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“We hoped to inspire young girls and show them all of the avenues they could pursue once they reach college.”

UB student
Destiney Plaza



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UB’s Regional Institute helped to ‘Imagine LaSalle’

Where campus and community connect

Neighbor



A New Take on ‘Making’

A UB researcher works with the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library to learn about the drive to create

Did you know?

Library patrons have access to equipment at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library’s Launch Pad.

The Launch Pad at Buffalo’s downtown library is a bright, busy and inviting spot. Known as a “makerspace,” it’s a hands-on lab where visitors can try out anything from origami and finger-painting to music production and virtual reality. It’s a place for creating, experimenting and tinkering—and now, a place for education research, too.

With the help of a three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, UB faculty member Sam Abramovich is collaborating with the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library to develop ways to measure the learning and associated benefits of this type of space in libraries. He wants to know more about what motivates people to make stuff and how educators can use that desire to help people learn.

“We all make things every single day,” says Abramovich. “Whether it’s something at work, or something for personal use, or to fulfill some kind of creative need, or just wanting to share with others and be part of a community.” But often, people are hampered because they don’t understand or have access to technology or equipment. Or maybe they just need to talk to like-minded folks who share their interests and can offer advice.

That’s where the makerspace concept comes in. The library’s Launch Pad provides a setting where people of

all ages can use an assortment of resources to learn new skills and create things—whether with their hands or with advanced technologies like digital video and 3D printing. These opportunities are a natural evolution of what libraries can offer their communities, says Abramovich.

Mary Jean Jakubowski, director of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, agrees. “Evaluating creative, hands-on learning activities in our public makerspace is critical as libraries continue to evolve and expand services to meet community needs,” she says, adding that the research project will help document the value of the Launch pad, support funding and partnerships going forward, and demonstrate “the fundamental realization that libraries are education.”

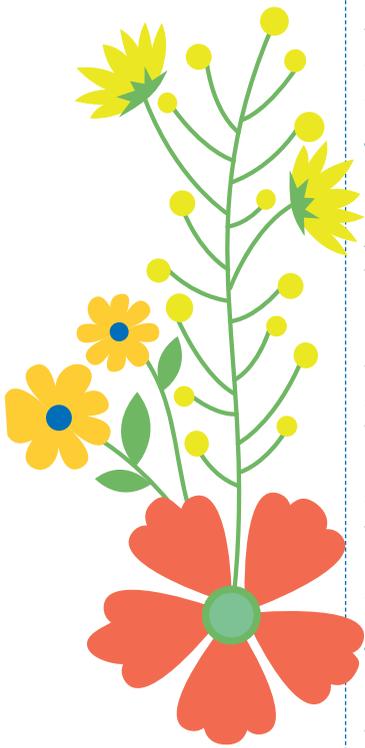
Abramovich will work with the University of Wisconsin and the Madison Public Library on the grant; the data collected will be useful for libraries across the country that have or intend to start their own makerspaces. He also plans to develop a suite of openly licensed educational tools and regional workshops to help local makerspaces better use measures of learning.

“Makerspaces aren’t just for libraries of the future,” he says. “They are here now and they are meeting an important need, and we need to use research to better support them.”

➔ To learn more about Launch Pad MakerSpace, visit buffalolib.org/content/launch-pad-makerspace

