



UB REPORTER

Need-to-know news and views
for UB faculty and staff

UB University at Buffalo The State University of New York

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President John B. Simpson lights an oil lamp on stage at the MITES commencement, a standard ritual that begins ceremonies of this kind in India. Provost Satish K. Tripathi, in red gown, looks on.

Delegation travels to India

BY JOHN J. WOOD

President John B. Simpson led a UB delegation to India earlier this month to participate in the first graduation ceremony for the School of Management's master's degree program in information technology (IT) and IT-enabled services (MITES), conducted at the Bangalore campus of Amrita University, one of UB's major partner institutions in that country.

In addition to President and Mrs. Katherine Simpson, the delegation to India included Provost Satish and Mrs. Kamlesh Tripathi; Arjang Assad, dean of the School of Management; Stephen C. Dunnett, vice provost for international education; Richard V. Lee, professor of medicine; Bharat Jayaraman, professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering; Ramaswamy Ramesh, professor and chair of the Department of Management Science and Systems; and Joseph J. Hindrawan, assistant vice provost for international education.

"The president's trip to India was exceptionally productive in terms of advancing our institutional interests and affiliations in the country," Dunnett said. "As a result of our visits to partner universities and many meetings and discussions with Indian colleagues, UB has greatly increased its visibility and reputation in India. In fact, UB is now recognized as one of the most actively engaged U.S. research universities currently operating in the country," he added.

In the course of five days, the delegation visited four Amrita University campuses in three southern Indian states to explore potential new areas of cooperation in research, education and outreach. The Amrita visit culminated with the signing of a comprehensive memorandum of understanding calling for increased collaboration in a number of areas, including the health sciences, the humanities, social work and law.

At the commencement ceremony for the MITES class on Feb. 7, Simpson conferred degrees on 54 mid-level managers, most of whom are employed by Hewlett Packard India.

It also was announced that UB would partner with

Amrita on a new master of science program in embedded systems, to be conducted by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in cooperation with

"Our first dual-degree program with Amrita University has quickly proven to be a very successful one, as was clear from the impressive achievements of the graduates we honored at the MITES commencement."

John B. Simpson

colleagues at Amrita's School of Engineering. In addition, the MITES program, beginning with the second class, will be reconfigured as a master of science in information technology services (MITS)

to better reflect the scope and purpose of the program.

"We are proud to partner with Amrita University, an international leader in training the information technology, management and engineering professionals who contribute in vital ways to global economic and

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Focus on bacteria

BY JUDSON MEAD

When Chunhao (Chris) Li joined the faculty in the Department of Oral Biology, School of Dental Medicine, in 2005, he put UB on the map of research hotspots in the effort to better understand spirochetes, a family of bacteria whose different species cause a variety of human diseases, including syphilis and Lyme disease.

More than 60 species of spirochetes have been identified among human oral flora and one, *Treponema denticola*, is strongly associated with periodontal disease.

Spirochetes have highly specialized features that play roles in their virulence: The coil-shaped microbes can move rapidly, practically sprinting compared with their less-mobile bacterial cousins, more remarkably, they travel easily through viscous media,

such as cartilage or dental plaque, that other bacteria can't transit, and they can adapt to radically different host environments in one lifetime. And for such medically important bacteria, spirochetes are poorly understood.

Before coming to UB, Li spent seven years at the University of West Virginia as a postdoctoral researcher and then a faculty member working with Nyles Charon, one of the world's leading experts on spirochetes.

Now he directs his own lab on the third floor of Foster Hall, South Campus. This summer, Li's lab was awarded three grants totaling more than \$2 million from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and a smaller grant from the American Heart Association to pursue research on three fronts.

Li is studying the ability to move in particular directions (motility) and the ability to select destination (chemotaxis) of the Lyme

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Chunhao (Chris) Li has spent his career studying spirochetes.

Panasci gift supports pharmacy

BY MARY COCHRANE

The namesake of Fay's Drugs, Faye Panasci, has given \$1 million to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, where her husband and father-in-law began their quest to build the highly successful chain of pharmacies that catered to their customers' every need.

