Buffalo State is recognized as a national leader in social mobility through higher education.
Anthropology student Brittany McCall sifts through history at Buffalo State’s Archaeological Field School at Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown, New York. McCall and fellow students spent the summer excavating the site of Building 428, a barracks used by French soldiers from 1756 to 1813.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRUCE FOX
**The Bengal Effect**

Buffalo State has been recognized as a national leader in social mobility through higher education.

**Kickin’ It World Cup Style**

Caitlin Murray, ’07, authors a definitive book on the U.S. Women’s National Team.

“Both the group and I went on that journey together. I found my leadership.”

**DONOR PROFILE**

PAUL CALLSEN, ’74

**ALUMNI PROFILES**

LIS GALLANT, ’12

JOSH LIPKA, ’12

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Defining the Bengal Effect

As we prepare for the start of another academic year, I am reflecting on the impact that college has on each student who makes the good choice to spend his or her undergraduate or graduate years at Buffalo State. As students begin their journeys here, they often express competing emotions. They are excited to be starting this new chapter of their lives. Yet many express nervousness over what their classes will be like, or the new and unknown expectations of their faculty members. Others are hoping to gain every experience they can from their new home away from home. New students have all these combined thoughts, feelings, and emotions as they join us.

What is most significant, however, is the Bengal effect on students. This effect is what students will take away from Buffalo State as they graduate and transition to a first job, a new job, or additional study. For many of our undergraduate students, the completion of an undergraduate degree will solidify them as leaders in their families. Upon graduation, they are ready to walk through a door that leads to a career and opportunities that will set their entire family on a new trajectory. To be a first-generation college student is to be an explorer in a new land. They are carving a path that future generations will later walk, and they have increased their opportunities to make a mark on their yet-to-be-developed careers. For first-generation students, this Bengal effect results in positive outcomes that propel individual and collective success.

Regardless of a family’s tradition within higher education, the Bengal effect is also about finding one’s path to accomplishment. Students frequently begin their undergraduate program without knowing what their major will be. In this case, the Bengal effect means that through working with outstanding faculty members across multiple disciplines, students will discover the topics and areas of study that are of greatest interest and generate the greatest passion.

And those who will be entering their graduate programs this year will find a pathway toward deeper learning, heightened career preparation, and opportunities to excel in what are often established directions.

But for both graduate and undergraduate students, Buffalo State provides opportunities for engagement, an outstanding academic experience, and multiple ways to connect with our surrounding and faraway communities.

As we move through summer, I enjoy the anticipation of every new academic year. I also long to know and hear the true effects of a Buffalo State education that are shared often and freely by our graduates. Across generations and across majors, in both undergraduate and graduate programs of study, I hear similar acknowledgments. The Bengal effect is deep and memorable, and it takes graduates to a place where they can be their best selves. This is a wonderful story that I never tire of hearing. I continue to add more stories to my treasure chest and appreciate each tale with all its unique details.

Follow the President: Katherine S. Conway-Turner, Ph.D., is a regular on social media. Follow her at @kate_kct & BuffStatePrez & @BuffStatePrez
MAGAZINE TOPS IN SUNY

For the second year in a row, 1300 Elmwood magazine received the Best of Category award for magazines from the State University of New York Council for University Advancement (SUNYCUAD). The annual SUNYCUAD Awards for Excellence are judged by peers from across the 64-campus SUNY system.

ontheweb

www.youtube.com/user/officialbuffalostate

The Buffalo State channel is full of great videos. Check them out!

• Students Who Soar’ Series
  Meet some of Buffalo State’s finest students.

• Bengals Who Roar’ Series
  Meet some of Buffalo State’s hardworking student-athletes.

• Bengals at Work’ Series
  Meet Buffalo State alums finding career success.

• 2018-2019 Buffalo State Athletics Benji Awards Video
  Opening video from the annual Athletics awards ceremony.

• Buffalo State Music Department
  Student musical performances from the past academic year.

yourturn

COLLEGE UNVEILS NEW MARKETING THEME

Believe. Inspire. Achieve. That’s the new theme you’ll see in marketing promotions for Buffalo State College. Those three simple words capture the progression of each student’s journey at the college—starting with the belief in one’s potential, continuing with inspiration from our diverse faculty, staff, and student body, and culminating with the achievement of a life-changing degree.

Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, ’83, announced in February that the city has entered into a designated developer agreement (DDA) with Buffalo State College—via the college’s affiliate BSCR Corporation—to redevelop the city’s auto impound lot, which is located to the immediate west of campus at 166 Dart Street.

The DDA provides an 18-month period for the college to develop a plan for the 8.8-acre parcel. The final development plan is subject to Buffalo Common Council review and approval.

“Buffalo State would like to thank the City of Buffalo for supporting and selecting the college’s affiliate, BSCR Corporation, to serve as the designated developer for the city’s impound lot property,” said Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner. “As a landlocked institution, this is a rare opportunity to extend the campus footprint, while also contributing to the exciting revitalization of Buffalo’s West Side.”

Buffalo State celebrated the grand opening of the Nutrition Education Counseling Center (NECC) in Caudell Hall in February. A partnership between the Weigel Wellness Center and the Health, Nutrition, and Dietetics Department, the NECC provides the next generation of dietitians with firsthand experience counseling clients on the importance of limiting fat and sodium, eating plenty of fresh produce, and making lasting dietary changes. The center also assists Buffalo State students who are struggling with such issues as eating disorders, obesity, and hypertension.

The center also offers individual nutrition evaluations and counseling, group nutrition sessions, nutrition seminars, cooking demonstrations, “dine with a dietitian,” and grocery tours. Services are available to all Buffalo State students and are covered by the student health fee. Elizabeth Miller, a recent graduate of Buffalo State’s dietetics program, is the NECC’s clinical coordinator.
Martin, Veffer Headline Commencement

More than 2,400 grads join alumni ranks

Buffalo State conferred degrees on more than 1,830 undergraduate and 580 graduate students during its 147th Commencement celebration on May 18 in the campus Sports Arena.

Graduating seniors I’Jaz J. Eberhardt, Nicholas W. Gray, Hibbah Mojawalla, Zhanna E. Reed, and Allison R. Torsey were honored with the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence, and Torsey addressed the audiences at the baccalaureate ceremonies as the recipient of the President’s Medal for Outstanding Undergraduate Student. Win Min Thant delivered the address at the graduate ceremony as the recipient of the President’s Medal for Outstanding Graduate Student.

Jesse L. Martin, an actor and singer best known for originating the role of Tom Collins on Broadway in the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical Rent and for his work on television’s Law & Order, received a SUNY honorary doctor of fine arts and delivered the Commencement address. Sophia Veffer, ’71, Holocaust survivor and retired special education teacher, received a SUNY honorary doctor of humane letters.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was granted to Michele Fairchild Marko, ’72, nutrition professional and community leader. Morgan Williams Bryan, ’03, senior vice president for community engagement and member services of the Girl Scouts of Western New York, and Mo Sumbundu, ’13, ’17, assistant director of the Regional Economic Development Council of Western New York, each received the Young Alumnus Achievement Award.

Kois Named Burchfield Penney Executive Director

The Burchfield Penney Art Center at Buffalo State appointed Dennis Kois as its new executive director, effective April 22. With more than two decades of experience in museums, Kois comes to the Burchfield Penney from the Milwaukee Public Museum, where he served as president and CEO. He also previously served as executive director of the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Boston and of the Grace Museum in Abilene, Texas.

“Dennis brings with him an exceptional record of visionary and transformational leadership, fundraising, and community engagement—experience that will serve the Burchfield Penney well as it continues to support Buffalo State’s mission as SUNY’s urban-engaged campus,” said Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner.

A native of Wisconsin, Kois graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and earned a master of arts in museum studies from New York University.

Conway-Turner Named Middle States Commissioner

Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner has been elected as a commissioner for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the regional accrediting agency for institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The 29-person commission provides oversight for accreditation and pre-accreditation activities at more than 500 member colleges and universities. Her term runs through December 31, 2021.
IPDS Receives Simon Spotlight Award

NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the world’s largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education, honored Buffalo State as one of three national winners of the 2019 Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award in March. The award recognizes a specific international program or initiative that contributes to internationalization on campus.

Buffalo State was recognized for its International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) Consortium. Established in 2012, IPDS has blossomed into a unique learning opportunity offered by the college’s School of Education and Global Engagement Office. Undergraduate and graduate teacher candidates are placed in international schools in such countries as Zambia, Chile, and the Dominican Republic for short-term service-learning opportunities, where they engage in immersive teaching and learning initiatives.

