Zombies and More: Pop Culture in the Classroom? p. 12

Inside: UB Design That Works • The Secret
Life of a Mascot • Law Center Groundbreaking
Snapshot: New Law Center Underway

All eyes were on the corner of North Charles Street and Mount Royal Avenue on the afternoon of Aug. 26, when more than 350 guests descended upon the site of UB’s future John and Frances Angelos Law Center for the landmark project’s groundbreaking ceremony. Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley (pictured at left), Maryland Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. and other dignitaries joined the UB community and several key donors—including Peter Angelos, LL.B. ’61; Willard Hackerman, representing the Whiting-Turner Contracting Co.; Sayra Wells Meyerhoff, J.D. ’78, M.S. ’04, and Neil Meyerhoff; Robert C. Embry, representing The Abell Foundation; and Renee Bronfein Ades, B.S. ’74, J.D. ’00—in celebrating the start of construction on the $107 million building, slated to set new standards for sustainable architecture in Baltimore.

“Because of this building’s location, because of the University’s aspirations for creating a world-class facility and because of UB’s ongoing commitment to the larger community, the new John and Frances Angelos Law Center will impact not only the University but also all of midtown Baltimore,” UB President Robert L. Bogomolny noted in his remarks to the crowd.
Dear UB Alumni and Friends,

One of the great pleasures of my job is that I am still surprised by the University of Baltimore. Halfway through my ninth year as UB president (which in itself is surprising), I’m well aware of the achievements of our students, the talents of our faculty, the dedication of our staff and the pride of our alumni in their alma mater. But just when I think I’ve seen it all, I learn of something new—which I suppose is appropriate for someone at an institution of higher learning.

This year is no exception. I’ve learned that members of our creative writing faculty have been recognized with awards that are among the most prestigious in literature. Jane Delury, assistant professor, is among the recipients of the 2011 PEN/O. Henry Prize; recent recipients include Nadine Gordimer, A.S. Byatt and Tim O’Brien. Valzhyna Mort, lecturer, won the Bess Hokin Prize for poetry; previous winners include Sylvia Plath and Robert Pinsky. These accomplishments underscore UB’s strength in areas other than its traditional fields of distinction—law, business and public affairs. I also had the pleasure of meeting a UB undergraduate, Ty Hobson-Powell, who came to UB last summer as a transfer student from Howard University; he previously took courses at a community college and online. He will graduate in the spring with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, and then he plans to pursue law school and possibly medical school. Something else to know about him: He just turned 15. (Yes, that’s 15 years old.)

Ty’s story was so compelling that I invited him to speak at the University System of Maryland Board of Regents meeting that UB hosted in October. He was articulate and engaging, and he even admitted that his greatest challenge is procrastination.

As remarkable as Ty’s accomplishments are, his story reminds us that traditional models of education are things of the past, as increasing numbers of students will create their own educational pathways. In that sense, UB is well positioned for the future because of its history of serving students who map out individual ways to meet their educational and career goals. As our graduates can attest, a University of Baltimore classroom contains a mix of working adults, part-time students with families and—in 2010—sometimes even 15-year-olds.

A key part of UB’s future lies in our ability to envision and create what a 21st-century University must be to serve the present and future Ty Hobson-Powells—who might be any age, but who thrive in and demand an innovative educational environment that can be tailored to meet individual needs. UB provides just that kind of atmosphere, and our faculty, staff, alumni and even students are always thinking of new ways to enhance that experience. I’m looking forward to finding out what kind of new surprises are in store.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Bogomolny
President, University of Baltimore
Meet a Student

Damion Jackson

Damion Jackson, student in the undergraduate Simulation and Digital Entertainment program, designs video game characters like Raziel, a serif with robotic limbs, an angel core and glowing, expanding plasma wings, using computer software program Autodesk Sketchbook Pro.

by Giordana Segneri, M.A. ’10

Sure, there’s a science involved in game design, but anatomy? It may seem like a stretch, but that’s exactly what Damion Jackson, student in the B.S. in Simulation and Digital Entertainment program, has studied to inform his work bringing video game characters to life—and to make them anatomically convincing, despite their numbers of heads, eyes or appendages.

Q. Can you explain how understanding anatomy influences your character designs?

A. Anatomy is what links a character to reality. People may not be able to tell which muscles are drawn incorrectly, but if the arm is too short, the viewer will intuitively sense the error. That error can overshadow the entire character—almost like having thecleanest white shirt in the world with a grape juice stain on the sleeve. No one will notice how white the shirt is; all they will see is the purple stain.

The cool thing about anatomy is that after you have an understanding of the [fundamentals], you can alter them. You can give a character soarms or exaggerate a muscle, changing the identity of a character. But when creating a character, it is a mistake to look just at the anatomy. The goal is to convey the personality and identity of the character. If you have a character who is a mob boss, it wouldn’t make sense to put him in a shirt with pink roses and hummingbirds.

Q. On your blog, you describe your passion as 3 D art. How did you get into it?

A. Once, a representative from an art school came to my [high school] class and gave a speech on how an artist could turn [his or her] passion into a career. Before that, I had never even heard of being an artist. I thought people had to get boring jobs like lawyers and doctors. After I heard that speech, I decided to pursue what I loved no matter what it took.

It has been my dream to get into the gaming field. Once I get into the field, I plan on networking with other artists and learning new techniques to become a better artist. I plan on teaching others what I have spent a long time learning.


Meet a Faculty Member

C. Richard Swaim

by Giordana Segneri, M.A. ’10

There is an art to politics, and few may know that better than C. Richard Swaim, who teaches government and public policy in UB’s College of Public Affairs. What Swaim also knows well is that there are politics to art, and during his scholarly life, he has examined the relationship among art, government and policy. As an artist, he goes by the pseudonym Max Moltaro and focuses on postmodern, mixed-media metalwork, creating sculptures, some in homage to yet another life of his, that of an angler.