Shout-outs & Stand-outs

Recognizing what's happening around the community



How inviting

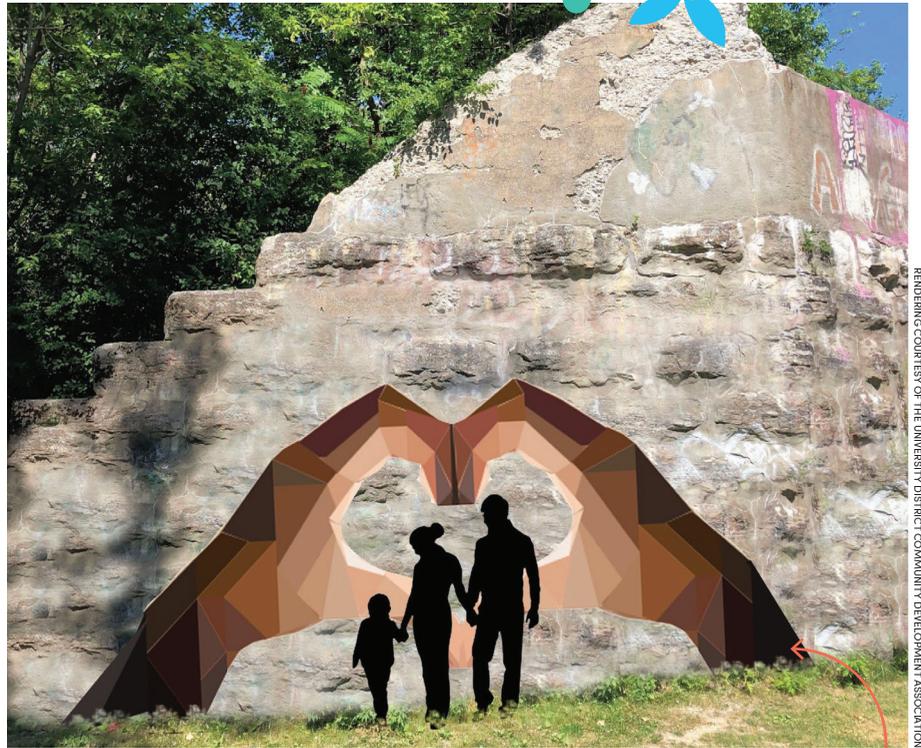
A **new community reading park** in front of the downtown public library, complete with lawn and garden areas, a stage, a plaza, and, of course, plenty of comfortable spots to read, is expected to be completed by early this summer.

Much applause

A short documentary film produced by the **Kensington-Bailey Historical Committee**, which made its debut last summer at the Varsity Theatre on Bailey Ave. and has had several community showings, proudly shares the places and faces that make this neighborhood so special.

Nice work

The Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers' **Moot Senior Community Center garden** became even lovelier with the



A mural design by Andrea Pawarski of Buffalo Arts Studios will beautify the trestle wall.

addition of a wooden pergola, made possible with support from the Buffalo Medical Campus, Grassroots Gardens, the Massachusetts Avenue Project, and the Mulberry Street and Friends Block Club.

Can't wait!

The abutments from the train trestle bridge on the former DL&W Rail will become the backdrop for a mural later this spring. Watch for announcements from the **University District Community Development**

Association about how residents can join the artist for this Crossroads of Creativity project.

RENDERING COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



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PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

UB Through the Years

Open Wide

Near the turn of the 20th century, the UB dental school's home stood at 25 Goodrich St. in Buffalo. George B. Snow, the dean at the time, described the then-new facilities in a 1908 newsletter, proudly noting that "an abundance of patients is afforded, giving the students excellent opportunities for obtaining the practical experience so necessary to success in dental practice."

Today, the School of Dental Medicine resides in newly refurbished—and more spacious— facilities on UB's South Campus. And its tradition of providing clinical care to an "abundance" of patients is stronger than ever. Each year, the school accommodates some 60,000 patient care visits at its Squire Hall and Erie County Health Mall dental clinics and in its Mobile Dental Unit in the Southern Tier.

← **Test of Time:** What year did the UB School of Dental Medicine move to the South Campus? Find the answer on the bottom of the back cover.

Through Trials and Triumph

Bringing better health care to Buffalo through clinical research

There's often a gap between the newest medical treatments and those actually available to patients. But clinical trials offer one way around that.

Clinical trials are tests of newly developed medicines, devices or other kinds of treatment on research volunteers. And because they reflect the latest advancements in health care, they're "how patients get access to the best science there is," says Peter Winkelstein, executive director of UB's Institute for Healthcare Informatics, professor of pediatrics in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB, and chief medical informatics officer for UBMD Physicians' Group.

