

STUDENTS EXHIBITING POSTERS: Zahra Leigh Amos / Biological Sciences . Tyler Brown / Architecture . Trevor Caubang / Mathematics . Chelsea Chacha / Exploratory . Arianna Cinotti / Architecture . Andrew Derysh / Business Administration . Ben Flora / Electrical Engineering . Sophie Goodwin / Exploratory . Del Hart / Aerospace Engineering . Hannah Ikawa / Architecture . Kyle Kardysauskas / Business Administration . Simarjit Kaur / Architecture . Thomas Kish / Mechanical Engineering . Ha Hui Lei / Architecture . Trexi Lin / Business Administration . Rina Nisrin / Mechanical Engineering . Dominic Pennacchio / Computer Science . Grace Perritt / Architecture . Emily Petrinec / Chemical Engineering . Eliason Raines / Architecture . Harry Tian / Exploratory . Lola Villamonte-Stein / Political Science/Law . Connor Waasdorp / Information Technology and Management . Tre Wade / Exploratory

DIVERSITY + DESIGN: In Our Shoes

Students in the Diversity + Design course analyzed the inclusiveness of UB's campuses by documenting environmental features along a path of their choice. They also tried to imagine this journey in someone else's shoes.

Teaching Team:

Faculty: Beth Tauke

Teaching Assistants: Gabriela Zayas, Zak Wiekierak, Staci Tubiolo, Christal Smith, Gartin Lin, Omar Ibrahim, Cameron Hausfelder, Jacob Dannenfeldt, Kayla Clark, Ruth Bonnette, and Ana Alarcon



Photo from <https://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/ub-seen/slide-shows/2019/03/International-fiesta-2019.html>

Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity.

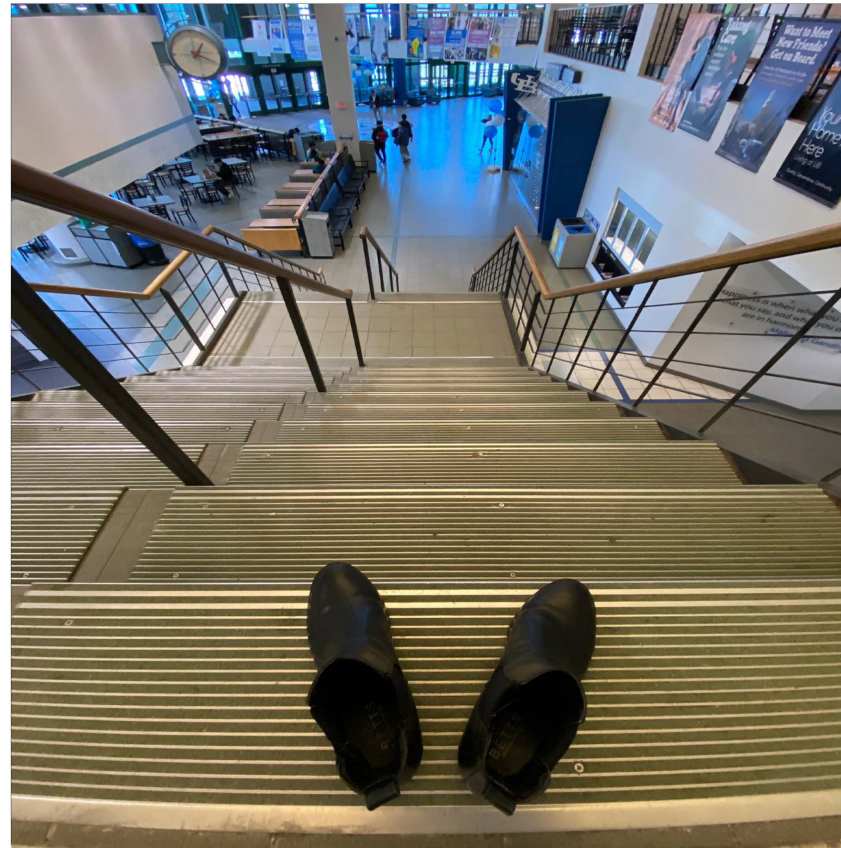
- Robert Alan

Morgan is a 21-year-old African American junior. During our interview, one of their biggest concerns was the lack of diversity encouraged by UB, except during events such as International Fiesta. They hope to see more cultural competency programs implemented at UB in order to increase awareness to the differences amongst cultures and viewpoints in college. By doing this, differences can be reconciled in peaceful and healthy ways.