Q. What drew you to metalwork?

A. About 10 years ago while I was on sabbatical focusing on “the artist as worker” as part of public policy, a friend and UB colleague, Kendra Kopelke, asked me if I was going to make a book. (Faculty who go on sabbatical traditionally work on a book, and Kendra knew I had just gotten started working with metal.) I had begun working with Tom Moore, a master blacksmith, and decided to indeed “make a book; it’s an actual book made of steel. After working with Tom and later Bob Machovec, another metalworker of a different sort, working with metal became a necessity. I started with a basic shop on my farm in southern Pennsylvania, then had a brief foray in Sagaponack, N.Y., for a few years, and now I am finishing my shop in Glen Rock, Pa., about 45 minutes from Baltimore.

Q. How does your artwork affect your professional work?

A. Working with iron and steel, creating and learning, contributes to my understanding not only of government and politics but [also] of being. Consider the literal meaning of the metaphor “too many irons in the fire”; well, I’ve had too many irons in the fire, and if you’re distracted, the iron will burn away. The lesson: Focus. Additionally, Tom has said about hitting iron with this hammer: “Any mark worth making is worth making well.” Do good work. Secondly, art policy has been a focus of my research from my dissertation days—government policies toward artists, tax laws, audience research, arts management and, more recently, the artist as individual, as worker. The artist’s world is more familiar when I’m a part of it.

Q. What types of metalwork do you do?

A. Both large- and small-scale projects are typical, although out-of-proportion objects—fishhooks, for example—are interest me. My hooks are two to four feet, whereas the fishhooks I use for fishing are a quarter inch to one or two inches. The patina of old iron and steel has an age, when polished, and the aesthetic of rust appeals to me. Irony of presentation is part of my work. Some of my favorite pieces are books dressed as flies and, of course, the book, although it’s hard to choose among them. Moreover, some pieces are never finished, just worked occasionally. And that’s a lesson about being: Our “selves” need to be reworked occasionally, too.

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In summer 2010, Byron L. Warnken, J.D. ’77, professor of law, placed 164 UB law students with judges via UB’s Judicial Internship and Judicial EXPLOR programs, setting a new school record. When Warnken stepped down as director of both programs the following semester, he did so with a final tally of more than 3,000 law student placements in 33 years.

On Aug. 31, 2010, the University of Baltimore Alumni Association hosted its 30th annual UB Night at Camden Yards for the Orioles–Red Sox game. This year’s outing—themed “The Birds and the Bees”—also marked the UB Bee’s first appearance at the ballpark.

UB’s Center for Families, Children and the Courts partnered with the American Bar Association Section of Family Law in June to host the “Families Matter Symposium,” at which more than 60 national experts brainstormed ways to minimize the impact of divorce, custody and other legal problems on children and families. The partnership is now working on important reforms for courts, law schools and statehouses across the country.

The Maryland Avenue Garage now has four premium parking spaces reserved specifically for hybrid vehicles. UB has signed up with Zimride.com, an online, social-network ridesharing program that matches carpoolers and encourages them to share expenses. The use of paper in UB’s computer labs has been reduced by 21 percent since UB community members partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in October to plant trees in two Western Maryland watersheds to reduce runoff into the Chesapeake Bay.

Between the efforts of the UBgreen campuswide sustainability movement and the UB community as a whole, the University is becoming greener by the day. Here’s just a partial list of recent initiatives; for more, visit www.ubalt.edu/green.

Members of the UB community submitted 111 entries to the “Name the Bee” contest in fall 2010. The winning name of UB’s new—and already beloved—mascot? Eubie, submitted by freshman Maurice Sykes.
U B Gets Into the Spirit at BeeBall Classic

It’s not only the UB Bee who cares about his new nickname, Eubie. In front of a packed Recreation Center gym on Nov. 4, students, faculty, staff and alumni witnessed the unveiling of the name and participated in a bit of UB history: the first Annual BeeBall Classic, a pep rally and basketball game pitting faculty and staff members against students. Could it be the start of a new campus tradition?

Following a brief ceremony announcing the name, two teams ventured onto the court, while student cheerleaders (the Buzzettes) got the crowd moving with step routines and shout-outs. “We have a global shift in terms of coursework, in terms of engagement, both within America’s borders and beyond, that calls for a type of applied knowledge—knowledge that is deep in its specificity and broad in its understanding,” says Diedre Badejo, inaugural dean of the Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences, who began at the University in August after she was selected during a nationwide search. “That’s what colleges of arts and sciences do: We offer breadth and depth of knowledge to students and to the community that we live in.”

Badejo, former dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences at California State University, East Bay, brings more than 20 years of academic and administrative experiences to UB. She has also served as associate dean of curriculum and program development in the College of Arts and Sciences at Kent State University and has held teaching roles both at that institution and at the University of Louisville. Her areas of academic specialty include African oral and written literatures, West African history and politics, gender studies and educational development.

Her goals for UB’s new College of Arts and Sciences include developing and defining an identity for the college as the University’s cornerstone of liberal arts and general education community. She plans to work with the college’s faculty to provide new opportunities for undergraduate research and internships, for faculty-student interaction and for expanding graduate and faculty research. She also hopes to take advantage of opportunities to “look around the corner to see where the University will be in the next 10, 20 and even 60 years and how we will help get there,” she says.

To achieve these goals, she says, “It is important that the college be competitive and cutting edge and that it be at the helm of a matrix where arts, sciences, humanities, social sciences and technology are actively engaged.”

While Badejo recognizes both the challenge and the excitement that comes with building a new college, she says, “I am open to suggestions and new perspectives, and I look forward to participating with our team in building a strong, vibrant, nimble Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences.”

Diedre Badejo at Helm of New College of Arts and Sciences

Educating Through Music

The University’s Spotlight UB Performing Arts Series has gained a following for its high quality of its concerts, theater productions and other entertainment offerings, but thanks to its partnership with the Aspen Ensemble, it is now providing top-notch experiences.

This past fall, the ensemble—comprising violist David Perry, violinist Victoria Chang, cellist Michael Mermagen, fluteist Nadine Asin and pianist Rita Sloan—assumed their roles as teachers when they involved UB students in two musical residencies. On Oct. 11, after writing quick haikus to Dvorak, first-year M.F.A. in Creative Writing & Publishing Arts students discussed music’s relationship to language and its impact on writing styles. The following day, the ensemble taught a class for freshmen, performing sections of several musical pieces and asking the students to respond with adjectives to characterize the music. A lively discussion followed, ranging from life as an artist to the discipline of daily practice.

