

# UB Knightlines

## Can She SNAP?

Serving up lessons about the economics and emotions surrounding poverty



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BRIDGEPORT

Opening doors. Building futures.

ALSO INSIDE • Connected • Bridging Disciplines • A Challenge, a Crock-Pot, and 160 Media Requests

# President's Line

At the University of Bridgeport, we take great pride in our career-oriented curriculum. Students from all around the globe, representing a wide spectrum of interests and abilities, come to us because they know that we are committed to opening doors to their futures.

Much of this preparation occurs outside of traditional class time. As you'll read, our 2013 Career Day featured experts from Webster Bank, Hearst Media, Avon, Robert Half International, and a host of other top-name firms who generously volunteered their time to work with students.

Alumni like Inder Bhatia '88 and Andrew Rosca '99, whom you will meet in this issue, are invaluable to our education process. When they graduated from UB and launched successful careers, Bhatia and Rosca strengthened their personal connection to the university through friendships with their former professors. As you'll read in "Connected," those relationships have led to ventures that are benefiting a new generation of students in fields ranging from engineering to business and fashion merchandising.

New programs also reflect the demands of the marketplace and ensure that our graduates remain leaders in their fields. Consider the Master in Professional Studies Degree. Launched this year, the MPS bridges the disciplines of business and design to train students to excel in marketing, investment, design, accounting, and other fields. Students hone these skills by working on real-world projects. Most recently, MPS students proposed several strategies to help the nonprofit AmeriCares build its brand and effectively communicate its message. For more, see the story "Bridging Disciplines."

At the same time, UB provides resources to those in the outside world wishing to build bigger dreams. Take programs like The Innovators. Launched in 2011, this highly popular networking and lecture event—cosponsored by WSHU and Fairfield County Business Journal—brings together angel investors, entrepreneurs, and leaders in myriad industries, to network, swap ideas, and make critical connections. You can learn more on page 22, or better yet, stop by for our next event.



**Neil Albert Salonen**

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

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## Editor's Note

I get the question a lot: How do you plan an issue of *Knightlines*?

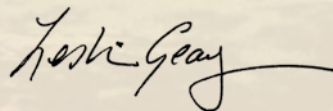
I'd like to tell you it's with clear purpose or by exact design. Certainly, we've published stories around themes, such as our Health and Innovation issues. But sometimes themes present themselves *after* stories are written.

As I edited this issue, I was struck by the University's vibrant and important connections to the world. Alumni, friends, business leaders, and other dedicated professionals support excellent teaching through programs like LaunchPad—a new accelerator for start-up companies—internships, mentoring, and Career Day. Thanks to such ventures, UB students are out, visible, present.

They're also engaged because UB is an institution that encourages individuals to levy skills to actuate changes that benefit the larger world. When Vista Community Service Coordinator Jennifer Turner organizes programs like the SNAP Challenge (the subject of our cover story), for instance, she provides vivid, tangible opportunities for all of us to consider myriad issues surrounding poverty. Is it best alleviated through public policy or by volunteerism? Can children learn effectively when they're hungry? What can be done to increase access to affordable, healthful food? Turner and faculty don't pretend to know all of the answers: rather, they want students to ask questions, debate, and consider potential solutions of their own. (If you've got ideas, send them in and join this important discussion.)

As a teacher, School of Education alumna Lauren Rousseau '05 knew the value of combining expertise with empathy. All too briefly, Lauren touched the lives of students at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, before being slain on December 14, 2012.

This issue of *Knightlines* is dedicated to her.



Leslie Geary  
Editor, *Knightlines*

# Pipelines



## Tending to the herbarium

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed your beautifully written article, “In Full Bloom” (Summer 2012), about the naturopathic program’s medicinal garden. It brought tears of gratitude to my eyes to be a graduate of the College of Naturopathic Medicine.

I was saddened to learn that the herbarium was affected during the Super Storm Sandy, and am writing to voice my support for your students and alumni to lend a hand to rebuild this beautiful and prestigious amenity to our College. I hope that the administration will place focus on this important environmental impact vs. only structural impacts.

**Sarah LoBisco, '07**  
Ballston Spa, NY

## Who knew?!

Dear Editor,

I had a great time at the opening of the Alumni Art Show and I was very happy with how and where my work was hung. When I arrived at the gallery, I saw Frank McLaughlin sitting at one of the benches. I’ve known Frank for many years, since we both teach at Paier College of Art. However, neither of us knew that we both went to UB! What a surprise for both of us.

Thanks again to the Alumni Department for all of its hard work in creating this wonderful event.

**Terrence Falk, '77**  
Branford, CT

## Got an opinion?

*Knightlines* would love to hear from you! Please send Letters to the Editor to [knightlines@bridgeport.edu](mailto:knightlines@bridgeport.edu) or at Knightlines, Cortright Hall, University of Bridgeport, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Please be sure to include your full name, contact information, and UB class year (if applicable). Letters may be edited for length, clarity, style, or accuracy.





**Graduation doesn't always mean saying good-bye. For these alums, personal ties to alma mater are stronger than ever.**

**By Leslie Geary**



**Where it all began: Sobh (left) used to teach Rosca in UB's classrooms. Now they are a team.**

Pity. Until today, Tarek Sobh's wife had been fond of his former student. Now, Sobh joked, his spouse was feeling less than enthusiastic about Andrew Rosca '99.

The problem, it seemed, stemmed from a well-intentioned birthday gift gone awry.

Sobh is the vice president of graduate studies and research and dean of the School of Engineering; Rosca was one of his star students, and as they discovered years ago, their passion for technical things extends to a shared fascination with aerodynamic automobiles whose perfectly calibrated engines accelerate to more than 60 miles per hour in less time than it takes to swat a fly.

So last summer Rosca, a computer engineering alumnus, devised a plan to celebrate Sobh's birthday by bringing his former teacher to a hot and dusty track in New Jersey, where they'd spend the day learning to drive Lamborghinis, Porsches, and Ferraris.

Sobh was delighted. "I could die!" he joked.

His wife? Less than amused. Nonetheless, Sobh and Rosca set off, recording devices in hand (Sobh posted an inside-a-Ferrari clip on YouTube) to tear up the asphalt and channel their inner-Mario Andrettis.

*(continued on page 6)*



The next idea: Rosca and Sobh discuss their latest venture.

And so it goes with Sobh and Rosca, whose decade-plus friendship has been shaped shared enthusiasms, collaborative research, mutual respect—and occasional hair-raising high jinx.

“Did you know,” Sobh asks a visitor, “Andrew’s a licensed pilot, too? He’s invited me, but my wife said no.”

In any case, the two have kept busy enough since they first met in 1998, when Rosca, then an undergraduate transfer student from Romania, enrolled in Sobh’s Engineering Economics course.

“He was very smart, extremely hard working. He had good presentation and communication skills, and he was an amazing team player,” recalls Sobh. “Many students are smart, but he was exceptionally generous with his peers.”

Impressed, Sobh invited the young student to collaborate with him outside of the classroom. “He basically pulled me into other things he was doing,” laughs Rosca, who was summarily handed a stack of research papers to review for a conference that Sobh was organizing.

All went smoothly until Rosca got to the paper “by a couple of guys from NASA.” With every passing page, he grew increasingly uncomfortable. “I’m reading it, thinking, ‘This doesn’t sound meaningful. It doesn’t make sense,’” he recalled. “But then again, who am I to tell guys from NASA that they don’t know what they’re talking about?”

The experience made him rethink his own place in the professional world, and what he might have to contribute. He’s currently a director at a hedge fund in Stamford and founder of various companies. When Rosca shared his concerns with Sobh, “he just laughed and said, ‘You’d be surprised.’ It was quite surprising that someone would have that much confidence in me.”

Other projects followed: there was the early model Bluetooth device they worked on in Sobh’s Wireless & Mobile Communications Lab; CISSE—an online gathering of engineers, researchers, and scientists—that Sobh hosts each year (Rosca developed the conference management system); and most recently, LaunchPad.

Aimed at entrepreneurial types, LaunchPad encourages UB faculty and students, as well as outsiders, to submit ideas for start-up companies. The duo is quick to point out that this is different from the University’s Ctech

IncUBator, which supports start-up businesses that already have been established. “It’s a step before incubators,” says Sobh, using a metaphor that’s evocative of that hot New Jersey race track. “It’s an accelerator.”

As it turns out, Rosca and Sobh have been kicking around ideas for LaunchPad for quite a while. As conceived, the two will decide which ideas are worthy of LaunchPad support. That includes funding from angel investors they’ve lined up and, potentially, from UB as well. They’ll also pick students and faculty who want to be involved, and based on their skill sets, assign them to any idea that’s picked for support. In exchange, those participants will become equity partners.

At least that’s the basic premise. The finer points were laid out on a recent afternoon, when Sobh and Rosca formally introduced LaunchPad in a ceremony held in one of the Engineering Building’s lecture halls.

“I know from my time at UB,” said Rosca shortly before addressing about two dozen people who’d shown up to learn more, “that there are a lot of students with skills and untapped talent on campus, and we need to make better use of them.”

As he speaks, Rosca sounds a lot like Sobh describing him not so long ago.

### Weaving the bonds of friendship

Inder Bhatia ’88 unsheathed an emerald-green silk blouse from its protective plastic wrap, passed it to a group of UB fashion merchandising students and their professor Janet Albert—who had been his old professor, in fact—and launched into his speech.