Along with her son, David Panasci, and daughter, Beth Leventhal, Faye Panasci is continuing the family's tradition of giving back to UB begun by the late Henry A. Panasci Jr., B.A. '48, B.S. '52, and his father, the late Henry A. Panasci Sr., B.A. '25, by contributing \$1 million to fund the atrium of the

new home for the pharmacy school, John Kapoor Hall, on the South Campus.

In honor of the family's generosity, UB will name the atrium the Panasci Atrium.

"Knowing how important the pharmacy school was to Henry and his father, I am delighted to be able to support the construction of the new building and the future of the school," Faye Panasci said.

Giving to one's community and,

in particular, supporting education, has been a longtime tradition in the Panasci family. Both Henry Panasci Sr. and Henry Panasci Jr. gave to their alma mater in order to endow pharmacy student scholarships. In 1999, Henry Panasci Jr. gave \$1 million to UB to create the annual technology entrepreneurship competition that bears his name.

Fay's was co-founded by Henry Panasci Sr. and Henry Panasci Jr.

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Avant-garde playwright, director to visit BU

BY PATRICIA DONOVAN

Professional theater in Buffalo has not been marked by an experimental bent. So it is refreshing that next month area theater lovers will have an opportunity to meet and speak with Richard Foreman, the influential and enthusiastic pioneer of the American avant-garde theater, a man whom *New York Times* critic Vincent Canby called an "ebullient dramatizer of anarchic states of mind."

UB's Center for the Moving Image (CMI), directed by Emmy Award-winning arts filmmaker Elliot Caplan, professor of media study, will host "An Evening with Richard Foreman" at 7 p.m. March 23 in the Market Arcade Film and Arts Center, 639 Main St. in downtown Buffalo. The event is free and open to the public.

Foreman will discuss his work and screen material selected from 25 years of his plays, as well as his last film production in Japan and the U.K.

Foreman is a 10-time Obie Award-winning playwright, director and designer of more than 57 vanguard plays whose action is driven by misunderstanding instead of by traditional conflict. His productions, five of which won Obies as Best Play of the Year, often are technically enhanced by film (he is also a filmmaker), video and other art forms, and provoke the audience to awareness and action in a way rarely experienced in theater here.

For 40 years, he has made it a practice to provoke change in his audiences by stripping the theater bare "of everything but the singular and essential impulse to stage the static tension of interpersonal relations in space."

He is best known as the founder and director of the Ontological-Hysteric Theater (OHT), an institution that may have something to teach Western New York playwrights and producers who dare to be



Experimental playwright and director Richard Foreman will conduct an intensive theater/film workshop with UB media study and theatre and dance students during a visit to Buffalo next month.

different. Despite its rejection of traditional theater, OHT has been one of New York's most innovative theatrical institutions.

Foreman's appearance is part of a 16-29 with his collaborator, Sophie H. Sheer, who will conduct an intensive theater/film workshop with UB departments of Media Study and Theatre and Dance.

Since 2004, the two have worked together to promote international art exchange through workshops, symposia, art, performance and multimedia events.

The UB workshop and discussion will be part of a film about Foreman's work.

"The 'Bridge' project has traveled to many countries and has provided art material for an international online forum. Material is made available to participants in their own work and in collaboration with other artists.

Foreman produces his own work and has a goal of catharsis.

The March 23 event and the workshop are co-sponsored by the UB departments of Theatre and Dance, and English; as well as the Samuel P. Capen Chair in English and the James H. McNulty Chair in English.

For more information on Foreman and The Bridge, visit www.ubreporter.com/foreman.

Gift

in 1958; the first Fay's drugstore was in Syracuse. Fay's boasted more than 270 locations and nearly \$1 billion in annual sales when J.C. Penney Co. acquired the company in 1996.

"We are pleased to once again be honored with a gift from the Panasci family, whose legacy of giving to UB began long ago with Henry Panasci Sr., who passed on to Henry Jr., and now is continued through the generosity of his wife, Faye Panasci, and their children," Wayne K. Anderson, dean of the pharmacy school, said. "As Fay's grew in size and success, the Panascis never forgot their founding premise: to value their customers and give back to their communities, which is reflected in this most recent and generous gift."

