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UB partnership benefits students with disabilities

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UB program helps create 530 tech jobs in WNY

"The success of BIG is another example of UB's impact on the communities we serve."

Satish K. Tripathi, UB President



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Herbs and more flourish in South Campus garden



Historical records from the Michigan Avenue YMCA in Buffalo include a leather-bound book with the organization's covenant, a flyer advertising an event with W. E. B. Du Bois and copies of The Y's Messenger newsletter.

Bringing Our Full History Into Focus

At a time when few scholars were interested in the historical accounts of local Black lives, Lillian Williams was—and passionately so

When Lillian S. Williams set forth to study local Black history as a graduate student at UB in the 1970s, her professors said there were no sources to support her research.

Williams, now an associate professor in UB's Department of Africana and American Studies, realized that couldn't be true. "We knew there were sources, that there were primary records," she says. "The question was: Have they been collected by the repositories in the area? They had not. And what we did was to collect them."

Her determined search yielded a wealth of material. "We discovered there were major collections, in people's garages, in their attics, and they saved them. So it was almost as if they were waiting for us to come along and ask for those records," Williams says.



She and her fellow historians worked closely with members of the community at every stage of the effort. Over time, the team microfilmed a colossal number of documents: photographs, letters, scrapbooks, leaflets, event programs, newsletters and more, including a trove of papers from the Michigan Avenue YMCA and the J. Edward Nash collections.

Those efforts helped to catalyze the 1974 formation and subsequent growth of the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier. This project has had a tremendous impact upon the academy. Scholars from across the United States and abroad have come to Buffalo to study and to disseminate the work done by Williams and others.

"Today, the resources are there," Williams says, "because we created them." ●

Did you know?

The Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier holds over 600,000 pages of documents chronicling local African American people and organizations. Learn more at aahnf.org.

Shoutouts & Standouts

Recognizing what's happening around the community



Keep walking the walk

Last summer's **Igniting Hope** conference kicked off with a two-mile "Freedom Walk" from the **Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor** archway to the Freedom Wall at the corner of Michigan Avenue and East Ferry Street. The conference is an annual summit that brings together community members, researchers and other stakeholders to better understand racial disparities in health care.



A "Freedom Walk" along Michigan Ave., the kickoff for the Igniting Hope conference in August, symbolized the togetherness of people in the community.

Happy anniversary to our favorite 'tooligans'

The **Tool Library**, a nonprofit tool-lending library located in **University Heights**, just celebrated its tenth year, having grown from a small storefront operation to a regional resource center.



Looking good

It's great to see the street murals that now grace the landscape near the **Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus**, including artist Muhammad Zaman's colorful work, "Let's Walk Together," which leads to BNMC's **Innovation Center** at 640 Ellicott Street.

Thanks for the info

New signage in **Minnesota Linear Park**, which highlights the natural and cultural treasures that can be found in this small but popular greenway, includes facts on the history of Buffalo railroads and the rails-to-trails movement.

UB Through the Years

One Hundred Years of Spirit

A notable milestone was celebrated this year by an integral part of the UB community: the marching band. The marchers marked their 100th anniversary with a celebration that brought former members back to campus for homecoming weekend to reminisce about their good old band days.

The first mention of a UB band appeared in the university yearbook in 1920, as shown here. In that year, the two dozen or so participants, commended for their "natty uniforms," played at football games, basketball games and in concerts.

Test of Time: What is the current nickname of UB's marching band? (Find the answer on the back cover.)



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Play With a Purpose

A new partnership connects future teachers with students with disabilities

The nonprofit GiGi's Playhouse provides free educational programming for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community through a playhouse model. Last fall, the organization's Buffalo facility partnered with UB to offer students an opportunity to earn credit toward internship or professional teaching certifications by tutoring preschool and elementary-age children with Down syndrome.

The pilot program, an independent study course, was designed to address a critical gap in the preparation of future teachers. Most get little experience educating children with disabilities, even as schools are increasingly integrating students with learning differences into regular classrooms, says co-instructor Claire Cameron, associate professor of learning and instruction at the Graduate School of Education.

"With the nationwide wave of retiring teachers, there is a shortage of special education teachers. Colleges must prepare professionals, including teachers, to work effectively with exceptional people."