Bhatia had been in their shoes, he assured them, visiting New York showrooms with Albert and dreaming of a career in fashion. When he walked out of Commencement, he headed straight to Loro Piana’s flagship store on 61st Street off of Park Avenue, where he had a job waiting for him as its assistant manager.

Fashion has been good to him, and he is grateful. So when Albert and Tracy Rigia, his former adviser and director of the Fashion Merchandising Program, first asked him to talk about his work at Loro Piana back in the late 1980s, Bhatia happily agreed.

“Inder has always been available to work with our department; he’s always made the time,” says Albert, who on this day sports a treasured silk scarf that Bhatia gave her a number of years ago. “As a professor you


*(continued on page 8)*





**Inder Bhatia '88 and his former mentor, UB professor Janet Albert**





try to stay connected to students; it's the most rewarding aspect of the career—to see someone mature and contribute to the fashion world.”

Bhatia came to UB as a business major. Then life happened. At the time, he was paying for his education by working as a salesman at the Joseph A. Banks store in Stamford, Connecticut. He discovered that he enjoyed retail, and more important, that he was good at it. He switched majors.

“He was a natural salesman,” says Albert. “You knew just from the way he spoke he was going to do well.”

After Lorna Piana, Bhatia moved to Tahari, and then Leggiadro, where he works today. Though his job titles have changed, Bhatia has always made it a point to meet with UB students. About six years ago, he began inviting them to Manhattan, to see him *in situ*, as it were.

So now here everyone is, at the Leggiadro atelier, where Bhatia is director of retail. He loves the job, which isn't unlike being a conductor of a major symphony, or a general, if you think about it. But he'll get to that in a moment.

Bhatia urges the students to examine the green blouse. He pulls out more clothing for them to inspect, answers questions, then points everyone toward a team of master cutters and sewers who meticulously transform bolts of shantung, chiffon, and crepe, wooly hounds-tooth, and coruscating golden viscose knit and cashmere into cocktail dresses, whispery delicate blouses, quilted jackets, and candy-colored slacks favored by a certain type of client who thinks nothing of paying \$300 for a T-shirt and \$800 for a skirt.

### **If the garment is right**

As the director of retail, Bhatia tells the class, it's up to him to know what kind of clothing will appeal to the Leggiadro customer, then translate that knowledge into specifics required to boost Leggiadro's bottom line: the number of size-five skirts to make for the season, for instance, or the total yards of red denim necessary for country club-worthy pants.

Sometimes projections veer off course. One year Nantucket's hot, and the island's Leggiadro shop—one of 13 stores nationwide—sells out of skirts in a blink of an eye. The next year everyone summers somewhere else, and the Nantucket shop may have extra merchandise to unload.

“It's a lot of data,” Bhatia concedes. “I look at size-selling analysis from the prior year when making plans.”

Such talk may seem a far cry from sequins and silk, but really, “it's a different side of the business,” Bhatia says after Albert's group heads back to Grand Central Station to catch the 4:07 p.m. to Bridgeport.

“I think it's nice for them to see someone who once sat in the same classroom they're in who's had some level of success in the industry,” he continues. “I'm happy to pass my experience along.”

### **“My American parents”**

They met by chance. Ye Zhu was an accounting major. She needed a job, and she got one at the School of Education. She worked hard, came from China, and spoke impeccable English. But it was her boundless energy and a pliant, curious mind that caught the attention of education professors Joyce and Allen Cook.

“Ye had a lot of interesting things to say about China and places we'd never been to at that point in our lives,” says Joyce Cook. “It was fascinating to hear about places we wanted to visit. She was a window to China for us.”

In turn, the Cooks became a window into the United States, says Zhu. “When I first met Allen and Joyce, we talked about things that were work-related—helping student-teachers with Praxis test materials, handling some of their questions. As I became more familiar with them, I turned to them when I encountered questions related to personal matters, like what kind of gifts people typically give for Christmas.”

By the end of that first fall semester, the Cooks felt comfortable enough asking Zhu to house-sit over the upcoming holidays. Their place was on Park Avenue, just up the road from campus. They needed someone to feed the dog, water the plants—keep an eye on things. The dorms would be closed over the holiday so Zhu would have a place to stay. They'd pay her, of course.

“It was very functional at that point,” says Joyce. But the night they returned, something changed. Everyone was hungry, so on a whim, they invited Zhu to join them at the Fairfield Diner. Now closed, it once glimmered like an oversized toaster back on Kings Highway in Fairfield. You could get anything you wanted, but the Cooks thought Zhu should try the vegan chocolate cake made with bananas. Moist and sweet, it was heaven on a plate.



**Ye Zhu's "American parents," professors Allen and Joyce Cook, hosted her wedding, then gave her away.**

attachment to Connecticut, an American wedding appealed to me."

When Zhao asked Zhu to marry him in 2001, she accepted his proposal as well as the Cooks' offer.

By then, the couple had moved to Bethel, Connecticut, a bucolic village where the main street is lined with independent bookstores, a movie theater that sells softball-sized cupcakes, and a music shop where you can buy used or new instruments—then sign up for classes to learn to play the violin or saxophone. To Zhu, "it was a perfect place to get married."

Joyce was thrilled, too. She hired the caterers, ordered a cake, and reserved Bethel's town gazebo, where a justice of the peace performed the ceremony. Then she drove Zhu to David's Bridal in Danbury, where they found an elegant sheath dress that fit Zhu perfectly.

"I have two sons, but one of them eloped and the other got married in India," says Joyce. "Putting on a wedding was a joy for me."

The day of the wedding, Joyce decorated the gazebo with garlands of pink and blue flowers. A UB music student played the guitar, and Allen walked Zhu up the gazebo steps and gave her away. ■

Maybe it was the dessert or the fact that Zhu had cared for their pets, but that was the night "the friendship developed," says Joyce. "We went to the diner, and as we chatted we said, 'We have an extra bedroom. Why don't you just stay with us?'"

Zhu accepted, and the three quickly formed their private dining club. "Allen and I love to eat," Joyce explains. "I don't like to cook, though, so we went out."

Dining choices ran the gamut—from Burger King and pizza to Ralph 'n' Ritchies, or the Olde Bluebird Inn up on Black Rock Turnpike in Easton where pancakes are stuffed with ripe blueberries and drizzled with real maple syrup. When the check came, Allen and Joyce always got to the bill first, treating Zhu just as they would their own daughter. In turn, Zhu shared her confidences, especially with Joyce. When she fell in love Huan Zhao, she introduced the handsome engineering student from UB to her American hosts.

"Joyce told me, 'If you ever want to get married, we'll host your wedding,'" said Zhu. "Because of my

**The Cooks sent Zhu off in style.**





Senad Ibrahimbegovic (above) and other students merge business and design to pitch a new campaign for AmeriCares.

# Bridging Disciplines

By Dianne Wildman

**A new graduate program develops bold thinkers in design and business**

The posh Tower Room at the top of the Arnold Bernhard Center sees more cheese-and-chardonnay receptions than classroom presentations. But on this December morning—a cold, drizzly Saturday morning, at that—it was buzzing with student energy.

“We’re all here and we’re all ready,” announced Senad Ibrahimbegovic, one of the team leaders of a group of 14 UB graduate students, several of them artists and designers who hold Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees.

They weren’t there to discuss painting or sculpture, however. Instead, notes in hand, they were scurrying to stand together next to a large projector screen and talk business strategy.

Though the event had the feel of a press conference, it was actually the final exam for these students, enrolled

in an impressive new program called a Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Design Management.

They're straddling two worlds. They take 60 percent of their courses at the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design (SASD)—industrial, interior, and graphic design and animation, for example—and the other 40 percent at UB's School of Business, with courses like international marketing, investment principles, and accounting.

"We are one of only seven schools in the country that offers this combination," said program chair, Associate Professor Alex White, who previously taught at the University of Hartford Art School, Parsons School of Design, and elsewhere.

"Designers who work in industry are normally seen as the technical or artistic experts," he said. "But this program trains them to think strategically. We want them to know all aspects of business, including operations, financing, and legal. In the end, they're able to design an entire experience, not just a product, a website or a logo."

The group had indeed considered the big picture. They even had their own client: AmeriCares, the disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization. The Stamford-based nonprofit distributes in-kind donations of medicines and medical supplies to those in crisis and at free clinics around the world.

It's a successful model and a familiar brand, but not familiar enough to the 20-something crowd, according to AmeriCares communications director Leslie Gianelli. Weeks earlier, she had asked the MPS students to come up with ideas to help AmeriCares better reach this age group. That request, which ended up as this final exam, came with some serious caveats.

"First," said Alex White, "the plan had to be easy enough to be carried out by only two AmeriCares staffers. It had to require no approval by layers of management or lawyers, and—here's the big one—it had to cost nothing to execute. As in no money."

Challenging to be sure, but the MPS students were undaunted, even though for several of them, including Wendy Yu, Tien (Tom) Shih-Lun, and YiNa Qiao from China, English wasn't even their first language. Still, like everybody in the group, they knew their social media and its importance to people under 30.

One by one, the students stepped to the podium and explained their research and displayed their findings and their lively graphics on the screen. They suggested online contests to engage college kids. They showed how



Some of the marketing and branding ideas that students proposed for AmeriCares

other organizations, namely the American Red Cross, disseminate their news and messages to this demographic with the help of Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram, blogs delivered by RSS and videos via YouTube's nonprofit program.

They outlined possible cobranding partnerships with Bank of America, Chase, and Citibank that would enable AmeriCares to offer credit cards with its logo on them. To make their point, the students produced a beautifully illustrated giant mock-up of what that card might look like.

