CHANCELLOR OF AMRITA UNIVERSITY RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

By Christine Vidal

Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma), chancellor of Amrita University, UB’s institutional partner in South India, received a State University of New York Doctor of Humane Letters degree during a conferral ceremony held on May 25, 2010 at Slee Hall on the UB North Campus.

A distinguished and beloved humanitarian and spiritual leader, Amma is internationally regarded for her tireless efforts on behalf of global peace, her commitment to expanding educational opportunity, and the far-reaching impact of her charitable organizations in relieving poverty and human suffering in India and around the world.

Amma is the founder and chancellor of Amrita University, a leading private university in India, and has played a key role in encouraging and supporting the strong strategic partnership between Amrita University and UB.

Lippes Concert Hall, the ceremony venue, was filled to capacity for the event, which was attended by UB faculty, staff and students; a large delegation of senior officials from Amrita University; and many members of the local community.

An academic procession of senior faculty and administrators from both universities, led by President John B. Simpson and Amrita Vice-Chancellor P. Venkat Rangan, welcomed Amma on stage and congratulated her during the conferral of the degree. The ceremony included performances by Roland Martin on the Fisk organ in Lippes Concert Hall and a performance of Indian classical dance by the students of the Natya School of Buffalo, directed by Professor Tejaswini Rao.

In his remarks Simpson said, “Through her leadership of Amrita University as well as through her humanitarian work, Chancellor Amma exemplifies the value of international dialogue and dedicated public service in the global arena. These are values at the core of the University at Buffalo’s mission as an internationalized public university seeking to prepare our students to con-
tribute meaningfully to the global world.”

Since 2006 UB and Amrita University have partnered on collaborative activities that include a dual-master’s degree programs in management and computer science. Additional collaborative programs in social work and medicine are in development.

At the ceremony Provost Tripathi hailed Amma’s role in supporting the partnership: “This level of institutional cooperation requires an ambitious vision, strong leadership, and great flexibility from both partners. As our partnership has grown, I have learned how important Chancellor Amma’s role has been—behind the scenes—in nurturing and encouraging our institutional relationship. From the beginning, she has seen the potential this partnership for the benefit our respective universities and the constituents we serve.”

The SUNY Honorary Degree recognizes Amma’s commitment to expanding educational opportunities and international cooperation, as well as her extraordinary humanitarian service, which includes founding Mata Amritanandamayi (M.A.) Math, a humanitarian organization that oversees her charitable activities in India and other nations, and relief efforts she spearheaded for victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

“Amma has been a leader in expanding educational opportunity in India, particularly through the establishment of Amrita University, which in its first 15 years has become one of the most distinguished private universities in India,” said Stephen Dunnett, professor and vice provost for international education. “She also is a strong proponent of Amrita’s expanding cooperation with U.S. institutions of higher education and she has placed particular emphasis on the connection to UB, which has borne fruit in a number of ways,” Dunnett added.

In her acceptance speech, Amma said she “sees this honor as an indication of [UB’s] ongoing support for the great ideal of service to humanity. Our organization has been able to serve society due to the dedicated selfless service of countless people around the world. Amma would like to offer this honor to the dedication, sincerity and goodness in their hearts.”

She said that there is a need for scientific knowledge taught in universities to be balanced by value-based wisdom which draws on the world’s great spiritual traditions. “The main indicator that true knowledge is growing is the blossoming of discriminative thinking—the ability to differentiate that which uplifts us from that which pulls us down. Devoid of discriminative thinking, knowledge is incomplete, like flower without fragrance, like word without meaning, a flame and its light.”

“Spiritual education is a training that helps us to truly understand ourselves. It gives us strength and helps us comprehend the deeper realms of knowledge. It gives us the ability to face life’s challenges with courage and equanimity of mind,” she said. “This is why education for life is as important as education for livelihood. Education for life is spirituality. It helps us to gain a deeper understanding of the world, our mind and our emotions, as well as those of others.”

In closing she declared, “It is Amma’s prayer that we develop the expansive-mindedness to embrace both scientific knowledge and spiritual wisdom. We can no longer afford to see these two streams of knowledge as flowing in opposite directions.

“In truth, they complement one another. If we merge these streams, we will find that we are able to create a mighty river—a river whose waters can remove suffering and spread life to all of humanity.”

Christine Vidal is online editor for University Communications.
The University at Buffalo celebrated the grand opening of its Confucius Institute on April 9, 2010 with a ceremony featuring lively Chinese music and colorful dance, along with welcoming remarks by UB President John B. Simpson and Gong Huili, executive president of Capital Normal University, UB’s partner in Beijing.

The ceremony took place in the Mainstage Theatre in UB’s Center for the Arts on the North Campus. The program included traditional and contemporary performances by students from the UB Department of Theatre and Dance and the College of Music at Capital Normal University, as well as professional dancer Xingqiong He from Chengdu, China, and the Chinese Club of Western New York Dance Troupe.

The program featured the dazzling “Long Ribbon Dance,” signifying the yearning of the ancient Chinese to learn the secrets of eternal life; the beautiful “Jasmine Flower,” popularized for Western audiences as a theme song of the Beijing Olympics; and “To Study,” a dance inspired by “The Analects” of Confucius.

The Chinese Consulate in New York City were represented at the opening ceremony by education counselor Jianjun Cen, who gave congratulatory remarks along with UB Provost Satish K. Tripathi.

In one of the first activities of the new Confucius Institute, UB dancers learned Chinese dance techniques, training under the direction of He, a choreographer, teacher and performer in the Chengdu Musical Theater Troupe who has been in residence at UB since January.

“This is a landmark event in the long, ongoing history of UB’s engagement with China, and in particular our historic and vital partnership with Capital Normal University,” says Stephen C. Dunnett, vice provost for international education and chair of the advisory board for the Confucius Institute.

“This is a landmark event in the long, ongoing history of UB’s engagement with China, and in particular our historic and vital partnership with Capital Normal University,” says Stephen C. Dunnett, vice provost for international education and chair of the advisory board for the Confucius Institute.

In the 30 years since UB became the first U.S. university to enter China and sign agreements with key institutions in Beijing, Capital Normal has played a major role in the development of Chinese language and culture studies at UB,” says Dunnett.

“This university has sent excellent teachers of Chinese to teach at UB, as well as receiving many UB students for programs in Chinese language and culture at CNU. It is fitting that in this anniversary year we celebrate this new and expanded phase in our collaboration with CNU.”

Part of a network of 300 Confucius Institutes around the world, the Confucius Institute at UB is dedicated to promoting the teaching of Chinese language and culture in Western New York. The institute is a collaborative program involving UB’s Asian Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences; Capital Normal University, UB’s longstanding partner in Beijing; and the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), which will provide significant funding.

Through the Confucius Institute, UB plans to provide expert teachers from Capital Normal University to local schools to help establish or expand Chinese language programs; offer Chinese language classes and cultural orientation for businesses, government officials and community groups; organize study tours to China; present Chinese language and culture summer camps; and establish a China film and lecture series.

Kristin Stapleton, associate professor of history and director of UB’s Asian Studies Program, has been appointed director of the Confucius Institute. Stapleton says that UB has been able to attract two talented and energetic people to carry out its mission.

The Asian Studies Program recently hired an executive director, Wenzhong (Eric) Yang, Ph.D., to manage the operations of the new Confucius Institute. Yang comes to UB from Michigan State University, where he served as...
UB REACHES OUT TO HAITI

By Charlotte Hsu

A panel of UB experts convened on the North Campus in late March to discuss the January earthquake that devastated Haiti, leveling parts of the country’s Presidential Palace and killing an estimated 230,000 people.

The diverse group of presenters at the event, titled “UB Reaching Others: The Haiti Earthquake,” included Pierre Fouché, a Haitian Ph.D. candidate studying earthquake engineering; Chris Renschler, a geography faculty member whose students mapped damage in the disaster’s aftermath; Andre Filiatrault, the French-speaking director of MCEER, UB’s extreme events research center; Lawrence Bone, a UB doctor stationed on a hospital ship off the Haitian coast; and Stephen Dunnett, vice provost for international education.

Together, the panelists explained why the January 12 earthquake was so destructive, and how short- and long-term emergency-response efforts can help Haiti rebuild. The event highlighted the importance and direct impact of UB’s work in mitigating and responding to extreme events, one of eight areas of academic strength the university is building as part of its UB 2020 long-range strategic plan.

Fouché, a Fulbright scholar, took the podium first, opening with a talk on Haiti’s vulnerability to natural disasters, noting that the island nation is a “multi-hazard” environment whose geography exposes it to deadly hurricanes, flash floods, landslides and earthquakes.

“What we have seen in the January 12 event basically was a repetition of what has happened to Haiti in the past,” Fouché said, relating that a 1770 earthquake destroyed the country’s capital city.

Factors that have exacerbated the destruction that natural disasters afflict on Haiti include a history of struggles and poor urban planning, Fouché said. Haiti, which gained independence in 1804 through a successful slave revolution, faced crippling economic sanctions that made it difficult for the country and its people to build and move forward.

Many homes and other structures were built without proper planning as governments failed to enforce zoning laws and construction standards. The engineering occupation lacks accountability, Fouché said, with graduates of engineering programs able to go into practice without undergoing licensure.

On January 12, these problems culminated in a disaster of monstrous proportions. Schools collapsed. Thirteen of 15 major government buildings were destroyed. Three million people were left homeless, many afraid to re-enter the houses left intact.

Following Fouché’s presentation, Renschler, Filiatrault continued on page 6

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

continued from page 3

associate director of the U.S.-China Center for Research on Educational Excellence.

“We expect the programs and resources provided by UB’s Confucius Institute to have a major impact on teaching about China in Western New York,” Yang says, “helping students, businesspeople and other community members better understand the language and people of this large, influential and complex country.”

Yang is joined by Xiaopeng Du, associate professor of English Language and Literature at Capital Normal University, who is serving a two-year term as associate director of the Confucius Institute.

“I am thrilled to be at UB to help launch this important new institute and to provide people in the Buffalo area with a better understanding of China,” says Du. “Capital Normal University has an excellent relationship with UB dating back many years, and we are very pleased to be able to support the new Confucius Institute in Buffalo.”

Bruce Acker is assistant director of Asian Studies.
A MAJOR STEP TOWARD REBUILDING

By Ellen Goldbaum

At a university campus in Port-au-Prince where not a single building withstood the January earthquake, more than 200 Haitian engineers, architects and other professionals gathered in tents last weekend in temperatures hovering near 100 degrees to begin learning the principles of earthquake-resistant design.

The gathering was the first Earthquake Engineering Educational Seminar, jointly-sponsored by UB’s MCEER and Université Quisqueya (UniQ).

The three-day seminar was a result of a memorandum of understanding signed between MCEER (formerly the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research) and UniQ, a private university in Port-au-Prince, to bring MCEER’s earthquake-engineering expertise to the professional and student engineering communities in Haiti so they can learn fundamental earthquake-engineering principles in order to retrofit damaged facilities and design new construction.

Within eight days of the January 12 earthquake, Filiatrault had assembled and deployed the first team of structural engineers to Haiti to conduct building-safety inspections at the request of the United Nations. When team members returned to the U.S., they knew more needed to be done.

The relationship between MCEER and UniQ, which will extend for at least three years, is designed to help Haiti establish its own community of earthquake engineers to mitigate earthquake-induced damage to its buildings. Each seminar will provide credit toward a master’s degree in earthquake engineering that UniQ is developing with MCEER’s support.

The popularity of this first seminar prompted sponsors to divide participants into two groups, with Filiatrault teaching one and Pierre Fouché, a Haitian native and UB doctoral candidate in earthquake engineering, teaching the other. Sofia Tangalos, MCEER education and outreach officer and information service director who lived in Haiti as a child, provided on-site organizational support.