“We were excited by the openness, intuition, responsiveness and awareness that the students displayed,” cellist Mermagen says.

The residencies represent the University’s commitment to fusing its artistic programming with its academic curriculum. “The Aspen Ensemble’s residency connects two of UB’s core objectives: enhancing our students’ experiences outside the traditional classroom and connecting to our community,” says Peter Toran, vice president of planning and external affairs.

Passager Literary Journal Marks 20 Poetic Years

The brainchild of Kendra Kopelke, associate professor in the School of Communications Design, Passager made its debut in 1990 as a national literary journal dedicated to promoting new, older writers. Twenty years, 50 issues, some 1,000 contributing poets and writers, a publishing arm (Passager Books), and a slew of poetry contests and special events later, you could say it’s still going strong.

In honor of Passager’s longevity—and that of its contributors, many of whom are in their 80s and 90s—we’re treating our readers to excerpts from the publication’s first book, A Cartography of Peace, published when author Jean L. Connor was 85, and one of its latest, A Little Broest Broest, made its debut at the University’s Spotlight UB Performing Arts Series on Oct. 12 as part of the work of art; the Art of Work learning community.

During an evening performance Oct. 12, the Aspen Ensemble performed a diverse musical program that spanned genres from Johannes Brahms to David Schiff, and it will return to campus for another concert on April 14.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.ubalt.edu/spotlightub.

Making Change

For some time now, I have lived anonymously. No one appears to think it odd. They think the old are, well, what they seem. Yet see that great egret at the marsh’s edge, solitary, still? More person to think that stillness. His silence is a lie. In his own pond he is of some renown, a stalker, a catcher of fish. Watch him.

Jean L. Connor

Theo University of Baltimore Magazine
3. 1.

Being a Mascot should start drinking water to top off the tanks. but it’s almost all water. Hours before the game, you August. You can easily lose weight in a tiger suit, may keep you warm on a November night in Buffalo, have a tiger rug in front of the fireplace or a trophy having a mascot on campus). Maybe it’s the idea of hair, don’t forget to get down on one knee and kiss his your tail. After all, you are the BMOC (biggest stance, clap broadly, show your muscles, wiggle have great power given great responsibility. You can make a who you are. But, as the suit has great fun doing, you always have your, um, tail risk. Your tail is like a brass ring to some fans. Watch wear and go sit in her lap. Keep coming back and make love will keep you smiling. Find someone on the crowd on the end of a your tail. After all, you are the BMOC (biggest one knee and toss his whis...
If you squint from the back of the auditorium in UB’s Liberal Arts and Policy Building, you can just make out that the red pattern on the instructor’s short-sleeve black shirt is actually a series of skulls. And the black-and-white film the adjunct faculty member, Arnold T. Blumberg, M.A. ’96, D.C.D. ’04, has projected onto the giant screen at the front of the room is actually a classic zombie motion picture. While this may seem anything but classroom-like, Blumberg is actually describing how the film’s major plot points echo sentiments related to post-World War II McCarthyism, and a student raises his hand to launch a discussion of parallels between the zombie story and Jane Austen’s novels.
The auditorium is nearly full—making this, Blumberg says. “The very fact that zombies are so enduringly popular today, Blumberg explains. “The most pervasive and most popular genre right now we’ve picked what is, in fact, one of the most interesting marriage of commerce and art, which one can understand how it operates, and it shows how media can manipulate us.”

“For the point of popular culture studies is to replace our fine art or our fine literature,” says Hoppenstand. “The point of popular culture studies is to replace our fine art or our fine literature; it’s intended to supplement and complement it and broaden our understanding of the human experience.”

University in Ohio has an entire academic department and a supporting research center devoted to popular culture, and there is a Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association that supports “scholars and enthusiasts” through conferences, awards and grants.

“It’s important to study one’s culture so that one can understand how it operates, and knowledge is power,” says Hoppenstand.

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For Fox, assistant professor in UB’s School of Communications Design, says, “I see popular culture as being such a real interesting maratge of commerce and art, because popular culture is meant for commercial purposes very often.”

“People use it to access information, to provide examples and to understand different marital moments. To me it shows how media can manipulate us.”

And speaking of the media, Blumberg says of the hubbub surrounding this class, “We know that more than 40 current UB students had their curiosities piqued enough to enroll in the CMAT 333: Media Genres class focusing on zombies this past semester. But we went to those not enrolled—and to our alumni—to ask their opinion about the class and about the place of popular culture in higher education. In their own words ...

Should popular culture be offered as an academic subject matter in higher education?

“Yes, as a marketing major, I believe pop culture would help me better understand how media influences sales of products.”
– Janey Martin, freshman, business administration, marketing specialization

“"Yes, because popular culture is becoming increasingly important. Plus, a lot of fields such as journalism and graphic design rely on popular culture to sustain their industry.”
– James Johnson, junior, simulation and digital entertainment major.

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“"Yes, it should. It helps us students develop more knowledge and critical thinking.”
– Sumit Patel, senior, management information systems

If the CMAT 333: Media Genres course, Zombies, were to be offered again and you could enroll, would you?

“"Yes, because a zombie apocalypse is unavoidable.”
– Darryn Brown, junior, business administration, accounting specialization

“"Yes, zombies are freakin’ awesome and they impact our society in movies and books. They have been a part of world culture forever.”
– Amber Evans, freshman, English, creative writing specialization

“I would not be interested in taking this class. I feel that social skills are much more practical and essential than knowing the popular culture or the latest technology. Anyway, as a student I would not view the applicant favorably if she or he got an A in the class instead of B minus in more important classes such as business or in popular culture, unless she or he is in graphic design or an arts-related field.”
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Have you ever worked on another project that included several illustrators/designers? Sure, I do my best and hope my solutions are better than everyone else’s. You know, there is the competitive spirit that applies here.