There it was: user experience that combined design and business strategy. And to add even more value, some members of the group fluent in Mandarin and Arabic later translated the entire presentation into their languages to share it with colleagues back in their native countries.

So how pleased was the client? More than pleased. Communications Director Gianelli, seated in the audience, not only praised the work, she urged everybody in the group to apply for internships at AmeriCares this summer. When she added that these were paid internships, the whole room cheered.

MPS student Lana Andrade, who graduated a few years ago from the University of Memphis as a Fine Arts major, is already working. She's been a freelance illustrator as she attends classes. Her personal take emphasized yet another benefit of the MPS program:

"Artists generally don't have good business sense. They don't know what their work is worth. They risk being taken advantage of. I was like that, too. But this program has taught me how the business world works. I've learned to think bigger. I feel much more confident now. ■

Eating on \$35 a week isn't easy, as student Jessica DiNatale learned during a special challenge to raise public awareness about hunger.

# Can she SNAP?

By Jackie Fitzpatrick Hennessey

The first thing that would have to go, Jessica DiNatale realized, would be the morning onion bagel and the pumpkin latte. "I'm on the go, you know, so that's breakfast." But at \$4.83, she would have 17 cents for the rest of the day if she were living on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) allotment. As part of the University's SNAP Challenge, she is eating on five dollars a day. She tries to imagine how she will stretch it.

Jessica is 20 and a junior at UB. She drives a car that says, "Love me; love my pit bull" for Cocoa, the dog she's crazy about. Jessica has a purple streak in her hair because she "lives and breathes the Purple Knights," she said. "It's home to me." She takes five classes and is "involved in everything at UB," so much so she color codes her day planner. Up until a week before, she worked three jobs, now she works two, as a senior UB ambassador and caring for dogs, cats, guinea pigs, and a ferret at a Branford animal shelter. She is living at home in East Haven this semester, 24 miles from campus. Cooking from scratch and avoiding food on the go will be a challenge, but she really wants to try.

The first reason is Ecuador. Last summer she helped build a school there as part of a People Helping People team. Food was scarce. "You could never say you liked something or someone would give it to you." That stayed with her, that inclination to share so readily when they had so little.

She was also inspired to try the challenge because of what Jennifer Turner, UB's VISTA community service coordinator, told the 20 UB participants: this would be a lesson in empathy. "I probably know someone who is living on five dollars a day and I don't realize it," Jessica said. "That's part of college, too, trying to understand how people live in all kinds of situations and figuring out what I can do to help."

*(continued on page 14)*







**By doing without milk, beans, or orange juice, student Jessica DiNatale managed to eat within budget.**

### Saturday, December 1

It's five p.m. on a chilly evening as Jessica, a vegetarian, gets her cart at Aldi's supermarket in East Haven. "I cook, but not that much," she said. "I'm going to have to slow down and take the time to put meals together, get up earlier and actually make a breakfast," she said. In the past, she'd often buy on impulse. Today she checks each price. She gathers up canned tomato soups, red delicious apples, black beans, bread, iceberg lettuce, cheese, grape tomatoes, mini carrots, and a 24-pack of water. Her menu begins to take shape—egg-and-vegetable sandwiches for breakfast, peanut butter-and-banana sandwiches for lunch, yogurt with granola. No orange juice. No milk, too expensive. At the last second, a 99-cent pumpkin pie on deep discount.

"I think I'll be eating the same things over and over, and that's okay. It wouldn't be okay for a family, though." Nearing the checkout she holds her breath and does some calculating. She puts back the potatoes and black beans.

The total: \$34.63.

### Sunday, December 2

"I need to plan better," she declares. She'd left in a whirl for work and took just an apple and a water. Eight hours later, she's famished. "Who knew rice took so long to cook?" It takes a half an hour to make the vegetables and the soup with rice and cheese. "I'll pack all my meals for tomorrow," she says.

### Monday, December 3

"I tried to be very thrifty from the start. I used the caboose (the end of the bread) and put it in the toaster," Jessica said. But she ran off to get ready for class and returned to blackened bread.

5 p.m.: She's at the library where she'll stay until 9 p.m. for a late club meeting. All around her, students are drinking tasty coffees, buying snacks. Other students are brown-bagging it or eating nothing for hours as they do their work. She finds she has been quietly watching all evening long. "You aren't clothed in this. People can't see that you are struggling and don't have enough to eat," she said.

"Who is so hungry he can't concentrate?" she wonders.

### Tuesday, December 4

Jessica gets a stomach virus and has to go to the hospital. The doctor encourages bananas, rice, chicken soup, and ginger ale. She has 17 cents. But she also knows she has other money and a mom who can buy ginger ale, who provides health insurance. "What would happen if you had little kids and you needed medicine or some other food? What would you do?"

### Wednesday, December 5

Jessica isn't feeling 100 percent but she has to give a presentation in her Perspectives on Happiness class. She takes Cocoa with her as her project centers on relationships between people and their pets. Before class, she tries to eat her peanut butter and banana sandwich,





Treats for her beloved dog Cocoa became prohibitively expensive for DiNatale.

fast becoming a DiNatale staple. She feeds Cocoa small slices of hot dog and her dog snuggles up to her.

The flu lingers and Jessica is hungry, really hungry. So much to do—papers, projects, exams around the corner. Her energy flags, but she keeps going.

#### Thursday, December 6

Jessica spends her day at the animal shelter. “I can’t call it work; I love it,” she says. She’s actually looking forward to the tomato soup with rice and cheese that awaits her at home. She is thinking beyond the challenge, about the financial inequities in Bridgeport, in East Haven, everywhere. Is there a way to share more as they seemed to do in Ecuador?

#### Friday, December 7

She makes one last tomato soup. She can’t wait to go to the Jalapeno Heaven restaurant with her boyfriend sometime soon. She’ll have a very large salad. Money is tight, yes, but she says she feels lucky after this week. She has her car, her computer, and a future UB is helping her shape.

Still she can’t see herself going back to the bagels and lattes. She wants to create a pantry with healthy foods and plan her meals better. She also wants to find out how she can fight hunger right here where she lives and studies.

“This is what is really good about college,” Jessica said. “You try new things, sometimes hard things. You learn. You evolve.” ■

# A Challenge, a Crock-Pot, and 160 Media Requests

By Jackie Fitzpatrick Hennessey

Newark Mayor Cory Booker is an inveterate Tweeter and talker. He’s a vegetarian who likes food and a good cup of coffee. But for a week in December, he chose to eat on \$4.75 a day, to wave off breakfast buffets and the luncheons, the holiday cookies that are part and parcel of the life of a politician. He’d taken on a Twitter follower in the SNAP Challenge to highlight hunger in Newark and the nation, and he was urged on by Jennifer Turner, UB’s VISTA Community Service Coordinator. She’d Tweeted she had already planned a SNAP challenge at the University, and would not only share UB’s SNAP Challenge rules with Booker, she would referee his challenge, too.

Turner wanted students to see what planning, shopping, and eating were like for the one in seven Americans, 47.1 million people who live on food assistance each month, a number that rose by 1.4 million people in the last year. “I’m a huge proponent of walking in someone else’s shoes. I believe it is the only way to truly know what someone is experiencing,” Turner said.

At a time when jobs are part of the national conversation, with the economy struggling as it tries to recover, with food costs high, the challenge struck a chord. People from around the country joined the event on Facebook, posting recipes, sharing ideas, frustrations, new understandings from getting by on \$4.75 or \$5 a day. They posted video comments on Way Wire and YouTube.

Booker and Turner shared similar experiences. By virtue of his schedule, Booker eats on the go. Turner, too. “I’d usually grab lunch on campus and have frozen dinners every night. I can’t remember the last time I cooked a meal from scratch,” she said.

Now, she couldn’t stop anymore for a soda. A haze hung over her: caffeine withdrawal. On the fourth day, on Way Wire.com, Booker, too, said he had a “mean headache” from the lack of caffeine and he certainly was hungry. One day he burned his sweet potatoes; on the sixth day he craved something sweet, anything other than food he’d bought five days earlier.

*(continued on page 16)*

# A Challenge, a Crock-Pot, and 160 Media Requests

(continued from page 15)

Turner, meanwhile, dusted off her Crock-Pot and things got better. “Best invention ever,” she said. When she got home from work, a homemade soup was waiting, tasty and warm. She made her own zesty hummus. She was surprised she was eating healthier. But, she said, she didn’t have to take the bus for two miles to two different stores to find the produce, to get the better bargains. Where Turner lived, there was only the corner store nearby and the prices were higher, but she had a car. Booker Tweeted about that as well.

Something larger was taking shape. On social media, those involved started to ask, “Now what?” How do we change the many things that are wrong with this picture? Turner said the experience seemed to be planting tiny seeds of activism and advocacy.

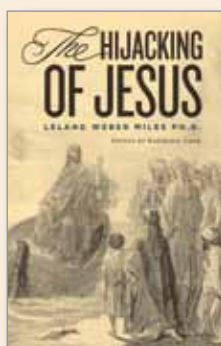
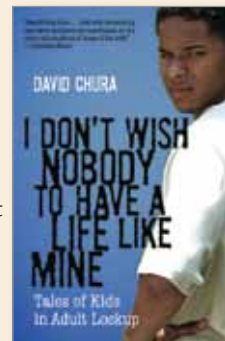
“It’s all about next steps,” Turner said. “Can we have a conversation with the owners of the corner store to see if they can broaden what they offer? Can we do that at the Twisted Café on campus? Can our grad students create a garden and grow food for themselves and people in the community?”

