



### **IDEA Center Staff Lecture and Present Research Nationally and Internationally**

On August 24, Professor Edward Steinfeld presented the results of six years of research conducted by the IDEA Center on the anthropometry of wheeled mobility users to the International Codes Council's A117 Committee for their consideration in revising the ICC/ANSI A117.1 accessibility standard. This standard is used as a basis for accessibility codes across the country. This research demonstrates that contemporary wheeled mobility devices and their users as well as their maneuvering abilities require significantly larger spaces than the current standards and codes require. The implications for revising accessibility standards will be discussed by the Committee over the course of the next year. The research was sponsored by the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Access Board. Plans are under way to collect more data and discussions have started to conduct research using the IDEA Center methods on a global scale. A report on the results of the project can be found at <http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/Anthro/FinalAccessReport.pdf>.

In September 2006, Professor Edward Steinfeld delivered a presentation at the Danish Building Research Institute on recent research completed on the anthropometry of wheeled mobility at the IDEA Center, which he directs. European researchers and accessibility experts are interested in using the IDEA Center methodology to complete similar research as part of efforts by the International Standards Organization to develop an international standard on accessibility. Dr. Steinfeld met with Swedish and Danish experts to learn more about their research activities in the field of accessibility and universal design.

On October 19, Post-doc Dave Feathers presented a paper entitled, "Three-Dimensional Variability of Static Anthropometric Dimensions: Considering Anatomy, Behavior and Process" at the 50th annual meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, in San Francisco, CA. This paper outlined the technical challenges of taking body measurements in three-dimensions. These measurements are a part of the IDEA Center's initiative for building a national database of wheeled mobility users. Specific challenges of training and measurer performance were discussed. This paper precedes an IDEA Center training initiative to the University of Pittsburgh, in an expansion of the data collection sites for the national database of wheeled mobility users.



Jue-Feng presented a paper based on a research project supported by the RERC on UD titled "A quantitative methodology for assessment of wheelchair controllability" at the *Human Factors and Ergonomics Society 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting* in San Francisco this fall.

In October 2006, Beth Tauke was a featured speaker at the Universal Design Symposium: A Wisconsin Discussion. This symposium was sponsored by the Department of Health and Family Services and was established to begin a dialogue on the educational needs and the growth of professional, organizational, agency, and public awareness about the creation of communities and environments that promote the inclusiveness of all people, specifically people with disabilities.

Beth Tauke, Associate Professor – Architecture, presented a paper on the Universal Design Identity Project at the Second International Conference for Universal Design in Kyoto, Japan in October 2006. 14,700 people from 29 countries participated in the symposium.

Associate Professor Beth Tauke delivered an invited lecture at the Universal Design Symposium: A Wisconsin Discussion in fall 2006. This symposium was sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services/Pathways to Independence, and was initiated as part of a plan to ensure that by 2012, Wisconsin will have created an environment that fully includes persons with disabilities in the core activities of community life, including employment. The specific goals of the symposium were to 1) initiate a statewide discussion on the development of a systematic and coordinated plan for increasing awareness of Universal Design principles for professionals, students, agencies, and the public, and 2) create a venue for cross-disciplinary discussions for furthering community inclusiveness.

In her lecture entitled “The Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in Design Education” Tauke addressed the reasons that design education traditionally has not focused on inclusion, and argued that, especially with increasing globalization, inclusive design education is necessary for design practice to be a primary catalyst for social justice and cultural change. She introduced symposium participants to the Diversity and Design general education course at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and suggested strategies for incorporating similar courses into general education curricula throughout the U.S.



Figure 1. Group of first year students from the architecture program at the State University of New York at Buffalo where diversity issues are incorporated into the curriculum.

### **Freedom by Design**

The IDEA center is proud to continue providing mentorship for Freedom by Design, a student organization at the University at Buffalo that teaches students about universal design through community involvement. Freedom by Design is a non-profit, student-directed community service program organized through the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). Freedom by Design utilizes the talents of students as designers and builders to design and construct home modifications for disabled members of our community who cannot afford to modify their

environments themselves. It is an excellent opportunity for architecture students to put the knowledge they gain in school to use for the people in Western New York who need it the most.

This program was first introduced to the University at Buffalo as a pilot program two years ago. Since that time, UB's chapter has been rapidly producing outstanding work that has made profound impacts on the lives of physically-impaired citizens in our community. Due to the dedication and empathy of the students, this chapter has become a national leader in the program and has received considerable attention for its level of design, production, and craftsmanship.

The program at the University at Buffalo regularly benefits from collaborations between its students and the professional IDEA staff. To learn more about the program, including information on how to sponsor this highly-important endeavor, please contact Matthew Zych, Freedom by Design chair, at [aias@ap.buffalo.edu](mailto:aias@ap.buffalo.edu).



Figures 1 and 2: Images of bathroom modification

Freedom by Design team



## Steinfeld Appears in Universal Design Newsletter

The January 2007 edition of the Universal Design Newsletter, published by Universal Designers & Consultants, Inc., includes an article on Edward Steinfeld's four decade commitment to human-centered design. In addition to Steinfeld's educational background and professional achievements, the article describes his recent work both in and out of the classroom. In spring 2006 Steinfeld taught a graduate architecture studio that designed a new cabin prototype for Cradle Beach Camp, an overnight camp on Lake Erie that serves children with disabilities and underprivileged youth.



