

Neighbor



PAGE

3

**Confronting
Buffalo's racial
health disparities**

PAGE

4

**A helping hand for
English language
learners**

*"I can relate
because at
some point
that was me."*

UB undergrad
Prudence Dennis,
working with
international students
at Buffalo Public
School 6



PAGE

7

**What's next for UB's
South Campus**



Jim Cordes, woodworking artist-in-residence at the Roycroft Campus in East Aurora, N.Y., gives a lesson to students in the spring term of the SACRA program.

Craftsmanship Reborn

A collaboration to rebuild the city through the hands of skilled workers

Roofing was the only world native Buffalonian Anthony Lidge ever knew. He wanted to learn new skills to broaden his job opportunities. Now, he can tell you all about working with wood—from the best type to use for a project to how to manipulate it.

The next time he works on a house, he won't have to start at the top. "Being here taught me how to build a house from the ground up," he says.

Lidge is among the recent graduates of the Society for the Advancement of Construction-Related Arts, or SACRA. The program, which began last fall, is headquartered inside the former Immaculate Conception Church in Buffalo, now home to Assembly House 150, an organization founded by UB architecture professor Dennis Maher.

SACRA aims to transform Buffalo's future by educating participants about the city's architectural past. Meanwhile, SACRA will infuse the region's workforce with skilled craftspeople who can contribute to a range of construction jobs, including the growing number of historic preservation projects happening throughout Buffalo.

"We want to graduate students who can contribute to bolstering that culture of contemporary craftsmanship excellence, both from a design and a making standpoint," says Maher, who co-directs the program with Russell Davidson, manager of the Innovation Lab at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

"We are seeing more restoration projects as the city's housing stock ages, but there is a lack of trained workers for those projects," adds SACRA Program Coordinator Alexandra Johnston.

Students are referred to SACRA through Erie County's Department of Social Services. The 15-week program is offered in the fall and spring.

"SACRA is not a traditional vocational program," says Maher. "It's a program that uses the arts to talk about issues of design, artistic excellence and construction in a more holistic way." Toward that end, students learn from a rotating cast of skilled craftspeople who give lessons tied to a particular project the class is working on.

"The ultimate goal is to find our students meaningful, gainful employment," says Johnston, the program coordinator. "As the semester winds down, we talk with each student about which aspects of the program they liked most and try to match them up with jobs. We want them to be happy with what they're doing."

That sounds good to Lidge, the Buffalo roofer who brought his two children to his graduation in June. "I went through a couple stressful times recently, but this program has helped keep me levelheaded," he says. "It's like a family." ◉

Did you know?
UB professor Dennis Maher is also the artist behind the Fargo House, an immersive sculptural environment on Buffalo's West Side.

→ To learn more about SACRA, go to assemblyhouse150.org/sacra/

Shout-outs & Stand-outs

Recognizing what's happening around the community



What an achievement

The **23rd annual Ride for Roswell**, held in June, drew in 7,740 riders—some taking routes that covered as many as 102 miles—and raised \$5.2 million for cancer research and patient care at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.



Participants in the The Ride for Roswell raised big bucks for an important cause.

Looking good

The University District Community Development Association's (UDCDA) **"Better on Bailey" grant program** has helped half a dozen businesses on Bailey Avenue get spruced up with targeted façade improvements and building renovations.

Creative idea

A new public art project sponsored by the **EI Museo nonprofit arts organization** will enlist local artists to create temporary art exhibits in the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority's (NFTA) Utica Metro Rail Station. Three works are planned for this fall in ad space on the station's ticket vending machines.



The "Your Utica Station" project will bring visual appeal to this public space.

Great opportunity

The Neighborhood Explorer Program gives employees who work on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus a way to check out and connect with businesses in the Allentown, Fruit Belt and downtown neighborhoods—and enjoy discounts when they do.

UB Through the Years

Standing Tall

Perhaps you've seen the grand white columns at Baird Point while attending the popular Fourth of July fireworks display at UB's North Campus. Before they graced the shoreline of Lake LaSalle, the columns made their home on a spot of lawn on the South Campus (pictured here), near what is today Allen Hall and was then Baird Music Hall. When they were brought there in the late 1950s, salvaged from a demolished Buffalo building, the plan was to use them as a backdrop for an open-air Greek amphitheater. That never came to pass, and the columns remained on the South Campus until 1978, when they were incorporated into the design for Baird Point.

← **Test of Time:** Which building in downtown Buffalo were the Baird Point columns originally a part of? Find the answer on the bottom of the back cover.



