



MEET MACHIKO TOMITA
Researcher uses computers to help seniors stay at home



VIVA LA FRANCE
French ambassador to U.S. to visit, speak at UB



FLASHBACK 25 YEARS
UB marks a quarter century of muddy madness

UB REPORTER

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

University at Buffalo The State University of New York

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PHOTO: JESSICA LUTHE

Falcons return

BY SUE WUETCHER

UB is not Capistrano, but the birds have returned. Two peregrine falcons have come back to the South Campus and some staff hope they will start a family while they're here.

A pair of the rare birds, which were spotted by local birdwatchers last spring and summer, have returned to take up residence in the tower of MacKay Heating Plant on the east side of the campus.

University Facilities was prepared. Working with officials from the state Department of Environmental Conservation, Ronald C. Van Splunder, manager of architectural support for Facilities Planning and Design, built a nesting box and received permission from the state Office of Historic Preservation—the MacKay tower is a state historic landmark—to install the box near the top of the tower.

Facilities Operations staff, using a ladder to climb the 137-foot tower, installed the nesting box a couple of weeks

ago while replacing a window as part of the tower's spring maintenance program, Van Splunder says.

"Three days later, the male falcon came back," he says. At that time, the female had not been seen. But on March 24, "photos were taken of the pair together in the nesting box. We're assuming there are eggs in there," he adds, although that has not been confirmed. A Web cam that also was installed is not functioning; officials hope to have the camera working this week. The *UB Reporter* will publish its URL when the camera goes live.

Van Splunder says the falcon project has been a lot of fun for Facilities staff. Besides the beauty they add to campus, the birds have had a practical impact, significantly reducing the rodent and pigeon populations, "and all the cleanup involved. They're almost like the newest UB employees," he jokes.

ONLINE

Visit www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/falcons to view more photos.

Budget results mixed for UB

BY JOHN DELLACONTRADA

The New York State budget expected to be enacted in Albany this week includes funding to help UB move forward with plans to expand its Downtown Campus under the UB 2020 strategic plan, UB officials said Tuesday.

However, the university also expects the budget to include an additional \$6 million to \$9 million in permanent cuts to its state operational budget—on top of the \$21 million in permanent cuts UB experienced last year—through the loss of tuition revenue, a tax on UB's sponsored research funding and reductions to funding UB receives through on-campus athletic events, student fees and health services.

The budget calls for the re-appropriation of \$138 million approved last year for two projects critical to UB's plans for new construction and relocation of programs to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. Of this funding, \$118 million will be used for construction of a Center for Clinical and Translational Research and Bioscience Incubator within the 10-story Global Vascular Institute being built by Kaleida Health in partnership with UB. Groundbreaking for the new building is expected this year, with construction to be completed by 2011.

"We are grateful for the efforts of the Western New York delegation and Majority Leader Malcolm Smith and Speaker Sheldon Silver in securing the re-appropriation of capital construction funds that will be critical to the university's growth and impact down-

town," said President John B. Simpson.

Twenty million dollars of the re-appropriation will be used for the acquisition and renovation of the M. Wile building in downtown Buffalo, which UB purchased in 2007 and renamed the UB Gateway. The building will house several UB community programs, as well as UBMD, the university's clinical practice organization.

The state budget also restores and continues funding for such high-profile research centers and programs as the

Research Institute on Addictions; MCEER, a national center of excellence focused on multi-hazard engineering headquartered at UB; the Center for Advanced Biomedical and Bioengineering Technology; and the Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence (SPIR). Statewide funding for educational television and radio, which includes UB's public radio station WBFO-FM 88.7, was partly restored to \$15 million from \$19 million statewide.

Achieving UB 2020

Continued on Page 7

Salute to UB authors

BY SUE WUETCHER

UB will salute more than 80 faculty and staff authors on Monday at a reception being held from 3-5 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre in the Center for the Arts, North Campus.

"An Anthology of Recognition: The Third Annual Salute to UB Authors" is being hosted by President John B. Simpson; Provost Satish K. Tripathi, executive vice president for academic affairs; and Jorge José, vice president for research.

It will honor UB and Roswell Park Cancer Institute authors who have published full-length scholarly books over the course of the past year—from May 1, 2008, to March 31, 2009—as well as those authors who may have been inadvertently missed in either of the first two recognition events in 2007 and 2008.

