Tell me where in the world is Carmen Sandiego?
Oh tell me where in the world is... Oh tell me where can she be?
Ooh, Botswana to Thailand, Milan via Amsterdam,
Mali to Bali, Ohio, Oahu...!

This fragment of a 1990’s song recorded by Rockapella became the most famous lyric in public television as it introduced the show that was to instruct the nation’s youth in geography. We use it here because our 1700 Honor's alumni are like Carmen Sandiego, liable to be anywhere on the globe, if not from Botswana to Thailand then certainly from London to Tokyo, Hong Kong via Stockholm, and Mwanza to Macau. This is in keeping with the fact that UB is now ranked 10th in the nation in terms of its enrollment of International Students, over 4,000 to be exact.

Of course, most of our alumni are here in the good old USA – spread out from coast to coast. We think you will enjoy seeing the distribution of Honor’s folks displayed on a map on the back cover of this spring newsmagazine. Also, in keeping with a geography theme, we showcase some beautiful photos taken by Honors students during study abroad tours. And, oh, yes, there will be quiz! How many of the photos can you recognize?

In this issue, we focus on the business world. Three-fourths of our alumni head off to graduate or professional schools, with a heavy emphasis on the health professions. But a healthy contingent of our graduates enters directly into the business world. Here you will get reacquainted with Dan Sperrazza class of 1988 who has become a venture capitalist, returned to Buffalo, and now serves as a member of our Honors Council. You will salivate hearing the adventures of Steve Helms, class of 1992, who has just joined the Perry Ice Cream Company and is discovering that ball point pens don’t work at -15˚F.

Then, there are recent graduates, the sisters Govindaraj, Preethi (2002) and Deepa (2006), who have started a consulting firm that specializes in corporate training and development using the humanities for guidance in making important business decisions. Their fledgling company is appropriately called Minerva, named for the Roman goddess of wisdom and arts. Clearly their Honors education has been put to good use.

In the last couple of decades universities in the United States have grown ever more cozy with the business world. Universities have belatedly come to realize that their faculty and students are routinely producing inventions and products that are worth millions of dollars. This, using the facilities and environment of academia. Previously, these discoveries were passed on to firms or developed by the professors themselves without any financial remuneration for the university. An invention might be left to languish because of a professor’s lack of knowledge, skill or time to carry the product into the developmental phase.

The situation has radically changed. Now, universities have set up centers to help protect and develop the inventions of faculty and students by patenting or copywriting these ideas and helping them bring the products to commercial development. In this issue we highlight how UB is handling this new relationship under the leadership of Dr. Robert Genco, the founding director of the Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach (STOR). If Carmen Sandiego, that arch villainess of the Public Television Network, were still around and seeking to pilfer UB’s treasure trove of inventions, the STOR program would surely thwart her.

KIPP HERREID & JOSIE CAPUANA
Academic Director and Administrative Director
From the Editor:
This January we celebrated my daughter Makena’s first birthday! Here she is with the rest of the family (my husband Mark, my stepson Justin (15yrs.) and my stepdaughter Brittany (18yrs.)).
The University at Buffalo has moved up to No. 10 among 2,700 accredited U.S. universities in international enrollment, according to an annual report released by the Institute of International Education (IIE). UB last year was ranked No. 11 in the IIE’s “Open Doors” report and was ranked 15th in 2004. This year’s ranking indicates that UB enrolled 4,072 international students among a total enrollment of 27,220 in 2005-06, an increase of 2.7 percent from the previous year. The ranking includes undergraduate and graduate students, as well as students taking part in optional practical training programs.

Among major public research universities, UB is ranked highest in terms of the percentage of total enrollment that is international, according to the report. UB President John B. Simpson said UB’s continued rise in the ranking is a reflection of the institution’s excellent reputation overseas and demonstrates UB’s growing prominence as one of the most globalized public research institutions in the U.S.

“In today’s ever-flattening world, higher education institutions throughout the world have a special responsibility to educate students who are globally aware and culturally fluent,” Simpson said. “As a public research university serving a truly global community, UB takes this responsibility very seriously.” Simpson pointed out that increased recruitment of international students, as well as increased recruitment of out-of-state students, is an important part of the plan to grow enrollment by 10,000 students over the next 15 years, according to UB’s strategic planning process, UB 20/20. “Our scholarly community is greatly enriched by the growing numbers of outstanding students who come to us from around the globe to study at UB, and we are committed to creating even greater opportunities for international academic exchange and collaboration,” he added.

UB Professor Stephen C. Dunnett, vice provost for international education, said the presence of so many international students on the UB campus – 15 percent of UB’s student body is international – greatly enhances the educational experiences of all UB students by exposing them to diverse cultures, viewpoints and languages. Academically, international students perform exceptionally well at UB, and they contribute in many different ways to the educational, research and public service endeavors of the university.

The new ranking is the latest evidence of UB’s status as a world leader in international education. UB’s international reputation was a major reason Simpson was invited to join U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings on a tour of Asia, Nov. 10-18, to promote U.S. higher education to international students. In addition, UB in October celebrated the 25th anniversary of its historic educational exchanges with China. UB was the first U.S. university to establish exchange programs with China following the normalization of diplomatic relations in 1979.

The three-day visit to UB by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in September also was an indication of UB’s increasing international stature, particularly in Asia. And UB’s domestic students show more interest in studying abroad than do their peers at other U.S. colleges and universities. Ten percent of UB students study abroad, five times the national average.
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eberston’s definition took on new meaning as I visited the Technology Incubator at Baird Research Park, an office and laboratory building adjacent to the North Campus academic buildings on Sweet Home Road. They do not hatch eggs or protect premature babies, but they do grow something — businesses.

The Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach (STOR) was established in 2002 and is housed within the Technology Incubator. I was eager to learn more about STOR as I sat down to talk with its Vice Provost and Director, Dr. Robert Genco. According to Genco, it was established “to more efficiently take the ideas and inventions of university faculty and students and bring them to benefit society. This is done to protect the ideas and inventions of University faculty and students by patenting or copywriting, and by commercializing them one way or another to produce products or services that contribute to the health and welfare of society.”

Genco, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Oral Biology and world-renowned scientist, has been Vice Provost and Director of STOR since its inception in 2002. Genco was instrumental in developing STOR, after former UB Provost Elizabeth Capaldi approached him on his thoughts about how to more effectively transfer the university’s technology. Genco had been administering the NYSTAR Center for Advanced Technology (CAT), a gap-funding grant from New York State, had founded a drug startup business called Therex, and had nine patents, so he was familiar with technology transfer as a scientist. He suggested combining the intellectual property office, the incubator (which currently holds approximately 24 startup businesses), and the commercialization gap research program, which he had been running, in order to establish a continuum of services for UB inventors. STOR was created and Genco was appointed as Director.

STOR works with faculty and students to commercialize university discoveries for public benefit. “Very often students will be co-inventors with faculty and sometimes they are even the sole inventors, but students are involved. Students also participate in business plan competitions and actually start businesses themselves.” How does all this work? STOR’s three divisions - Intellectual Property, Funding, and Commercialization - help launch successful businesses from faculty or student inventions.

The Intellectual Property Division of STOR helps faculty and students in the process of patenting their inventions developed at UB. This intellectual property, owned by the university, is licensed to the private sector and is used to launch new products for new or established businesses. STOR personnel work with faculty and students to ensure that their intellectual property is commercialized when possible. The Funding Division assists researchers in locating and securing funding for the development and commercialization of their inventions. Finally, the Commercialization Division works with both companies and entrepreneurs in order to commercialize UB-developed intellectual property. It helps in launching new businesses and in accessing venture capital funding. By providing physical space in the UB Technology Incubator, it allows new businesses to grow.

Buffalo BioBlower is just one example of the success possible through the help of STOR and its resources. This UB startup business was established approximately two years ago. A blower was developed that sterilizes air and kills spores such as B. anthrax surrogates. It was invented by Professor James Garvey in the chemistry department and patented with the help of STOR’s Intellectual Property Division. Garvey was able to secure product development funds through the help of STOR’s Funding Division to further examine how the blower worked. It was determined that it wasn’t heat that killed the organisms, but instead the switching of low and high pressure alternating in nanoseconds that blew them apart. Genco noted this as a very important discovery, because if it was heat only that killed the organisms, the air would then have to be cooled, making the blower very inefficient. “The money coming from the university also helped Dr. Garvey make improvements in the blower that makes the invention much more valuable.” Garvey was able to receive seed venture capital funding from a university-based venture fund to help develop a sophisticated prototype which was ultimately of interest to the federal government. Due, in part to.
Technology continued

the assistance Garvey received through STOR’s Commercialization Division, he recently received 1.5 million dollars of Federal support to further develop the device for military testing.

A local company called Smart Pill Corporation also owes much of its success to UB’s technology transfer efforts. The Smart Pill Corporation scientists developed a capsule that, when swallowed, travels the GI tract as it records its location, pressure and pH. The original invention was made by Jerome Shentag, a faculty member in the department of pharmaceutical sciences. Currently, David Barthel is president of Smart Pill and he has been able to secure more than 25 million dollars of private investment to support research and development, manufacturing, and marketing efforts. The Smart Pill has already been approved by the Canadian FDA for determining gastric transit time. Delayed gastric emptying is a serious complication of many diseases, including diabetes. This device, once swallowed, transmits a signal to an instrument that the patient wears on their belt approximately the size of a cell phone. The patient then brings the instrument to their physician for diagnosis of possible delayed gastric emptying. The Smart Pill was created in Buffalo and the company intends to stay here. It was started with just one or two employees and has grown to employ 30 people. Once the Smart Pill is approved for use in the United States, which Genco is confident will happen soon, there will be a large market for the product. Other uses for this unique diagnostic device are also currently being considered.

This type of research leading to the public good is possible through the Bayh-Dole Act (1980). This act states that even if an invention is developed from research supported by federal grants, it belongs to the university. However, the university has an obligation to commercialize it, develop it, and to transfer it to society. New York State is very interested in becoming a high-tech state and this technology transfer is a large part of economic development. UB also receives a great deal of support from regional economic development organizations for these activities.

Genco credits support from UB administration as allowing STOR to reach the level of success that it has. “Any institution that is going to contend to be a major university in the United States has to have a very strong technology transfer operation...it is part and parcel of a major university’s activity, and supports UB 2020 strategic strengths.”

STOR has made quite an impact in a short period of time. In 2001, the year before STOR was developed there was only one startup business and five licenses. Last year there were eight startup businesses and 16 licenses from UB. These licenses are not only for startup business but for larger companies that will take UB’s technology and develop it further. In turn, those companies would then pay a royalty on sales to the university, creating the potential to generate income to be filtered back into research. Genco adds, “That rate of progress has been very, very satisfying.”

A challenge for STOR comes in the form of revenue. Little venture capital is available for very young businesses, so it is difficult to obtain the first $250,000 or $500,000 needed to get the business off the ground. To help fill this gap, a privately owned development company, First Wave Technologies, LLC, was formed. Through this process, the technologies of a student or professor are “optioned”, which is a pre-license, and then funding can be added to the further development of that technology. If it appears promising, they will license the technology from UB and possibly start a business, manufacture it themselves, or license it to a bigger company.

