37TH ANNUAL
NANCY WELCH
AWARD CEREMONY

Wednesday, May 4, 2016
3:00 p.m.
South Lake Village Community Center
North Campus
Nancy Welch
January 31, 1941 – May 9, 1979

Nancy “had a searing mind, a warm heart, an endearing demeanor, and a genuine belief in the work that was being undertaken and accomplished at Rachel Carson College.”

– Carole Smith Petro, former Associate Dean of the Colleges

“Nancy was an effective leader. She was always able to read the personalities and emotions of those around her.”

– Irving Spitzberg, former Dean of the Colleges

Nancy Welch, a former member of the UB community, worked hard to bring a sense of citizenship to this campus. During her short time at UB, she accomplished a great deal and made a lasting impression on those who knew her.

Before making Buffalo her home, Nancy spent a significant amount of time overseas with her husband, Claude Welch. They met at Harvard College and married at the end of her junior year. They moved to Oxford, England, where Claude worked on his doctorate, and spent time doing field research in West Africa. During her stay overseas, Nancy sustained her love of learning. Upon her return to the United States, she completed her bachelor’s degree at UB in less than two years, juggling academic work with caring for two young children.

In 1973 at the age of 32, Nancy was diagnosed with breast cancer. Following her diagnosis, she spent a great deal of time volunteering; she supported the PTA and the League of Women Voters. In 1975, when all four children were in school, she took a part time job at UB as the Residential Coordinator at Rachel Carson College, located in the Joseph P. Ellicott Complex. The Ellicott Complex had opened a year earlier on UB’s North Campus, which was still under construction and very much isolated. Nancy’s job as Residential Coordinator was to develop interdisciplinary programs that would alleviate some of the isolation felt by students. One of her popular programs were Sunday Night Suppers. She would bring all four of her children—Lisa, Sarah, Martha, and Christopher—to these suppers and they would all interact with the students. Sunday Night Suppers gave the students residing in Ellicott a taste of home. During this difficult period in her life, Nancy’s contact with UB students rejuvenated her.

Early in 1978, she returned to Oxford, England, where her husband enjoyed sabbatical leave. Later that year, in August, shortly after Nancy returned to Buffalo, she found out her cancer had recurred. During her final months, she formulated the criteria for the Nancy Welch Award. After six long years battling breast cancer, Nancy Welch died on May 9, 1979. 35 years later, her values continue to live on through the Nancy Welch Award.
About the Nancy Welch Award:

The Nancy Welch Award, given annually in honor of the former Residential Coordinator of Rachel Carson College, is presented to residential students who have made significant contributions to the University community during the current academic year.

Criteria:

The following award selection criteria will be used:

- the quality of the program or project developed, implemented, or supported by the nominee;
- the quality of the nominee's contribution to the program or project;
- the degree and quality of participation by others in the program and project initiated or supported by the nominee; and
- the quality of the learning experience enjoyed by the nominee in the course of the development, implementation, or support of the program or project.

Nominate:

Any member of the University community can make a nomination. A complete application must be submitted for each nominee. Nominees must be undergraduate students currently living in the residence halls on the North or South Campus or in North Campus apartment complexes. Please note that positive outcomes from nominee volunteerism and creativity will carry more weight in the selection process than positive outcomes from paid job experiences.

First, second, and third place winners will receive a cash award and a plaque noting substantial contributions to the University.
## 2009 Award Recipients

### First Place

**Oyinkansola Akintan, Bridgett Arresta, Suruchi Bhardwaj, Leslie Fisher, Herlynne Pierre**  
**Joy is the Best Makeup**  
Nominated by Jeffrey Kirkpatrick

This was an education program that brought awareness to women on campus about breast cancer. There may be residents who know someone who is fighting against the disease or some who have lost their life. This program educated them on the risk factors, early detection, signs and symptoms and how to self-exam.

### Second Place

**Rita Groetz, Dan Pastuf, Thom Smith**  
**Spaghetti Bridge Building Competition**  
Nominated by Eric Streeter

This program took place during Engineers week with the idea of creating an Engineering program where the greater UB community could participate. Participants were tasked with building a simple truss span using only spaghetti and hot glue. The team’s bridges were then put up against each other in a test of strength by filling a bucket of water attached to the bridge until the bridge failed.