"Treatments available through clinical trials are better than anything else that's already out there," Winkelstein explains. "You can't get these treatments unless you are in a clinical trial. So it's a tremendous opportunity to bring the best therapies to Western New York. It's good for the patients, good for the university and good for the companies we partner with to improve health care. It's a win-win-win."

"We want people participating in clinical trials to be representative of our community."

Timothy F. Murphy, on promoting diversity and inclusion in medical research at UB

Translational Science Institute. Recent clinical trials at UB include testing new treatments for diabetes, Crohn's disease, psoriasis, hepatitis C and dementia; investigating ways to prevent obesity in preschoolers; and helping pregnant women quit smoking.

Participation in clinical research studies takes various forms. It can involve filling out a survey, talking with a researcher one-on-one or in a group, visiting with a study doctor or nurse, or trying a new medication. Some studies look for healthy volunteers while others engage volunteers with specific health conditions. UB's CTSI maintains the Buffalo Research Registry, a list of local people, ages 18 and above, who are interested in participating in research.

Trials also have become more inclusive and representative of the region's diverse population. In 2015, 27 percent of clinical research participants were from populations that experience health disparities. By 2017, that percentage rose to 41.

"Our community—the city of Buffalo in particular—is 50 percent underrepresented minority, and 30 percent of residents live below the poverty level," says Murphy. "One of our major focuses is to engage these communities so that they, too, can benefit from access to the best treatments. We want people participating in clinical trials to be representative of our community." ●

Since 2015, funding for clinical trials at UB has increased by more than 30 percent. More importantly, the number of Western New Yorkers participating in UB clinical research has increased by more than 60 percent in that time, from just over 1300 people in 2015 to well over 2,000 now.

"This substantial increase in research activity at UB is a result of all the changes this institution has made in a variety of areas to foster better health care in our community," says Timothy F. Murphy, SUNY Distinguished Professor and director of UB's Clinical and

COMMUNITY

Matters

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

Last fall, staff members from all around the university had a unique opportunity at a meeting of UB's Professional Staff Senate to hear not just from our colleagues but also from a panel of four special guests from the community.

Rasheed Wyatt, the University District representative on the Buffalo Common Council, told the group that UB students are an important part of the University District, adding that his office plans to work toward making students feel more welcome and involved in the community.

Darren Cotton, a UB alumnus and director of community development and planning at the University District Community Development Association, spoke about ways the UDCDA is involving UB faculty, staff and students in meaningful projects in the district. For example, the association recently worked with Councilmember Wyatt's office and two UB graduate students to compile a historical context of the Bailey-Kensington neighborhood. The project allowed UDCDA to partner with the state's historic preservation office to obtain a grant for a consultant study that is likely to

result in the nomination of new historic districts that allow homeowners to take advantage of a tax credit.

Wil Green, East Side Community School Zone leader at Say Yes to Education Buffalo, shared how the UB community can participate in programs available within Buffalo Public Schools' Community Schools. These are buildings across the city with extended hours, including weeknights and weekends that have become hubs within their respective neighborhoods, providing a variety of resources for community members, students and families.

Ellen Kost, assistant planning director for the Town of Amherst and also a UB alumna, talked about how the Town of Amherst is working with the developers of new off-campus student housing developments to ensure the new facilities provide safe connections for students to get to campus.

Their updates came amid steady and exciting changes for all three of UB's campuses—and at a time of increased opportunities for the university to engage with the surrounding community. If you'd like to discuss what's on your mind, you can always feel free to contact our office. ●

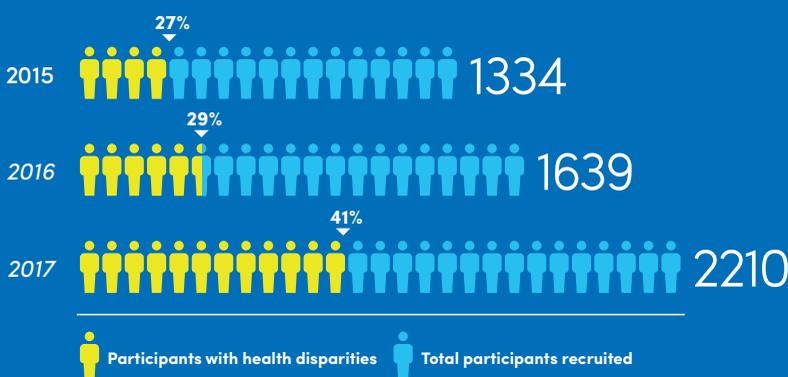
Tess says:

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



Tess Morrissey, Director of Community Relations and Deputy Director of State Relations

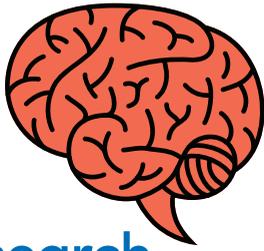
More Western New Yorkers are participating in UB clinical trials



ROBERT WILBER

Information on how to participate in clinical trials that align with your personal health concerns and interests is available from the CTSI. Call 888-4850 or visit buffalo.edu/ctsi/cores/community/brr.html.

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Research Round-up

What UB's inquiring minds want to know

Is there a better way to deliver social services?

1 Personal trauma is more common than many might think, and without the proper treatment framework, government social service departments run the risk of re-traumatizing the very people they're trying to serve. To help remedy the situation, researchers from UB's School of Social Work are helping counties across the state implement trauma-informed cultures.

Can we change the future of dementia treatment?

2 Today, few of the researchers studying Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are experts in big data science, but that could change thanks to a \$270,000 grant awarded to the UB School of Nursing. Funds will help train the next generation of biomedical data scientists, who could one day help create models that identify disease progression, predict potential burden on caregivers and more.

Who's driving the future of green transportation?

3 A self-driving electric shuttle, known as Olli, has been making its way around the North Campus as UB researchers conduct testing to inform future decisions regarding the safety and reliability of such vehicles. The project—co-managed by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the New York State Department of Transportation—supports Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's clean energy goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030.



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Girls from six area schools left the first-ever Girl Tech Day with the realization that computer programming can be fun.

Invitation to Code

Inspiring girls to be the tech leaders of tomorrow

“Ctrl C!” shouts a group of middle-school girls in unison. While moving through a series of obstacles, a University at Buffalo student has suddenly gotten stuck, unable to move forward. The student, pretending to be a computer, can only move based on the exact instructions the girls have provided, but their latest command was not specific enough, resulting in an error. By calling out “Ctrl C,” the girls can stop the “computer,” rethink their “programming” and issue a new set of instructions to complete the obstacles.

The task was part of a series of workshops during the inaugural Girl Tech Day hosted by the University at Buffalo School of Management last September. Sponsored by the UB President's Circle, the free event was open to Western New York girls ages 10-14 to introduce them to basic coding and programming.

“We hoped to inspire young girls and show them all of the avenues they could pursue once they reach college,” says master's student Destiney Plaza, who spearheaded the event. “By the end of the day, participants told us they would consider going into engineering or computer science in the future. That was amazing.”

The day started with an exercise to help the girls understand that a computer isn't just a desktop or laptop; it's a programmable device found in cars, phones, video game systems and countless other everyday items. Later, participants programmed basic video games with the programming language Scratch and created their own abacus to learn how to compute binary numbers.

Student volunteers from the School of Management and Department of Computer Science and Engineering helped run the day's activities.

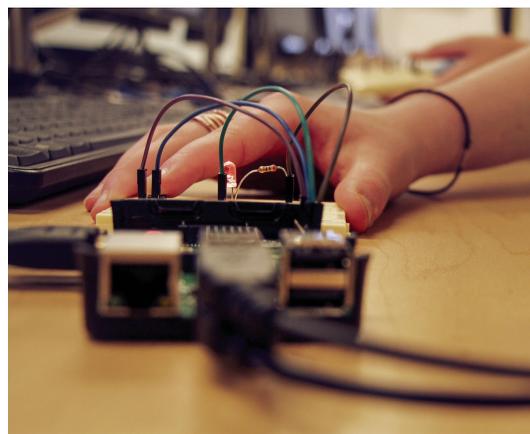
“Excitement about STEM has to be fostered at an early age,” says Joana Gaia, clinical assistant professor of management science and systems in the School of Management, who co-founded Girl Tech Day with Plaza and fellow faculty member Sanjukta Das Smith. “The speed at which the girls grasped programming concepts was astounding, and parents particularly commented on how powerful it was for their daughters to learn those concepts from college-aged women who actually apply those skills every day.”