President John B. Simpson praised the Panascis for "viewing UB as an institution worthy of the family's investment and trust."

"Their support of UB and, in particular, of the pharmacy school's new flagship building, demonstrates the family's continuing ability to spot the highest quality products, in this case, higher education," Simpson said.

"We thank the Panasci family for offering the gift of learning to future generations of students." David Panasci said that his grandfather and father, both of whom are deceased, would be thrilled to be giving once again to UB and to the pharmacy school, which they view as sharing their "sense of community."

"UB and the pharmacy school were a positive experience for my grandfather and father, no question about that. They had a very strong sense of loyalty to UB," David Panasci said. "My father especially would be so excited about giving back because of the growth the university and the school have seen in the past few years."



David Panasci and his mother, Faye Panasci, review drawings of the atrium of John Kapoor Hall, the new South Campus home of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The atrium will be named the Panasci Atrium in recognition of the family's \$1 million gift.

He said the atrium is very fitting for his family to support because no such space exists currently and it "offers the school a renewed sense of community for the students and faculty."

David Panasci is actively involved in the pharmacy school, serving on its National Industrial Advisory Board, lecturing in pharmacy management classes and mentoring students in the National Community Pharmacy Association's annual Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition.

The UB pharmacy school is preparing for its eventual move to the South Campus, where it will join the university's four other health science schools—dental medicine, medicine, nursing and public health—that comprise the UB Academic Health Center.

India

technological advancement," Simpson noted. "I am confident that these two newly launched programs will be equally successful, and we look forward to celebrating the achievements of the first graduates of these programs in another year from now," he said.

The delegation began its visit to India on Feb. 2 with a tour of the Amrita School of Medical Sciences (AIMS) in Kochi, Kerala, which is ranked among the best teaching hospitals and clinical care centers in South India. During the visit, Lee explored opportunities for UB's School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences to exchange students and faculty with AIMS, and later traveled to King George's Hospital in Lucknow, a leading medical facility in the north, to discuss opportunities with that institution.

The delegation also visited the schools of Ayurveda, Biotechnology and Engineering at the Amritapuri Campus, also in Kerala.

On the following day, the delegation visited the Tamil Nadu State Government Medical College, which Simpson noted is a leading institution in the region.

In addition, the delegation visited the Hindu University in Varanasi, a leading public university in India, and the Indian Institute of Technology in Allahabad, one of the top technical universities in the world.

During the visit, Lee also served as a keynote speaker at the Global Society Symposium on the Future of Education, which was held at the University of Delhi. Simpson also presented a paper on the future of student exchange programs at an international higher education conference.

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WORKING @ UB

Students are eligible to participate in the program and save up to 75 percent off brand names and products at participating stores.

Among the merchants participating in the SUNY Perks program are Sears, Philips, Home Depot and Costco.

To learn more about the program and to register, visit <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter>.

Help plan

Faculty & staff can help plan the program and save up to 75 percent off brand names and products at participating stores.

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Buffalo

of traditional modes of expression, UB's most fecund and successful new-

part of a two-week visit to Buffalo March 19-20, 2009, during which the two theater/film workshop for students in the city and Theatre and Dance as part of Art Initiative."

worked together on "The Bridge," which will change between countries around the world, theater productions, visual arts events.

Production will be filmed by Caplan for incorporation into his creative process and this project. It will be filmed in nine countries, creating the world's largest online database," Caplan says. "All participating artists in the project will be in conversation with other "Bridge" artists."

work as a "theater of coincidence" that will be a message," in contrast to Aristotle's

workshop are supported by the Robt. D. Wood in the College of Arts and Sciences. UB departments of Media Study, Theatre and Dance, Visual Arts Management, Chair in American Culture, and the English

and "The Bridge" project, go to www.buffalo.edu/

following day, the team was in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, to participate in the 10th International Symposium "Water for All," during which Simpson and Tripathi delivered a presentation on UB 2020.