The seminar was conducted completely in French. “This is the best thing that we can do for Haiti: to start educating the architects and engineers about the fundamental notions of earthquake engineering so that they can avoid past mistakes,” Filiatrault says.

After an introduction by Fouché about the seismology and seismicity of Haiti, the seminar focused on an introduction to the principles of earthquake-resistant design and on the ATC-20 (Applied Technical Council) Rapid Building Assessment Methodology.

“A key advantage of the seminar was its emphasis on field studies, as well as classroom-type instruction,” Filiatrault says. All attendees were able to participate in field assessments of earthquake-damaged buildings in Port-au-Prince to see firsthand the impact of earthquakes on structures lacking the necessary earthquake-engineering detailing, and to learn how to conduct damage assessments on structures throughout Port-au-Prince that have yet to be inspected.

“We gave attendees a firm grounding in the concepts of earthquake engineering and some really practical information on how to build better buildings even without continued on page 6
and Bone discussed immediate recovery efforts in the aftermath of the magnitude 7.0 quake. Their talks were filled with poignant moments.

As Renschler and his team of students joined with a global community of scientists to identify collapsed buildings and assess damage using satellite imagery and aerial photographs, “We could see what was going on right now there, and some of the scenes were really heartbreaking,” Renschler, director of UB’s Landscape-based Environmental System Analysis and Modeling Laboratory, told the audience.

Filiatrault, who led a mission of 10 engineers and architects to Haiti to assess the safety of buildings that remained standing, recounted how he and fellow team members spent the night inside a school that they had cleared for use.

“There was a major difference, psychologically, for those kids, seeing structural engineers sleeping inside the buildings, and immediately, everything calmed down,” Filiatrault said.

Bone, chair of UB’s Department of Orthopaedics and an orthopaedic trauma surgeon at Erie County Medical Center, recalled treating earthquake victims aboard the USNS Comfort, saying that many may have been disabled for the rest of their lives without the care he and fellow physicians provided.

“Multiple fractures in one limb, and this was patient after patient,” Bone said. “So, I was very fortunate to be in a situation where we had modern equipment and a full staff to support us, to be able to manage what was, for me, after 30 years of dealing with trauma, the most overwhelming experience I’ve ever had.”

Dunnett closed the presentation portion of the event with a discussion of how UB can help rebuild Haiti’s education infrastructure, including through programs to provide financial support to current and future Haitian students.

While disaster and tragedy were at the center of Dunnett’s and other panelists’ talks, their message was ultimately one of hope: As Fouché, the day’s first speaker said, “At the end of the day, one thing that I know is that...the Haitian people is a very hardworking and courageous people in the face of adversity, and I hope that things will get better.”

Charlotte Hsu is community relations associate for University Communications.

Ellen Goldbaum is a senior editor for University Communications.

A MAJOR STEP
continued from page 5

making detailed calculations,” he says. “We showed them the differences between what makes a building safe or unsafe. When they begin to apply even just those principles to their engineering and architectural practices, it will make a tremendous difference.” In his presentation, Filiatrault cited Chile’s 1960 earthquake as a parallel example.

“I wanted to highlight the fact that Haitian engineers are not alone and that what they are going through has been experienced by other countries,” he says. “That 1960 earthquake in Chile caused tremendous suffering and loss of life, and it served as a turning point where things started to change. In the same way, I told them January 12, 2010, can also represent a change in paradigm for Haiti.”

Subsequent seminars will focus on the specific calculations that are required to construct safe buildings, a segment that is largely missing from current engineering curricula in Haiti. The next seminar, which will last for five days, will take place in early September. Additional faculty from other U.S. engineering schools will be involved.

“The goal is to develop with UniQ an earthquake-engineering curriculum—the first in Haiti and in the francophone region of the West Indies,” notes Tangalos. “There is much that needs to be learned—not just in the lack of building codes, but also in the understanding of the proper building materials and construction methods.”

The MCEER-UniQ partnership also will develop longer-term educational programs on seismic design of buildings with a focus on adapted techniques for reconstruction, as well as promote academic exchange and cooperation over the next three years.®
Gene D. Morse visited the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) to lead a three-day series of meetings with university leaders, faculty, students and community leaders to introduce the newly funded AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP).

This innovative program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health’s Fogarty International Center, is a collaboration between the UB and UZ that supports the development of future researchers to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Zimbabwe and surrounding regions.

This five-year 1.5 million dollar program was awarded an administrative supplement last September as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to support the development of electronic health information technology.

The visit included a series of meetings to discuss the collaborative plans for the new UB-UZ AITRP program, as well as a seminar for the UZ College of Health Sciences students focused on building the collaboration and stimulating interest in future trainees.

The collaboration was established by Dr. Charles Chiedza Maponga of the Department of Pharmacy at UZ and a visiting faculty member in the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, where he earned his doctorate in pharmacology.

During his visit to the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences, Morse met with UB-UZ AITRP mentors at the University of Zimbabwe to discuss mentor requirements and how training will be coordinated between mentors at the University at Buffalo and the University of Zimbabwe.

UB-UZ AITRP Co-Director Maponga, who hosted Morse’s visit, led presentations and meetings with faculty and students to describe the unique program which provides a mentored research training environment to establish independent clinical and translational pharmacology investigators and enhance the research capacity of Zimbabwe and surrounding region.

During an opening ceremony and conference led by Professor L. Nyagura, Vice Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe, and Dr. Ranga Masanganise, Acting Dean of the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences, Dr. Morse spoke to members of the UB-UZ AITRP Executive Steering Committee and Training Advisory Group, Officials from the Zimbabwe Ministry of Health, Zimbabwe-based research organizations, aid agencies, community leaders and regional collaborators.

Morse discussed the collaborative nature of the UB-UZ AITRP in the development of academic research and educational programs, and the importance of each agency’s interactive role with the program. The official Zimbabwe Welcome was presented by Professor Levi Nyagura, Vice Chancellor, University of Zimbabwe. Nyagura provided a heartening message on behalf of UZ and he expressed the desire for UZ to grow additional research collaborations similar to the AITRP initiative.

Dr. Robert Schooley, Head Infectious Diseases, University of California, San Diego provided the NIH AIDS Clinical Trials Group International Perspective and the role that the UB-UZ AITRP will play in the overall efforts to conduct research in Zimbabwe and surrounding countries in southern Africa.

Morse’s comments during the opening conference were aired on Zimbabwe National Television. “This is a major advance which will increase the number of clinical researchers who can contribute to the country efforts to conduct implementation research in conjunction with antiretroviral access rollout programs” said Morse, associate director, translational pharmacology core, in UB’s New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences and professor in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Morse, who believes an international orientation with a focus on the development of sustainable resources is essential to the future success of all aspects of HIV pharmacology research, went on to say that, “We are trying to do two things: to help provide better access to medications to the country in the short-term; and in the long term, to help Zimbabwe develop a comprehensive re-
search plan that addresses the multiple issues complicating treatment and research there, including the large numbers of patients on these medications, maternal-fetal transmission, resistance, dietary factors, use of traditional and herbal medicines and co-infection with hepatitis B, tuberculosis and malaria.”

The UB HIV Clinical Pharmacology Laboratory is an ideal model for developing a research facility in Zimbabwe because it is one of the few places in the U.S. that combines research, education, clinical practice, training in medication adherence, applied clinical pharmacology and state-of-the-art laboratory analysis.

Following the UZ presentations and meetings, a reception and information session was held for university leaders and community researchers to review the program goals and discuss country perspectives on how the increased research capacity will assist the broader health care needs to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

“UB’s Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences and the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are well positioned to take a leadership role in shaping that international perspective — through this collaboration with the University of Zimbabwe and other resource-limited countries — in HIV clinical pharmacology, applied pharmaco therapeutics and translational research.”

These start-up meetings in Zimbabwe established a strong working relationship with key leaders of the university, government and community partners and set the groundwork upon which the program will accomplish its goals. These meetings have resulted in immediate, tangible outcomes including data analysis, abstract submissions, manuscript preparation and an RO1 submission. To date, three abstracts have been accepted at international scientific conferences.

Since 2002, the UB program has trained four postgraduate clinical pharmacology scientists at the University of Zimbabwe through an initial pilot program run by the two institutions and funded through NIH grants from the National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases’ AIDS Clinical Trials Group, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the University of California, Berkeley.

Brock University, UB’s institutional partner in St. Catharines, Ontario, has the unique advantage of being within convenient driving distance to make visits between the two universities relatively quick and easy. Like UB, the Canadian university is close to the international border, and by car is less than 30 miles from the Buffalo campus.

This prompted reciprocal visits by delegations of faculty from each campus to the other during the 2009-2010 academic year. In November 2009, ten faculty and administrators from Brock visited UB to learn about UB’s research agenda and explore areas of mutual interest. In April 2010 a dozen UB faculty and administrators visited the Brock campus to address a similar agenda. Faculty from a variety of disciplines including classics, education, history, linguistics, public health and social work participated. Additional faculty visits back and forth, representing other disciplines, are being planned for the future.

The institutions’ proximity has encouraged other cooperative activities under the auspices of the exchange agreement between Brock and UB signed in 2007. That agreement calls for the campuses to take turns hosting the annual Crossing Borders Student Conference, at which undergraduate and graduate students from institutions neighboring the U.S.-Canada border present papers on topics in Canadian-American studies and related fields.

In addition, the Canadian Studies Program at UB has partnered with Brock to offer joint courses on Canadian Studies. These joint courses, which are partially taught at UB, Brock and the Peace Bridge Customs Plaza, are a stepping stone to a proposed Joint Brock-UB M.A. degree in Canadian-American Studies.
FACULTY STUDY TOUR TO INDIA GENERATES NEW CONNECTIONS AND COURSES AT UB

By Bruce Acker

A number of UB faculty members will significantly expand the treatment of India in their undergraduate courses and research, thanks to a faculty study tour over the most recent winter intersession organized by the Asian Studies Program.

The Indian study tour was made possible by a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance UB’s undergraduate education in South Asian languages, literatures, and cultures.

The goals of the study tour were four-fold: (1) to facilitate the creation of new undergraduate courses on South Asia; (2) to allow faculty to revise existing courses to include more South Asia content; (3) to encourage research projects that involve South Asia; and (4) to strengthen ties with UB’s partner schools in South Asia, particularly Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

The UB delegation, led by History professor Ramya Sreenivasan, set out for India on December 27, 2009 and followed a 10-day itinerary that included the cities of Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi, and Sarnath. In addition to visiting many historical sites, participants had several chances to meet with colleagues from Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi and Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi.

The group experienced an India of striking juxtapositions: signs for a Pizza Hut near the holiest of temples; cows vying with tour busses and auto-rickshaws for right-of-way on congested city roads; and ramshackle roadside snack bars and humble hovels situated next to a Hyundai dealership. They also encountered vivid examples of the historic and contemporary interconnectivity of societies and religions in India, with a visit to Sarnath, the site of the Buddha’s first public teaching, just a few miles from the Hindu holy city of Varanasi; and the adjacent holy sites in Varanasi of the Kashi Vishwanath Hindu Temple and the Gyanvapi Mosque, both of which are patrolled by armed guards.

An unexpected highlight of the trip was a near day-long backroad car trip through small villages and towns of rural Rajasthan, occasioned by a protest that blocked the superhighway from Jaipur to Agra. As a result, the group saw rural India at work, from the small “sheds” for housing patties of cooking dung to camels pulling every kind of load to open markets lining the streets.

A valuable component of the trip was the visit to Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, with which UB is developing a robust partnership. The UB delegation was graciously welcomed and engaged in fruitful discussions with members of BHU’s administration and faculty. The delegation came away from these meetings optimistic that its visit will lay the groundwork for further exchange of students, instructors, methods, and research between the two institutions.