Claire Cameron

oped by Krystal Starke, a doctoral candidate in the Graduate School of Education and classroom instructor at UB's Early Childhood Research Center.

Through the course, students reviewed research literature on educating children with Down syndrome, then turned their knowledge into practice by volunteering in the GiGi's Playhouse One-on-One Literacy Tutoring Program.

"There are certain skills, such as behavior management, and tailoring curriculum and instruction styles to unique student profiles, that are limited during formal instruction. Experiential learning teaches our future teachers these skills by allowing them to observe and practice them in real time," says Starke, whose dissertation will explore neurological functioning during play-based learning in both young children with autism spectrum disorders and young children with Down syndrome.

Cameron and Starke hope to expand the partnership to include other community locations specializing in teaching youth with special needs, thus opening the program to dozens more UB students. They will also conduct research that measures the effectiveness of the program.

"Exceptional individuals are an integral part of our society," says Cameron. "We can do more to educate all members of society about the gifts and advantages to everyone when exceptional people are meaningfully included in our classrooms, workplaces and communities." ●



Doctoral student Krystal Starke works with a student at GiGi's Playhouse.

COMMUNITY Matters

A note from UB's Office of Government and Community Relations



The New York State-run vaccination site in UB's Harriman Hall on the South Campus has been providing COVID-19 vaccinations to the community since January of 2021.

The last issue of UB Neighbor went to print in January of 2020. And then—well, everything changed.

Now, two years later, with many but by no means all of the challenges of COVID-19 behind us, we are pleased to share this new issue with you to highlight some of the important things that have been happening here at UB.

UB's role as a vital local resource has likely never been greater than during this time. From the start of the pandemic, our researchers began tackling the problem in the lab as well as stepping up to provide much-needed information to the public. As it progressed, the UB community worked in partnership with the greater community in a number of efforts, from addressing pandemic-induced isolation to mitigating the disparate effects of COVID-19 in communities of color, to reducing vaccine hesitancy. Later, UB experts helped lead the effort to vaccinate Western New

Yorkers, and a UB research team became part of a \$20 million statewide effort to identify COVID-19 variants. And the work continues—whether that's investigating new treatments and protections, serving on the front line of care, or reaching out to serve the community.

This past fall, after several semesters of mostly remote learning, we were thrilled to be able to have our students, faculty and staff back on campus as we marked the 175th anniversary of UB's founding in 1846 as a medical school. Many of the school's first graduates stayed, making their home in Buffalo and serving as physicians, researchers, medical educators and public health leaders. That still holds true today. UB continues to touch real lives within the community and help guide our region—and our world—toward a brighter future. ●

➔ **Let us know what's on your mind. Call us at 716-829-3099, email communityrelations@buffalo.edu or visit buffalo.edu/community.**

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Research Roundup

What UB's inquiring minds want to know

1 How can deaf and hearing populations communicate better?

A UB-led research team has modified noise-cancelling headphones to enable the common electronic device to "see" and translate American Sign Language when paired with a smartphone. The system uses Doppler technology to sense fluctuations in acoustic soundwaves created by the hands of someone signing. While more work must be done to perfect the technology, it's described as an exciting proof of concept.

2 Can anything be done to clean up space junk?

Preventing pieces of space debris from crashing into each other or from hurtling down to Earth is a problem researchers have been grappling with for decades. Now a UB engineer is using a National Science Foundation grant to improve robot tether systems—imagine a satellite shooting a web, like Spider-Man—that can capture and control the debris.

3 Which dental care products are worth the trouble?

UB researchers examined the effectiveness of various oral hygiene devices such as powered toothbrushes, water picks, dental floss and numerous mouth rinses, and found that very few provide additional proven protection against gingivitis and periodontitis beyond basic tooth brushing.

Learn more about UB research initiatives that affect your life at buffalo.edu/community/outreach/research.



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Advancing Our Economy, One Tech Job at a Time

UB's Buffalo Institute of Genomics and Data Analytics has had a significant impact on job creation in the region

In 2014, the UB Buffalo Institute of Genomics and Data Analytics (BIG) was launched with a \$47.5 million grant from the state. The goal: to create hundreds of high-tech jobs in Western New York.