Steinfeld and his grandchild

He currently teaches Design for the Lifespan, a graduate architecture course, and is also working on refining the Principles of Universal Design, launching a new website (UD E-World) and writing a book.

The complete article can be found at <http://www.universaldesign.com>.

## Maisel Article Published in Planning Journal

Jordana Maisel, Director of Outreach and Policy Studies at the IDEA Center, recently had an article published in COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Journal of the Community Development Society. The article, "Towards Inclusive Housing and Neighborhood Design: A Look at Visitability", appears in the autumn 2006 Special Issue on Disability and Community Development. The paper explores trends in the visitability movement, as well as the challenges and controversies currently surrounding the movement and threatening its future success.



## Universal Design Identity Project

The Universal Design Identity Program (UD-id) project, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, was initiated to promote increased understanding, acceptance, and use of universal design by a broad international audience of consumers, design professionals, industry leaders, government leaders, and academics.

In this project, co-investigators Beth Tauke and Alex Bitterman researched public perceptions of universal design, and used this information to develop an international identity program. They

developed a multi-sensory symbol and attendant guidelines that can be used to identify products, media, graphics, and built environments that are universally designed.

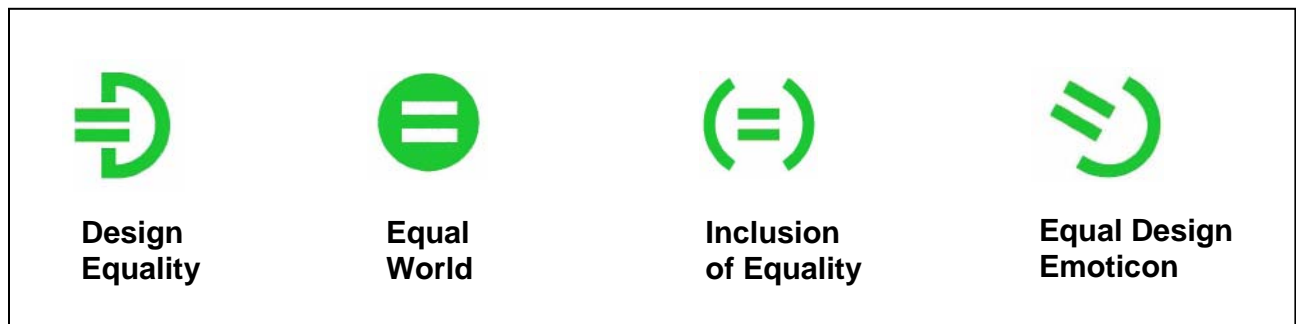


Figure 1. Four examples of prototype international UD symbols. Note: All symbol prototypes are copyrighted so that they will not be used in unintended ways. When the final identity program is approved, The IDEA Center will make it available for use.

The website for the project is <http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/udidweb/home.html>



### **Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology (FICCDAT)**

Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and March of Dimes Canada are pleased to announce FICCDAT, the Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology, a global festival bringing together five distinct conferences focused on enhancing the lives of seniors, persons with disabilities and their caregivers.

On June, 16-19, 2007, the world's leading experts will come together in Toronto, Canada. The abstract submission deadline is November 6th, 2007. Attached to this email please find the general brochure advertising FICCDAT 2007. Please visit the website <http://www.ficcdat.ca> for conference updates.

## Opportunity to Publish

The Editor for Universal Design for the new magazine Ultimate Home Design is looking for relatively short, non-academic and well illustrated feature articles on recently completed new or remodeled homes, with an emphasis on **universal design** (<http://www.ultimatehomedesign.com/>).

Ultimate Home Design is reaching out to architects and the building industry in general. As such, it presents a wonderful opportunity to make project work known in the real world.

There are no deadlines, it's simply 'first come first served', and the Editor will guide prospective authors through the fairly rapid and simple publication process.

For more information, please contact Wolfgang Preiser at [Preisewg@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:Preisewg@ucmail.uc.edu)



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## The IDEA Center Proudly Supports Global Universal Design Educators Online News

Beginning with the November/December 2005 issue, the Global Universal Design Educators Monthly Online News (GUDEON) is now being published with support from the IDEA Center. The quarterly publication is produced and distributed for the Global Universal Design Educator's Network by Elaine Ostroff, Editor and Publisher, and Diane Richard, Researcher and Editorial Assistant. The Network is a loose coalition of people committed to universal design education. In addition to reaching the Network's 300 subscribers, a link to the most recent edition of the GUDEON and its table of contents will now be distributed to the IDEA Center's E-Newsletter subscribers. The GUDEON will also be translated into Japanese and reprinted in the quarterly print *Universal Design Magazine*.



For the latest issue of the Global Universal Design Educators Monthly Online News go to [http://www.universaldesign.net/gudeo\\_news.htm](http://www.universaldesign.net/gudeo_news.htm)