In addition to Professor Sreenivasan, members of the delegation consisted of professors Kristin Stapleton (Asian Studies and History), Thomas Burkman (Asian Studies), Junhao Hong (Communication), Jeannette Ludwig (Romance Languages and Literatures), Patrick McDevitt (History), Claire Schen (History), and Hershini Bhana-Young (English). The group also included Mark Lempke, a graduate student in the Department of History, and Tae-Hyung Kim, professor of History and Government at Daemen College.

Funding for the study tour was provided by the U.S. Department of Education South Asia grant to the Asian Studies Program, the UB Provost’s Faculty Internationalization Fund, and the UB Department of History.

The U.S. Department of Education grant is also helping to fund a new tenure-track professor position in South Asian Languages and Literatures beginning in 2010-2011, the addition of Urdu language classes in 2011, visiting scholars from India, study abroad opportunities in South Asia for students, and visiting artists and musicians at UB.

Along with the Department of Education grant, the Asian Studies Program is planning the development of a South Asia Institute to help fund and oversee teaching and research on the region.

Bruce Acker is assistant director of Asian Studies.
PROVOST TRIPATHI RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD FROM BHU

Satish K. Tripathi, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) during a ceremony at BHU on December 25, 2009.

The award was presented by Dr. Karan Singh, BHU Chancellor and former Ambassador of India to the United States; Justice G. Malaviya, grandson of the founder of BHU; and Professor D. P. Singh, Vice-Chancellor of BHU.

The ceremony was part of the university’s annual International Alumni Meet. Tripathi was honored for his extensive contributions to his field, to BHU, and to society generally.

Vice-Chancellor Singh, who was invited to UB by President Simpson and Provost Tripathi during their visit to BHU in February 2009, visited UB for the first time April 24-26, 2010 to tour the university campuses and to meet with senior faculty and administrators to discuss collaborative activities under the auspices of the exchange program between BHU and UB established in 2008. Accompanying Vice-Chancellor Singh on the visit to UB were his wife, Kalpana Singh, and Professor Alok Jha.

PROJECT STRENGTHENS ENGINEERING CURRICULUM OF VIETNAMESE UNIVERSITY

By Robert Wetherhold

Pursuant to a decision of the Minister of the Vietnamese Ministry of Training and Education, Thai Nguyen University of Technology (TNUT) was chosen to pioneer a project to create an International Standard Training Program in English for training undergraduates studying Mechanical Engineering.

This involves both the change to English, as well as major curriculum revisions to match European and U.S. models. In implementing this program, referred to as the “Advanced Program” (AP), professors and administrators from Vietnam visited the US and reviewed a number of Mechanical Engineering programs to see which one would be suitable for the AP.

TNUT and the Ministry of Education have decided that the best way to advance their agenda is to follow the criteria of the ME program at the University at Buffalo.

This decision was reached in 2008 after contacts and site visits between TNUT personnel and UB personnel including Prof. D. Joseph Mook, former Assistant Dean for International Education for SEAS; Chairs of MAE Professors Andres Soom and Gary Dargush; and Robert Wetherhold, Director of Undergraduate Studies for ME at UB.

In 2009 four professors from TNUT were resident at UB for two months and worked with Professors Wetherhold and Dargush to audit courses and to get experience in how students, faculty, and Teaching Assistants can work together to accomplish the goals of the AP program.

The Mechanical Engineering Undergraduate Program continued on page 14
THREE UB FACULTY RECEIVE FULBRIGHT AWARDS

By Patricia Donovan

UB faculty members Sampson Lee Blair, Robert Granfield and Daniel Hess have received Fulbright awards for the 2010-11 academic year.

Blair, associate professor in the Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research at Xavier University (Ateneo de Cagayan) on the island of Mindanao, the Philippines.

Blair is a sociologist who specializes in family and child development and during his fellowship year will conduct research on the relationship between Filipino parental involvement and children’s educational performance.

A popular professor at UB, Blair is the former director of undergraduate studies in the UB Sociology Department, and currently chairs the American Sociological Association’s Section on Children and Youth.

His research on family issues (most recently, risky adolescent behavior) is widely published and he has served as associate editor of several major sociological journals, among them Social Justice Research, Sociological Inquiry, the Journal of Family Issues, and Marriage and Family Review.

Granfield, professor and chair of the Department of Sociology, has been named the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in International Humanitarian Law at the Human Rights Research and Education Center (HRREC), University of Ottawa, Ontario. HRREC is a premier center of intellectual activity in the area of human rights and is the oldest national university-based human rights institute in Canada.

Granfield’s $25,000 Fulbright grant will fund his research during the fall 2010 semester into the evolving role of pro bono legal services by private attorneys. Granfield will study the impact this development has had on the Canadian legal profession and on access to justice for its citizens. In addition, he will explore the international implications of the emerging global pro bono movement.

This research represents a continuation of his previous scholarly work and publications.

In 2009, Granfield and co-editor Lynn Mather, UB political scientist and law professor, published Private Lawyers and the Public Interest: The Evolving Role of Pro Bono in the Legal Profession (Oxford University Press). The book examines the history, conditions, organization and strategies of pro bono lawyering, interrogates the public interest ideals of the legal profession and places these ideals in a broader social, economic and ideological context.

Central to Hess’ research, writing and teaching agenda are the questions of how urban policies affect travel choices and how urban spatial dynamics can best be analyzed methodologically. His work also focuses on access to employment for welfare recipients and low-income persons, and he has conducted evaluations of transportation policy and practice in California and New York.

Hess also is interested in transit system performance and alternative transit funding arrangements, and has conducted evaluations of transit-pass programs. He serves as a consultant to federal, state and local agencies, and recently was part of a team that explored design concepts and programs for adding transit-oriented development along Buffalo’s Metro Rail corridor.

A grant from the Mineta Transportation Institute funded his investigation of barriers to older adults riding traditional fixed-route transit systems.

Another grant, from the Federal Transit Administration, funded his investigation of how public involvement can be used to expand alternative transportation financing schemes.

Patricia Donovan is a senior editor for University Communications.
FROM THE VICE PROVOST

By Stephen C. Dunnett

Despite confronting one of the most difficult budget situations in our history, UB is expanding efforts to reach others around the world in important and impactful ways.

This issue of UB International highlights a number of these initiatives, including major endeavors in Haiti and Zimbabwe, which leverage UB’s research and educational prowess to effect positive and sustainable change and the betterment of peoples’ lives.

I applaud the efforts of Professor Andre Filiatrault, Pierre Fouché and their colleagues in MCEER, formerly the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research, in cooperation with Quisqueya University in Port-au-Prince to share their expertise with counterparts in Haiti through on-site collaborative training programs in earthquake engineering.

I likewise congratulate Professor Eugene Morse, director of the new NIH-funded Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Program, which builds on earlier efforts by the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, in partnership with the University of Zimbabwe, to facilitate and support the delivery of anti-retroviral medications to people living with HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe, a country devastated by the disease.

To increase awareness of international student challenges regarding mental health issues and decrease the stigma, Qin coordinated an International Student Wellness Day at the end of March in the Student Union. The event included a photo contest for international students to express themselves, a panel discussion and information tables.

Qin is determined to continue breaking down the barriers of mental health for international students. She really likes the campus environment and surrounding community.

“People are talking about diversity and respect it. That really makes me feel welcome,” she says Qin has a 14-month-old son, Jaden, born shortly after her arrival here. Her husband, also a native of Beijing, is in Boston and trying to find an engineering job in this area so the family can be together.

Qin was warmed by the reception she received at UB as a new employee—pregnant and alone. “There were a lot of challenges for me, settling down and adjusting to the new environment,” she says. “My colleagues gave me a lot of support and the university as well. I’m very grateful for that.”

Stephen C. Dunnett is a professor of foreign language education and vice provost for international education.
ANNETTE CRAVEN'S world travels and her unique way of viewing objects and of seamlessly moving from culture to culture without borders or bias,” says Peter Biehl, associate professor of anthropology and director of the project. Wall cabinets and drawers house another 451 objects organized by geographic location. These objects will serve as teaching tools for students to learn about other cultures.

“Outreach to school children from kindergarten to high school will be an integral part of the project, and is a piece of which we are proud,” Biehl adds. “Not only does this further the mission of UB in educating and reaching out to the Buffalo community, it speaks to Annette’s tireless work to support Buffalo’s intellectual life via arts, theater and the university.”

An interactive touch screen will allow visitors to access details about the objects, and gain information about the cultures, countries, people and artists who created them. Having a collection of this stature “makes UB a center of excellence in regards to material culture studies and research,” Biehl says. “Students have the benefit of access to a collection that can be used to teach them to study, draw, research and curate objects. The experience they will have in regards to the Cravens’ collection is invaluable.”

The oldest objects in the exhibit are from Asia, Mesopotamia, South America and Europe. Cravens donated her collection so that students, residents and visitors will have a chance to experience diverse cultural traditions. She believes that firsthand contact with these artifacts provides a tangible connection to the aesthetic sensibilities of other people and creates a critical dynamic that can teach others to see, spark appreciation, inspiration and understanding.

“The collection complements and reinforces the mission of UB Anderson Gallery to serve as a unique academic center for interdisciplinary research focusing on learning from objects,” says Sandra H. Olsen, director of the UB Art Galleries.

“It has also positively and dramatically altered the character of the university’s collection. Formerly focused on European and American modern and contemporary art, the Cravens collection extends the reach of the visual arts at UB Anderson Gallery from modern to ancient times,” Olsen says. “The collection affects a significant expansion of the university’s collection, nearly doubling its size and exponentially broadening its contents. The unique installation of the objects in the collection advances immeasurably the UB Anderson Gallery’s mission of accessing its unique academic resources as broadly as possible.”

In addition to the Cravens World open installation, modern works of art from the Cravens collection have been installed in the Anderson Gallery. Prints, paintings continued on page 14
and sculptures invite guests to consider aesthetics shared by modern works and cultural objects in the Cravens World.

In fall 2010, phase two of the Cravens’ collection project will begin, with construction of a seminar room, research laboratory and a repository and study room for the collection’s archives. Biehl will teach a seminar in which UB students will focus on objects from Europe and the Near East. Similar courses using objects from other continents will follow over the next three years. At the end of the fall 2010 semester, students will collectively curate a public exhibition of Cravens collection objects. The collection will also open opportunities for internships in museum studies, anthropology, classics, art history, oral history, education and library science.

The Cravens Collection Project is funded by the College of Arts and Sciences with generous support from Cravens. It includes the assessment, research and management of the donated collection of archaeological and ethnographic objects; archives of written documents, oral histories, photos and artwork from around the world; reconstruction of two rooms in the UB Anderson Gallery and outreach activities. The project also includes the creation of a virtual museum interfaced with an online multimedia database, as well as the production of an educational video game.

As well as Biehl and Olsen, other UB faculty who collaborated on this project include Mehrdad Hadighi, professor and chair, Department of Architecture, School of Architecture and Planning, responsible for the Cravens World design; Stephen Dyson, Park Professor of Classics; Samuel Paley, professor of classics; Douglass Perrelli, adjunct professor and director, Archaeological Survey, Department of Anthropology; Phillip Stevens Jr., associate professor of anthropology; Roy Roussel, professor and acting chair, Department of Media Study; Alexander Reid, associate professor of English; Michael Frisch, professor of American studies; Sarah Robert, assistant professor of education; and R. Nils Olsen, professor of law.

