university of baltimore MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS . SPRING 2016

Master Mind

Nikita Gandhi, B.S. '14, Grabs Culinary Gold on MasterChef India

Inside:

- Brain Storm
- Charmed, I'm Sure
- Brewing Up Business

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Dear UB Alumni and Friends:

This spring, construction for Langsdale Library's renovations began. Cranes at the corner of Maryland Avenue and Oliver Street signal another major step forward in the realization of UB's ambitious campus master plan.

As with our most recent capital project—the award-winning, LEED Platinum-certified John and Frances Angelos Law Center—we are raising private funds to supplement state support. The generous donors who support the Langsdale Library Renovations Fund will ensure that the University of Baltimore can meet both current and future students' ever-changing needs.

Langsdale was built in 1965, when university libraries served mainly as warehouses for books and periodicals. They were places where students went to study in isolation and in silence. The closest thing to "library technology" was the card catalog, as the smallest computer then in production weighed 59 pounds. It was a time when the phrase "green building" referred to a color.

Fifty years later, modern university libraries are centers of collaboration, discovery and knowledge. They are places for group learning, 24-hour computer labs and makerspaces—informal areas where students network and experiment. They are becoming campus social hubs, with cafes, laptop bars and rooms for special events. They are open, accessible, light filled and sustainable.

The Langsdale renovation project will bridge this 50-year divide and more. Our fundraising efforts will help transform the current structure from an old-fashioned book repository into a 21st-century information commons. Private funds will support our goal of achieving LEED Silver certification, consistent with our commitment to environmental sustainability. Additional funding will ensure that the facility's technological infrastructure supports interactive learning in the physical and digital realms. The renovated facility will enhance service to UB's 55,000 alumni with flexible meeting spaces and a welcoming, four-story atrium. And as UB is an anchor institution in Baltimore, the renovated library will continue to be an invaluable resource to our urban community as both an archive for city and regional history and a destination.

As the immortal philosopher Yogi Berra said, "It's difficult to make predictions, especially about the future." However, we can be certain that UB's Langsdale Library will play an increasingly central role in educating thousands of UB students in the coming decades. Please join me in watching the progress of this transformational project, scheduled to be completed in January 2018.

My thanks to all who have contributed to the Langsdale Library Renovations Fund or who are considering doing so. Your generosity makes the University of Baltimore's future much easier to predict.

Kurt L. Schmoke President, University of Baltimore

front cover photography:

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Krut Schmike

university of baltimore

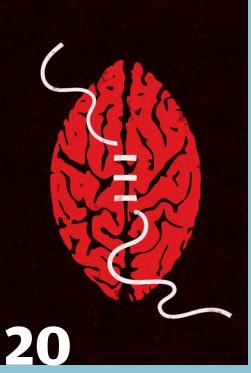




Master Mind

by Giordana Segneri, M.A. '10

Two years ago, Nikita Gandhi, B.S. '14, was a recent UB graduate with a business degree and a penchant for pastry making. Now, she's got a year under her belt as a MasterChef, having taken the title in the fourth season of India's televised culinary competition. She dishes on the long road to victory.



A Gray Matter

by Dave Seminara

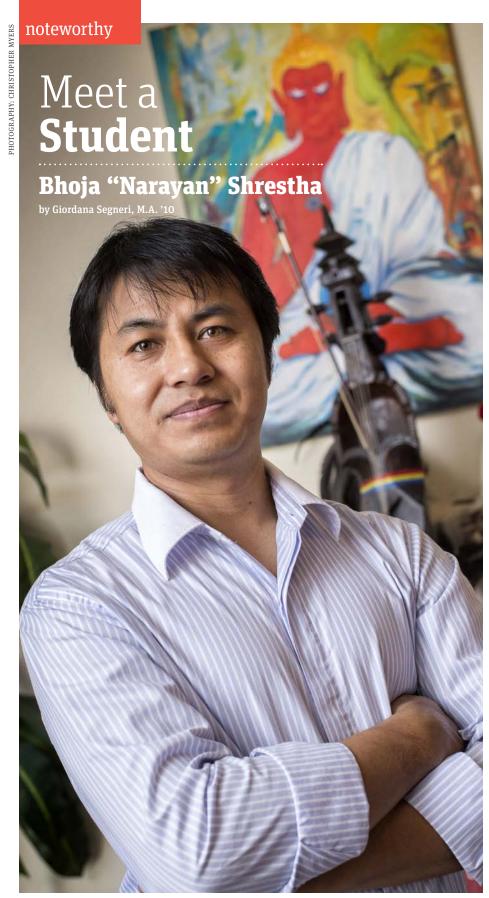
Bob Fitzsimmons, J.D. '78, took on the entire NFL in the early 2000s when he fought to tie the startling mental-health decline of Pittsburgh Steelers legend "Iron Mike" Webster to a football-related brain injury, igniting a headline-grabbing concussion controversy that still rages today.

DEPARTMENTS

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Don't forget that anytime you see the WebExtra icon, it means we've added related bonus content to the magazine website. www.ubalt.edu/ubmag



While Shrestha hasn't returned to his homeland since 2014, he frequents Nepal House restaurant on North Charles Street *(pictured)*.

hoja "Narayan" Shrestha grew up in a remote village in central Nepal, with no major roads, electricity or television. "All my school life, I studied with a small kerosene lamp," he says. "Radio was the only modern thing for me. ... I used to listen to the radio for the news, for music, for information." That battery-operated "luxury" eventually led Shrestha, now a student in UB's graduate Global Affairs and Human Security program, to a career in broadcasting.

During his high-school years in Kathmandu, Shrestha had access to newspapers and read voraciously, often about the Maoist insurgency that began in 1996 and eventually killed thousands. "That was the point that I thought, as a citizen, as a human being, I should do something for my country and for my people," he recalls. "I thought media could be the best avenue for me to bring a change, to tell the real story."

He studied media at a university in the city and went on to cover politics and the Maoist insurgency for Radio Sagarmatha (the Nepalese word for "Mount Everest") before leaving in 2007 to work as a senior producer and presenter of a radio and television program for BBC Media Action, a charity wing of the media conglomerate. His mission: "to help the Nepali people and leaders, so the voice of the people would be heard," Shrestha explains. "The first interview I did was with the then-Nepali prime minister [G.P. Koirala]; it was the only interview he did in his lifetime. The second was with the head of the Maoist party."

Shrestha's popularity grew immensely, and he became a go-to figure (with 189,000 Twitter followers) for bringing citizens' concerns to light. "Students, school teachers, social activists, local political leaders, they'd come to me to talk," he says.

Seven years later, Shrestha wanted to further his education. He learned about UB from an alumnus he met in Nepal. "Global affairs and human security was the area I was looking for," he says. "It's a little bit about world affairs, a little bit about NGOs, and I thought this is the kind of subject I'm interested in."

After graduation, he plans to work for a nonprofit organization in an underdeveloped country and then return to his broadcast roots in Nepal. "Every day, I got to see dozens of people, different issues, ideas," he says. "Some of them are difficult problems [for which] I don't have a solution, but still, it was making my life complete. That part I miss."

→ WebExtra



Winik sets the bar high in her new role at Brew House No. 16, a gastropub in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood.

arion Winik, associate professor in the Klein Family School of Communications Design, normally prefers to drink a glass of wine or a martini. But lately, she's found herself matching menu items to microbrews at Brew House No. 16, a firehouse turned gastropub in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood.

To say she's simply a taste-tester wouldn't be fair. She actually has an impressive title: vice president of communications and marketing.

The road to her vice presidency began in Glen Rock, Pennsylvania, a small community just across the Maryland state line where Winik lived for 10 years before moving to Baltimore in 2009. Winik's son Vince went to school and became friends with future brewmaster Ian Hummel, who also happened to be their closest neighbor.

After Hummel, now 25, became fascinated with brewing beer, his parents encouraged him to sign up for a six-month brewmaster

certification program in Berlin, Germany. The idea was for him to get trained so the family could open a restaurant. Upon his return, he and his father, a retired architect, found a historic former firehouse in Baltimore that had recently been used as an office building. They decided to restore it to its former glory and open a restaurant—but there was one setback: Since they lived in Glen Rock, they needed a Baltimore resident to help them with their liquor-license application.

"I'm pretty sure they could have just had me sign the paper," admits Winik, whose role quickly became anything but superficial. Like the Hummels did, she fell under the brewhouse's spell. The bestselling memoirist and longtime National Public Radio commentator soon found herself jumping in to copyedit their business plan and to connect the Hummels with local writers who might review the restaurant. Before long, she'd taken on a consultant-like role.

"In a way, I represent their ideal customer," Winik explains. Hummel, however, calls her

the restaurant's "biggest critic"—said with a smile. From Winik, he says, he can expect honest recommendations, feedback and reactions to the menu.

For example, Winik advocated for having as many meat-free options on the menu as possible, in part because her teenaged daughter is a vegetarian. She also urged the chef to stay true to the idea of "artisanal pub fare," which she describes as a cross between savory bar snacks and German-influenced, locally sourced cuisine.

Winik, a passionate cook who frequents restaurants around Baltimore, says she wanted to be sure the restaurant offered food that customers would crave and come back for time and time again.

"My goal was for [the restaurant] to have both a physical ambience and a flavor palate that sticks in your mind," she says.

"All the flavors on the menu orbit around the beer," Winik explains, pointing to menu items like homemade pretzels and sausages on rolls. "Beer is the heart of the place."

On the **Spot**.

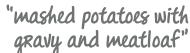
We walked around campus and put UB students, staff, faculty and alumni on the spot, asking them:

"What is your favorite comfort food?"

Hungry yet? Whet your appetite with more of UB's favorite comfort foods.









Shirley Marcus Allen, M.P.A. '78 member, University of Baltimore Foundation Board of Directors



Jerome Bushnell law student

"Captain

Crunch"



Barbara Babb associate professor, School of Law



tomato soup

sandwiches"

and grilled

cheese

Jennifer Haire assistant director, Office of Graduate Admission







Sammie Lane, B.A. '15



Sujan Shrestha assistant professor, Division of Science, Information Arts and Technologies



Elizabeth Paige, B.A. '14 graduate legal and ethical studies student



Howard "Butch" Lockard multi trades chief, UB Physical Plant



Brussels sprouts and cashews ""



"chicken tikka masala"

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Divided Baltimore Engages Community in Solution-Finding

In the wake of last spring's unrest in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray, a group of UB faculty and staff members wanted to find a way to engender meaningful change in the city. They turned to what UB does best as an anchor institution, tasked with contributing to the city's progress: teaching through open discussion while involving the community. And the Divided Baltimore: How Did We Get Here, Where Do We Go? course was born.