Campus volunteers planted 35 trees along Bengal Walk north of the Student Apartment Complex, between Rees and Grant streets, at the Big Dig Tree Planting on April 27. Organized by Friends of the Maud Gordon Holmes Arboretum, Campus Planning, and the Grounds and Garage crew, the project was designed to diversify the types of trees in the campus arboretum and offset those lost through the years to storm damage, construction, infestation, and disease.

Science and Math Complex Phase 4 On Track

Phase 4 of the Science and Mathematics Complex construction project—a final addition that will connect the complex’s main entrance and lobby to the three-story atrium—remains on track. This final phase of the renovation and expansion of the Buffalo State Science Building began with the demolition of the vacant south wing in June 2018.

The lobby’s main focal point will be the new Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium, a 35-foot-wide spherical facility which will offer visitors a chance to see the stars from the vantage point of Earth, as well as travel to other planets and galaxies through a state-of-the-art digital projection system. The lobby will also feature a café and seating area. Phase 4 also adds large lecture halls, classrooms, a greenhouse, graduate student space, faculty offices, and research labs for biology, chemistry, and earth sciences. The project is slated for completion in fall or winter 2020.
Business Major Named Newman Civic Fellow

Chrisjarvell Adams, a business administration major entering his senior year, was named to the 2019–2020 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows by Campus Compact, a national nonprofit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a one-year experience emphasizing personal, professional, and civic growth for students who have demonstrated a capacity for leadership and an investment in solving public problems. Campus Compact recognized 262 students nationwide with the fellowship.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is supported by the KPMG Foundation and Newman’s Own Foundation.

Alumnus Presents Portrait to President of Ethiopia

BuomKuoth Thot, ’16, arrived in the United States from Ethiopia in 2006. Thirteen years later, the entrepreneur, fine arts alumnus, and former student-athlete returned home to shake the hand of Sahle-Work Zewde, Ethiopia’s first female president, and give her an 11-by-14-inch oil-on-canvas portrait of her he painted in 2018.

Initially posted on his Facebook page in late October, the exquisite painting gained over 3,000 shares. Thot then received a message from Aster Zauode, President Zewde’s sister, offering to introduce him to the president. On his next visit to Ethiopia, Thot met with Zewde for more than 30 minutes, discussing the painting, business, and her plans for leadership in Ethiopia.

“She talked about how she wanted to make things more equal for everyone,” said Thot, who went by the name Bumkoth Jiak while he was a student at Buffalo State. “I saw in that moment that she was a good role model, not just to me, but to everybody, especially the younger generation coming up.”

City Hall in the Classroom

Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, ’83, brought a little bit of City Hall to the classroom this academic year, serving as a lecturer in the public administration and nonprofit management program. He shared his experiences in government with students taking PAD 540: U.S. Public Policy, a master’s level course.

Mayor Brown also hosted his 2019 Mayor’s Summer Youth Internship Program, a work-readiness training program, on campus.
### Athletics

**2018–2019 Benji Awards Announced**

Buffalo State’s Intercollegiate Athletics held its third annual Benji Awards on April 28 in the Rockwell Hall Performing Arts Center, celebrating the outstanding team and individual accomplishments of the 2018–2019 season.

The Oscar-like awards show paid tribute to 47 seniors in the Class of 2019. The event also recognized Golden Bengal Service Award recipient Lynn Rogers, senior career counselor in the Career Development Center, and handed out nine “Benjis” to the evening’s top honorees:

- **Male Senior Scholar-Athlete Award**: Mac Wood, Hockey
- **Female Senior Scholar-Athlete Award**: Cassie O’Herrn, Softball
- **Male First-Year Athlete of the Year**: Theo Pencic, Soccer
- **Female First-Year Athlete of the Year**: Nisa Raquib, Track and Field
- **Male Athlete of the Year**: Theo Pencic, Soccer
- **Female Athlete of the Year**: Ronnie Kordrupel, Cross Country/Track and Field
- **Hube Coyer Award (Male Outstanding Career)**: Robert Williamson, Soccer
- **Ruth Houston Award (Female Outstanding Career)**: Ronnie Kordrupel, Cross Country/Track and Field
- **Team of the Year**: Men’s Soccer

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### Girls in Sports Day

**Kordrupel, Raqib Win SUNYAC Titles**

Senior Ronni Kordrupel, a nominee for the prestigious NCAA Woman of the Year award, and freshman Nisa Raquib earned individual titles at the SUNYAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships in May, while the Bengals team finished fifth at the meet. Kordrupel won the 1,500-meter run with a school-record time of 4:40.29 and also claimed the 800-meter run in 2:17.58. Raquib won the triple jump with the second-longest mark this season in Division III at 12.10 meters.

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### Skuse Was Finalist for Ashe Award

Senior women’s lacrosse player Kendall Skuse was honored by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine as the third runner-up for the 2019 Arthur Ashe Jr. Female Athlete of the Year award. The annual honor, which is named after the late tennis champion and civil rights activist, recognizes outstanding young women who have distinguished themselves in their academic and athletic pursuits. A speech-language pathology major, Skuse maintained a 3.97 cumulative GPA. She is also active in the community, volunteering with numerous local organizations and serving as a tutor in Buffalo State’s Tutoring and Learning Center.

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Bengal Bookshelf Books by Buffalo Staters

**Crossing the Street with Tyler and Max** Claudia (Mazur) Tan, B.S. ’74
Tan, who worked in the aviation industry for more than 25 years and was the editor of a weekly newsletter for a major U.S. airline, wrote this children’s book about twin brothers finding their way in the world. (2018, Outskirts Press).

**Fortress of Gold** David Harten Watson, B.S. ’92
This teen and young adult fantasy novel is book two in the Magicians Gold Series and a sequel to the award-winning Magic Teacher’s Son (2018, Pen-L Publishing).

**Don’t Call Me Chip** Neil O’Donnell, B.A. ’93

College Hosts Largest-Ever Spring Open House

Buffalo State hosted its largest Spring Open House on record on April 6, with nearly 1,300 total guests attending the event to welcome future Bengals and their families to campus. Forty-five percent of the attendees were from Western New York, while 24 percent hailed from New York City. The college’s Instagram traffic increased 225 percent during Open House as families posted photos from the event.

Students Produce First Fully Staged Opera

Students enrolled in Vocal Chamber Music, a course in the Music Department’s new performance concentration, joined forces with the college’s String Chamber Ensemble last spring semester to produce the first fully staged opera in the history of Buffalo State.

The groups presented Henry Purcell’s seventeenth-century opera *Dido and Aeneas* in a free performance on May 8 in Rockwell Hall. Thirteen vocal students, four string students, and two professional musicians participated in the three-act opera under the direction of Holly Bewlay, associate professor of music.
Growing up, Johnel Rodriguez made meals from sugar and milk when there wasn’t any other food in the two-bedroom apartment he shared with his parents and three siblings in Brooklyn, New York.

His parents, while loving and supportive, did not graduate from high school. They were both employed but struggled to support the family. Outside their apartment, Rodriguez’s neighborhood was riddled with violence and drugs. Girls often got pregnant before finishing high school.

“From a young age, there was a lot of pressure to join a gang or to partake in gang-like activities—robbery, assault, selling drugs,” he said. “Selling drugs, in particular, seemed more lucrative to most of us than going to school.”

Rodriguez knew he needed a lifeline to carve out a different kind of future. He found that lifeline at Buffalo State, specifically on the first floor of the Technology Building, where he discovered his affinity for working on the smart grid, a digital electricity network. Even before graduating in May 2019 with a degree in electrical engineering technology, Rodriguez was offered an associate engineering position with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power that pays $84,000 annually, starting in July.

Buffalo State is recognized as a national leader in social mobility through higher education.

By Laurie A. Kaiser
CollegeNET, a Portland, Oregon–based company providing technologies to colleges, universities, and nonprofits, recently recognized Buffalo State for buoying students like Rodriguez. CollegeNET ranked Buffalo State 82nd out of 1,380 benchmarked schools in its most recent Social Mobility Index national rankings.

These rankings are based on colleges’ and universities’ effectiveness in enrolling economically disadvantaged students and graduating them into well-paying jobs.

“Buffalo State has a proud and successful history of lifting students up toward better futures,” said Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner. “Higher education is a great equalizer in today’s society—opening the door to a better life for all individuals, no matter their race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic status. That is the Buffalo State story. We take great pride in providing students from all backgrounds the opportunity to believe in themselves, to be inspired with knowledge, and to achieve their goals.”

This mission is a central part of Buffalo State’s long legacy. For generations, the college has provided a leg up into the middle class or beyond for individuals who otherwise would be working menial jobs, never realizing their full career potential.

