

# COLLEGE MATTERS

PHILANTHROPY AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

**Welcome Dean  
Robin G. Schulze**

**p2**





# HEARD ON CAMPUS



**Throughout the fall semester, Dean Schulze met with students, faculty, staff and alumni at various events and activities.**

“The College of Arts and Sciences is the center of the academic universe at UB. Every undergraduate student passes through our doors, because the disciplines in the College are so critical to understanding every other field in the University.”

“It takes time, effort and patience to discover your passion, but when you discover your passion, you discover the problems you want to solve.”



“The overarching question here is, how best do we negotiate between free speech and free expression, and statements that people find truly hurtful and degrading? I think every college campus in the United States has wrestled with this.”

—2016 Panelist at DifCon, a campus series where faculty panelists share their expertise and insights that lead to constructive conversations about provocative issues that affect us all.



“Our students come to Buffalo because they know it’s how they will access their potential. They succeed here because they believe in themselves. We believe in them because we know that when a UB student succeeds, they change the world.”

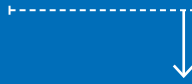
“Employers want people who can learn, adapt, grow and act dynamically in a globalized environment.”

“Our alumni are dedicated. It just makes me feel how deep and rich a community the University at Buffalo really is.”

“We need to develop people who have the courage to move through life saying: ‘Yes, I can.’”



## A NOTE FROM THE DEAN



### SINCE JOINING UB'S COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

in July 2016, one of my priorities has been to share the incredible achievements of our faculty, students and alumni. This issue of *College Matters* constitutes only a small slice of the amazing work that goes on every day in the College. These stories remind me what an honor it is to help lead this diverse and talented community.

Within these pages, you'll read about the incredible research and outreach that our faculty are pursuing, such as the work Biological Sciences professors James O. Berry and Mary Bisson are doing with Buffalo Public School students to grow potatoes in space. You'll discover numerous faculty engaged in nationwide conversations on subjects ranging from the "collective effervescence" phenomenon to the correlation between economic stability and chronic pain. You'll meet two exceptional students who've channeled Experiential Learning into life changing opportunities: Jacob Schupbach, who landed an internship with entertainment giant Hulu, and Makenzie DePetrillo, who found her passion for non-violent conflict management in the historic city of Selma, Alabama.

I've come to UB at a critical time for liberal arts education in America. What these stories emphasize is the need for active support. I see it as both my challenge and privilege to seek this support, and show our generous donors exactly what they champion when they give of their money, resources and time.

As spring semester draws to a close, it's hard to believe nearly a year has passed since I became an official UB Bull. I'm thankful for the warm welcome I've received from alumni and friends, and I look forward to meeting more of you and learning your unique stories. I invite all who can to attend UB's Homecoming, October 5-7, 2017, for another opportunity to reminisce, reconnect and refocus on the exciting future of the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Robin G. Schulze**  
Dean, UB College of Art and Sciences

Prior to her appointment as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Robin G. Schulze served as associate dean at the University of Delaware; head of Penn State's English Department; and executive director and president of the Society for Textual Scholarship. A prolific scholar, Schulze has published four books and more than 20 articles and book chapters. She is widely regarded as the leading expert on modernist poet, Marianne Moore.

## STAY CONNECTED WITH THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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Make sure we have your current email address, so you can receive invites to events in your area: [cas.buffalo.edu/update](http://cas.buffalo.edu/update)

# FACULTY IN THE NEWS

FEATURED COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY

Several influential media outlets featured the expertise of College faculty. Below is a snapshot of some of the interviews and articles that were included in prominent national, regional and international media.

*NEW YORK*

Shira Gabriel, professor in the Department of Psychology, was quoted in an article in *New York Magazine* about “collective effervescence,” the need to connect with fellow, synchronized humans through protests, parties or sporting events. “It’s a special experience, that feeling of connection, of being in that giant crowd.”

**Daily Mail**  
[BN]

NOWHERE BUT THE BUFFALO NEWS

Articles in England’s *Daily Mail* and the *Buffalo News* included research by Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, professor from the Department of Sociology, that showed poorer and less-educated older Americans are more likely to suffer chronic pain than those with greater wealth and more education, but the disparity between the two groups is much greater than previously thought. “I found that people with lower levels of education and wealth don’t just have more pain, they also have more severe pain.”