Held Monday evenings last fall, the forum-style lectures—featuring UB faculty and invited guest speakers from all sectors of the community—were open to the public, streamed live online and recorded. The course, open for credit to both undergraduate and graduate students and to high-school seniors in a dual-enrollment program, covered topics that ranged from the government's role in solving segregation problems to housing and transportation planning and focused on proposing solutions rather than on simply discussing the problems.

"Our city is great, but we have serious work to do to make it a more livable, viable environment in the years to come," UB President Kurt L. Schmoke says. "Our home



Ron Kipling Williams, B.A. '13, a current graduate creative writing and publishing arts student, taught Divided Baltimore as an after-school, dual-enrollment class for local high-school juniors this spring.

is the city, our classrooms are of and for the many communities around us. We believe in a bold future for the city, so you can count on UB to both lead the call and do the hard work for a better Baltimore—one Baltimore for all."

The course gained national exposure when *The New York Times* covered it with a front-page story and an accompanying video on its website. Given the mounting positive response to the course, administrators decided to offer it again in slightly modified formats.

This spring, Divided Baltimore took the form of an after-school, dual-enrollment class for local high-school juniors, modeled on the town-hall version offered in the fall.

"[The high-schoolers] were bringing their friends and other guests because they wanted to see what a college course is like," says John Brenner, UB program manager, who oversees the University's early college initiatives. To serve that same population, the Divided Baltimore franchise continues this summer during UB's College Readiness Summer Academy. Local high-schoolers will attend the five-week course, which will focus on "Issues of Inequality in Housing in Baltimore City." They will participate in a project in UB's demonstration garden focusing on food deserts, and for their capstone project, they will draft a document to a government official advocating for change.



WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

TIGINEH MERSHA AND VEN SRIRAM, both professors in the Merrick School of Business, traveled to Windhoek, Namibia, in August to present two papers at the Academy of Business and Emerging Markets conference; one was a model for assessing the impact of social enterprises, and the other involved female entrepreneurship in Africa. En route to the conference, the professors traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to collect data for their ongoing research on social enterprise impact assessment. One of their data-collection sites was Selam Children's Village, a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization that enables underprivileged children to become self-sufficient and to lead better lives.

-Elise Gallagher is a graduate creative writing and publishing arts student.

New Provost Embraces Change

Being a change agent means "pushing for greater innovations while simultaneously increasing enrollments, enhancing student retention, lowering costs and improving quality" to **Darlene** Brannigan Smith, B.S. '78, MBA **'80,** UB's new provost and executive vice president, and it's a role she says she wholeheartedly embraces. "It sounds like a tall order until you recognize the brainpower needed to confront these issues already exists among UB's talented faculty and staff, its foundation board members and its community partners," she says.



Having taken the helm as UB's chief academic officer in late January after a national search, Smith says she will work closely with UB President Kurt L. Schmoke and with other members of the UB community to facilitate improvements and advances in budgeting, strategic planning and student learning outcomes. Smith brings with her decades of institutional knowledge, first from her experiences as a student and then as a faculty member and dean, all in the Merrick School of Business. She also has held faculty and administrative positions at The George Washington University and at Loyola University Maryland and visiting professor positions at universities in Beijing; Paris; and Santiago, Chile.

"I know the value of a University of Baltimore education and how it can transform lives," she says. "I have countless student and alumni stories that I could share—stories that mirror my own UB educational journey."

Smith is working to tell these success stories as she leads UB's Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaccreditation process through next year. "I have the privilege of building on the institution's reputation with the goal of taking it to a new level of academic excellence," she says.

UB Names Dean of Library



After eight years leading UB's Langsdale Library as its director, **Lucy Holman, D.C.D. '09,** in January was named dean of the library, a new position for the University.

As is the case with the four academic deans, Holman is responsible for overseeing the library's budget, participating in

discussions regarding curriculum and representing and advocating for about 25 library faculty (both at Langsdale and at UB's Law Library). She has a faculty appointment herself in the College of Arts and Sciences' Division of Science, Information Arts and Technologies, where she teaches and advises master's and doctoral students. As work on Langsdale's renovations progresses, she's also working closely with the architects on plans and implementation.

"I look forward to continued collaboration with Provost [Darlene Brannigan] Smith and the other four deans and to leading initiatives surrounding student success and faculty scholarship," Holman says. "I also look forward to encouraging the library faculty and staff to actively engage with both the UB and greater Baltimore communities."

A MATTER OF COURSE

PHIL 497: Special Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy and *Star Wars*

•••••

WHO: Steven Scalet, philosophy professor in the Division of Legal, Ethical and Historical Studies, who says he likes to "do philosophy in a way that's accessible and speaks to what our interests are"

WHEN: Thursdays, 2-4:30 p.m., spring 2016

WHAT: A long time ago (1977) in what may seem like a galaxy far, far away, the first episode in the continually expanding *Star Wars* saga hit theaters and "changed the world," Scalet says: "I still remember the day." After rewatching the entire series (episodes I-VI) last summer as a "break from the drudgery of moving," Scalet realized that the films address timeless themes in the study of philosophy and decided this would make excellent fodder for a special topics course—made all the more relevant by December's blockbuster release of *Episode VII: The Force Awakens*.

The course asked students to examine the ethical, philosophical and theological ideas raised by the films, including political philosophy ("What is the value of democracy? Who should rule?"); fate, free will and determinism; philosophy of religion ("Is there anything like the Force in reality?"); conflict negotiation (read: lightsaber battles); and ethics ("Should we view life as battles between good and evil?"). Classroom discussions were underpinned by philosophical readings that reached back to the ancient thinkers: "Plato had something to say about evil that's directly relevant to Darth Vader," Scalet says.

REQUIRED WATCHING: all six previously released movies in the *Star Wars* franchise (excluding episode VII), beginning with 1977's *Episode IV: A New Hope*

REQUIRED READING: includes writings from such philosophical heavyweights as Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, David Hume, William James, Thomas Nagel and Jean-Jacques Rousseau

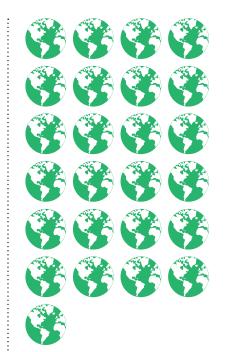
UB By the Numbers



was the winning score of UB's intramural 4-on-4 flag football championship game last fall, clinched by the 404 Squad—one of four competing teams—with a 2-point win









College of Public Affairs graduate students attended the Amnesty International USA Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in Baltimore in November, thanks in part to the Global Affairs and Human Security Student Association, which served as a host committee



was UB's MBA program ranking in CEO Magazine's 2016 Global online MBA Rankings, published Feb. 8







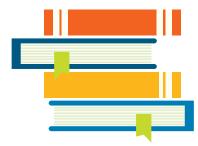
days a month, the Baltimore City Eastside District Court's veterans treatment docket helps rehabilitate (rather than incarcerate) veterans involved in the criminal justice system; UB School of Law student-attorneys conduct intake interviews and train mentors to assist the justice-involved veterans





alumni work at the state's newly created Department of Commerce with a focus on improving Maryland's economic and business climate:

- Harry Carroll, B.S. '73
- Victor H. Clark, B.S. '74
- Joel McCrea, B.S. '75
- Stacey Harvey-Reid, B.S. '90
- Gregory Derwart, M.A. '96
- Celester Hall, MBA '98
- Brian Castleberry, B.A. 'oo
- Rahel Kidane, B.S. 'oo
- Signe Pringle, M.P.A. '05
- Brady Walker, J.D. '11
- Darla Garrett, B.A. '99, M.P.A. '12



UB By the ... Books



100

students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members—and their families and guests-built and stocked "book boxes" (free mini libraries) in four Southwest Baltimore neighborhoods during Make a Difference Day, Oct. 24



174

students in UB's required First-Year and Sophomore Seminar classes received free textbooks through a partnership with Barnes & Noble at the University of Baltimore

volumes of poetry-related books and other materials compose the Baltimore Poetry Library—the largest collection in the mid-Atlantic region—which opened this spring as part of UB's Klein Family School of Communications Design



Did you graduate from both UB and Baltimore City College?

The longtime connection between these two institutions began in 1926, when Wilbur F. Smith stepped down as the head of Baltimore City College to become UB's first president. It continues today, as President Kurt L. Schmoke graduated from City College in 1967. And in between, UB has counted plenty of City College alumni among its students.

We'd like to know just how many UB alumni also call City College their alma mater. If you're a graduate of both institutions, **let us know:** Email alumni@ubalt.edu or write to the Office of Alumni Relations, University of Baltimore, 1130 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201.



HANDS-ON LEARNING:

The World Is Their Oyster

To understand the practical applications of what they're learning, we get UB students to roll up their sleeves. And their pants.





l. to r.: Barbara J. Johnson, B.A. '15, collecting mud at Horn Point Cove in Cambridge, Maryland, and Heather Franz, undergraduate environmental sustainability and human ecology student, taking care of oysters at the Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Lab, both last summer

ast summer, Elka Porter, assistant professor in the Division of Science, Information Arts and Technologies, worked with undergraduate students to study the effects of sediment-water interactions on organisms like oysters and clams in the Chesapeake Bay. But they didn't do it in a classroom.

Through the UB Foundation's Fund for Excellence Grant, Porter and her students studied the effects of certain events related to climate change—like major storms—on how oysters and clams interact with sediment and water flow using one-of-a-kind, enormous water tanks at the Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic

Research Lab field station in St. Leonard, Maryland. The grant will also enable Porter to update the computer operating system and hardware that help these tanks run.

And the grant's reach has extended far beyond the field station: One of Porter's former students has since been hired by Blue Water Baltimore, where she is involved in water-quality monitoring in the city's streams and in the estuary. So what goes around, comes around.