José points out that UB faculty members annually produce an average of 80 full-length scholarly books. "Indeed, we have paid tribute to over 300 UB authors and their 350 books since our first recognition event in 2007," he says.

"These major works are a true reflection of the breadth and depth of the expertise and creativity at a comprehensive university such as UB, and including our affiliated institutions, such as Roswell Park Cancer Institute."

The authors' books represent a variety of disciplines, ranging from the humanities to the arts to the social, physical, biological and biomedical sciences, and include textbooks, volumes of poetry and works that have been translated into foreign languages.



EXCLUSIVELY this week in the online UB Reporter at www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter. The "Our Colleagues" column provides the most recent list of faculty members and librarians who have received tenure or were promoted or appointed with tenure.

ONLINE

Go to www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/authors for the full list of authors being recognized at the reception.

PROFILE: MACHIKO TOMITA



PHOTO: STELLAS LITRE

Helping seniors stay in their homes

BY ANN WHITCHER-GENTZKE

Everywhere in Machiko Tomita's Kimball Tower office are signs of her passions and personality—a round table to facilitate intense discussion about research, an orchid reminiscent of her native Japan, a painting by a nursing home resident.

"Here you have the sky, trees and what I think are flowers," Tomita says of a watercolor by Arthur Cady. "I can feel that he's enjoying looking at the outdoors from his bed by the window. I don't know how many people paid attention to this painting, but I just love it. I love to appreciate art. I wanted to be a painter, but my mom said, 'You better be something else,'" she says, laughing.

Tomita, clinical associate professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Science, School of Public Health and Health Professions, does paint for personal enjoyment: Her still life adorns a nearby filing cabinet. But these days her real canvas is about making a difference in the lives of elderly people.

In Tomita's pilot study funded by the National Institute on Aging, 40 elderly people in Western New York—living at home and suffering from congestive heart failure—were taught basic use of the computer. Over the next year, they took part in daily health-monitoring exercises on a secure Web site, recording vital signs and responding to questions on health behavior, including medication use, exercise, fatigue and salt intake.

By taking a few minutes to complete the health log, participants were able to recognize the cause and effect of various practices, Tomita says. They also received emotional support to lessen social isolation, plus automatic alerts when sudden weight gain (indicative of dangerous fluid retention) signaled them to contact their physician.

"In the treatment group, we didn't lose any [patient] due to congestive heart failure. We did lose several people in the control group due to congestive heart failure," Tomita says of this chronic and debilitating

condition. It is, moreover, the most expensive illness facing Americans 65 and older because of recurring hospital stays and frequent emergency room visits.

Results of the pilot study were published recently in the online *Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare*. Tomita now is applying for a second grant to develop this research with 600 participants and three sites in Buffalo, Texas and Virginia.

She says it's a misconception that older people don't use computers; this fact holds promise for the study's long-term implications. "Once a computer becomes available to them, the use pattern is the same as for younger people."

Tomita first acquired her passion for research as a young journalism student at Sophia University in Tokyo. She went on to earn an M.A. in mass communication and a Ph.D. in social research, both from the University of Minnesota. She has published numerous journal articles and has advised or mentored scores of students since arriving at UB in 1992. Currently, she supervises the work of eight graduate students—watching them grow is like seeing flowers bloom, she says.

"One student who knew nothing about research when she came here has published a paper with me and is now writing a second paper to publish. The students involved in research become more responsible—they start paying more attention to detail and they become more logical. They can start seeing what they are doing objectively. This is amazing, isn't it?"

"My goal has always been that people can stay in their homes, rather than go to a nursing home."

Machiko Tomita

ONLINE

Visit www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/profile to read the full story.

UB REPORTER www.buffalo.edu/UBReporter

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WORKING @ UB

Playing dirty a tradition

Enjoying a hearty pancake breakfast together. Duct-taping uniforms to each other's bodies. Putting on their game faces—a slather of sunscreen—before sinking into the mud pit to play competitive volleyball.

It's a bonding—and binding—experience for the Efil Tneduts team—Student Life spelled backwards—at Oozfest. The UB office group has participated annually at this campus rite of spring, and its upcoming seventh appearance on April 25 is an auspicious occasion—the 25th annual Oozfest.