**Erica Johnson**  
**Dramatization: Lights, Camera, Action**  
Nominated by Mark Hara

This was aimed at art majors, which gave them an opportunity to express their talent in a positive, constructive manner, leaving their permanent signature in Spaulding Quad. The objective was to show that art is beautiful in all forms whether performed or painted and should be respected.

### Third Place

**Rebekah Brown**  
**Visit a Country Over Dinner Series**  
Nominated by Michael Korona

The main objective of this series was to engage residents in an activity that they always perform, making dinner, and throw in a different culture each time. The discussion focused on different cultural traditions and customs that each country has and residents shared their own traditions and customs that are practiced within their families.

### Honorable Mention

**Lynlee Barbour, Akash Chakravarty**  
**Post Secret**  
Nominated by Leah Gillette-Fox

Post Secret is a book/website/initiative that encourages individuals to share their secrets anonymously by sending in postcards to the creator (Frank Warren). The objective of this program was to give the residents an outlet for secrets that are not often shared between college students. Suicide prevention awareness was the goal of the program.

**Deirdre Eychner, Krystle Lennon, Gregg Riess, Josh Sommer, Eugene Thalmann**  
**Relaxation Station**  
Nominated by Susan Mykins

Relaxation Station was created as a fundraiser for the Residence Hall Association’s annual Toys for Tots drive. The program consisted of several mini-relaxation events happening at the same time. Professional masseuses and hair stylists were hired for a suggested donation towards Toys for Tots. Free facials were given, as well as information on fitness and nutrition.
2010 Award Recipients

First Place
Melitta Mendonca
Walk Among the Dead
Nominated by Eric Streeter

This program, targeted toward Freshman Architecture students, included a walk through Forest Lawn Cemetery. The objective of the program was to have a social event for the residents but to also introduce them to the architecture in Buffalo. There are several sculptures and structures throughout the cemetery by a variety of artists and architects, including Richard Upjohn and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Pierre Gautreau, Lyndsey Milcarek, Krista Simonsen, Egle Sirvaityte
Sexology 401
Nominated by Michelle Ricketts

During Sexology 401, students were given valuable information regarding sexual health, sexuality and sex toys. The goal of the program was to champion safe sex and to break down stereotypes about sexuality. There were presentations, games and mini-workshops on various topics.

Second Place
Corinna Joseph, Nitya Tarneja
Red Jacket Mela – A Carnival India Style
Nominated by Michelle Ricketts

This program was intended to be an event to educate residents about Indian culture beyond just food. It was a gathering of people, food and fun into a carnival type atmosphere. Many activities were offered to showcase some of the traditions of Indian culture and food. This program was designed to simulate an Indian “Mela” which is teaching residents how to write their names in Hindi using traditional papers, colors and designs.

Christa McPhee
Mitosis and Meiosis Worms
Nominated by Leah Gillette-Fox

The goal of this program was to educate residents on the two main types of cell division cycles, but in a fun and creative way. Gummy Worms substituted chromosomes. This provided an opportunity to the residents to see how this cycle works in three dimensions and to gain a much better understanding by incorporating a more “hands on” approach.

Third Place
Margaret Scott
Dinner with the Dean
Nominated by Justin Muzzi

Two deans from the School of Engineering and a faculty member ate dinner with residents. They also gave a presentation on the curriculum, resources the school has to offer and other important information that students would need to know if they hope to continue their program in the School of Engineering.
2011 Award Recipients

First Place
Kervin Myrtil, Itika Sebuharara
Teach me How to Dougie

This program informed residents of the history and evolution of hip hop dancing as well as teaching them how to do the dance called the “dougie”. A history of hip-hop from its origin to modern forms was presented along with a reflection on how these dances shaped and strengthened cultural identities. A student dance group assisted the residents with learning the dance.