Do you and Paula [Scher] ever collaborate on projects? We tried it a long time ago and found out we couldn’t work together. When you have two pretty strong personalities, especially like Paula’s, it’s hopeless.

How do you react to the many designers who try to emulate your style? You mean someone that has ripped me off? You might be flattered but think, ‘Why didn’t I do that job?’ There are times I’ve been asked to do something—maybe they wanted Saul Steinberg, but they couldn’t get him, and they would tell me that. So they called me because they thought my style was the closest to his style.

How long have you been in this business, and how are you best known? My first job was in 1964. People are totally different, everybody has a different idea. I’m old hat to a lot of people, while others think I could do no wrong. In the meantime, I lose a lot of business because they’re afraid to call me or [think] it will cost them too much or [that] I’m over the hill and can’t do anything good anymore. So that’s a problem.

What were the challenges? The proportions were rather extreme, [and] the headline. That’s the payoff. Coming out—that I knew would tie in with the catchphrase. That’s a way to satisfy all. There are symbols for higher education, there were three different sizes. I had to find a way to solve a problem.

GIGI BOAM: What was your reaction when I approached you about the UB campaign? SEYMOUR CHWAST: Hey, there’s another job. I love to solve graphic problems.

How do you hope people react to your design? If it’s people in their 30s to 50s, probably the Public Theater or maybe the environmental design. If it’s an older generation, they probably still know me for record covers. About 40 years. If it’s an older generation, they probably still know me for record covers. If it’s people in their 30s to 50s, probably the Public Theater or maybe the environmental design. If it’s a young kid, I think that they just know the name.

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How does it feel when you see work you’ve done, even years ago? I’m charmed by the record work, sometimes I run up against it in an antique store. I remember doing it, but it’s like a million years ago, they’re just relics.

I hate when I see something I did about five years ago. When you see something you did about 35 years ago … you’re not as critical about it.
The results are in: The University of Baltimore Alumni Association has wrapped up an extensive alumni survey as part of a yearlong process to strengthen future programs and to enhance communication between the University and its graduates. More than 620 respondents answered questions about their experiences as both students and alumni; a summary of the results is available at www.ubalt.edu/alumattitudes.

The results show that alumni are generally satisfied with their UB experience but also feel that there are areas in which UB can strengthen its relationship with a larger number of graduates. “The alumni association already is using this information as a guide for future programming and is taking steps now to make sure that our communications are the best they can be,” says Greg Bayou, B.A. ’71, association president. “Every UB graduate deserves a robust, ongoing relationship with his or her alma mater. This survey will help us get there.”

“We believe that relationships with UB do not end at graduation,” echoes Teresa Silanskis, M.P.A. ’95, vice president for the Office of Institutional Advancement. “We want to provide them with opportunities to keep growing, and there is no better way to determine how to do that than to ask our alumni for input.”

Though the survey is complete, we hope the conversation will continue. Our alumni can always let us know how we’re doing; just contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 410.837.6131 or alumni@ubalt.edu with any comments, questions or concerns.

**Where Are They Now?**

P. Ann Cotten, B.S. ’85, M.S. ’86, CERT ’92, D.P.A. ’03
director, Schaefer Center for Public Policy; adjunct faculty, College of Public Affairs

Then: Ann Cotten first came to the University of Baltimore in 1982 with an associate degree in paralegal studies in hand, hoping to finish her undergraduate studies and continue on to law school. But after discovering what she calls a “love for economics,” Cotten switched gears, earning her bachelor’s degree in the field and, upon the recommendation of a professor, working as a graduate fellow at what was UB’s then-new William Donald Schaefer Center for Public Policy while pursuing her master’s in economics.

“I was a graduate student when the Stadium Authority was contemplating building Oriole Park at Camden Yards,” she says. “For a final project, I developed a model to predict the impact of the new stadium on attendance for the Baltimore Orioles. My professor, Jon Silverman, and I published the results as an op-ed article in The (Baltimore) Sun; I still have the article.”

Now: Cotten joined the University’s staff in 1987 as the Schaefer Center’s first assistant director. “The room was so small that it was last used as a storage closet,” she says of her first office. After serving as the associate and then acting director—while earning an accounting certificate and her CPA license and becoming the first graduate of UB’s Doctor of Public Administration program—she took the center’s top post in 2004 and also joined the teaching ranks as an adjunct faculty member.

In 2010, Cotten and her 80-person staff marked the center’s 25th anniversary. “When it first started, the center had one part-time director, one administrative assistant and five graduate fellows who all shared one office,” she says. “Today, we are known for our program evaluations, survey research center and management studies and have become the leading trainer of nonprofit executive directors in Maryland. Our ability to incorporate faculty members from across the University in our applied research work really sets us apart from most public policy centers.”

**Growing Relationships**

The results are in: The University of Baltimore Alumni Association has wrapped up an extensive alumni survey as part of a yearlong process to strengthen future programs and to enhance communication between the University and its graduates. More than 620 respondents answered questions about their experiences as both students and alumni; a summary of the results is available at www.ubalt.edu/alumattitudes.

The results show that alumni are generally satisfied with their UB experience but also feel that there are areas in which UB can strengthen its relationship with a larger number of graduates. “The alumni association already is using this information as a guide for future programming and is taking steps now to make sure that our communications are the best they can be,” says Greg Bayou, B.A. ’71, association president. “Every UB graduate deserves a robust, ongoing relationship with his or her alma mater. This survey will help us get there.”

“We believe that relationships with UB do not end at graduation,” echoes Theresa Silanskis, M.P.A. ’95, vice president for the Office of Institutional Advancement. “We want to provide them with opportunities to keep growing, and there is no better way to determine how to do that than to ask our alumni for input.”

Though the survey is complete, we hope the conversation will continue. Our alumni can always let us know how we’re doing; just contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 410.837.6131 or alumni@ubalt.edu with any comments, questions or concerns.

**What’s the story behind this UB photo?**

We stumbled upon an archive of old, unlabeled UB photos that prompted us to do a little sleuthing, and we need your help. Do you know the people pictured in this image? Do you know when or why this photo was taken?