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

UB Neighbor
Fall 2018



Rev. George A. Nicholas, pastor at Buffalo's Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church and member of the African American Health Disparities Task Force, addresses the conference attendees.

A Critical Imbalance

UB joins the fight to end racial health disparities

If you're an African-American living in the 14204, 14206, 14211, 14212 or 14215 zip code, you are almost three times as likely to die prematurely as a white person living in a different zip code in Buffalo.

That fact is one of many reasons behind a conference held at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB last spring called "Igniting Hope: Building a Just Community with a Culture of Health and Equity."

The conference was the result of a collaboration between UB, the African American Health Disparities Task Force, Millennium Collaborative Care, Erie County Medical Center, Population Health Collaborative and Greater Buffalo United Churches. It was designed to bring health professionals and members of the public together to figure out how to address—and ultimately reverse—these disparities.

"To live up to our motto of a 'City of Good Neighbors,' we must all work together to create a community where race is no longer a defining factor in a person's health and life expectancy," says conference organizer Rev. George F. Nicholas, pastor of Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church-Buffalo and a member of the African American

Health Disparities Task Force and the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable.

The event followed several years of intense research by the task force, led by Willie Underwood III, associate professor at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, aimed at quantifying the extent of health disparities in Buffalo's African-American community.

In 2015, the task force issued a report revealing dramatic discrepancies in health outcomes of blacks compared to whites in Erie County. For example, the

rate of infant mortality among blacks is almost three times that of whites, the rate of asthma hospitalizations for black children is more than four times that of whites, and the percent of premature deaths in people younger than 75 is nearly double for blacks as for whites. In addition, national data show that black women are less likely to get breast cancer than white women but are more likely to die from it.

"These unjust indications show you something is systemically wrong," Nicholas says.

"It's significant that we are having the conference at UB," he adds. "It's incumbent on the university to say, we are providing leadership and resources. It makes it real. Without it, it just becomes a PR exercise."

And while faculty, administrators and students throughout the university have been involved in numerous efforts focused on various aspects of health disparities, efforts haven't always been well-coordinated.

Now, the task force has representatives from throughout the university, including UB's Jacobs School, School of Nursing, School of Management, Graduate School of Education, School of Law, School of Architecture and Planning, School of Public Health and Health Professions, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the Clinical Translational Science Institute.

The conference was designed as a call-to-action to attract individuals who are working to reverse disparities or who would like to be involved—and not just those in the health professions. More than 200 people took part, including members of the clergy, community activists, neighborhood organizers and students.

"We are trying to change the conversation," Nicholas says. ●

"To live up to our motto of a 'City of Good Neighbors,' we must all work together to create a community where race is no longer a defining factor in a person's health and life expectancy."

Rev. George F. Nicholas

COMMUNITY Matters

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

UB touches thousands of lives within the community and helps to guide our region—and our world—toward a brighter future. Our office sees proof of this every day, and we're glad to share the news of what's happening.

For the past several years, "**Operation Doorhanger**" has kicked off the new school year by providing residents with a directory of helpful information delivered right to their doors. The program is part of our continuing commitment to work together with students, residents and community groups to improve the safety and the overall quality of life in the University Heights neighborhood. The university envisions a community of students and year-round residents who are respectful of and committed to each other, living free from crime and fear, and making their neighborhood a better place to live for everyone.

We encourage everyone to play a role in improving our neighborhood. This begins with providing your home with proper upkeep and security measures, and extends to reporting suspicious activities or violations you witness within the neighborhood. In the case of emergency, call 911. To report a crime, please contact the Buffalo Police



at 851-4444. To report a situation pertaining to city services, such as street sanitation or housing code violations, please dial 311 from a landline or call 851-4890 from your cell-phone to contact Buffalo's Resolution Center. They will provide you with a tracking number to follow the progress of your complaint. To discuss concerns or opportunities related to UB students, please contact UB's Office of Community Relations at 829-3099 or by email at communityrelations@buffalo.edu.

We look forward to continuing our work together, taking advantage of our unique position as part of a great city and a great university. Please join us by taking an active role in your block club and by getting to know your neighbors, as the University Heights can only be as strong as the people living within it. ●

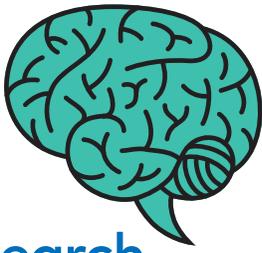
Tess says:

"Visit buffalo.edu/community for more information and resources."



