The University of Bridgeport’s Office of Advancement is built upon the belief that great institutions are predicated upon great communities. As such, Advancement strives to cultivate a broad base of support for UB among alumni, students, parents, and friends of the University. Working with dedicated advocates, Advancement moves the institution forward through the creation of transformative philanthropic programs and partnerships. These initiatives provide essential resources for new construction projects, faculty retention, faculty recruitment, and innovative programs that guide students from education to career.
WAYS TO GIVE

GIFTS OF CASH
Gifts of cash may be made with a personal or cashier’s check, or by credit card.

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To give online visit www.bridgeport.edu/giving.

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To give by mail, our address is Office of Advancement, 126 Park Avenue, 8th Floor, Bridgeport, CT 06604. To give by phone, call 203.576.4525. Gifts can be made by check or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express). Please make checks payable to the University of Bridgeport.

STOCKS AND BONDS
A donation of stock by an electronic stock transfer or by gifting the stock certificate form to UB. Contact the Office of Annual Giving for instructions at 203.576.4525.

REAL ESTATE
If you own property that is not subject to a mortgage and has appreciated in value, a gift of real estate to the University may be an attractive option.

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You may also make a deferred gift by naming the University in your Will. If you plan to do this, please notify us of your intentions.

GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE
Make a substantial gift with modest premium payments. This is also a good use of paid policies no longer needed for family members.
Dear Friends:

Having been a part of the University of Bridgeport community for 22 years, I am proud of both our rich history and our recent achievements.

I started serving as president seven months ago, just as the coronavirus pandemic was beginning to bring on a level of global uncertainty rarely seen in our lifetimes. At UB, it has changed how we educate our students, how we hold meetings, and how we plan for the future. The only path forward is to meet this challenge with our traditional, proudly held UB resilience.

Resilience is not simply strength, it is the capacity to adapt, to be flexible in the face of adversity, and to celebrate the essence of who we are at our very core. That is what we mean when we say we “bleed purple.”

With that in mind, we have entered into a ground-breaking arrangement with Goodwin University and Paier College of Art and are working together to secure the future of our students, our community, and our beautiful campus by Seaside Park.

Our students have been models of that UB resilience, rising to the challenges presented by the pandemic, from virtual classroom to virtual commencement. They have continued to work, to learn, and to achieve despite devastating circumstances. Long-cherished dreams have been altered, as they have been for our athletes, whose spring season last year was cut short and whose fall season has been canceled.

Over the next year, and beyond, we will honor our deep commitment to all of our students. The innovative educational partnership we are now creating will ensure that we can provide an outstanding education to the global citizens of tomorrow and continue our career-oriented mission to promote academic excellence, personal responsibility, and commitment to service.

After a century of challenges, the greatest one is now upon us and our University. Our ability to transcend it will depend on standing together. We exist thanks to your past faith in the University, and we need your partnership now more than ever. Each challenge is an opportunity, and the upcoming transition to a “New UB” is an opportunity for the students of the region, for the city of Bridgeport, and for all of us who care about the future of education.

I am proud and thankful to be part of this amazing institution and for the students, alums, and donors who help make it all possible.

With resilience,

Stephen Healey
Interim President
As we at University of Bridgeport begin a new chapter with an historic agreement with Goodwin University and Paier College of Art, it signals to the community, students, staff, donors and alumni that UB has a bright future.

This is a great opportunity to reconnect with UB: your classmates, perhaps a teacher or coach, and learn more about this important step forward. The partnership with Goodwin is already bringing new energy to students and staff, and alumni!

Your financial support in the 2020-2021 is critical in helping us follow through on our commitment to the next generation of students in Bridgeport. For years, donors like you have supported the Purple Knights: academics, student life, athletics, facilities, and the endowment. The support of our alumni and friends – especially during the pandemic and through this transition – has been heartfelt and exhibits the loyalty we all feel toward UB.

What’s next? The Bridgeport NEXT Campaign is for the future of UB:
» Preserve the near Century Old Alumni & Community Legacy of Higher Education in the City of Bridgeport
» Protect the Resources for the Partnership with Goodwin and Paier
» Provide the Students an Excellent Education with a Focus on Careers and Changing Lives tied to our Mission

Over the next months, you will hear more about Bridgeport NEXT—online and in your mailbox. Our Campaign Director, Rich McCarty – who leads the fundraising activity for Goodwin and UB—is available to talk about your involvement. Please contact him at: rmccarty@bridgeport.edu or 203.576.2354.

Let us all be a part of building the NEXT chapter for UB—much like Mr. Cortright and Dr. Fones did 100 years ago. It is our turn to carry the vision and mission forward!

**UB ADVANCEMENT BY THE NUMBERS FY20**

- **$500,000** to the Annual Fund
  - up from **$400,931** in FY19, and **$223,952** in FY18

- **$3,800,000** in Corporate, Foundations, and Grant gifts
  - up from **708** donors in FY19, **591** donors in FY18

- **$3,800,000** in Major Gifts
  - up from **$2,800,000** in FY19

- **1110** donors in FY20
What are some of our Purple Knights studying today? Well, UB’s “Student Space Program” is making new leaps into the unknown.