Run-by the University Student Alumni Board, Oozfest is the largest double-elimination mud volleyball tournament in North America, according to Patricia Starr, assistant director for student and reunion programs in the Office of Alumni Relations and USAB advisor who coordinates the event.

It began April 25, 1985, as a way to relieve pre-exam stress for students and bring the university together. At the outset, there were only 16 teams playing on two courts at the site where the Commons now stands on the North Campus. Today, there are 128 teams playing on 16 courts in a dedicated mud pit along St. Rita's Lane near the Amherst bike path.

The majority of teams are made up of students, with about 30 percent consisting of alumni and nearly 10 percent staff and faculty.

"The students think it's cool that we're showing our support for a tradition, and they see us in a whole different light," observes Phyllis Floro, assistant director of Student Life and a veteran of Efil Tneduts, which she named.

She says it was a learning experience in the beginning. "We didn't re-



Members of the 2007 Efil Tneduts team. Liz McGrath and Schrum.

alize this, but because our first year, as though you, you're getting when you took a slather of sunscreen off, you had sunburned. I had these white spots from where the sunscreen had been. We all laughed once we saw it.

Add sunscreen to the mix. How does Efil Tneduts "down and dirty" captain Jennifer Wietman describe the director of student life? "Oh, we suck," she says. "Maybe a total of five people, but we have a lot of fun."

Floro says the traditions, like meeting for breakfast, follow a tradition ritual. "The fu-

ONLINE Team registration: www.buffalo.edu/events/Non-Traditional www.alumni.buffalo.edu

Continued from Page 1

Budget

is projected to increase the university's economic impact on Western New York from \$1.7 billion to \$3.6 billion annually. It will generate thousands of new jobs and spur business growth throughout the region.

Construction of the Global Vascular Institute with Kaleida Health is an example of the type of public-private partnerships in which UB hopes to engage to move UB 2020 forward during the economic downturn.

Such partnerships, UB officials say, give the university the financial flexibility to pursue the goals of UB 2020 in an expeditious and cost-effective manner, without additional burden on taxpayers. A bill before the state Assembly and Senate—A.2020/S.2020, the UB 2020 Flexibility and Economic Growth Act—proposes to give UB similar and additional flexibilities needed to move ahead with UB 2020.

Simpson noted that while the re-appropriation and restoration of funding for UB programs is good news, he remains concerned about the additional \$6 million to \$9 million in projected cuts on top of last year's \$21 million cut.

"The best way of getting us out of this financial crisis over the short and long term is to implement the high-impact, low-cost reforms we are seeking from the state through the UB 2020 Flexibility and Economic Growth Act," he said.

Sinfonietta to offer UB composers' work

BY SUE WUETCHER

The Slee Sinfonietta, UB's professional chamber orchestra-in-residence led by Argentina-born conductor and composer Christian Baldini, will perform a program made up entirely of works by UB composers—past and present—during a concert at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Lippe Concert Hall in Slee Hall, North Campus.

Other upcoming concerts to be presented by the Department of Music include performances by a trio from the music faculty at the University of South Carolina and acclaimed organist Jon Gillock.

The program for the Slee Sinfonietta concert, co-sponsored by the music department and the Robert G. and Carol L. Morris Center for 21st Century Music, will feature "The Winds of Winter" (2005) by Derek Charke, "Eventyr" (1998) by Jeffrey Stadelman and "down/among the altitudes" (2006) by Evan Johnson.

Prior to the concert, three composer workshop sessions will be held on Monday, each focusing on a different composer. The sessions, which will be free and open to the public, will highlight the works of graduate student composers David Hanner (10 a.m.), Christian Baldini (2 p.m.) and Trevor Bjorklund (6 p.m.). All will be held in Lippe Concert Hall.

Advance tickets for the concert are \$12 for general admission, \$9 for UB faculty/staff/alumni and senior citizens, and \$5 for students. Tickets purchased at the door are \$20, \$15 and \$8.

The trio from the University of South Carolina—soprano Tina Milhorn Stallard, clarinetist Joseph Eller, and pianist Lynn Kompass—will present a free recital at 3 p.m. Sunday in Baird Recital Hall, 250 Baird Hall, North Campus.

