



### Buffalo State's Bulger Plaza Ribbon Cutting



Buffalo State College's Bulger Plaza officially reopened on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 with a symbolic ribbon cutting ceremony. The quadrangle between the Student Union, Butler Library, Cleveland Administration and Bulger Communications underwent a complete renovation and re-design which included major utility replacements, new planters with seat walls, an exterior dining area, and many other changes to soften and landscape the quadrangle.

The academic quadrangle is a main center piece to the campus and was a blank paved surface with two planters. Vice President for Finance and Management, Stanley Kardonsky, Ph.D., and the Campus design committee wanted to create a greener, more inviting environment for the students and faculty after replacing sanitary sewers, storm drainage, waterlines, power, communications, gas, and site lighting. The addition of large landscaped planters and seating created a more pedestrian friendly quadrangle, reduced rainfall runoff, and treated the rainfall runoff through a sand filter before discharging stormwater to Scajaquada Creek.

The State University Construction Fund retained Watts to design and administer the construction contract to renovate utilities and Bulger Plaza renovations.

**Ed Watts, Sr., Mike Pratt** and **Alan Matricardi** attended the ribbon cutting ceremony with the new College President Aaron Podolefsky, Ph.D.

### Organizational Changes at Watts

Watts is pleased to announce the following organizational changes:



**Ed Watts, Jr.**, has been named President of the firm. He has been with Watts for seven years.

**Phil Galbo**, Transportation Department Manager has been named Chief Operations Officer at Watts. He has been with the firm for 18 years.



**Mike Pratt**, Civil/Structural Manager was named Principal. He has been with Watts for seven years.

**Rick Marczewski**, Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Department Manager, was named Principal. He has been with Watts for five years.

**John Honan**, civil engineer of the Transportation Department was named Senior Associate. He has been with the firm for 14 years.

**Kevin Janik**, environmental engineer in the Environmental Department was named Senior Associate. Kevin has been with the firm for 13 years.

**Tim Major**, civil engineer of Transportation Department was named Senior Associate. He has been with Watts for 12 years.

**Rick Blanch**, also a mechanical engineer of the MEP Department was named Senior Associate. Rick has been with the firm for three years.



## New Section of U.S. Route 219 Officially Opens

On November 19<sup>th</sup> the 4.2 mile extension of the U.S. Route 219 Expressway, from NY Route 39 to Peters Road, was opened for traffic.

Our construction inspectors have been assigned to the project since it began in 2007. Work on the current extension, which has been planned for decades, has nine new bridges, including the massive twin steel-arch spans that cross Cattaraugus Creek at the border of Erie and Cattaraugus counties.

Also included in the upgrades are a 41-acre wetland and wildlife observation area in Hinman Valley, Ellicottville, which is designed to mitigate any effects the construction of the extension has had on area wildlife. The extension is the fifth of the nine planned sections for the route, which state transportation officials designed to stretch from West Seneca to Interstate 86 in Salamanca, and is part of the "Continental 1" route from Toronto to Miami.



**Phillip Galbo** was the Project Manager for Watts. **Mary Gunning, Lisa Uschold, Ken Peters, Richard Card** and **Shirley Uhrich** were assigned to the project which is the largest construction inspection contract in the history of the firm.

## NEW: QUALITY CORNER

As part of the new firm wide *Quality Initiative*, we are pleased to present the first Watts' Happenings Quality Corner. The Quality Corner will be an ongoing segment that discusses the different aspects of quality. To help achieve our ultimate goal of delivering a quality product on-time and within budget, we need everyone to embrace the importance of consistently producing a quality product for our clients – external and internal.

One of the first steps in creating a quality product, is understanding and following company policies and procedures. Policies & procedures are necessary for consistency in day-to-day activities. They provide clarity when dealing with accountability issues or activities that are of critical importance to the company, such as, health & safety, legal liabilities, regulatory requirements or issues that have serious consequences.

Some of the benefits of following policies & procedures include:



- ✦ Employees are provided with information that allows them freedom to carry out their job and make decisions within defined boundaries.
- ✦ Employees understand the constraints of their job without using a "trial and error" approach.
- ✦ Employees clearly understand individual & team responsibilities.
- ✦ Consistency facilitates collaboration. Everyone having the same goals and working under the same parameters makes teamwork easier.
- ✦ Allowing managers to exercise control by exception rather than "micro-managing" their staff.