A news conference this past summer revealed that BIG has exceeded expectations, not only boosting the regional economy with the creation of 530 local jobs, but also contributing to major advances in life sciences that benefit society as a whole.

The announcement was made outside the Amherst offices of KSL Biomedical, a medical diagnostics startup that has leveraged the resources of UB's BIG to create approximately 100 jobs since the company's founding three years ago.

"We had big ideas, and we needed resources like BIG to realize them," said Kevin Lawson, CEO of KSL. "I look at it like the old physics lesson about potential energy. There's the big rock on top of a hill. You need the lever to get it down the hill. BIG has provided that [lever]."

KSL is one of 16 companies that currently have agreements with the UB program, which provides state-of-the-art facilities, technical expertise, a world-class computing infrastructure, next-generation genetic sequencing and more.

Christina Orsi, then-UB associate vice president for economic development, noted how companies working with BIG refocused their businesses to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. KSL, for example, developed diagnostic tests and worked on clinical validation of prognostic tools to improve patient care. Resources provided by BIG, said Lawson, allowed the company to make that pivot.

"We made strategic investments in critical research, state-of-the-art equipment and funding to support the discovery and development of new medical technologies in partnership with industry members throughout Western New York," Orsi said. Rick Gardner now leads UB's efforts within BIG.

In a statement, UB President Satish K. Tripathi praised the important role BIG plays in the regional economy as well as in helping to develop medical innovations that benefit society, especially those in need. "The success of BIG is another example of UB's impact on the communities we serve," he said. ◉

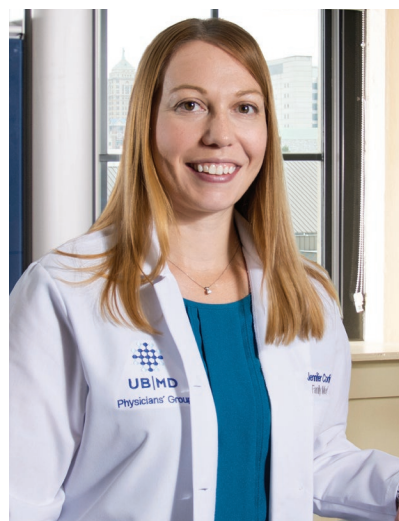


Building a ‘safety net’ in health care

UB family medicine residents fill a key role at new Jericho Road clinic

A new family medicine clinic has been operating on Buffalo’s West Side since late last summer, with 12 UB medical residents helping to provide patient care. The two-floor facility, operated by the Jericho Road Community Health Center, is located around the corner from Jericho Road’s Barton Street health center. It offers primary care, women’s health care and maternity care, with a special focus on refugee and underserved patient populations.

Since 2019, Jericho Road has welcomed four residents per year from the Family Medicine Residency Program at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB. These family medicine resident physicians treat out-patients and Jericho Road patients admitted to Buffalo General Medical Center. They see their own patients and review treatment plans and strategies with their attending physicians, who oversee the residency track at Jericho Road.



“This partnership with UB is really big for us,” said Myron Glick, a Jacobs School alumnus and Jericho Road’s founder and CEO. “As Jericho Road has grown, we’ve put a lot of priority on not only advancing quality and affordable patient care, but also training, equipping and investing in the next generation of family physicians. Our purpose is certainly to sustain the mission of Jericho Road, but, more so, to build a better health care system overall. Without UB’s commitment alongside us, we would not be nearly as able to inspire new medical providers to spend their careers in safety-net medicine, serving patients who are often not cared for elsewhere.”

At the grand opening in August, Jennifer M. Corliss, clinical assistant professor of family medicine, director of the family medicine residency program and physician with UBMD Family Medicine, noted the local and national shortage of primary care physicians. “As of June 2022,” she said, “four residents per year will graduate from this training track. We are delighted to hear that the majority of [them]

“These physician graduates will make a direct and immediate impact by providing quality health care and expanding access to care for patients in Western New York.”

Jennifer M. Corliss

plan to remain within the community after completion of their training.