“I owe a lot to Buffalo State’s hardworking faculty,” said Ronald Peters, ’59, who directed the Labor Education Program at the University of Illinois until his retirement in 2002. After Buffalo State, Peters earned his master’s at Syracuse University and Ph.D. at Michigan State. “They exhibited an enthusiasm for learning that was infectious, particularly to working-class kids like me who found the opportunity to attend Buffalo State the key to an expanded worldview and a chance for a fulfilling career. I thank my lucky stars that place was there and was able to accept kids like me.”

William “Will” Smith, ’96, now a global clinical lead in clinical development at Bayer Pharmaceuticals, expressed a similar sentiment.

In 1990, he was a 25-year-old working at a nightclub in downtown Buffalo when he began to think about attending college. He hadn’t considered this path before, given his family’s limited finances and his own insecurity about his academic abilities.

When he first took the competency exams in algebra and writing, he failed. So he began at Buffalo State as a nonmatriculated student and took remediation courses.
Buffalo State moved up 19 spots this past year to enter the top 100 of CollegeNET’s most recent Social Mobility Index (SMI) national rankings.

The SMI, which is now in its fifth year, ranks four-year U.S. colleges and universities according to how effectively they enroll economically disadvantaged students and graduate them into well-paying jobs. Buffalo State now ranks 82nd nationally in the SMI out of 1,380 benchmarked schools.

The SMI is computed from five variables: published tuition, percent of student body whose families are below the U.S. median income, graduation rate, reported median salary 0-5 years after graduation, and endowment. While tuition and economic background of the student body are the most sensitive variables in the SMI, three other variables in descending order of sensitivity are also critical: graduation rate, early career salary, and endowment.

Jim Wolfston, CEO of CollegeNET said, “Given that the U.S. is now the least economically mobile among developed nations, it is irresponsible to say an education institution is ‘better’ because it has a huge endowment, or because it admits students with higher SAT scores—which are most tightly correlated to family income. It is irresponsible to say an institution is ‘better’ because it drives up admissions application counts, turns away more students and then boasts about ‘selectivity.’ In today’s world, where the American dream is threatened, real prestige must accord to universities that educate and advance all motivated students, regardless of their economic background. This is the new kind of prestige that the Social Mobility Index seeks to promote.”

The SMI ranking follows news from the Chronicle of Higher Education that showed Buffalo State at the top of a national list (all public master’s institutions) of campuses that experienced the largest percentage increase in the enrollment of underrepresented minorities between 2010 and 2016. In 2010, unrepresented minorities made up 23.1 percent of the student body. By 2016, 42.4 percent of all students were underrepresented minorities (a 19.3 percentage point increase).

In addition to the accolades from CollegeNET and the Chronicle, Washington Monthly magazine named Buffalo State a “Best Bang for Your Buck” college four years in a row, while Insight Into Diversity magazine awarded the college the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award six years in a row.

### 2018 SMI Rankings

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<th>Rank</th>
<th>SMI</th>
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<th>Median Early Career Salary</th>
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<td>$40,800</td>
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Source: [http://www.socialmobilityindex.org](http://www.socialmobilityindex.org)
“I found Buffalo State to be very supportive and encouraging to a nontraditional student like me,” Smith said. “This, combined with my performance—getting myself quickly out of remediation—really changed my perception of my ability to succeed in academics.”

During his second semester, a chemistry course for non-science majors piqued his interest, and the late Edward Schulman, then chair of the Chemistry Department, convinced Smith to enroll as a chemistry major. Before long, he was completing undergraduate research and applying to medical schools. After earning his M.D. from Stony Brook University’s School of Medicine, he launched a private practice in internal medicine and nephrology before transitioning into clinical trial work.

“When my medical school education ultimately established my career path, Buffalo State defined who I would be as an adult and gave me the academic skills to succeed in all that has transpired professionally,” he said.

Committed to Student Success

The college’s commitment to social mobility continues today with students like Bridget Kyei, a May 2019 graduate. Raised in both Ghana, Africa, and the Bronx, New York, Kyei was a first-generation college student who entered Buffalo State through its Arthur O. Eve Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).

“In the summer [orientation] before our freshman year, a professor told us that without a purpose, failure is inevitable,” she said.

His words inspired Kyei to burrow into her studies and discover courses that sparked her imagination. Her grades rose. She applied to the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program, which at the time allotted space only to incoming freshmen, and was accepted her sophomore year.

“She confirmed my initial perceptions about her perseverance to succeed,” said Andrea Guiati, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and former director of the Honors Program. “She is bright, hardworking, and socially minded. She will be as successful professionally as she was academically.”

Crystal Rodriguez (no relation to Johnel), ’05, an assistant professor in the Criminal Justice Academy at Bronx Community College, has achieved far more than anyone else in her family.

“While my medical school education ultimately established my career path, Buffalo State defined who I would be as an adult and gave me the academic skills to succeed in all that has transpired professionally,” he said.
Her dedication both in and out of the classroom caught the attention of the Peace Corps, which accepted her for a two-year placement in Armenia beginning in fall 2019. First, Kyei has two summer obligations—to work for a New York City organization that helps international students acclimate to the United States and to return to Ghana to intern with a nongovernmental organization combatting child and sexual abuse.

“When I lived in Ghana, I didn’t dream much of the future,” she said. “I know these kids’ dreams are limited, but I can enlighten them of the opportunities available through study and working hard on their given talents.”

Likewise, Crystal Rodriguez, who received the Buffalo State EOP Distinguished Alumnus Award in May 2019, instills hope in the next generation of students coming from backgrounds of poverty and limited choices.

“The majority of students at my college are first generation. Sixty percent are Latino; some are first-generation Americans,” she said. “I understand the challenges and the pressures they face. I have had students successfully complete their bachelor’s degrees and continue to master’s programs. I feel fortunate that I can work with them and set them up for success, as my professors did for me.”

If a student wants to pursue academics in an institution that models AWARENESS AND CIVIC responsibility, the SMI can provide a valuable guide. In the end, the greatest returns to self from work, academic or otherwise, come from delivering benefits to family, nation, and our world. Families and students who understand this, and want to MOVE UP EFFICIENTLY to a position of social and economic influence in our country will gravitate to high SMI schools.

—CollegeNET
If you search “famous American soccer players” on Google, the top 20 results include only four women.

Even though women’s sports get far less coverage than men’s, the U.S. women’s national soccer team (USWNT) has won four World Cups and four Olympic gold medals, set record TV ratings, and earned massive revenues for FIFA and the U.S. Soccer Federation.

Longtime soccer fan and sports journalist Caitlin Murray, ’07, knew the USWNT had an incredible story. And she didn’t want to wait for someone else to tell it.
MURRAY, who has a bachelor’s degree in journalism, leveraged her professional experience in sports reporting and her personal passion for soccer to write her book. “I felt like there was a lack of coverage of the women’s team leading up to this summer’s World Cup. I thought to myself, ‘I feel this way and I am a journalist, so why don’t I just provide the coverage?’”

Murray published The National Team: The Inside Story of the Women Who Changed Soccer (Abrams Press, 2019), a 300-page book that chronicles the team’s history from the 1980s to the present, leading up to the 2019 World Cup games, which were held in France this summer and won by the USWNT.
Team USA’s popularity skyrocketed in 2015 after the USWNT won its first World Cup since 1999. The final between the United States and Japan was the most-watched soccer match in American history, with nearly 27 million viewers.

“There’s such a rich history worth digging into, I feel like the book could have been triple the size.” Murray said. Her book is the first nonfiction full-length work to provide a full history of the USWNT.

“The biggest challenge was coordinating interviews and tracking down players who had been out of the public eye for a while,” Murray said. “During my research for the book, I learned so many new stories and so much new information.”

Murray interviewed nearly 100 current and former players, coaches, and others involved with the USWNT.

“The book is not just for the soccer insider,” she said. “It can be read by anyone interested in learning more about the team.”

Her freelance work garnered attention from the Guardian, which hired her to cover the 2015 World Cup. She has written about soccer for the New York Times, ESPN, Fox Sports, and Yahoo Sports. Murray is based in Portland, Oregon (which she says is an incredible soccer city). She served as a Guardian correspondent for this summer’s World Cup.

As a college student, Murray interned at the Tonawanda News as a part-time reporter and later went on to work for the Niagara Gazette and the Buffalo News. She said the real-world experiences she received through internships and classroom assignments provided a solid foundation for her career.

“When I got my first job, I felt prepared because it’s what I had been doing already as a student,” she said. Murray said being a successful journalist requires tenacity and personal drive.

“I would tell an aspiring journalist to always keep writing, find freelance work, build relationships, and avoid writing for free if you can,” she said. “You can’t expect things to just happen for you. You have to push yourself to make things happen.”

Her book, The National Team, is available in Barnes & Noble locations across the country and at online retailers like Amazon.

