IT IS NOTHING LESS THAN AMAZING to think that the building known to us as Hayes Hall—with its expansive façade and majestic tower—has stood upon its plot of land for 142 years. Over the decades, its purpose, structure, occupants and surroundings have changed. And yet, this historic landmark has never looked better than it does today, following the completion of a five-year renovation project that has restored the building’s stately exterior while reimagining its dynamic interior. A multi-day event marking the project’s completion with tours, lectures, presentations, special exhibitions and other events will take place this September, and the whole community is invited.

Given that Hayes Hall is home to UB’s School of Architecture and Planning, it’s no surprise that the renovation has resulted in a masterwork that balances historic preservation with modern design amenities and award-winning sustainability features.

It’s the largest-ever restoration of the landmark building (and the first since the School of Architecture and Planning took occupancy in 1977). The Hayes Hall project invested nearly $44 million into the evolving South Campus and signals other improvements to come.

It’s big for Buffalo, too. The effort strengthens the community by supporting important planning efforts across the city and region, while creating a space for the school and the public to connect. The building’s first-floor atrium gallery will serve as a signature event venue where scholars, practitioners, leaders and community members can come together to learn and share.

And for students, who will re-occupy Hayes Hall this fall, the renovation brings vibrant new learning spaces designed to facilitate creative thinking and collaboration.0

Join us! A grand reopening is scheduled for Sept. 23 and 24 to share the “new” Hayes Hall with the community—and the world. To view the full schedule or to register, visit ap.buffalo.edu/hayeshall2016.

Friday, Sept. 23
Hayes Hall ribbon-cutting
10 to 11 a.m.
Open house and building tours
11 a.m. to noon
Evening reception, lecture and exhibits
5 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 24
Community Conversation:
9 a.m. to noon
Presentations and discussion around the School of Architecture and Planning’s community engagement and partnerships then, now and into the future

Hayes Days
UB celebrates the reopening of a historic campus and community landmark

Before and After See more of the restoration and renewal of Hayes Hall in a photo gallery of the building before, during and after the five-year renovation effort: ap.buffalo.edu/about-us/leading-edge-facilities/restoring-a-landmark—hayes-hall/photo-gallery.html.
Linear Park continues to Flourish

Walk This Way

AVE YOU VISITED Linear Park lately? If not, you may be in for a surprise when you do. Through the cooperative work of residents, community groups, public officials and students from UB and elsewhere, the once-overlooked former railway line has become a beautiful recreational green space and a valuable new community asset. Just blocks from Main Street, the park extends about 1.5 miles from approximately Custer Street to Street and links to other portions of the converted railway that runs through Buffalo and Tonawanda. According to Cassandra Hayes, who has been at the helm of the revitalization effort since it began 15 years ago, the park’s newest features include lighting along both sides of the path, a wheelchair ramp and four new bike racks, enabling riders to secure their bikes and walk over to connecting streets in the University District neighborhood. A community clean-up held on May 15 brought together a crew of hard-working volunteers to get the park in shape for summer strolls and bike rides.

Next on the wish list are benches—some special attention for the railway bridge abutments—Hayes sees them as the perfect spot for artists’ murals. The park will also be the setting for future community events. "Someone even suggested a music festival," says Hayes. But there’s no need to wait to make a visit—the park is the perfect place right now for walkers, runners and bicyclists. Pets with responsible owners are welcome as well. "People are really enjoying the trail. I have yet to meet anyone who’s not pleased with it," says Hayes.

What Mentorship Means

CHILDREN WHO SUCCEED in school and in life tend to do so with the help of caring adults—family, friends, teachers and other mentors. So how is another way to build those meaningful connections, and it’s been shown to improve participation and performance in school and contribute to higher graduation and college admission rates. A group of UB staff and students spent part of this past school year working with fourth-grade students at Highgate Heights as part of the New York State Mentoring Program. Once a week for one hour, the mentor engages in meaningful conversations and matches students’ interests with organizations that enable them to continue building those meaningful connections, and it’s been shown to improve participation and performance in school and contribute to higher graduation and college admission rates.

Helping a mentor in the program are Adam Frick, a UB alumnus and UHAA board member, and Andrea Proper, a UB director of community relations named. To that end, UA’s University Heights Arts Association (UHAA), which is a community arts organization, has been awarded a grant from the University Heights Neighborhood Reinvestment Initiative to help support and sustain the UHAA’s efforts. The grant will provide funding for a community engagement officer who will work with community organizations and residents to identify projects and activities that will enhance the quality of life in the University Heights neighborhood. The grant will also fund a community arts education program that will provide opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in arts-related activities and events.