Robert, Frisch and Sandra Olsen are contributing to the project “Open Knowledge and Digital Archives: Digitization, Curation and Dissemination of the Cravens Collection.” Reid, Roussel, Robert and Martin Danahay and Kevin Kee from Brock University have contributed to the project “Serious Play and the Cravens Collection: Designing an Educational Video Game for the Outreach Program of the Cravens Collection.” Both projects have received funding from the Digital Humanities Initiative at Buffalo.

Annette Cravens continues a family philanthropic tradition at UB that began more than 75 years ago. Her father, Dr. Edgar McGuire, succeeded Roswell Park as professor of surgery and medicine at UB until his death in 1931. A few years later, Annette’s mother, Mildred, married Thomas B. Lockwood, who built the original Lockwood Library on the South Campus and later gave his collection of rare books to the university.

In 1984 she contributed the original renderings of Lockwood Library to the university. She and her children worked with university administrators to establish a lecture series in the poetry collection in memory of her mother. She also donated a medical instruments collection to UB —dating from the early Roman period to the late 19th century—in memory of her father. In 2007, the UB Alumni Association gave Cravens its highest award, the Samuel P. Capen Award, for her contributions to the university.

Cynthia Leavell is associate director of development communications.

ANNETTE CAVRNS CONTINUEs FROM PAGe 13

at TNUT will be taught completely in English by professors from UB and other universities in the US, England, Australia, as well as by experienced and highly qualified lecturers of TNUT.

In the first year of the course, AP students will study English. At the end of that year, they have to take a TOEFL exam and they have to get at least 500 scores in order to continue their study.

This program is intended to be advanced in many ways, including in: training goals, curricula, training manuals, reference books, experimental laboratories, teaching and learning methods, ways of student evaluation and measurement, and education management.

The AP program at TNUT will be open to both Vietnamese and international students. Students in the AP program will have opportunities to take part in cultural exchanges and an interactive study environment with foreign students. September 2009 marked the second year of the AP program in Mechanical Engineering, and about 40 students have enrolled each year.

An application has been submitted to MOET to form a similar Advanced Program in Electrical Engineering, also based on the UB curriculum.

Robert Wetherhold is a professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.
AN AMERICAN IN VAGNEY

By Danny Stone

I finished the last page of *Le Petit Prince* as the plane began descending through the clouds toward the land of snails, strikes and social security. Just before touching down at Charles de Gaulle Airport, my ears popped to adjust to the new altitude and suddenly all my nebulous thoughts clarified into a very frank and simple truth: I was moving to France for nine months.

I had secured a job as an English teaching assistant for nine months and so, after a three-hour train ride east, I stumbled, jetlagged into my new studio apartment and set up camp in the tiny town of Vagney. The first few days were very difficult. I had underestimated the power of real language immersion. For some reason, I was still shocked to hear everyone speaking French, as if it was their first language. I quickly accepted and embraced the fact that I was living in a Vosges Mountain valley town, a remote village de province on the border of Alsace and Lorraine. For the first time ever, having a functional knowledge of the French language had become essential in my day-to-day life.

For some reason, I was still shocked to hear everyone speaking French, as if it was their first language. I quickly accepted and embraced the fact that I was living in a Vosges Mountain valley town, a remote village de province on the border of Alsace and Lorraine. For the first time ever, having a functional knowledge of the French language had become essential in my day-to-day life.

Keeping in mind the town’s size, one might not be surprised that I quickly began seeing the same people, who seemed to take interest in introducing me to their way of life. By the end of the first week, I had already received a dinner invitation from a colleague at school, who wanted to cook something regional (which ended up being a lard-filled quiche with potatoes followed by a delicious pie topped with Mirabelle plums, which I was told is a signature regional dessert).

People were quick to point out to me that there was much more to France than Paris, despite what tourists might think. I assured them that as a 22-year resident of Upstate New York, I, too, had been faced with having to explain that my state consisted of more than the Big Apple. And so it started. How, I’m not exactly sure, given the fact that I was churning the gears of my brain to eek out noises and grammar with a frustratingly low level of accuracy, but I left that night feeling for the first time that I was welcomed in my new place of residence.

This feeling was confirmed a week later when I received an e-mail from the mayor, telling me that she would be honored if I would speak at the 65th anniversary ceremony of the town’s liberation from the Nazis, to take place in three days at the town center.

She continued, asking if I would read a few paragraphs (in French) about the D-Day invasion and subsequent liberation of France by Allied Forces. She stated that it would be great for the townspeople to hear my “pleasant” American accent on this day in order to remember and pay tribute to the soldiers responsible for Vagney’s liberation.

Three days later, I was standing in the town center listening to the municipal band perform an out-of-tune version of the Star-Spangled Banner, followed by the Marseillaise. The mayor introduced me, emphasizing how grateful she and the townspeople were that I had traveled to Vagney in order to impart the English language and American culture to their children.

After the ceremony, an elderly man approached and told me that he had been raised in Vagney, but fled just before the Nazis arrived. He noted that he had made his way south to Spain and then to Morocco, where he then hopped a boat to England to join the Free French.

He added that while training in London, he had fallen in love with a British nurse whom he then took with him back to Vagney, where they got married, built a house and raised a family. He told me he was elated to make my acquaintance and handed me a stained RAF/Free French pamphlet with his signature on it as a souvenir of the encounter.

The last people to leave were members of the municipal band so I decided to walk over to the group and introduce myself, telling them that I used to play trombone. The conductor proceeded to tell me that he had an extra trombone and before I knew it, I was practicing with the Vagney Municipal Band every Wednesday night at seven thirty.

A couple weeks later, I found myself standing once more in the town center for the commemoration ceremony of Armistice Day, but this time wearing a goofy green cap, gold-buttoned jacket and striped slacks with a trombone in hand. Now I was playing the Marseillaise out of tune.

The people in the band became my family and friends and I was happy to have reclaimed some sense of routine and familiarity in my life. Instead of eating turkey and pumpkin pie at the end of November, I was with the band,
devouring frog’s legs and washing them down with white wine at eight o’clock in the morning, a longstanding tradition the musical group has adhered to in honor of St. Cecile, the patron saint of musicians.

After I joined the band, a local journalist from the Vagney newspaper called me and asked if she could write an article about my arrival. My photo was published with the article the next day and for the rest of the week I couldn’t buy a baguette without someone telling me that he had seen me in the paper.

This gained me small celebrity status in the town and it was only a couple weeks later that I got a call from the host of our region’s radio show asking me if I would come into the studio for a live interview.

During the interview the host bombarded me with questions about French versus American lifestyle, my political opinions and professional and personal hopes for the future. Needless to say, it was a very good workout for my struggling French, although the star treatment may not have been good for my ego.

All the while, I was trying to adjust to life as a public elementary school teacher and loving each day on the job. During the school’s winter break, my family traveled to Paris. For my mother and sister, this trip was a lifelong dream realized, and I was thrilled to see their faces as we stood beneath the Eiffel Tower and toured the City of Lights.

Before I could do that, however, I had agreed to help my colleagues sell some calendars and homemade chocolates to raise money for the kids’ ski club. There were also two band rehearsals that week because the group had its Christmas concert coming up, and that was on top of the fact that I was headed to Strasbourg on Thursday for some mulled wine and outdoor market shopping.

I would recommend an experience like this to anyone, not because it will be exactly like mine, but because it will be entirely different, and absolutely unique.

Danny Stone, who recently graduated from UB, spent the academic year 2009-2010 as a teaching assistant in Vagney, France.
Twelve students traveled to the foothills of the Himalayas in Thailand from January 7 to 24, 2010. They were accompanied by Distinguished Service Professor of Law David Engel, a specialist in interdisciplinary studies of “law and society” in Asia and the United States, and his spouse, Jaruwan Engel, a professional translator, author, and Thai language instructor.

The Engels, who have studied Thai law for thirty-five years, are the co-authors of a new book about Thai legal culture, *Tort, Custom, and Karma: Globalization and Legal Consciousness in Thailand*, published by Stanford University Press.

“It helps students to understand the unique features of the American common law system if they can get exposure to a civil law system, which is what most of the world has,” Professor Engel said.

“When they see how Thai law works in its cultural and social context and see other possibilities, other ways of doing things, it may inspire creativity when they’re working in our legal system.”

“No matter what career people pursue, we live in a globalized world and a globalized economy, and we’re going to come into contact with people and organizations that are not U.S.-based. It behooves us to understand how they work and how people from other countries and cultures think. A trip like this changes people’s understanding of themselves. It makes them more confident and more mature.”

The learning experience takes place during the Law School’s January “Bridge Period.” Engel first offered the course in January 2008. In addition to extensive pre-travel reading and study, and a post-trip writing requirement, a key component of the course is a two-and-a-half week residence in Chiangmai, Thailand, where students engage in structured “conversations” with village chiefs, Buddhist monks, court officials, Thai professors, students, attorneys and representatives of nongovernmental organizations. Students visited important historical and legal sites in northern Thailand. The in-country experience was arranged in cooperation with the Chiangmai University Law School, which is a longtime UB exchange partner.

“We try to tailor the course to the interests of the students,” Engel said, “and this year we included some things we did not do last time, such as a visit to a hill tribe village; a meeting with Burmese refugees to highlight issues concerning refugees and migrant workers; and discussions with the director of an agency that works on human trafficking issues.” In addition, because some students brought an interest in international business, the course included a session on foreign direct investment taught by the representative of a multinational corporation who established a factory in Thailand.

Participants in the bridge course were required to keep a journal of their experiences and observations. The following are highlights from the journal of Amanda Carden, a second-year law student.

**January 10:** “Today we visited with the abbot [in a small village temple]—a generous man who kept reiterating the importance of ‘mindfulness.’ He said that you will go crazy if you don’t keep your heart and mind still, and I suppose he’s right—if you lose your mind, then you’re crazy. I also liked how he used mind and heart interchangeably. . . . Americans separate the two—‘use your head’ and ‘follow your heart’ are usually two distinct pieces of advice.”

**January 12:** “A lot of big ideas surfaced in today’s lectures and discussions. Does law create social change, or does social change create law? . . . Dr. Anan Ganjanapan talked about lawyers’ duty to ‘ring the bell’ about social issues and fight against ignorance. He said that he was an optimist, thinking that public pressure could change the law, and to get this public pressure, people need to raise awareness and change myopic perceptions. Whether law changes culture or culture changes law, the change itself is often a slow process.”

**January 13:** “Meeting with the paralegals in Lamphun and Lampang was very interesting. I was surprised to learn that the women have the authority to decide how much compensation an injured party should receive. . . . The cases the women handled were also interesting—a failed vasectomy, a kidney infection resulting in death, and a family raising a disabled baby. The women were

*continued on page 18*
UB STUDENTS EXCAVATE MINOAN TOWN

By L. Vance Watrous

In summer 2009 nine UB undergraduate and graduate students uncovered the harbor of a Minoan town in Crete dated to 1700 – 1400 B.C.

The director, Art History Professor L. Vance Watrous, took students from his classes – Matthew Buell, Kapua Iao, Laura Harrison, Veronica Ikesboji-Orlati, Matthew Lee, Brian Hammer, Brian Devine, Janet Spiller and Maria Pibboubny, to the archaeological site of Gournia on the north coast of Crete.

One of the most visited archaeological sites on Crete, the Bronze Age town of Gournia possesses a Minoan palace, blocks of houses, cobbled streets, a central court, a harbor and a graveyard, all visible today. The town reached its peak as a major emporium on the Aegean coast in the middle second millennium B.C. at time when Knossos was ruled by the legendary King Minos.

Students excavated 7:00am – 1:00pm six days a week, studied ancient Minoan pottery and other finds, and went on field trips to museums and ancient sites. The project was supported by a generous grant from the Institute for Aegean Prehistory and by the Department of Classics.