“These physician graduates,” she continued, “will make a direct and immediate impact by providing quality health care and expanding access to care for patients in Western New York.” ◉

➔ **For more information regarding the medical services provided at the Jericho Road Community Health Center, please visit jrhc.org.**



UB HEALS focuses on foot care

UB HEALS, run by UB medical students, delivers medical care to the unhoused population of Buffalo while providing hands-on experience to students. A clinic held last fall at Holy Cross Shelter on Niagara Street focused on an often overlooked component of health care that’s critical to people experiencing homelessness: foot care. Physicians and med students also supplied new boots, socks and donated clothing from the UB HEALS clothing drive. Erie County Department of Health staff were on hand to offer vaccinations against COVID-19, hepatitis A and the flu.



Have You Heard...

Good news worth sharing

Joyce has arrived.

➔ Last summer, UB unveiled a 36-foot-tall mural in downtown Buffalo celebrating renowned Irish author and poet James Joyce. The university has launched a fundraising campaign to create a museum on the South Campus for its James Joyce collection, widely recognized as the largest in the world.

We’re honored to be so green.

➔ UB was named to The Princeton Review’s 2022 Green College Honor Roll, earning the highest possible score. The rankings assess how well a school is preparing students for employment in the clean-energy economy of the 21st century—as well as for citizenship in a world now defined by environmental issues—and how environmentally responsible a school’s policies are, among other factors.

It happened in a flash.

➔ Legendary DJ Grandmaster Flash was in residence at UB this past fall, working live and in-person with students as part of a semester of hip-hop-inspired programming presented by the university’s Arts Collaboratory. The project was the first time Flash has worked directly with university students, and word is that he plans to return annually to continue the collaboration.



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ACTION ITEMS

Opportunities to connect with UB

Be a 'Health Hero.'

The Buffalo Research Registry provides information about local research studies that are seeking volunteers. Participation can involve anything from taking a survey to trying a new medication, and benefits could include learning more about your condition, gaining early access to potential treatments and helping future generations by contributing to today's research. Visit buffalo.edu/ctsi/pir to register.

Get help with home buying.

To encourage home ownership and help support stabilization and revitalization of the neighborhoods around South Campus—including University Heights—the UB H.O.M.E. (Home Ownership Made Easy) program offers a combination of interest-free deferred and forgivable loans to UB employees who buy homes in the area. Apply by calling 716-877-3910.

Listen in and learn.

Buffalo HealthCast is a health equity podcast by students, faculty and staff of the School of Public Health and Health Professions. Season One takes an in-depth look at racism and health as experts from Buffalo and around the country talk about the negative impacts of discrimination on health outcomes, how different groups are working to address the problem and more. Search for Buffalo HealthCast on your favorite platform.



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Marcus Lolo performing at the State of the University address.



Questions for Marcus Lolo, UB music student

It would be an understatement to call “Epopée Impromptue,” the original piece pianist Marcus Lolo played at UB President Satish K. Tripathi’s State of the University address last October, a nice accompaniment.

“I would call it ‘knocking it out of the park,’” Jonathan Golove, chair of UB’s Department of Music, said of the performance. The composition paid homage to UB’s 175-year history through an improvised blend of classical and jazz elements with influences from Lolo’s French Haitian upbringing.

It wasn’t the first time Lolo, 27, has stood out for a job well done. He was profiled by JazzBuffalo following the 2020 release of his single “Lafimen,” dedicated to Haitian musician Manno Charlemagne. He shines as music director at Emmanuel Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church on East Ferry Street and as band leader at Macedonia Baptist Church on East North Street. And he is the music director at the Love Supreme School of Music, a small but growing effort that provides free lessons to children and young adults from underserved neighborhoods locally.

Here, Lolo talks about how his love for music hits many notes.

When did you first become interested in music?

1 “When I was five years old, I was fascinated with the pianist at church and jumped at the first opportunity he gave me to play a few notes. My father then bought me a two-octave toy piano upon which I reproduced the melodies of hymns I had heard at church. My interest in playing grew from there.”

You grew up in Haiti. What brought you to Buffalo, and what are your plans following graduation?

2 “I came to Buffalo in 2015 as a transfer student in civil engineering. I planned to pursue music later as a secondary interest. As I have come to learn, life is rarely if ever that linear. Now my goal is to finish my music program and then pursue a master’s degree in jazz studies at the Eastman School of Music, as I continue expanding the Love Supreme School of Music with the help of my amazing staff and collaborators. Then my goal will be to finish that bachelor’s in engineering.”