She said people posed questions about the need to create jobs that paid enough so people didn’t have to live on the margins. The conversations bubbling up reflected just what a university community does, she said: it sees problems, poses questions, and moves collaboratively toward solutions.

By Sunday morning, December 16, Newark Press Information Officer David Lippman said Booker had 160 media inquiries to consider, all on the challenge. In a blog entry on the last day, Booker said, “My attention and commitment to addressing food access does not stop here. I ask you to join me and those in your community who are working toward a just and sustainable food system that nourishes everyone.” ■

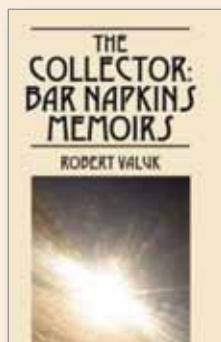
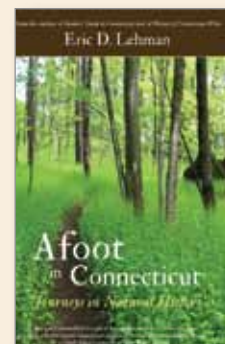
## Book Lines

Each year, more than 250,000 minors are sent to adult prisons, thanks largely to media reports of “juvenile super-predators” and ensuing public panic. Or so writes School of Education alumnus David Chura ’87, who in his searing book, *I Don’t Wish Nobody to Have a Life Like Mine: Tales of Kids in Adult Lockup* (Beacon Press), challenges readers to consider young offenders from a different perspective. Speaking with authority (his 25-year teaching career includes a decade of working with incarcerated youths), Chura describes a prison system that ultimately victimizes wardens and young prisoners alike. “Society was punishing [the kids] for victimizing others . . . but it never held anyone accountable for victimizing them,” he writes. Chura also writes about education and juvenile justice for the *Huffington Post*, *Mother Jones News*, and *Guernica*.



After six years of writing, former UB president-turned-author Leland Miles and co-author Kathleen Ober have released *The Hijacking of Jesus*. A sweeping look at the relationship between Christianity, Platonism, and mysticism, it challenges readers to reconsider Christian beliefs, from the location of Christ’s birth to the church’s position in society. Was Mary Magdalene an apostle? If St. Paul was alive today, might he be a CEO of a Fortune 500 company? Miles and Ober posit such questions with gentle humor as they reexamine the development of Christianity.

Eric D. Lehman’s *Afoot in Connecticut* (Homebound Publications) inspires us to move beyond familiar boundaries and into unexplored regions of the state’s often-overlooked greenways, beaches, and mountaintops. As we travel with Lehman along the banks of the trout-filled Farmington River to the jagged escarpments of Bear Mountain to lost play-forests of childhood, physical surroundings inspire and shape our sense of self. “It’s a memoir about erasing the tracks of the past and starting a new life,” says Lehman, who is director of creative writing at UB. “It’s also an investigation of local ecology, geography, and natural history, and a call for preservation.” The book will be available in May 2013.



Science fiction fans will love *The Collector: Bar Napkin Memoirs* (Outskirts Press), by alumnus Robert M. Valuk ’83. Like a quilt, *The Collector* pieces together data about human beings over a 350-year time period by studying various world leaders, a gifted doctor, a female card player, a cab driver, scientists, army generals, and other colorful characters. Valuk said he was inspired to write the book after amassing a collection of bar napkins, menus, race track programs, and other marginalia.

– Leslie Geary

## News Lines

# Tailored to Success

**Career Day offers up resume tips, free business cards, and other help for student job seekers**

By Leslie Geary

With his graduation on the not-so-distant horizon, student Jason Stevenson attended UB's second annual Career Day determined to learn more about finding the perfect job.

"I'd like a job or an internship where I can apply my major to whatever I do," said Stevenson, who will graduate with a bachelor's degree in human services this May.

He had plenty of company. Nearly 200 students attended the jobs fair organized by UB's Career Services Office. Industry experts from Dress for Success, Webster Bank, Hearst Media Services, Enterprise, Destination XL, Career Resources, Avon, UB Fashion Merchandising Club, Hubbell, New York Life, Robert Half International, and Vector Marketing volunteered to assist students and provide them with services from resume reviews to networking advice to free business cards, suits, and professional makeovers.

Debra Arrato, owner of Flash Photo Booths, spent a busy day snapping digital photographs for students to upload on their LinkedIn profiles. The photographs were sponsored by LinkedIn, Monster.com, and Southern CTJobs.com.

"One young gentleman came in with a free suit he'd just been given!" said Arrato. "He changed into the coat and shirt then got his photo taken. He seemed very pleased."

Terri Carron, owner of the wardrobe-consulting firm Just Your Style and a volunteer with Dress for Success, teamed up with the Career Services Office to provide free suits to students who need them for job interviews.

"Students are coming from an area where they wear a lot of casual clothes, so when they go to an interview, there's a disconnect between their world and the business world. I'm telling them that if you're improperly dressed, you lose credibility."

Tending to outward appearances is one thing, adjusting internal goals can be another.

Many young people feel they must get a very specific job in the field that they majored in," said Marcie Thompson, a jobs-search skills facilitator from Career Resources, a division of the Department of Labor. "I spoke with one young man who was getting an engineering degree but his screening survey showed that he has strong creative skills, too. That opens other possibilities."

That kind of advice is invaluable, said UB Career Services Director Aimee Marcella. "Our students truly value the benefit of meeting with industry professionals to get feedback and advice." ■

Industry pros guided students through job-search paces.



## News Lines

# A call to end gun violence

The SGA hosts a special evening with Colin Goddard, survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting massacre



Colin Goddard's story resonated with students, who later called for an end to gun violence.



“Put your hand up if you know anyone who’s been shot.”

Colin Goddard, a survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting massacre, had been invited to UB by the Student Government Association to talk about gun violence and introduce his documentary, *Living for 32*. As dozens of hands flew into the air, it was clear that Goddard’s remarkable and horrifying experience was far from unique.

Goddard was in a French class at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, when he was shot four times by a fellow student. He and 16 other injured students survived, but 32 other victims were killed in the carnage. Told he would never walk again, Goddard defied doctors’ prognoses, successfully completed physical therapy, returned to Virginia Tech to get his degree, and vowed “to find a way to turn that negative experience toward something positive,” he said.

He went to work for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, going undercover and wearing a hidden camera at gun shows all across America to prove how easy it is for anyone to buy a gun, with no identification, no background check, and just a wad of cash.

His remarkable story was turned into the documentary *Living for 32*, which he introduced at UB and has shown at other college campuses nationwide.

His gun-control message clearly resonated with students and area citizens in the roughly 150-person audience at Cox Student Center.

“How do you get your voice heard so people listen to you?” asked student Reginee Reese, who told Goddard that her teenage cousin was sitting on her front porch when she was shot and killed. As she shared her story, Reese suggested a 100-mom march through Bridgeport, which saw 21 homicides in 2012.

Mike Daly, editorial page editor of the *Connecticut Post*, agreed. “Thumbs up to the Student Government Association at the University of Bridgeport for bringing a program against gun violence to the university,” he wrote in an editorial. “That the students made the effort to raise the issue of gun violence and facilitate a conversation about it in a city like Bridgeport, which has been plagued with gun violence, is a laudable act.” ■ — L.G.

# Honoring Lauren

## UB establishes a memorial scholarship for slain School of Ed alumna

The University of Bridgeport School of Education has established a memorial scholarship in honor of alumna Lauren Gabrielle Rousseau '05, who too briefly inspired children as a teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

Ms. Rousseau was among 26 victims killed by a gunman at the school on December 14, 2012.

“Lauren was a highly motivated, passionate, strong individual with a desire to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of young children through her teaching. The scholarship applicant should demonstrate the same significant character traits,” said Lori Noto, a professor at the School of Education, where Ms. Rousseau earned

a master’s degree in elementary education.

The \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to an applicant seeking certification in elementary education and will be distributed over two semesters in two \$500 awards.

Recipients may use the scholarship for tuition, books, or living expenses.

Individuals wishing to contribute to the scholarship may send donations payable to the University of Bridgeport, Lauren Rousseau Memorial Scholarship, c/o Mary-Jane Foster, University Relations, 126 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604.

They may also donate online at [www.bridgeport.edu/Rousseau](http://www.bridgeport.edu/Rousseau). ■ — L.G.



Lauren Gabrielle Rousseau

“Lauren was a highly motivated, passionate, strong individual with a desire to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of young children through her teaching.”

— Lori Noto, School of Education

## News Lines

# Kickin' up some dust

### NASA picks the School of Engineering and partners for satellite launch

We whisk it away with dampened clothes—and nary a second thought.

But dust, it turns out, is infinitely fascinating to the good folks at NASA. So much so, that the federal space agency has tapped the University's School of Engineering and other partners to develop a small satellite to go into space and gather more of it.



The satellite, which is known as a CubeSat after its boxy shape—is one of 24 satellites NASA has commissioned for various missions under a program dubbed the CubeSat Launch Initiative (CSLI).

UB will develop its satellite with the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport, the University of Hawaii, and UTC Aerospace Systems. It will belong to a class of smaller research spacecraft called nanosatellites that measure about 4 inches on each side, have a volume of about 1 quart, and weigh less than 3 pounds.