The program will include work by Bach, Schubert, Vaughan Williams, Janáček, Rorem and Hoiby.

The Department of Music will join with the Buffalo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists to present organist Jon Gillock in an evening of music from the French spiritual repertoire at 8 p.m. tomorrow in Lippe Concert Hall.

Gillock's program will include works by César Franck, Louis V. Césarierne, Charles Tournemire, Olivier Messiaen and Louis Vierne.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students.

Tickets for all Department of Music concerts can be purchased at the Slee Hall box office, the Center for the Arts box office and at all Ticketmaster outlets, including Ticketmaster.com.

ONLINE

For further information on music department events, go to www.slee.buffalo.edu.

for UB office group



Members of the UB office group, including, from left, Heather Schoff, Mike Lewis, Cate and Danielle Sobotta.

cause it was sunny the mud is hitting is sunburned. So shower and washed burn and then you spots on your face platter was. We saw our faces." to the checklist. neduts fare in this 'competition? Team Wantz, associate at activities, laughs. e levels. "We've won four games since we ve a blast." team has its trading for a pancake ed by the preparation part of it is get-

ting ready and helping each other," she says. "You have to tape your clothes to your body because if you don't, they get sucked off. If you fall, it's not easy to just get up. You need to help each other."

According to Melanie Bentley-Cruz, Student Life's leadership programming coordinator, the event presents an opportunity for staff to get together and share an experience outside of the office. "We get to see different sides of our co-workers," she says. "It gives us things to continue to talk about weeks, months and years after the last pancake has been turned, the last ball has been hit, and the last mud is washed down the drain."
—Jim Bisco

is open until 5 p.m. tomorrow and may be accessed at www.alumni.buffalo.edu. If you need muddy help is needed for the event. Volunteers are encouraged to register at buffalo.edu/usab.

WORD OF MOUTH

What is your favorite romantic getaway spot in Western New York?

Taughannock Falls and Taughannock Falls State Park in the Ithaca area. That entire area of the Finger Lakes is beautiful. For something a little closer to home, Glen Park in Williamsville creates a very romantic setting.

Neil B. McGillicuddy, B.A. '82, Ph.D. '89
Research Scientist
Research Institute on Addictions

With three boys in the house, this doesn't happen a lot. But on our 15th anniversary, my wife and I went to East Lake Bed and Breakfast on Conesus Lake—between here and Rochester. It was fantastic.

Faúl Vecchio
Associate Director
Division of Athletics

The Mansion on Delaware (414 Delaware Ave., Buffalo)—my wife and I go there for our anniversary every year. They take very good care of you, have a van to drive you to dinner and back, and treat you like royalty. Compared to average hotels in other cities, it's certainly a deal.

Steve Gatto, B.S. '88, M.S. '91
ES&O Software Engineer
Corporate Computational Resources

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.

French ambassador to U.S. to visit UB

BY PATRICIA DONOVAN

His Excellency Pierre Vimont, ambassador of France to the United States, will visit UB on Wednesday to present a free public lecture, "The United States and France and the Renewal of Transatlantic Relations," in which he will discuss the changing nature of relations between the two nations over the past several years.

His talk will take place at 3 p.m. in the Drama Theatre in the Center for the Arts, North Campus, and will be Web-streamed live to interested area academic institutions and community organizations.

The lecture, which will be followed by a public reception for the ambassador in the CFA atrium, is being presented in conjunction with two exhibitions mounted in his honor by the UB Libraries.

Vimont's visit coincides with the 80th anniversary of the endowment that established the Melodia E. Jones Chair in French at UB, and the exhibitions were developed with the assistance of the distinguished French scholar Jean-Jacques Thomas, who currently

holds that chair.

"This visit honors UB and reinforces the active presence of French and Francophone culture in Western New York," Thomas says.

Adds Stephen Dunnett, vice provost for international education: "This is truly a landmark event in the long history of France's involvement in the Western New York and Niagara region, and the credit goes to Pascal Soares, honorary consul of France in Buffalo, for making this visit possible."

Vimont is the second sitting French ambassador to visit UB, and will be accompanied to Buffalo by Ambassador Guy Yelda, the new consul general of France to New York, and Pascal Delisle, cultural attaché and director of the French Embassy's University Partnership Fund.