How did you become involved with the Love Supreme School of Music?

3 “It was a result of my participation as a performer in the 2018 Pappy Martin Legacy Masten Jazz Festival. My ensemble, the Marcus Lolo Septet, got to be the first act under the recommendation of Professor George Caldwell. There, I met Dawn Martin Berry-Walker, CEO of the Pappy Martin Legacy Jazz Collective, who was looking for an assistant director and piano instructor for the school. I seized the opportunity and found a home there.”

What does your work at the school mean to you?

4 “It has exposed me to the great need that persists for quality music education in Buffalo’s communities and to the power that resides in arming children and young adults with the skills to navigate their own creativity. Music isn’t just a tool for the arts—it’s a tool for life. It has been one of the most powerful forces in my life to date, and I have every intention to share this gift with every student who walks through our doors.”



Caitlin Knisley, a clinical nutrition graduate student, tends the garden outside Cary Hall, which produced herbs, flowers and veggies in its inaugural year.

GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

HERBS AND OTHER OFFERINGS THRIVE IN A NEW SOUTH CAMPUS GARDEN

Last year, two staffers in UB's School of Public Health and Health Professions were inspired to turn a ho-hum spot on the southwest corner of the South Campus into a garden.

And not just any garden. Inspired by the school's focus on health and well-being, the pair planted five varieties of herbs known for their medicinal and aromatic qualities, along with sunflowers and a modified version of the "three sisters" of Native American agriculture (corn, squash and beans).

Of course, as with most gardens, this one, outside Cary Hall, is about more than its produce.

"It's important for our mental health," said web designer Caryn Sobieski-VanDelinder, who spearheaded the project along with program director Nicole Klem. "Not only does this garden provide time for relaxing the mind, but it also creates a space for asking questions and positive conversation. It's a safe space for faculty, staff and students to work together."

Following the success of their first harvest, the gardeners are considering adding a leafy green such as kale or Swiss chard to the next crop. Also under consideration: more gardens on South Campus, including one managed by students. ●

Learn more about the five varieties of herbs selected and their potential health benefits.



Lavender

Its calming fragrance is popular for alleviating stress and promoting restful sleep. It tastes great too!



Lemon verbena

The leaves and flowers of this perennial have a distinctly lemony scent and taste. It's reputed for treating indigestion and easing muscle soreness.



Tarragon

Often used in infused vinegars, this powerful herb may help to reduce inflammation and improve insulin sensitivity.



Mint

This fresh-tasting plant is a rapid grower. It has long been a go-to for soothing headaches and increasing alertness.



Rosemary

A hardy evergreen shrub, rosemary is said to stimulate energy and possibly support immune function.



A web resource for the community!

Find news, opportunities and other resources at buffalo.edu/community.



The Big Picture

Reaching New Heights The royal blue poles stand upright, like birthday candles on a cake—only these candles are 86 feet tall. → Visible from Maple Road and the I-990, the poles support a massive enclosed netted complex in the parking lot of Crofts Hall on UB's North Campus, where faculty, students and partners can conduct experiments on uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs), more commonly known as drones. → The 24,000-square-foot research facility is thought to be the third-largest outdoor, enclosed drone-testing facility in the nation. Dubbed SOAR, short for Structure for Outdoor Autonomy Research, it supports UB's position at the forefront of research and education in a technology that could address some of society's most challenging issues in everything from commerce and agriculture to emergency response. ●

STOP BY AND SAY HELLO!

Reach UB's Office of Government and Community Relations at 716-829-3099 or communityrelations@buffalo.edu, or visit us at 124 Parker Hall on the South Campus.

The University at Buffalo is the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York system. If you have questions about UB's programs or wish to be added to the mailing list for this publication, please call 716-829-3099, or send an email to communityrelations@buffalo.edu. Produced by the Division of University Communications, University at Buffalo. Editor: Sally Jarzab. Designer: Richard Klingsmith. Contributors: David J. Hill, Charlotte Hsu, Grace Lazzara, Cory Nealon, Marcene Robinson and Mary Schaefer.

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