At the end of four weeks’ work, the students had revealed the harbor complex of the Minoan town. First we cleared the brush and earth away from a monumental structure on a promontory at the sea’s edge.

Built of gigantic “cyclopean” blocks, two galleries were meant to house Minoan ships. Behind it a two-storied house (with a staircase) may have been the resident of the harbor official. Next, tracing and cleaning the tops of four, long, barely visible walls revealed a system of fortifications that ran across the entire coast.

One wall was buttressed by a large semi-circular tower (approximately eight meters in diameter) on its seaward face. A second thick wall had a rectangular tower constructed of heavy boulders that overlooked the entire coast. In an opening between these walls we cleared a double row of standing stones that marked a 4000-year-old cobbled street running from the harbor up to the Minoan town.

Further inland, we encountered parallel rows of field walls that formed an extensive system of agricultural terraces. These terraces were planted in crops, probably grapes for making wine that Gournia would have exported to other parts of the Aegean world.

At the end of our season we had uncovered and recorded the first complete Late Bronze Age coastal fortification system known in the Aegean. In summer 2010 we plan to begin excavations within the town of Gournia.

L. Vance Watrous is a professor of art history and director of the summer excavation program at Gournia.

A view of the excavated site at Gournia, Crete

Brian Hammer, Brian Devine, Janet Spiller and Maria Pibboubny, to the archaeological site of Gournia on the north coast of Crete.

One of the most visited archaeological sites on Crete, the Bronze Age town of Gournia possesses a Minoan palace, blocks of houses, cobbled streets, a central court, a harbor and a graveyard, all visible today. The town reached its peak as a major emporium on the Aegean coast in the middle second millennium B.C. at time when Knossos was ruled by the legendary King Minos.

THAI BRIDGE COURSE

continued from page 17

pretty remarkable—they’re more than paralegals—they’re counselors for the community at large.”

January 17: “During the question and answer session [of their interviews with Burmese refugee families], it was tough to interview the children and their parents without receiving ‘prepared’ answers. . . . It reminds me of what I learned in Trial Technique class—the best direct examinations are conducted with non-leading questions, so that the witness tells the story, not the lawyer. A jury more readily believes a witness who sounds natural and experienced, not a witness who sounds too rehearsed.”

January 18: “Today we discussed the culture of business transactions with Khun Prasert. I was most interested in the notion of trust and respect as the foundation of good business. As Khun Prasert said, ‘Relationships drive business.’ I was intrigued by the Thais’ reluctance toward written contracts, due to the sentiment that putting something in writing signals distrust. . . .”

January 22: “We’ve had the privilege to meet a lot of astute and prestigious scholars during this trip. But we’ve also had the honor to meet a lot of people without a formal education, who have so generously shared their knowledge and taught me things I’d never know otherwise. Education entails more than a degree, and success means more than a paycheck. I think Thailand has changed the index by which I measure my success.”
CROSS-BORDER EDUCATOR

By Jim Bisco

Ever since her days as a youthful camp counselor and Sunday school teacher, Sue Winton wanted to be in education. Her career path subsequently led to teaching elementary school in three countries and at universities in Canada before becoming an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy in UB’s Graduate School of Education last fall after spending the previous year here in a visiting role.

“People were great to work with and there were lots of opportunities and interest in the kinds of things that I’m interested in. I felt like I fit in,” she says.

Winton has immersed herself in teaching and research in the effects of educational policy on democracy.

“Very early on, I was interested in issues around equity, equality and injustice,” she says. “I had been a teacher so I knew how policies have implications for students, teachers, families and communities.”

Winton studied local, state or provincial, national and international influences on policy and how they affect students in regard to equity and diversity.

“I’ve come to believe that every decision you make is a policy decision. I didn’t think about how policies touched me or how I was involved in the creation, re-creation or interpretation of it when I was a teacher. Now I see everything that way. There are many different things to study at many different levels.”

Winton’s research aims to understand how policy both supports and undermines democracy in education. Her areas of study include character education (attempts to teach character through an emphasis on universal values), safe schools policy, how new media may affect policy engagement and comparative policy analysis.

She is studying school districts in New York and Ontario to understand what influences their policies and how they play out. “What I believe about policy now is that everything is related,” she says. “At the same time, democracy in my mind is who gets to participate in policy decisions and in what way. How does policy change happen and how can citizens become either more engaged or more influential, depending on the situation, in policy decisions on various levels.”

Winton has worked with People for Education, an independent, community-based organization in Ontario, hosting community dialogues around policy issues in education and exploring the impact for participants who become involved in these policy dialogues. She also uses the notion of dialogue in her teaching, now gaining added educational insights from Tanzanian and Korean students.

“Beyond the U.S. and Canada comparison, these students are bringing two more countries into the conversation. It’s absolutely enriching for everybody,” she says.

Winton has found a conducive research environment here, citing a number of people at UB who have done much cross-border work in teaching and research. “I kind of expected it to be more isolated, but I feel connected,” she observes. “Everyone is very supportive about maintaining my research connections in Canada and at the same time introducing me to people and making it possible for me to become involved in American research.”

Born in New York City, Winton moved to Toronto with her family when she was 2. After graduating from Queen’s University in Ontario, she taught fifth grade for three years in Monterrey, Mexico, including English as a second language.

Winton later taught fourth and fifth grades in Cincinnati and in Toronto, subsequently earning master’s and doctoral degrees in education administration from the University of Toronto. Her expertise in policy analysis and evaluation developed from her work at Ontario’s Ministry of Education and with the Canadian Council on Learning. Prior to joining UB, she taught at three universities in Toronto.

She continues to collaborate with colleagues at several universities in Ontario, including Toronto and the University of Western Ontario in London. Winton and her Western colleague, Katina Pollock, team-teach a course on educational policy in which students from both institutions visit the other and cooperate on joint projects.

Winton commutes to UB from her home along Lake Ontario in Toronto, which she shares with her husband, Rob, an executive for the Canadian Football League, and their children: Nicholas, 7, and five-year-old twins Adam and Danny.

Winton juggles her commute well and credits very supportive family and friends on both sides of the border “who enable me to do the things that I hope to do as a professional, as a parent and as a person.”

Jim Bisco is a senior writer for University Communications.
INTRODUCING COUNSELING SERVICES TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

By Jim Bisco

Psychology was still a foreign concept to many in Asia in the early 1990s. Mental health issues were mainly kept within the family or to oneself. So when Beijing native Xuhua Qin wanted to pursue the study of psychology in college, her parents were mystified about what her future would bring.

More than a decade later, Qin is well ensconced in the role to which she aspired. She has been a counselor with UB Counseling Services for the past year and a half, specializing in working with international students. She is familiar with many of their challenges because she was an international student herself not too long ago, having come to the U.S. in 2002 to pursue her doctorate.

“Counseling is a big stigma for international students. Many countries do not have counseling,” she says. “I felt that there wasn’t much focus on the challenges that international students face here. That’s when I decided to do something to help international students.”

While pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, she helped develop a mentoring program to assist international students in adjusting to the new culture and the academic environment.

Shortly after she arrived at UB, Qin introduced her concept to administrators in the Office of International Student and Scholar Services, which led to the International Student Mentoring Program being adapted here last fall. The program has attracted a significant response from student mentees and volunteer mentors. “I definitely see a big future for this,” says Qin.

“I’m hoping that with our success, we can share that experience with other universities and build that into a solid module that others can follow.”

Qin’s work in Counseling Services includes individual and group counseling and crisis services.

The mental health concerns she encounters range from roommate issues to relationship concerns, depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, adjustment, family of origin concerns, multicultural issues, eating disorders, sexual orientation concerns, trauma, grief and psychotic disorders.

Qin sees an average of 18 clients (students) per week in sessions ranging from 30 minutes to one hour. Students can meet with counselors for up to 14 sessions each academic year. She has both short-term and long-term clients.

Of all students who use Counseling Services, about 9 percent are international students. Most of what brings international students into Counseling Services is academic concerns. If they’re failing a class or their grades are suffering, their professors may refer them for counseling.

“After we talk with the students, we notice that behind academic concerns there can be lots of other issues that are going on—isolation, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, cultural adjustment, eating and body image concerns, or even more severe ones,” she explains.

She says students also may be referred for counseling by Health Services after physical examinations. Whenever any difficulties, such as stress, are noticed in an individual, a referral may be made.

In the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, says Qin, more attention is being paid to any warning signs regarding a student’s behavior.

Counseling Services has a variety of psychotherapy counseling groups that are open to all students. The only one specifically targeted to international students is the International Student Discussion Group that Qin now leads. “Most students come from China, Korea, India, Iran, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam. We talk about their experience, adjustment and culture confusion. In talking about those issues, people begin to bond with one another, sharing more about their personal issues. They may talk about their struggles with their parents, advisors and issues like intercultural dating,” she says.

Qin also has developed outreach programs for international students. She started Taste of Asia, celebrations of Asian cultures that were held on successive Fridays last July in Goodyear Hall. The focus was on the top four countries represented at UB—India, Korea, China and Japan. More than 200 international and domestic students attended the weekly exhibition of cooking, crafts and per—
MARGARET ATWOOD AT UB

by Ann Whitcher-Gentzke

Mixing sardonic humor and whimsical optimism, celebrated Canadian author Margaret Atwood regaled her audience with answers to frequently asked questions about her life and art during her Distinguished Speakers Series lecture at UB’s Center for the Arts in March 2010.

Atwood also touched on diverse themes of literary preferences, Arctic travel and e-books during a wide-ranging question-and-answer session that followed her prepared remarks.

Atwood said she was making her first visit to UB since a 1980 Canadian poetry festival organized by the late Robert Creeley that took place “before I was a blond,” she said to audience laughter.

When she was a teenager, Buffalo was dubbed “sin city” because of “girlie shows” and a younger drinking age than the more-staid Toronto society could offer at the time. “It was also a place where you could buy 14 dresses and put them all on—and waddle back across the border. Those were more innocent days. These days you might be patted down.”

Later, on bus trips from Toronto to Boston, Atwood experienced the cloud of White Owl cigar smoke wafting from fellow passengers that gradually increased as she preceded eastward. Passing through Buffalo in the middle of the night, she observed “enormous snow drifts.” Still, it was the only place where she wasn’t yet sick from the smoke.

Atwood poked fun at traditional Canadian reticence, especially in the wake of the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games. The idea promoted among Canadians of “owning the podium” is fundamentally an “un-Canadian” notion, she suggested. In Canadian terms, this newfound braggadocio might be better expressed as, “We kind of like podiums” or “A podium might be nice.”

Turning to her literary achievements, Atwood noted with amusement the queries she gets on why, for example, tins of sardines are frequently referenced in her novels, or why so many glass jars, eggs or bathtubs?

Choosing the detail of sardine cans might have to do with her viewing the tiny fish as a “fallback food,” she said, and one likely associated with her experiences in the Canadian wilderness, “far away from the corner deli.”

Atwood went on to define “speculative fiction” as applied to her 2009 novel “The Year of the Flood.” She said her work differs from science fiction as it’s commonly understood—replete with far-away galaxies, other planets and Vulcan minefields. Because Atwood doesn’t offer such fantastical elements in her books, she doesn’t want to mislead her readers who might be expecting otherwise.

In this respect, her work is more a descendant of Jules Verne than of H. G. Wells and his “The War of the Worlds.” Verne, she said, based his books on actual inventions and things people were really doing at the time.

Moreover, his novels took place mostly on earth and involved human beings “and not people of green or blue hue with very visible ears and very strange tails,” alluding to the blockbuster film “Avatar.”

The author of more than 35 books representing numerous genres remains “a wild optimist.” In fact, optimism is a necessary condition for writers, she said, pointing out that they require a succession of favorable events: to be able to finish the book, find a publisher and get it reviewed. Then the writer must hope that readers will be able to obtain the book, and furthermore, that they will like and understand it.