“CAITLIN MURRAY, ’07, COVERED THE 2019 FIFA WOMEN’S WORLD CUP FOR THE GUARDIAN.”
faculty profile

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING
As a young girl, Stephani Foraker, a cognitive psychologist and associate professor of psychology at Buffalo State, soloed as an apprentice to the Alberta Ballet in Canada. She then danced professionally for 10 years with the Ohio Ballet.

The two disciplines surprisingly intersected for her. Foraker, who specializes in memory and the role of gesture in memory and communication, first discovered those subjects on the dance floor.

"As a dancer, I developed spatial awareness and noticed patterns through body movement," she said. "I spent a lot of time on repetitive movements while learning a choreographer's steps. You have to learn to trust the process and dive into the material without analyzing."

When she began to study psychology as an undergraduate—a degree she pursued at the end of her dancing career—she was intrigued by how the body and the mind work together to communicate.

"The body and mind are two sides of the same coin," said Foraker, who joined the Buffalo State faculty in 2008 and teaches such courses as Psycholinguistics and the Psychological Power of Language.

"You use your body to recover knowledge," she said. "Say you walk into a room and forget what you wanted. Often, once you walk back in, you'll remember what you needed."

In her postdoctoral studies at the University of Chicago, Foraker focused on gestures, and how humans use their bodies to complement language. One of the biggest things she discovered was how hand gestures work as part of co-reference. They help clarify who or what we are talking about, such as which person in a story dropped his coffee.

She has studied how different settings affect the use of gestures. For instance, in a formal business situation, we might use our hands less than in an informal one with friends. While the use of gestures is very individualized, and some people rely on them more frequently than others, gestures serve a crucial role in being understood.

"We can be unclear in our speech and make up for it with the pictures we draw with our hands," she said. "Our hands help us craft a better message."

Closely studying body language can also reveal what lies underneath a speaker's words. "Someone can say one thing while their body language belies what they are saying," she said. "They may be lying, or they may have discomfort for some reason. If you know the signs, it becomes easier to spot a liar. Unless it's a pathological liar, and then such detection is almost impossible because they've created a narrative that is real to them."

She said law enforcement officials or border guards may first ask people easy questions they know the answers to, such as "Where do you live?" Then they have a baseline of that person's truth telling. They can use that baseline to discover if someone is trying to hide something in subsequent questioning.

Foraker said she probably isn't better than anyone else at ferreting out liars, but she does listen to her gut more than she used to.

"If something doesn't feel right, your unconscious is picking up information that is valuable," she said. "Listen to it."

Even with her busy teaching schedule, Foraker continues to dance, primarily contemporary style with Anne Burnidge Dance.

"I've had to learn how to turn off the analytical part of my brain and just be in the moment," she said.

It may seem an unusual career trajectory—from ballet dancer to psychology professor—but Foraker said there are several psychologists and neuroscientists who are former dancers.

"Both short-term and long-term memory must be used to perform, not unlike teaching and research," she said. "You are constantly putting the past and the future together."

Stephani Foraker, associate professor of psychology, earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Akron and a master's and doctorate in experimental psychology from New York University. Before joining Buffalo State, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Chicago. She received the President's Award for Excellence as an Undergraduate Research Mentor in 2016.
Bengala ‘Under the Big Top’

Buffalo State’s 22nd annual Foundation Scholarship Gala—now known as “Bengala”— featured an “Under the Big Top” vintage circus theme in the Campbell Student Union Social Hall on April 13. This year’s event shined a spotlight on students and programs from across campus. The always-popular live auction this year included special experiences for attendees to bid on, such as a cooking class with the Hospitality and Tourism Department and a trip to Italy with the School of Education. Guests were also treated to a performance by students in the theater program.

Buffalo State College Foundation board member Jonathan Amoia and his wife, Rachel, chaired this year’s gala. Presenting sponsors were M&T Bank and Merchants Insurance Group. Proceeds from the event fund scholarships for students enrolled in the college’s honors programs.

Join in!
To make your gift, contact the Buffalo State College Foundation at (716) 878-3141 bscfoundation@buffalostate.edu giving.buffalostate.edu
Paul Callsen, ’74

Some folks retire in Florida and then kick back and relax on sandy beaches. Not Paul Callsen. He retired in Florida to put his second college major to use on dusty work sites. “What can I say?” he said. “I really like being the 70-year-old who’s still digging around in the dirt.”

Callsen, who majored in political science and anthropology at Buffalo State, leaned on the former major during a 20-year career as a public works director in Sunrise, Florida, and previously with the mayor’s office in El Paso, Texas. And over the past 10 years, he has relied on the latter major in his post-retirement gig as a contract archaeologist for Janus Research, a cultural resource management firm.

“Nowadays, I work largely on construction monitoring,” Callsen explained. “When a road is widened or a new development is built—especially in places where there is reason to believe that there may be items of prehistoric or historic significance—we observe the contractors as they excavate. We also do subsurface testing. Protecting human remains on work sites is the top priority.”

A classic example of a lifelong learner, Callsen returned to school to earn his master’s degree in anthropology from Florida Atlantic University as he and his wife, Maria, were about to retire. He wrote his master’s thesis on prehistoric settlement patterns in Southeast Florida from 500 BCE to 1762, focusing his research on Native tribes such as the Tequesta and Calusa. The Seminole and Miccosukee later settled on those same locales.

This expertise led to his archaeological consulting job and to sharing his knowledge through various published papers and public presentations on the peopling of the Americas and the American Civil War.

Callsen, who is originally from Lackawanna, has kept in touch with Buffalo State over the years, including helping with the annual Florida reunions. He has also shared his own financial resources with students at the college. A longtime donor, Callsen recently established the Paul J. Callsen Fund to support field research by anthropology students. He has arranged to have Janus Research direct part of his pay to his fund at Buffalo State.

“I wanted to give back to the college and donate for something specific,” he said. “I know that Lisa Maria Anselmi [associate professor and chair of anthropology] and Sue Maguire [associate professor of anthropology] do a tremendous job with the summer field school, and so I wanted to support that effort. Buffalo State alternates summer archaeological field school experiences each year—in odd-numbered years, students work at a historic excavation site at Old Fort Niagara; in even-numbered years, they work at other prehistoric sites around the area. This provides a broad perspective on archaeological research. ‘The field school is so important for undergraduates,’ Callsen said. ‘To have that early engagement with fieldwork and really understand what is in store for you after graduation—that’s a very positive experience.’

Callsen credits Buffalo State with encouraging his dual interests in political science and anthropology. After being drafted into the Army in May of 1968 and spending two years with an infantry unit, he returned from the service not knowing exactly what he wanted to do for a living, so he enrolled at Buffalo State on a New York Regents Scholarship and the GI Bill.

“I spent two years in the infantry and learned a lot,” Callsen said, “but Buffalo State taught me how to think for myself and read critically. The worldview that I have today was formed while I was at Buffalo State. And Buffalo State prepared me for my careers—both of them.”

Find out all the ways you can make a difference. Contact the Buffalo State College Foundation at (716) 878-4658 or giving.buffalostate.edu.
Fontana Creates TFA Scholarship to Honor Wife

Emmy Award–winning writer and producer Tom Fontana, ’73, is helping the next generation of film and television artists through a new scholarship he created in memory of his late wife, the actress Sagan Lewis. The annual Tom Fontana/Sagan Lewis TFA Scholarship is designated for Buffalo State television and film arts (TFA) student internships in New York City, Los Angeles, and other major cities.

Lewis, who died of cancer in 2016, was best known for her role as Dr. Jacqueline Wade in the 1980s NBC medical drama St. Elsewhere; she also played a judge on several episodes of Homicide: Life on the Street. Fontana won Emmys for his work on both shows.

Lewis also appeared in a final episode of the CBS hit series M*A*S*H, as well as the telefilms Cocaine: One Man’s Seduction and Full Ride. She taught acting workshops at the Zaki Gordon Institute for Independent Film in Sedona, Arizona, and served as program director at the Sedona International Film Festival for seven years.

“Sagan was a dynamic teacher, a brilliant actress, a loving mother, an incomparable wife, and a caring human being who fought to protect the oceans and to encourage young filmmakers,” Fontana said.

Assistant professor and TFA director Aaron Daniel Annas said Fontana has always been a tremendous supporter of the program.

“Tom understands the importance and value of internships as stepping-stones to successful careers.”

Gates Foundation Grants $2.9 Million to Success Network

The Say Yes Buffalo Partnership, a nationally renowned community collective centered on removing barriers to high school graduation, college access, and completion, is expanding its groundbreaking work to improve outcomes for Buffalo State students.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is providing a $2.9 million, 22-month investment to support the newly established Buffalo College Success Network and other efforts to help students—with special emphasis on those from communities of color and those from low-income households—make successful transitions from high school to college, and ultimately complete a postsecondary certificate or degree.