As Genco looks to the future he hopes that “by the year 2020 there will be several clusters of startup businesses in a number of areas that have been developed from the university’s inventions and discoveries.” The incubator has already “graduated” more than 60 businesses, many of which are now in their own facilities, such as ATTO. These startup businesses are vital to the local economy because they create jobs as well as bring inventions of university faculty to the benefit of society.

“[STOR] was established to more efficiently take the ideas and inventions of university faculty and students and bring them to benefit society.”
Alien vomit, walking stomachs, and the best timing for toilet humor jokes aren’t typical workplace discussions for most people. But it’s just another day for me as an animation artist for “American Dad” at Fox Television Animation in Los Angeles. I work alongside some of the most fascinating, talented artists I’ve ever met. My co-workers are people from all over the world who came to Los Angeles with a similar dream: to make it as an artist in Hollywood or die trying.

My typical workday at Fox Television Animation usually starts with a color screening or animatic at about 10 am. Once a week I attend a table read where the voice actors read through the script for the first time. Sometimes the table reads include celebrity guest stars. It’s been surreal to have an everyday conversation with a celebrity that I grew up watching on TV. Next I meet with the production coordinator to get assigned to an episode. The director of that particular episode will sit down with me to go over the work that needs to be done. Sometimes it’s merely redrawing the pupils of characters to ensure proper eye contact. Other times, it’s full on storyboarding from pages of script.

After I receive my work assignment from the director, it’s literally “back to the drawing board” for about 10 to 12 hours. The breakneck pace of television animation can be grueling at times, but if you’re passionate about what you do, the work can be incredibly rewarding. I get an extraordinary sense of pride and accomplishment from the work that I do on “American Dad”. Whether it’s drawing humorous acting for characters or just tweaking the details of a prop, I know that I’m leaving my personal mark on the show.

Though I may be working my dream job now, success in Hollywood didn’t happen overnight. I moved to Los Angeles in pursuit of a career as an animation artist shortly after graduating from UB with a BFA in illustration. As a starry-eyed 22 year old, I thought that I’d be arriving in a “land of opportunity”- a city pulsing with creative verve. To

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my dismay, in the post-9/11 world animation studios were laying off their artists in record numbers and sending more work overseas. For a Buffalo transplant with no industry experience and no job prospects, I was forced to work a few unfulfilling desk jobs. My job search after graduation meant so much more to me than a means of paying the rent. It was an opportunity for me to speak to the world. It was a test to see if I had the guts and ambition to be everything that I always wanted to be.

My first big break came when the company that I worked for at the time promoted me to their in-house multimedia designer. I went from pushing paperwork to creating the company’s website, designing business cards, brochures, magazines and interactive displays. Finally my UB art education was paying off. This creative, dynamic job took me to company conferences in Fort Lauderdale, New York City, Las Vegas, and Santa Monica. However, as I flew back to Los Angeles from a conference in Las Vegas, I couldn’t help but feel unfulfilled. Though I had a creative and potentially lucrative job, my heart was in animation and I simply refused to settle. I continued to introduce myself to everyone I could that had any connection to the animation industry. I pressed people for advice and feedback on my artwork. Some people were helpful; others were not. I finally met an artist who was working at Nickelodeon on the show “SpongeBob SquarePants”. He took the time to give some career advice and feedback on my portfolio. I took his advice and further refined my portfolio. Eighteen months went by and just as I began to question whether animation was in the cards for me, I received a surprise call from Fox Television Animation. After having my portfolio, storyboard test, and résumé on file for more than a year, they were ready to offer me a job as an animation artist on the show “American Dad”. Just like that, my life changed in an instant.

My work on “American Dad” has been instrumental in opening other doors for me as well. “American Dad” and “Family Guy” are produced together and I was asked to illustrate two issues for the “Family Guy” comic book series. I autographed so many comic books for fans of the show, I thought I was going to sprain my wrist!

Since I’ve been working in the entertainment industry, the most common question that I’m asked from aspiring artists, actors, writers, and musicians is, “What does it take to get a job in Hollywood?”

The truth is there is no simple answer. It takes a great deal of talent, ambition, timing, and luck. I tell anyone who wants a job in animation to first and foremost, be honest about your drawing ability and seek feedback from industry professionals. I work with artists that possess a humbling amount of talent. Everyday is a learning experience for me. Ambition goes without saying, but there’s an important characteristic of luck and timing. I’ve realized many “lucky” people in life are the people that make their own luck- those who are driven to take the plunge, work a 55 hour week, or go out of their way to introduce themselves to experts in their field.

I drive through Hollywood everyday and I consider myself lucky. I cannot believe that I get paid to do what I do for a living. I hope to work my way up the animation ranks to the director position. I’m also writing a noir-inspired script I plan to illustrate and publish as a comic book series someday. For several years I wondered if attending UB was the right decision when there were expensive, high profile art schools out there. Looking back, I realize that UB provided me with a great foundation for my professional career. I’m living proof that you can attain your dream job if you have the right mindset, focus, determination, and an unwillingness to settle. I’m a Buffalo native drawing cartoons in Hollywood 12 hours a day and I’ve never been happier.”
January 17, 2007

The tree branches are still encased by yesterday's freezing rain. At 7:20 a.m., I'm driving east on County Road through Clarence; it's about 20 degrees outside. The bottom of the rising sun rests on a farmer's field. The orange sunlight dances all around the ice on those branches strong enough to survive the October storm - in fact it's the first time I notice the beauty of the trees since before the havoc caused by that early snowfall.

