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Profile on ... Mr. Abraham I. Gordon

Charitable service is a way of life for Board of Trustees member and UB alumnus Abraham I. Gordon (B.A. '54), who has used his energies to help save lives around the world. A Rotarian since 1973, Abe is an active proponent of polio eradication efforts and works with fellow Rotarians worldwide in the immunization of babies.

Smallpox, considered eradicated in 1977, stands as the only natural disease to have been eliminated by immunization. Since 1985, Rotary's polio-eradication program has helped reduce the incidence of that disease to the point that 85 percent of the world is currently polio-free, including North and South America, Europe and the Pacific Rim nations. "Our biggest concerns are the polio-endemic nations in the African sub-Sahara belt of nations and in the sub-continent of Asia, particularly India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan." (Continued on page 2)



Mr. Abraham I. Gordon

UN General Assembly President Gives Address

By GEETHA THARMARATNAM (ABRIDGED)

Harri Holkeri, president of the 55th session of the United Nations General Assembly, gave a lecture February 22, on campus. The focus of his speech was on restructuring the Assembly to become more effective and to acknowledge the use for such a body, as it has come under increasing fire from the international community for being too slow and doing too little.

Holkeri, the president of the so-called Millennium Assembly of the UN, served as Prime Minister of Finland from 1987 to 1991 and has been in domestic and international politics for over 40 years. He was given an honorary British knighthood, Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire, in 1999 for his involvement and achievements in the Northern Ireland peace process. He succeeded Theo-Ben Gurirab, the former president of the General Assembly, who visited the University last year.

Holkeri underlined the necessity to "open the United Nations to civil society at large and to have continued and enhanced dialogue with academic communities."

He affirmed that "the United Na-



United Nations General Assembly president Harri Holkeri

tions system needs to be strengthened and reformed to carry out the tasks entrusted to it." He sees the need to develop the core strengths of the agencies as part of his legacy.

Echoing an earlier statement issued by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Holkeri said that "the United Nations has made a couple of mistakes - big ones. We can start with Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina. But we have had some successes like East Timor." The former Indonesia-occupied island was reclaimed with the help of the UN Se-

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U.B. Board of Trustees Member Works to Save Lives

Profile on Mr. Abraham I. Gorden

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stan," said Abe.

To date, Rotary has raised more than \$1 billion, directly and with government assistance, toward the goal of declaring the world free of polio by 2005. The only way to truly eradicate polio is to ensure that every child in the world is immunized, emphasizes Abe. So long as one child carries polio in his or her body, the disease will continue.

Abe has also been active in Rotary's "Gift of Life" program, which provides heart surgery for children. While in Malaysia, Abe arranged for a local hospital to cooperate in this program, and to date more than 50 children under five years of age have been saved. The hospital in Malaysia has promised to do a minimum of 25 such surgeries each year. "Gift of Life"

programs throughout the world have so far saved over 2,500 children's lives.

Abe recently returned from a polio immunization program in Africa, where he and his late wife Marilyn (UB alumna, B.A. '72, M.A. '85), led the effort of Rotary International in immunizing babies in Ghana and Togo. "I can think of no greater joy than those moments when I personally gave the babies their polio immunizations, as I knew those babies would be free of polio. Unfortunately, while in Africa, I could see older children on the streets who had already suffered the crippling and debilitating effects of polio," Abe said.

Asked why he and his family participate so actively in these worldwide life-saving programs, Abe noted the Biblical admonition, "He who saves a single life saves

the world entire." All lives everywhere are of equal importance.

A graduate of Duke University School of Law, Abe practices law in Bridgeport and is past president of the Rotary Club of Bridgeport. He has served as the international vice president of Rotary International, which has 1,250,000 members in 190 countries. He is currently chairman of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award program, which provides leadership training to more than 500 districts worldwide for high school and university-level students. "As we train our younger generation, we expand the number of hands which can reach out to those in need, so that we may improve the quality of the world in which we live," Abe said. ■

School Administrators Keeping Abreast of Legal Issues at Fourth Annual Education Law Conference

Breaking down the barriers between the suburban and inner city schools in Connecticut was the theme of Dr. Theodore S. Sergi's luncheon speech at the Fourth Annual Education Law Conference held recently on campus.

Sergi, the state Commissioner of Education, acknowledged that litigation has played a positive role in improving education, but he urged that the 85 conference participants "not look to the courts to develop policies....It's the governor's and legislature's responsibility."