Fill us in: Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 410.837.6131 or alumni@ubalt.edu.
Though it’s hardly uncommon these days for adults to make significant career changes, few might make as large a leap as did attorney-turned-priest Gregory A. Rapisarda, J.D. ’72. Rapisarda spent more than 35 years in private practice after earning his UB law degree at night. “It was very challenging, especially for my wife [Carol], who was home with [our] young children,” he says. “But we were both committed to me going to law school.”

In subsequent years, Rapisarda showed that same commitment to his Harford County law practice and to his church; in 2003, with the blessing of his wife and his four grown children, he was ordained a church deacon. The next few years proved to be life-altering: In 2006, his wife passed away, and he closed his law firm. In 2008, his son John became a Roman Catholic priest.

Not long after John’s ordination, Baltimore Archbishop Edwin O’Brien asked the elder Rapisarda if he was ready to take the next step and become a priest. “All I ever expected to do was practice law,” the former attorney says now, “but I thought about it and knew I was ready to enter seminary.”

That fall, Gregory Rapisarda traded his Bel Air, Md., home for Baltimore’s St. Mary’s Seminary and University. “I went from a two-bedroom condo to a 9-by-12 room,” he says, “[but] I loved the seminary. With children about the same age as my classmates, I felt very comfortable in spite of the age difference.”

Looking at the path his life has taken, Gregory Rapisarda has no regrets. “I have had, and continue to have, very much of a blessed life,” he says.

Alumni Benefits and Services

Don’t forget that your UB perks continue long after graduation. Your UB Alumni Association card entitles you to a long list of on- and off-campus benefits and services, and we’re adding more all the time. Here are just a few:

- GEICO: Put the brakes on high auto-insurance costs. GEICO is dedicated to offering you 24-hour service, fast claim handling and money-saving discounts. New customers save an average of $500 when they switch over. Get a free, no-obligation rate quote to find out how much you could save.

- BANK OF AMERICA: Reward yourself. Get cash, travel, merchandise and more, just for making your normal purchases. Whether you’re traveling, running errands or shopping online, use the University of Baltimore Alumni Association Platinum Plus MasterCard credit card with WorldPoints rewards from Bank of America.

- RING IN THE DISCOUNTS: Take advantage of discounted wireless service and equipment. Alumni are entitled to a 0 percent discount on qualifying monthly charges as well as to waived activation fees and special discounts on wireless handsets. If you are an existing T-Mobile customer, you can get the discount added to your account.

- MEYER AND ASSOCIATES: Rest assured when you’re insured. You can’t anticipate illness or injury. If you’re unemployed and in need of insurance, protect yourself with short-term medical insurance offered through Meyer and Associates. Or consider long-term life insurance coverage to keep you and your family protected for years to come.

- T-MOBILE: Ring in the discounts. Take advantage of discounted wireless service and equipment. Alumni are entitled to a 0 percent discount on qualifying monthly charges as well as to waived activation fees and special discounts on wireless handsets. If you are an existing T-Mobile customer, you can get the discount added to your account.

- BANK OF AMERICA: Reward yourself. Get cash, travel, merchandise and more, just for making your normal purchases. Whether you’re traveling, running errands or shopping online, use the University of Baltimore Alumni Association Platinum Plus MasterCard credit card with WorldPoints rewards from Bank of America.

- MEYER AND ASSOCIATES: Rest assured when you’re insured. You can’t anticipate illness or injury. If you’re unemployed and in need of insurance, protect yourself with short-term medical insurance offered through Meyer and Associates. Or consider long-term life insurance coverage to keep you and your family protected for years to come.

- T-MOBILE: Ring in the discounts. Take advantage of discounted wireless service and equipment. Alumni are entitled to a 0 percent discount on qualifying monthly charges as well as to waived activation fees and special discounts on wireless handsets. If you are an existing T-Mobile customer, you can get the discount added to your account.

- GEICO: Put the brakes on high auto-insurance costs. GEICO is dedicated to offering you 24-hour service, fast claim handling and money-saving discounts. New customers save an average of $500 when they switch over. Get a free, no-obligation rate quote to find out how much you could save.

For more details, visit www.ubalt.edu/affinitypartners or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 410.837.6531 or alumni@ubalt.edu.
Alumni Gifts Fuel Entrepreneurial Spirit, Create New Opportunities

Whether they’re working down in a basement or talking to customers in an airport lounge, entrepreneurs have a reputation as independents. Regardless of their passion, they want to do it by themselves, for themselves. Or do they? While some entrepreneurs choose to go it alone, many recognize that they are part of something larger: a network of family, friends, classmates, employees, investors and clients, all of whom are essential to their go-for-it attitude and success. In that same spirit, two game-changing gifts to UB’s Entrepreneurial Opportunity Center have come from alumni who believe that individual achievements are made possible by collective strengths:

Asiedu, head of a multinational portfolio of companies in communications, financial services, real estate and other industries and a member of the Entrepreneurial Opportunity Center’s advisory board, believes that his commitment to the endowment will add value to the center and to its outward-looking mission. “UB is a small school, but we alumni can be part of growing things,” he says. “Eventually our community, our society will benefit from this.”

Attman, founder and owner of Acme Paper & Supply Co. and the 2008 University of Baltimore Distinguished Entrepreneur, agrees with Asiedu. “We try to help—we’re very fortunate in that way,” he says. “Giving back is what it’s all about.”

Darlene Brannigan Smith, B.S. ’78, M.B.A. ’80, dean of the Merrick School of Business, says this attitude is “defining” for both the Attman and Asiedu families. “Their belief in the power of small business, their commitment to the region—it’s genuinely important to them and to us as well,” she says. “I don’t know where our center and our small business education program would be without their generosity.”

J. Howard “Jim” Kucher, M.B.A. ’01, former executive director of the Entrepreneurial Opportunity Center, says alumni support has boosted the center’s capabilities to match working experts with student entrepreneurs and to pair students with small businesses and startups to assess plans and execute strategies for all kinds of new and growing ventures. “These are transformational gifts,” Kucher says.