“Hope is part of the human tool kit that we come with. …If you don’t have hope, there’s automatically a lot less of it in the world because you’re not going to make an effort. And if you do have hope, it’s a multiplier factor because you will make the effort. And by hope, I don’t mean just wishing. I mean acting in a hopeful way. And we need that particularly right now [when we’re in] a crisis moment in our history. The more people who act hopefully, the better chance we will have of coming through [this crisis].”

Asked during the Q&A session about her plans to go on another northern tour this summer as part of Adventure Canada’s Arctic cruises, Atwood gave haunting details of the beauty she has observed in the coastal waters off Greenland and the surrounding region. “You’ll see geography in a way you’ve never seen before,” she remarked. “You get an astonishing view of the bones of the earth.”

As for why she can and does write across so many genres (poetry, short stories, essays, screenplays, libretti and children’s books, in addition to her 15 novels), the much-honored Atwood responded that she’s “naturally ambidextrous.”

Ann Whitcher-Gentzke is editor of UB Today.
INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STAFF

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Department of Architecture

The department hosted a group of thirty-five students and four faculty from the Aarhus School of Architecture for a week in September 2009. The group visited UB to study the City of Buffalo, its significant role in the history of modern architecture, and current urban conditions.

Brian Carter, professor and dean, has been appointed to serve on the Sustainable Development and Design panel for the City of Sheffield in the U.K. He is also an external examiner in architecture at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland.

The year 2009 marked the Centennial of the Boundary Waters Treaty between the U.S. and Canada. Lynda Schneekloth, professor, was on the planning committee that organized the Boundary Waters Treaty Week in June and the Year of our Shared Waters, a program designed to educate the bi-national region on the importance of its water resources. The project was sponsored by the Canadian and American Consulates and the International Joint Commission. Schneekloth served on the Planning Committee for the IJC/UB sponsored conference, Great Lakes Connecting Channels: Governance, Ecosystem Science and Management, held in Niagara Falls, Canada in June 2009. She was a participant in the Workshop on Science and Policy Linkages organized by the International Network on Water, Environment and Health of the United Nations University, part of the Lake Twinning project between the Great Lakes in North American and the Great Lakes in Africa. Schneekloth and Robert Shibley, professor, attended the World Conservation Union Congress in Barcelona, Spain in October 2009.

Mark Shepard, assistant professor, delivered a keynote lecture on the Open City and Connectivity at the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, the Netherlands in November 2009. The Biennale embraced the theme of the Open City that is diverse, lively and socially sustainable, and where people can productively relate to each other culturally, socially and economically. He also conducted a workshop on the design of “sentient” urban infrastructures in conjunction with the opening of an exhibition of his work at the Biennale. Additionally, Shepard gave a lecture at the Design Academy in Eindhoven as part of their Source Lecture series.

Edward Steinfeld, professor, and the IDEA Center hosted visitors from Norway and Sweden in October 2009, including faculty from the Nordic Institute of Public Health, professionals from the Delta Center in Norway, and an urban planner from the City of Bergen, Sweden. The purpose of the visit was to share information and identify potential collaborative opportunities. In December, Steinfeld was in Sydney, Australia at the invitation of the University of New South Wales, where he made presentations on universal design to faculty from the Law School and the School of the Built Environment and representatives of the Housing Ministry and the Human Rights Commission. In January, the IDEA Center hosted a visit by three faculty from the Tsukuba University of Technology in Japan, and Steinfeld made an invited presentation to an international workshop on Innovations in Accessible Transportation for Developing Countries, sponsored by the International Transportation Forum and held at the World Bank in Washington D.C.

Despina Stratigakos, assistant professor, received the 2009 DAAD/GSA Book Prize for her book, A Women’s Berlin: Building the Modern City (2008). Bestowed by the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Agency) and the German Studies Association, the prize recognizes the best book in the last two years in German history, political science, and other social sciences.

Department of Urban Planning

Jordana L. Maisel, Director of Outreach and Policy Studies at the IDEA Center, was the keynote speaker at Blueprint for the Next Housing Boom: The Mayor’s Roundtable for Accessible Housing & Universal Design in Edmonton, Alberta in October 2009. The presentation focused on best practices for accessible/visitabe housing and strategies to help Edmonton’s housing options become more age-friendly by adopting universal design approaches. The feasibility of creating a designation for buildings to be designed, built and renovated to specific lifespan guidelines was also discussed.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of American Studies

José F. Buscaglia, associate professor and director of Caribbean Studies, spent part of the spring 2010 semester in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico with three students from the masters in Caribbean Studies program, teaching a course on Caribbean Geography that includes a study tour of the Coast of Bacalar and Belize. Four advanced students from UB’s partner in Merida, the Autonomous University of Yucatan, are taking the course with the three UB students. On March 11, 2010, Buscaglia delivered a paper, “Is Cuba Facing a Racial War, or Will the Next Republic Be (Finally) A Nation for All?” at the annual conference of the Afro-Caribbean studies journal Negritud in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Department of Chemistry

Melyvn Churchill, professor, and his son, David G. Churchill, associate professor of Chemistry at the Korean Institute for Science and Technology, and two colleagues have authored a textbook in English (along with a Korean translation) entitled How to Prepare for General Chemistry Taught in English by David G. Churchill, Melyrn Y. Churchill, Kwanhee Lee and Kibong Kim published by Darakwon (Korea). The textbook covers all topics that are normally taught at the freshman level at UB (CHEM 101 and 102) and is targeted at high school seniors and university freshmen in Korea.

In November 2008 Philip Coppens, SUNY Distinguished Professor, received the “Pioneer of Science Award” from the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Institute. As part of the award ceremony, the recipients of the award met with several hundred high school students and their teachers at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Coppens chaired an evaluation panel of the project ‘Molecular Movies’ at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark in April 2009, while in May he was a member of the evaluation panel of the ID-9 time-resolved synchrotron beamline at the European Synchrotron Radiation facility in Grenoble, France. He delivered a lecture entitled ‘Strategies for Time-Resolved X-Ray Diffraction, Monochromatic or Laue?’ at the Norfa Synchrotron Research Training Course, at the Sandbjerg Estate, Denmark on June 28, 2009 and gave a plenary lecture at the Annual Meeting of the American Crystallographic Association in Toronto in July. In August he served as chair of the triennial international Sagamore Conference on Charge Spin and Momentum Densities, which for the first time since 1967 took place in the U.S., in Santa Fe, NM. In October 2009 Coppens visited the University of Warsaw, Poland where he delivered two lectures in the Chemistry Department and discussed plans for a joint project in the coming years. On the same trip he participated in the joint Japan-Europe-U.S. 3rd Advanced School on Molecular Switching and Functional Materials at the University of Rennes, France at which he delivered a lecture on ‘The Response of Molecular Crystals to Laser Illumination on Timescales of Seconds to Microseconds and Beyond’. In December he was invited to present a lecture on a related topic at the planning workshop for the European Free Electron Laser Light Source (XFEL) in Budapest, Hungary. Students from the University of Aarhus, Denmark and the University of Warsaw are currently doing research at UB’s Crystallographic Laboratory.
Department of Comparative Literature


Department of Economics

Alex Anas, professor, was a keynote speaker at the Workshop on Urban Dynamics, held at Marbella, Chile, March 22-25, 2010. His talk was titled “Sprawl, infrastructure lock-ins and transit-oriented development: What have we learned from urban economics?” The talk summarized the results of his research supported in part by the International Bank for Reconversion and Development, and a research award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, administered by the UB Research Foundation. In part, his talk also drew on “Discovering the efficiency of urban sprawl,” a chapter Anas recently authored for the Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning, to be published by the Oxford University Press.

Department of Linguistics

Matthew Dryer, professor, spent most of his 2009 sabbatical outside the U.S. The two most important stints were (1) six months at the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, Germany, as a recipient of a Humboldt Research Award; and (2) three months in Papua New Guinea doing linguistic fieldwork on endangered languages there. Dryer was an invited speaker at two conferences overseas in May 2009: 2009 “Noun-Modifier Order in Africa,” an invited talk at the conference A Geographical Typology of African Languages, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo, 2009; and “The Order of Demonstrative, Numeral, Adjective and Noun: An Alternative to Cinque,” an invited talk at the conference Theoretical Approaches to Disharmonic Word Orders, at Newcastle University, England.

David Zubin, associate professor, with his collaborator Klaus-Michael Köpcke of the University of Münster, Germany is author of the select article “Genus” (grammatical gender) in Deutsche Morphologie [German Morphology], Ed. by Hentschel, Elke & Vogel, Petra M., published by Degruyter, 2009. He is the only scholar from a non-German-speaking country invited to participate in this Handbook.

Department of Philosophy

James Beebe, assistant professor, presented a paper entitled “The Relevance of Experimental Epistemology to Traditional Epistemology” at a conference on experimental philosophy and experimental economics at Kyoto Sangyo University, Kyoto, Japan, March 27-28, 2010. The title of the conference was “How and Why Economists and Philosophers do Experiments: Dialogue Between Experimental Economics and Experimental Philosophy.”


Patricia Diaz Herrera, Ph.D. candidate, presented at three recent conferences in Mexico: “An application of Laura Benitez’s methodology: How modern is Suarez?” at the Symposium in honor of Laura Benitez, Universidad Autonoma de Aguscalientes, September 7, 2009, “Moral Dilemmas and Critical Thinking,” XII Encuentro Internacional de Didactica de la Logica in Queretaro, November 9, 2009; and “Is Space discrete or continuous?” for the XV Conferencia Internacional de Filosofia at UNAM in Mexico City, January 25, 2010.


Barry Smith, SUNY Distinguished Professor, contributed the following publications in International Journals: Stefan Schulz, Holger Stenzhorn, Martin Boekers and Barry Smith, “Strengths and Limitations of Formal Ontologies in the Biomedical Domain”, Electronic Journal of Communication, Information and Innovation in Health (Special Issue on Ontologies, Semantic Web and Health), 2009. Portuguese translation as “Vantagens e limitações das ontologias formais na área biomedical”, Recis, March 2009, DOI: 10.3395/recis.v3i1.241pt. Smith is a member of the Task Force on Representation and Deployment of the Program on Ontologies of Neural Structures (PONS) of the International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility (INCF). He is a reviewer for Netherland Genomics Initiative. Smith was also appointed a member of Editorial Board of LOGOS: Freie Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Philosophie. He was awarded a grant from the European Commission as member of the ARGOS Thematic Network on Quality and Certification of EHR systems. He is an external member of the Ph.D. Committee, University of Melbourne, Australia. Smith co-organized the following international conferences: Signs, Symptoms and Findings: Towards an Ontology for Clinical Phenotypes, Italian National Research Council Institute for Biomedical Technologies and University of Milan, September 4-5, 2009; and the 3rd Interdisciplinary Ontology Conference, Koio University, Tokyo, Japan, February 26-28, 2010.


Jiyuan Yu, professor, was elected as the vice-president of the International Society of Chinese Philosophy (ISCP). ISCP is a non-profit organization founded at University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1975 to bring together scholars from all corners of the globe who share an interest in Chinese philosophy. Yu was named Changjiang Scholar and Visiting Chair Professor at Shandong University in China. He presented a paper “Virtue and Happiness in the Republic and in the Nichomachean Ethics” at the international conference “Happiness

**Department of Physics**

As part of her research in the use of THz spectroscopy to characterize protein dynamics, Andrea Markelz, associate professor, gave a plenary lecture at the International IRMMW-THz Conference in Busan, Korea in September 2009 as well as an invited lecture at the SICAST (Shenzhen International Conferences on Advanced Science and Technology) meeting in Shenzhen, China and at the USTC in Hefei, China. Markelz will be giving two invited international lectures in Spring 2010 as part of the kickoff meeting for the THz-Bio Workshop in Seoul, Korea and for the Leopoldina Symposium in Bochum, Germany.