Second Place
Arti Khanna, Omkar Potnis, Renee Jeremiah, Louis Rosario,
Brittany Sager, Stephen Shapero
Bollywood Bazaar

Designed to educate UB students about different aspects of Indian culture through media, food, history and activities, residents learned about pop culture through a Bollywood Lounge area; Indian history through a Tie-Dye area; Indian art and tradition through a henna area and about the diversity of flavors in Indian cuisine.

Third Place
Deirdre Carter, Lauren Fehntrich
Trivial Pursuit: Sex, Drugs & More

The objective of this program was to make students more aware of the resources on campus, dispelling myths associated with sex and drugs, and promoting safe sex. Through playing the game Trivial Pursuit, residents were able to teach each other about the resources on campus. Residents learned a lot and were surprised at what they didn't know!
2012 Award Recipients

First Place
Lauren Burdick
Flickinger Reads  
Nominated by Samantha Janosick

This program was created to work with a special interest population at UB—children and their families. This program helps families come together twice a month and outside the programming area to read while also encouraging literacy for children. This program provided healthy and fun entertainment to the children. The children had a chance to read books that are appropriate for their age level but also participate in activities surrounding these books to enhance their cognitive ability and recognition.

Second Place
Amanda Howe
PoverTEA  
Nominated by Jacob Adams

This program’s focus was to civically engage students to learn about Micro-finance loans in third world countries and what they could do to make an impact on multiple groups of people. A variety of tea and food options for students to enjoy and in return they were asked to donate any spare change to help HJ Halima t from Philippines to operate her dried fish business and provide for her two children. $160 was raised.

Third Place
Fahim Joarder, Jovin Panthapattu, Alvie Ahsan
South Asian Culture Night  
Nominated by Meghan Kilfeather

The program was simply geared towards promoting diversity inside the residence halls. The RAs brought a mix of three different cultures from the countries of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. They displayed their culture, music, food and other aspects to the residents through a multitude of activities and experiences—Indian food, henna art, clothing items, slideshow on holidays, celebrations, facts, etc.

James Catlin, William Nolan
Magic the Gathering: Dark Ascension Draft  
Nominated by Melissa Potocki

The main objective of this program was to reach out to all underrepresented people. The first main concern was to reach out to the shy, introverted students who don't usually attend programs. The idea was to have a Magic the Gathering Draft and Tournament where students who were interested would be able to participate in a draft and tournament of the game. The program was a success—about 69 people showed up to the program which took a total of six hours to complete.
2013 Award Recipients

First Place
Megan Schmit
Bootleg in the Basement
Nominated by Kaitlin Benedict

This program was a 1920’s themed party which incorporated several aspects of the 1920’s era and alcohol awareness in one. The residents participated in a 1920’s murder mystery dinner, Charleston/Swing dance lessons with the UB Swing Club, a taste for 1920’s inspired mocktails and Alcohol Awareness trivia. The program went really well with over 45 attendees.

Second Place
Kwasi Adusei
We Are the World
Nominated by Joel Waite

“We Are the World” was a celebration of the multiculturalism of UB’s student population as well as an attempt to recognize the highly diverse community making up the Main Street residences. This program was centered on music and dance performances from a number of participating student organizations and concluded with a sharing of traditional cultural foods.

Third Place
Ned Semoff
Go-Go Ladies Night
Nominated by Kelly Barrett

This program was an opportunity for all students to have a fun and entertaining athletic and stress-free experience. There was a company that taught a go-go dancing workshop. There were also other activities that included a manicure station, a homemade facial station, food and drinks and a movie screening of compiled movie clips. Residents also had the opportunity to learn about health related resources on campus and what services they provide.

Honorable Mention
Matthew Waldman
Motivational Interviewing: Eating Disorders
Nominated by Bianca McGraw

“Motivational Interviewing: Eating Disorders” was an interactive discussion and training session that informed Campus Living paraprofessionals with various methods on how to identify and address residents struggling with eating disorders and unhealthy eating patterns. The workshop focused on the different kinds of disorders, motivational interviewing and how staff can use them to help encourage positive behaviors and eating habits. The participants then focused on interactive scenarios, case studies and discussions on engaging students with learned motivational skills.
2014 Award Recepients

**First Place**
*Claudia Aghaie, Kathleen daSilva, Kyle Hazard*

*The Refurbish Shop*  
Nominated by Bianca McGraw

The primary objective of this program was to teach residents how they could recycle old materials and give them a new life. The Refurbish Shop was an interactive workshop designed to promote sustainability and creative money conscious decisions. The program provided ways to help students up-cycle many of their items that would normally be thrown away which saves students money in the long run and helps the environment by reducing the amount of trash brought to landfills.