My name is Steve, and my Civic and I are headed to Akron, where Perry's Ice Cream Company is located. I'm the controller and Januarys are always busy for those who chose the career of accounting. I turn off the Preston and Child audio book to plan my day (this takes will-power - yesterday I was late for an 8 o'clock meeting because Agent Pendergast was ambushed and I just couldn't leave the chapter unfinished). After two miles, I recognize that I need more silent commutes; I did this years ago, and apparently it was such a good idea that I stopped.

This is the first frigid day of 2007 – but I think back to December 29th when I found myself in the freezer at Perry's. I may have been in the UB Honors program, but I'm not smart enough to realize that ball point pens don't work at -15°F. While I'm confessing, I'll admit that I got it right on my third try (Sharpie's freeze). I'm responsible for ensuring that $4 million of ice cream is counted that day. A team of warehouse workers in freezer suits is waiting for me to get count sheets into their hands. One snickers at me and my Sharpie, but I won't understand that for another hour.

Someone asks me what the term “controller” means. I tell them I’m unsure because I certainly don’t feel in control of anything. My job is to ensure we are reporting the position and the results of the company accurately, lead the accounting group, and a whole list of other things you don’t really want to read about. Finance Team Leader is a better title.

That day went well, but it was just the beginning of a long year-end process for the finance team. The days have unexpected surprises, but meticulous planning during autumn while eating those Nutty Sundae Cones paid off. How did I get so lucky to find this job? I feel like an undercover ice cream taster posing as a CPA. I am blessed to be doing the work I was born to do.

I'm just as determined today as I was at 18 not to gain the “Freshman Fifteen,” which has a whole new meaning for us recent hires at Perry's. I actually weigh myself daily. When I tell people I work for Perry's, they're envious of the free ice cream perks I must get. Not so fast: we may take the goodies only if they do not meet Perry's high quality standards, and believe me...the bar is really high (think pole vaulting). We can scoop up ice cream to take home in the rare instances where product is underweight or the Panda Paws too few. I'm still waiting for the product with too much chocolate!

I arrive, day planned, and I look at the interest rate curve. We'd like to swap our variable rate for a fixed rate, and today may be the day. With oil futures down today, it feels like the right time to hedge. Feels? Is it acceptable for a number-cruncher to act on a feeling? After that, I have two hours to work on the 2007 budget, which is getting late. I haven’t started to lose sleep over it.

Several estimates need to be hammered out before finalizing the financial performance for 2006 and it’s my job to make sure the numbers are okay. If I had another day, they would be more okay, but they will be close enough to accurate today. I just can’t wait another day. The company receives results monthly in five days. At year-end, thirteen days is too long by my count. Next year, I'll aim for ten.

By 3 p.m., we are scrambling to email the financial results. By 5:15 p.m., I’m driving toward the sun again. The first release of annual results on my watch puts a smile on my face. I think about the last steps of the budget process I need to lead and the many days ahead preparing for the audit and tax teams. I think about dinnertime with the family, dessert (the Mint Ting-A-Ling riding shotgun with me) and hearing how everyone's day turned out. I turn on the audio book and smile - I love my job.

(Reader's Note: as we went to press, Steve has gained two pounds in his first ten months at Perry’s.)

Steve eating a nutty sundae cone in his freezer suit!

Photo: Michael Brown

Photo: Jenny Helms

Photo: Steve Helms
Where in the World Is...
Test your knowledge of far away places. Can you name the locations in these photos taken by Honors Scholars? An answer key is available on Page 15. Good luck!
Early on in our grammar school careers we learn that if we say the wrong thing to our teacher, we may end up in the principal’s office; the same thing applies in the college setting, except that, in my case, a discussion with a professor landed me in Africa!

The SUNY study abroad program offers a huge assortment of destinations through a variety of campuses, but the program recommended to me by my professor when he learned of my interest in the African continent, was a program run by UB professor Shaun Irlam. It would allow two weeks in Senegal (West Africa), three weeks in South Africa, and an optional two and a half week safari through Namibia (North West of S.A.). Topics of study included literature, music, film, political history, and overall culture of the regions.

Africa has always fascinated me; whether I was watching Discovery Channel specials or reading books that took place somewhere on that continent, something always drew me in further. Some time during middle school or high school a friend lent me Bryce Courtenay’s *The Power of One*, a book about an English boy growing up in South Africa, beginning around WWII and continuing through the tumultuous years of apartheid. It immediately became my favorite book.

Also, having recently written some papers concerning women writers in the western world, this trip seemed like the perfect opportunity to expand that research and find out more about women writers in a region of the world that held such significance for me. In order to do this, I applied for the Honors Department Research and Creative Arts Grant.

My research lead me into cultures that seemed at first, completely different from my own. I fell in love with Senegal from day one, and even South Africa, a country with which I battled to come to terms, kept a piece of my heart when I left. I visited the countries with the intention of studying women writers, but what I realized when I arrived was that I couldn’t think about the women who were writing in these cultures, without first understanding the cultures.

For example, South Africa is a nation that is still feeling the effects of the horrific years of apartheid, and if I didn’t understand the significance of this tumult, there is no way that I would have understood the import of what Kgomotso Matsuyane, the editor for *Oprah Magazine, South Africa*, had to say during an interview we had with her. She described what it was like to grow up in a world where you could be walking down the street and suddenly find a gun in your face. She explained that it wasn’t until she came to the States for college that she realized the affect that the condi-
The beauty of what she said though was in her constructive ideas for the future of her nation. She addressed the issue of AIDS, a disease that she says is not simply an epidemic. Because the government is not taking an active enough stance, Matsuyane claims that AIDS is in fact a form of genocide. Prominent members of the government need to get themselves tested for AIDS, and explain the importance of this to the general population.