Sergi pointed out that while the state's wealthier districts produce many talented students, they are nonetheless "students deprived of the interaction of experiences of working with kids of different backgrounds."

Providing equal educational opportunities for students and addressing racial imbalances among districts are issues plaguing many states, with some mandating complex funding formulas to help evenly distribute taxes garnered for education. Sergi stopped short of putting forth a policy regarding these issues but did state

that his goal was to be an equalizer on the often uneven playing field of education.

Dr. Joseph Beckham, an attorney and professor at Florida State University, opened the daylong conference by summarizing the most important legal issues currently facing education administrators. Beckham is nationally prominent for his expertise in education law. He said that the trend is for courts to withdraw from supporting student free-speech rights and that school districts may set policies for how their buildings are used by various groups but could not set membership policies.

Beckham said that school administrators could neither endorse nor prohibit prayer in school but should remain totally neutral. He added that Connecticut may very well sustain a school vouchers program and that teachers will probably have to undergo drug testing if the district demands it. Students, however, must submit to drug tests only if there is a health or safety issue involved, as for athletes.

Sixty-two of the state's school dis-



Dr. Theodore Sergi, Commissioner of Education for Connecticut

tricts were represented, mostly by principals and school superintendents, at this year's conference. Special thanks go to Cohen and Wolf of Bridgeport and Berchem, Moses and Devlin of Milford for their generous sponsorship. Organizers of this year's conference were Dr. Marvyn Jaffe and Dr. Jack Mulcahy. ■

Role of Religion in Society Draws Large Crowd

By HARUMI KAWAMURA

A recent public dialogue on campus on the role of religion in society was very well attended, suggesting that the issues surrounding religion are very much on people's minds. After speaking at the evening forum, Fairfield University Professor Ronald M. Davidson commented on the refreshing international character of the UB community. The event was undeniably a show of the diversity UB's students and faculty, as panel speakers sought to answer the question "Does religion have a role in shaping a moral globalizing society?"

The program presented the answers from seven different perspectives. For nearly two hours, atheism, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Unificationism made their cases in front of an audience of nearly 130 people in Carlson Hall.

The moderator, Professor Timothy Eves, kept the evening charged with

humor and anticipation as he introduced both a student and an expert to represent each perspective. Referring to such beliefs and practices as the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism and the dietary laws of Judaism, as well as the key element of the family in Unificationism, all religions said "yea" to religion's positive role. Atheism, naturally, said "nay," referring to, among other reasons, religion's shady role in historical conflicts.

The program did not seek to reach a conclusion or spotlight a particular perspective, and for this reason all seven outlooks worked with an equal share of time. The result was the realization that religion plays a variety of roles in human society. The successful interaction and dialogue among the different perspectives seemed to say "nay" to the clashes of civilizations predicted by such political scientists such as Samuel Huntington. ■

UN General Assembly President Gives Address

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curity Forces almost 25 years after troubles began.

Holkeri believes that the Millennium Assembly must spearhead the obvious need to adapt by establishing new priorities as a body, and this, he said, "requires compromise from all parties at member level." There are currently 189 member countries of the UN, and he anticipates before this year's end that East Timor will be welcomed as the 190th.

The Millennium Summit and the Millennium Charter that resulted from the summit, Holkeri said, is the third-most important document in the UN, after the Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights. The Summit called for a "comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all aspects" and for it to be "more representative of the contributing members and more legitimate." ■



Sports Round-Up

By Mike Ruane, Director of Sports Information

The University of Bridgeport baseball team, led by third-year head coach Matt Reed, is having a history making season this year with a current record of 17-13, and a New York Collegiate Athletic Conference record of 10-5. The 17 wins this season is the most wins UB has ever had in their 52 years of existence. The previous record was set in 1971 and 1973, both with 14 wins.

The Purple Knights have won 14 games and lost only six since returning from their Spring trip in Homestead, Florida, and are currently riding a five-game winning streak and have won eight of their last 10 games.

UB has been led offensively by junior short-stop Pete Rodriguez (.509 batting average with 15 doubles), senior third-baseman Matt Donahue (.387 batting average with 7 homeruns and 33 run's batted in), and junior 1B/RF/P Mike Clohessy (.370 batting aver-

age and 31 run's batted in). Rodriguez leads the NYCAC in hitting and is second in doubles.