Prior to the lecture, they will visit the library exhibition "Marshall, Jones and Park: French History and Culture and the University at Buffalo." Sponsored by the Libraries' Special Collections, it honors the distinguished scholars who preserve and perpetuate the

study of French language and literature at UB.

The exhibit will open Monday and run through June in the Special Collections Research Room, 420 Capen Hall, North Campus.

It will give special attention to the illustrious history of the Melodia Jones Chair and the distinguished careers and work of past incumbents, among them Gérard Bucher, André Maurois, Michel Butor, Jacques Roger, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, Michel Serres, Roland Le Huenen and Raymond Federman.

The French visitors also will view the second exhibit, "The Julian Park Collection: Rare Books Portray French History and Culture," which will be on display in the foyer of Lockwood Memorial Library, North Campus, from Monday through May 30.

It will present the extraordinary collection of Julian Park, founding dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who developed and nurtured French studies at UB, facilitated the establishment of the Melodia E. Jones Chair and bequeathed his collection of French literature to the university.

BRIEFLY

Pair honored as Women of Excellence

Barbara Seash Nevegold and Peggy Brooks-Bertram, senior educational specialists and co-founders of the Uncrowned Queens Institute for Research and Education on Women at UB, were among seven women honored last week as New York State Women of Excellence.



Gov. David A. Paterson and First Lady Michelle Paige Paterson hosted the sixth annual Women of Excellence Awards Celebration, held on March 24 in Albany, that recognized women in the areas of business, health, justice, law enforcement, community service and education.

Nevegold and Brooks-Bertram were honored in the education category.

"New York has a strong tradition of remarkable women whose contributions have enriched our communities and set an example for generations to come," Paterson said. "In their work to improve our businesses, protect our health, expand our knowledge and keep us safe, these seven women continue this legacy. I am honored, particularly during Women's History Month, to celebrate their achievements."

Paterson established the Women of Excellence Awards when he served as senate minority leader in 1994. He inspired women within the Harlem Community. He expanded the program to include communities across New York while serving as lieutenant governor. He created a more dynamic to strategy and volunteerism that focuses on solving community and social problems.



Appellate Court to try cases at UB

The public will get an opportunity to watch one of the state's most influential courts in action when the Law School hosts a full day of appellate judge arguments beginning at 10 a.m. April 9 in the Francis M. Letro Courtroom in O'Brien Hall, North Campus.

A panel of five appellate judges will listen to oral arguments from some of the area's most accomplished attorneys, as well as conduct a typi-

cal court workday. UB Law School students, as well as others interested in how the Appellate Court conducts business, are invited.

"We were very pleased to accept the invitation extended to us by Law School Dean (Makua) Mutua to conduct a session of our court at UB Law School," said Presiding Justice Henry J. Scudder of the Appellate Division, Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial Department. "We hope the students benefit from the opportunity to observe oral arguments and see the court at work."

Scudder will head a panel that will include Justices Salvatore R. Martoche, Eugene M.

Fahey, Erin M. Peradotto and Samuel L. Green. Scudder credits Peradotto for coordinating the arrangements for the session with the Law School.

Mutua said he hoped this appellate open house would be one of many opportunities for UB to host this kind of program for his students and the public.

"It is a chance for our students and faculty to observe first-hand the complex and varied jurisprudence of the Appellate Division," Mutua said.

Asian Studies seminar to address autism

The Asian Studies Program will present a free public seminar on "Autism and Education in

the People's Republic of China" at 7 p.m. April 9 in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, 6320 Main St., Williamsville, across from the ECC North campus.

The seminar will be conducted by Helen McCabe, assistant professor of education at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and co-founder and director of the Five Project, which creates and supports educational, vocational and community participation opportunities for individuals with disabilities in China.

McCabe will discuss autism and related educational services developed in China since the disorder was first diagnosed there in 1982. She will focus on educational opportunities for autistic children of all ages and the need for further attention to adult services. She also will examine the relationship over the years between organizations and individuals working in this field in China and abroad, and opportunities for future collaboration.

The seminar is sponsored by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation and the Starr Foundation.