In July, the France-Merrick Foundation approved a $1 million challenge grant to UB’s Merrick School of Business, continuing its long history of support for the school. For every $2 given in new, private-sector contributions to the business school, the foundation will contribute up to $1 to its endowment, providing up to $1 million, a permanent source of income for student scholarships. The France-Merrick Foundation—whose executive director, Robert W. Schaefer, B.S. ’54, is a Merrick School of Business alumnus—is a Baltimore-based nonprofit organization known for investing in educational opportunities.

“[This] challenge grant marks a pivotal place in the success of the Merrick School’s campaign and recognizes our growing reputation as Baltimore’s business school,” says Darlene Brannigan Smith, B.S. ’78, M.B.A. ’80, dean of the business school. Alumni participation is vital to the challenge grant’s success. For more information, contact Theresa Silanskis, M.P.A. ’95, vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement, at 410.837.6838 or tsilanskis@ubalt.edu.
Events and Photos

1. Christine E. Buckley, J.D. ’07, and Liga Cibulska, M.B.A. ’06
2. Michal Lesesane and Ricarra A. Jones, M.P.A. ’08
3. Kenneth E. Johnson Sr., B.S. ’60; T. Brien (B.S. ’64) and Janet Haigley
4. Taj F. (J.D. ’06) and Wendy Murphy
5. Emcee Gerry Sandusky (WBAL-TV) and Francis R. “Obie” O’Brien, B.S. ’58

6. Stuart M. Goldberg, B.A. ’70, J.D. ’74, and Scarlett M. Corso, B.A. ’07, J.D. ’10
7. Sandra L. Popp, B.A. ’04, J.D. ’08; Matthew E. Fox, J.D. ’06, and Deni L. Miller, J.D. ’95
8. Douglas A. (B.S. ’74) and Geraldine Kulp
9. Olubukola O. Akande-Enemoso, M.A. ’06, and Diablo Badejo, dean, Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences
12. UB Night at Camden Yards: Aug. 31, 2010
13. 8th Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony: May 8, 2010
14. 8th Annual UB School of Law Homecoming and Reunion: Sept. 25, 2010
15. Reception for Recent Graduates: Oct. 20, 2010
17. Fall Alumni Happy Hour: Nov. 4, 2010
18. UB Alumni Reunion 2010: June 5, 2010
No one knows the value of a UB education like our alumni.

Alumni support means the world to UB, but don’t just take our word for it.

“My grandfather, who retired 20 years ago after a successful career, earned his UB degree in 1953. I chose to follow in his footsteps and found that UB provided me with choices in life that, at one time, I didn’t think possible.

“We are living in a time in which budget cuts and layoffs are common. Without the skills I acquired through my UB education, I don’t know where I would be today. I give back to UB because it is important to me that my children and grandchildren have the same choices and opportunities that my grandfather and I had.”

David N. Bell, B.S. ’03, M.B.A. ’05
account executive, major projects
Johnson Controls, mid-Atlantic region

For more than 40 years, alumni contributions to the University of Baltimore Foundation have provided educational opportunities to generations of students. Please show your support for the students of today and tomorrow.

For more information, please contact the Office of Annual Giving at 410.837.6271 or annualgiving@ubalt.edu, visit www.ubalt.edu/support or include your gift in the postage-paid envelope in this magazine.

Christopher H. Constable, B.S. ’89

In the case of Christopher H. Constable, B.S. ’89, you can take the boy out of crab-happy Maryland and relocate him to another state, but he’s still going to stay in the business of blue crabs. As the chief financial officer of Blue Star Foods, Constable spends his days in Miami, Fla., keeping the company on a financial track that allows it to grow and meet its annual goals. Therefore, Constable notes, he makes use every day of what he learned as a finance major at the Merrick School of Business. “UB was a unique place where the professors had business experience,” he says. “It’s amazing how much I learned there that I still use on a daily basis.”

Blue Star Foods was incorporated in 1995 and has grown to become the second largest importer of crabmeat in the United States, with most of its product coming from Vietnam, the Philippines, India and Indonesia. Blue Star is especially proud of its annual goals.

“Economically, crab is a high-end item, and we have suffered due to the recession.”

“And we are working with our fisherman to set industry-wide guidelines to ensure the sustainability of crabs in all of the countries where we procure our product.”

Unlike those who make a living from the creatures in the Gulf of Mexico, Blue Star has not been negatively impacted by April’s BP oil spill, the worst in U.S. history. The weakened economy, however, has taken a toll on Blue Star’s sales.

“Economically, crab is a high-end item, and we have suffered due to the recession,” Constable says. “The obvious effect [of the spill] on the domestic seafood industry happened when fishing was banned while the oil leakage was being stopped. This could have been far more devastating to the region had the fishermen not been participants in the cleanup operation, which at least provided a source of revenue while they were unable to fish.

“The larger challenge that exists in the domestic crab industry in the Gulf, given the large amount of oil dissipated in such a concentrated area, will be the confidence in [the safety of] the seafood being pulled from those waters.”

Challenges aside, Constable relishes the opportunity to stay in the industry. And his Baltimore background has proven handy in unexpected ways: He has become his co-workers’ go-to guy for good crab recipes.

by Mary Medland

Christopher H. Constable, B.S. ’89

Alumni Profile 2

UPCOMING TRANSFER STUDENT INFORMATION SESSIONS:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9
6:30 P.M.
William H. Thumel Sr. Business Center Atrium

FRIDAY, APRIL 29
10 A.M.
William H. Thumel Sr. Business Center Atrium

FRIDAY, JUNE 3
10 A.M.
William H. Thumel Sr. Business Center Atrium

by Mary Medland
George J. Monizda, B.S. ’60, received the Saint Agnes (Hospital) Foundation’s Caritas Award at the Cantius: Saint Agnes Spring Gala at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore in March. He was recognized for his lasting commitment to Saint Agnes health care and to the entire Baltimore community. Alvin D. Katz, B.S. ’63, was honored in March at the 12th Annual American Red Cross, Central Maryland Chapter’s HomeTown Heroes awards breakfast in the Gift of Life category for his nearly 20 years as a blood platelet donor.