In addition, the delegation visited Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, one of India's oldest public research universities, and the Institute of Information Technology, Lucknow, one of only six high-profile institutions in the country dedicated to information technology. Both institutions have exchange agreements with UB.

During the visit to IIT-A, Simpson served as a keynote speaker at the International Symposium on Higher Education and the Society, which was co-moderated by Simpson. Simpson's paper focused on issues of access and mobility in U.S. and Indian higher education.

Planning to Alaska

Faculty and staff looking for a wilderness adventure can join the 2009 trip to Alaska presented by the Center for Wilderness and Intercultural Studies. Mary Crispell, director of the Center for Wilderness and Intercultural Studies, will lead the trip. The trip will include camping, backpacking, fishing, glacier viewing and snowshoeing. The cost of the trip is \$1,500, which does not include airfare. Space is limited and non-refundable. Registration is due by March 15.

Space is limited. For more information, contact Crispell at crispell@buffalo.edu, 716-624-5406.

There are two national holidays in February. If you could create another holiday, what would it be called?

It would be to mark August, with the only purpose of giving someone a day off in the middle of business. Call it "Midway to August."

How often would you celebrate?
Weekly. Speaker: Business courses on Addictions.

I'd love a Winter Carnival Day. Certainly in Buffalo it would be a great way to celebrate what I think is a great time of year.

Martin Ivers, M.S. '01, B.S. '99
Lead Scientist and Urban Visualization Specialist
Center for Computational Research

National Stay Home Day. Everyone I know wishes they could have one day they didn't have to go anywhere at all—just a day to get things done or even just relax. It's even a green holiday since you lessen your carbon footprint by not driving!

Joy Wrona
Membership Assistant
Office of Alumni Relations

What would you say?

Through "Word of Mouth," faculty and staff share information on how to get the most out of working at UB and living in Western New York. Want to weigh in on this week's question? We'll publish any responses we receive to this week's question in next week's issue of the online UB Reporter at <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/>. Got a question you want answered? Send your responses to this week's question and suggestions for future questions to ub-word-of-mouth@buffalo.edu.

Program to offer economic survival guide

"An Economic Survival Guide," a program for UB faculty and staff presented by Richard Thompson of TIAA-CREF, will be held March 27 in the Center for Tomorrow, North Campus. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the program following at 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The program will cover a variety of retirement and investment topics, including how much is needed to retire comfortably, what to do now if you are already retired, how to spot an investment scam and how to know if your investment firm is safe.

To reserve a seat, contact Lynette Soulie at lsoulie@buffalo.edu before March 15.

PROFILE: ROSEANNE BERGER



All in the family medicine

BY JIM BISCO

Roseanne Berger grew up in a household that also served as the practice for her father, a general practitioner in Yonkers, N.Y., who tended to his patients for decades, delivering their babies and performing minor surgeries.

Inspired by his example, she became a family physician and continues his legacy of community care, albeit on a different scale. As senior associate dean for graduate medical education, Berger presides over nearly 800 residents who are training in 63 programs sponsored by UB in hospitals throughout the community. "The UB faculty are based in those hospitals that serve as the laboratory for training residents," she says.

Berger did her initial training in family medicine at UB in the late 1970s where she met her husband, Daniel Morelli, now chief medical officer at Buffalo General Hospital. After a brief stay in San Diego, they returned to the area and joined the UB faculty, working as faculty members in a community-based, model family medicine program.

Berger moved to the medical school on the South Campus in 1992 to help coordinate a course in community-oriented primary care involving internal medicine, pediatrics and family medicine. It was the first time that all three departments had worked together to train students in primary care, and the success of the course led then medical school dean John Naughton to ask Berger to head the new graduate medical education office that was being established.

"When I first started, the training was primarily hospital-based. Now, hospitals are very different places than they were 15 or 20 years ago. More training occurs in ambulatory settings," she observes, "and professionalism, communication and health care system issues, such as patient safety, are explicitly taught. The challenge for us is to be sure that the quality and education is maintained across all those settings."