The yearlong grant proposal submission process engendered the Buffalo College Success Network, inclusive of Say Yes Buffalo, Buffalo Public Schools, and the five local higher education institutions that admit the largest number of Buffalo students receiving tuition funding from Say Yes Buffalo: Buffalo State College, Medaille College, SUNY Erie, the University at Buffalo, and Villa Maria College.

“Buffalo State would like to thank the Gates Foundation for supporting Say Yes and for believing in the future high school and college graduates in our community,” said Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner.

Stanley Simmons serves as coordinator of the Buffalo State Say Yes Program
When Lucas Colón first arrived on the Buffalo State campus, it wasn't just his first experience on a college campus—it was his first experience in any kind of institutional school setting.

Colón was homeschooled solely by his mother in his Amherst, New York, home. Coming to college, especially one located in the middle of the city, was daunting at first.

"Adjusting to a faster, more bustling lifestyle was a challenge," he said.

It’s a lifestyle he came to embrace. During his years at Buffalo State, Colón flourished in his double major of fiber arts and theater with a geography minor. He served as president of Casting Hall Productions, the student-run theater production company. He was also an orientation leader and a leading member of the student improv group Friday Night Live.

"I didn’t do much my freshman and sophomore years," he said, "but as I got more connected to campus, I made more friends. I felt more confident. That’s probably reflected in my getting the job as an orientation leader my junior year. I finally felt confident to show who I was."

One reason he chose Buffalo State was its commitment to the arts. Although he knew he wanted to major in fiber arts, he didn’t discover theater until his junior year.

"Whenever critiques would happen in my art classes, I had a lot of difficulty speaking about my pieces," he said. "I thought, what better way to learn to speak publicly than to study theater?"

After taking one theater course, he was hooked. He discovered he had a range of talents—from acting to providing musical accompaniment to singing. When the Introduction to Musical Theater course was canceled his junior year, assistant professor of theater Jennifer Toohey encouraged him to go ahead and take Musical Theater II.

“She pushed me out of the gate to do my best, to study really hard, and learn the necessary techniques,” he said.

Likewise, art and design lecturer Gerald Mead encouraged Colón to take his work to the next level.

"One of the assignments was making business cards," Colón said. “I was content with a generic business card with my name and phone number on it, nothing special. I’ll never forget that he [Mead] held it up in front of the class and said, ‘This may get you a job, but it doesn’t really sell you.’ That hit home. The next day I brought in business cards that had my artwork as a background image and really showed who I was as a person.”

Colón also has expressed his true self in one of his favorite campus experiences: serving as an orientation leader.

Because he was so nervous when he started his Buffalo State journey, Colón felt compelled to introduce new students to campus. It also was a daunting experience at first.

"The students were terrified because they just joined campus," he said, “and I was terrified because I had never led more than two people around campus. And there were 35 people all looking to me for instruction. Both the group and I kind of went on that journey together. I found my leadership. They found their place on campus.”

He said he enjoyed the role because he had the chance to meet new students and watch them bloom into upperclassmen.

“To realize I was the first person they saw—that I was their first connection to the campus—was so powerful.”
alumni profile  Lis Gallant, ’12

THE SCIENCE of VOLCANOES

Story by Michael Canfield
After receiving an electronic media, arts, and communication degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, Lis Gallant, '12, moved to Buffalo and found a graphic design job. Not liking the job, Gallant decided to go back to school at Buffalo State, hoping to become a science teacher. In her first lab class, Gallant’s professor, Bettina Martinez-Hackert, mentioned studying volcanoes, and asked if anyone was interested in assisting with research. Gallant volunteered, and she has been enamored of volcanic eruptions ever since.

“Growing up, I didn’t even know this was an option,” she said of her newfound career.

Through her research at Buffalo State, Gallant traveled to El Salvador twice and to Australia, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. She finished her degree in geology at Buffalo State in two years.

Now at the University of South Florida’s School of Geosciences, where she earned a master’s degree in geology in 2016, Gallant is aiming to get a Ph.D. in geology in August. Before heading to USF, Gallant held an internship at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, a position she said she would not have gotten had it not been for the work she did at Buffalo State.

“I wouldn’t have had that opportunity without the research background,” she said.

Jill Singer, a professor in the Earth Sciences Department who taught Gallant in two courses, hired her to help run sediment samples using a Malvern particle sizer.

“Without a doubt in my mind,” Singer said, “Lis was clearly the brightest student in both classes and one of the brightest students I’ve had in my 30-plus years at Buffalo State. Her depth of understanding of the subject matter was repeatedly demonstrated by her ability to connect processes and concepts from one topic to another and appreciate the relationship between the subject [oceanography and sedimentology] and other geology courses.”

Gallant was awarded several grants through the Undergraduate Research Office, including travel grants to present her research at professional conferences and an undergraduate summer research fellowship.

“In addition to presenting at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco,” Singer said, “Lis presented her research at a meeting in Australia, and she was selected to present her research at the Council on Undergraduate Research’s Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C.”

When most people think of volcanoes, they picture large ones like Mount St. Helens in Washington. Gallant’s work includes looking at smaller, more active distributed volcanic fields.

“It’s more difficult to predict where the next eruption is going to come from,” she said, noting that she uses computer models to guide her work. She is currently looking at the Snake River Plain in Idaho, which is especially important because there is a nuclear facility in the middle of the volcanic field.

“One of the big things in geology is that the past is key to the future,” she said. “Figuring out where the most vulnerable areas are is really important in terms of building infrastructure in the space.”

It’s a “cool” job, Gallant said, that can sometimes be dangerous. She’s been around for volcanic eruptions, like the ones from Nicaragua’s Momotombo in 2015 and Hawaii’s Kilauea in 2013.

“I wouldn’t do it if it wasn’t interesting,” she said. “There are a lot of different kinds of people in volcanology, and some are really science driven. I am driven by solving problems that help society. But I really enjoy the scientific questions. I like to merge the two.”

As she transitions into a role where she’s working with undergraduate students in the field, Gallant said, she’s feels lucky to have worked with the faculty members at Buffalo State, like Martinez-Hackert and Singer, who helped lay the foundation for her success.

“To have that positive role model idea in my head from the start, I think it’s helped me be a better mentor to the people around me,” she said. “To have the support from my advisers both financially and personally—that was huge. That’s something that stuck with me. I learned what good mentoring is very early on in my career.”
Imagine a world where people who can’t drive because of old age, illness, or disability could travel freely, where the daily commute was more productive than stressful, and where fatal crashes were nonexistent. These are just a few ways that driverless cars might change our world. Progress in the field suggests that autonomous vehicle will have life-changing benefits and drastically reshape our society.

According to Josh Lipka, B.S. ’12—a senior advanced supplier quality engineer at Zoox, one of the first self-driving technology companies in the world—autonomous vehicles will fundamentally improve personal mobility and transportation.

“Getting to a doctor’s appointment or going to the grocery store will become more convenient, safer, and reliable,” Lipka said.

Driverless cars have the potential to literally save lives, he said, especially when it comes to making vehicle transportation more accessible to the aging population.

“Approximately 1.2 million people died globally from automotive-related accidents last year,” Lipka said. “If we replace the human driver, a large percentage of these deaths can be prevented.”

As a quality engineer, Lipka focuses on the model’s powertrain, battery, charging, and electrical system.

“My position involves industrializing our product design. My role is to help ensure that product parts are reliable, high quality, and arrive on time. I also collaborate with a global manufacturing base,” Lipka said. Lipka discovered the automotive industry through an undergraduate internship at the Lancaster-based manufacturer Jify-tite Motorsports (now Oetiker), which creates parts to transfer fluids for tasks like cooling a car’s engine or transmission. After graduation, the company offered Lipka a full-time position as a quality engineer.

He relocated to the West Coast in 2016 for an engineering position at Lucid Motors, which develops electric cars. He has been working at Zoox, based just outside San Francisco in Foster City, since June 2018.

According to Lipka, there are two fundamental approaches to driverless technology:

“You can retrofit a pre-existing traditional model with sensors,” he said, “or you can build a new model from the ground up.”

Major technology and automotive companies are all experimenting with the first approach, whereas Zoox is working on an “end-to-end solution” for the autonomous vehicle.

Zoox’s ultimate goal is to pioneer autonomous mobility as service.

Lipka said he left the automotive industry for the tech-focused start-up Zoox because he wanted to leave behind the “old-school Detroit mindset” of vehicle innovation.

“I believe we need big solutions to tackle big problems,” Lipka said.