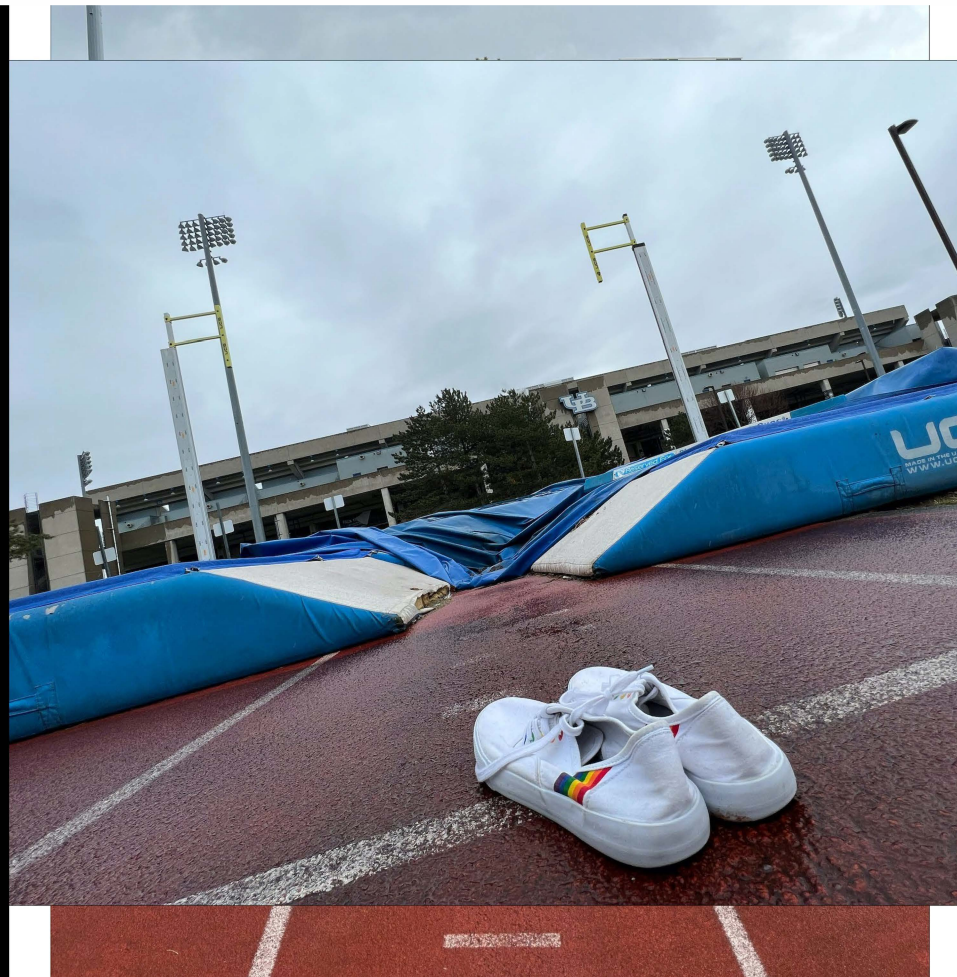
Toddler, Gabriel Moretti Fractures Three Bones on His Way to His First Day of Daycare

The son of two UB grad students, two-year-old Gabe Moretti was joyfully making his way to his first day at the University Child Care Center. He let go of his parents' hands and ran towards the building when he tripped and fell on the cracked concrete pavement. He was rushed to the hospital and diagnosed with bone fractures. According to the *Nationwide Children's Foundation*, up to 50% of boys like Gabe experience a fracture of some kind because of the fragility of children's bones.



Can't take the stairs? UB has you covered.

Hi, I'm Amanda. Last fall I broke my leg and used crutches during the healing process. I was surprised to find how much I relied on stairs and was equally surprised to learn about all the routes around the university that helped me to avoid stairs. UB's layout had my best interest at heart, with its long, flat campus design with plenty of ramps, elevators and automatic doors in every building. I would love to see UB continue in this accessibility-friendly direction!



How has design contributed to the inclusion of exclusion of transgender individuals within athletic spaces?