Other women striving to make a difference include Vicky Ntozini, owner of Vicky's B&B, the smallest hotel in South Africa. It is not really the size of her establishment that makes her interesting though. Instead, it is the location—a township that used to be a black-only area, and which is still one of the poorest areas of South Africa. Her mission is inspiring. By having her establishment located in the heart of Khayelitsha, people staying there are given the opportunity to understand what the living conditions are like not simply by seeing them, but by actually living in them. The hope is that in the long run this will be one more step towards bridging the color gap and, more importantly, the gap in understanding that exists and thrives even today.

While staying in Khayelitsha one might also see the Chris Hani Independent School, and perhaps not even know it. The school is available for children who, for a variety of reasons, are not ready to be in mainstream schools. Maureen Jacobs, who is the principal of the school, explained some of the ways that the school, which is actually a series of shipping crates in which classrooms have been set up, raises money to pay for necessary costs, including feeding the children one meal at lunchtime. There are tours that run through the townships, and many of them stop at the school. The students share some of the songs that they have learned, and visitors can buy recordings of the chorus. I would be lying if I didn’t say that one feels like something of an outsider while watching the children sing. You become very conscious of that which you have, and that which they lack.

The experiences that this trip and that the Honors grant afforded me are priceless. It is impossible for me to express how much the people, the landscape, the cultures, and the stories of the African nations I visited touched my heart. Now, back in the United States and back at UB, my hope is to try to convey even just a fraction of the significance that my research had for me, in the hope that others will take advantage of the opportunities presented through study abroad, and the research support that our campus provides.

The only way to find the answer is to pose the question; the only way to discover the world is to explore it; the only way to understand life is to experience it. Do it all."

Maureen Jacobs sings with students at the Chris Hani Independent School.
Like many an Honors Scholar with an inclination toward the natural sciences, I spent quality time back in the 1980s in the research laboratory of Dr. Herreid gathering data on the breathing habits of crabs and cockroaches. While the sights and smells of biological research were ultimately not for me, I developed intellectual curiosity and devotion to the scientific method that have served me quite well in my career as an investor. Upon graduating in 1988 with an undergraduate degree in Management, I embarked on a career in investment research that has led me back to my roots.

It was apparent to me when I left UB that an MBA was an important ingredient to a successful career in business and finance. Right out of undergrad, I was accepted on a deferred basis to the MBA program at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. I’m certain that a number of my activities while an Honors Scholar at UB helped to differentiate me in getting what was, at the time, a very rare acceptance for someone lacking meaningful business experience. My access to University Administration provided wonderful opportunities to demonstrate leadership as a student. For example, then-Undergraduate Dean Walter Kunz asked me to form and lead a UB student-based affiliate of Rotary International, a group of civic and business leaders dedicated to community service. This was one of several efforts that helped demonstrate my preparedness for such a demanding graduate business program. As a side note, my favorite professor at Wharton was a finance professor named John Percival. Dr. Percival received his Ph.D. from UB and has won numerous teaching awards at Wharton.

In the years between leaving UB and starting at Wharton, I started as an investment analyst in the Bond Investment Department of Aetna in Hartford, CT. Aetna later chose to sponsor my graduate studies. I ultimately became Director of Corporate Finance, responsible for managing all of Aetna’s borrowings and credit relationships with Wall Street. In 1996, I joined several former Aetna colleagues at Fleet Investment Advisors in Boston as Director of Fixed Income Research. In six years at Fleet, we built a top performing bond investment business with $90 billion in assets. In 2002, I was recruited to be a Senior Vice President at Northern Trust in Chicago. There I ran a team of several dozen analysts in both Chicago and London. Our department was responsible for over $200 billion of other people’s money.

Eventually, I decided I would take a more entrepreneurial turn in my career. I started a private investment partnership (what you might refer to as a hedge fund) to manage not just other people’s money, but my own as well. Using basic statistical techniques for understanding large data samples, I comb the credit markets for opportunities to profit from the oversights of others. With my own savings invested alongside those of my clients, the risk is higher. However, there is nothing like eating your own cooking when you have spent so many years training to be a master chef.

One wonderful by-product of running my own business has been the freedom to relocate my family home to Western New York to be closer to our extended family. Karen and I both grew up in Amherst in the shadow of the North Campus as it was rising up and being built. In my 18 years living away, the campus has continued to grow and thrive. My father-in-law and I now share season tickets to UB Men’s and Women’s Division I basketball at Alumni Arena. The games have become family excursions with the kids to develop what we hope will be the foundation for still more “legacy” roots here at UB.

The most gratifying outcome of my return to Buffalo was the invitation to be the first Honors Program alumni to sit on the Honors Council. While in the Honors Program, I was an enthusiastic spokesperson, often assisting with recruiting efforts. Despite years away from Buffalo and the academic world, my enthusiasm for the Honors Program has not dwindled. It is most rewarding to me to offer my professional perspectives from the business world and my familiarity with other cities and universities as a small contribution to the work of the Council. The size, scale and complexity of the Honors Program certainly have grown since my days as an undergraduate. Fortunately, I am once again getting guidance from long-time friends and mentors Drs. Herreid and Capuana as I did many years ago.

I am delighted to have brought my family home and to be immersing myself yet again in campus life at UB. It is truly a privilege and an honor to be given the opportunity to serve as a member of the Honors Council.

Dan Sperrazza with his wife, Karen, sons, Donald and Anthony, and daughter, Melanie
Mountain Language & The Sniper

In the summer of 2004, while performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, I saw a beautiful production of the play

Someone Who’ll Watch Over Me, by Frank McGuinness. This incredibly moving play, which tells the story of three political prisoners in Lebanon, sparked my passion for political theatre. I suddenly wanted to be involved in the type of theatre that could be both captivating and thought provoking.