“It’s really dangerous in business to say, ‘Well this is how it’s been done, so this is how we’ll continue to do it.’”

Lipka believes one must have a strong sense of purpose to work in a start-up or entrepreneurial environment.

“You should always have a ‘why’ when you go into work,” he said. “For me, it’s about preventing deaths. I believe through autonomous technology we truly can save lives.”

Lipka said Buffalo State’s student leadership opportunities and diversity of the campus helped him develop the soft skills he needs daily as an engineer.

“Buffalo State is a very diverse campus and engaged with the surrounding community of Buffalo. This prepared me for how to learn from different perspectives,” he said. “College is what you make it, and I got involved outside of the engineering classroom. These were the experiences that helped shape my life.”

Lipka is always open to connecting with alumni and current students. You can reach him at http://linkedin.com/in/joshualipka or j@joshlipka.com.

All opinions expressed in this article are solely of the interviewee.
STEERING
toward a Safer Future

Story by
Natalie Murphy
Alumni Hosts Regional Spring Events

Buffalo State alumni showed their Bengal pride and connected with graduates for spring events in Atlanta, Dallas, and Washington, D.C., as well as Naples, Tampa, The Villages, and Sarasota, Florida. Contact the Alumni Association if you are interested in hosting a regional event near you.

Athletics Alumni Reunite, Host Games on Campus

Several Buffalo State College sports teams hosted alumni reunions this spring, including men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s hockey, and club rugby. Alumni from Buffalo State Athletics and club sports teams often travel long distances to attend their reunions. This spring, the college hosted student-athlete alumni from as far away as Alaska, California, and New Hampshire.

Let Us Know WHERE YOU GO!

If you move and would still like to receive a print copy of 1300 Elmwood, please be sure to contact alumni@buffalostate.edu or (716) 878-6001 with your new address.

Enjoy Alumni Association Benefits Today

As a member of the Buffalo State College Alumni Association, you can take advantage of key benefits, including a campus parking permit, special rates at the Buffalo State Fitness Center, access to E. H. Butler Library, and discounted insurance through Liberty Mutual.

The Alumni Association also hosts social programs, services, and benefits to meet the diverse interests of our graduates.

Your Alumni ID card allows you to access various benefits through Buffalo State and beyond. To get an Alumni ID card, simply register online at alumni.buffalostate.edu.

Use your card to log in to the online alumni directory and use benefits and services on and off campus. Your Alumni ID card connects you to a network of 110,000 alumni worldwide. We invite you to start enjoying the benefits of membership today!

Be Sure to Stop By

August 2019 marks the first anniversary since the Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center opened its doors to members of the Buffalo State and Western New York communities. During the past year, hundreds of alumni have visited the center during their trips to campus or for alumni events. Please make sure to stop by during your next trip to Buffalo or the next time you are on campus.

Busi Dlodlo, B.A. ’83, and her two daughters recently traveled from her native country of Zimbabwe to visit her brother in Buffalo. It was her first visit back to Buffalo and to campus since she graduated, and her daughters’ first time in the United States.

A
Stay in touch!
We regularly e-mails our alumni about events and other happenings at Buffalo State. Please update your e-mail and mailing address with the Alumni Association by e-mailing us at alumni@buffalostate.edu.

A Look Back: The Ramones

Did you know the Ramones performed at Buffalo State in May 1985 during the all-day campus Springfest? United Students Government organized several memorable performances by famous bands (when they were still “up and coming” artists), including R.E.M., the Goo Goo Dolls, and the Talking Heads. E-mail alumni@buffalostate.edu with your memories of campus concerts from any decade.

Classes Celebrate Landmark Reunions

Alumni from two class years—1979 and 1989—returned to campus this summer for their 40- and 30-year reunions in the Alumni and Visitor Center. Please contact the Alumni Association if you have a landmark class reunion coming up in 2020 and want to assist with planning your class event.

Alumni Recognized in Professional Fields

Megan Sweeney, B.S. ’16, received the Future Star Award from the Buffalo chapter of the American Advertising Federation in March. She is an art director with the Martin Group.

Ade Samuel, B.S. ’10, made the Hollywood Reporter’s “25 Most Powerful Stylists in Hollywood” list in March. Samuel, a graduate of Buffalo State’s fashion and textile technology program, is based in Los Angeles. Her growing list of celebrity clientele includes actor Michael B. Jordan, singer Kelly Rowland, and rapper Big Sean.

David Doty, B.A. ’94, M.S.Ed. ’05, received a Teacher of the Year award from the Physics Teacher Education Coalition in June. Doty, a teacher at Cattaraugus-Little Valley High School, was one of eight physics teachers in the country to receive the award. He co-taught an education course at Buffalo State this summer.

Scott Hamula, B.A. ’84, was named 2019 Distinguished Advertising Educator by the American Advertising Federation in June. Hamula is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Strategic Communication at Ithaca College’s Roy H. Park School of Communications.

Alumni Couples Share Campus Love Stories

Graduates from the 1970s to the 2010s have taken to social media to share how they met their significant others at Buffalo State. The Alumni Association shares new alumni couples’ stories on social media every February for Valentine’s Day. E-mail alumni@buffalostate.edu if you have a Buffalo State love story to share.

Buffalo State Gives

Buffalo State hosted its first 24-hour digital day of giving, Buffalo State Gives, in April. More than 200 Buffalo State alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the college participated in the campaign as Buffalo State Gives ambassadors on social media.
50s

Jean Edgcomb, B.S. ’51, M.S. ’60, is awaiting the birth of her 20th grandchild.

Got news?
Keep us informed.

Class Notes
Alumni Engagement Office
LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center
Buffalo State College
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222
Fax (716) 878-6050
alumni@buffalostate.edu

Jean Edgcomb, B.S. ’51, M.S. ’60, is awaiting the birth of her 20th grandchild.

60s

Nick Franko, B.S. ’62, retired after teaching for 33 years in the Sweet Home School District. He enjoys spending his winters in Sarasota, Florida, with friends and fellow Buffalo State alumni.

Billy "Bill" Baessler, M.S. ’67, retired after working as a teacher and administrator for 43 years in New York, Florida, and Tennessee.

U.S.: Selected Examples of Offenses to the Detriment of Minors and Crimes of Human Trafficking” at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland, in June.

Norman Merritt, B.A. ’69, and Susan (Burdick) Merritt recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Norman worked in compliance at CitiGroup in New York City for 32 years and Zions Bancorporation in Salt Lake City, Utah, for 12 years.

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70s

Sharon Adams, B.S.Ed. ’72, M.S.Ed. ’78, is the owner and founder of Third Heaven Healing. An ordained minister and accomplished artist in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and mixed media, Adams lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, with her husband of 47 years.

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Barbara (Yeskoot) Michel, B.S. ’77, is president of Resource Management of Western New York Inc.

Dennis Priore, B.A. ’77, M.S. ’82, C.A.S. ’93, received the 2019 Irving Schwartz Distinguished Retiree Award from the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS) for his contributions to SAANYS, the education field, and the community. Priore is a retired principal from the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District.

Chris Raymond, B.A. ’78, was hired as a senior interactive designer for PBS in Arlington, Virginia.

Sharon Mulvihill, B.S. ’79, retired from the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision in April after 39 years of service.

80s

Vincent Cautero, B.S. ’80, traveled to Chengdu and Baise, China, with a delegation from the City of Cape Coral, Florida, in spring.

Connie (Buckley) Joyce, B.A. ’81, moved back to Buffalo after working in consumer products in Chicago for 27 years. She has been employed as a community outreach coordinator for the Western New York Law Center for four years.

Barbara Vullo, B.S. ’80, M.S. ’82, has two grandchildren attending Buffalo State: Elise and Adam.

David Lowrey, B.S. ’82, M.S. ’93, retired from the Lockport City School District after working as an art teacher for 30 years. He was recently appointed executive director of the Erie County Association of School Boards. He also serves as the treasurer-secretary of the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association.

Paul Russo, B.S. ’82, was appointed director and CEO of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System in St. Petersburg, Florida, in September 2018. Bay Pines provides high-quality health care to 110,000 veterans residing in the southwest coast of the state.

Mindy Silverman, B.A. ’85, worked in real estate and pharmaceutical marketing in New York City before moving to Palm Beach County, Florida, to care for her mother. She writes, “For those that attended the 2010 and 2015 reunions, we will be having another one in May 2020 in Buffalo—keep your calendars open!”

Patrick Aievoli, B.A. ’78, has written his third book, Rock Paper Pixels: How Our Need to Communicate Created This New Economy, which will be published by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Libraries. His podcast of the same title is available on iTunes.