Berger feels that the newly formed Great Lakes Health System of Western New York, which unites Kaleida Health, Erie County Medical Center, UB and members of the community, will strengthen the residency programs.

"I think it's creating a wonderful opportunity because most of our residents are rotating through multiple hospitals," she says. "By creating a strong academic medical center, we'll have a critical mass of faculty and be able to make in-

"It's a chance for UB to reach out to the community and share some of its expertise with the public."

Roseanne Berger

telligent decisions about where residents will receive the best experience."

A passion of Berger's has been coordinating the Mini-Medical School at UB, a series of lectures and programs on issues of health care and medical research that attracts audiences in the hundreds, ranging from high school students to seniors. Berger gauges interest in topics and invites UB faculty members to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for their subjects in a straightforward, often light-hearted manner.

"People are very interested in health care and medical research. They're laughing, responding, asking good questions," she explains. "The evening is education, but it's also entertainment."

One of her goals is to use the Mini-Medical School as an enticement for people to go into the health care field. "I'd like to see the high school and UB college students' enrollment grow," she says.

In addition to this wide spectrum of outreach, Berger continues to maintain a primary care family medicine practice. "It's limited, but my patients tolerate it because I've known them for a long time," she remarks, not unlike the longtime care dispensed by her father a few generations ago.

BRIEFS

Pelham to present lecture

William E. Pelham Jr., an internationally known expert in ADHD treatment, will discuss the range of approaches to treat this disorder in the inaugural President Award for Faculty Excellence lecture, to be held at 5 p.m. Monday in Dielendorf Hall, South Campus.

The award was established in spring 2008 by President John B. Simpson to recognize a UB faculty member who has achieved the highest degree of excellence as a scholar, community citizen and educator.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Pelham is a SUNY and UB Distinguished Professor of psychology, pediatrics and psychiatry, and director of UB's Center for Children and Families. In his lecture, "Medicating America's Children: Medication and Alternatives to Treating ADHD," he will discuss the risks, benefits and costs of treatment to children, families, schools and society at large. He will describe a series of studies conducted at UB that have evaluated medication, behavioral treatments, and their combination.

'Basically Bull' presents keyboard music

UB pianist Alan Feinberg will present "Basically Bull," a faculty recital featuring 17th century avant-garde keyboard music, at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Lippes Concert Hall in Slee Hall, North Campus.

Feinberg will perform works by composers John Bull, William Birde (perhaps known better as Byrd), Thomas Tomkins, William Blitheman and Orlando Gibbons.

Program notes on the early keyboard pieces will be discussed during the performance itself.

Tickets are \$5 for general admission and free for students with valid UB IDs.

Poetics Program presents theater

The UB Poetics Program will present Poets Theater, rarely performed plays by poets from the UB Poetry Collection and beyond, this semester at the new Burchfield Penney Art Center, 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo.

The lineup includes a performance of "The Origins of Old Son" by Robert Duncan at 7 p.m. March 5.

The UB Poetry Collection houses one of the few existing copies of "The Origins of Old Son," an important, unpublished work by Duncan. The play, a comic parody of figures at Black Mountain College infused with

Duncan's characteristic wit, has not been produced since its premiere at Black Mountain in the mid-1950s.

Also being staged that night will be a number of other short plays, including rarely performed one-acts by the late poet Barbara Guest, a dramatic interpretation of excerpts from "Clairvoyant Journal" by Hannah Weiner and an original work by A. J. Patrick Liszkiewicz—"Alphabet Man"—fusing music, theater and animation.

While there is no charge for admission, a fee of \$7 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors is charged to enter the Burchfield Penney museum. Museum members are free.

Communication topic of workshop

"Communicating with International Students," a workshop designed to help UB employees avoid miscommunication with international students and better respond to their needs, will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. March 6 in 120 Clemens Hall, North Campus.

The workshop, which is free and open to the public, will outline communication strategies used by international students, explain the reasons why students employ various strategies and suggest best practices for effective communication and understanding.

