



UB Highlights

Vol. 14, No. 9

News & Events for May 15-31, 2017

UB Giving Day

Wednesday, May 17, 24 Hours

Trustee *Tom O'Hara '84* and his wife, *Sue O'Hara '84*, are challenging the UB community. For every person who makes a gift of any amount on May 17, the O'Haras will give \$20, up to \$5,000. The goal is to reach 250 donors by midnight on May 17. Mark your calendars! Let's celebrate UB! Share our posts on social media using #UBgiving. You may donate by visiting the webpage at bridgeport.edu/givingday. For more information, contact *Arielle Purcell*, apurcell@bridgeport.edu, or 203-576-4542.



Information Session

Register online and find more information about the following in the Events section at www.bridgeport.edu:

MBA, Ernest C. Trefz School of Business
Dean's Suite, Mandeville Hall: **Thursday, May 18, 5-6 p.m.**

2016-17 Purple Knights

In the 2016-17 Academic Year many of our student-athletes' performances were officially recognized. Purple Knights claimed

- 12 All-Americans
- 2 Academic All-Americans
- 15 All-Region Performers
- 22 All-Conference Selections
- 36 Players of the Week
- 6 Players of the Year
- 3 Conference Championships
- 1 NCAA Team
- 15 NCAA Individual Performers

As of the Athletics Awards event on April 24, the baseball and softball seasons had not yet ended. For complete details, please visit www.ubknights.com.

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

Monday, May 29

No Classes, Offices Closed

Faculty Research Day Awards

The Seventh Faculty Research Day, held on March 24, 2017, featured 174 research projects displayed on posters in the Schelfhault Gallery of the Bernhard Center, from the Schools of Arts & Sciences, Education, and Engineering; the Health Sciences; the College of Public and International Affairs; the Ernest C. Trefz School of Business; and the Shintaro Akatsu School of Design.

Doctoral Student Poster Winners

- 1st Place: *Razan Abdulhammed*, Engineering, "Detecting Malicious Behavior for the Sensors and Actuators Embedded in Medical Devices: A Hardware Approach," *Miad Faezipour* and *Khaled Elleithy*, advisors
- 2nd Place: *Eugene Gerety*, Engineering, "Context-Free Decoding of High-Density 2D Bit Fields with Alias Disambiguation," *Khaled Elleithy*, advisor
- 3rd Place: *Paul Gruhn*, Education, "Online Education: What Works! What Doesn't! A Mixed Methods Program Evaluation," *Linda Paslov*, advisor
- Honorable Mention: *Abdulrahman Aldhaheeri*, Engineering, "Event Detection on Large Social Media Using Temporal Analysis," *Jeongkyu Lee*, advisor

Faculty Competitive Poster Awardees

- Joana Badara, Ph.D.*, Education, "The Influence of Emotional States on Short-Term Memory Retention by Using Electroencephalography (EEG) Measurements: A Case Study"
- Lesley Frame, Ph.D.*, Engineering, "Distortion in Heat Treated Tube: A Materials Engineering Approach"
- Michael Lohle, Ph.D.*, Business, "Knowledge Management Using Student Feedback: A Study of Online Students' Lived Experience in Virtual Teams"
- Chunjuan Nancy Wei, Ph.D.*, College of Public and International Affairs, "Making Waves: Recent Developments of the South China Sea Disputes"

ERNEST C. TREFZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

On Friday, May 5, the following awards were conferred:

The Ernest C. Trefz Student Entrepreneur Award:
Michael Asmerom

UNDERGRADUATE

Academic Achievement in Fashion Merchandising
(B.S.): *Katelyn Ottalagana*

Academic Achievement in Fashion Merchandising
(A.A.): *Susan Taylor*

Yale Co-op Award for Excellence in Fashion
Merchandising: *Leanne Sikora*

Academic Achievement in Accounting: *Trang Luong*

Academic Achievement in Business Administration:
Christine Liautaud

Academic Achievement in Finance: *Nicole Cirillo*

Academic Achievement in International Business:
Evelyn Ovner

Academic Achievement in Management & Industrial
Relations: *Abigail Benesh*

Academic Achievement as a Scholar-Athlete: *Casey
Ouellette*

Dean's Award: *Luka Ivanovic*

GRADUATE

Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Awards: *Basma Mosalam, Madhura Salvi*

Director's Award for Scholarship and Service:
Rebecca Ciullo

Academic Achievement Awards: *Mary Androus,
Michael Butterworth, Craig Churchill, Alexandria
Escobedo, Basma Mohamed, Pooja Suryakant
Patel, Jessica Rosado, Gladstone Thomas*

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

On Friday, May 5, the following honors were awarded:

Dean's Award for Highest GPA in Undergraduate
Study: *Nicholas Williams*

Dean's Award for Highest GPA and Performance in
Graduate Study: *Martina Santia*

HIGHEST DEPARTMENTAL GPA – UNDERGRADUATE

Criminal Justice and Human Security: *Tara Faford*

International Political Economy and Diplomacy: *Justin
Sabo*

Martial Arts Studies: *Shayne Fischman*

Mass Communication: *Alexandria Irizarry*

Religion and Politics: *Sung Soon Gaval*

Social Sciences: *Edward Cirillo*

HIGHEST DEPARTMENTAL GPA – GRADUATE

East Asian & Pacific Rim Studies: *Cheong Ha Mark
Choi*

Global Development and Peace: *Richard Wagner*

Global Development and Peace (Thesis): *Stefan Lako*

Global Media and Communication Studies:

Oluwatofunmi Ayanfodun

DEPARTMENT OF STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Critical Language (Arabic): *Fernando Gonzalez, Ana
Rena, Justin Sabo*

Critical Language (Korean): *Sung Soon Gaval*

Gilman International: *Kristina Smith, Ruta Smith*

Coach Bruce Webster

UB's legendary head basketball coach passed away at the age of 80 on April 26. Coach Webster led Purple Knights basketball for 34 seasons, from the 1965-66 campaign through the 1998-99 season. During his tenure UB teams posted 549 wins, making him UB's all-time leader in career victories. Under his direction the Purple Knights made a total of 12 NCAA National Tournament appearances, won 5 NCAA Regional titles, and reached the NCAA Division II National Championship Game in 1991 and 1992. In recognition of Coach Webster's contributions to UB basketball, in February 2005 the University named the playing court in Hubbell Gym in his honor. For more information, please visit www.purpleknights.com.

Freshman Achievement Awards

The University Women's Forum has awarded a stipend to the following students, who completed their first year having earned a 4.00 GPA:

Cherlynn Townsend, Arts & Sciences

Delaney Cahill, Trefz School of Business

Juan Munoz Torres, Trefz School of Business

Melanie Ziegner, Trefz School of Business

Simon DeSena, College of Public and International
Affairs

Desmaris Hernandez, College of Public and
International Affairs

Mai Pham, College of Public and International Affairs

Adamaris Villar, College of Public and International
Affairs

UB ACHIEVEMENTS & HONORS

STUDENTS & ALUMNI

ATHLETICS

Lauren Mengel, a senior, was selected on May 5 as a member of the 2017 All-East Coast Conference Women's Lacrosse Second Team.

Meghan O'Leary, *Kamryn Beach*, *Allison Luzzi*, and *Samantha Sabor* were named on May 4 to the 2017 All-East Coast Conference Softball Second Team.

BUSINESS

Seifallah Mejri (1st place), *Blevie Meyia Lucchesi* (2nd place), and *Amanda Miranda Cunha de Moura* (3rd place), were the winners of UB's Second Annual Business Plan Competition, held on April 7. Judges for the event were *Ramon Peralta '93*, *Gwen Brantley '10*, and *Dennis Brotherton '86*.

In the Spring 2017 Connecticut Business Plan Competition, which included 37 teams from Connecticut colleges and universities, UB teams won two prizes. *Reem Alataas*, M.S. candidate in Computer Science, won \$500 for best oral presentation. Her advisor was Professor *Elena Cahill*. *Nawar Najjar*, M.S. candidate in Technology Management, won \$500 for third place in the Venture Business Plan category. His advisor was Professor *Gad J. Selig*.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT INSTITUTE

Zach Amdurer '17 received the award for Best Research Poster, "Ketamine: A Rapid Treatment for Suicidality," at the Annual Advanced Practitioner Symposium in Hartford, April 28.

107TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

On May 6, more than 1,500 undergraduate and graduate degrees were conferred upon those gathered in the Webster Bank Arena. The Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, was awarded to Trustee *Ernest C. Trefz* (posthumously) and to *Ramon Elpidio Peralta '93*, the Commencement speaker. *Louise Ovner '17* spoke as the student representative. The ceremonies were live-streamed and received 16,000 hits from locations around the world.

The following morning, diplomas were awarded in a ceremony at the Bernhard Center to 150 who had earned graduate degrees in the health sciences.

FACULTY & STAFF

CPIA

Dave Benjamin, associate professor, has been named President Designate of the New England Political Science Association, the oldest regional political science organization in the Northeast.

ENGINEERING

Navarun Gupta, chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering, has been given the Recruitment Award by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). He will be presented a plaque at the annual ASEE conference, June 25, in Columbus, OH.

NUTRITION INSTITUTE

David Brady, vice president for health sciences and director of the Nutrition Institute, has been named a "Featured Dr. Oz Expert" and has had his blog, "The Natural Path to Lifelong Health," posted on Dr. Oz's popular website.

New Appointment

Director of Athletics *Anthony Vitti* announced on May 5 that *Richard "Doc" Ludemann* has been selected to serve as the Purple Knights' head men's and women's swimming coach and aquatics director. During the past season, Doc served as the teams' assistant coach. He formerly served as head swim coach at Sacred Heart University, at UCLA (where he coached swimmers who became part of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team), and at Yale. Recently he has coached champion swim teams of the New Canaan Aquatic Club.

Doc Ludemann has also been involved with water polo for the past 20 years, serving as the conditioning coach for the Canadian water polo squad and as the training and conditioning coach for the United States water polo team.

Did we miss something? *UB Highlights* is published twice monthly during the academic year and monthly in January, June, and July to inform the University community about UB events and achievements. To comment or to list your event or award, e-mail Rebecca Salonen, UBHighlights@bridgeport.edu, or call x4988.