Smithsonian

The New York Times

YAHOO!

Articles in *Smithsonian magazine*, the *New York Times* and *Yahoo News*, featured the work of Peter Rogerson, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Geography, who developed a new method for calculating geographic centers using what is called an azimuthal equidistant map projection. According to Rogerson, the geographical center of North America is a town called Center in North Dakota.

npr

A feature on NPR news interviewed Victor Albert, professor of Biological Sciences, about his research that explores the origins of carnivory in several distantly related plants, including the Australian, Asian and American pitcher plants. “What we found is that certain genes are only on in the pitcher leaf, or preferentially on in the pitcher leaf, and that some of these very likely have to do with the trap development.”

USA TODAY

The *USA Today* article about President Trump’s ban on refugees from mostly Muslim nations could be used as propaganda by the Islamic State to recruit more violence-prone members quoted Michael A. Stefanone, professor in the Department of Communication, and Michelle Benson, professor in the Department of Political Science.

THE HUFFINGTON POST

An article in the *Huffington Post* interviewed Robert Adelman, professor in the Department of Sociology, about his research that showed no association between immigration patterns and higher crime rates. “There is a large literature about the contributions and benefits of immigrants in the communities they live in. From sheer population growth to economic revitalization, immigrants often bring social and economic vitality to cities and communities.”

In an article in *Mouvement*, a French magazine, Franck Bauchard, director of the Arts Management program and UB’s Techne Institute, was quoted regarding the Purple State and the 2016 U.S. election. The Purple State was a creative blend of performances and exhibitions on election night that explored the impact of social media on elections, voter behaviors and political polarization. “The Purple State probes the indeterminate condition of a democracy when the behaviors of voters become algorithmic.”



# LIGHT & SOUND:

## ALUMNI AND STUDENTS EXPLORE LUMAGINATION

**More than 100 alumni and friends** attended the UB College Night at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens this past February to see, hear and experience the lighting and sound installation that was in part, created by students from the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Faculty and students from the department's Design and Technology program brought their own design concepts to Lumagination, the Botanical Gardens' annual light and sound show. The UB team contributed two illuminated outdoor sculptures and a special light and soundscape to the garden's Panama Cloud Forest greenhouse.

Before taking a self-guided tour, alumni attended a reception and heard from the student technicians on the project. "Bringing alumni together for an event at one of Buffalo's cultural gems while highlighting the talent and artistry of our students was inspiring," says Mary Jo Rehak, assistant dean of constituent and alumni engagement.

For students, taking part in Lumagination offered them the opportunity to "take their theater design and technology training and apply it to a community event," said Lynne Koscielniak, associate professor of scenography and department chair. "The students conceived the project and saw it through to fabrication and installation. It's valuable experiential learning," she said.

The department worked in collaboration with Luminated Landscapes and the Botanical Gardens as part of UB's first year involved with the event.

1 Lighting installation in the Panama Cloud Forest greenhouse; 2 Alumni and guests at the reception; 3 From left: Katherine Metzler, Alison Weinberger, Ariel Kregal and Gina Bocolucci, part of the design team.



## SCHOLARS ON THE ROAD LECTURE SERIES

**THE SIGNATURE SERIES** from the College of Arts and Sciences Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement Office brings alumni together for programs in Buffalo, New York City and Washington, D.C. The series includes a reception where alumni can meet and is followed by a lecture on a variety of topics presented by faculty experts in the College. This past season featured:

- **The Polarization of American Politics** with Department of Political Science Professors James Campbell and Jacob Neiheisel
- **Reality in the Age of Truthiness** with Humanities Institute Director and Professor from the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, David Castillo
- **Power and Influence on Social Media** with Professor Michael A. Stefanone from the Department of Communication
- **Layers of Social Change: Gender and Geographic Data** with Professor Monica Stephens from the Department of Geography

To learn more about the program and the upcoming fall schedule, visit [cas.buffalo.edu/alumni-friends](http://cas.buffalo.edu/alumni-friends)



# BUFFALO AND BEYOND

STUDENTS EXPLORE A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

By Elin Hawkinson



**732 Clemens Hall** is a portal through which UB students can step into the real world of research, employment, travel and service. With its cozy chairs, conference table, large touchscreen monitors for presentations and big windows that let in plenty of light, the new Experiential Learning Center in the College of Arts and Sciences provides everything students need to discover and survey the array of exciting opportunities available in the form of Experiential Learning.