Bruce Kanner, B.A. ’78, was elected chair of the Gaithersburg-Germantown (Maryland) Chamber of Commerce 2019 board of directors.

Barbara (Yeskoot) Michel, B.S. ’77, is president of Resource Management of Western New York Inc.

Phil Lloyd, B.S. ’76, is married and has one son, three step-daughters, eight grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. One of his fondest memories of Buffalo State was organizing a dance party in a campus dormitory.

Michael Sorenson, B.S. ’76, retired after a 40-year career in journalism. He worked for several newspapers, including the Oneida Daily Dispatch, the Troy Times Record, and Empire State Weeklies.

Doug Holder, B.A. ’77, has been the arts editor for the Somerville Times in Somerville, Massachusetts, since 2002. He also teaches writing at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, and Bunker Hill Community College in Boston. Holder has a graduate degree in English and American literature and poetry from Harvard University (dougholderresume.blogspot.com).

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David Lowrey, B.S. ’82, M.S. ’93, retired from the Lockport City School District after working as an art teacher for 30 years. He was recently appointed executive director of the Erie County Association of School Boards. He also serves as the treasurer-secretary of the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association.

Paul Russo, B.S. ’82, was appointed director and CEO of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System in St. Petersburg, Florida, in September 2018. Bay Pines provides high-quality health care to 110,000 veterans residing in the southwest coast of the state.

Mindy Silverman, B.A. ’85, worked in real estate and pharmaceutical marketing in New York City before moving to Palm Beach County, Florida, to care for her mother. She writes, “For those that attended the 2010 and 2015 reunions, we will be having another one in May 2020 in Buffalo—keep your calendars open!”

Patrick Aievoli, B.A. ’78, has written his third book, Rock Paper Pixels: How Our Need to Communicate Created This New Economy, which will be published by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Libraries. His podcast of the same title is available on iTunes.

Bruce Kanner, B.A. ’78, was elected chair of the Gaithersburg-Germantown (Maryland) Chamber of Commerce 2019 board of directors.

Barbara (Yeskoot) Michel, B.S. ’77, is president of Resource Management of Western New York Inc.

Phil Lloyd, B.S. ’76, is married and has one son, three step-daughters, eight grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. One of his fondest memories of Buffalo State was organizing a dance party in a campus dormitory.

Michael Sorenson, B.S. ’76, retired after a 40-year career in journalism. He worked for several newspapers, including the Oneida Daily Dispatch, the Troy Times Record, and Empire State Weeklies.

Doug Holder, B.A. ’77, has been the arts editor for the Somerville Times in Somerville, Massachusetts, since 2002. He also teaches writing at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, and Bunker Hill Community College in Boston. Holder has a graduate degree in English and American literature and poetry from Harvard University (dougholderresume.blogspot.com).

Patricia (Connolly) Zicht, B.S. ’85, is a software engineer for the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) in Alexandria, Virginia. Zicht received a 2018 Team Excellence Award from FCPS for her contributions to the Identity Management Team. She has a master’s degree in information systems from George Mason University.

Kevin Klein, B.S. ’86, retired from public education after 33 years in the Rochester City School District, the last 15 as a principal. He started a new position as the chief academic officer for the University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men in Rochester this summer.

Kate Shands Haq, B.S. ’86, earned her doctorate in curriculum, instruction, and learning sciences from the University at Buffalo in June 2018. A retired New York State teacher, Haq is the director of education and part owner of Chartered Professors LLC, a continuous education and educational tourism business.

Rita (Tarnofsky) Rich, B.A. ’86, is principal and co-founder of Flatlands Avenue Productions, a public relations and audio production services company. She also launched “The Politics Podcast with Richard Painter” with her business partner Debra Grobman and Crossover Media Group Sales.

Chris Rizzo, B.S. ’87, has joined the electronics manufacturing company Flex as senior director of business development.

Robert Hammond, B.A. ’89, is the pastor of Long Hill Baptist Church in Trumbull, Connecticut.

Jill Wisz, B.S. ’89, and Mark Wisz, B.S. ’89, owners of OtherWis Creative Corporation, have developed a new logo and visual brand for Pinnacle Community Services, a non-profit family-services agency in Niagara Falls, New York.

Kate Shands Haq, B.S. ’86, earned her doctorate in curriculum, instruction, and learning sciences from the University at Buffalo in June 2018. A retired New York State teacher, Haq is the director of education and part owner of Chartered Professors LLC, a continuous education and educational tourism business.

WGRZ-TV 2 reporter Claudine Ewing, B.A. ’92, received a 2019 New York Emmy Award for her story about fellow WGRZ journalist Scott Brown, who died of cancer in March 2018. She also won a 2019 Associated Press Award for her coverage of Valentino Dixon, who was exonerated in 2018 after serving 27 years in prison on a wrongful murder conviction.

Dave Hawthorne, B.S. ’93, is a learning support teacher and coordinator at Frankfurt International School in Frankfurt, Germany. He is married and has two children.

Andrea (Jeffords) Turner, B.A. ’91, is principal of ACT One Communications LLC, the marketing communications firm she started 16 years ago in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Her clients include the Children’s Museum of Cleveland, the Cleveland Ballet, the Cleveland Clinic, and Case Western Reserve University.

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David Tytka, B.S. ’94, has been promoted to senior market research manager at Uniland Development Company.

Kerry Williams, B.S. ’94, has worked for the federal government and in various positions in the public and private sectors since graduation. She became an anti-bullying advocate in 2014 and published her first children’s book, The Bully and Me, in 2015.

James Rogowski, B.S. ’95, M.S. ’99, is president of Lockport Robotics Inc.

Karyn (Peckey) St. George, M.S. ’99, is the administrative director of the University at Buffalo’s Honors College. She received a 2019 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service.

Clinton Holcomb, B.S. ’06, is a real estate developer who purchased Arrowhead Golf Course in Akron, New York, in May. His first child was born in December 2017.

Carrie Reisner, B.S. ’06, became assistant vice chancellor for student engagement at Indiana University East in summer 2018. She has a doctorate in education from Ball State University.

Krystal (Sondel) Testa, B.A. ’06, was hired as the associate director of alumni events at the University at Buffalo in April.

P. J. Hagerty, B.A. ’04, is the development director for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Previously she was the coordinator of the Erie County Department of Senior Services’ Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.

Tony Laruffa, B.S. ’01, relocated to Bangkok, Thailand, as director of market insight and engagement for Liberty Mutual, where he will oversee the insurance group’s partnership and sales teams for Southeast Asia.

Carrie Smith, B.A. ’05, is a featured speaker at the global tech conferences Web Summit and Collision. He has spoken at hundreds of tech events throughout the United States and in 25 countries around the world.

Tiffany (Jesberger) Zook, M.S. ’01, has been appointed to the International Voice of the Orphan (VPO) board of directors. She recently traveled to Kampala, Uganda, where VPO is partnering with the Gem Foundation to build an 88-acre accessible community for children with disabilities.

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Seaghan Coleman, B.S.W. ’07, is a trauma therapist in private practice and cofounder of the Buffalo EMDR Training Institute and Third Wave Psychotherapy. He is also an adjunct instructor in the University at Buffalo’s School of Social Work.

Jennifer Dunning, B.S.W. ’08, was hired in January 2018 as chief of staff for New York State Assemblywoman Karen McMahon.

Kevin Slattery, B.S.W. ’08, has worked in the social work field for nearly a decade. He moved from Buffalo to Rhode Island in 2010, where he lives with his wife, Ashley, and dog, Boykin. Slattery earned a master of public administration from Roger Williams University and is a data analyst for the Rhode Island Department of Human Services.

Kelly (Abad) McMurray, B.S. ’09, M.S. ‘12, spent several years as an adjunct instructor at Trocaire College in Buffalo before relocating to Binghamton, New York. She married Greg McMurray, and they have one son.

Ryan Stearns, B.A. ’09, has been promoted to senior associate at the law firm Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP.

Parrish Gibbons Herzog, B.S. ’11, is the public relations and marketing manager for the Kenan Center in Lockport, New York. She is the owner and curator of Flight Gallery Buffalo, a mini-gallery of work by Buffalo-area artists, located inside Flying Bison Brewing Company. She serves on the boards of directors of Lockport Main Street and the Learning Disabilities Association of Western New York.


Terron Grant, B.S. ’17, a business development officer at PathStone Corporation, created a credit-bearing internship for Buffalo State College in spring 2019.

Rachel (Birke) Haseley, B.S. ’15, and her husband relocated to Omaha, Nebraska, in July 2018 and had their first child, Jesse, on December 16, 2018.

Carol Youngs, M.S. ’17, a graduate of Buffalo State’s higher education and student affairs administration program, joined SUNY Cortland’s Financial Aid Office in May.

