Russo Celebrates 40 Years

By Matt Biddle

In four decades at UB, Leslie Russo has worked in seven schools or departments and interacted with countless students and staff members. To say she’s had an impact would be an understatement.

In May 1973, Leslie took her first position at UB in the budget control office, then located at the corner of Hertel and Elmwood avenues in Buffalo. She admits today that when she was first hired she never expected to work here for 40 years.

But she has, moving through a number of positions on both the North and South campuses. After the budget control office, she worked in the dean’s office in the School of Nursing and, in the late ‘70s, took a position in purchasing.

In 1979, Leslie adopted her first child, a five-month-old girl named Carrie. Four years later, after adopting her second, a newborn named Patrick, she switched to part-time, gradually increasing her hours as the kids grew up. During that time, she spent a decade in the Computer Science Department and eight years in UB’s Development Office.

After a short stint at SUNY Buffalo State, Leslie “came home” to UB, finally arriving at the School of Management in late 2002 as the assistant to the dean. Despite retiring in 2010, she can now be found part-time in the Office of Alumni and External Relations.

Leslie says the School of Management has been her favorite place to work because of the great atmosphere and great people; she specifically remembers how the kindness of her co-workers and former Dean John Thomas helped her through her mother’s passing in 2003.

“There are so many good people here—maybe that’s why I retired and continue to work,” says Leslie, who will be even busier in her free time this December when her second grandchild is born.

Along with President Satish K. Tripathi and others, Dean Arjang Assad was pleased to honor Leslie earlier this summer. “Leslie was my first real introduction to the School of Management staff, and her help was invaluable to me as a new dean,” he recalls. “Leslie is very smart, remarkably quick and quite persistent when she wants to get something done. Plus, I know my ego will never grow too much around Leslie—she knows how to keep you grounded! I will always think of our years working together with great fondness.”
Grammar Corner
When you write, try to avoid these word crimes, courtesy of Weird Al Yankovic.

New Name for Internship Program
To reflect the increasing breadth of services available to students and employers, the Credit-Bearing Internship Program has been renamed the Office of Internships and Experiential Learning.

Carrie Gardner, administrative director, says this is a top-down movement across UB to encourage experiential learning as an integral complement to the academic curriculum. “Our office stands on the cutting edge of this trend, and we are positioning ourselves for the future,” she says.

In addition, Caitlin Rush, undergraduate program manager, has joined the office’s team. Experiential learning is already a central theme of many programs Caitlin has designed and implemented in the Career Resource Center, including Coffee Cup Conversations and the Management Volunteer Program.

Each year, more than 350 School of Management students complete credit-bearing internships. For more information, visit mgt.buffalo.edu/newname.

How We Would Survive a Zombie Apocalypse
By Mary Dahl
You can never predict when Earth as we know it will cease to exist overnight and a portion of the population will be reduced to dangling flesh, shredded clothes and brain-snacking. In case this occurs during a workday, it’s important to know how your coworkers might react. This is what our recent survey revealed:

The Chickens
Matt Biddle, Kevin Hartman and Alex Cleary would run. Jennifer VanLaeken says she’d too trusting and would die first. Malinda Stulba would freeze, cry and pass out, making her an easy target. Samantha Calabrese would just lie down and let them eat her. Deidre Marriner’s husband knows zombies, but without him, she says, “I’m screwed.” Likewise, Cynthia Shore will rely on her 20- and 23-year-old kids and their zombie knowledge. And an anonymous respondent would hide at the staff retreat—“no zombie would dare go there!”

The Prepared
Others are more strategic. I would hire a plane to transport me to a deserted island—might as well be a survivalist in paradise! Alex Madeja plans to escape to Lake Erie on his paddleboard because zombies can’t swim. Cindy DeGeorge would know where the nearest zombie-free shelter is located, wear a helmet so they cannot access her brain and stock up on essentials like Snickers and M&M’s. Mary Calabrese would hide at the staff retreat—“no zombie would dare go there!”

The Fearless
Jackie Ghosen wants to dance like the zombies in Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” video, and Kate Ferguson will just laugh. Jennifer Schultz plans to blow up the Grand Island bridges, clear the island of zombies and raid stores, fish and hunt to survive. Bridgett Green has super-secret plans for the apocalypse. Amy Phillips’ plans are secret too, but she did share that she has a family meeting spot. Amy advised shooting zombies only in the head (otherwise you won’t kill them and will spread the virus) and plans to build a well-stocked underground bunker. But if the apocalypse happens before that’s ready, her family will be on the roof shooting anything that moves—so do not go there.