Paul M. Friedler, B.S. ’60, is an associate with Century 21 Sunbelt Realty in Fort Myers, Fla. is an associate with Century 21 Sunbelt Realty in Fort Myers, Fla.

James E. Ross, B.S. ’74, is president and chief executive officer of Chester River Health System in Chestertown, Md.

Albert J. Flora Jr., J.D. ’76, is the chief public defender within the Seattle (Pa.) Office of the Public Defender, which provides legal representation to county defendants who cannot afford private attorneys.

Benjamin F. Lucas, J.D. ’80, opened Shapiro’s Cafe at W. Preston St. in Baltimore in April.

John J. Varley, J.D. ’84, was appointed senior vice president and general counsel for Virginia America, the Burlington, Calif.-based domestic airline, in June.

Red S. Cameron, B.S. ’85, was inducted into the Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in February.

Jane M. Brewer, B.S. ’82, M.S. ’86, was named a member of the board of directors for the Maryland Highway Safety Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by a team of concerned business, civic and community leaders committed to reducing motor vehicle crash-related deaths and educating the public on safer driving practices.

Patricia M. Brown, J.D. ’86, is the 2010 leader in residence at the University of Richmond’s Jepson School of Leadership Studies in Richmond, Va.

Laura A. Shiel, J.D. ’86, is associate counsel with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in Laurel, Md., and the current chair of the State of Local Government Law Section Council for the Maryland State Bar Association.

Jana C. Burch, J.D. ’83, joined the board of directors for Gilchrist Hospice Care of Hunter Valley, Md., in March.

Steward D. Beckham, J.D. ’88, was appointed in September 2009 as director of the Office of National Capital Region Coordination for the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C.

Howard R. Feldman, J.D. ’88, was appointed to the board of directors of the Baltimore-based My Sister’s Circle in May.

Cathleen M. Vitale, J.D. ’99, was selected by What’s Up! Annapolis magazine in May as one of Anne Arundel County’s 2010 Leaders for the second year in a row. She also received a lifetime achievement award from the Anne Arundel County Republican Party in April for her work as a councilwoman for the last 11 years and for her work as the former part-time chair.

Kelly W. Miller, J.D. ’90, opened the Carroll County Mediation Center in Westminster, Md., in March.

John Dalley, M.P.A. ’90, is a vice chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences in Shreveport, La. After UB, he went on to become a health-care attorney and an executive with East Coast Medical Centers.

Mark F. Scutti, J.D. ’90, received the Maryland State Association Consumer Bankruptcy Section’s 2010 Belsky Award in June. This award recognizes extraordinary support of the section.

Adrian S. Johnson, B.S. ’92, was promoted to executive officer of Chester River Health System in Baltimore.

James E. Ross, B.S. ’74, is president and chief executive officer of Chester River Health System in Chestertown, Md.

Robert D. Shiff, J.D. ’92, received the Ronald Shaw Memorial Pro Bono Award at the Maryland State Bar Association Taxation Section’s annual Irving Shubbank Memorial Dinner in May.

Sandra L. Lamparello, J.D. ’92, is a senior regulatory analyst at PA Consulting in Alexandria, Va.

Sharon R. Nice, J.D. ’96, was accepted into the Federal Judicial Center’s Federal Court Leadership Program class of 2010-12.

Rosetta T. DeBeardner, J.D. ’90, returned to Washington, D.C., after completing a three-year artistic residency at School 36B Art Center in Baltimore. In the spring, her solo exhibition “Coming Home: A Collection of Works by Rosetta DeBeardner” was shown at the Corin Store in the district.

Alexander M. Giles, J.D. ’92, was selected as a 2010 Maryland Super Lawyer by Maryland Super Lawyers magazine in January 2010.

Adam T. Sampson, J.D. ’93, is a partner with the Law Offices of William Alan Daniel Jr. in Baltimore. He continues to serve on the Baltimore County Planning Board and on the Baltimore County Bar Association’s Executive Council.

D. J. Bryant, J.D. ’93, was a 2009 Top Lawyer for elder law by Washingtonian magazine; this marks her third honor as a Top Lawyer. She has also published two books: Senior Moments and Senior Moments II.

Gregory C. Ward, J.D. ’97, a founding partner of the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., law firm of Ward Kim Vaughan & Lerner, was named a Rising Star by Florida Super Lawyers magazine as an outstanding lawyer under the age of 40.

Congratulations to the University of Baltimore alumnae named among the 50 honorees for The Daily Record’s inaugural “Leading Women, Maryland’s Future” event on Dec. 2. These women, all age 40 or younger, were chosen based on professional experience, community involvement and a commitment to inspiring change” and will have the opportunity to meet and learn from The Daily Record’s roster of Top 100 Women winners and Circle of Excellence (three-time Top 100 Women) honorees.

Amy Askew, J.D. ’01
Michele Blumenfeld, J.D. ’97
Patricia Granata Elsen, M.A. ’02
L. Content McLaughlin, B.A. ’00, M.S. ’99, J.D. ’03, LL.M. ’05

Tracy Sorzano, LL.M. ’08
Jennifer Stearnman, J.D. ’99
Noni Sykes, M.P.A. ’94
Business Award in the District Director's Unsung Hero category in May for his outstanding contributions as a small business owner at the state and national level.

Mark P. Sosna, M.S. ‘86, was appointed chief of police for Gaithersburg, Md., and began his duties in July.

David A. Bryant, M.B.A. ’84, is president of Omnifiom, a 30-year-old small print distributorship in Parkton, Md.

L. Content McClaughlin, B.A. ’04, J.D. ’07, LL.M. ’09, joined the Baltimore firm of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston as a partner in March.

Stephanie C. Norris, B.S. ’05, married Brandon Foster in August 2009.

Jennifer D. O'Grady, M.F.A. ’06, interviewed the members of the jam band Animal Liberation Orchestra on 89.7 FM WYMFD's Morning Sessions show in June.

Kimberly J. Hankins, J.D. ’07, married Aaron D. Neal, J.D. ’07, in December 2009.