Adora Sarah Williams Mack, B.A. ’14, received a master of arts from Sacred Heart University in 2015 and was recently hired as an e-mail marketing producer for A+E Networks in New York City.

Eric Gersbacher, B.S. ’16, earned a master of arts in social innovation from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego. He traveled to Mexico, Rwanda, Denmark, Haiti, and Myanmar as part of his coursework. Gersbacher has started a for-profit hybrid social enterprise in an entrepreneurship accelerator in San Diego.
FALL OPEN HOUSES 2019

UNDERGRADUATE
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12 &
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 16
9:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Contact the Admissions Office
(716) 878-4107
admissions@buffalostate.edu
Or text the Open House hotline at (716) 507-4863

GRADUATE
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 19
10:00 a.m.–noon

Contact the Graduate Admissions Office (716) 878-5601
gradoffc@buffalostate.edu
The article “Going Underground in the Buffalo State Tunnels” in the Winter 2019 issue of 1300 Elmwood prompted quite a few memories of the now-sealed underground passages. We thank the following alums for sharing their recollections and hope that readers enjoy another round of tunnel talk.
My husband, Norm, and I loved your article on the tunnels in the Winter edition of 1300 Elmwood. The tunnels were in use when we were on campus from 1967 to 1971. We were both active in the Residence Hall Association, and the MRHA (Men’s Residence Hall Association) had a little convenience store in the tunnels under Perry Hall. We actually met there, as we were both volunteer staffers. He offered me the ring that he found in a Cracker Jack box, and our history began. We still have the Orange Crush clock that hung in the store.

The tunnels were a godsend during the Buffalo winters. As a freshman, I lived in High Rise, and most of my classes were at Upton Hall. The tunnels afforded a great route in winter weather. It’s a shame that they aren’t still in use. I recall that my alternate route took me up the steps to and across the façade of the Student Union, which were extremely slippery, especially when hauling a portfolio and tackle box full of art supplies. It was a bit like ice sailing.

Thanks for the story and the good memories.

—Rosie (Dietz) Adelewitz, ’71

I arrived at Buffalo State in September ’62. At that time, the tunnels that were open to the students connected the Student Union with Cassety, Chase, and Perry halls. They were all girls dorms in the 1960s. Bishop Hall was several years old at that time, and Neumann Hall had just opened for the fall of 1962. Neumann and Bishop were not connected to the tunnels that were open for students. Neumann was the only male dorm. Prior to its opening, Bishop was the male dorm, and when Neumann opened, Bishop became another girls dorm.

In bad weather you could go into the tunnels to get away from the wind and snow. Girls living in any of the three connected dorms could go to the Student Union and back to their dorm through the tunnels.

One of my memories was exchanging rented towels and sheets once a week in one of the rooms in the tunnel system.

—Sam Levant, B.S. ’66, M.S. ’67

As a freshman, I lived in Perry Hall, and we always used the tunnels to go to and from the dining hall.

I remember returning from a meal, and someone threw a dinner roll up at the ceiling and it stuck. It might still be there!

—Connie Brennan Barone, ’69

I lived in Perry Hall my sophomore year. We used the tunnels all the time. We could get to the Union in bad weather. Also, it connected to the hall where my sorority had its information box. All the Greeks had information boxes there.

—Doreen Dell, ’67

The students would use the tunnels anytime they wanted to travel between the Student Union and the residence halls. I remember that if a student wanted to go to the new Upton Hall from the Student Union, they would go through the tunnels of North, later Cassety Hall, and exit on the side toward Upton Hall. The tunnels were used daily. A student wishing to go to South/Chase Hall, North/Cassety Hall, or the Student Union would use the tunnels. They were painted and used almost around the clock. The other major use of the tunnels was to access the student government offices like the student association, traffic commission, and convocation board, among others, and the access was through the Student Union.

They were in the basements of North and South halls. I do not remember when they became inactive, but it was in the late ’60s when the Student Union was being rehabbled and the new Union was being built.

—Dan, ’63, and Linda Hunter, ’64
Alumni
1920–1929
Sybil (Paddon) McCormick, ’29

1930–1939
Martha R. Mayer, ’37
Kathleen Martha (Kauth) Krauss, ’38
Lillian H. (Smead) Neumann, ’38
Frances M. (Cummins) (Wedekindt) (Lehnmann) Rogers, ’38

1940–1949
Jeanne (Fleckenstein) Drew, ’40, ’67
Augusta Marie Barker, ’41, ’51
Warren F. Helwig, ’41
Marjorie B. (Perce) George, ’42, ’58
Ellen (Hirsemann) Phillips, ’42
Jean (Reeves) Barre, ’43
Earl Horn Jr., ’44
Dorothy E. (Foley) Kumrow, ’45
Jane M. Peuss, ’58
James C. Ruhe, ’58
Joan C. (Rindi) Runckel, ’58
Richard E. Wettlaufer, ’58
Edwin J. Lawniczak, ’59, ’62
Janice C. (Leonard) Petty, ’59
Samuel S. Tanef, ’59

1960–1969
Patricia R. (Milolczyck) Cyprys, ’60, ’77
Louis Luke Panezich, ’60
Robert N. Pokelwalid, ’60
Dorothy M. Coughlin, ’61
Jane (Ward) Foster, ’61
Rita A. (DeMarchi) Hardy, ’61, ’74
Thomas N. Kabel, ’61
Raymond E. Kiser, ’61
Donna Kay (Beader) Pascucci, ’61
John L. Redfern, ’61
Jerome J. Beris, ’62
Gerald F. Large, ’62, ’69
Lester John Elise, ’63
Herbert A. Gaupman, ’63
Karen (Noto) Shottell, ’63
James H. Steward Jr., ’63
Anne (Welker) Teiper, ’63
Wayne D. Boyer, ’64
Lynnette (Wilson) McClive, ’64
Helen (Marcotte) O’Connell, ’64, ’77
Doreen Ann (DeMarchi) Spinner, ’64
Nancy J. (Wilcox) Kardos, ’65
Patricia J. Belter, ’66
Dorothy M. Coughlin, ’66
Lillian Judith Gesund, ’67
William F. Pierce, ’67
Rose A. Ricotta, ’67
Arlene (Bohnstadt) Seefeldt, ’67, ’70
Ronald P. Zimpfer, ’68, ’71
Martin W. Abrams, ’69
Susan E. (Tierney) Cecere, ’69
Donna L. (Divincenzo) Fiorella, ’69
Winifred (Wendt) Walton, ’69
Virginia Evelyn Woolwine, ’69

1970–1979
Dorothy A. Downey, ’70
Jacob Kreutz, ’70
Walter George Meier Jr., ’70
John P. Rickick, ’70
Annmarie (Lenkiewicz) Walsh, ’70, ’73

Ronnie E. (Liebman) Amromin, ’71
Bernard P. Grestl, ’71
Robert B. Spicer, ’71, ’74
William M. Bemingham, ’72
Barbara A. (Martin) Fudella, ’73
Paul Thomas Griffin, ’73, ’77
Marguerite (Clifford) Guerra, ’73, ’77
Werner E. Schmidtmann, ’73
Dennis M. Keeve, ’74
Melissa (Strickland) Reinhardt, ’74
Mary Jane (Chrzansowksi) Pavute, ’76
James J. Huk, ’77
Gloria A. (Corey) Lorber, ’77
Elaine A. (Beamer) Sloan, ’77
Barbara Lyee (Werdein) Malone, ’78
Paul C. Goodwin, ’79

1980–1989
Edward J. P. Drabczyk, ’80
Joseph L. Grumertaro, ’80
Susanna Mattingly, ’83
Bobbly G. Bowles, ’84
Linda M. Covatta, ’85
Patricia Anne Bindics, ’88
Beth A. Rchwine, ’88
Thérése Marie Kodz, ’89

1990–1999
Elena G. (Adidesa) Hartrick, ’90
Kenneth M. O’Brien, ’90
Nancy B. (Bowles) Frey, ’91, ’96
Marlene Ann (Graf) Badget, ’93
Martha Samoan, ’98

2000–2009
Philip E. Pawlowski, ’03

2010–2019
Robert J. Flynn, ’14
Ryan E. (Erhardt) Kania, ’16

Faculty, Staff, Emeriti, Retired Staff
Paul R. Beaudet, Ph.D.
Verla L. H. (Alexander) Dolliff
Doris Alberta (Kema) Eddins, Ed.D.
Richard J. Foster
Marie (Striegel) Geise, Ph.D.
Richard Gubernick, Ph.D.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Golf & Tennis Scholarship Classic
September 9

Homecoming Week
October 21–27

Undergraduate Open House
October 12 and November 16

Graduate Open House
October 19