Help for UB Home Buyers

To encourage home ownership and support revitalization and neighborhood development, UB Home Ownership and Support Program provided a program for full-time faculty and staff. Qualified buyers can receive a combination of interest-free deferred and forgivable loans of up to $5,000 to help cover down payments and closing costs, or for interest rate reduction. Up to $7,500 is available for

University Heights Arts Association

Congratulations to the University Heights Arts Association (UHAA) for winning a “Rising Star” Spark Cultural Award from the Arts Services Initiative of Western New York, which commemorates an arts organization that’s making big strides early on. Founded in 2013 by Mary Quimette-Kinney and her husband, UB alumnus Lawrence Kinney, UHAA provides low-to-no-cost art activities for artists and enthusiasts, including 3,100 children and families per year. "We were honored to be placed among Western New York’s finest arts and cultural organizations because of our efforts in the University District," says Quimette-Kinney. This award sheds positive light on the University Heights neighborhood including the businesses, arts, neighbors and students who support us through their time and resources.

Get “Uptown Fresh”

The new Uptown Fresh Healthy Lifestyle Market brings affordable fresh fruits and vegetables to residents in the University District. A Buffalo Promise Neighborhood event, the market operates at the corner of Bailey and Horton avenues from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on most Saturdays throughout the summer. Sept. 10, 17 and 24. Stop by and see what tasty offerings local growers have available.

What’s New at Highgate Heights

In the past few years, Highgate Heights has seen several improvements, including the installation of new lighting, benches and community spaces. These improvements have made the neighborhood more welcoming and inviting for both residents and visitors.

University Heights Neighborhood Reinvestment Initiative

The University Heights Neighborhood Reinvestment Initiative is a community-driven effort to improve the quality of life in the University Heights neighborhood. The initiative is funded by a combination of public and private funding sources, including federal, state and local government grants, as well as contributions from local businesses and individuals.

Partnering Up

UB Honors College hosts Community Partners Fair

This fall, another round of UB Honors College students will mentor a variety of community organizations at the Community Partners Fair, an event designed to help connect these groups with students who are ready and willing to help out. Honors College freshmen are required to perform 20 hours of service in the community as part of the spring semester’s Honors Colloquium course, during which they learn about and respond to some of the challenges and opportunities that face the Buffalo community. Each year, the Honors College partners with a number of organizations that are actively making Buffalo a better place to live.

For more information, visit ourheights.org/retree.

"They see a newly planted tree as a sign of renewal, a sign that this place still matters." - Darren Cotton, director of community relations.

University Heights Reinvestment Initiative

The University Heights Reinvestment Initiative is a community-driven effort to improve the quality of life in the University Heights neighborhood. The initiative is funded by a combination of public and private funding sources, including federal, state and local government grants, as well as contributions from local businesses and individuals. The initiative focuses on partnership and collaboration, working with community organizations and residents to identify projects and activities that will enhance the quality of life in the University Heights neighborhood. The initiative also includes a comprehensive focus to prevent kids from dropping out of school. UB’s director of community relations named.

When ReTree the District was launched two years ago, its ambitious goal was to plant 1,000 trees to help reforest the University District. Following a big planting in the tree tuffy near the station stands tall at 785 and the last round of trees are going to be planted this fall.

The initiative requires a lot of work and money—not to mention trees and shovels—all generously supplied by a contingent of supporters from local organizations, community groups and businesses, along with neighborhood residents. In addition to the plantings, an ongoing tree stewardship program helps educate people about how to properly care for the trees as they grow. With a total of 1,510 project volunteers logging more than 4,850 service hours in the overall effort is truly cooperative. Beyond strengthening the tree canopy, the project is strengthening the community ties.

“When you walk or drive down a street that has dozens of newly planted trees, you get the sense that this is a community that cares, is actively engaged, and is investing in its future,” says Darren Cotton, director of community relations.

“People are really enjoying the trail. I have yet to meet anyone who’s not pleased with it,” says Hayes.
The University at Buffalo is the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York system. If you live in the South Campus neighborhood and 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 email to communityrelations@buffalo.edu. Produced by the Division of University Communications, University at Buffalo. Edited by Sally Jarzab. August 2016.