at UB comes to a close sometime in March, after what she hopes will be a 2010 East Coast Conference Championship and a trip to the NCAA Division II Women's National Championship Tournament, one thing is for certain: the University of Bridgeport and its women's basketball program are both better for her having decided to come to the Park City from the Grand Canyon State four years ago.

Those who have had the privilege of getting to know Parsons also are sure that she will be a success in whatever she decides to do, whether it is to accept an offer from a professional team in Germany or head directly to law school. Without a doubt, Parsons has definitely set a high standard both on the court and off for all those who will follow in her footsteps as the University of Bridgeport's point guard. ■

Side Lines

Fall season one of the best for UB sports

The Purple Knights' incredible fall season was one of the best ever.

By Chuck Sadowski

On college campuses all across America, the month of August is filled with excitement and anticipation: excitement as freshman begin a new chapter in their lives; anticipation as seniors start their final year of studies and wonder what the future holds after graduation.

That same mixture of excitement and anticipation was also felt at UB's gyms and soccer fields as the men's and women's soccer teams, plus the women's volleyball team, returned to campus with high hopes for successful campaigns.

When all was said and done for those three teams, the fall of 2009 turned out to be perhaps the most successful season in school history, with a combined record of 59-14-3, two East Coast Conference championships (women's soccer and women's volleyball), two NCAA Championship Tournament appearances, one of which saw the volleyball team fall just two sets shy of the NCAA II Division II Elite 8, plus the men's soccer team made the conference championship tournament for the seventh straight season.

"Saying that it was quite a fall is an understatement," said University of Bridgeport Director of Athletics Jay Moran. "I think all the teams fed off each others' successes. It was great time to be a Purple Knights fan."

Volleyball: spiking big wins

Things looked good for a top-notch 2009 season for the Purple Knights' spikers: in 2008, the volleyball team notched a school-record 28 wins and made its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance, picking up a first round win.

The volleyball team opened this season with a new face on the sidelines, too, as Leo Uzcategui took over as head coach and had an immediate positive impact on the team.

A win over Bentley on September 19 would be the first of 14 straight victories for the volleyball team, including a historic triumph at Dowling College on October 9 that showed just how good the 2009 UB volleyball team could be. A pulsating five-set win over Dowling (23-25, 25-22, 23-25, 26-24, 15-11) snapped a Golden Lions' home winning streak that dated back to October 30, 2003, and the loss was also Dowling's first conference defeat since October 26, 2004. The win was Bridgeport's first victory over the Golden Lions since 1994.

The Purple Knights wrapped up the '09 regular season with an impressive 29-6 overall record, a school record for single-season victories that completed East Coast Conference play at 13-2, which earned UB the number two seed in the conference championship tournament hosted by arch-rival Dowling.

In the ECC semifinals, Bridgeport defeated C.W. Post in five sets to avenge one of their regular season losses, and the win also set up an ECC Championship match showdown against five-time defending Conference champ Dowling.

Things looked bleak for the Purple Knights in the ECC title match as Dowling took the first two sets of action, but the 2009 UB volleyball team then showed why it was unlike any other squad in school history, as it would come back to take the next three sets and capture Bridgeport's first-ever conference volleyball crown plus an automatic invitation to the NCAA Division II Championship Tournament.

The next weekend, Bridgeport would return to Dowling as the number three seed in the eight-team, 2009 NCAA Division II East Regional. In their second consecutive NCAA appearance, the Purple Knights did not disappoint sweeping UMass-Lowell in their first match and defeating the number-two seeded University of New Haven in five sets to advance to the East Regional final, where they would face familiar foe and top-seeded Dowling for fourth time in 2009 with a trip to NCAA Elite Eight on the line.



Junior Terry Masava slams a kill against Dowling, helping set a school record for victories.

The UB volleyball team finished 2009 with a school record 33-7 overall mark. Head coach Uzcategui summed up the record-breaking season by saying, "What a season it was. I'm so proud of the ladies on the team as they lifted Bridgeport volleyball to new heights. With the groundwork that they have put down, I think we can be a strong program for many years to come."

(continued)

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UB women's soccer reached the NCAA tournament for the third consecutive season. Senior Sophia Hoflin (right) became the school's all-time leading scorer in 2009.

Women's soccer: in nation's top ten

Like the volleyball team, expectations were high for the UB women's soccer team entering 2009. The Purple Knights, led by 11th year head coach Magnus Nilerud, were coming of a school record 2008 season where they posted an 18-5-1 record and reached the Round of 16 in the NCAA Division II Tournament.

The team burst out the gate in 2009 with a 14-match unbeaten streak in which the team posted 11 wins. After losing its only game of the regular season, a 3-2 double overtime defeat at Molloy, the women's soccer team would close out the regular season with four consecutive wins to up its overall record 14-1-3 and capture the regular season East Coast Conference title with a 6-1-0 record.

UB entered the East Coast Conference Championship Tournament as the top seed, and the Purple Knights would move into the ECC Final with a 2-0 home shut out win over Queens (NY) College. Bridgeport would face Dowling College in the ECC Final, and the UB women's soccer team would make history by winning the program's first-ever conference



title with a 3-0 victory over the Golden Lions. The victory also guaranteed the team's third straight trip to the NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Championship Tournament.

After winning the ECC crown, the UB women's soccer team was ranked tenth in the nation by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), the highest national ranking ever achieved by the program, and the Purple Knights were also selected to host NCAA Division II Championship Tournament First and Second Round matches for the first time ever.

Their outstanding season earned UB a bye into the second round of the NCAA Tournament where they would take on perennial regional powerhouse Franklin Pierce University at Knights Field. Unfortunately, the Ravens defeated the Purple Knights 4-1 to end Bridgeport's season at 16-2-3 overall.

"While we were disappointed to lose when we did in the NCAA's, I think the season showed that we have truly arrived as a women's soccer program," said Nilerud, who was selected as the 2009 East Coast Conference Coach of the Year by his peers. In addition five members of the University of Bridgeport women's soccer team also earned spots on the 2009 All-East Coast Women's Soccer Teams.

"We won both the regular season and conference tournament titles for the first time ever. We were ranked as high as number ten in the country and hosted an NCAA Tournament event as we made our third straight trip to the championship," Nilerud added. "The University of Bridgeport is now mentioned as one of the top programs, not only in the East Region, but as one of the best Division II women's soccer schools in America."

Men's soccer

Success was not limited to just the women's sports. Men's soccer, under the direction of head coach Brian Quinn, went 10-5-3 overall and was part of a three-way tie for the regular season conference title going 5-2 in East Coast Conference play which earned the Purple Knights their seventh consecutive trip to the conference championship tournament.

Three members of the University of Bridgeport men's soccer team earned spots on the 2009 All-East Coast Men's Soccer Teams: Senior Akil Pompey, a defender, was named First Team All-ECC, and classmates, forward LeRoux Lothian and midfielder Habib Sylla were selected to the All-East Coast Conference Second Team.

With all of its successes, the fall of 2009 will be one that is long remembered at the University. A combined record of 59-14-3 has truly set the bar high for UB teams during the rest of this academic year, and we shall see what the winter and spring bring. But UB fans certainly can't wait for the fall of 2010 to arrive. ■



Men's soccer made their seventh consecutive trip to the Conference Championship tournament.





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