Thomas E. Dunlap, J.D. ’08, joined the Towson, Md., firm of Kaufman, Ries & Elgin as an associate in November 2009.

Kathleen A. McGinley, J.D./M.B.A. ’09, joined the Baltimore firm of Ober/Kaler in the employment liability defense group in November 2009.

Kathryn E. Hummel, J.D. ’06, married Brandon & Preston as a partner in March.

Jennifer Quigley, B.A. ’02, and her husband, Michael B. Kelly, J.D. ’02, were married on Aug. 20.

Megan Olive Kelly (left) was born Aug. 2 to Michael B. Kelly, J.D. ’06, and his wife, Julie. Alaina Gabrielle Guido (right) was born Oct. 7 to Jennifer Quigley, B.A. ’04, and her husband, Adam G. Guido, B.S. ’05, M.B.A. ’08. Quigley also works as the director of government relations in UB’s Office of Government and Community Relations.

UB proudly welcomes the newest members of our University family—our very first Baby Bees! Moms-and-dads-to-be, let us know when your little one arrives, and we’ll send you a Baby Bee bib, courtesy of the UB Alumni Association. We look forward to receiving more photos of your new additions and will include them in the magazine as space permits. (If you want us to really gush, send us a photo of your baby proudly sporting the Baby Bee bib.)

Share the buzz about your new Baby Bee with us at 410.837.6131 or alumni@ubalt.edu.

In Memoriam

Jack M. Wilkin, LL.B. ’29
Philp J. Jorden Jr., L.L.B. ’41
John J. Hirsch, L.L.B. ’51
Charles T. Coard Jr., B.S. ’52
Allen N. Kellenberger, L.L.B. ’52
Robert N. Maddox Sr., B.S. ’52
John J. Pretto, B.S. ’52
Bertam J. Puttkemen, J.D. ’54
John M. Morekais, A.A. ’55
Camel T. Richardson, L.L.B. ’55
Herbert Fishier, B.S. ’53, L.L.B. ’56
Henry F. Davis, L.L.B. ’57
Samuel S. Field II, J.D. ’59
Harvey B. Fox, J.D. ’64
Nelson R. Reichard, B.S. ’64
George Zavadi, J.D. ’66
Michael S. Glishowak, LL.B. ’67
James R. Ellington, B.S. ’68
Albert P. Hultun, J.D. ’69
Andrew H. Levy, B.A. ’70
Kenneth E. Caffino, B.S. ’71
John C. Bradick, J.D. ’75
Michael J. Malouin, J.D. ’75
Stephen W. Hams, B.S. ’77
Michael B. Sunderland Jr., B.S. ’78
Anthony J. Sstrasovich, M.S. ’79
Abidoun S. Osikowo, M.B.A. ’80
Marie A. Vannoy, B.S. ’83
Wayne E. Stritchcomb, B.S. ’88
Charles Skinner Jr., J.D. ’89
Carolyn H. Gerusch, J.D. ’90
Alfred J. Labeau, B.A. ’91

Daniel B. Beima, professor emeritus, Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts
Royal Graham Shannonhouse III, professor, UB School of Law

In Selected Poems & Musings of W.H. Hurst (Strategic Book Publishing, 2009), by Joseph L. Cassilly, J.D. ’77, is loosely based on the author’s own experiences as a U.S. Army Ranger who sustained a crippling injury during the war. Cassilly, who was elected to his eighth term as Harford County (Md.) state’s attorney in fall 2010, weaves a story about the intersection of three young lives: an injured soldier returning from Vietnam, a nurse completing her tour of duty and a student nurse preparing to begin her tour.

From the Front Lines to the Front of the Class: George H. Block, B.S. ’58, is enjoying retirement in Ellicott City, Md. Once he returned to the States, he attended UB on the G.I. Bill and earned an industrial management degree; he later joined Westinghouse in Linthicum, Md., and retired as the controller’s administrator after a 39-year career at the company. Today, Block, 86, is enjoying retirement in Ellicott City, Md.

Calling all G.I. Bill alumni! Did you attend UB on the G.I. Bill? Let us know! Drop us a line at alumni@ubalt.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 410.837.6131.
A few months into her freshman year at Boston University in 1992, Stella Benkler, B.A. ’02, realized that her chosen major of biomedical engineering wasn’t for her. It didn’t take long after leaving Boston and returning home to Baltimore for Benkler to begin the journey that would lead her to becoming general manager of the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, popularly known as the Hippodrome Theatre.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to do,” says Benkler, who, based on her involvement in theater during high school, took an internship in marketing and public relations at Baltimore’s historic Mechanic Theatre while she figured it out.

As it turned out, she had unexpectedly landed in the right place. “It wasn’t until I got into theater management that I realized this is what I want to do professionally,” she says. Benkler worked her way up to become the Mechanic’s general manager before she and her staff transitioned to the newly renovated Hippodrome Theatre in 2004, when the Mechanic closed. (Both venues catered to Broadway shows and shared the same parent company, Broadway Across America.)

After undergoing a 10-year renovation, the circa-1914 Hippodrome—once the city’s premiere site for movies and vaudeville shows—reopened as the cornerstone of the city’s west-side redevelopment. Larger and more modern than the Mechanic, it can host both big Broadway shows and a broad range of other events, Benkler explains.

She was ready for the managerial challenge of the Hippodrome, having gone back to school at night for professional training. By the time Benkler took the helm there, she had earned her bachelor’s degree in corporate communication from UB. “I had a focus,” she says. “I was coming from a business standpoint and wanted to learn how to communicate information to the public and other organizations.”

Today, Benkler is involved in the entire operation of the theater, from costumes and concessions to publicity and production. She also oversees a staff of 40 full-time employees and 400 part-time ushers, stagehands and box-office workers.

Benkler proudly notes that while the Hippodrome is best known for hosting the likes of The Lion King and The Phantom of the Opera, “we’re not just a Broadway theater.” In fact, the venue has also brought comedy shows, concerts, ballet and even the Miss USA pageant to Baltimore.

“I love the nature of theater, which is bringing something to life. To me, it’s just as creative to be behind the scenes as on [the stage].”