Tess Morrissey, director of community relations and deputy director of state relations

UB Neighbor
Fall 2018



Research Round-up

What UB's inquiring minds want to know

1 How can we keep sewage at bay from local beaches?

Lake Erie beaches are a focal point of fun here in Western New York, but not when fecal pollution from sewage system overflows or other sources force beach closure. Two UB researchers are behind a study to pinpoint where such pollution originates, with the goal of improving remediation efforts.

2 Why do teenagers act the way they do?

Big changes in social behavior come with the teen years, to many parents' bewilderment. While it's tempting to attribute these shifts to hormones, new UB research suggests that the reproductive hormones that develop during puberty are not to blame—an important finding for future research on adolescent mental health.

3 Can dentures be made better—and safer?

One downside of dentures is the unpleasant infections many wearers experience. To fight this, UB researchers are using 3-D printers to build dentures filled with antimicrobial medication. Not only do the drug-filled dentures keep mouths clean; they can be created much more quickly and inexpensively than conventional dentures.



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

UB Neighbor
Fall 2018

4



UB student Prudence Dennis, who was born in the Ivory Coast, draws from her learning and her personal experience to help students at the Buffalo Elementary School of Technology boost their reading and writing skills.

Read with Me

Literacy training brings UB students into the multicultural classroom

Two small groups of students sit in Room 200 of Buffalo Public School 6—the East Side school also known as the Buffalo Elementary School of Technology—each reading along carefully with a UB student.

Amanda Lomber, a UB business administration major, takes the sixth-graders, including children born in Syria, Thailand and Somalia, as well as three from Eritrea, through a biography of Alexander the Great. Her “read aloud” method

enhances the way the children experience what could be just an ordinary reference book.

On the other side of Jolanta Kotnis' English as a New Language class sit five other sixth-graders, wide-eyed, attentive students from Somalia, Syria, Iraq and Congo. Once again, the group unanimously tunes in to their literacy trainer/mentor, Juan Carlos Candelaria, a UB freshman majoring in chemistry with an education minor. This time, the reading technique Candelaria and Lomber learned at UB brings Leonardo da Vinci to life.

“His father wanted to send him to the best schools, a good school,” says Candelaria of the Renaissance artist, adding, “This is a good school, right here.”

Their work last spring was part of an undergraduate course at UB called Literacy, Access and Equity: Embracing Diversity to Enrich Our Community. It's a model that satisfies at least two urgent institutional challenges: one faced by the BPS and the other by UB's Graduate School of Education (GSE).

The BPS has a pressing need to address early literacy. Schools such as PS 6 have large immigrant and refugee student populations (PS 6 children speak 21 different languages aside from English). They need adults to act as literacy workers to read to them.

The GSE needs to identify undergraduates interested in becoming teachers and create a pipeline for future teachers.

The two-pronged project is the brainchild of BPS Superintendent Kriner Cash, UB officials say. Cash approached GSE Dean Suzanne Rosenblith last fall suggesting that a program with UB undergraduates could assist English language learners' reading development. Both leaders are pleased with the results.

Sometimes, the connection the UB students feel with these elementary students is especially strong. Prudence Dennis is a psychology major considering a GSE teaching degree. Dennis was born in the Ivory Coast and earned her U.S. citizenship in November through the naturalization process. She doesn't have to try hard to remember what it was like to struggle with the English language, acting shy or laughing to disguise an inability to understand.

“Looking at them reminds me of when I was in their position—when I was scared and didn't know what was going on,” she says. “I can relate because at some point that was me.” ◉



The Healing Response

A treatment-based effort changes how the justice system handles opioid addiction

In Buffalo City Court, opioid-addicted defendants arrested for nonviolent crimes have the potentially life-saving opportunity to enter treatment before going through the criminal court system.

That chance comes through the nation's first Opiate Crisis Intervention Court, a collaborative pilot program initiated in May of 2017 through a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the U.S. Department of Justice.

Defendants on this special opioid docket have 30 days to engage in treatment. In addition, they must meet with City Court Judge Craig D. Hannah for a 30-minute session every day during that time. The offices of the district attorney and public defender delay criminal court proceedings until intervention is achieved.

The Department of Family Medicine at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and UB's Primary Care Research Institute (PCRI) are responsible for evaluation and case management.

"We want to make sure they stay alive and stabilize their treatment connection," says John S. Taylor, executive director of development for the PCRI.