During my junior year at UB, I thought I might like to try my hand at directing. I immediately thought that I would want to direct Someone Who’ll Watch Over Me and affect people like I had been affected. But my mentor, Dr. Robert Knopf, and I decided that the play, which is about two-and-a-half hours long and involves three different accents, would probably be too ambitious for the short rehearsal period we would have. So I began looking for new material.

I wanted to choose a play that would have a strong impact politically, but it was more important that the story be about people, not just philosophical concepts. I came across Harold Pinter’s Mountain Language first. Pinter, a Nobel Prize winning playwright, is known for his strange and dark worlds, and Mountain Language is no exception. Set in a military state, where the ‘mountain people’ are being imprisoned and tortured without cause, the play seemed very relevant. The abstract style of the play left it very open to interpretation. But because Mountain Language is so abstract, I needed something more realistic to follow it. I began looking through collections of short plays and stumbled upon a new play by Anthony David and Elaine Romero called The Sniper. This play appealed to me because in addition to dealing with social and political conflict in Israel, it is mainly about two people and the crucial problems of their relationship. Plus the play had only been produced once, making this production the second ever.

More than a year after I had begun the process of selecting material, I finally had the proposal for my student production approved by the Department of Theatre and Dance, and I began preparing for the casting process. As an actor, I have been through many auditions, but sitting on the other side of the table was a completely new experience. Working as producer and director of this project, I also learned a great deal about being an actor. Having the chance to cast my own show gave me great insight into what a director is looking for in an audition—great unknown.

Once the play was cast, I had winter break to prepare for rehearsals, which we launched right into at the start of the semester. The entire rehearsal process was a whirlwind. Because we didn’t have an entire production team of designers and staff, I was responsible for many things outside of rehearsals, from creating the poster, to recording and editing sound, to choosing props, and generally managing and coordinating the whole process.

Luckily we did have a costume designer, Honors Scholar Kelly Jakiel (’08). Because we couldn’t have much in the way of a set or scenery that was manipulated to create four different locations. Without it, we couldn’t have much in the way of a set or scenery that was manipulated to create four different locations. We had achieved something powerful. But for all the work and stress, when we reached the end of our final dress rehearsal, I felt an immense sense of satisfaction and pride in the level of work we had achieved.

As an actor I am always a little nervous before going onstage in front of an audience, but that nervousness is nothing compared to what I felt as a director. It is both terrifying and exhilarating to go from rehearsal, where the director can stop and start to fix even the smallest details, to performance, where the director must sit back and totally release what a director is looking for in an audition—great unknown.

If I had learned nothing else from this project, I certainly would have at least become practiced in the art of time-management and multi-tasking. The project had a way of consuming my entire life, in- and outside of rehearsal. And I constantly had to remain confident and motivating in front of the cast and crew, in order to keep on track and reach high standards. But for all the work and stress, when we reached the end of our final dress rehearsal, I felt an immense sense of satisfaction and pride in the level of work we had achieved.

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Greeting the audience members after the performances, I was so proud of the cast and crew. We had achieved something powerful that had truly affected people. There is nothing so satisfying as that feeling.

Costume sketch by Kelly Jakiel

STEPHEN STOCKING
Honors Scholar, Class of 2007

Poster created by Stephen Stocking

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A scene from The Sniper.
As college students, we were taught that training and development was the “5 Quick Steps to Better…” approach. After all, we spent our most pivotal years watching publications such as *Who Moved My Cheese* and *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* flourish. These books imply that solutions to major organizational problems are achieved in the span of a few days, maybe in a few hours if one is a fast reader. The approaches identified in these books usually involve multi-step methods that one must memorize and follow. Most current training and development approaches use these repeatable action steps that are supposed to work under any circumstances and in any industry, company, and group of individuals. Though these approaches are well intentioned and user friendly, they do not provide a process for thinking through situations and devising solutions that address new challenges. In today’s global economy, high-pressure situations are self-guided tours in which the individual must navigate the changing landscape without maps and guidebooks.

Current training and development approaches provide a blueprint that the participant can refer to for guidance. In the short run the blueprint directs the trainee to follow a multi-step method; in the long run, the blueprint will not be applicable to every situation. When a new high-pressure situation is created, professionals, accustomed to relying on methods, want a new blueprint; thus, *The Eighth Habit*. As a result, companies invest billions of dollars on blueprints to increase the need for more blueprints. While blueprints do provide a guide based on the wisdom and experiences of others, they limit the professional’s capability to two-dimensional thinking: the actions and thoughts of the professional are limited to what is prescribed in the models or methods. As Dr. Robert Daly says, high-pressure situations do not require “a blueprint, but a toolkit” that enables professionals to build customized approaches using, along with wisdom and experience, multi-dimensional thinking: the combination of self-awareness, creativity, intuition, and ability to entertain multiple and conflicting viewpoints—attributes that blueprints cannot provide. The ability to think multi-dimensionally is vital to long term career growth and development in an era in which new careers replace old ones everyday.

In college, we realized that multi-dimensional thinking is built through different disciplines in the humanities. Formula sheets and multi-step methods did not help us work through Renaissance art, Hemingway, or Baroque music. Instead, we constructed thought processes by considering the particular variables, constraints and objectives of each situation. We were even encouraged to critique existing theories—an ability major corporations value in innovative leaders.

Most importantly, we learned that the distinctive factor in the humanities based learning approach is reflective thinking. We approached learning through research, discussion, presentation and writing-actions that require recurring reflection. We were forced to reexamine our positions, challenge our viewpoints, and confront our biases not just once, but frequently even after a course was over. Reflective thinking enhanced our self-awareness, allowed us to recognize patterns, and enabled us to be comfortable with a variety of perspectives. Reflective thinking, we learned, is multi-dimensional thinking.