The pitching staff has produced nicely for coach Reed and is getting stronger down the stretch. UB leads the NYCAC with a team earned run average of 4.88. Junior right hander Kevin Smith has a record of 4-3 and leads the Purple Knights in innings pitched with 52.1 and has an ERA of 3.27. Sophomore pitcher Robert Conte' has thrown 34.0 innings and was recently named NYCAC pitcher of the week for pitching a complete game in a 4-0 win over Saint Thomas Aquinas and earning a save in another win for UB. Freshman Lee Foo (4 wins and 2 losses) has a 3.72 ERA in 29.0 innings pitched, and junior right handed starter and reliever James Huestis has been effective hurling 40 innings with a record of 3-0 with five saves.

The women's gymnastics team coached by Lorraine Duffy once again has had a successful season, sending several gymnasts to the National Championships. At the National Championships in California, freshman Stephanie Pink was named an All-American on the vault, sophomore Joey Marie Kochanski took 15th in the country in the all around, 10th on the beam,

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Engineering Graduates Command the Top Starting Pay

Latest census figures confirm what engineering schools have been saying for years - a college degree in engineering launches a career that virtually guarantees a high starting salary and a secure and lucrative future.

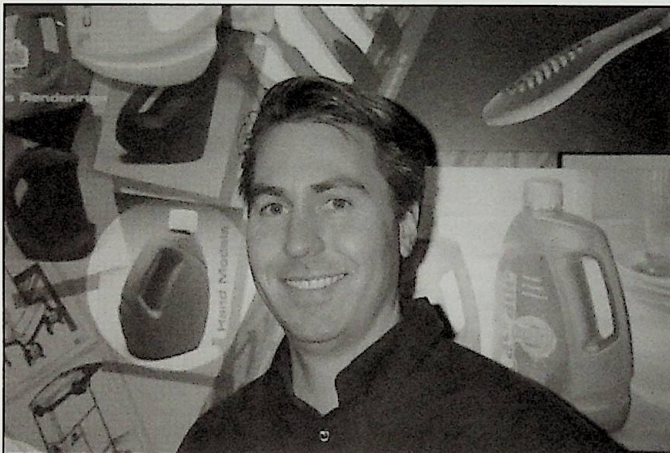
Graduates with a four-year degree in engineering command an average of \$50,000 annual starting salary, latest studies show, which is currently the highest level among college graduates.

The School of Engineering and Design at the University of Bridgeport offers students graduate and undergraduate degrees in computer science and engineering, industrial design, interior design, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering.

Recently, alumni of the Industrial Design program were able to showcase some of their work, ranging from watches to postage meters, at the **First Annual Industrial Design Alumni Show** in the University Gallery.

Sponsored by the Connecticut chapter of the Industrial Design Society of America, the show ran until April 30, and featured the step-by-step process that award-winning designers from UB's ID program employed to bring a new product to market. All phases of development, including initial drawings; computer simulations; plastic, foam, or wooden models; blueprints; and final products, were displayed.

Exhibitors include Peter B. Clarke, who graduated *summa cum laude* in 1990 with a B.S. degree from the Industrial Design program. He is the founder and president of Product Ventures, Ltd., of South Norwalk, a design and development-consulting firm with



Peter B. Clarke, President of Product Ventures, Ltd., standing next to his Cascade dish detergent bottle exhibit.

15 employees.

Peter exhibited all phases of the development of a Cascade dish-detergent bottle, a Schick Xtreme III convenience razor, and an angioplasty radiation unit for the US Surgical Corporation.

Also displaying his award-winning products was David W. Kaiser, (B.S. '76), founder of Anderson Design of Plainville, Connecticut, where he is a designer and project manager. Three houseware products designed by David were shown - an electric hand-mixer, an electric can opener, and a rechargeable electric knife. They are part of the Ergo Line of products, named for their ergonomic improvements and designed for Applia Consumers Products, Inc.

David's display included concept sketches, product descriptions, foam models, pictures using Pro-ENGINEER software, Alias software renderings and the final products.

"The thing I remember most about the UB program is that it was challenging and very thorough. It prepared me well for the real world," said David. "As consultants, we come across some very demanding clients, and my experience at UB helped prepare me for that."