**Department of Theatre and Dance**

Melanie Aceto, assistant professor of dance, was in Guatemala City for two weeks in July 2009 setting a dance piece on the Momentum Dance Company, the resident professional company of the Universidad Rafael Landívar, in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Aceto set the piece “Swarm...Drift,” danced to three sections of “Tight Sweater” by composer Marc Mellits. The piece was performed in the Brincos Festival, which took place at the Instituto Guatemalteco Americano, Guatemala City, Guatemala. She also performed two solos, “Reach to a score” by Mark Olivieri, and “Dancer Mad” to Brahms’s Hungarian Dance #5, in the Brincos Festival. Aceto also taught modern dance technique classes during those two weeks at Arte Centro, a beautiful new arts center in the city. The classes were open to the dance community. Aceto received a Canedian-American Studies Grant grant to bring in world-renown Canadian choreographer David Earle to set a piece for the UB Zodiace Dance Company. The piece involved ten dancers and was performed in the fall 2009 and spring 2010 University at Buffalo dance concerts.

**Department of Visual Studies**

Jonathan D. Katz, the newly appointed Director of the Doctoral Program in Visual Studies, recently completed his term as the first Terra Foundation Visiting Professor at the Courtauld Institute in London, UK. Katz also co-directs a major British research project funded by the UK’s Arts and Humanities Research Council on the history of same-sex desire in global surrealism. As part of that project, Katz is co-organizing an international conference in Mexico, and a series of programs at the British Film Institute. He has lectured at eleven different universities in Europe thus far this year and is on the editorial board of the British journal Art History.

The work of Reinhard Reitzenstein, associate professor and director of the Sculpture Program, will be included in a collaborative exhibition opening in Montreal, Canada at the Maison de la Culture Plateau Mont-Royal, opening on February 25. The exhibition is entitled Fragility and is in collaboration with composer Gayle Young and video artist Michel Depatie. I will be installing a public art project in Toronto for Greatlands Corporation. The installation will take place mid-April and will be permanently on view. Two years in the making the project is entitled, Distant Bridge. During the week of June 28, 2010, Reitzenstein will be installing another project in Montreal, Canada as part of the symposium Paysages Ephémères. The event opens on July 2 and runs until July 25. On June 2, a solo exhibition of new works based on my research trip to the Galapagos Islands last year opens at the Olga Korper Gallery, Toronto, Canada.

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

**Department of Educational Leadership and Policy**

The International Higher Education Finance project website has been redesigned by Andreas Maroulis, an undergraduate student at UB, and its content has been substantially updated. New country profiles are available for Argentina, China, Czech Republic, France, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Germany, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, and Turkey and new information has been added to our matrix of student loan programs around the world. Several of our recent scholarly papers are now available on the website.

Over the past year, D. Bruce Johnstone, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of Higher and Comparative Education Emeritus, has participated in a number of international conferences and seminars. The most recent was the Human Development Seminar for the World Bank’s Europe and Central Asia Sector in Montenegro, where Johnstone delivered a lecture on international trends in higher education finance and the impact on the Bank’s client countries in the region. Earlier in the fall, Johnstone participated in a conference on higher education finance in Lisbon, Portugal, speaking about the global economic downturn and its effect on higher education.

Johnstone, together with project director Pamela N. Marcucci participated in the international conference entitled The White Paper and Beyond: Tertiary Education Reform in the Czech Republic organized by the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the OECD Directorate for Education in October. Johnstone presented a keynote on Czech Republic White Paper: Comments on Tuition Fees and Loans, while Marcucci made a presentation on Student Finance and Accessibility in an International Perspective.

Marcucci also participated in the Conference on the Financing of Higher Education in Colombia and its Implications for Equity in Bogotá in May organized by the Grupo de Investigacion Economia Politicas Publicas y Ciudadanía and the Centro de Investigación, Faculty of Economics, Universidad Nacional de Colombia where she delivered a presentation on cost sharing in higher education and access.

Johnstone and Marcucci worked with the World Bank in the spring to devise a student loan scheme in the United Arab Emirates, and were part of a team of Kenyan and South African experts commissioned by the World Bank and the Kenyan Ministry to produce a plan to reform university finance in Kenya. Marcucci also served as peer reviewer for technical assistance for a student loan program in Romania, building on her and Johnstone’s 2008 work with the World Bank in Romania.

Johnstone and Marcucci were contributing authors to a World Bank monograph on higher education finance in Africa, one of the World Bank’s principal contributions to the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education meeting in Paris in the summer of 2009. The monograph is being prepared for formal publication under the title, Financing Tertiary Education in Africa.

In addition, Johnstone and Marcucci have completed a new book on international comparative higher education finance that will be published by Johns Hopkins University press this spring. The book, Funding Higher Education Worldwide: Who Pays? Who Should Pay? examines the universal phenomenon of cost-sharing in higher education where financial responsibility shifts from near exclusive reliance on governments and taxpayers to being shared with students and families. Featuring comprehensive economic and policy data, the book’s international comparative approach shows how economically diverse countries all face similar cost-sharing challenges.

**Department of Learning and Instruction**

James Hoot, professor and director of the Early Childhood Research Center, was an invited guest of Her Highness Sheikh Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned at the first World Innovation Summit in Education held in Qatar in November 16-18, 2009. This Forum drew leaders and decision-makers from governments, businesses, civil society, schools and universities, international institutions, NGOs, grassroots movements, top-tier media, multimedia, art and other creative communities around the globe. This Qatar Foundation sponsored event was designed to initiate the exchange of experiences and success stories from around the world and attempted to identify new education techniques, players and technologies most likely to enhance future human capacity. The theme of this event was “Global Education: Working Together for Sustainable Achievements”. Three days of highly interactive sessions among the 1,000 global education leaders resulted in the identification of 10 strategic pri-
orities for the 21st century. From January 2-14, 2010 Hoot met with Ministry of Education colleagues, NGO’s, and early childhood education leaders in Tanzania. In addition to seeking external funding for an Early Childhood Education Initiative in Tanzania, Hoot is raising funds to build an exemplary preschool for girls in rural Tanzania. As in many African nations, only about half of the school-age children ever set foot in a school setting. Of that half, very few are females.

Xiu Feng Liu, associate professor, traveled to Taiwan in January 2010 as an invited speaker at the 6th International Conference on Science, Mathematics and Technology Education, which was held in Hualien, Taiwan, to conduct a workshop on Rasch modeling.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Thai Nguyen University of Technology (TNUT) located in Thai Nguyen (near Hanoi), Vietnam, is a public university focused on engineering education, with 11,000 full-time students. With funding from the Vietnam government (Ministry of Education and Training), this university has chosen UB as a partner for developing an American-style undergraduate program in mechanical engineering (see p. 10). The program is known as the Advanced Program. The program copies the mechanical engineering curriculum of UB with the help of the UB faculty, which participates by curriculum transfer, teaching methodology and initial teaching. English is the language of instruction in this program. The tuition is much higher for this program than the regular program, though it remains very low by U.S. standard. The program is currently in its second year – with one class in its sophomore year and another class in its freshman year. Each class has about 25 students.

With travel funding from the Vietnam government through TNUT, Roger Mayne, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Deborah Chung, National Grid Professor, visited TNUT on Jan 16-17, 2010 and gave lectures to a group of about 25 TNUT faculty members concerning education and teaching methodology. In addition, they lectured to both classes of students and spoke briefly to a group of parents of the students.

In this trip, Chung and Mayne also attended a conference on “Building Partnerships in Higher Education” Opportunities and Challenges for the U.S. and Vietnam” in Hanoi on Jan. 14-15, 2010. The conference was organized by the U.S. Embassy (Hanoi), Vietnam National University (Hanoi) and the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam. It was attended by over 600 people that represented a large number of American and Vietnamese universities. In the conference, Professor Chung spoke on technology education, and Director General Tran Thi Ha of the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam spoke about the plan for Vietnam to use loans from the World Bank to build 4 new universities that teach in English, with the goal of being among the 200 best universities in the world in 20 years. Chung also gave a series of talks in Hong Kong in January 2010: “My Walk with Science and Music,” Hong Kong Institute of Education, Hong Kong, Jan. 28, 2010; “Science, Music and Life”, Ying Wa Girls’ School, Hong Kong, Jan. 29, 2010; “Multifunctional Cement-Based Materials,” Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, Jan. 29, 2010.

Harvey Stenger, professor and dean, traveled to Spain, Turkey, and France in mid-December 2009 to discuss collaborative international programs with three partner universities—University Carlos III in Madrid, Istanbul Technical University in Istanbul, and University of Troyes.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
Myron A. Thompson, III, Associate Provost and Executive Director, gave an invited talk at the annual conference of the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals (NAGAP) in San Francisco in late April 2010 on the topic of global university and program rankings and their credibility and impact on graduate admissions. Thompson has been re-appointed to the Board of Governors of the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden. He has served on the board since 2003.

LAW SCHOOL
During the 2008-09 academic year, the Jaeckle Center for State and Local Democracy hosted Antoni Abad i Ninet, a visiting scholar from the University of Barcelona. During the year, Abad taught courses at the law school on Comparative Constitutional Law and Ancient Constitutional Law. He and James Gardner, professor and vice dean for academic affairs, also collaborated during the year in the research and writing of an article comparing American and Spanish federalism. Gardner spent a week in Barcelona conducting research on Spanish federalism for the article.

On September 26, 2009 Irus Braverman, professor, gave a paper entitled “Civilized Borders: A Study of Israel’s New Crossing Administration” at a conference at a conference called “Identifying the Person: Past, Present, and Future,” at St Anthony’s College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

In 2008, Vincent Del Buono joined the law school’s adjunct faculty. Del Buono, a Canadian lawyer and prominent international human rights activist, teaches International Criminal Law.

David Engel, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, presented a paper entitled “The Decline and Fall of Thai Customary Law” at a conference at the University of Victoria Law School (British Columbia, Canada) on “A Hundred Years of Legal Development in Thailand.” He is also Co-Chair of Planning Committee for International Conference on Law and Society to be held in Honolulu, 2012, sponsored by the Law and Society Association, Research Committee on the Sociology of Law, and the Japanese Association for the Sociology of Law.

Engel is co-organizer of trans-national roundtable on “Narrative, Nation, and Identity” at Law & Society Association Annual Meeting in Denver, May 2009, which will lead to a publication featuring scholars from Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America. He is Chair of UB’s Council on International Studies and Programs, a university-wide body that advises the Provost and the Vice-Provost for International Education. Engel is co-editor of a book, Fault Lines: Tort Law as Cultural Practice (Stanford University Press, 2009), which examines tort law from a cross-cultural perspective and includes chapters on the United States, Europe, and Asia.

As a co-founder and organizer of the Women’s Human Rights Institute in Sofia, Bulgaria, Isabel Marcus, professor, assisted in the conducting of training of women’s human rights lawyers in April 2009; in May 2009 Professor Marcus lectured and conducted women’s rights workshops in Azerbaijan for three weeks.

Martha McCluskey, professor, attended the Critical Legal Strategies conference in September 2008 at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, where she attended panels and gave two presentations: “Constitutionalizing Class Inequality in the U.S.: The Continuing Economic Substance of Due Process” and “Who’s Afraid of Theory’s Politics? Reviving Left Critique in the Right-Wing U.S.”