I'm Morgan, a trans woman who has been attending for UB for two years. In high school, I took part in several sports, but my favorite was the pole vault. Entering college, I had hopes of continuing to participate in some capacity, but soon learned how difficult this would be for me despite the design of policies that are welcoming and inclusive to all gender identities.



A study in the *Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition* found that over 50% of vending machine beverages are unhealthy because of their high sugar content. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8252244/>

My name is Marisol and I have two beautiful daughters. Now that they are in school, I am pursuing my MBA at UB. I have Type II diabetes, so I try my best to eat healthy. However, because I am busy in the mornings getting the girls ready for school, I rarely have time to eat breakfast before I leave for school. I wish vending machines here had healthier options for people like me.



The true measure of a society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.

-Mahatma Gandhi

I'm Adedayo, a forty-five-year-old man with osteoarthritis from Williamsville, NY. My wife and I went to an event at the Center for the Arts a few days ago. It was a pretty good day since my left knee was not acting up, but I'll admit that I was worried about walking too far. Unfortunately, I stumbled on an uneven path and fell into the pavement when we stopped for coffee before the event.



**Openness may not completely disarm prejudice,
but it's a good place to start.**

—Jason Collins

My name is Shana Blair, I am a 25-year-old pharmacy student here at UB. I come from a very religious Catholic family. Coming out to my friends and family as Gender Fluid was difficult because I was afraid they wouldn't understand me. Once I was honest, I realized if someone truly loves you, they will accept you for who you are. Openness is the first step. I thought this image showed how beyond the closed minds of some people, there is hope for a more open and accepting space for all.



Studies show regular hiking can reduce the risk of mental health problems by up to 50%.

<https://www.jerseyislandholidays.com/59-hiking-statistics/>

My name is Tom. I am a 54-year-old architect from Syracuse and a UB alum. I used to go hiking almost every weekend when I was younger, but a car accident that left me with foot problems. However, I still can go on short hikes. My children now go to UB and when I visit, we often hike around the North Campus. I've discovered places I didn't know about when I was here as a student because I was on the South Campus. Each hike leaves us feeling refreshed and we get to see beautiful scenery along the way.



**as designers of a just and diverse society,
help low vision and astigmatism groups?**

I'm Alexander, a 20-year-old male studying here at UB. I have an astigmatism, which makes my vision blurry even with glasses. Stairs are a challenge for me. The stairs in this photo have a number of features that help me: rails on both sides, surface grips on the edges, and lighting. My only recommendation would be to change the color on the grips so that they contrast more with the stairs themselves. That way, I could see the edges.



How can other senses best be used in design?

My name is Valentino Grey. I'm a 19-year-old UB student with albinism. Due to my genetic condition, I struggle with nystagmus which has caused me to go partially blind.

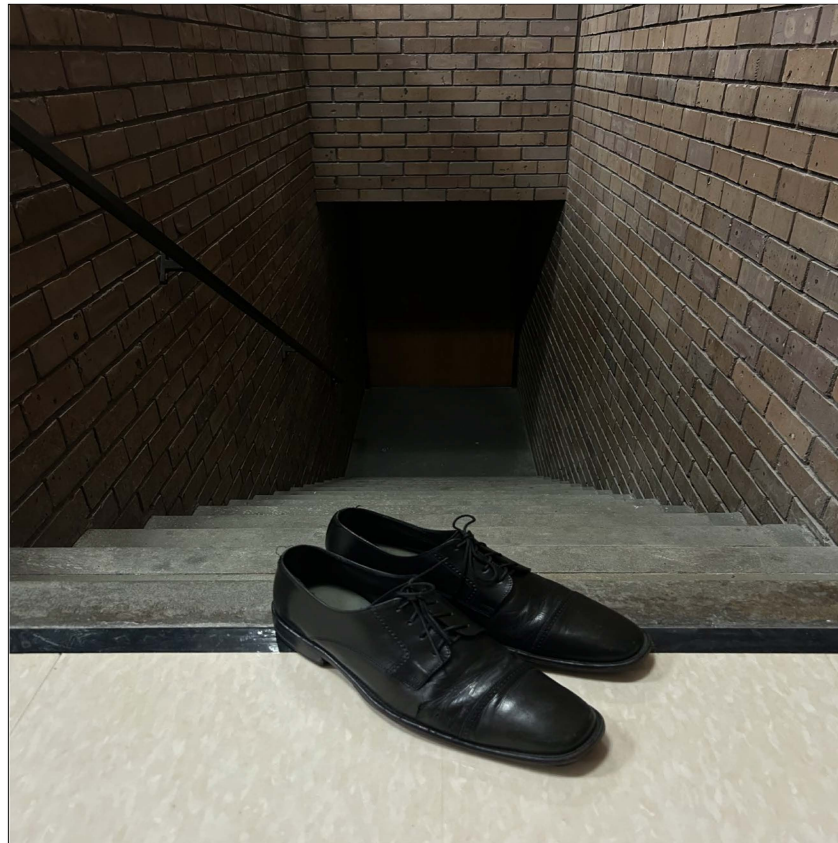
Many designers struggle to use senses other than vision to help guide people through areas of potential danger. The crosswalk at the top of this photo, for instance, has high contrast lines, but does not have truncated domes or a pedestrian signal. I would feel safer if it had multi-sensory alerts. I just hope drivers are paying attention.