The Industrial Design program at UB started in 1949 as a night school program under the guidance of Professor Gordon Florian. In 1955, Professor Emeritus Robert Redman played a key role in establishing the current degree program. Graduates of the UB program have designed many famous household items, such as the "Dustbuster" vacuum, and UB graduates continue creating award-winning designs at GM, Chrysler, United Technologies, Lucent Technology and other companies. ■

Industrial and Interior Design Students at UB Continue Winning Tradition

- Industrial Design graduate student and multi-prize winner Manuel Saez has won first place (\$3,000) in the New York City Parks Department Bike Rack/Tree Guard Competition. A student from Harvard took second place. Pictures of their designs may be viewed at www.designtrees.com
- UB Industrial Design students won three out of five awards at the recent New York International Automobile show. First place (\$5,000) went to the team of junior Dong Joo Choi and sophomore Joon Suk Park. Third place (\$2,000) went to junior Koji Okamoto, and fifth place (\$1,000) went to junior Adrian Teschemaker. Students from six schools competed, but the only other school with winners was Syracuse University.
- Interior Design students Maiko Tanaka (sophomore) and Hitomi Hayashi (graduate student) were members of the team that won third place in the sketch competition sponsored by the International Interior Design Association. Two teams tied for third place. The competition was held in Boston with about eight schools and over 100 students participating.

Faculty News

The Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC) has awarded the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at UB a grant of \$25,000 for online certification courses in Information Technology. The certification courses include two of the most popular at UB, Cisco Certified Network/Design Associate and Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer.

The CTDLC has also awarded course grants of \$2,500 each to two UB professors. Dr. Thomas J. Ward, who is Dean of the International College at UB, will develop an online course, *The Political Economy of Latin America*. The other award went to Jonathan Jelen, who will teach *Management Information Services*. Both courses will be offered in the Fall 2001 semester. ■

Professor Denis Collins, of the Business School, was recently a guest lecturer at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he made presentations to 80 students on business ethics and also conducted a campus-wide faculty workshop on service learning. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Howard L. Parsons

Dr. Howard L. Parsons, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at UB, died December 28 at the age of 82. Dr. Parsons served as chairman of the Philosophy Department from 1965 to 1988, when he retired at age 70. ■

Onward & Upward



President Neil Salonen(r) and Artis Stancil, district manager of Sodexo-Marrriott, cut the ribbon for the renovated Knight's End Cafe in the Student Center.

Kimberly Allen (l) is awarded a new TV by Bill Zimmoch, general manager of Marina Dining Hall. Allen won the TV as the first place prize in the 'naming contest' for the newly refurbished dining area in the Cox Student Center. Allen, a junior majoring in Interior Design, came up with the name, "Knight's End Cafe."



ALL THE VOICES ~ Part I ~

BY PROFESSOR DICK ALLEN (EXCERPTED)

Recently, my wife and I watched the television presentation of Disney Studios' Pocahontas. At one point, during the lovely song, "All the Colors of the Wind," we simultaneously turned toward each other and said, "It's like UB!" The song's lyrics go on: "You think the only people who are people / Are the people who look and think like you. / But if you walk the footsteps of a stranger, / You will learn things you never knew you knew."

That is teaching at what is perhaps America's most truly international mixture of college undergraduates, at UB. We have increasingly grown accepting of the differences and similarities in nations, cultures and people. When I give a guest lecture or poetry reading at some other much less heterogeneous college or university, I often feel out of place, for I'm speaking to what has become to me a non-representational segment of global undergraduates. Where are the Russians, the Nigerians, the Japanese, the South Americans, the Chinese, I wonder? During question-and-answer sessions, why don't I hear wonderful mixtures of differently accented English? Why doesn't my audience look like a rainbow, painted "with all the colors of the wind"?

What's so distinctive about UB is that here the international students are not isolated in pockets nor are they the "different" ones in a classroom. They are here in such numbers that they do not feel out of place or "foreign," and the campus is as truly theirs

as it is the Americans'. International students and American students work side by side, sharing responsibilities in virtually all campus activities, from Student Congress, dormitory government and the campus newspaper to S.C.U.B.A. (our campus intellectual organization) and dozens of clubs.

How else to describe it?

Imagine being in an "Introduction to Poetry" class where a South American Dental Hygiene major flawlessly reads a poem by Pablo Neruda in the original Spanish and then helps the rest of us understand the nuances we miss in our English-translation version. Imagine too a discussion about communism, when an American student puts forth the advantages of Marxism, two Russian students strenuously advocate capitalism, and then one quietly observes, "Communism seemed fine in theory, but why did my country have to try it?"