Guidelines provided in policies and procedures allow employees to perform their jobs with respect and dignity and allow managers the freedom to concentrate on strategic issues because policies and procedures are in place to guide the normal day-to-day operations.

## Watts' Scholarships

To help proactively increase diversity in the local architecture and engineering industry, we have established two undergraduate scholarships to assist aspiring African-American students with tuition at the SUNY at Buffalo; one at the School of Engineering that began in the fall of 2010 and the other at the School of Architecture and Planning beginning in the fall of 2011. These scholarships will assist one architecture and one engineering student each year for four years with the opportunity for an internship at Watts.



These scholarships provide the opportunity for our firm to help identify, support and mentor local minorities interested in pursuing careers in the construction industry.

This program is an example of our firm's commitment to help rebuild our community by being engaged in the education and development of the future of the architecture and engineering professions.

## Historic Cobblestone Streets Reconstructed

On Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, the city of Buffalo went back in time with the unveiling of four reconstructed cobblestone roads.

The waterfront improvement project included the reconstruction of Prime, Lloyd, Perry and Hanover Streets. Some of the cobblestone used was recovered from Buffalo and Cleveland, Ohio.

Mayor Byron Brown, Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation Chairman Jordon Levy and others did the honor of cutting the ribbon and answered questions from local media.



DiDonato was the prime consultant and Watts assisted in the construction monitoring for the project.

**FEBRUARY**



Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> - Bandits vs. Swarm  
 Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> - Sabres vs. Maple Leafs  
 Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> - Sabres vs. Islanders  
 Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> - Sabres vs. Maple Leafs  
 Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> - Sabres vs. Blues  
 Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> - Bandits vs. Wings  
 Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> - Sabres vs. Capitals  
 Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sabres vs. Thrashers  
 Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> - Sabres vs. Senators  
 Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> - Sabres vs. Red Wings  
 Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> - WWE Monday Night Raw

## Employee Milestones

In December 2010, at the company holiday party, we celebrated a few Employee Milestones...



**Kevin O'Connor** (left), Environmental Department, was the first technical employee that Ed hired on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1990. Kevin celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> year at Watts and received a crystal award saying "Inch by inch, Action by action." Congratulations!

**Matt Holquist** (right), also of the Environmental Department, celebrated his 10 year anniversary. He was hired on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Congratulations!

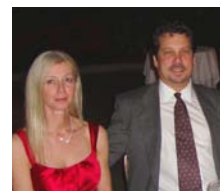


## Employee News

**Kirk Miller** and his wife Arisara recently had their second baby, Brynn Karis Miller, born on December 16, 2010. She was 5 lbs. 13 oz. and 18.75 inches long. She joins her older brother Liam at the Miller home.



**Scott Matthews** was married on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to his new wife Kiersten Raquel. Congratulations!



# 2010 Holiday Party at Rich's Atrium



On Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, Watts held our annual Holiday Party. For the second consecutive year, it was at Rich's Atrium on Niagara Street in Buffalo.

We had another great turn-out - 115. Guests came and enjoyed the food, drinks and desserts. Take a look at some of the scenes from the night...



The night's honorees, Kevin O., Matt



Bob F., Onda and Connie enjoy a drink



Mike C., Karen and Chris L. pose



Jim C. and Jason D.



Ed Jr., Ken W., Jim W. and Kris S.



Donna and brother Pat



Steve, Jeanette say cheese



The Galbo's



Rebecca, Chris L. and Mike C.



Greg A. and Kevin J. smile



Rick M. and Bob T.

## REMINDER:

Your contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. Please submit them to Becky Mingoia or Jim Waddell in the Marketing Department.

**WATTS**

ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING, P.C.

architecture | engineering | environmental



e: [marketing@watts-ae.com](mailto:marketing@watts-ae.com)  
w: [www.watts-ae.com](http://www.watts-ae.com)



95 Perry Street, Suite 300  
Buffalo, New York 14203  
p: 716.206.5100  
f: 716.206.5199

South Side Innovation Center  
2610 South Salina Street, Suite 2B  
Syracuse, New York 13205  
p: 315.443.8611  
f: 315.443.8605