Caitlin Hoekstra, assistant director of experiential learning, describes this type of learning as the application of classroom knowledge in a practical context. “Students benefit from hands-on work in the community or overseas. Hands-on work gives students another way to develop critical thinking skills, communication and problem-solving skills—many of the important skills they will need to succeed after graduation.”

Opportunities are varied: Study abroad—either for a short, faculty-led tour or an entire year—introduces curious students to unfamiliar cultures while building empathy and strengthening foreign language skills. Research—which can be conducted on campus or at a number of global locations—includes one-on-one faculty mentorship, even for students just beginning their freshman year. Service learning—open to a variety of majors—places UB students in local elementary, middle and high schools where they support literacy programs or serve as ESL tutors. And internships—key to

conquering the ever-shifting job market—match students with prospective employers who regularly offer full-time positions upon graduation.

“UB has opportunities for students at all levels and in all majors, and multiple experiences are encouraged,” Hoekstra says. “Students should start thinking about experiential options early in their time at UB so they can take full advantage of what is available.”

Not only does Experiential Learning enhance resumes, but professors report that scholars who’ve participated in this program are more involved with their own learning, and draw connections between what they do at UB to the problems they will solve in their future careers. This, Hoekstra explains, is the kind of engagement employers and graduate institutions look for when scrutinizing a mile-long list of applicants. “Lots of students will graduate college with the same grades, having attended the same classes and developing similar abilities. Experiential Learning is the ‘something extra’ that proves initiative and the courage to go for what you want.”

**The Experiential Learning Center, open to any College of Arts and Sciences student, is the springboard for inquiry in to opportunities. From here, every door opens.**



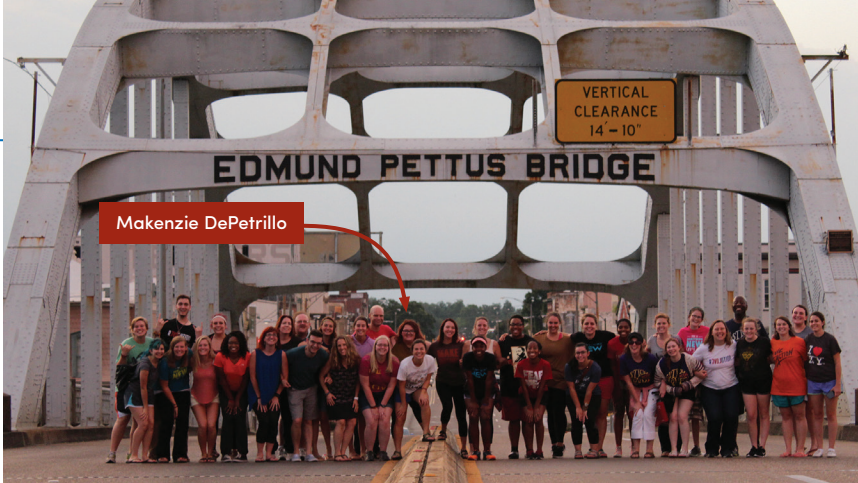
UB experiential learning student Jacob Schupbach with actress Mindy Kaling.

## STUDENTS IN ACTION

**JACOB SCHUPBACH**, a dual major in studio art and business administration, a College Ambassador and recipient of a SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence, entered UB as a freshman intent on a career as a tattoo artist. He channeled his creative skills into an independent study in graphic design, (a UB 101 peer mentorship), which led to a position as an HBO campus agent and eventually resulted in an internship in Santa Monica, Calif. with the groundbreaking entertainment service, Hulu.