plastic waste.

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/whopping-91-percent-plastic-isnt-recycled/>

I'm Charlotte, a 32-year-old woman with a passion for nature, especially the care of our environment. I want to do my part to save our planet. This study on plastics is discouraging but indicates that we need more eco-focused action. UB's All-In-One recycling program is an effective example. How could it be even more pro-active?



Over one million injuries are caused by stairway falls each year in the U.S.

<https://tengelaw.com/blog/six-stairway-safety-hazards-that-injure-the-public/>

I'm Andrew, a 76 year old retired math professor at the University at Buffalo. I still spend time here because it is a good place to work on my new novel. As I have gotten older, my eyesight has deteriorated making it more difficult for me to get around. In fact, just last month, I fell in this stairwell; it was so poorly lit that I couldn't see the edges of the steps.



Of the nearly 2 million people with disabilities who never leave their homes, 560,000 never leave home because of transportation difficulties.

<https://www.civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/transportation/final-transportation-equity-disability.pdf>

I'm Aidan, a nineteen-year-old male from NYC, who is studying here at UB. Last fall, I injured my right leg and was told there would be a chance that it would be permanently disabled. While on crutches, I had to take the bus to get to classes which was awkward and inconvenient. Because of this experience, I began to understand how transportation difficulties can affect the lives of those with mobility challenges.



Bathroom access seems basic, but only if you never have to navigate the issues that arise from a space built for everyone else's body but yours.

-Ace Ratcliff

I'm Catherine Abbott, a 32-year-old woman from NYC. I wear a below-the-knee prosthesis due to a car accident. I am a strong advocate for women's rights and disability rights. Last fall, I visited UB to hear an architect speak about inclusive design. The only accessible restroom stall was locked and out of order, so I had to squeeze into a narrow stall to take care of my hygiene needs.



According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, airborne particles can be found in smoke, make asthma worse, and cause other health problems.

-<https://aafa.org/asthma/>

I'm Carmela Romano, a 71-year-old political science professor here at UB. I protested at the South Campus in the early 1970s. I still teach because I want our youth to be politically active. My office is near O'Brian Hall; there is an exhaust pipe outside of the building. I worry about the smoke that comes out when I walk by. I have asthma and often cover my face or try to avoid walking through it. My concern is that my asthma will worsen.



The many benefits of nature and the outdoors for seniors; stronger mental health, improve fatigue, reduce sense of isolation, lower overall risk of early death, and reduce depression/anxiety.

The Benefits of Nature and the Outdoors for Seniors by Meadow Ridge

I am Reginald Fitzgerald, a retired Marine Corps Veteran and former Sergeant Major who is now 87 years old. Despite recovering from back and knee surgery and dealing with lung scarring, I remain a strong and tall man at 6'2" with a love for being outdoors, going for walks, enjoying the nature and absorbing the sun. I do struggle with early stage dementia but don't let that fool you, I am a trivia whiz!, I love spending time with my mischievous cat named Reggie Jr. However, I am widowed but have a loving relationship with my thirty-year-old daughter who is going back to UB to finish getting her degree.



Wood railings are more comfortable to grip than metal ones. They are durable, easily repairable, and sound absorbing. The warmth of wood adds to the friendliness of a space.