Once built, the satellite will be launched into orbit on booster payloads, on flights scheduled for 2014, 2015, and 2016. It will then collect minuscule space debris that's 1 millimeter or less in diameter.

The goal? To figure out what the dust is. Man-made or from space? To help get answers, the main research payload on board the satellite is a detector that will characterize the amount of uncontrolled material in orbit, including both natural micrometeorites and man-made space debris. The satellite will then relay research data to ground stations, including the Mission Control Center at the Discovery Museum.

“Any of the bigger stuff they can track, but they don't know how much of the small stuff is out there, and what it is. If it's man-made they want to understand if there's going to be any hazards,” explains UB engineering professor Dr. Jani Pallis.

Pallis will co-lead the satellite's design, construction, testing, and integration with Dr. Brendan Hermalyn from the NASA Astrobiology Institute at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She'll also serve as one of the education-and-curriculum-development team leaders and work with the data analysis and science payload team.

UB and its partners have been assigned to an education mission, too. “One of the things we're doing is creating an interface so students can direct one of the satellite's cameras,” said Pallis. “We have some defined curriculum to do some analysis as well. How much power are the solar panels generating? What is the exact altitude of the satellite? Students will be able to do some mission control-type work to gain an understanding of space flight. One of the reasons we were selected for the program is that we have a two-fold mission: a science package and an education package.” ■ — L.G.

## A Grant to Smile About

**Fones School receives \$645,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration to help disadvantaged students**



Fones School has been awarded \$645,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as part of the federal agency's competitive grant program known as Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS).

The HRSA, a division within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, funds SDS grants to increase diversity in fields of health care by providing scholarships for financially needy students pursuing degrees in a range of disciplines relating but not limited

to dentistry, public health, optometry, allopathic and osteopathic medicine, behavioral and mental health.

The HRSA grant awarded \$645,000 for the current year to provide scholarships to qualified students who are enrolled full-time at the Fones School of Dental Hygiene Bachelor of Science degree program, and the University is recommended to receive \$645,000 annually for the next three years. Eligible students may be awarded up to \$15,000 annually.

"The HRSA grant is a great boost for students pursuing an education in dental hygiene as the cost of earning a degree can be a major stumbling block," said Marcia H. Lorentzen, interim dean and director of clinical affairs at Fones. ■ – L.G.

## International College gets new name

**Now it's the College of Public and International Affairs**

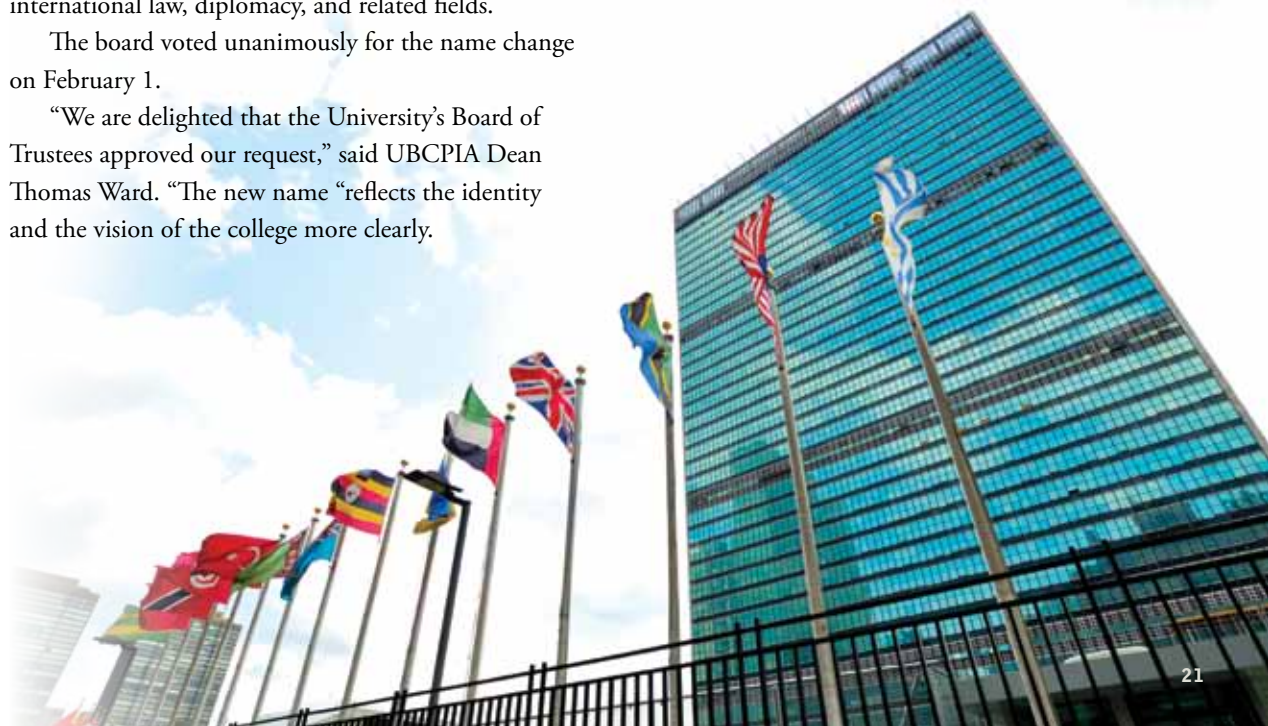
The Board of Trustees has renamed the International College the College of Public and International Affairs (UCPIA), reflecting the school's commitment to train students in a wide range of careers in political science, international law, diplomacy, and related fields.

The board voted unanimously for the name change on February 1.

"We are delighted that the University's Board of Trustees approved our request," said UCPIA Dean Thomas Ward. "The new name "reflects the identity and the vision of the college more clearly.

The name encompasses its breadth of academic offerings to prepare students for careers in public service and international relations."

UCPIA offers undergraduate Bachelor of Arts programs in International Political Economy and Diplomacy, World Religions, Martial Arts Studies, Mass Communications, Social Sciences, Criminal Justice and Human Security, as well as the Master of Arts degrees in Global Development and Peace, East Asian and Pacific Rim Studies, and Global Media and Communication Studies. ■ – L.G.



## News Lines

# The right connections

The Innovators Series is bringing abundant opportunities for entrepreneurs



Launching a successful business takes hard work, great ideas, and a bit of luck. But knowing the right people is paramount, too.

With that in mind, the Office of University Relations has expanded The Innovators, its popular monthly series that features experts speaking about subjects of critical importance to entrepreneurs and the career-minded. The casual evenings also include wine-and-cheese receptions and plenty of networking.

The Innovators is co-presented by WSHU and *Fairfield County Business Journal*.

“We’ve had tremendous positive feedback,” said University Relations Vice President Mary-Jane Foster.

“The roster of guest speakers is incredibly impressive, and I’m proud to say that each Innovators event attracts more guests—from angel investors to founders of start-ups. As the state’s only higher education institution that has a small-business incubator on its campus, it makes sense for us to host these events and to reach out to individuals who play such a critical part in driving our local economy.”

The Innovators 2012-2013 season began on September 12, when David Ives, founder and CEO of TVEyes.com, Ryan Duques from Tutapoint.com, and Debbie Russo, co-owner of Bridgeport Biodiesel, presented “Innovation, Innovation—Keeping it Fresh.”

Other evenings have covered topics from “Tales from the Crypt—From Failure Comes Success” to “Your Elevator Speech” to “How the Connecticut Innovation System Is Helping Entrepreneurs.”

For information about future Innovators programming, please contact [mjfooster@bridgeport.edu](mailto:mjfooster@bridgeport.edu) or call (203) 576-4696. ■ – L.G.

# Bernhard Center gallery renamed after Peter Schelfhaudt

The University has renamed the Arnold Bernhard Center gallery to the Schelfhaudt Gallery, in recognition of Peter Schelfhaudt, chairman and CEO of the advertising firm Creative Partners, whose generosity provides critical support for the exhibition space.

The official renaming ceremony was held on October 25, with the opening of “Images by iPhone,” an exhibition of work by fine art photographer Bob Poe.

The gallery originally opened in 1968.

“Through exhibitions and visiting-artist programs, the Arnold Bernhard Center and its gallery have featured some of the most important artists in American art—from Robert Motherwell to Red Grooms, Louise Nevelson, and Alice Neel—to the great benefit of the University and the surrounding community,” said UB President Neil A. Salonen. “The generous gift from Peter Schelfhaudt ensures that we will continue to showcase some of today’s most inspiring artists.”

Schelfhaudt oversees the overall development of Creative Partners’ capabilities, network affiliate integration,



Peter Schelfhaudt and President Neil Salonen at the unveiling

resource management, and expansion.

“Artists provide unique insight into the human experience, reflect society, expose its humanity, and—ideally—lead and inspire,” he said. “I am pleased to support the University’s commitment to resurrecting the vitality of the Arnold Bernhard Center so that students and the local community can enjoy and participate in the arts.” ■ – L.G.



# Focus on: Fanny Gabriel '41

**Background:** Fanny Gabriel majored in social studies before earning her degree from the Junior College of Connecticut, precursor to the University of Bridgeport, in 1941. This winter she graciously invited Alumni Director Susan Butler and *Knighlines* editor Leslie Geary to visit her in Bloomfield, Connecticut.

**Most recent accomplishments:** Remembering the names of 19 classmates and a housemother from a Junior College photograph taken in 1941. (Gabriel is the young woman in pearls standing in the back row, farthest to the right.) She also hosted her 40th Annual Post-Holiday January Open House for 63 friends. “I can take care of 75 people standing up. Nothing fazes me,” she says. “I’ve known some of them since high school.”

