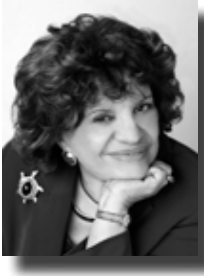


2009 Inductees

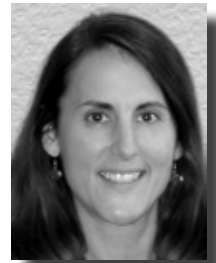


Catherine Collins, Ph.D.

Catherine Collins is a woman of many facets. A writer, teacher, nurse, college dean, television host, school board member, world traveler, she fills the description of the “Renaissance Man” but, being a woman, she is just plain remarkable. A graduate of University of Buffalo’s Nurse Practitioner Program, she began her writing career to fill a gap in the literature on African-Americans, especially women. After seven published books, and two more on the way, she has accomplished that goal. Her books, Lectures, teachings on health issues, a documentary on South African women’s prisons, and community service have earned her numerous awards. A former teacher at UB, Erie Community College, where she was assistant academic dean, and Medaille College, she now is an associate professor in Empire State College. She has been an at-large member of Buffalo Board of Education since 2004, currently serving on five of its committees.

Donna M. Fernandes, Ph.D.

Donna M. Fernandes took the nation’s third oldest zoo from the brink of extinction to a ranking as one of the country’s best zoological parks that is today a primary destination for hundreds of thousands of Western New Yorkers. When Dr. Fernandes became the first female president of the 125-year-old Buffalo Zoological Gardens in 2000, the facility had deteriorated to the point where its accreditation was threatened. With the cooperation of the Zoological Society’s Board, she initiated a 15-year, \$75 million master plan, a blueprint for total renovation of the 23.5-acre facility. She is one of the chief fund-raisers for the ambitious plan and its most visible ambassador to an increasingly appreciative public. Beset by funding crises and animal rights activists, she remains focused on making Buffalo’s zoo an educational, entertaining, exciting venue for people of all ages and a comfortable and healthy environment for a diverse animal collection.



Beverly (Bonnie) Foit-Albert, R.A., Ph.D.

Bonnie Foit-Albert, architect, business woman and historic preservationist, is one of a handful of women introducing diversity into a traditionally male profession. Daughter of an architect, Dr. Foit-Albert came under the spell of Buffalo’s exceptional architecture at an early age and she links her career choice to her love for the city’s buildings. As founder and president of Foit-Albert Associates, Architecture, Engineering and Surveying, P.C., she is doing more than her share in preserving many of them. The M. Wile building, Richardson Complex and buildings in the Cobblestone District are among the landmarks that have benefited from her expertise. Her award-winning designs distinguish the restoration of unique cultural buildings and sites such as the Chautauqua Institution, the Buffalo Zoo, and the Botanical Gardens. An adjunct associate professor emeritus in University at Buffalo’s School of Architecture, she received the American Institute of Architects excellence in teaching award, one of the many accolades that come her way.

2009 Inductees

Celeste Lawson



The name Celeste Lawson is synonymous with Western New York Culture. Even before taking on the high-profile job of executive director of the Arts Council of Buffalo and Erie County, Lawson was a well-known and respected member of the arts community. Her creativity as a dancer/choreographer in the late 1980s was recognized by repeated grants and awards. Turning to poetry in the 1990s she enhanced her reputation in Buffalo's literary community and through essays and articles in local media she established a voice in the arts community. As a delegate to the 1995 United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, she met women of many cultures, who inspired poems collected in "I Was Born This Way." Lawson's tenure has enriched artists and audiences and it is hard to imagine what the arts and cultural community of Buffalo would look like without her 30 years of leadership and advocacy.



Nancy McGlen, Ph.D.

Dr. Nancy McGlen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Niagara University, is known as an outstanding educator, gifted researcher and inspirational administrator. Author and co-author of several books and articles on women in politics, she is recognized as an authority on women's issues and has been a mentor of professional women in the academic and business world. Her community work includes establishing the Niagara County Commission on the Status of Women where she co-authored the first report on the political status of women in the county. She is in demand as a speaker on women's issues ranging from domestic violence to women in top government positions. Her book credits include *Women, Politics and American Society*, *Women in Foreign Policy*. The Western New York Regional Committee of the Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education gave her the 2005 Bernice Poss Award.

Marylouise Nanna



Marylouise Nanna, a first violinist with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and founder and conductor of Ars Nova Musicians, has been entertaining audiences and inspiring musicians for more than 50 years. Born into a musical family, she started her career as a promising violinist studying with an impressive array of artists and winning a string of awards for study in Italy and the United States. An aspiring conductor she was the first female to conduct the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, DC, before bumping into classical music's glass ceiling. In the mid-1960s she was invited to join the BPO where she is acting assistant concert master. Since 1978, Ars Nova, the highly acclaimed chamber group, has flourished under her baton. She is guest artist with orchestras in the US and Canada and shares her expertise with musical organizations from symphony orchestras, opera groups and choral ensembles.



Evelyn Pizarro

The first Hispanic female principal in Buffalo's public schools, Evelyn Pizarro has been an inspiration to young women of all backgrounds. During her tenure as principal D'Youville Porter Campus School's students, many of them disadvantaged, were brought up to speed in all the subjects needed to achieve a "good standing" rating. Beginning with her first job in 1978 as a pre-kindergarten bilingual teacher, Pizarro has made access to education her top priority and she spent much of her 30-year career advocating for thousands of Spanish-speaking pupils and their families. Among her many honors over the years was the declaration of a day in her honor by the City of Buffalo which cited her for providing hope and opportunity for future generations. She has continued the tradition in retirement working with Hispanic organizations and developing after school programs for children through the Father Belle Community Center.