<https://blog.lapeyrestair.com/types-of-staircase-railings-handrails>

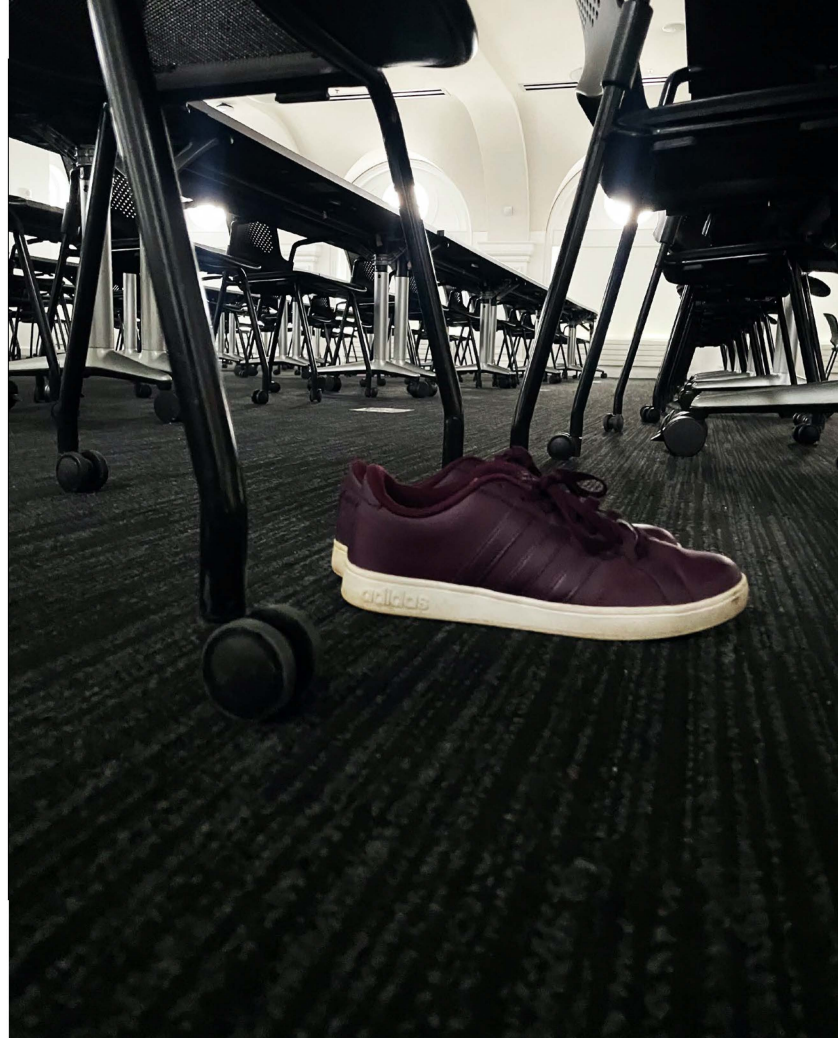
My name is Rebecca, a psych major here at UB. Since spraining my ankle, I've had to hold onto the stair railings for extra support. The metal rails are cold to touch, especially on chilly days. Some are rusty and make my hands dirty. I prefer the wood railings like those in the Student Union