The girls' favorite activity was programming a Raspberry Pi, a mini-computer, to interact with a button and LED light.

“Their smiles lit up when they got the bulb to illuminate,” Plaza says. “They never knew how much work it took to get a computer to operate correctly, so they found that activity fascinating.”

Students attended the daylong event from City Honors, Buffalo United Charter School and Universal School in Buffalo; Heim and Transit middle schools in Williamsville; and Global Concepts Charter School in Lackawanna.

By the end of the day, the girls had learned a critical lesson: It's smart people with valuable programming skills who make computers work—and they can be among them. ●



The girls' favorite activity was programming a Raspberry Pi to light an LED bulb.

DESTINEY PLAZA

DESTINEY PLAZA

Eastbound

How a UB professor gets her students to connect with the community that neighbors them

Student-athletes don't simply call it a week when the game's over—there's training and practice to be done to prepare for the moments that matter. UB Clinical Assistant Professor Jessica Kruger expects much the same from her public health students.

They put in their time in the classroom each week, of course, but the commitment doesn't end there. Their version of training and practice happens on weekends and weeknights, and it occurs mostly on Buffalo's East Side.

Every week, Kruger takes a group of students to the Lighthouse Free Medical Clinic on William Street. Run by students from the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB, the nonprofit, drop-in clinic provides free, routine health care and preventive services to uninsured patients.

The clinic allows Kruger's students—who are the patients' first point of contact when they come inside—an opportunity to apply what they've learned in the classroom to a real-world health care setting.

"I think it's important for students and faculty to connect with the community they work with," she says. "You can't fully understand community health issues without going out and talking with and learning about what is actually happening on the ground."

In addition to encouraging her students to do volunteer service, Kruger invites them to explore Buffalo and see parts of the city they may never have been exposed to. She and many of her public health, medical and social work students spent several Saturdays this past fall leisurely touring Buffalo on bicycles. Their rides began at Martin Luther King Jr. Park, where Kruger and the UB students met up with members of the East Side Bike Club before setting off.

"The East Side Bike Club is an amazing group of people who work to teach youth about biking and how to repair bikes," says Kruger. "The group also encouraged others to bike with us, which promotes public health."

Kennedy George, a junior from Homer, N.Y., signed up for the rides to explore more areas of the city.

"What struck me most was the incredibly tight bond within the East Side community," she says. "We saw a lot of community functions occurring and were met with so much friendliness from everyone."

It was an eye-opening excursion as well for Kofi Biney, a fifth-year senior from the Bronx who's still getting familiar with Buffalo. "The rides are a great experience for people who are curious about Buffalo," she says. "It was like a gold mine of sightseeing and information."

Riding gave Elma, N.Y., native Alexandra Marrone, a second-year student in the Jacobs School and a student manager at the Lighthouse clinic, a whole new appreciation for Buffalo's East Side.

"The more time I spend there, the more it is so clear to me that it is a vibrant community full of people that care about their neighborhood and want to support it and lift it up," she says. "I wish there was more news about that side of the East Side, because that's the East Side that everyone should know." ●

→ Follow the East Side Bike Club on Facebook or Twitter at @esbcbuffalo.



UB student Alex Marrone gets ready to head out on a Reddy Bike for a tour of Buffalo's East Side.



Have You Heard...

Good news worth sharing

Our green power efforts have been noticed nationally.

→ College Consensus, a new college review aggregator, has ranked the University at Buffalo among the nation's 25 most environmentally friendly colleges and universities. UB was recognized for its ability to generate its own green power thanks to the Solar Strand, SteelWinds and other efforts.