Thank you for giving our students a chance to be involved in scientific research experiences ... and for offering them the opportunity to get their hands dirty.

Want to support UB students' next adventure (and more) through the Fund for Excellence? Make a contribution by visiting www.ubalt.edu/support or by including your gift in the postage-paid envelope in this magazine.

For more information, contact the Office of Annual Giving at 410.837.6271 or annualgiving@ubalt.edu.



vibrates with her energy. Poise and persistence with a healthy helping of charm—the same qualities that got Nikita **Gandhi, B.S. '14,** through 11 grueling weeks and 67 televised episodes of fierce culinary competition in front of millions of viewers to win the fourth season of *MasterChef India* in April 2015, snagging the record as the show's youngest-ever finalist and a cool 10 million Indian rupees (about \$150,000).

he's driving somewhere in India during our interview, and the telephone line keeps dropping. Each time she picks up again, she jumps right back into her story, unruffled. She chats brightly and with so much enthusiasm the phone practically

above: Despite MasterChef India often turning up the heat, Gandhi kept her cool through 67 televised episodes of fast-paced challenges to win the show's fourth season.

opposite: just a sampling of Gandhi's creations as showcased via her Instagram account, theveggiefix

Now based in her native Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, she proudly sports the winner's gold-trimmed chef's coat. She's carving out a name for herself on the international culinary circuit as the creative power behind such dishes as a Passionfruit Amrakhand with White Chocolate Pistachio Ghari dessert—featured on the menu at upscale restaurant Signature by Sanjeev Kapoor, a chef and one of the season's three judges, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Just two years ago-before her fame, her 24,000 Instagram followers and her elbowrubbing with gastronomic heavyweights— Gandhi was a 20-year-old graduate of UB's Merrick School of Business, having followed her older sister, Shivani, to Baltimore after graduating from high school in Abu Dhabi. "I was looking at a business program," Gandhi says. "I was one of those kids [confused] about what career path I wanted to follow, and for me, it was: 'Do I do culinary or do I do business to be on the safer side?' That's how I ended up at UB."

Choosing the "safer side" didn't equate to nonchalance for Gandhi. She threw herself into her studies, often taking 15-18 credits at a time. But while she was intent on graduating early with her business administration degree, she never lost sight of her passion. She even founded a student organization called UBlicious. "The goal was to get people to cook healthy food and try not to eat [out in

restaurants]," she explains, "What I noticed is that North Charles Street, with all these restaurants, was crowded with students going to buy lunch, and it also gets very expensive. I was trying ... to get people to cook at home, to teach some easy recipes, to show them how much it costs to buy ingredients." The group hosted a charity bake sale at one point and participated in a UB Block Party, but with Gandhi's busy schedule—which included tutoring fellow students in both math and finance—the club fizzled.

In summer 2014 with her diploma in hand, Gandhi and her sister moved to New Jersey, where Shivani had landed a fellowship, and Gandhi looked to satisfy the culinary itch that had never subsided. "My passion to be in the kitchen all the time still hadn't left," she says. The sisters found an apartment accessible to New York City, and Gandhiwho has a penchant for pastries—applied for work in a variety of bakeries. "But because I lacked a culinary background, I wasn't given a job," she explains. "I kept applying, never gave up, but I didn't find any luck with that."

In the meantime, she attended the Carsten Institute of Cosmetology in New York City to learn how to apply makeup, a hobby of hers, and she launched a YouTube channel featuring her own cooking videos. At some point in October 2014, she saw a poster among her friends' Facebook timelines about the fourth season of MasterChef India (just one of 50

























www.ubalt.edu/ubmag Spring 2016 17





above: Gandhi with MasterChef India judges (l. to r.) Vikas Khanna, Ranveer Brar and Sanjeev Kapoor celebrating her victory; Gandhi walking the red carpet at the 2015 Star Parivaar Awards in India

opposite: In October, Gandhi returned to campus to provide an intimate honey-themed cooking demonstration (for the UB Bees, of course!) in the light-filled Flying Fruit Cafe on the sixth floor of the John and Frances Angelos Law Center; she prepared goat cheese bruschetta with honey balsamic (*pictured*), among other dishes.

or so international versions of the globally popular show) coming soon. "I thought I'd just give it a try," she says, explaining she asked to be sent an application. "I took two days to fill out the application really well, with pictures [and] a portfolio of the food I'd made. At that point, it was just a dream. [From] that day, I [didn't sleep] well because that dream kept coming to me that it might happen."

But it didn't just happen—certainly not overnight. Millions of people applied to participate in the show. And Gandhi was persistent. "I wanted to let [the producers] know that I [was living] abroad and that I'm a really passionate cook," she says. "I kept calling them. ... One day, someone answered the phone, and I had this whole conversation with one of the producers there." The production team eventually asked Gandhi to send more photos of her culinary creations and invited her to schedule an hourlong Skype interview.

When that was followed by silence, she kept pushing. The producers responded with a request for videos of Gandhi while she cooked. "Finally—finally—they sent me an email saying, 'We have our auditions coming up; pack your bags and come,'" she recalls. "They told me to pack for the next four or five months, 'just in case you make it through.' So I packed my life along with me, and this was when my sister ... said, 'I know you're not coming back.' And that's what actually happened." Eventually.

Gandhi attended the first round of auditions in mid-November 2014 in Ahmedabad, India, her parents' hometown where her grandparents still live.

"I [had] never cooked meat in my life," she says. "When I went to India for my audition, I [had planned on] learning how to cook meat from some of my friends who are meat eaters—at least learning the basics of how to cut it, how to clean it." Call it fate at work or a stroke of luck, but at that first audition, Gandhi learned the fourth season would be entirely vegetarian, a first for *MasterChef* in any country and a boon for Gandhi, whose blog and social media accounts all fall under the umbrella title "The Veggie Fix."

The next three rounds were an eight-hour drive away in Mumbai, with the fourth, televised round beginning about two months after Gandhi's first audition. After 15 days of training—"chopping skills, recognizing spices and fruits and vegetables," Gandhi explains—contestants were on their own.

"Whatever free time you have, they encourage us to study [and do] research. I always kept a lot of dishes ready in my mind. I had the base ready in my head, so when I saw the ingredients, I'd try to accommodate those ingredients into my base." That's how Gandhi's winning Wintery Tart, the dish with which she clinched her spot in the televised portion of the competition, came to be; she knew she could execute a tart pastry, and she fit the ingredients she was dealt for that particular challenge—carrots, cinnamon, strawberries, pineapple, lentils and purple yam—into that pastry vision.

Gandhi calls the Wintery Tart her favorite recipe from the *MasterChef* kitchen. "It has been a blessing for me," she writes in her blog. "It is that first recipe I made as a result of a Mystery Box challenge when we were in bootcamp (top 30) and got me the first apron

(with my name on it) to enter the top 12, from where started the real journey."

Gandhi's flavor inspiration for her *MasterChef* efforts were primarily international, and her time in Baltimore contributed. "[Shivani and I] always had our food adventures and loved it every time," she says of her years here. "My favorite restaurant that I frequented a lot was The Helmand [offering Afghan food in Mount Vernon]; I loved that place and I kept going back there. I tried to replicate some of those dishes at home, and they turned out pretty nice."

She also speaks highly of the tacos at Woody's Rum Bar and Island Grill in Fell's Point. But what she's most nostalgic for is the Inner Harbor. "I miss it," she says. "It was so vibrant always. We used to go there for a walk or a run almost every day."

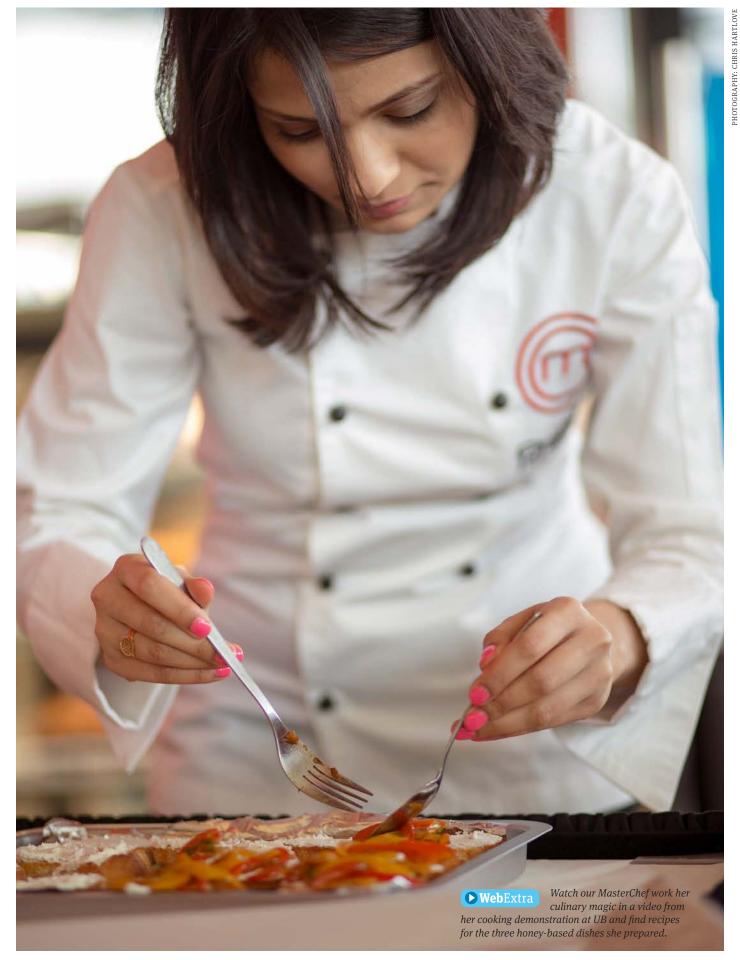
Returning to the United States, although most likely not to Baltimore, may be in the cards for Gandhi. Last summer, she immersed herself in the culinary working world through an internship at Abu Dhabi's upscale Beach Rotana hotel. "I learned a lot about food costing—how they cut down on costs and make their profits," she says. "I learned a lot behind the scenes and from the chef."