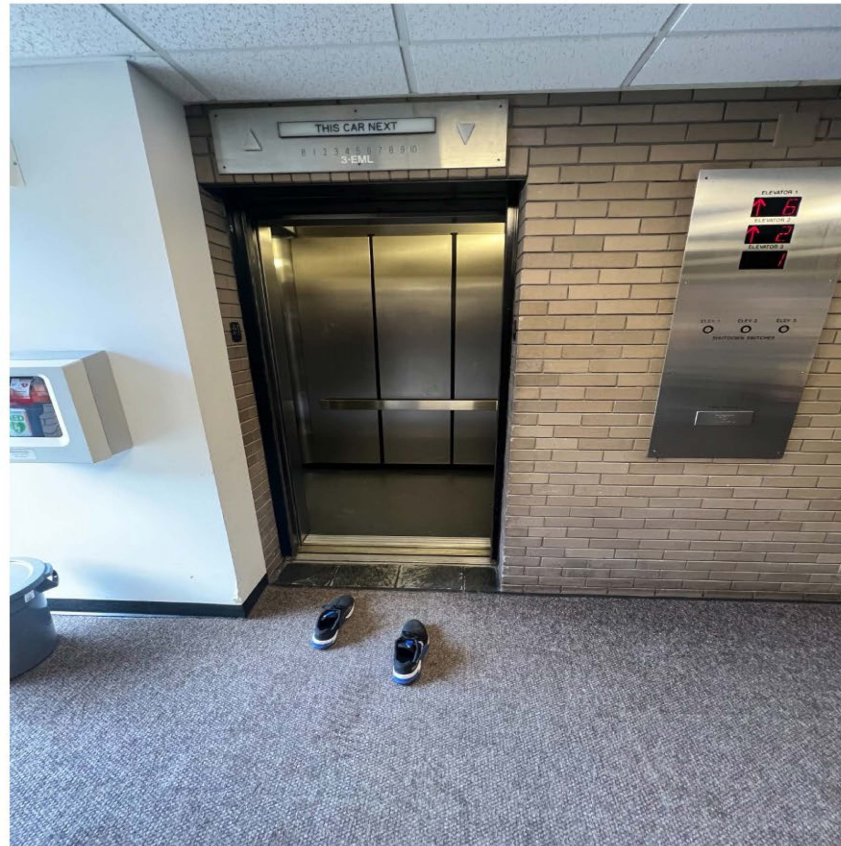
It is a federal law to repair or replace uneven or broken sidewalks as soon as possible to prevent costly trip and fall accidents.

https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/fhwasa13037/research_report/chap2g.cfm

I'm Naomi, a 25-year-old, African American single mother from Buffalo. I am working on completing my accounting degree. I have not found any affordable childcare, so I usually bring my child with me to class. Recently, my toddler was napping in his stroller when we ran over this damaged pavement on the sidewalk. I almost tripped and he was abruptly jostled awake.



I'm Alex, a UB student who is on the autism spectrum. I work hard to maintain my grades and do well, but often wonder what lies ahead for me. Here at UB, I have the support of Accessibility Resources, so I'm aware of reduced-distraction environments on campus like this one in Hayes Hall. When I graduate, will my workplace offer similar supports?



The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 11.1% of U.S. adults have a mobility disability with serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.

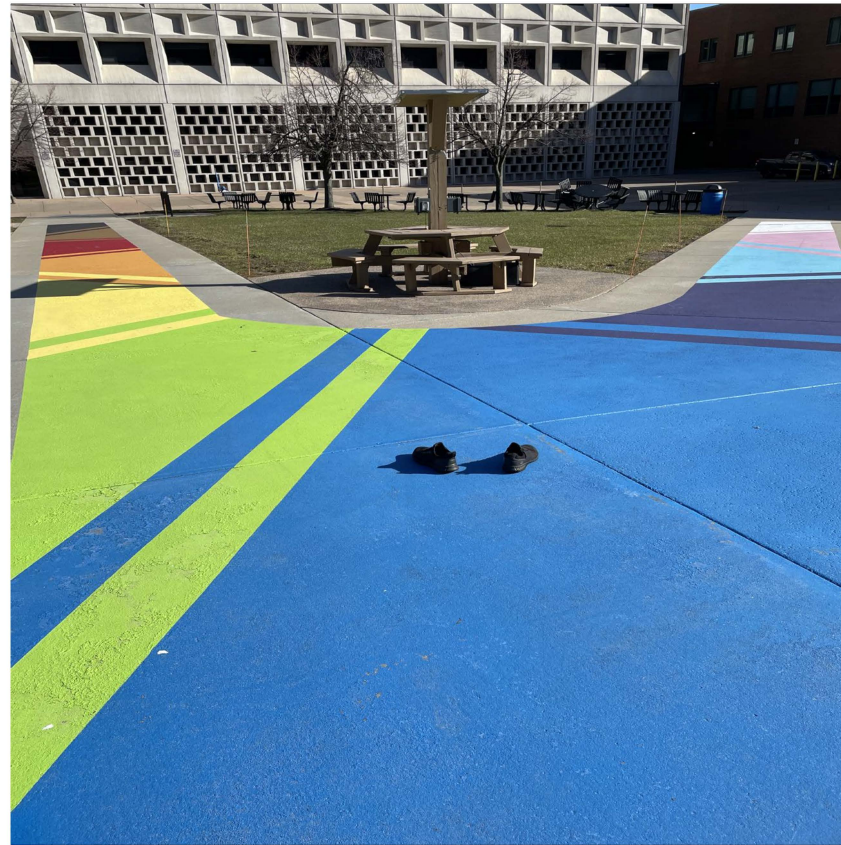
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html>

My name is Adam Stewart. I'm a retired factory worker with arthritis in both knees making it difficult for me to walk at times. My oldest grandson Jon is about to start his journey at the UB! I'm glad the campus is so accessible so that I can get around when visiting him.