## Why did you choose Junior College?

I’m named after my grandmother Fanny Gabriel. According to my mother, she was brought up by an Episcopal minister from Bridgeport. The point is, when my mother learned that there was a college in Bridgeport, she told me, “You’ve got to go there.”

## Was it unusual for a young woman to leave home to go to college?

It wasn’t that unusual, but when my mother went it was. She wanted to learn dressmaking.

## She must have been thrilled to return to Bridgeport when you visited Junior College.

Oh, there was none of that! Today, that’s part of the routine, visiting the schools, but not then. In those days you just went. It wasn’t a big school, but we came from all over. My first roommate came from New York State, and my second roommate, Alma Neiman, was from Pennsylvania. We lived in a dorm on Fairfield Avenue. There was property behind it with a tennis court, and I used to get up a 6 a.m. to play. We also walked downtown to shop. It was no problem. We used to walk all over creation.



Fanny Gabriel and Alumni Director Susan Butler chat about the good old days.



## You’ve saved quite a bit of memorabilia from your Junior College days—and travels.

Yes, when I was working I joined the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, the Connecticut Federation. It’s a service organization, and it has a couple of million members around the world. Every time they had a convention I’d go, so I’ve been to practically every state in the union except for Alaska. I’ve been to North Dakota, but not South Dakota. And I haven’t been to Wisconsin or Montana—but that’s all. I hate to fly so I’ve taken the choo-choo to get to all of these states.

## Any special memories?

I didn’t grow up playing cards, but there was a lot of card playing. I remember laying out cards in front of the fireplace, but don’t ask me what we played. We also *did* study. But when I graduated in 1941, for me to be in touch with all of these girls, after all of these years—I think that’s pretty good. Alma is the last one who’s still here. I just got a phone call from her a few weeks ago. I told her about this interview. When she sees it she’s going to be thrilled!

– Interview by Leslie Geary

# Faculty Lines

## China Expert

Students aren't the only ones who rely on professors for insight: government officials turn to academia for experts who can help them gain a deeper understanding of issues affecting transnational trade, politics, and other issues.

Such was the case when the Vietnam Ministry of Foreign Affairs assembled a team to deliver a series of briefings on a variety of foreign policy issues. Among those invited to lend their expertise: **Nancy Chunguan Wei**, from UB's College of Public and International Affairs.

Wei addressed ministry officials about issues related to China over a course of five weeks in Vietnam and at Connecticut College. She included a presentation on China's financial and trade policy and the interrelationship among Cross-Taiwan Strait relations, China's ASEAN Policy, and the South China Sea dispute.



"We had lively discussions regarding China, Vietnam's northern neighbor and longtime rival," said Wei. ■ — **Leslie Geary**

## An Idea That Matters

**Steve Hess**, an assistant professor at the College of Public and International Affairs, was in good company when editors from *Atlantic Wire* selected his article on China as one of the "Five Best" columns promoting "ideas that matter most."

Hess's article, "Why isn't there a China spring?," was reposted on *Atlantic Wire* on February 22, along with articles by writers for the *New York Times*, the *Guardian* (UK), *The Economist*, and the *Daily Beast*. It originally ran in *The Diplomat*, an international current-affairs magazine for the Asia-Pacific region.

"We look across the spectrum of influencers for the best conversation-starters and news, and this caught our eye as something that's definitely a part of the conversation that smart people are having on the web and elsewhere," said *Atlantic* editor Matt Sullivan.

*Atlantic Wire* is part of Atlantic Media Company, publisher of *Atlantic Monthly* and the *National Journal*. ■ — **L.G.**



## Smart Risks

Social Security is a major source of income for many older Americans, but retirees and financial planners are woefully uninformed about the best time to start collecting it, says **Neal Lewis**, a professor in the Technology Management Department. To change that, Lewis teamed up with Ted Eschenbach, professor emeritus at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and UB alumna **Yiran Zhang** '11, and created a case study to determine how to best time the start of Social Security benefits.

"What financial advisers and the Social Security Administration do not talk about is the concept of risk," says Lewis. "Engineers do think in terms of risk, and that is part of how we analyze things in engineering economics."

Their work, "When to Start Collecting Social Security: Designing A Case," is one of just six papers nominated for the American Society of Engineering Education's (ASEE) coveted 2012 Best Paper Award, which will be announced in June 2013.

More than 1,500 papers were submitted for the ASEE award. "We don't know anyone who's ever reached this high a level," Lewis said. "It's a very big success, and we feel very, very good about it. It's prestige." ■ — **L.G.**



## Taking the Pulse of PA Programs

There's no question that physician assistant programs are academically rigorous; they're often described as "medical school in two years." But beyond that, evaluating specific programs can be tricky because the agency that reviews them—the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant—use standards that are vague, says **Martha Petersen**. Peterson, who's the associate director at UB's Physician Assistant Program, was invited to address the problem at the Physician Assistant Educators Association conference in Seattle. As a follow up, she and Glenn Forister, the program chair the University of Texas Health Science Center PA program, are co-developing a national survey on remediation issues as identified by the workshop's participants. ■ – L.G.

## Food for Thought

English Department professors and husband-and-wife team **Eric Lehman** and **Amy Nawrocki** have been busy promoting their latest books, *A History of Connecticut Food* and *A History of Connecticut Wine: Vineyard in Your Backyard*. The duo appeared at the Wilton Historical Society and at the Big Book Club Getaway at Mohegan Sun to talk about the history of American eating and drinking. They've also given cooking demonstrations and headlined at numerous bookstores, appeared on the *Faith Middleton Show*, and delighted the crowd at the venerable R.J. Julia Bookstore in Madison, Connecticut. Cheers to them! ■ – L.G.



## Rising above the call of duty

When a deadly blizzard slammed into Connecticut on February 9, it buried UB under 30 inches of snow, with drifts piled even higher. The city was stranded.

That didn't stop **Bill Lewis**, a chef at Star Ginger, one of the restaurants in Marina Dining Hall, which is run by Sodexo Dining Services. Without Lewis or other chefs, the hall would remain shuttered, and students who weren't able get out during the storm would go hungry. So Lewis piled on heavy clothing and sturdy boots to dig his way

through drifts from his Bridgeport home back to campus.

The two-block journey took him 45 minutes, and he was the only Sodexo staffer who reached campus. So Lewis did what any top chef worth his toque would do: he improvised. With encouragement and last-minute training, he turned UB security and grounds staff who were on campus into a team of sous chefs. Within two hours, they were serving hot meals to about 150 hungry diners, including students and area law enforcement officials who were patrolling nearby. Students volunteered to wash dishes and keep the dining hall clean.

Because of his actions, Lewis received the National Sodexo Experience Award.

"Bill's actions showed tremendous selflessness. He put the UB community above his own safety and concern," said Sodexo General Manager Jenn Currier. "He went beyond the call of duty to make sure the community was able to be fed during one of the worst storms in the history of the state." ■ – L.G.



# Alumni Lines

Would you like to share news of your own or nominate an alum to be interviewed for a "Focus On" interview? We're interested in what you're doing, and so are your classmates! Contact: Knightlines, Cortright Hall, 219 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604 or [knightlines@bridgeport.edu](mailto:knightlines@bridgeport.edu). Be sure to include your full name, contact information, and class year.

## 1952

**Mary Whelan** will celebrate her 59th anniversary in February. She and her husband Richard met at UB in 1950. They have six children. "We have a wonderful family," she says.

## 1955

**Lionel Pasiuk** writes that he's "enjoying retirement" after 38 years of civil service. He and his wife, Barbara, have been married for 54 years and have a daughter named Janet. They live in Bethesda, MD, but spend January to March at Pawley's Island, SC.

Classmates **Leigh Danenberg, Jr., Jerome Frank,** and **Samuel Marks** recently held a reunion with **Philip Carrubba '54, Paul Hennion '56,** and **Gary Singer '54** and their spouses. "The amazing thing is they all married their UB sweethearts and are still married to them," Danenberg writes. Five of the six are working part time.

## 1958

**Edward Harrison**, a UB Life Trustee and Honorary Doctorate Awardee, passed away at age 92 on November 10 at home in Aventura, FL. His wife and alumna **Myrna Harrison** was at his side.

## 1964

**Barry Jaye** contacted us from his home in Boston. He's still working at root-canal specialist and teaches classes in clinical endodontics at Harvard University and Boston University. He and his wife, Julie Riven, a food writer, have five children and five grandchildren. Jaye was a biology major at UB and has been searching for old UB yearbooks from 1964 or 1965. He'd love to hear from anyone who has one to share or sell and can be contacted at (503) 942-9755 or [bmjaye@aol.com](mailto:bmjaye@aol.com).

**Wolfgang Woischke** was inducted to Schreiber High School Athletic Hall of Fame in October. While at UB, the business alum was captain of the Purple Knights soccer team. "Those were the days when Bridgeport was still playing Division I sports. We were ranked no. 8 in the nation, and we lost to NCAA playoffs to Brown. It was a good team. I'm still in touch with quite a few of my soccer friends." Now living in Florida, Woischke invites former classmates to keep in touch with him at [wwoischke222@aol.com](mailto:wwoischke222@aol.com).

## 1966

When Fones School of Dentistry alumna **Lois Scott** showed up for her first day of work about 46 years ago, she had no idea that she had just started a new professional career and personal future. Her last patient on that first day, Jack Myers, would end up marrying her, according to a charming feature about the two that recently ran in the *News-Press* (Virginia). She recalls Myers's shoes were "all worn and uneven" but they've enjoyed a wonderful life. And when Scott retired in February, Myers was back in her dental chair, the last patient of the day.