Richard D. Blondell, professor of family medicine and vice chair of addiction medicine at the Jacobs School, is medical director of the opiate court program and determines what the rapid treatment connection protocols should be for its participants.

Blondell notes that people who have addictions often end up committing crimes to support their habit. "Many times these are not hardened criminals; they are driven to commit these acts due to the nature of drug addiction and compulsion to use," he says, noting that addiction physically changes the chemistry of the brain. "It's like driving your car through a big puddle of water. It is very easy to screw up the wiring, but very hard to correct it."

He adds that studies show incarceration is not particularly productive in mitigating addiction.



"It's like driving your car through a big puddle of water. It is very easy to screw up the wiring, but very hard to correct it."

Richard Blondell

"From that realization years ago, the concept of the drug court evolved, but the problem was we didn't really have good ways to treat addiction," Blondell says.

Traditional, abstinence-based approaches through psychotherapy and counseling generally do not produce very successful results. These days, more specific and effective therapies for opioid addiction, known as medication-assisted treatment, have evolved.

Examples of opioid medications are methadone, buprenorphine (also marketed as Suboxone when it is mixed with naloxone) and naltrexone, which can be given as an oral tablet or a once-a-month injection called Vivitrol.

"The big thing about the opiate court is the philosophical change, understanding that this is an illness that needs state-of-the-art treatment and not criminal behavior that needs punishment," Blondell says. ●



Have You Heard...

Good news worth sharing

Urban planners have Buffalo in their plans.

→ This October, more than 1,000 urban planners from around the world will come to Buffalo for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference. Much has changed since Buffalo last hosted this annual conference in 1988, and so faculty and students from UB, as well as community leaders from across the city, will share lessons learned from Buffalo's continually evolving comeback.

We're champions yet again.

→ UB tops the MAC for a second time this year, winning the conference championship of the EPA's College and University Green Power Challenge by utilizing more green power than any other MAC school.

We're making ourselves right at home.

→ The new home of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences has won an Excelsior Award for public architecture. The award highlights design excellence in publicly funded architecture in New York State. Criteria included the use of sustainable materials, systems and practices, as well as positive impacts on surrounding neighborhoods and communities.

A picture perfect summer day

Amid the bustle of the Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk in July, the UB Art Galleries' second annual Summer Extravaganza took place in the Anderson Gallery lot at 1 Martha Jackson Place. Designed for visitors of all ages from the University Heights neighborhood and the larger Buffalo community, the artful event included workshops in painting and sculpture, as well as gallery tours, food trucks and live music.



ACTION ITEMS

Opportunities to learn, grow, celebrate and connect with UB

Cheer on the Bulls. Football season is here! And this year's Tailgate Concert Series features Chase Bryant on Sept. 15, Joe Nichols on Sept. 29 and Night Ranger on Oct. 13. For tickets, visit ubbulls.com/tickets or call 1-877-UB-THERE.

Be a lifelong learner.

Community members age 60 and older can participate in UB classes for free by taking advantage of the Auditors Program. Visit registrar.buffalo.edu/registration/procedures/60plusauditors.php to enroll or call 645-5698 for more information.

Look for job opportunities.

When you work at UB, your co-workers are people of all ages, races and interests and from nearly every culture and corner of the world. Search openings at ubjobs.buffalo.edu.

Watch for wheels. We've introduced a new fleet of UB-blue bicycles in partnership with the Reddy Bikeshare program. Look for them on and between campuses, and visit gotchabike.com/Ubuffalo to learn more.



UB Neighbor
Fall 2018

6



Questions for

Brandon Redmond, program coordinator of the Community as Classroom initiative of UB's Center for Urban Studies

On Buffalo's Carlton Street, between Orange and Peach streets, bountiful beds of vegetables, flowers and other plantings thrive. The garden is the result of the dreams, plans and hard work of students at Marva J. Daniel Futures Academy (BPS 37) Community School, a pre-K through eighth grade school in Buffalo's Fruit Belt neighborhood.

Through the Community as Classroom program, run at the school by UB's Center for Urban Studies, the young students learn how to take charge of their environment. Each spring, a bustling "clean-a-thon" event allows the whole community to dig in and celebrate this special space.

How did the garden get started?

1 "The area was once just a series of dilapidated vacant lots directly across from the school. We saw that as sending a message to the students that they didn't matter, and that's the last message we want to send to kids. So this all began as a project-based learning program through UB's Center for Urban Studies, teaching the kids about urban planning and land use. That was in 2000, and then in the spring of 2001, we got hands-on and launched our first clean-a-thon."