**Second Place**
*Allison Brooks, Karl Casseus, Kathleen daSilva*

*Fair of Flames*  
Nominated by Bianca McGraw

The Fair of Flames was an interactive program designed to promote fire safety and the importance of evacuating during a fire alarms. Six different stations were set up and each station focused on different aspects and awareness of fire safety. Some were how to prevent a fire, correct ways to evacuate a building, how certain objects cause fires and students were able to participate in fire extinguisher training.

**Third Place**
*Adrienne Favorito, Damaris Melo*

*South Lake Formal*  
Nominated by Kelly Barrett

This program was planned so South Lake Village residents could meet other residents while learning the significance of dining etiquette. A formal dinner was provided allowing residents to practice their manners and decorum. Residents were able to have their pictures taken and enjoyed a performance by the Royal Pitches.

**Matthew Waldman**

*Main Street Chill Out*  
Nominated by Adam Waitt

This program was planned for residents to be able to relax and take a break from studying before the last week of classes. This is the most stressful week of the semester as final exams are scheduled. There were four stations that focused on wellness. The stations consisted of therapy dogs there to pet and play with, massages, healthy food snacks and arts and crafts.

**Honorable Mention**
*Conor Bennett, Julie D’Alessandio*  
Nominated by Christina Liang

Birds of Prey was a unique program that brought various birds of prey to Greiner Hall for residents to interact with. Hawk Creek provided a two hour live animal exhibit which included owls, hawks and falcons.
2015 Award Recipients

First Place
Thomas Dreitlein, Jeff Creed, Chrysalis Terrado, Kyle Schneider, Lauren Martinek, Scott Dorante
*The Intercollegiate Poetry Slam*  
Nominated by Bianca McGraw

The “Intercollegiate Poetry Slam” was an interactive and engaging event that was designed to bring together the literary communities of four local colleges for a night of excitement, competition and expression. This event was designed to be a late night program with over 250 people attending the event from UB, Buffalo State and St. Bonaventure University. A “poetry slam” is a competition at which poets recite their original pieces. Each poem is judged using a points system by members of the audience. Each poem is judged on content, performance and memorization. Poems performed are typically attention grabbing, engaging, and easier to understand than other forms of poetry.

Second Place
Micah Oliver, Milani Machicote, Angelise Vargas, Laketta Jackson, Isaiah Davis, Khadeisha Richards, Jovon Morgan, Leslie Njoku
*African Diaspora Project*  
Nominated by Ashley Goodwin

The main objective of African Diaspora Project was to bring awareness and promote diversity about the African Diaspora. The African Diaspora encompasses all the individuals around the world who have been displaced specifically due to the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Within the African Diaspora there is a multitude of languages, and various cultures spanning from North America, South America, Europe, the Caribbean, The Middle East, and Asia. The program was to celebrate the very many cultures and allow for other individuals to be exposed to these cultures. The first program consisted of Game Night/Trivia where we quizzed residents on how familiar they were with famous people that have African ancestry. The second day was the Diaspora Discussion – have honest, open and a meaningful conversation about culture and what it means to be a descendant from Africa. The third program was the Diaspora Bazaar which consisted of many performances and a reception.

Third Place
Jill Swanson
*Jill’s Birthday Party*  
Nominated by Timothy Gray

“Jill’s Birthday Party” was a program to educate residents of the Governors Complex about alcohol awareness and the dangers of underage drinking. Residents learned about specific measurements of alcohol and the effects it has on the body as well as tips to stay safe when consuming alcohol. The program was designed as a birthday party and residents had fun with music, dancing and games but also learned about blood alcohol contents, dangers of drinking too much, signs of alcohol poisoning and were given resources to utilize if alcohol poisoning does exist. Over 130 students attended the program.