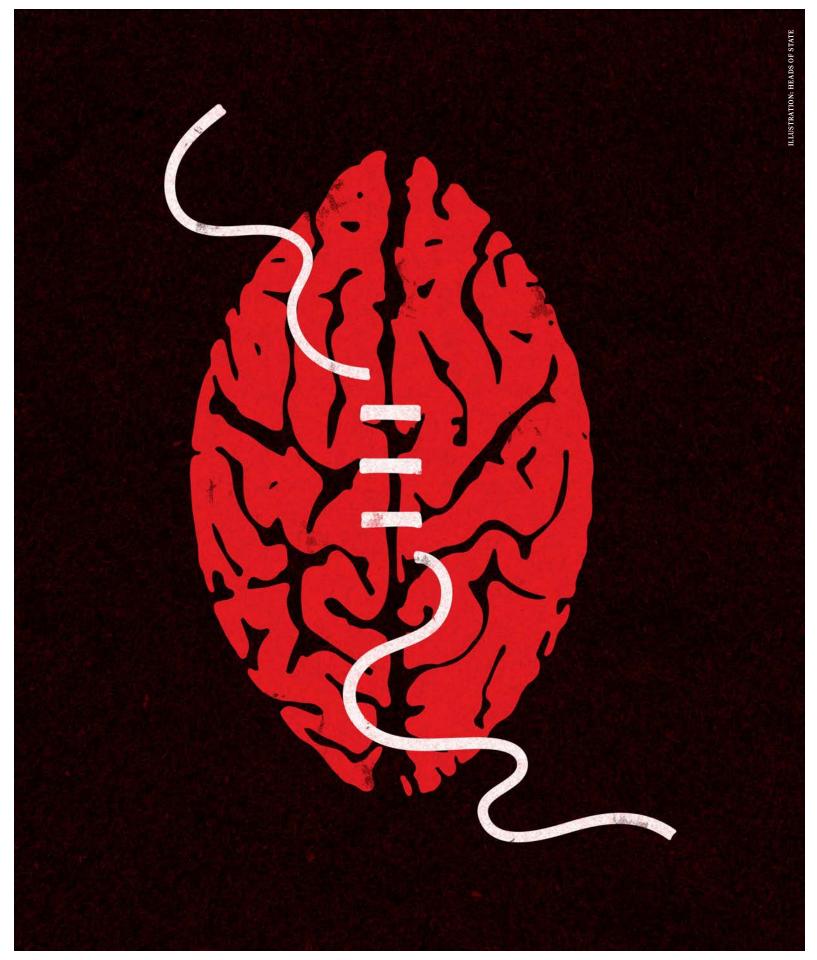
She's also open to doing another internship elsewhere, possibly in the States. "My sister has really been insisting I come to America," she explains. "They are doing some really crazy pastries [in the States] that probably aren't even seen in Abu Dhabi." Culinary school is also an option, and that, too, would lead her away from home. "I'd want to go abroad," she says. "If I do pastry school, I'd want to go in France. I'd rather get the best experience where I can."

For the time being, however, she's riding the *MasterChef* wave, traveling and participating in culinary events, especially in India, in support of her big win. "I thought that if I go away to culinary school, I won't be able to interact with the audience ... or remain in the limelight in India, at least," she says. "People in India are really excited and attend the events; they are showing a lot of support and love."

When that wave begins to crest, she may turn her attention to blending her UB business degree and her passion for gastronomy. "I've always dreamt of opening a restaurant," she says. "I've never dreamt of being a chef, which is kind of weird. I want a nice, exclusive boutique restaurant—not very big, not serving the masses, just a very few people [who] come in and get the best treatment. Now considering that I've learned so much from *MasterChef* and from my business degree, I can put that together and open a restaurant one day."

We'll be first in line.





Bob Fitzsimmons, J.D. '78, doesn't remember what he was doing in his Wheeling, West Virginia, office near midnight on a foggy Saturday in September 2002 when a call came in that would change his life. Ever since his early days as a young lawyer—back when he was taking \$10-an-hour indigent cases as a public defender, hitchhiking because he didn't have a car and greeting his clients in his apartment—he has worked from morning until late at night, seven days a week, 365 days a year. *Of course* he was in the office late on a Saturday night. But the caller, a forensic pathologist from the Allegheny County Coroner's Office in Pennsylvania, had an unusual request.

AGRAY

by Dave Seminara

Five years earlier, Fitzsimmons had taken on "Iron" Mike Webster, the retired Hall of Fame center for his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers, as a client. It was immediately clear that Webster—the indefatigable warrior who'd toiled in the trenches for 177 consecutive games without missing a single play—was a shell of his former self. The thousands of violent hits, the ferocious approach to the game that had made him an icon had also damaged his brain. The man on the phone, Nigerian immigrant Dr. Bennet Omalu, wanted permission to preserve Webster's brain for further study.

Webster's case would send shockwaves across the league; its implications are still reverberating everywhere from the sandlots of forgotten towns like the one where Fitzsimmons grew up playing football to the world's most famous sporting arenas. Within a decade, Omalu would go from complete obscurity to being lionized in a Hollywood film starring Will Smith.

But Fitzsimmons, the man who took on the NFL and helped start a national conversation about concussions in sports, is content to remain out of the limelight, focusing on what he does best: practicing law. "I still like doing a car-accident case or representing someone on a terrible-injury case," says Fitzsimmons, 64. "Lawyers do so much good for the world, but we get a bad rap."

Fitzsimmons' success story is one few would have predicted. He grew up in Warwood, West Virginia, just north of Wheeling, the middle child in a family with five kids. His father was a pipefitter and so are both of his brothers. He was the only child in his family to go to college—two hours north up I-79 in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he studied hard and "took a few big hits" playing football at Allegheny College. Friends suggested that he go to law school, so he took a job at a plumbing supply company in Cleveland, saved his money and got into the UB School of Law in 1976.

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itzsimmons graduated a semester early, at 25, with high honors and moved back to West Virginia. But without a job, office space or a car—he took the bus, walked or hitchhiked until he bought a Honda Accord a few years later—he had to improvise. He took on indigent clients whom no one else would defend.

"I tried tons of criminal cases," he says.
"That was how I learned to practice law."

In 1984, Fitzsimmons got his first big break: a bad-birth medical malpractice case that was settled for a large sum of money. More civil cases followed in the years to come, and he began to concentrate on personal-injury suits.

When Mike Webster, still a hulking (if diminished) specimen at 45, walked into Fitzsimmons' office in 1997, he was two days late for his scheduled appointment. The former star had connected with Fitzsimmons thanks to a doctor who had received the lawyer's name from a local judge. As recounted in Jeanne Marie Laskas' book *Concussion* and in the movie with the same name, Webster's life was unraveling. He had lost most, if not all, of his money. His marriage had ended in divorce. And something was wrong upstairs—he simply couldn't focus or process thoughts normally. He repeatedly stunned himself with a Taser gun, super-glued his teeth, peed in his oven.

Fitzsimmons did much more than just file a disability claim with the NFL on Webster's behalf in 1998. Webster often slept in his truck, so Fitzsimmons let him use his office basement to nap and clean up. Webster wrote Fitzsimmons dozens, maybe hundreds of letters, most incoherent but grateful. The pair, who were born just three days apart, grew close.

And good news came on May 8, 2000, when the league acknowledged that Webster had some sort of football-related brain injury—the first time the NFL had recognized such a finding. But even though five doctors (including one hired by the NFL) agreed on the diagnosis, the league pension board voted to award him only limited disability payments and refused to make the judgment retroactive to his 1991 retirement.

The difference amounted to more than \$1 million—money that Webster, who had considered selling his Super Bowl rings to pay off debts, badly needed. Fitzsimmons filed an appeal, which the NFL's pension fund denied. He then filed an appeal with the U.S. District Court in Baltimore, where the fund was based. They were still three years away from winning that case when Webster died of a heart attack on Sept. 24, 2002.



l. to r.: Fitzsimmons joined Webster for a 1999 press conference at which Webster apologized to his fans, friends and family for any embarrassment stemming from a charge of forging a Ritalin prescription. Webster attributed his behavior to a brain injury he said he'd suffered during his NFL career.

Enter Omalu, the Nigerian doctor who admittedly had no appreciation of either American football or Webster's celebrity. Something simply didn't feel right to him after the former athlete's autopsy, so he reached out to Fitzsimmons for permission to study the brain. After conferring with Webster's family, Fitzsimmons gave Omalu the go-ahead.

A pattern was emerging, and an \$8-billion-a-year industry was under fire.

Months later, the forensic pathologist ultimately identified in Webster's brain a progressive, degenerative disease linked to repetitive brain trauma. It was the first time an autopsy of a professional football player had confirmed the diagnosis of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a condition associated with impaired judgment, impulse-control problems, aggression, depression and progressive dementia. In short, it was the first pathologically diagnosed case indicating a connection between football and brain damage.

Omalu published his findings in the July 2005 issue of *Neurosurgery*, which didn't sit

well with the NFL's Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Committee. The committee—which critics say had long been trying to discredit research linking the sport and traumatic brain injuries—unsuccessfully demanded a retraction and continued to downplay the risks of the game. But the momentum and the science were shifting away from the league's policy of denial.

Fitzsimmons and Omalu then teamed up with two neurosurgeons, Drs. Julian Bailes and Bob Cantu, and with former World Wrestling Entertainment competitor Chris Nowinski to form the Sports Legacy Group in 2006. "The goal was to obtain more brains and conduct more research," Fitzsimmons says.

Their second confirmed CTE diagnosis was in the brain of retired Steelers offensive lineman Terry Long, who'd committed suicide at 45 by drinking antifreeze after other methods had failed. His brain resembled that of an elderly patient with advanced Alzheimer's. Retired Eagles safety Andre Waters, who shot himself in November 2006 after having been denied disability by the NFL retirement plan despite numerous concussions, was the third former pro football player diagnosed with CTE. A pattern was emerging, and an \$8-billion-a-year industry was under fire.



Fitzsimmons is a trustee on the board of the Bennet Omalu Foundation, launched in December to "fund research, raise awareness, provide support and find cures for people suffering from ... CTE and traumatic brain injuries."

FAST FORWARD TO THE PRESENT. >>

The NFL still keeps its distance from Fitzsimmons, Omalu and Bailes, who split from Nowinski and Cantu and formed the Brain Injury Research Institute in 2009.