What's the bigger objective?

2 "The goal is to give students the knowledge that when they see something, they can say 'Well, that's the way it's going to be,' or they can say, 'Why is it that way? How did this happen?' And most importantly, 'How can we change it?'"

program is about the power of kids. We see people all across the city trying to make a difference in their neighborhoods, but when the kids get empowered, that takes things to a whole other level."

Who gets involved?

3 "Students and teachers from Futures Academy all come out, along with about 70 volunteers from other organizations and the community."

Is there a ripple effect?

4 "This is a really huge event for connecting UB and the community. When we come out and work with them, and not just plan for them, that's the most important thing. We're providing our assistance to lift up the community and make it one."



Members of UB Sprouts, a gardening club run by UB medical students, help out with the plantings.



This rendering depicts the Main Circle along the campus's Main Street frontage, redesigned to create a more inclusive, cohesive environment.

WELCOME HOME

REVITALIZATION PLAN TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO UB'S MAIN STREET CAMPUS

A new look is coming to UB's South Campus. A part of the UB 2020 Comprehensive Master Plan for the university's three campuses, the South Campus Revitalization Plan is set to revamp and rejuvenate UB's historic Main Street campus.

"The South Campus needs to support the learning landscape by providing a year-round, beautiful environment, organized around a clear pedestrian-oriented network of walkways and roads," says Kelly Hayes McAlonie, director of UB's Campus Planning office.

Engaging more fully with the community surrounding the South Campus and providing increased opportunities for

education, culture and recreation on campus are also an important focus of the revitalization plan.

"UB has had a symbiotic relationship with the neighborhoods surrounding this campus for the better part of a century," says Hayes McAlonie. "Housing, retail services and entertainment venues in the neighborhood are vital to the health of South Campus. Opportunities for education, culture and recreation on campus are important for the neighborhoods."

"This plan is about how to draw people into the campus," adds Tess Morrissey, UB's director of community relations. "We want to create an atmosphere that is welcoming to the public." ●



A redesigned entranceway from Bailey Avenue will be greener and grander, leading straight up to Abbott Hall.

Reimagined Spaces in Historic Places



Heart of the Campus

A new campus "core" will incorporate the renovated Abbott Hall, Harriman Hall and Harriman Quad and offer centralized amenities such as dining options and administrative services. This will enhance the collegiate campus feel.



Commitment to Health Sciences

With the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences now operating at UB's Downtown Campus, the remaining South Campus medical buildings will be repurposed into a Health Sciences Complex, providing interdisciplinary opportunities between the Jacobs School, the School of Public Health and Health Professions, and the School of Dental Medicine.



Going Pro

The School of Social Work will be the first of several professional schools to migrate from the North Campus, helping to eventually establish a new center of interdisciplinary professional education on the South Campus. The School of Architecture and Planning is already housed in the recently renovated Hayes Hall.



Rest and Remember

The new Memorial Garden provides an open place to walk, relax and socialize. It will also offer visitors an opportunity to reflect on the lives of the nearly 3,000 individuals who were buried at the former Erie County Poorhouse, which operated on the site from 1851 to 1913.

**A new web resource
for the community!**

Now find events, news, volunteer
and learning opportunities,
contacts, and much more at
buffalo.edu/community.



BRENDON BANNON

The Big Picture

Suiting Up for Something Big Nick Cave is a nationally renowned artist whose wildly imaginative work (like the “Soundsuit” wearable sculpture pictured here) brings together people from different backgrounds, neighborhoods and cultures to celebrate art and life. → In conjunction with a just-announced residency at UB through the Creative Arts Initiative, Cave is planning a long-term endeavor right here in Buffalo. → Known as “Plenty” and coordinated by CS1 Curatorial Projects in concert with 13 other organizations, the project will include an extravaganza of artistic experiences—involving costumes, sound and dance and culminating in a giant parade—that the whole community can take part in. → Visit cs1projects.org/plenty for more information as work progresses.●

**STOP BY AND
SAY HELLO!**

Reach UB’s Office of Government and Community Relations at 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. Creative Director: Rebecca Farnham. Contributors: Michael Andrei, Charles Anzalone, Holly Atkins, Ellen Goldbaum, David J. Hill and Dirk Hoffman. August 2018 18-GCR-004.

Photography by Douglas Levere and Meredith Forrest Kulwicki unless otherwise noted.