Since the humanities based approach gave us useful tools to think and perform well in college, we hypothesized that this approach would be useful after college as well in helping to build more effective, efficient and relevant training and development models. We envisioned a corporate world that gave professionals time during the day to take classes in Shakespeare, Contemporary Cinema or Art of the Victorian Era. The specific discipline did not matter; the humanities based approach was all we needed to fundamentally change the medium and delivery of corporate training and development. This approach would be more effective because it would directly engage the professional’s multi-dimensional thinking ability; more efficient because the professional could apply this thinking ability to a variety of situations and build customized solutions; more relevant because the reflective behavior makes this approach applicable to professional and personal situations.

Since the humanities allowed us to conceive this new idea, we took the next logical step in the summer of 2005 when we started Minerva. Named for the Roman goddess of wisdom and arts, Minerva provides training and development services for corporations and educators internationally through the humanities based approach. We use literature, film, mythology, history, music and other disciplines to construct courses that build multi-dimensional thinking.

Along the way, we have continued to teach ourselves this ability. We realized that
constructing a course called “Jane Austen,” in which participants read *Emma, Pride and Prejudice and Persuasion* and expecting these participants to make business connections in three weeks is unrealistic. As appealing as the quick fix seems to be, long-term learning and reflection cannot occur in such short amounts of time as many other training providers imply it can. Ken Kesey’s *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* illustrated to us the negative effects of not deviating from a rigid structure in the unlikely setting of a mental institution; recognizing this pattern helped us learn from the past and move into the future.

Our signature course therefore is a diversity and multicultural course that teaches participants how to engage in tolerance and sensitivity by learning about different practices, customs and religions around the world. The five parts of the course create a thirty-hour in class experience spread over several weeks. While we do read excerpts from the Torah, Bible and Koran, learn Vedic math formulas and read *Siddhartha*, we also break frequently to draw the relevant business connections through discussion and reflection. Thus far, we have heard from our participants that this course has in fact been more effective because it engages their multi-dimensional thinking abilities, more efficient because our participants are using what they learn in their departments, in cross-functional teams and other areas of their work, and more relevant because it enhances their professional and personal relationships. We have received similar feedback in response to our courses in change management, teamwork, communication, technical writing, sales training and customer service training. We are frequently questioned about the need for our soon to be patented humanities based approach, and we continue to reply that it is a paradox of sorts: as the world is shrinking, our minds are forced to transcend limitations in order to compete as individuals, organizations and nations. Perhaps this is what the UB Honors Program meant when representatives at orientation said, “The greatest return on your investment comes from developing a way of thinking that you can continually use in your profession.”

For more information, please visit minervainfinity.com.

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**Postcards from Abroad continued**

Let’s see how well you know your geography! Here are the answers to the quiz from pages 8-9. All photographs were taken by Honors Scholars during their study abroad experiences.

1.) **Great Ocean Road, Victoria, Australia** by Leo A. Polak, class of 2007.

2.) **Vatican City, Rome** by Alexandra Maier, class of 2008.*

3.) **Makola market in Ghana, West Africa** by Paul Hebert, class of 2005.*

4.) **Florence, Italy** by Brooke Shaughnessy, class of 2008.*

5.) **Montpellier, France** by Amy Hardy, class of 2008.

6.) **Besançon, France** by Iluska Lippke, class of 2007.

7.) **Outside a garden in Su Zhou, China** by Jeffrey Nisbet, class of 2006.

8.) **Sossusvlei, Namib Desert, Namibia** by Balbir Singh, class of 2007.*


10.) **Dracula’s Castle in Bran, Romania** by Matt Gellin, class of 2007.

11.) **Tsing Ma bridge across Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong** by Stephen Pfetsch, class of 2007.*

12.) **Little Oberon Bay, Wilsons Promontory in Victoria, Australia** by Jordan Chanler-Berat, class of 2006.

13.) **Ruins of the Zapotec people, Monte Alban, Oaxaca, Mexico** by Allana Krolikowski, class of 2006.*

14.) **Powder Tower, Prague** by Brian Danielak, class of 2007.*

15.) **Chiang Mai, Thailand** by Noah Bednowitz, class of 2008.


17.) **North wall of the Plaza Mayor of Salamanca, Spain** by Jeet Patel, class of 2006.

18.) **The Kremlin in Moscow, Russia** by Jeanette Crast, class of 2007.

*Students who were awarded the Jeremy M. Jacobs International Honors Scholarship. Each year, the Honors Program awards up to ten scholarships to encourage and support Honors Scholars’ participation in Study Abroad Programs. Studying and living in a different culture are amazing, challenging, and life changing experiences.*
Alumni Updates

What they’re doing now...

1988

Dwight Griffin

Dwight is currently working for Texas Instruments in San Jose, CA. He resides there with wife and three children (two girls - 11 and 8 yrs., and a boy - 6 yrs.).

1989

Stephanie Argentine

Stephanie just left her position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Business at Medaille College to become Senior Director of Human Resources - Americas for the Consumer Product Services Division of Bureau Veritas. She and her husband, Dave Reading, continue to live in Buffalo with their four kids - Ben (9yrs.), Helena (8yrs.), Mallory (4yrs.) and Charlotte (2yrs.).

1990

Larry Tentor

Larry has recently transitioned from the energy trading realm into the public pension arena. He is now working for Virginia Retirement Systems as the Research Manager of Quantitative Strategies.

1991

Neal T. Reich

After completing a Cardiothoracic fellowship at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center Neal accepted an attending physician position at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Greenwich Village, Manhattan. He and his wife Amy now live in Westchester, New York and have a baby girl named Hanna Rene. He continues to practice at St. Vincent's and is involved in residency education as well as research.