Presenters include Ellen Dussourd, director of the Office of In-

ternational Student and Scholar Services, and UB students Fei Jiang, Melitta Mendoca, Seonjo Park, Sung Ok Park, Chaitanya Puranik, Tao

Xu and Weiwei Zhu. For more information, contact International Student and Scholar Services at 645-2258.



Tuition roulette

Robert Pezet, student representative to the UB Council, demonstrates the tuition roulette wheel—the method the state currently uses to set tuition rates—to an Albany TV crew Monday during UB Day at the Capitol in Albany. Go to the online UB Reporter at www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter to see a photo gallery from the annual event during which UB advocates bring the university's case to elected and appointed state officials.

Continued from Page 1

Spirochetes

disease-causing spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and the roles of both motility and chemotaxis in the disease it causes. He also is looking at how *Borrelia burgdorferi* regulates its host-adaptation, thriving in both ticks and humans. And he is studying the role of a particular toxin produced by *Treponema denticola* in periodontal disease.

Li's lab currently employs a single postdoctoral researcher; the research funds will allow him to recruit three more postdocs and a full-time technician.

In earlier research, Li demonstrated that removing a particular gene interferes with *Borrelia burgdorferi*'s motility. Spirochetes are shaped like long coils and travel with a wave-like motion. Reversing course requires the coordination of their flagella from each end. The gene Li removed coded a protein that is essential for that coordination. Li showed in a mouse model that interfering with the spirochete's motility in this way prevented it from causing disease. This suggests an avenue for attack on the spirochete.

A second potentially exploitable vulnerability is the internal signaling that allows *Borrelia burgdorferi* to switch genes on and off to adapt to the host environments of mammal and tick, with their different temperatures and immune responses. Li has described a two-stage signal sequence. If the sequence could be interrupted, the spirochete's ability to infect humans through ticks would presumably be stopped.

The lab's work on *Treponema denticola* currently is focused on a toxin it secretes that appears to cut up human immunoglobulin. *Treponema denticola* is particularly interesting in dental medicine because it is always found at the frontier in dental plaque, suggesting that it plays a role in periodontal infection. Li hopes to discover whether this protein is a virulence factor.

One of his recent successes is the development of a reliable method for producing genetic mutants of *Treponema denticola* in large enough quantity to study.

Li started research on spirochetes after graduating from medical school in China and working in a hospital for two years. He was interested in infectious diseases and went to graduate school for more study; his mentor and Ph.D. director was an expert on spirochetes, and that set Li on a career path that led through West Virginia to Buffalo.

FLASHBACK

Glenn Miller Orchestra puts UB 'In the Mood'

At the junior prom on Feb. 25, 1939, 600 UB students and alumni swayed to the new swing sound of the Glenn Miller Orchestra. Playing in the Statler Hotel's Grand Ballroom, the recently formed orchestra was just a few months from international stardom.

Harold Feldman, a UB junior and prom organizer, recognized the potential of Miller's unique swing sound featuring a clarinet floating on top of four saxophones and brass—"Miller can play sweet swing equally well as hot, dingy jazz"—and he predicted in the *Bee*, UB's student newspaper at the time, that Miller "will soon rival Dorsey, Goodman and Shaw."

Dancers swayed to tunes like "One O'clock Jump," and may have heard early versions of such 1939 Miller hits as "Stairway to the Stars," "Over the Rainbow," "In the Mood" and the orchestra's signature "Moonlight Serenade."

By summer, Feldman's prediction had come true. The orchestra received its big break with an engagement at the Glen Island Casino in New Rochelle, leading to 59 Top 10 hit recordings between 1939 and 1941 when



Miller stepped away from stardom to join the Army Air Force during World War II. He and his Army band recorded at the famous Abbey Road Studios in London.

In December 1944, Glenn Miller and his plane disappeared without a trace over the English Channel on a flight to arrange performances for the troops in France.

—Judith Adams-Volpe, University Libraries

**70 YEARS
A GO**

ONLINE

Get "In the Mood" by listening to Miller's sweet swing, including "Star Dust," at www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/flashback. ☛

PHOTO: BOBBI LO PITZER