In November 2008 Errol Meidinger, professor, was a keynote speaker at the International Workshop on Globalization, Global Governance and Private Standards at the University of Leuven, Belgium. The conference brought together researchers and policy makers working on the role of private standards in global governance in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America and the U.S. In January, 2009, Meidinger taught an intensive three-week course on Environmental Law to students in the Masters in Environmental Governance program at the University of Freiburg, Germany. The students were from many different countries (only one was German). It was an intellectual challenge and delight to formulate a course addressing essential
issues in environmental law so as to be useful to students from countries with a broad variety of legal systems. Mediation training opportuni-
tations in a number of international venues: “Changing Futures? Science and International Law,” Private Import Safety Regulation and Transnational New Governance European and American Societ-
ies of International Law (ESIL-ASIL) Research Forum, University of Helsinki, Finland, October 2-3, 2009; “Critical Questions for Transnational Collaborative Governance,” Conference on Colabo-
cations for Transnational Democracy”, Joint Meetings of the Law and Society Association and the Canadian Law and Society Association, Montreal, Canada, June 1, 2008.

Makau Mutua, SUNY Distinguished Professor and dean, traveled to Nairobi, Kenya and Entebbe, Uganda in February 2010. In Nairobi, Dean Mutua’s lecture took place at the University of Nairobi and was entitled “Sexual Orientation and Human Rights: Putting Homophobia on Trial” this event was planned by Akiba Uhaki, a social justice organization. In Kampala, Mutua’s lecture took place at Makerere University and was entitled “Sexual Orientation and Human Rights: Interrogating Homophobia.” Mutua met with individuals and orga-
nizations working to protect gay rights in both countries. He indica-
tes that these lectures come at a critical time in the history of both
countries. Kenya is rewriting its constitution and there is pressure to
address gay rights. In Uganda, a bill pending in Parliament pro-
poses to impose the death penalty on gays. President Obama has
called the Ugandan bill “odious” and Secretary of State Clinton has
denounced it. Passions are high on both sides of the issue in both
countries. Mutua’s lectures were sponsored by the Ford Foundation.

Mutua was elected this year to the prestigious Council on Foreign
Relations, a New York City-based think tank and membership orga-
nization that studies major international issues and publishes the
influential journal Foreign Affairs. With more than 4,300 members,
the council’s ranks include top government officials, renowned schol-
ars, business leaders, acclaimed journalists, prominent attorneys and
distinguished nonprofit professionals. Members participate in meet-
ings, panel discussions, interviews, lectures, book clubs and film
screenings to discuss and debate major foreign policy issues. In ad-
dition, they enjoy broad access to world leaders, senior government
officials, members of Congress and prominent thinkers.

Judy Scales-Trent, professor emerita, has been conducting research
for several years on an association of women lawyers in Senegal,
West Africa. The resulting article, “Women Lawyers, Women’s Rights
in Senegal: the Association of Senegalese Women Lawyers” was
published in February 2010 by the Human Rights Quarterly. The Asso-
ciation is comprised of a small group of women who have been
working to improve women’s lives since 1974. They have managed to
get women’s issues on the political agenda, and have sometimes
even managed to get the state to protect those rights. Using talks
and meetings, radio and television, publications and free legal ad-
vice; working individually and with other groups, the Association has
participated in the development of a human rights consciousness in
that country.

Winnifred Sullivan, professor, was invited to a workshop on Interro-
gating Religion at the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, from
April 17-19, 2009, where she gave a presentation entitled “Why No
Definition?” She also gave a paper entitled “Religious Freedom and
Conversion.” at the “Rethinking Religion in India II” conference spon-
sored by Research Centre Vergelijkende Cultuurwetsenschap (Ghent
University, Belgium), the Centre for the Study of Local Cultures
(Kuvempu University, India) and the Karnataka Academy of Social
Sciences and Humanities. Delhi, India, on January 13, 2009. Professor
Sullivan was invited to give a paper entitled “Spiritual Governance:
Citizen as Pastoral Care Client” at a conference entitled “Religious
Freedom, Pluralism, and Secularisms,” which was organized by the
Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at ASU and funded by
the Ford Foundation. It took place in Neemrana, India, on January 5-
and state? Privatized pluralism and public accommodation,” at a
conference entitled “Defining Reasonable Accommodation” at the
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, on September 25-27, 2008. Sullivan delivered a lecture entitled “Spiritual Governance” for the
Critical Thinkers in Religion, Law and Social Theory series at the
University of Ottawa on January 29, 2010. She also gave a paper
entitled “Naturalizing Religion: The New Establishment or, Religion
and the Rule of Law” at The Category of “Religion”: Boundaries and
Their Consequences. Conference at the British Academy. London, UK
14-16 January 2010.

In June 2008 Mateo Taussig-Rubbo, professor, presented a paper,
“Sacred Property: Searching for Value in the 9/11 Rubble,” at the
Seminario en Latinoamérica de Teoría Constitucional y Política, in
Buenos Aires, Argentina. This is being published in Spanish in Argen-
tina as a chapin and this conference proceedings. The conference is
an annual gathering of law professors from throughout Latin America,
and is co-sponsored by Yale Law School. In March 2008 Taussig-
Rubbo presented “The Labor of Private Military Contractors,” an
invited lecture, at the University of London, Goldsmiths College, in
theUK.

David Westbrook, professor, gave a presentation entitled “Rethink-
ing Our Financial Markets” at various institutions in China in Febru-
ary-March 2009: the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Renmin
University of China; Dongbei University of Finance and Economics,
Dalian; Shanghai Institute for International Studies; Fudan Univer-
sity, Shanghai; China-European International Business School, Shang-
hai; U.S. Consulate, Shanghai, Public Affairs Section; Zhongshan
(Sun Yat Sen) University, Guangzhou; China Development Institute,
Shenzhen; American Chamber of Commerce, Shenzhen; Southwest
University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu; and Sichuan Acad-
emy of Social Science, Chengdu. In addition, Westbrook partici-
pated in roundtable discussions on the financial crisis with the Presi-
dent, Dalian Commodities Exchange and the leaders of various fi-
nancial institutions, Shenzhen. These events were supported by a
U.S. Speaker and Specialist Grant from the U.S. Department of
State. Through the grant, Westbrook also presented “Temptations
of Modern Finance: A Critical Yet Sympathetic Analysis of Recent US
Financial Policy” at several venues: the China Banking Regulatory
Commission, Beijing; Guanghua School of Management, Peking Uni-
versity, Beijing; and the U.S. Consulate, Shanghai, Public Affairs Sec-
tion.

Through the U.S. Speaker and Specialist program, Westbrook
gave a number of other international talks and presentations: “Three
Glass Tragedy: Beginning to Rethink (U.S.) Financial Policy,” at the
conference Regulatory Responses to the Financial Crisis, London
School of Economics and Political Science, January 19, 2009; (Com-
mentator Andy Haldane, Bank of England); “Remarks on Three Glass
Tragedy, Intellectuals, and Bureaucrats” at the Stockholm Center for
Organizational Research, Stockholm, Sweden, January 22, 2009;
“Legal Safeguards for Stock Markets: Sarbanes-Oxley, the Credit
Crisis, and Limitations on Transparency,” at the Damasio Prep School
for Magistrates and Prosecutors Candidates, August 5, 2008; the
Brazilian Bar – Chapter Sao Paulo, August 5, 2008; the Getulio Vargas
Foundation (FGV) Law School (EDESP), August 6, 2008; and the Pub-
lic Diplomacy School (ESD), August 6, 2008. In addition, Westbrook
presented talks at a series of venues In Brazil in summer 2008: “Trans-
parency, Complexity, and Trust: A U.S. View of the Sarbanes-Oxley
Act and the Credit Crisis,” at the “International Symposium on
Transparency in Business,” hosted by the Laboratorio de Tecnologia,
Gestao de Negocios e Meio Ambiente – Leftech-UFF (Laboratory of
Technology, Business Management and Environment), Fluminense

In September 2009 and in December 2009, Westbrook participated in two international “policy roundtable meetings of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers. Both focused on policy responses to and consequences of the financial crisis. He was the only lawyer and one of two or three Americans to participate.

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
Department of Finance
Kenneth Kim, professor, taught “Corporate Governance” to graduate business students at Nanjing University in China from May 11-18, 2009. His classes involved behavioral finance, and (iii) macrodynamic modeling and data analysis.

Jean-Michel Scherrmann, Department Chairman and Assistant Dean, University Paris Descartes. Scherrmann first met Mager as a Ph.D. candidate in the late 1990’s. After Mager joined the UB faculty in 2004, Scherrmann requested that he visit Paris to bring his expertise in PK/PD principles to the French pharmacy students. Many of Scherrmann’s students join the global pharmaceutical industry so it is important they understand basic PK/PD fundamentals and modeling applications in the same manner as presented at home by UB faculty who are world-class leaders in the field. The two-year program consists of 8-14 pharmacy students who attend three weeks of lecture and hands-on computer workshops.

Throughout the program, students are expected to give an oral presentation (in English) as to what they learned during each modeling workshop. The English presentation component of the course is very important as this helps to prepare students to professionally and scientifically communicate in English. This aspect of the program can be critical to these students as they prepare to join the global pharmaceutical and healthcare industry.

The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UB is recognized as one of the premier institutes for PK/PD systems analysis, and educational outreach programs like this course continue to highlight Buffalo’s commitment and role in providing advanced training of future scientists in this field. This summer, it will be UB’s chance to host Scherrmann as an invited guest speaker at the Buffalo Pharmaceutics Symposium held in Buffalo in July 2010. This is the 30th anniversary of this symposium hosted by the University at Buffalo Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and will feature alumni and world renowned experts from academia, the pharmaceutical industry, and the Food and Drug Administration. Mager is chairing the meeting, and Scherrmann will be a featured speaker in a session on drug transporters as he is an expert on drug disposition at the blood brain barrier.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Stephen C. Dunnett, professor and vice provost, gave several panel presentations at the 2010 Conference of the Association of International Education Administrators in Washington, DC in February 2010: “New Approaches to Cooperation with Asia and Australasia”; “Growing Globally Competent Students: How to Internationalize K-16 Education”; and “If You Don’t Know Where You’re Going, Any Road Will Do: Developing a National Set of Internationalization Indicators.”

Dunnett was recently appointed to serve on a national taskforce convened by NAFSA: Association of International Educators on Comprehensive Campus Internationalization, which has been charged with drafting a white paper with recommendations on strategic approaches to institutional internationalization.
STEVEN SHAW TO RECEIVE CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

Steven L. Shaw, Director of International Admissions, is to receive the 2010 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. The award honors professional staff who are models of service excellence and whose outstanding performance in their positions has a substantial positive impact on the university.

Shaw was honored at the annual Professional Staff Senate Award Luncheon on May 12, 2010. The award will be formally presented with the other Chancellor awards at UB's next Celebration of Academic Excellence.

The award honors Shaw's efforts in establishing and developing the Office of International Admissions at UB. The letter of nomination for the award states the following, "As the first Director of International Admissions at UB, Steven has essentially created the position ex nihilo and has built his office—which now numbers five highly skilled professional staff and as many graduate assistants—from scratch. While we benefited from the assistance of our colleagues in the Office of Admissions in setting up International Admissions in 1999, it was Steven who was responsible for developing and refining the office’s highly specialized credential-evaluation capacity, processing workflow, filing system and procedures, and communications strategy and systems for both prospective students and academic units—among many other elements of his complex operation."

Shaw’s exemplary efforts in supporting a variety of international programs, including the School of Management’s master’s degree program conducted in Bangalore, India, and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences programs with Istanbul Technical University were also cited.

Shaw began his international career as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching English as a foreign language in Thailand. He joined UB in 1992 to direct the university’s English Language Center in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He subsequently served as resident director of UB’s American Studies Degree Program at Stanford College, Malaysia. He was appointed director of International Admissions in 1999.