Buffalo went to Italy.

→ A documentary film produced by the UB School of Architecture and Planning showcased the city of Buffalo—and the school's central role in its resurgence—at a companion exhibit to the Venice Architecture Biennale, the world's premier forum for architecture and design. Titled "See It Through Buffalo," the film shared scenes ranging from grand landmark buildings to factory floors to refugee-owned shops. Check out ap.buffalo.edu/seeitthrough for updates and future showings.

Growing older is getting better.

→ The UB professor who directs UB's Center for Successful Aging was recently honored by the Amherst Senior Citizens Foundation with its Senior Leadership Award. Bruce Troen, chief of the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, helped launch the interdisciplinary center that supports research and works with community partners to make Buffalo and Western New York a great place to age.

We're teaching the next generation of teachers.

→ In partnership with the Buffalo Public Schools, the UB Graduate School of Education has launched a new teacher residency program designed to increase, diversify and better retain the pool of new teachers in the city. Resident teachers co-teach with a mentor teacher for a full school year, receiving a competitive stipend and possibly a tuition waiver.

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ACTION ITEMS

Opportunities to connect with UB

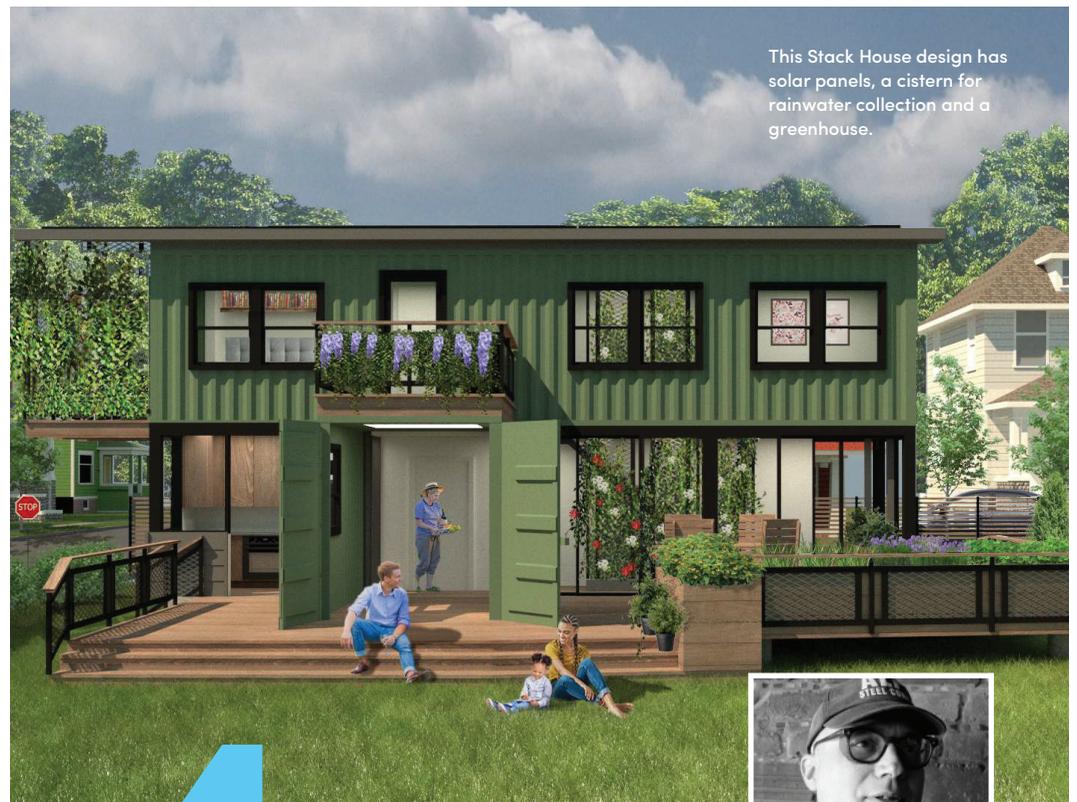
Hear from the experts.