### JACOB SHARES HIGHLIGHTS FROM HIS INTERNSHIP AT HULU

“On day six I took over the Hulu snapchat account for a day and my task was to attend a Mindy Kaling fashion show, which was related to the Fox Television comedy, *The Mindy Project*. I think that being flexible and adaptable is the key, as well as being prepared. You really start to see how you will use what you’re learning.”



## STUDENTS IN ACTION

### MAKENZIE SHARES HER EXPERIENCE

"My experience in Selma helped me discover what I am truly passionate about, while also giving back to a community that holds a special place in my heart. I completed a weeklong training in nonviolent conflict management and am certified to lead trainings with groups of students at UB. I will be able to use my certification to hold workshops on the principles of nonviolent conflict management in hopes of leaving a positive impact on my university community. The experiences that I had in Selma while working with the children there have inspired me to dedicate my life to serving others."

**Above:** New Way Summer Institute participants gathered on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in historic Selma, Ala.

To support the Experiential Learning Fund, contact Elizabeth Siderakis, associate dean and senior director of philanthropy and alumni engagement at 716-645-0850.

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul speaks to WiSE students on campus.



### ENCOURAGING WOMEN IN STEM

"I believe that there are so many opportunities in the fields of engineering, science and computing and that we need to encourage more women to do what you are already doing." Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul spoke to UB students at a Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) program in the Experiential Learning Center in Clemens Hall, UB North Campus.

WiSE is a collaboration between the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The program offers a number of activities, mentorship, networking opportunities and skill enhancement for female students in the sciences and engineering.

Learn more about WiSE and ways to support women in science: [wise.buffalo.edu/](http://wise.buffalo.edu/)

### POINTS OF PRIDE



SAVE THE DATE:  
UB HOMECOMING,  
OCTOBER 5-7, 2017

### RECOGNIZING ONE YEAR AS A DEPARTMENT

"The Department of Jewish Thought embodies the university's commitment to a sustained effort to make the intellectual and textual resources of the Jewish tradition, in all its aspects and chronological periods from antiquity to modernity, available for broader humanities, as well as across the divide between the 'arts' and the 'sciences.'"

—Sergey Dolgopolski  
Chair, Department of Jewish Thought



Sergey Dolgopolski

To support the Department of Jewish Thought visit: [buffalo.edu/giving/jewishthought](http://buffalo.edu/giving/jewishthought)



### SPUDS IN SPACE

Professors **James O. Berry** and **Mary Bisson**, from the Department of Biological Sciences are serving as consultants on a science project designed by Buffalo Public School students that sent

spuds to space. The Falcon 9 rocket blasted into space in February for a six week orbit, containing 5,500 pounds of cargo, including 20 potatoes that made their home at UB's Dorsheimer greenhouse in March to test how space-born tubers fare on Earth.

### YOUR GIFT MATTERS

Gifts to the UB Fund for the College of Arts and Sciences provide life-changing experiences, helping to create tomorrow's leaders. Give online to the UB Fund for the College of Arts and Sciences

[buffalo.edu/giving/ubfund](http://buffalo.edu/giving/ubfund)

# COLLEGE MATTERS

 University at Buffalo  
College of Arts and Sciences

810 CLEMENS HALL  
BUFFALO, NY 14260

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Dean: Robin G. Schulze

Associate Dean and Senior Director of Philanthropy and  
Alumni Engagement: Elizabeth Siderakis, BA '91

Assistant Dean of Constituent and Alumni Engagement:  
Mary Jo Rehak

Assistant Director for Alumni Communications:  
Gina Cali-Misterkiewicz, MA '05

Contributing writers: Elin Hawkinson, Elizabeth Lepertine

Designer: Dave Donati, BFA '92

Photos: Douglas Levere, BA '89, Dave Riffel, BA '09

## Alumni Pride

### UB is as much a way as it is a place.

Alumni around the world are making an impact where they live, work and travel. Share with us, how your ideas travel. Tear out the graphic below and snap a photo of the places you travel and submit your photo to us via email: [UB-CollegeAlumni@buffalo.edu](mailto:UB-CollegeAlumni@buffalo.edu)

I AM  
*How*

IDEAS TRAVEL



University at Buffalo  
The State University of New York