1992

Denise DiGarmo


1995

Michelle Kiec

Michelle was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Music and Director of Woodwind Studies at University of Mary in Bismarck, ND.

1996

Rustie (Hill) Dimitriadis

Rustie and her husband Steven (UB ’97) moved to Kansas City, MO over the summer. She just completed a three and a half month internship at the International House of Prayer here in KC and is joining the IHOF staff, where she will be an intercessory missionary. In July she went on a mission trip to Romania where she ministered at a summer camp for Gypsy children.

1997

Jason Bellows

Jason finished his residency in emergency medicine at George Washington University and started working at Georgetown University Hospital where he is in his second year as clinical faculty. He and his wife recently completed their first ironman triathlon (ironman triathlon: 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike, and 26.2 mile run...all in a row!)

1998

Anne (Wolpiuk) Banas

Anne recently completed her Neurology Residency at UB, where she also did research on cervical spinal cord atrophy in multiple sclerosis at the Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center at the Jacobs Neurological Institute. After enjoying some time at home with her new daughter, she will begin a second residency in Psychiatry.

1999

Jennifer Coleman

Jennifer will be getting married this August to Patrick Krey, a fellow UB grad! They met in the PMBA program in 2002 and just purchased a home in Clarence, NY.

2000

Anna Thor

Anna has a new translation company called Arabic Translation International, and will be graduating from Nazareth College of Rochester with a Master’s Degree in TESOL in May 2007.
2002

KELLY (McLAUGHLIN) BECKER
Kelly is finishing up her Ph.D. in chemical engineering at Penn State.

AL‘AI FLORES
Al’ai will be joining the class of 2011 of the Albert Einstein Jacobi-Montefiore Emergency Medicine Residency Program.

ATUL JAIN
Atul completed medical school last May and is currently doing his residency in Internal Medicine in NYC at NYU School of Medicine.

CHRISTOPHER J. MILLER
Chris graduated from UB Law School in May 2006 and was promoted to vice president of E-ZOIL Products, Inc., a local manufacturer of specialty chemicals for the diesel transportation and heating, ventilating, and air conditioning industries.

2003

RACHEL BRODY
Rachel represented Scotland at the Interplay - Europe Young Writer’s Conference last summer in Liechtenstein.

DAVID HOWE
David will be graduating in May 2007 with a Masters in Systems Engineering from Cornell University. His degree is part of a 3-year leadership development program through work

TAMMY LU
Tammy graduated from Cornell with a MPA and is working as a business analyst.

INNA ROZOV
Inna is graduating from UB’s School of Medicine in May 2007.

2004

MICHAEL DRAY
Michael is still employed at Praxair and through his job has been able to travel all over the US and even to Europe!

BROOKE MENTKOWSKI
Brooke is working in M&T Bank’s NYC Private Banking division and attending NYU evenings for an Master’s Degree in Economics.

2005

COURTNEY DELMAR
Courtney recently graduated from the University of South Florida College of Public Health with a Master’s Degree in Public Health in Health Education.

JENNIFER INTERNICOLA
Jennifer is currently a Political Appointee at the Department of Homeland Security as Special Assistant to the White House Liaison, Office of the Secretary. Jennifer is also on track to graduate in May 2007 from American University with a Master’s Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Homeland Security, Terrorism, and the U.S. Intelligence Community.

RUTH AMY KLEINMAN
Ruth recently staffed a Taglit-birthright Israel trip for college students all across the country! Because she works for Hillel, she was asked to help bring the students to Israel. Here is a photo of Ruth and Chincy Mathew. They met up in Rockefeller Center the day before New Years Eve to catch up on old times; they were freshman roommates in Roosevelt Hall in 2001-2002.

CATHARINE GOERSS-MURPHY
Catherine is currently teaching English in China at Dalian Maritime University.

JONATHAN PANCERMAN
Jonathan is currently working as a Financial Analyst in Oak Brook, IL for McDonald’s Corporation. Recently, he got engaged at the World’s Largest Disco in Buffalo, and is planning a fall 2007 wedding.

2006

JEREMY CAMPBELL
Jeremy is a Private Wealth Management Consultant at Lord, Abbett & Co., LLC.

WILLIAM PAUL CHAPMAN
William was accepted by Harvard Law School in December, and currently plans to begin in the fall 2007 semester.

ANTHONY DePLATO
Anthony is currently attending University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, class of 2010.


ANNE (WOLPIUK) BANAS (1998) and her husband Michael (UB Medical Class of 2000), had a daughter, Josephine Ashley, on January 21, 2006.

ERIC BIELEFELD (1999) and his wife Dava welcomed a son, Doyle!


KIMBERLY (GRZANKOWSKI) WEST (1997) and her husband welcomed a son, Alexander Joseph on April 13, 2006!

From six friends (Cindy, Laurie, Sue, Amy, Aileen, and Brian) who met in the UB Honors Program freshman year, look how our group has grown!

Back row: David Lawrence, Rachel Lawrence, Kris Skogholm, Hannah Lawrence, Breana Kennedy, Sarah Kennedy, Stu Skogholm, Jonathan Patenaude, Jack O’Hearn, Dan O’Hearn, Brian Piotrowski (UB grad 1988)


IN MEMORIAM We are saddened to report the death of SCOTT A. MINBIOLE (Psychology, 1999). Scott received a Master’s Degree in counseling from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrison, VA and was a guidance counselor at Warren County High School in Front Royal, VA. His life and career were a great source of pride to his family and friends, as well as to UB and the Honors Program.
While our Alumni are found all over the globe, here is a representation of where they are located right here in the USA!