

# FEATURED ALUMNUS

## Patrick Martin (MA '81)



In 2004, lawyer Patrick Martin (who has also worked as a literary agent, scholar, and filmmaker) founded the riverrun organization ("riverrun" is the first and last word of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*), which, in addition to supporting arts and cultural programs throughout Buffalo, annually provides two Research Fellowships and one Teaching Fellowship to UB English Department graduate students.

riverrun is just one in Patrick's long list of achievements. After attending Duke University on an athletic

scholarship and founding the Central Connecticut public access television studios in Manchester, CT, Patrick came to UB in 1977 for graduate study in the English Department. He completed his MA and then attended UB's joint PhD/JD program, finishing his JD in 1985. Soon after his graduation, Patrick became involved in historic litigation while serving as Confidential Clerk to Federal Judge John T. Curtin, including the Love Canal environmental case and the Buffalo school desegregation case. Subsequently, as a private lawyer, he worked with the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library to obtain a ruling from NY State's highest court that library trustees, rather than municipal funders, control the budgets of New York State libraries. That ruling changed library law in New York State and restored several million dollars to Buffalo's libraries.

Patrick's legal work took him to South Africa in 2001, where he produced a film related to Nelson Mandela's *Favorite African Folktales* (Norton, 2002). Novelist and Director of the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory, Achmat Dangor accompanied Patrick on his trip back to Buffalo, where he led cultural programs at the Library and donated some of the original artwork commissioned for the book to the Library.

Patrick directed and produced another documentary film, *Following James Joyce...Dublin to Buffalo*, in 2004. The film was commissioned by the National Library of Ireland for the centennial exhibition in Dublin of "Bloomsday." The film traced Joyce's writing life through Dublin, Trieste, Pola, Zurich, and Paris, and the journey of much of his archive and personal effects thereafter to The Poetry Collection at UB. The film played for one year at the exhibition, then throughout Europe and in Buffalo. The Buffalo showing prompted riverrun to found "Cinegae Buffalo" in 2005, an annual festival of Irish film.

Patrick also helped negotiate the return to the Buffalo Public Library of the first half of the original handwritten manuscript of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, which, after Twain promised it to the Library in 1885, was lost in an attic in Hollywood for 107 years. The recovery included the discovery of passages in the manuscript omitted from every edition of the printed work. Patrick negotiated the publication of a new edition by Random House referring to the omitted passages. Subsequently, Patrick obtained first publication by W.W. Norton of another long-lost Twain story, "A Murder, A Mystery, and a Marriage," and developed an international writing contest based on the book, as Twain had originally intended. Patrick also negotiated film and theatrical rights for the book. In 2010, Patrick co-edited *Mark Twain in Buffalo* with Robert H. Hirst, Director of the Mark Twain Project at UC Berkeley (William S. Hein & Company, 2010).

As such accomplishments suggest, Patrick has had an ongoing presence in Buffalo's arts and cultural scenes. In addition to being president of riverrun, Patrick is trustee and president of the Julian R. and Varue W. Oishei Foundation, the Whitten Arts Foundation, and the Donald H. Cloudsley Foundation. He served on the Board of Directors of UB's Humanities Institute during its fledgling years and was co-creator of the Scholars @ Muse series in the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, which brought together the university and the community for two years, as part of the Humanities Institute programming. Bringing together university faculty and students with members of the larger Buffalo community has been a passion of Patrick's, and one that benefits Buffalo, UB, and UB's English Department on a continuing basis.

Patrick lives in Buffalo with his wife Mary Kennedy. Patrick advises that their contributions to the Commonwealth, to date, are Cailin, Heidi, Greer, Greta, and Simone, their three children and two grandchildren.

Of his time in the English Department, Patrick says: "It's the most important thing I've done and the most cherished. The deep intellectual adventure of that time, the surprising connections, confusions, disorientations, discoveries—that experience has been a kind of fountain of youth ever since, of ideas and collaborative intuitions. It's made for a very interesting and happy life. I hope that the riverrun fellowships can contribute to that experience."

**Kristina Marie Darling**, winner of a 2012 riverrun Research Fellowship, says of her experience:

"I was thrilled to be awarded a riverrun Research Fellowship to travel to the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University last spring. The fellowship enabled me to draft an article about the influence of H.D.'s work as a cinematographer on her later poetry, which I hope to submit for possible publication. My research there also sparked an interest in the relationship between literature and film, which I hope to pursue when working on my PhD Qualifying Exam lists next year."

## riverrun Fellowships

The UB English Department riverrun Teaching Fellowship fosters excellence in undergraduate teaching. It is awarded to the PhD student who proposes the best syllabus for an undergraduate literature course. The riverrun Research Fellowships give MA and PhD students the opportunity to work in archives to advance their research projects. All fellows present their work to the Buffalo community every fall. Stay tuned for an announcement about the date and venue for the Fall 2013 presentation of riverrun Fellows' teaching and research experiences!