The NASA-inspired program highlights the interdisciplinary strengths of the university, with students in engineering, design, biology, and more collaborating to capacity build skills needed for aerospace and other high tech industries. Some of the funding comes from the Connecticut Space Grant Consortium (CSGC), which in turn receives money from NASA. “In addition to supplies, materials and equipment, our students have received space grant scholarships and fellowships,” said Dr. Jani Macari Pallis, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Much of this program is thanks to the efforts of Professor Pallis, who was named Campus Director of the Year by the CSGC in 2013. Prior to coming to UB, Pallis founded Cislunar Aerospace, Inc., an engineering and research firm, where she was CEO.

Through grants, UB has established the infrastructure that forms the backbone of the student space program and developed student capabilities in payload creation, communications, telemetry, and vehicle operation in Near Space, in space itself, and on extraterrestrial surfaces. These are not “one-time” projects but a planned implementation of assets designed for continued student usage. Pallis and students work from the Extreme Environments Lab (EEL), which conducts projects both above and below the surface of the earth, since the EEL is also home to UB’s Explorer 1-person 1-atmosphere submarine.

On Monday, August 21, 2017, UB was part of the NASA Eclipse Ballooning Project, conducted during a total solar eclipse. UB was one of only about 50 groups spread out on the eclipse line from Oregon to South Carolina. The UB team stationed in Kentucky launched a video payload, five radiosondes (weather balloons) and an astrobiology experiment during the eclipse. The video payload traveled to about 100,000 ft to record the eclipse and transmit the images to a central NASA site that then broadcast the images to the world. “Being included in a NASA experiment and the potential to publish results is an incredible opportunity,” noted UB electrical engineering graduate student, Xuan Zhang. It was the culmination of two years of hard work. “Our team members have built payloads, learned about the freezing, near vacuum environment in which the balloons will operate, and practiced launches,” said Prof. Pallis.

In 2018, a research project by two UB biology students, Feissal Djoule and Emily Juliano, was selected for the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program to be conducted on the International Space Station. “The Effect of Microgravity on Nanoparticle-Cellular Interaction” attempted to increase our
understanding of the effects of space flight on the biological processes that are essential to human health. It was funded by CSGS and by donations from the community. “It is very exciting,” said Dr. Ruba Deeb, who helped lead UB’s first-ever competition. “UB is enhancing its support of undergraduate research, so our students’ success affirms that we’re heading in the right direction.”

The constant stream of projects continues, with Dr. Pallis and our students collaborating with UConn to make mock landscapes with realistic soil simulants for Mars, Venus, and the Moon, piggybacking on NASA’s ‘Exploring Hell’ (Venus) program. UB students are learning about the differences in these three environments and once these landscapes are created, students will be able to design and experiment with small rovers they construct. For example, lunar dust has sharper more jagged edges than Earth’s dust making it more abrasive. The temperature of Venus is over 800oF and the surface pressure is 92 times Earth’s. Even the most successful of the Soviet Venus landers only lasted about two hours before their electronics failed due to the harsh environment. NASA believes a rover that works mechanically like a clock may succeed.

UB has extensive experience with high altitude ballooning, from small weather balloons, to payloads used to observe eclipses, to the 11 million cubic foot balloon used on NASA’s HASP (High Altitude Student Platform). After receiving part of a $200,000 NASA Undergraduate Student Instrument Project Grant (USIP) in 2016, UB School of Engineering and SASD students collaborated to build a robotic monkey named for HAM, the chimpanzee who flew into space in 1961 on one of NASA’s early rockets. This robotic HAM is an educational tool to help students learn the fundamentals of high-altitude ballooning, space flight, and mission operations. It was successfully tested in November 2019 and The Discovery Museum in Bridgeport plans to launch regular balloon flights four times per year with this robotic monkey, using its Challenger Center Mission Control Room to allow students and the public to interact with it.

UB has another joint project with the Discovery Museum, this time to develop a small satellite – DiscoSat. Once in orbit both The Discovery Museum and UB Earth-based ground stations will monitor the satellite’s “health” (such as operation of its solar panels, power levels and other onboard system statuses) as well as receive photos and other scientific data collected by the satellite. The satellite will orbit the Earth about once every 90 minutes and when the satellite circles overhead near Bridgeport, data can be sent to or received by the satellite. “For the past few years we’ve worked with local amateur radio organizations for our students to obtain their HAM radio licenses,” said Pallis. “With those licenses our students can practice communications with existing orbiting amateur satellites to prepare to operate DiscoSat.”

The future looks bright, with just a few eclipses on the horizon. Indeed, the 2023 annular solar eclipse and 2024 total solar eclipse will be the last ones in the contiguous United States for two decades. Recently, Dr. Pallis was invited to serve as one of technical leads for the 2023-2024 national eclipse project. “We’ll be collaborating with the top Near Space high altitude balloon researchers to develop the payloads that will be used to observe the 2023 and 2024 eclipses. Then we’ll be responsible to train other teams in our region. Going forward, we want to support experiments that students outside of engineering wish to conduct. Science students can identify an investigation; our engineering students can support the technical development of the hardware and software for that experiment. All students participate in deployment and monitoring and our science students obtain the results for their analysis.”

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“We’ve created a space program for our students,” said Dr. Pallis happily. “They are helping to build the future.”

This is just one example of the students that you are supporting at the University of Bridgeport. Without your help, we would not be able to continue our tradition of excellence that extends beyond the classroom - and into the stars.
THANK YOU to our Generous Donors

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