"It's competitive," Fitzsimmons says of the institute's work, which involves vying for brains against Boston University's CTE Center (where Nowinski is now co-director). "And it's hard to ask [for permission to study a brain]."

Given the sensitivities and high stakes involved, Fitzsimmons and others have begun to spearhead research studies to diagnose CTE in the living. Meanwhile, more athletes continue to be posthumously diagnosed. The list includes football players Junior Seau, Frank Gifford, Ken Stabler and Fred McNeill; hockey players Derek Boogaard and Bob Probert; and many others in a number of sports. The Boston group announced in September that they'd found CTE in the brain tissue of 96 percent of the former NFL players and in 79 percent of all other former football players (165 in total) they've studied.

Current and retired players have taken notice of the sobering statistics. Chris Borland, a promising San Francisco 49ers linebacker, surprised fans and his team when he retired last year at 24 over fears of developing CTE. But plenty of others, like

retired Baltimore Ravens safety Ed Reed, have argued that the risks don't outweigh the rewards of a lucrative NFL career.

For its part, the league has gradually taken steps to make the game safer, implementing a number of rule changes along with new protocols for how head injuries should be diagnosed and treated. And in March, Jeff Miller, the NFL's senior vice president

"He is like the ultimate gladiator. You don't want to face him in court."

for health and safety, made headlines when he acknowledged the connection between football and CTE in front of a congressional committee—shortly after another NFL health official denied any confirmed link when questioned during Super Bowl week. ("This is at least the third time the NFL or one of its representatives have made a similar admission, and afterward they always seem to backtrack," Fitzsimmons says of Miller's statement. "I don't think in the big scheme it means much.")

The NFL has also funded new field research and, without admitting any wrongdoing, it agreed to a settlement in

August 2013 that could ultimately pay more than \$1 billion in benefits to thousands of players with severe neurological conditions stemming from their pro careers.

"The ripple effect started with the pebble of Bob's [Mike Webster] lawsuit," says Dionne Koller, law professor and director of the UB School of Law's Center for Sport and the Law. "And I would say history will show that this is far bigger than just the NFL."

Koller says that all 50 states and the District of Columbia now have statutes that address concussions and how they should be managed in youth sports. And for good reason: The Centers for Disease Control estimates that athletes at all levels suffer between 1.6 and 3.8 million sports-and recreation-related concussions annually.

The problem is personal for Koller. Her son, Ethan, is a high-school hockey player who has suffered two on-ice concussions. One more, she says, and she'll insist he quit the sport.

Millions of other soccer, football and hockey parents around the country are weighing the same risks. It's a conversation that may not have unfolded in the way it has if Fitzsimmons hadn't taken up Webster's fight.

But he doesn't want to be known solely as the CTE lawyer, the guy who took on the NFL. He's just as proud of the fact that he successfully represented the victim in the civil proceedings of the Steubenville (Ohio) High School rape case, where two football players sexually assaulted an unconscious minor while bystanders videotaped evidence of the attack.

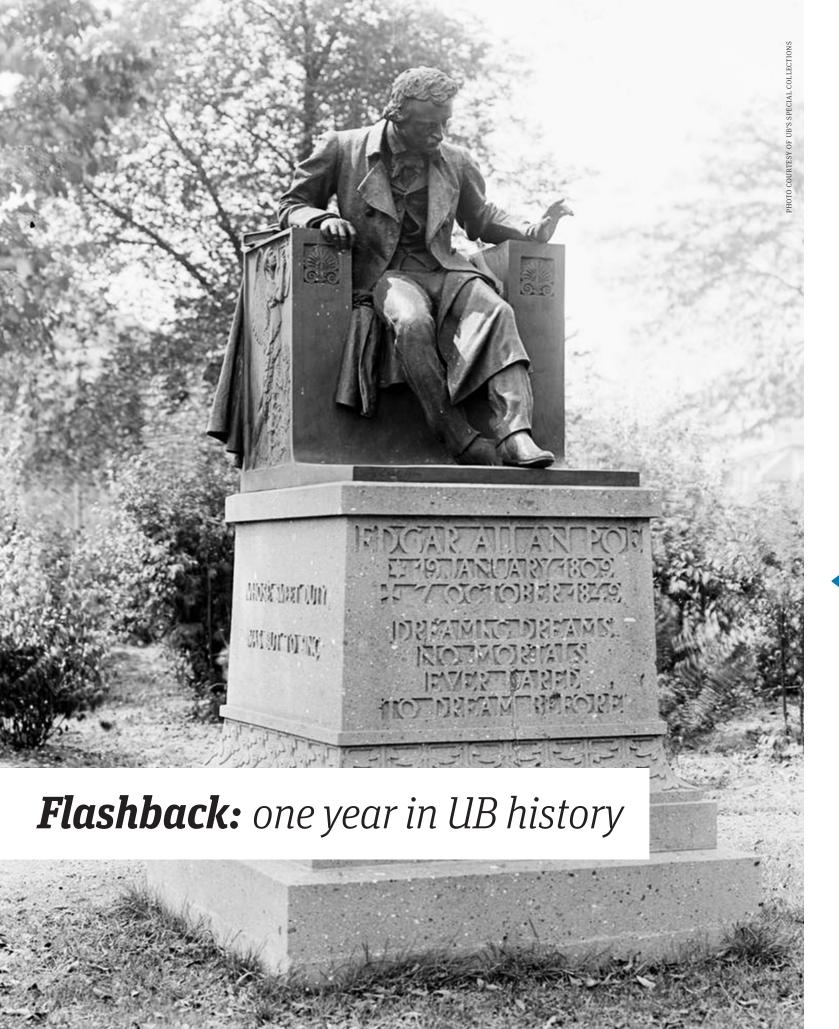
And he has no interest in being a big-city lawyer; Fitzsimmons says there is nothing better than practicing law in Wheeling with his sons, Rocky and Clayton. "He is like the ultimate gladiator," Clayton says. "You don't want to face him in court. He approaches every case, big or small, with a huge level of intensity."

Clayton insists that success hasn't changed his father, who has lived in the same house with his wife, Sunni, for more than 30 years. He still works long hours. He still wants his comfort foods—basics like grilled cheese sandwiches, oatmeal or omelets—for dinner. And he still loves being a lawyer.

"UB gave me a chance to be a lawyer and to practice, and I will never forget it," Fitzsimmons says. "I'm happy if I've done some good, but at the end of the day, I just want someone to say, 'Here's a good man.' Period."



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The year was 1982.

Cal Ripken Jr. played the first of what would eventually become a record-breaking 2,632 consecutive games. Michael Jackson released Thriller, the best-selling album of all time. A January storm dropped a foot of snow on Baltimore. A loaf of white bread cost 60 cents, and a gallon of milk was \$1.79.

What was happening at UB:

- The original John and Frances Angelos Law Center, now known as the H. Mebane Turner Learning Commons, opened its doors.
- A six-night alumni trip to London cost \$899 (round-trip airfare and hotel included).
- The Edgar Allan Poe statue's move from Wyman Park to UB's Gordon Plaza was planned.
- The Artscape festival took over midtown streets for the first time; stories collected by UB's Baltimore Neighborhood Heritage Project were performed on stage.
- The business school officially became the Robert G. Merrick School of Business.
- More than 350 alumni, family and friends headed to Memorial Stadium to watch the Orioles play the Boston Red Sox. (The O's lost 5-2.)

Readers Look Back to 1965 ...

In our last issue, we asked readers to tell us what UB was like in 1965; our thanks to everyone who told us their stories.

From Jim Doty, B.A. '68:

I recall the Maryland Bar across the alley in the back of the campus. It was a basement affair. At lunchtime a hungry student could get a huge plate of french fries with brown gravy for 75 cents. Another 25 cents bought a short draft beer

From Augie Uleckas, B.S. '67:

According to my newspaper clips that I have accumulated over my years at [UB], we won the Mason-Dixon Northern Division Soccer title on November 13, 1965, beating Catholic University 7-1. Then, on Wednesday, November 17, 1965, we beat the southern division champions, Lynchburg, 4-1 to win the conference championship.

We want to know more about this year in UB history.

Do you remember 1982? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@ubalt.edu or 410.837.6131 to share your memories. Your response could be featured in our next issue!

Putting the Charm in Charm City

Scott Burger, B.S. '95

by Paula Novash

Fifty years ago, a charm bracelet was the accessory of choice for teens wearing saddle shoes and bobby socks and for young women in full-skirted day dresses. Crafted of gold or silver links, the bracelets jingled with dangling trinkets that typically commemorated special events in the wearer's life.

"We call that the era of the 'person, place or thing' charm," says **Scott Burger**, **B.S. '95**, president of the Americas for jewelry company Pandora. He mentioned a graduation cap, Santa Claus and a baby as examples of the types of charms women would wear.

"It's very satisfying to provide a product that allows people to express those emotional connections."

Charm bracelets fell out of fashion in the second half of the 20th century, but in his role at Pandora, Burger is helping to usher in their renaissance. And, he says, the newer charms—many of which slide onto narrow bracelets—touch consumers on a different level.

"Now we see women use the bracelets to express aspects of their personality," he explains. Among current Pandora charms are "things" such as an espresso machine, but other options include intricately crafted, crystal-studded pieces with names like Inner Radiance, Inspiration Within and Heart of the Family.

One Pandora devotee told Burger about a 50th birthday celebration for which the honoree's friends each chose a charm that reflected a characteristic they saw in her. "It's very satisfying to provide a product that allows people to express those emotional connections," he says.

A Baltimore native, Burger grew up in Bel Air, Maryland, and attended Harford Community College before enrolling at UB. "I was putting myself through school and really appreciated [UB's] emphasis on real-world applications of learning," he says.

Burger began his business career at financial institution Alex. Brown & Sons and completed an MBA at Loyola University Maryland during his time there. He moved on to positions with FILA and Giant Food, among others, enhancing his skills in areas such as product distribution, finance and operations. Following his job as chief financial officer at Dormia, a mattress company, he began his career at Pandora in 2007.

From Pandora's American headquarters in Baltimore, Burger currently oversees operations that account for about 45 percent of the company's \$2.5 billion in yearly sales. He's also helping to spearhead Pandora's expansion through new product lines.