Three speakers will close out this year's Distinguished Speaker Series at UB's Center for the Arts: human rights activist and author Angela Davis; Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Ronan Farrow; and former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Get ticket info at buffalo.edu/ub-speakers/tickets.

Check this place out. The GRoW Home, an award-winning, student-designed and built, hyper-efficient solar house, is now open on the South Campus as a clean energy and sustainability engagement center. Free public tours are offered on every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. through April. Email marthabo@buffalo.edu for more info.

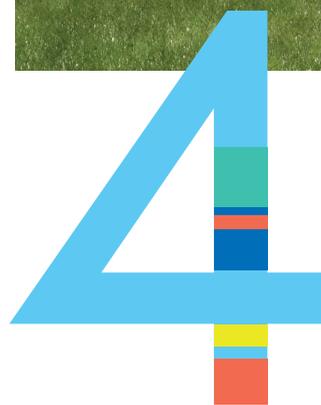
Become a film buff. The popular Buffalo Film Seminars invites community members to enjoy special movie screenings and lively discussions on Tuesday evenings at the Amherst Theatre on Main Street, across from the South Campus. To see this semester's selections, visit csac.buffalo.edu/bfs.html.

File for free. UB School of Management students in Beta Alpha Psi and the UB Accounting Association will again provide free tax preparation services through the IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Individuals and families with annual incomes below \$54,000 are eligible. Visit mgt.buffalo.edu/freetaxprep for dates, times and locations.



This Stack House design has solar panels, a cistern for rainwater collection and a greenhouse.

RENDERING COURTESY OF BRAD WALES



Questions for

Brad Wales, UB clinical assistant professor of architecture and creator of the Small Built Works program



Since 2001, Brad Wales has worked with students in the UB School of Architecture and Planning to bring what he calls “functional public art projects” to the neighborhoods of Buffalo. They include artful benches and bus shelters, pocket parks, and the striking, metallic towers that project films onto the exterior of the Burchfield Penney Art Center.

His inspiration for this ongoing experiential learning program, known as Small Built Works, came following years of civic activism in the late 1990s, when Wales and others worked to keep Peace Bridge development from encroaching on Buffalo's Front Park. The extremely drawn-out and often frustrating process led Wales to turn his attention toward small, doable projects with more immediate impact.

The results have been gratifying. In 2005, Small Built Works won a national award from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards for the integration of education and practice.

Now the program is taking on something (slightly) bigger: tiny houses. Wales and his students have designed several affordable homes that range between 325 and 650 square feet using old shipping containers—but with a twist. And they hope to see them built soon.

What makes a Small Built Works home different from other shipping container houses?

1 We aren't just cutting in a bunch of standard windows and doors you could buy at Home Depot and stuffing people and belongings into them. We define affordability based on overall monthly costs. That allows us to build a higher-quality house that is energy-efficient and sustainable, thereby bringing the long-term, monthly payment down.

How do you get the most out of your chosen materials?

2 Even though we're building so-called tiny houses, we're utilizing the container to its maximum spatial and conceptual potential. All the houses are designed to be passive-solar-heated and have an integrated area for gardening to help with food production. They also each have a water-collection system to use for watering plants, and full, dry basements. Each of these features is an optional

add-on, making the homes flexible to the owner's taste and budget.

Where might we end up seeing these homes in Buffalo?

3 We've talked to people in Riverside, the East Side, the lower West Side and the University District. We're hoping to break ground in 2019, but still sorting through what might be possible in terms of our partnerships with community-based organizations.

Why has Small Built Works been so successful?

4 Everybody involved comes away with something positive. The neighborhood gets something a little more interesting to look at. They get the energy and resources of the university coming into their area. The students get to see actual projects built. They get to interact with people who have real concerns and needs. It really works well putting the university and students together with the community. ●





Buffalo's LaSalle Park is slated for major upgrades, thanks to a grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, and UB helped the community have a voice in what's to come.