Nearly two thirds of transgender students avoid school bathrooms because of feeling unsafe or uncomfortable. They risk verbal and physical harassment, no matter which of the two, sex-segregated bathrooms they enter. -Danni/y Rosen - GLSEN

I'm Casey, a nonbinary student here at UB. This place is welcoming and inclusive, but there aren't many gender-neutral bathrooms available on campus . . . yet. However, I know there are plans in the works to change that. I'm looking forward to more gender-neutral restrooms. It will help me feel more welcome on campus.



**Life is a journey that has a lot of different paths,
but any path you choose, use it as your destiny.**

-Ryan Leonard

My name is Sovann Em, and I am from Cambodia. I am a first-year computer science major here at UB. This campus is so big that it can be somewhat overwhelming at first. As an international student, I thought I was going to struggle to meet people, but, after joining a club, I now have a great group of friends, and no longer feel so apprehensive. The path I have chosen feels right. Now I see UB as really welcoming, and I look forward to the next four years here!



In 2021, the U.S. Department of Transportation reported that there were nearly 7,500 pedestrian deaths, the highest level in 40 years. How can the redesign of crosswalks change that?

I'm Joanne Goerge, a 48-year-old woman from Batavia. My son studies at UB. I walk around campus on the rare occasion that I'm visiting him, so I'm not too familiar with my way around. After walking to Davis Hall from Knox, I crossed the street and narrowly missed a speeding car. Speed bumps on campus roads with pedestrian crossings could help to prevent accidents.



Knowing the boxes only take “the push of a button,” is comforting... just seeing the blue light nearby might make someone think twice before trying something criminal.

-Olivia Racette

I'm Joseph, an 85-year-old who has trouble getting around. Knowing that there are Blue Light Boxes all over the South Campus is very reassuring for me. If I am ever in the need of assistance while I am taking my walks around campus, I find it comforting to know that within a push of a button someone can be here to help me.

Stereotypes become entrenched in society when they are not challenged or corrected. If people believe in a stereotype for a long time without encountering evidence to the contrary, it can start to feel like a fact rather than an assumption.

- Practice methods of documentation in visual and text forms
- Understand the purpose, intended audience, and persuasive techniques of communication design.
- Develop a poster that raises awareness of the inclusive or exclusive design of our worlds. *→ must be based on credible sources of research*
- * Become a change agent by communicating a message that might transform someone's attitude about a diversity/design related topic. *one can not relay a message about inclusive or exclusive design when they themselves are not directly affected by it*

Competition Charge: *how would the underrepresented group react to the message you are relaying? would they agree? would they feel offended?*

Describe the persona of someone who is different from yourself. Assuming that you are this person, take a quarter mile walk (or roll) on one of UB's three campuses. Photograph at least ten examples of ways that the built or visual environment either supports or does not support you as this person. Develop a Powerpoint presentation of these photographs with annotation.

To combat stereotypes, it's important to challenge them when we encounter them and to educate ourselves about different groups of people.

- In some cases, a page should include **research** that further explains the content of the photograph. For example: If you show a photograph of high heels stuck in a sidewalk grate, you might add additional information like the following: According to a University of Maryland study, in 2020, there were an estimated 6,290 high-heel related emergency department visits in the U.S. involving women ages 15-69. *should have citation on every slide*

*A large part of this project should be research & talking to people.
∴ text next to photograph has to include research that helps why the design feature helps or hinders a under represented group*

To better comprehend and empathize with individuals from different backgrounds, it is necessary to conduct extensive research through scholarly articles and primary sources.

The importance of acknowledging one's privilege cannot be overstated when attempting to understand and empathize with individuals from diverse backgrounds. It is vital to recognize that one will never fully know what someone else is going through because of their personal experiences and cultural differences.

Rather than doing the project, I critiqued the project brief to point out instances where content might lead to stereotyping.