## 1975

**Barbara Wrenn Wright** kindly sent us a photo of herself with classmates **Claudia Austin Curry, Mary Lou Banyer Goodell, Karen Collins Matthews, Patricia Cretella '73, Kathy Deptula Farnsworth '76,** and **Judy Alston Hill** at the Rocket City Brewfest in Huntsville, AL, in May. (See page 29.) "We all met at UB, when we lived on the sixth floor of Warner Hall," she writes. "Although we live in seven different states, we've been getting together almost every year since 1976."

**Edward A. Giarusso** received the National Rifle Association's Distinguished Expert Award for Marksmanship in October. Since retiring from the Pentagon in 2003, he has worked as a certified-firearms instructor, training prospective law-enforcement candidates and private individuals in firearms safety and operations. He and his family currently reside in Arlington, VA.

## 1978

**Harry M. Abbate** has passed away. Much loved while at UB, friends remember him as a "gentle giant" whose affable presence made them smile.

**Daniel G. Lewis** recently received his black belt certificate in Lean Six Sigma from Southern Polytechnic State University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dan currently serves as the Director of the Center for Business Excellence at the University of West Georgia and facilitates continuous-improvement applications throughout that institution.

## 1984

**Mark Jaffee** was inducted into the media wing of the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in November for his long-term service of covering statewide high schools sports, spanning more than three decades. The journalism alumnus and former editor of the *Scribe*, is a staff writer for the *Republican-American* (Waterbury, CT) and began his newspaper career at the *Bridgeport Post-Telegram* in 1980.



**Matthew S. Zavadsky**, who's had a passion for emergency services since his teens, now serves as Director of Public Affairs for MedStar Emergency Medical Services in Fort Worth, Texas. MedStar has received numerous national awards for innovation since Zavadsky joined the company four years ago. As part of his role, he travels extensively, providing consulting services to emergency medical providers at all levels. Matt was recently elected to the Governing Board of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians and appointed to the Editorial Board of EMS World, the industry's leading trade publication to which he is a frequent contributor.

## 1992

**Matthew Steiger** was recently appointed to Member, Board of Directors for ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, the oldest active LGBTQ organization in

the United States and the largest repository of LTBTQ materials in the world. Founded in 1952, ONE is part of the University of Southern California Libraries and houses over 2 million archival items, including periodicals, books, film, video and audio recordings, photographs, art works, organizational records and personal papers. An alumnus of UB's Business School, Matthew is an associate Wealth Advisor and Second Vice President for the Family Advisory Services team at Northern Trust and would love to hear from former classmates at [MatthewSteiger@aol.com](mailto:MatthewSteiger@aol.com)

## 2010

**Syed Rizvi**, an alumnus from the Computer Science and Engineering Department, writes with great news: "I am happy to let you know that I have accepted the assistant professor position in the Information Science Department at Penn State University, and I am currently in the process of relocating from Virginia to Pennsylvania so that I can join them." ■ - L.G.



## We'll see you in Malaysia . . .

**More than 100 alums hosted a special reunion at the Holiday Inn in Shah Alam, Malaysia, on November 10.**

The gathering represented roughly half of all alumni currently living in Indonesia and Malaysia, say attendees, who nominated representatives to organize future events that will strengthen communication and friendships among alumni living in Southeast Asia.

"Most of us have not met each other for more than 20+ years," reports Ikmal Hisham (Ike) Kamal '86, who was named 2012-13 president of UB Alumni Malaysia. "We are planning to organize a joint reunion for alumni in Malaysia and Indonesia sometime in mid-2013. We are also looking forward to reunite other alums in Southeast Asia."

Dawn Berger Babcock, UB's international student adviser from 1984-86, was named Guest of Honor. Indonesian alums were formally represented by Guy Lesmanasadu '84 and Benny Nandwani '83, who traveled from Jakarta to attend the festivities.

To contact the group please e-mail [ikewoody@gmail.com](mailto:ikewoody@gmail.com).

■ - L.G.



# Alumni Lines



## Great to see you!

**Alumni catch up with old friends at several gatherings.**

Alums—equipped with cleats and aspirin—returned to campus from across the country this fall to play in the annual Alumni Soccer Game. Players hit the field after fueling up on a hearty breakfast hosted by the Alumni Department and later unwound by cheering on the current crop of Purple Knights when student-athletes faced off for home games.

After fueling up on a hearty breakfast, alumni dazzled on the soccer field during some friendly competition.



Claire (La Pia) Crisculo '75 catered and hosted a tasty evening at her restaurant, Clare's Corner Copia, in New Haven. The well-known vegetarian eatery has been a favorite among Yalies and other foodies who can't resist Crisculo's famed carrot cake and homemade soups.

A year of great events kicked off in January when UB Alumni Board President Gordon Stier '77 hosted a large gathering at the Lotos Club in New York City. Alums representing classes from the 1950s to 2012 caught up at the East Side club. They were joined by UB President Neil Salonen and his wife, Rebecca.

A few weeks later Ken Graham, Esq. '71 hosted his annual Mardi Gras bash. The event, held at Two Boots Restaurant in Bridgeport, has become a must-attend party since it began four years ago.

The second annual Alumni Art Show opened on March 5 at the Schelfhauadt Gallery. This year's exhibition featured works by more than 18 artists, whose majors while at the University ranged from fine arts to education, business, and dental hygiene. ■ – L.G.



Alums savored the fun, and the carrot cake, at Claire Crisculo's '75 famed New Haven restaurant.



Left: Catching up at the Lotos Club in Manhattan

Below: The second annual Alumni Art Show featured more artists than ever.



From left: Claudia Austin Curry '75, Barbara Wrenn Wright '75, Mary Lou Banyer Goodell '75, Karen Collins Matthews '75, Patricia Cretella '73, Kathy Deptula Farnsworth '76, Judy Alston Hill '75 at the Rocket City Brewfest in Huntsville, AL, in May. They've been meeting nearly every year since 1976.



Ying Shen Earned Honorable  
Mention All-American Honors and  
was a First Team All-Conference  
selection for the Purple Knights.



The UB volleyball captured the  
2012 East Coast Conference  
title and advance to its fourth  
straight NCAA regional final.





## Side Lines

# Spiked it!



**The women's volleyball team wins the 2012 East Coast Conference Crown and makes its fourth straight NCAA Division II East Regional Final appearance.**

By Chuck Sadowski

The tradition of excellence continued for the University of Bridgeport women's volleyball team as the Purple Knights, under the direction of fourth-year head coach Leo Uzategui, won both the East Coast Conference regular season and championship tournament titles and for the fourth straight year.

The team advanced to the finals of the NCAA Division II East Regional, but fell just two points shy of making its second consecutive trip to the NCAA Division II Final Eight when Bridgeport was defeated by top-seeded and host New Haven, 16-25, 25-20, 13-25, 25-20, 16-18, in the regional final.

The volleyball team posted an impressive 27-7 overall record and went 15-2 in conference play during the 2012 season.

Sophomore hitters Biljana Savic and Ying Shen earned spots on the First Team All-East Coast Conference Women's Volleyball Team. It was the second straight season that Savic, who led the Purple Knights in kills per set at 3.61, earned First Team All-ECC accolades.

Shen, a four-time ECC Player of the Week selection during the season and the Most Outstanding Player of the 2012 East Coast Conference Championship Tournament, was second on the team in kills per set at 3.51 and had an impressive .318 attack percentage. She was Honorable Mention All-American by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Middle blocker Larissa Oliveira, a sophomore, was selected Second Team All-ECC, too. Oliveira led the team in blocks at 1.14 per set. ■

## Side Lines

# Fran Bacon Remembered

Remembering the legendary coach and his winning seasons with the Purple Knights

By Chuck Sadowski

The University of Bridgeport and the UB Department of Athletics remembers legendary Purple Knights Head Coach Fran Bacon, who died after a lengthy illness in Arizona over the Thanksgiving weekend at the age of 80.

Bacon worked on the sidelines as the head coach of the Bridgeport men's soccer program for 18 seasons, from 1969 through 1986. Under his leadership, the team made ten NCAA Championship appearances while amassing a school-record 169 career wins. He also served as head baseball coach for the Purple Knights

from 1970 through the 1987 campaign.

In 2011, the University established the Fran Bacon Award for Lifetime Achievement in Coaching. It is given out at the University's Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony to a Bridgeport or Arnold College graduate who has gone on to a distinguished career in the coaching profession. Long-time Saint Joseph's High School in Trumbull head boys basketball coach Vito Montelli received the inaugural Fran Bacon Award for Lifetime Achievement in Coaching last year. ■

Head Coach Fran Bacon and some of the many Purple Knights he coached from 1969 to 1986





Goalkeeper Julia Hansson's top performances on the field and in the classroom earned her Second Team National Capital One Academic All-America honors.

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# Smart Saves

**Soccer goalkeeper Julia Hansson selected to 2012 Capital One National Academic All-America Second Team**

By Chuck Sadowski

University of Bridgeport women's soccer goalkeeper Julia Hansson has been named to the 2012 Capital One National Academic All-America Second Team by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) for outstanding academics and athletics.

Hansson, a junior health science major with a 3.84 gpa, becomes the second UB student-athlete to earn

National Academic All-America honors.