Burger is busy at home as well; his family includes six children ages 12 and under. Is the household well supplied with Pandora jewelry? "Well, my wife and daughters have quite a few pieces," Burger confirms. "And now my oldest son wants to give it to the girls in his class, so that's a whole new generation of customers."



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THE GLOBE Fire and Ice by Libby Zay



Balzano at McMurdo Station, a U.S. Antarctic research center where he served as a firefighter for seven months

aximilian W. Balzano, B.S. '13, already had 10 years of firefighting experience in Maryland when he stumbled upon the Antarctic Fire Department's website the summer before he graduated. "I always wanted to go to Antarctica, and this gave me a way to do it," the criminal justice graduate explains.

After traveling to New Zealand for orientation and to be fitted for extreme-coldweather gear, Balzano found himself on a ski-equipped plane to McMurdo Station, a U.S. research center on the southern tip of Antarctica's Ross Island. The base is the largest community on the continent—capable of supporting more than 1,250 residents—but

only about 150 people live there in the winter. "I pretty much knew everyone on station," says Balzano of the seven months he was there in 2015.

So what does an Antarctic fireman do? Mostly fire inspections of the buildings around McMurdo Station, he says. "It's the coldest, driest, windiest continent in the world—a fire that starts there can really take off," Balzano explains. When he wasn't working, he volunteered at the station's general store and developed his photography hobby.

"The hardest thing to adjust to was 24 hours of daylight," says Balzano, who arrived in February, when the sun is above the horizon all day. As the months went

on, Antarctica entered an annual period when the sun is never seen. For Balzano, that meant photographing the star-studded Antarctic sky, including capturing the Milky Way and some of the strongest polar light displays in a decade.

"When I look at the night sky now [from Maryland], I think about how there's so much we're missing," he says.

Next time you head overseas, don't forget to wear your UB gear and send a photo to the UB Office of Alumni Relations, 1130 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201 or alumni@ubalt.edu.

YOUR UB PERKS CONTINUE LONG AFTER GRADUATION.

Your UB Alumni Bee Card entitles you to a long list of benefits and services, and we're adding more all the time. Here are just a few:



BOOKSTORE

Enjoy a 10 percent discount on apparel, books and gifts at the Barnes & Noble at the University of Baltimore.



CAREER SERVICES

Manage your career with career coaching and job-search tools from the Career and Professional Development Center.



Save 30 percent on an annual membership to UB's Recreation Center.



AUTO INSURANCE

Get a free, no-obligation rate quote and find out how much you could save with special rates through GEICO, our auto insurance partner.



HEALTH INSURANCE

Protect yourself and your family with health, life and long-term-care insurance through the UB Alumni Insurance Program, provided by Meyer and Associates.



Dine, shop, relax and be entertained—all at discount prices from our alumni discount partners!

Visit www.ubalt.edu/alumni to find out more about alumni benefits and services, to learn how to get involved and to request your UB Alumni Bee Card—your one-card solution for official UB alumni identification, library access, Campus Cash purchases, special alumni discounts and more. You can also update your email address to receive *BuzZworthy*, our monthly e-newsletter.



Events and Photos

pictured, l. to r.:

- 1. Samuel I. Rosenberg and Tony S. Fugett, B.S. '77
- 2. Shawn J. Thornton, B.S. '14; Cathleen E. Wett, B.S. '15, CERT '15; and Emily Stevens
- 3. H. Mebane Turner, UB president emeritus; James T. Hill Jr., B.S. '70, M.P.A. '83; and Loetta and Marty E. Marvel, B.S. '57, J.D. '60
- 4. Ryan M. Schwabenbauer, MBA '04; John R. Polyniak, B.S. '77; and Stan Brown, M.A. '00
- 5. Kurt L. Schmoke, UB president, and Lauren K. Yaede, B.A. '90



















pictured, l. to r.:

- **6. Lyndsay Bates, M.A. '13,** academic program specialist; **Kristen Tull, M.A. '09,** academic program coordinator; and Carol Glagola
- 7. Jennifer, Julio and Ana C. Ferretti, B.S. '15; and Carole Braithwaite
- 8. Alan Weisman, B.S. '71, M.A. '91, lecturer, School of Health and Human Services; and Lisa N. Zajdel, B.S. '05, M.S. '07
- 9. Ronald Weich, dean, UB School of Law, and Karen Barbour, MBA '93
- **10. Steven B. Goldberg, B.S. '76,** and Favour Tejuosho, MBA student

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Kolmansberger at the Little League team's home base, the Red Land Sports Complex in Etters, Pennsylvania

Field of Dreams

J.K. Kolmansberger, MBA '00

by Koren Wetmore

Nearly 46,000 people packed Lamade Stadium in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, to watch the final game in the U.S. bracket of the 2015 Little League Baseball World Series. The record crowd included a multitude in red T-shirts chanting their support of the Red Land Little League Team from Lewisberry, Pennsylvania.

At the bottom of the final inning, the score was tied with Red Land at bat.

A single hit deep into right field launched the fans to their feet. Cheers resounded as 13-year-old second baseman Braden Kolmansberger scored the winning run for a 3-2 victory against the team from Pearland, Texas.

Red Land assistant coach **J.K. Kolmansberger, MBA 'oo,** embraced his son in a moment that he says felt suspended in time. "To watch him cross the plate, to see his face as thousands of people erupted in the stands—that moment as a dad was as good as it gets," recalls Kolmansberger, co-founder and president of data analytics company VisiQuate.

"I always knew [coaching]
was something I would do. If I
just sat in the stands, I would
probably go crazy."

Red Land's win in August marked the first time in 24 years a Pennsylvania team had taken the U.S. title. It also advanced the team to face off against the winner from the international bracket for a chance to become world champions.

Kolmansberger was one of three fathers on the team's coaching staff. When his son first started playing T-ball at age 5, he knew he would serve as a coach. Baseball was in his blood. His father, Jim, coached high school and Little League baseball for nearly 40 years. His uncle Jack played in the 1955 Little League Baseball World Series. And his own baseball career lasted from childhood through high school.

"I grew up with a glove on my hand and played a ton of baseball," he says. "I always knew [coaching] was something I would do. If I just sat in the stands, I would probably go crazy."

As it would turn out, Kolmansberger did spend a lot of time on the field. He and Red Land's other coaches spent more than six years working with the same group of players who competed as a team in both Little League and a travel league that toured the East Coast. While other travel teams recruited top players from throughout their respective states, Kolmansberger's club comprised players almost exclusively from a single, small ZIP code. The team's commitment to developing local talent may have cost them some travel games, but Red Land's players honed their skills and became a close-knit team, a strategy that paid off for them later on.

"We chose to invest in our kids, and we weren't going to replace one of them with someone from outside Red Land just to win a few more tournaments," Kolmansberger explains. "No travel tournament could ever equate to the experience of playing together in the World Series."

The plan worked. Although the team lost to Japan in the final game of the Little League Baseball World Series, Kolmansberger and the team still etched their place in Little League baseball history. And, according to Kolmansberger, their story will eventually hit the big screen: A feature film about the team's journey called *Against the Odds* is scheduled to begin filming in August and is expected to be released in 2017.

Let your fellow UB alumni know where you are and what you've been up to. Submitting a Class Note is easy; just visit **www.ubalt.edu/classnotes** or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 410.837.6131 or alumni@ubalt.edu.

1960s Alvin D. Katz, B.S. '63, was elected treasurer for the

Education Foundation of Baltimore County
Public Schools' board of directors in October.
He also serves on the board of directors for the
Maryland/Israel Development Center.

Dennis C. Check, B.S. '68, retired from Brody Transportation in Barrett, Maryland, and moved to Hampstead, North Carolina, in October 2013.

1970s Maury J. Leibowitz, B.S. '71, retired as regional manager for Sunbridge Healthcare in Peachtree City, Georgia, in April 2010 after a 37-year career in long-termcare management and operations.

Howard J. Rosen, B.S. '71, was named to *The Daily Record*'s 2015 list of Maryland's Most Admired CEOs in September.

Larry D. Unger, B.S. '73, was named to *The Daily Record*'s 2015 list of Maryland's Most Admired CEOs in September.

Kenneth W. Farrar, J.D. '74, retired as a judge in Virginia's 24th Judicial District in August.

R. Terence Farrell, B.S. '74, retired as executive director of the Harford County Office on Mental Health in Bel Air, Maryland, in December 2014.

Barbara Ann Robinson, B.S. '75, is serving her third term in the Maryland General Assembly. An author of six books, she also was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 1996, was named to *The Daily Record*'s Maryland's Top 100 Women in 2009 and was a successful business owner for 30 years.

Paul S. Sugar, J.D. '75, a principal at Ober|Kaler, was appointed to the Baltimore Museum of Industry's board of trustees in November and was selected as a 2016 Maryland Super Lawyer by *Maryland Super Lawyers* magazine in January for his work in construction litigation.

Dalton A. Tong, B.S. '73, MBA '75, received the Frank Blacklock Outstanding Accounting Educator of the Year Award from the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants as well as an award from the American College of Healthcare Executives, both in June 2015.

Kenneth S. Rasheff, B.S. '76, retired from SKF USA in March 2015 after 35 years.

Harry C. Storm, J.D. '79, was appointed associate judge of the Montgomery County (Maryland) Circuit Court's 6th Judicial Circuit in December.

1980s Stephen J. Baker, J.D. '80, retired as district administrative judge in the District Court of Maryland for Cecil County in October after 17 years on the bench.

Kenneth R. Coffey II, M.P.A. '80, was named executive director of the Self Regional Healthcare Foundation in Greenwood, South Carolina, in August.

Simpson H. Gardyn, M.S. '80, was named to *The Daily Record*'s 2015 list of Maryland's Most Admired CEOs in September 2015.

Harry B. Bosk, M.A. '83, had his street photography featured on The Darkroom, *The Baltimore Sun*'s photography and video blog, in October.

Douglas R. Miller, M.P.A. '83, was elected city manager of Ocean City, Maryland, in February.

Arnold J. "Joey" Short, B.S. '83, was hired at Dräxlmaier Group in Duncan, South Carolina, in 2015

Paul J. Weber, J.D. '83, was recognized in the 2016 Maryland edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in malpractice.

Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr., J.D. '84, published The John Hanson Briscoe Historical Project, an online biographical resource about the late **John Hanson Briscoe, J.D. '60,** former speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, in October.

Daniel J. Clifford, J.D. '84, was elected to the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, in November. He is the first openly gay candidate to win a county office in Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia.

Garrett V. Davis, J.D. '84, joined the Washington, D.C., firm of Dickinson Wright in September as an intellectual-property attorney. He has experience in matters related to the preparation, prosecution and litigation of chemical and mechanical patents and represents clients before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Anne M. Irby, B.A. '84, marked her 25th anniversary with the office of U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.) in 2015.

David J. Smith, J.D. '85, is president of Forage Center for Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Education. He plans to publish his book, *Peace Jobs: A Student's Guide to Starting a Career Working for Peace*, in 2016.

Baby Bee Announcements

UB proudly welcomes the newest members of our University family—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 sporting their Baby Bee bibs and will include them in the magazine as space permits.



Fisher Lee Smith, born Aug. 23, 2014, was adopted July 31, 2015, by **Thomas R. Smith, M.A. '06,** and **Jennifer K. (Lefkowitz) Smith, M.A. '05**.



Bradley Samuel Zajdel was born June 9, 2015, to Lisa N. Zajdel, B.S. '05, M.S. '07. His grandfather is Alan S. Weisman, B.S. '71, M.A. '91, and his aunt is Jessica Maimon, B.S. '02, MBA '04.



Logan Savel Ransom was born Aug. 14, 2015, to **Kimberly Savel Ransom, B.A. '10**.



Hayden David Margolis was born Aug. 24, 2015, to **Darren M. Margolis, J.D. '95,** and Carrie Rich.

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

Kendel S. Ehrlich, J.D. '87, was hired as an assistant state's attorney in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in October.

Kenneth A. Porro, J.D. '87, joined the law firm of Chasan, Leyner & Lamparello in Secaucus, New Jersey, as a partner in May 2015. He was re-elected to represent Wyckoff Township, New Jersey, on the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School Board of Education in November.

Elrado G. Ramsay, B.S. '88, is pursuing his master's degree in finance and accounting at DeVry University's Keller Graduate School of Management in Decatur, Georgia. He plans to graduate in June.

George L. Salis, M.A. '88, was one of 75 candidates nationwide to be awarded the Certified in Business Economics designation by the National Association for Business Economics in October.

1990S Craig D. Roswell, J.D. '91, managing partner of Niles, Barton & Wilmer, was appointed to the board of directors of Baltimore's B&O Railroad Museum in September.

Kent J. Boles Jr., B.S. '89, J.D. '92, was appointed associate judge of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City in December.

Carolyn W. Evans, J.D. '92, became interim CEO of the Center for the Arts in Harford County, Maryland, in August. She has served on the board since January 2014.

William J. McCarthy Jr., J.D. '87, LL.M. '92, received the St. Thomas More Society of Maryland's 2015 Man for All Seasons Award in October

Honora W. "Norie" Sutor, J.D. '92, was elected to the board of Bello Machre in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in July.

Sigrid A. Wright, M.A. '92, became the first female CEO of the Community Environmental Council in Santa Barbara, California, in July and received a 2015 Women of Achievement Award from the Association of Women in Communications in June 2015.

Brenda B. Blom, J.D. '93, retired from her professorship at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in January 2013 and relocated to New Brunswick, Canada.

Chester G. "Chip" Davis Jr., J.D. '93, was hired as president and CEO of the Generic Pharmaceutical Association in Washington, D.C., in August. He previously served as executive vice president for advocacy at Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and as vice president of both government affairs and corporate external relations at AstraZeneca.

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Howard B. Hall, M.P.A. '93, chief of police for Virginia's Roanoke County Police Department, was named to the executive board of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police in September.

Chris S. Mason, J.D. '93, joined the board of directors of the Salisbury University Foundation in September.

Alexander M. Orlando, B.S. '91, MBA '93, joined Towson, Maryland's N&TS Group as managing director for North America and Europe in August.

Debra M. Davis, J.D. '94, was elected chair of the board of trustees for Local Government Insurance Trust in Hanover, Maryland, in December and is the first African American to serve in this capacity.

Eric N. Schloss, J.D. '94, joined the Law Offices of Lee Saltzberg in December in Towson, Maryland. He practices personal-injury law in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

David J. Shuster, J.D. '94, was selected as a 2016 Maryland Super Lawyer by *Maryland Super Lawyers* magazine in January for his work in business litigation, construction litigation and plaintiff's personal injury.

Stephen P. Buonanno, M.S. '95, joined Coastline West Realty of Florida's Bradenton office as a sales associate in November.

William M. Dunn, J.D. '95, was appointed associate judge of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City in December.

Christopher Chick, M.S. '96, was appointed chief lending officer and executive vice president of Severn Bancorp in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in September.

Tonja M. Gaskins, J.D. '96, was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court bar in June 2015.

Stacey W. McCormack, J.D. '96, was appointed associate judge for the Anne Arundel County (Maryland) Circuit Court's 5th Judicial District in December.

Grace H. Kraemer, J.D. '97, was promoted to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.'s Office of the General Counsel Appeals Board in Washington, D.C., in October. She previously was an attorney for the corporation's Regulatory Affairs Group

Heidi J.A. Gilmore, B.A. '93, J.D. '98, an attorney with Baird Mandalas Brockstedt in Lewes, Delaware, was named among *Delaware Today*'s Top Lawyers 2015 in November.

Tara M. Turner, B.S. '99, was hired by The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., as associate director of client services, events and venues in June 2015.

2000S Charles Blomquist, J.D. '00, was selected to head the Baltimore state's attorney's new Crime Strategies Unit in August. He has 10 years of experience as a homicide prosecutor, is a commander with the Maryland National Guard and has been deployed to combat three times.

Andrew C. Katz, B.S. '00, became executive director of Beth Israel Congregation in Owings Mills, Maryland, in September.

Gerald C. Kowalczik, B.S. '00, retired from the Department of Defense at Maryland's Fort George G. Meade in June 2015 after 30 years of service as a contractor in the information technology field.

Kathleen A. Murphy, B.A. '00, has worked as director of clinical respiratory care at Baltimore City Community College since 2007.

Buthaina Shukri, M.S. '00, became the senior associate director for the development team of The George Washington University's School of Engineering and Applied Science in Washington, D.C., in January; her territory covers the mid-Atlantic, West Coast and Southwest regions. She has worked in alumni relations for the school since April 2012.

Xiao M. Wu, M.S. '00, began working as an activity assistant at Rainbow Adult Health Care Center in Waltham, Massachusetts, in 2015. She also operates her own art business, InDiviArt.

Amy E. Askew, J.D. '01, was named a Maryland Super Lawyer by *Maryland Super Lawyers* magazine in January for her work in civil litigation and professional liability. She was also recognized as a Future Star in the 2016 edition of *Benchmark Litigation*.

Uwakwe U. Azikiwe, M.A. '99, J.D. '02, was hired as post-licensing head for the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2015.

Hendrick "Briggs" Bedigian, J.D. '02, was inducted into the Inner Circle of Advocates, an invitation-only group of the 100 best plaintiff lawyers in the United States. He was the first graduate of a Maryland law school to be nominated and is a founding partner of Gilman & Bedigian in Timonium, Maryland.

Jennifer C. (Rader) Lanthorn, B.S. '02, serves as director of admissions and marketing in the Atlantic region for HRC ManorCare, a national health-services company.

Michelle A. Brady, J.D. '04, joined the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights as deputy chief, rule of law in Warsaw, Poland, in September.

Angeliki M. Frangos, M.A. '04, was hired as marketing director for Metropolitan Meat, Seafood & Poultry in Landover, Maryland, in April 2015.

Taylor Gray, J.D. '04, was named to *Baltimore* magazine's 40 Under 40 list, which identifies innovative individuals in Baltimore, in August.

UB Alumnae Named Among Maryland's 'Leading Women'

Congratulations to the University of Baltimore alumnae named among Maryland's "Leading Women" by *The Daily Record*. This honor recognizes women age 40 or younger for their professional experience, community involvement and commitment to inspiring change.

Natalie L. Grossman, J.D. '04

Laurie R. (Meier) Wasserman, J.D. '04

Taren N. (Stanton) Butcher, J.D. '07

Myshala E. Middleton, J.D. '10

Adam C. Lawrence, M.S. '04, joined KeyBank's Capital Region headquarters in Albany, New York, as a human resources business partner in October.

Scott T. Schoenborn, B.A. '04, serves as senior Bank Secrecy Act officer for National Capital Bank in Washington, D.C.

Jacqueline D. (Jillson) Shemwell, M.A. '04, won gold in Dan Poynter's Global Ebook Awards (suspense fiction category) in August for her self-published novel, *The Devil in Canaan Parish*.

Julia S. Oaten, J.D. '05, returned to Annapolis, Maryland, in December after practicing consumer bankruptcy in Honolulu for seven years.

Daniel N. Soderberg, MBA '05, co-authored and published a children's book, *Elevator Jones*, with his son, Greyson, in 2015.

André Walters, J.D. '05, launched Yuno, an ecommerce site that rewards users who promote products on social media, in September.

Mark R. Holtzman, B.S. '06, was appointed chief of police in Greenville, North Carolina, in September.

Marc R. Partee, M.S. '06, was appointed director of the Baltimore City Police Department's Professional Development and Training Academy in September.

Steven M. Poynot, B.S. '06, was named to *Baltimore* magazine's 40 Under 40 list in August.

Christopher W. Roberts, J.D. '06, was named a principal at the law firm of Lerch, Early & Brewer in Bethesda, Maryland, in January.

Dennis S. Akotia, MBA '07, married Shermona Sueann Mapp in August.

Maureen (Lanigan) Howart, J.D. '07, was hired as Worcester County (Maryland)'s attorney in September.

Devon E. Faison, B.S. '08, was hired as a quality assurance assistant at Shura in Pikesville, Maryland, in 2015.

Kemp Hammond, J.D. '08, was hired as an attorney with the Anne Arundel County, Maryland's Office of Law in August.

