

Please tell us about your career since your graduation from UB.

I attended Buffalo from 1961 to 1964 and graduated with a major in history. As a 16-year-old from Queens, New York, I was always interested in international affairs. My career has built upon that interest and my education at Buffalo ever since. I graduated from Buffalo in three years. I went to law school and graduated by far the youngest in my class in 1967 during the Vietnam War. I then did a doctorate in international relations and studied in England for a bit. I've practiced and taught in this area ever since.

Where are you from and how did you end up at UB?

I'm from Queens, New York. Actually, my parents were separated and my father lived in Manhattan. I went to public schools in Queens. This is where I met my wife, Sandy, who went to the same high school as I did. I'm not sure how I wound up at Buffalo—never really thought much about college. I applied to a few schools and chose Buffalo since some of my friends were going there. Glad I did. I had a wonderful education.

What initially motivated you to pursue a degree in history? How do you feel these motivations continue to inform you today?

I believe history and government were one department when I went to Buffalo. I was always interested in American history but even more so in international affairs and in Russian and Soviet history and politics. I'm still very interested in these topics but have included others such as international law.

What do you feel was the most valuable for you in your experience at UB?

Probably the fact that I always studied and learned how to be on my own.

You've recently written about what the history of American foreign policy can teach us about America's standing in the world today. How do you believe that your history training has helped you in your work on contemporary international relations?

I simply cannot see how you can understand today without knowing about yesterday. It's absolutely impossible. History is just so essential.

What are you working on now?

I've just received a gubernatorial appointment by the Virginia governor to the new International Trade Advisory Committee. I've been very active in Richmond over the years and in particular in economic development for the Commonwealth while focusing on the roles of trade, investment, and export promotion. I was formerly appointed by another Virginia governor as a board member of the state's lead economic development agency.

I continue to teach international trade, international law, and about the WTO at the graduate and professional levels. I am very active in writing op-eds critiquing the Trump administration, among other subjects. Of course, I continue to publish with a recent article on China, trade, and the WTO. I'm very interested in the expanding role of states (such as New York and Virginia) in the global arena.

Can you tell us something about yourself that isn't on your resume/CV?

I've been living in Virginia for the last 40 years with my wife and two kids. Both are now lawyers with the federal government. I believe public service is of the highest calling. My teaching in a state university and my kids working for the federal government are different forms of public service. My wife has a private practice in marital counseling. But like many people in the Washington, DC, area, she worked as a contractor for years with the intelligence community. My son-in-law is an active duty naval officer who has



Stuart and Victoria, 2016

served in Iraq and Afghanistan. I teach at the largest public university in Virginia, which has very diverse demographics. I always start my classes by saying that I also went to a very large public university. I try to identify with my students at the very outset. I believe international interests flow from the diversity of the student body. I very strongly believe that it is the public universities (and public schools) that are crucial to building an exceptional America.

I've traveled to many countries. I particularly liked the many Asian countries I've visited, including Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Japan and Malaysia, among others. I wished I studied more about Asia while at Buffalo. I really like Asian food. Most of all I've been a horseback rider for the last 26 years with my horse Victoria (a quarter horse mare). I am very sorry to say Victoria died unexpectedly Christmas week, just two days after a great Christmas ride. I miss her very much.

I always considered my experience at Buffalo, and especially the history dept, as being the foundation of my educational and professional life. I'm very grateful. #