Bridgeport's all-time leader in career shutouts with 25 entering her senior season in 2013, Hansson posted seven clean sheets with an 11-6-2 record in 2012. In 2011, she led the nation in saves percentage and goals against average. ■

## Side Lines

# How do you say “rebound” in Slovak?

**Former Purple Knights continue score big when they go pro overseas. One reporter catches up with two to find out how they made the leap.**

Interview by Le Roux L. Lothian

Gilbert Bayonne '10, a former men's soccer player, was a four-year starter with all-conference and all-region accolades. Now he applies his skills playing in the Singapore Premier League with Tanjong Pagar United FC.

Demetrius Phillips '10 was two-year starter at center in men's hoops, who finished his UB career with 423 points, 374 rebounds, and 122 blocked shots—propelling him to 16th in the country in blocks as a junior. A passionate, energetic player with an exceptional vertical leap, Phillips was known for providing electric plays on the court. Today he's igniting the court and wearing number 19 for the SKP Banska Bystrica basketball team in Slovakia.

Though it's not easy to keep up with these athletes, *Knightlines* had the opportunity to catch up with Bayonne and Phillips to find out what it's like to play overseas.

### Had either one of you ever been outside the U.S. before playing professionally?

**Demetrius Phillips:** No, I had never had the opportunity to see Europe. I just learned about it studying history in school and watching various documentaries on TV—usually something to do with WWI or WWII.

**Gilbert Bayonne:** Yes, I've traveled back to Haiti to visit family members. I've also been to Mexico twice and the Dominican Republic.

### Did you experience culture shock when you went abroad?

**DP:** Yes, it's always a culture shock because I rarely had interactions with Europeans and vice versa. When American players get to Europe, we are seen as different but unique, which brings you a lot of attention—some of it wanted and some unwanted. Also, I have to get used to the language barrier.

**GB:** One of the main things that stood out for me is the amount of rules and regulations they have. For instance, no chewing gum, no gatherings of more than three people past 10 p.m. in housing-lounge areas. I find it quite odd, but it keeps the country clean and orderly!

### Is the nature of the sport different in the U.S. versus the country in which you play?

**DP:** Yes, it's very different. In Europe, the game isn't as fast as the NBA in the U.S. There's a lot of structure and details in European basketball because their teaching practices and concepts are different. In the NBA, guys are supremely gifted athletically (high jumpers, fast), but many great basketball minds will argue that more skilled players are playing in Europe.

**GB:** Yeah, definitely. Singapore is more of a soccer country. For instance, you might be walking in the mall and get noticed by a group of kids.



Demetrius Phillips '10 now plays for SKP Banska Bystrica.

### Do you have any advice to college athletes who want to go on professionally?

**DP:** Try not to confide in a lot of people because when you do, sometimes those people you talked to become obstacles. I always told myself what I wanted to do, especially when I worked out, on the court and lifting weights. Which leads into my next point, work on your game! Get repetition; get cardiovascular sessions in because you're going to have to be in perhaps the best shape of your life. For instance, on top of working out, I had to start drinking water and making healthier eating choices. It's a lifestyle, not just something you wake up and do.

**GP:** It takes a lot more than a dream. You have to be resilient, willing to deal with setbacks and challenges you'll face along the way. It also takes a large amount of discipline. You have to be willing to push yourself out of your comfort zone, both mentally and physically, on a daily basis.

### Do you have any pre-game rituals?

**DP:** Yes, several! I love to listen to my music on full blast—no particular artist, but it's strictly hip-hop. Another ritual I have is prayer. I pray about one or two times before the game, basically asking for focus, diligence, perseverance, and just asking that I'm placed in the best mental and physical circumstance. Once I've done those two things, I'm pretty comfortable. If not, if I don't hear music or maybe even a certain song, then I have that feeling like something is missing.

**GB:** Yeah, more so daily routines. Mental preparation is just as important, if not more important at the pro level. So I like to keep sharp by reading different sports psychology books. Outside of mental preparation, I make sure every morning I stretch, hydrate, and ice any injuries.

### Who's the most famous opponent you've played?

**DP:** I remember playing against Martell Webster (Portland Trailblazers) in high school and in college a lot of future NBA'ers. I've actually played with more famous people than against them, like Rudy Gay (Memphis Grizzlies) and Jack Michael Martinez (Dominican Republic National Team).

**GB:** I'd have to say Pape Samba Ba (former Senegalese national team player), and also Nikola Kolorov (brother of Alex Kolorov from Manchester City) while I was in Poland. I've also trained with and played against a ton of MLS players, for example, Edson Buddle, Carlos Mendes, Mike Petke, Chris Wingert.

### What or who keeps you balanced in such a tough profession?

**DP:** God and my family. I know God is responsible for pushing me to pursue my dreams and giving me the ability. My mother, Jill, and my uncle, Ray, are vital for me because they laid the foundation for me to build upon. My uncle worked with me and showed me what it took to get to a high level, so I definitely still

use those principles today.

My mom is just the epitome of hard work and never giving up, no matter how hard things get. She raised me and my two younger sisters as a single parent, and today I am always thankful toward her. A lot of other people keep me grounded and give me kind words. Family, friends, and coaches.

**GB:** I'd have to say my trials in Poland were my first eye-opener. Playing against some top players (Pape Samba Ba, Nikola Kolorov, etc), and seeing their level of technical sharpness and professionalism day in and day out. Playing and competing with those types of players took my level of commitment to another level.

### What would like to do after you retire from playing?

**DP:** I'd love to go into coaching or counseling. I want to give back and help young, deserving athletes. I feel like I can be a positive motivator and the younger guys always need a positive male figure. Ask any professional athlete or any man that has achieved great things, whether it was through sport or not, and he will point you in the direction of a male figure who helped motivate and push him beyond his limits that he never thought were possible.

**GB:** Starting my own business and training youth soccer players. I hope to be around the game my whole life, and also serve as a mentor in my community.

### What part did UB play in your sports career?

**DP:** UB played a big part, a huge part. I was facing some academic trouble at my first school, and I was able to speak with the coach (Mike Ruane). He liked me and liked my game and basically brought me in at a time when I didn't have many options. I was able to grow as a person and basketball player. I actually matured because our coach put forth guidelines, and it was up to us as players to work out and work on our games. I think



that was a test, but I was able to grow due to my own diligence. Also, I had good teammates and they showed me what true camaraderie was, true family was in terms of a sports team. We all knew that we could be good if we put our collective heads together and focused on achieving, and we achieved some huge goals during my two years playing at UB for Coach Ruane.

**GB:** My UB experience was vital in that regard, I learned a lot about teamwork, commitment, and discipline through Coach (Brian) Quinn's program. I learned a lot about team spirit during the fall 2007 season at UB. Our senior captains—Randy, Blaise, and Paolo—really pushed the younger players and made us believe that together we could accomplish something special. That's something I'll always remember.

### What is your most memorable sporting moment at UB?

**DP:** Winning the 2010 ECC Championship. That year we had something to prove because we had a great collection of talent. It was either championship or bust then, because we had worked over the summer, countless hours to the point where all we did was play basketball or practice basketball or talk basketball.

For me personally, we had lost in the ECC Championship game in the '09 season to the same team (C.W. Post) we had beaten in 2010. I remember during the ceremony in 2009, I was crying because we were so close and I felt that we deserved to win. I was at the point where I wanted to disappear because I had disappointed our fans and school as well as myself. So, when we beat them the next year it was gratifying. It was the sum of everyone's collective efforts. Guys got it done. Champions. ■



A student during the 24-hour Bridgeport Big Read read-a-thon co-sponsored by UB

# Closing Thought:

## An Invitation to Read By Diane Krumrey

Read any good books lately?

If the National Endowment for the Arts' statistics are correct, your answer will most likely be "no." According to the NEA study, "Reading at Risk," more than half of adults don't read literature today. Oddly, many adults follow up by saying, "I'd like to, but I just can't read books anymore," claiming that they can't concentrate even when they do have the time.

Theories to explain this phenomenon abound, of course—21st-century stress levels, pervasive social media, declining quality of education in the U.S.

As a teacher and lover of literature, I can't say enough about the benefits of communal novel-reading. Stories are the things we think with, and words are the colors that we paint our personal worlds with. If you and I can talk together about what a novel's characters say to each other and why we think their lives take the paths they do, we have been able to share our very deepest beliefs and hopes. We have been able to imagine together what matters most and why. And we have done so collaboratively. We come away with a new empathy for each other's worldviews. We get a chance to paint each other's worlds with our words in shades and tones that otherwise would never have been glimpsed. In the process, we learn volumes about ourselves as a community and about the

power of stories.

At UB, where common reading is shared by all freshmen every year, I have come upon students in the dining hall and library debating the meaning of Plato's *Allegory of the Cave* or commiserating over the lost childhood of the narrator in Jeannette Walls's *The Glass Castle*. Our students come from more than 80 countries and from towns across the U.S., but their desire to exchange perspectives about the books they are reading transcends cultural differences, fosters friendships, and cultivates community.

Talk about social media: our experience of friendship and community is enlarged by the mere knowledge that we are reading a book that our friends—or our whole community—are reading along with us. What better way to revitalize old friendships or initiate new ones than to talk about that book you are both enjoying?

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*English professor Diane Krumrey reads lots of good books with her students and, for the last eleven years, with her own book group. This editorial is adapted from an op-ed that appeared in the Connecticut Post in advance of Bridgeport's 2012 Big Read program, which was co-sponsored by the University of Bridgeport. ■*



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