The Relaxed
Meghan Felser will watch reruns of “The Office” and “Arrested Development.” Meanwhile, Julia Braun just can’t wait for the zombie craze to end.
Meet Denise Adamski

Denise Adamski joined the school in June as internal support specialist in the IT department. She can help with software issues, hardware problems and more—so don’t be shy with questions, she says.

Denise holds a Bachelor of Science in computer and information sciences from Niagara University. Previously, she spent 12 years at WKBW-TV, Buffalo’s ABC affiliate, as information technology manager, providing network and desktop support for the station.

Outside of work, Denise enjoys spending time with her fiancé, family and friends, as well as gardening and baking. Welcome her to the staff at denisead@buffalo.edu.

Changes in Graduate Programs

After an unprecedented volume of applications and a careful review of its organizational structure, the Graduate Programs Office has restructured its admissions and recruitment team.

For the 2014-15 school year, the office received and processed more than 2,400 applications for the full-time MBA and MS programs—an increase of more than 500 applications from last year.

In July, Erin O’Brien, assistant dean and director of Graduate Programs, announced that the admissions and recruitment team would be restructured to maximize roles and skills, improve the current application process and continue to meet or exceed enrollment targets.

Meghan Felser, who will continue to lead the team, was promoted to associate director of admissions and recruiting. In her expanded role, Meghan will be the strategic leader of the admissions process and ensure all recruiting and admissions metrics are successfully achieved.

Jennifer VanLaeken took on a redefined role as assistant director of recruitment. She is now responsible for all strategies and actions necessary to generate a pipeline of prospective students across all graduate programs, student category types and geographies.

Malinda Stulba was promoted to assistant director of admissions operations. Her duties include oversight of the admissions process from application to admittance; ensuring application data is true and valid; and the day-to-day management of all admissions processing staff.

In addition, to handle the volume of applications, the office plans to hire temporary admissions processors.

McQuade Named Outstanding Academic Advisor

Mary Ann McQuade, senior academic advisor in the School of Management, was chosen as one of four recipients of the 2014 Outstanding Academic Advising Award.

The Undergraduate Advisement Council (UAC) honored Mary Ann in May for going above and beyond to positively contribute to the undergraduate student experience. The selection committee cited her vast knowledge of campus resources, academic policies and career development opportunities, as well as her commitment to student success.

“Mary Ann embodies the student-first approach to academic advising,” says Kate Doran, UAC chair elect and academic advisor in the School of Management. “Her strong commitment to students, as well as her approachability and understanding of individual students’ needs, concerns and goals, distinguish Mary Ann as an excellent academic advisor and student advocate. She never hesitates to go the extra mile.”

Congratulations, Mary Ann!

Congratulations!

Several staff members welcomed new additions this summer—all baby boys!

Debby Lowe and her husband, Brian, welcomed their third son on June 22 at 4 p.m. Alexander Angelo was born at 7 pounds, 13 ounces and 20½ inches long.

Melissa Falgiano and her husband, Dave, became first-time parents on July 14. Jackson FitzGerald was born at 6:25 a.m., weighing 6 pounds, 7.6 ounces and measuring 20 inches long.

Caitlin Rush and her husband, Kevin, welcomed their first child, Charles Lyden, into the world on July 20. Charlie weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces.

Nick Battaglia and his wife, Chris, had their first baby at 2:50 p.m. on August 7. Henry Nicholas was born at 6 pounds, 14 ounces.

Congratulations to all!
Spring and Summer Events

The past few months have been busy for all of us in the School of Management with commencement ceremonies, awards receptions, conferences and other events. Here are some snapshots:

From left, Meghan Felser, Jennifer VanLaeken, Malinda Stulba and Alex Madeja represented the School of Management at Food Truck Tuesday at Larkin Square on July 29. The Graduate Programs Office partnered with Dana Szczepaniak, BS/MBA ’11, owner of Betty Crockski food truck, to promote the full-time MBA program.

Alex Cleary and Mary Nicoletti at the joint graduation ceremony for four CEL programs on June 5 at UB’s Center for the Arts.

Tim Paul, right, with alumnus Dale McKim ’96 at the 18th annual School of Management Alumni Association Golf Outing on July 14.

Mary Dahl, Carrie Gardner and Martha Salzman at the Career Resource Center and Credit-Bearing Internship Program awards reception on April 25. (See page 2 for more about the CBIP’s recent name change.)

Kevin Manne, left, with Tony Astran, PRSA Buffalo Niagara chapter president, at the 25th annual Excalibur Awards (see page 2).

Do you have photos you’d like to share with your colleagues in a future issue of Inside Management? If so, send them to Matt Biddle at mrbiddle@buffalo.edu.