Christiane A. Koffi, MBA '08, moved to Ottawa, Canada, and welcomed her first child, Daniel, in 2014.

New UB Foundation Board Members

The University of Baltimore
Foundation welcomed a new chair as
well as six new board members in
July 2015

James P. Nolan, J.D. '74 (chair)
Robert O. Stephenson, B.S. '86
Rachel T. McGuckian, J.D. '93
Deborah V. Kleiner, M.P.A. '94
Gregory M. Derwart, M.A. '96
Tracey A. DuBree, B.S. '02
Brett S. Lininger, J.D. '05

Robert S. Mitchell, B.S. '08, married Kelsey M. Fleming in September.

Ryan A. Mitchell, J.D. '08, was named a Rising Star by *Maryland Super Lawyers* magazine in January for his work in business litigation and construction litigation.

Craig A. Vollmer, B.S. '08, joined Wilmington Trust/M&T Bank in Baltimore as vice president and marketing manager within the company's marketing and communications division in October.

Christine B. Conyers, J.D. '09, joined the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., as attorney adviser and deputy ethics official in September 2014.

Nakita T. (Paul) Long, B.S. '06, M.S. '09, is the coordinator for the Family Violence Council within the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention in Towson, Maryland.

Wendy R. (Parcells) Marshall, J.D. '09, is an attorney-adviser for the U.S. Access Board in Washington, D.C.

Adam Rathbun, MBA '09, joined Pennsylvania State University's Beaver campus in Monaca, Pennsylvania, as director of finance and business in September.

Writing on the Margins

After his essay, "Too Poor for Pop Culture," appeared on Salon.com and went viral, D. Watkins, B.A. '09, M.F.A. '14, gained significant attention for his insights on contemporary race issues. He soon found himself with bylines in The New York Times, The Guardian and Rolling Stone, among others, and in September he released his debut book, The Beast Side: Living (and Dving) While Black in America. David Simon, creator of HBO's The Wire, called the collection of essays "... a blunt, eloquent argument for the forgotten in our cities." Watkins began teaching undergraduate UB students in the spring and released his first memoir, The Cook Up, in May.



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Back in the Game



UB's 1975-76 NCAA championship soccer team met at Liberatore's Ristorante in Perry Hall, Maryland, Nov. 29 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their Division II national title. "The event was fantastic," says Pete A. Caringi Jr., B.A. '80. "We had an unbelievable turnout."

2010s Stephen M. Cornelius, J.D. '10, was promoted from associate to supervising attorney at Eccleston & Wolf in Hanover, Maryland, in January.

Brian W. Hammock, J.D. '10, was named to *The Daily Record*'s 2015 list of Maryland's Most Admired CEOs in September.

James R. Osborne III, J.D. '10, was named general counsel at Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, a leading architecture and engineering firm in Sparks, Maryland, in June 2015.

David E. Bauer, J.D. '11, joined Hyundai Motor Co. as manager of government affairs at the company's Washington, D.C., office in September.

Kevin Fields, M.P.A. '11, is in formation for the Roman Catholic priesthood with the Archdiocese of Washington in Washington, D.C. He is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree and a master's degree in moral theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Aaron Guy, MBA '11, was appointed associate dean of extended learning at California State University San Marcos in September.

Kimberly Owusukoko, J.D. '11, married Eric Afoakwah in August.

Matthew M. White, J.D. '11, was elected as the northern Virginia region's area representative for the real property section of the Virginia State Bar in December.

Rachel Gray, B.S. '12, was promoted to audit senior at Arthur Bell Certified Public Accountants in Hunt Valley, Maryland, in July.

Efrain Solis, B.S. '10, M.S. '12, was appointed to the board of examiners for the 2015 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest honor for organizational innovation and performance excellence, by the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology in December. He works as a senior project manager at Memorial Hermann in Sugar Land, Texas.

Rachael Thomas, M.S. '12, co-founded CARA Total Wellness in Ellicott City, Maryland, in July.

Jessica C. Moore, M.F.A. '13, serves as president of AIGA Colorado. She also launched a new line of woodcut silhouettes, inspired by her summer working for the Girl Scouts of Colorado, on her Etsy shop.

Sonya Sadjadi, B.S. '11, M.A. '13, married Alan Tsao, B.S. '11, in June 2015.

Mihaela Ciulianu, B.S. '14, began Generali's Global Graduate Program in Italy in September 2015. After 18 months, she will have completed three international job rotations and earned a master's in insurance management.

Jessica C. Ricker, B.S. '14, was hired as manager of bank regulatory reporting with Charles Schwab in Denver in November.

Eugene M. Dunn, B.S. '15, relocated to Gladstone, Missouri, and began working as a technical solutions analyst with Cerner Corp. in Kansas City, Missouri, in July.

Gregory Gilleland, MBA '15, was promoted to general manager of Ring of Honor Wrestling in Baltimore in December.

Marya De La Cruz Sabalbaro, B.S. '13, M.S. '15, received the 2015 Leadership Impact Award from Adventist Healthcare in November 2015.

In Memoriam

Edward E. Johnston Jr., LL.B. '35
Edward Attman, A.A. '40, B.S. '42
Elda Jacqueline Spaulding Wild, A.A. '48
Henry R. Wolfe, B.S. '50
Joseph B. Axelman, J.D. '51
Francis W. "Bunky" Wagner, B.S. '51
Sylvan L. "Ham" Hamberger, B.S. '52
Arthur S. Seidman, J.D. '52

Thomas G. Kroen, B.S. '55 Eugene B. Bonner, B.S. '56

Vernon E. Ruark, B.S. '58 Robert E. "Boz" Joy, J.D. '59

William A. Swisher, LL.B. '59 Thomas J. Bracken, LL.B. '60

Jay D. Brown, B.S. '61

Bernard Felcher, LL.B. '61

George G. Pozoulakis, B.S. '61

Robert M. Wheeler, J.D. '62 Charles E. Brooks, J.D. '64

Frederick H. Habicht Jr., B.A. '65

Edward L. Dashiell Jr., B.S. '66 James E. Elliott, B.S. '66 Richard H. Mitchell, B.S. '66 Edward Williams Yoder, J.D. '66

Newland H. "Sonnie" Bush, LL.B. '67

William H. Borger Jr., B.S. '68

James F. Maher, J.D. '68 Wayne J. Ruginski, B.A. '68

Don W. Muddiman Sr., B.S. '69

Mark L. Kaminkow, B.S. '70

Francis P. Rooney Sr., J.D. '70

James C. Ivy Sr., B.S. '71

Alan K. Harbold, B.S. '72 William E. Miller Jr., B.S. '72

John T. Carney, J.D. '73

Samuel M. Learned Jr., J.D. '73

Herbert Schenkelberg, B.S. '75

John C. Klasnic, CERT '76

Paul K. Minor, M.S. '76

Kenneth M. Shipley Sr., B.A. '76

Richard A. Crandall, B.S. '77

Jacqueline E. Dawson, J.D. '77

Duke D. Johnston, J.D. '79

James W. Chlada, MBA '80

Frank J. Flyntz, J.D. '80

Steven L. Kreseski, J.D. '82

Valentine A. Szczepaniak, B.S. '82 James G. Gore Jr., J.D. '83

Athba "Abbie" Hammed, B.A. '84

Charles J. Burke, B.S. '85 Deborah G. Bailey, B.S. '87

Sandor "Alex" Bognar, J.D. '88

Leo F. Matrangola, M.A. '89

Janet L. Radcliffe, B.A. '93

Bonnie J. Montgomery, J.D. '01

Joel I. Glasser, former adjunct faculty, Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences

Elmer J. Rhody, former faculty, Merrick School of Business

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Raising the Bar Pamila J. Brown, J.D. '79

by Mary Medland

As a teenager, **Pamila J. Brown, J.D. '79,** was fascinated by the 1970 trial of H. Rap Brown, an African-American activist who was charged with inciting violence due to a speech he gave in Cambridge, Maryland. When a change of venue brought the trial to Harford County, where Brown lived, she found herself mesmerized by defense attorney William Kunstler, a self-described "radical lawyer" who was known for representing politically unpopular clients.

A few years later, in summer 1974, Brown again found herself fascinated—this time by the Watergate impeachment hearing and the eloquence of Barbara Jordan, an African-American congresswoman from Texas who delivered opening remarks against then-President Richard Nixon. "Barbara Jordan is truly my heroine," she says.

Brown says she viewed lawyers as agents who could change the world—and so she set out to become one. The Havre de Grace, Maryland, native entered the UB School of Law as one of four women of color in her class. She served as the Student Bar Association president, perhaps an indication of what would come more than 35 years later, when in 2015 she became the first African-American woman to be elected president of the Maryland State Bar Association.

"This has been an incredible honor and has allowed me ... to be an advocate for the profession and, to a significant degree, the community at large," she says. "I see myself as being in service to [the association's] members, and I have really treasured the experience."

Nonetheless, she acknowledges that there are challenges to being an effective association president. While holding down a full-time job as an associate judge for the Howard County District Court, she juggles numerous evening meetings and works with the association's 30 or so committees that tackle everything from technology to public awareness.

When it comes to her law school days, Brown "really enjoyed [her] tenure at UB." She was involved in the Black Law Students Association and in the Women's Bar Association, both of which still meet on UB's campus today. "I found many of my dearest friends there," she says.

"I had wonderful professors who ... really challenged students to consider things from different perspectives and to look at things from many different sides."

Check it out: www.ubalt.edu/ubmag

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Find WebExtra bonus content online for the spring 2016 issue:



Chow Time: Get a few cooking pointers and recipes from **Nikita Gandhi, B.S. '14**.



Spot someone you know? Browse through galleries of photos from recent alumni events.



Cold as Ice: **Maximilian W. Balzano, B.S. '13,** shares more about his
Antarctic adventure.



SOCIAL MEDIA CONTEST

Instagram user nicole_em_gee wrote, "I graduated with my BS yesterday after a long journey fueled by passion, commitment and drive. I wouldn't have been able to walk that stage without my community supporting me, so this degree is for them #ubalt #followyourdreams #graduationday"

Tag your photo in front of the Oliver Street fence (See "Snapshot," p. 1.) using #ubalt. We'll choose one entry at random to win a fun UB prize.

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