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Welcome to Your UB, the University at Buffalo web log. This blog is meant to be a community resource where you can learn about the university, we can exchange information, and you can read about the activities and individuals making a difference in our communities around the world.

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Upcoming Events

Fruit Belt Clean-A-Thon
University Community Farmers Market
Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk

Friday, May 28, 2010

Getting the Lead Out

 8:00 AM



Photo: UB doctoral student Bernadette Clabeaux (center) and Kathleen McCormick (far right), Green to Clean project manager for Keep Western New York Beautiful, with a fifth-grade class at Futures Academy, Buffalo Public School 37.

With help from a UB graduate student, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students from the Futures Academy got their hands dirty last October learning about phytoremediation—how plants remove contaminants from soil—and the dangers of lead in their backyards.

Bernadette Clabeaux, a UB doctoral student in biological sciences, worked with the students during a month of hands-on experiments and classroom lessons she developed as part of Green to Clean, a New York State project designed to educate Buffalo residents about lead contamination.

Clabeaux is a second-year fellow in a National Science Foundation-funded UB program called ERIE, which stands for Ecosystem Restoration through Interdisciplinary Exchange. During Clabeaux’s program at Futures Academy, students learned where lead comes from (commonly, from paint used on houses built before 1978) and how it enters plant and human tissues.

“Lead is a common contaminant found in the soils surrounding the Futures Academy and neighboring houses,” said Clabeaux.

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<http://ow.ly/17mQk8> about 23 hours ago
 New Blog Post: Getting the Lead Out - Photo: UB doctoral student Bernadette Clabeaux (center) and Kathleen McCormic...
<http://ow.ly/17xr9F> 4 days ago
 New Blog Post: Fruit Belt Future - Photo: The corner of High and Locust streets as it is today. On April 5, the Rev...
<http://ow.ly/17wDYd> 5 days ago
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To observe phytoremediation in action, students placed white chrysanthemums in water with green food coloring and watched the plants turn green as they absorbed the dye. Then they planted seeds in the Futures Academy Garden and learned which plant species can help clean lead-contaminated soils.

Fruit Belt residents also met at the school for a similar Green to Clean garden design workshop, and took a tour of neighborhood gardens.

Green to Clean is funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and sponsored by Keep Western New York Beautiful in collaboration with the UB Center for Urban Studies and Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo.

This article is from [UB Downtown](#), News for UB's Downtown Campus Neighborhoods. Read the newsletter [online](#).

Labels: [preK-16](#), [UB downtown](#)

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