For more information, contact Bruce Acker at backer@buffalo.edu or 645-0763.

Donations sought for HSL garage sale

The Health Sciences Library is seeking items to sell at a garage sale to be

held Sept. 11-12 to benefit UB's Campaign for the Community.

Organizers are looking for new or gently used items—no clothing or toys, please.

Donations can be dropped off through Sept. 8 at the Health



Sciences Library, Abbott Hall, South Campus.

For further information or to drop off larger items, contact Lori

Widzinski at 829-3900, ext. 138, or Ophelia Morey at 829-3900, ext. 119.

FLASHBACK



PHOTO COURTESY

A quarter century of muddy madness

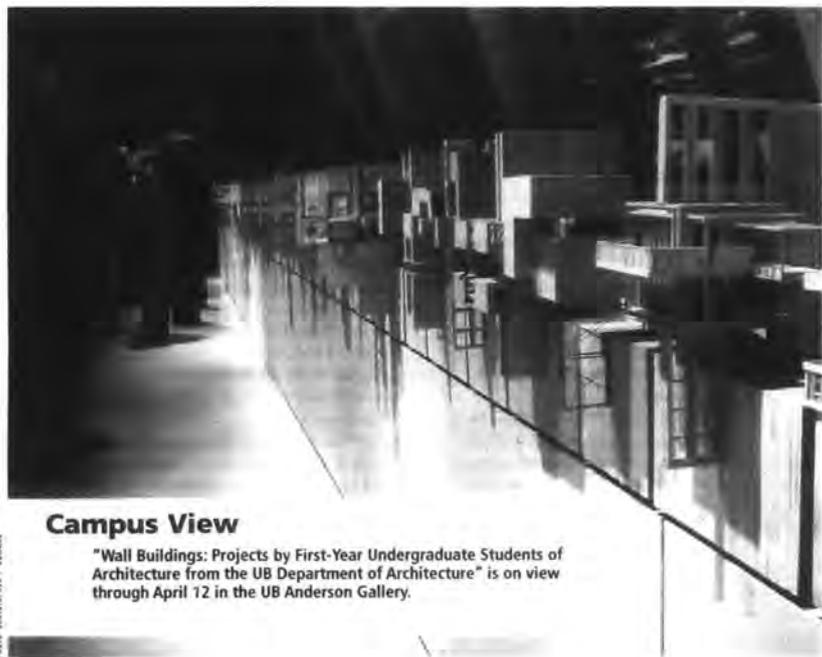
The spring thaw of 1984 ushered in UB's Oozfest mud volleyball challenge. Slithering from the slime as the Student Alumni Association's "Oozeball tournament" and conceived as a "release" before the pressure of finals, the first event was held near Clark Hall, with an unofficial companion "Oozeball night" sloshing along at P.J. Bottoms watering hole.

Within a couple years, UB's Oozfest tournament achieved national and international notice and participation. The courts moved from South Campus to Parcel B on the North Campus—where the Commons now resides—to a permanent gooey home on St. Rita's Lane. Starting out as a two-net tournament with about a dozen teams, by 1995, 96 teams splashed, crashed and slid in the Buffalo ooze, including collegiate and alumni mudders from Canada, Michigan and California. Now, more than 1,000 players and spectators get in the grime. The event sponsors student scholarships, Alumni Board programs and, this year, the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Western New York.

1990 participant Shawn Mattaro graphically glorifies the goo in a story in the *Reporter*: "I took a step onto the court and instantly sank eight inches into the sloppiest, coldest mud...I felt the mud seep into my shoe and start to creep up my leg like an overactive parasite. It was a strangely pleasurable feeling, cool and soft and relaxing in a primal way...[waiting for the next round] the mud starts to harden. My favorite red sweatshirt had become a bodycast."

Oozfest's sponsor is now the University Student Alumni Board. Get ready for this year's serves, spikes and slimy body digs in the muck on April 25. Go to www.alumni.buffalo.edu/usab/oozfest.php for details.

—Judith Adams-Volpe, University Libraries



Campus View

"Wall Buildings: Projects by First-Year Undergraduate Students of Architecture from the UB Department of Architecture" is on view through April 12 in the UB Anderson Gallery.

PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER J. EDWARDS

25 YEARS A GO