Imagine LaSalle

UB'S REGIONAL INSTITUTE HELPS SPARK BIG IDEAS FOR A BETTER PARK

Last fall, the Buffalo community learned about a \$100 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, meant to transform LaSalle Park and the region's trail system.

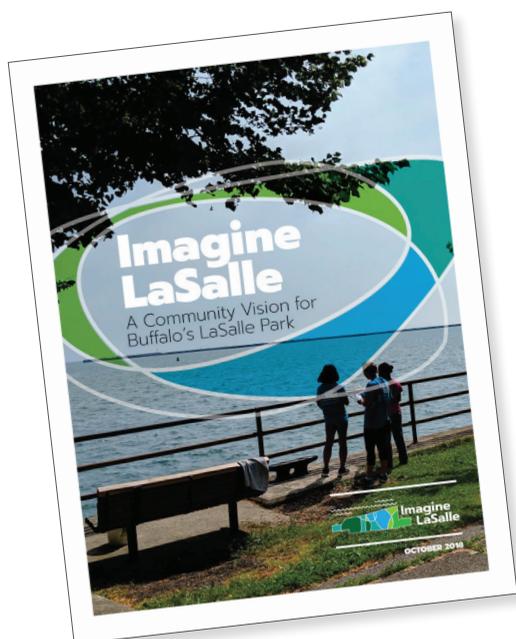
That gift announcement came in the wake of extensive research and planning that took place under the name "Imagine LaSalle," a collaborative initiative by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, the City of Buffalo, the UB School of Architecture and Planning, and the UB Regional Institute. The project explored LaSalle's history and current context, determined how people use the park now, documented what people

like and what they want to change, reviewed existing plans, and sought input from the community on the park's future offerings.

The work was guided by a focus group of 22 community ambassadors who explored LaSalle Park's unique features and collected ideas from thriving parks in Chicago, Cincinnati and New York City. Nearly 1,200 LaSalle Park visitors contributed their perspectives through an extensive community survey, and local youth from the Belle Center, a nearby community center, shared their ideas as well. The UB Regional Institute oversaw the engagement process and synthesized the public input in a community vision report. ●

THE BIG IDEAS

So what might we have to look forward to at Buffalo's biggest waterfront park? Here's a glimpse at some of the community's big ideas.



- Celebrate the park's culture of inclusivity and diversity.
- Embrace nature with inspiring landscaping.
- Support exciting and diverse active recreation opportunities.
- Design creative play areas for all ages.
- Strengthen neighborhood connections.

- Connect people with water.
- Enrich the park's event space.
- Provide access to concessions.
- Create quiet and peaceful places by separating disparate uses.
- Enhance the park's unique identity with public art.

- Get smart about parking.
- Enable movement throughout the park.
- Fix the basics like seating, restrooms, water fountains, security and lighting.
- Sustain the park with creative financing.

➔ For more on Imagine LaSalle, visit imaginelasalle.org.



A web resource for the community!

Find news, events, volunteer and learning opportunities, contact info, and much more at buffalo.edu/community.



The Big Picture

Forever Honored Tucked among the historic buildings on UB's South Campus is a small, serene spot for reflection. The landscaped garden, encircled by a walkway, features benches flanking an almost 6-foot-tall pillar of American black granite. Its inscription reads as follows: → "The land surrounding this monument formerly served as the burial grounds for those who died while in the care of the Erie County Poorhouse (1851-1913). Some of the deceased have been respectfully reinterred to a permanent resting place at Assumption Cemetery on Grand Island, New York. Others remain in the unmarked graves in which they were buried. Though the names of those men, women and children are lost as part of an unrecorded history, the spirit of their identity and the dignity of their memory will be forever honored." → The memorial garden, accessible by way of Rotary Road, was dedicated on a cold and rainy afternoon late last November. This spring, it is expected to bloom. ●

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: Charles Anzalone, Holly Atkins, Matthew Biddle, Andrew Coddington, Ellen Goldbaum, Michael Flatt and David J. Hill. January 2019 19-GCR-001.

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