Third Place
Ronald (Aaron) Bola
*Mock Admissions Committee*  
Nominated by Julie Gorman

“Mock Admissions Committee” gave residents who are pre-health majors to become an admissions committee of a pharmacy school. The student created profiles of serval different applicants to pharmacy school and the residents got to debate over who would be admitted to the school, showing them what kinds of things the health related schools such as pharmacy, nursing, medical and dental are looking for when choosing who will be admitted. The residents were required to work in teams and collaborate to come up with their answers.
2016 Award Receipients

First Place
Samantha VanEtten, Dylan Schlosser, Jose Barajas
To The Rainbow and Beyond Nominated by Katie Cleary
"To the Rainbow and Beyond” was an LGBTQ Ally program who’s objective was to build and highlight a community that supports their LGBTQ peers and colleagues. Often, people within the LGBTQ community experience hate on many levels throughout their lives. This program helped bring to the light a community of people who support and care about their LGBTQ peers and colleagues. This program was a part of UB Pride Week in October that opened the door for residents to ask questions, bring up concerns and create an inclusive environment among their peers. It created an inclusive, safe environment for residents to learn how to be a positive ally for the LGBTQ community. Resources were also available for students to take including the much coveted preferred pronouns pin. The 77 residents who attended learned how to not just say they are an ally but how to take an active role in supporting members of the LGBTQ community.

Second Place
Micah Oliver, Milani Machicote, Khadeisha Richards, Angelise Vargas, Sade Reid, Ayesha Saiful, Cynthia Mgbeojiriike, Michael Olu-Talabi, Maximillian Budynek, Javon Morgan, Keanu Carmona
African Diaspora Project 2.0 Nominated by Ashley Goodwin
The main objective of African Diaspora Project 2.0 was to bring Black History Month to the University at Buffalo's campus community at large and gives underrepresented minorities an opportunity to have their heritage celebrated. With respect to African American heritage month, the students to expand the knowledge and create awareness beyond African American History not only to all cultures but to all of the cultures who identify with African Diaspora through celebration, education, and appreciation. The African Diaspora Project 2.0 committee chose to focus around the rich concepts of Self Identity exploration, Multicultural competencies, and Privilege and oppression with four days of programs. The first day was Healthy Hearts and heath awareness. The second day was the Diaspora Dialogue, unpacking privilege. The third day was the Festival of Food and the fourth day was the Royal Pageantry.

Third Place
Kadeejah Kelly, Alexa Brown, Jillian Naylor, Lisa DeAbreu, Yarek Yankannah, Kayla Gittens
Caribbean Night – Out of Many, One People Nominated by Ryan Spearer
Caribbean Night: Out of Many,One People originated after a group of six South Campus resident advisors (RAs) came together to plan a program that focused on giving residents a taste of Caribbean culture. This passionate group of student leaders wanted to provide an opportunity for residents to engage more with the Caribbean culture and sought to allow attendees to become more aware of what constitutes Caribbean culture and Caribbean traditions through dance, food, and conversation. Approximately 112 residents from both North and South campus were in attendance and were able to walk away with a better understanding of what Caribbean culture is beyond how it is portrayed in the Media.

Honorable Mention
Hannah Griffith
Dia de los Muertos Nominated by Tim Gray
The program was focused around the 'Dia de los Muertos' holiday, which can be translated to 'Day of the Dead' in English. This program was put on to show the residents the traditional activities that are take place during this holiday. Over 75 students attended this program, which provided an opportunity not only for students to become immersed in the Mexican culture and learn more about study abroad, but also the opportunity to engage with members of the community who also attended the program.

Sada Haider
Shark Tank – Engineer Edition Nominated by Mindy Somerville
“Shark Tank – Engineer Edition”, was based on the TV series "Shark Tank” and encouraged students from the Engineering FYI living learning community to express an idea for a solution to a problem. Residents engaged in creative thinking, as well applying classroom knowledge outside of the classroom environment that energize them to all of the possibilities that they have ahead of them as future engineers.
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