Imagine talking about Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, when a Muslim student from Malaysia raises her hand to say she understands and admires the American family-values of the nineteenth-century, for her family's values are like that today; and what happened to American morals in the interim?

"Maybe it's television," an American student answers. "Or all of your cars," a student from the Dominican Republic puts in.

Imagine a discussion of urban poverty as an American student from the inner city Bronx and a student from Bangladesh swap vivid stories, and the American student becomes appalled at a depth of slum poverty he'd never imagined. "Maids?" he says, "you hire maids as a way of helping the poor?" And then it strikes him that without such a job an entire family might starve.

Imagine speaking about war and there's a marvelously gifted Bosnian Muslim student, already a published poet, who has experienced war firsthand. She quotes the Nobel Prize-winning Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska to help the class understand war's unreality and horror. At UB, she has not only very close American Catholic friends, but is close friends with those who come from Croatia and Serbia. *(to be continued)*

Dick Allen, who has taught at UB since 1968, is the University's director of creative writing and the Charles A. Dana Lifetime Endowed Chair Professor of English. In 1996, he was chosen by students and faculty as the University's "Outstanding Professor of the Year." He is one of America's leading poets, with over 800 publications in national and international magazines as well as nine published books, including his latest, Ode to the Cold War: Poems New and Selected (Sarabande Books, 1997). At UB he teaches courses in creative writing, literature, and the Capstone Senior Seminars, and is the current president of the UB Faculty Council.



25th International Festival

25th International Festival

The 25th annual International Festival was held on March 31 at the Wheeler Recreation Center. Twenty food booths dished out their native delicacies to more than one thousand participants. In the entertainment competition, Japan scored first place, India second and Bulgaria, third place.

The top prize in the food category went to Nigeria, second place went to Jamaica and third place went to Gambia. In the booth competitions, Japan won first place, United States placed second and India and Korea tied for third. ■

CALENDAR

MAY

- ◆ May 3 – Athletics Honors Banquet. Social Room, Student Center, 7:00 PM. Call Joe DiPuma at x4735 for ticket info.
- ◆ May 3 – International Poetry Reading. Art Gallery, 6:30 to 10:00 PM. Presented by SCUBA and open to the public.
- ◆ May 5 – College of Chiropractic dinner for students and their families. Tower Room, 6:00 to 10:00 PM.
- ◆ May 5 – Isaac Hayes Reception and Concert. Mertens Theater, reception from 6:00 to 6:45 PM; music from 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 for the concert and \$15 for both concert and reception. Call 576-4887 for tickets and info.
- ◆ May 6 – College of Chiropractic commencement. Mertens Theater, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- ◆ May 7 – Concert in the Art Gallery. Sponsored by the Music department, 5:00 to 6:30 PM.
- ◆ May 12 – Honors Convocation. Mertens Theater, 3:00 to 4:00 PM.
- ◆ May 12 – Alumni Reception. Art Gallery, 5:00 to 7:00 PM, all graduates and alumni welcome. Food and beverages.
- ◆ May 13 – Commencement. Arnold Bernhard Center, beginning at 9:45 AM.
- ◆ May 19 – L.E.U. Productions presents, "Do You Take This Woman?," a play. Mertens Theater. Morning performance and evening at 7:00 PM. Call 576-8104 for more info. Box office will be open day of performance.
- ◆ May 25 – English Language Institute graduation. Social Room of the Student Center. 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

JUNE

- ◆ June 13 – Annual Alumni Awards Reception.
- ◆ June 14 – Scholarship Awards for city of Bridgeport students. Tower Room, 5:00 to 9:00 PM.

Sports Round-Up

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40th on the bars, and 45th on the vault. Sophomore Tracey Vassalluzzo finished 25th in the all around competition, 52nd on the vault, 50th on the beam, and 55th on the floor exercise. Freshman Korrinne Powelski finished 18th in the all around, 29th on the vault, 39th on the bars, 30th on the beam, and 39th in the floor exercise.

The women's softball team, led by first year head coach Shana Perry, currently has a record of 10-19 overall. The Purple Knights are led by senior pitcher Valerie Steen, junior OF/IF Courtney Hibbard, and junior catcher Rebecca Hicks. Hicks leads UB with a batting average of .426, while Hibbard is hitting .385 and Steen is hitting .301. UB has had contributions from freshman Sara Osborne (.289 batting average) and pitcher Larissa Treybig (five wins). ■

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