

SAVE THE DATE

LAUNCHING SUNY INITIATIVES ON  
**Mindfulness & Health**

A multidisciplinary scholarly conference

March 4, 2016 ☞ The University at Buffalo

Center for the Arts, North Campus 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Be there for the first SUNY-funded scholarly conference to foster research and education on mindfulness across the disciplines.

NEW!

CALL FOR POSTER PROPOSALS

See the [RFP](#) for more details  
Submit [here](#) by January 10, 2016

LEARN ABOUT OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

David Vago, Ph.D.  
Brigham & Women's Hospital  
Harvard Medical School

Daniel Barbezat, Ph.D.  
Amherst College  
Center for Contemplative Mind In Society

Joseph Belluck, Esq.  
Trustee, State University of New York

ATTEND THE CONFERENCE

SEE MORE CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

THIS CONFERENCE IS SPONSORED BY  
THE SUNY CONVERSATIONS  
IN THE DISCIPLINES PROGRAM

Mindfulness is a cognitive training process that enhances awareness, attention, and the ability to bring mental and emotional processes under greater voluntary control. Over the last 25 years, research in a multitude of fields including neuroscience, medicine and the health sciences, psychology, and education has demonstrated far-reaching benefits of mindfulness on health, learning, and well-being, including:

- Ameliorating symptoms of chronic illness
- Enhancing mental health as a therapy for anxiety and depression
- Increasing focus, attention, and critical thinking
- Improving academic learning
- Improving social well-being by managing emotions and instinctive reactions
- Managing stress and stress-related disease

**REGISTER NOW - ONLY \$20!**

But much more remains to be learned. This conference will convene the many state-wide SUNY projects on contemplative pedagogy, mindfulness-based stress reduction techniques (MBSR), mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT), and other research to identify the range of existing SUNY work on mindfulness, identify gaps in the research, and begin to develop a SUNY-wide research agenda on mindfulness and all forms of well-being.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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**David Vago, Ph.D.**  
**Psychiatry and Neuroscience**  
**Brigham & Women's Hospital**  
**Harvard Medical School**

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David Vago is an associate psychologist in the Functional Neuroimaging Laboratory, Brigham & Women's Hospital, and an instructor at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Vago's research interests broadly focus on utilizing translational models to identify and characterize neurobiological substrates mediating psychopathology, to better predict outcomes and potential biologically-based diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for those suffering with mental illness. He aims to clarify adaptive mind-brain-body interactions and their therapeutic relevance in psychiatric settings. In this context, Dr. Vago has been specifically focusing on the study of mindfulness-based interventions in clinical settings, and the basic neuroscientific mechanisms by which mindfulness-based practices function.



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**Daniel Barbezat, Ph.D.**  
**Economics, Amherst College**  
**Center for Contemplative Mind**  
**in Society**

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Daniel Barbezat is Professor of Economics at Amherst College where he specializes in economic history. He is also Executive Director of the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, the national hub for contemplative teaching and learning in higher education. The Center is committed to the positive transformation of the education system by supporting the use of contemplative/introspective practices to create active, engaged learning environments. Dr. Barbezat has lectured on contemplative learning and pedagogy at more than 60 Teaching & Learning Centers nationally. His latest book, *Contemplative Practices in Higher Education: Powerful Methods to Transform Teaching and Learning* (Jossey-Bass), was released last winter.



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**Joseph Belluck, Esq.**  
**Trustee,**  
**State University of New York**

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SUNY Trustee Joseph W. Belluck is a founding partner of Belluck & Fox LLP, a nationally-recognized law firm that represents individuals with asbestos and mesothelioma claims. A dedicated, compassionate attorney recognized for high ethical standards, Mr. Belluck has spent his entire legal career representing injured consumers and workers. A graduate of Binghamton University and the SUNY Buffalo Law School, he is an advocate for contemplative pedagogy in higher education.



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## MORE CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

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Catherine Cook-Cottone, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of  
Counseling, School, & Educational Psychology  
University at Buffalo

Sherri Darrow, Ph.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Epidemiology &  
Environmental Health  
University at Buffalo

Ronald Epstein, M.D.

Professor of Family Medicine,  
Psychiatry, & Oncology  
University of Rochester Medical Center

Dan Huston, Ph.D.

Professor of English  
New Hampshire Technical Institute

Michael Krasner, M.D.

Professor of Clinical Medicine  
University of Rochester Medical Center

Hedva Lewittes, Ph.D.

Professor of  
Exceptional Education & Learning  
SUNY Old Westbury

Steven Lynn, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor of Psychology  
Binghamton University

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## Attending the Conference

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This one-day conference will begin at 9 a.m. on March 4, 2016 at the [Center for the Arts](#) at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York.

The Center for the Arts is located on the University's North Campus. Blocks of rooms are reserved at the [Comfort Inn Amherst](#) (\$85/night) and [Candlewood Suites Amherst](#) (\$95/night) nearby. Mention "UB's Mindfulness & Health Conference" for these special rates when you call to reserve.

Click [here](#) for directions to the University and maps of campus.

**REGISTER NOW - ONLY \$20!**

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## Why Mindfulness & Health?

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U.S. expenditure on health care is greater than any other country, yet statistics related to life expectancy and other health and well-being indices are disproportionately low. Chronic disease is the leading cause of death and disability in the U.S. New York's medical and healthcare dilemma mirrors that of our nation; its costs are overwhelming our state budget.

A shift in focus from illness to prevention and wellness is paramount. Such a shift requires the collective research, activism, and organization of individuals and groups across campuses, institutions, disciplines, cultures, and ethnicities, from practitioner and pedagogical perspectives.

Sue Mann Dolce, Ph.D.  
Associate Director of  
Consultation & Research  
Accessibility Resources  
University at Buffalo

And more to come ...

Fostering multidisciplinary research and education in mindfulness across the SUNY system will provide a foundation for New York State to lead in the development of solutions not only for our nation's burgeoning chronic health problems but also for global health concerns.

## Request for Poster Proposals

Do you work with mindfulness-based approaches to health and well-being?

The Planning Committee for *Launching SUNY Initiatives on Mindfulness & Health* invites proposals for the poster session of this one-day multidisciplinary conference on March 4, 2016.

The conference will convene the many SUNY projects on contemplative pedagogy, mindfulness-based stress reduction techniques (MBSR), mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT), and other mindfulness-related research. In the poster session, the Committee seeks to showcase the breadth of mindfulness-based work being conducted state-wide by faculty, staff and students. Thus, we welcome a wide array of topics, including campus-, classroom-, clinical-, therapy-, and research-based initiatives.

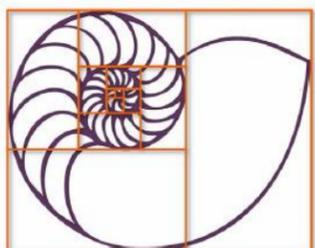
Proposals are due [here](#) no later than **January 10, 2016**.

THIS CONFERENCE IS SPONSORED BY



Conversations in the Disciplines Program

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SUNY Contemplative Network



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