We are pleased to present the online edition of *1300 Elmwood*, Buffalo State College’s alumni magazine. The print edition is published twice a year and mailed to more than 85,000 alumni and friends of the college. Now you may also view the magazine online at any time.

The interactive format allows you to
• share the magazine with friends and family;
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We hope you enjoy this online format of the magazine.

Comments?
Send e-mail to *collrel@buffalostate.edu*
Siena
SUNY’s oldest study-abroad adventure has been changing lives for 50 years.
HAIL, CAESAR. Michael Zito, ’11, president of Casting Hall Productions, stars as Julius Caesar in the Theater Department’s spring production of the Shakespearean tragedy. Set in contemporary times, the play featured large-screen video projection and female actors in the roles of the conspirators. Zito, a native of Lewiston, New York, earned his B.A. in theater in May.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRUCE FOX
Cover Story

10 Ciao, Siena!
Buffalo State’s Siena Program, the oldest study-abroad program in SUNY, marks its 50th anniversary this year with reunions in Siena and Buffalo. More than 800 students to date have taken part in this groundbreaking international-study tour, the brainchild of a visionary art professor who wanted more for his students.

8 No Greater Friend
Few American educators have had as profound an impact on the field of exceptional education as the late Horace “Hank” Mann.

16 Strain and Suicide in China
Zhang Jie, professor of sociology and director of the Center for China Studies, has received a $1.1 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to conduct his second major study of suicide in rural China.

18 Class of 2011
Buffalo State welcomed more than 2,600 students to its alumni ranks during the college’s 139th Commencement celebrations on May 14.
by the time you read this, Buffalo State will have graduated another outstanding class of students. We’ll have held three stirring commencement ceremonies, recognized some remarkable individual achievements, and celebrated, as a community, the depth of talent and indomitable spirit of intellectual inquiry, civic engagement, and creative expression on our campus.

As I write, though, it is early April, and the celebrations of mid-May are just beginning to come into view. It’s been nearly a year since I was fortunate enough to become part of the Buffalo State community, and I feel like our graduating students—with a head full of new knowledge and a heart full of excitement about what’s yet to come.

I’ve learned a great deal about Buffalo State and its people over the last few months. I’ve seen at close range the enthusiasm and determination they bring to their work, whether it be our students’ work of progressing toward a degree, our faculty’s work of broadening minds and advancing understanding, or our staff’s work of supporting the educational enterprise. Our college community is made up of truly extraordinary men and women.

I’ve also seen how the people of Buffalo State respond under pressure—namely, how they face, with grace and fortitude, the challenges of painful budget cuts. I’ve worked with our faculty and staff as they made tough decisions about what to protect and where to scale back; I’ve watched our students fight for the people and programs they value as integral to their Buffalo State educations; and I’ve heard from countless alumni who want to know how they can help.

Here’s what I tell them: As alumni, you can be extremely effective advocates for Buffalo State. Every time you tell a colleague or neighbor how much you gained from your time here, you send a message about the value of the educational experience we offer. Every time you tell a fellow voter or an elected representative how much our system of public higher education in New York State matters, you make an impression. You—our alumni—are our greatest champions.

When I speak to the newest class of Buffalo State graduates in May, I’ll tell them that the transition from student to alumnus is an important one. And I’ll tell them that as they cross that stage in the Sports Arena, diplomas in hand, they’re joining one of the most talented, enthusiastic, and loyal groups of people on earth.

You—our alumni—are our greatest champions.
Erwin Appointed CIO

Don Erwin was promoted to chief information officer for Buffalo State College in January. Reporting to the president, he oversees the university’s Information Services and Systems division, which includes Computing and Technology Services and Library and Instructional Technology. He previously served as senior associate vice president for information services and systems.

Erwin joined Buffalo State in 2004 to provide project planning, management, and oversight of the university’s student information system during the transition from STARS to Banner. He came to Buffalo State from Oracle Corporation, where he worked as a student-system consultant. Before that, he served as team leader and consultant for the Oracle Student System project at Tulane University. Erwin has also worked in the aerospace and defense industries, as a senior systems analyst and NASA contractor with Barrios Technology and as a software quality engineer and programmer-analyst for Lockheed.

He holds an M.B.A. from Niagara University and a B.S. in industrial technology and computer science from Southeastern Louisiana University.

Buffalo State Receives Second NSF Noyce Grant

The Physics Department has received a $750,000 grant from the National Science Foundation’s Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, designed to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors to become K–12 teachers in high-need schools. Luanna Gomez, assistant professor of physics, is the principal investigator on the project.

This grant follows a successful Phase I Noyce grant of nearly $500,000 awarded to Buffalo State in 2005. The combined funding of $1.2 million supports a scholarship and stipend program for undergraduate STEM majors and postbaccalaureate students holding STEM degrees who will earn their teaching credentials and commit to teaching in high-need K–12 districts. Thirty-five $15,000 and $10,000 scholarships will be available over the next five years; qualified applicants are welcome.

For more information about the scholarships, contact Gomez at gomezls@buffalostate.edu or (716) 878-5639.

Buffalo State Receives $1.7 Million for Great Lakes Research

Buffalo State’s Great Lakes Center (GLC) has received three highly competitive grants totaling $1.7 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The grants will enable GLC scientists to research significant Great Lakes ecosystem problems. Buffalo State was the only college in Western New York to receive three grants.

The largest grant—$972,583—was awarded to Charlotte Roehm, assistant professor of geography and planning, who plans to collect vast amounts of data about Lake Erie. Custom-built instruments will transmit real-time information every 10 minutes around the clock from depths ranging from 3 to 50 feet, monitoring such variables as ice thickness, oxygen levels, pH, and chlorophyll, to provide a comprehensive evaluation of water quality. The instruments will be located near what the EPA calls “areas of concern”—regions where pollution levels prohibit the full use of the water or harm aquatic life.

The second project, funded for $615,813 and headed by Christopher Pennuto, professor of biology, continues Pennuto’s research into the disturbing signs that Lake Erie’s health continues to suffer. Pennuto and his team have been studying high nutrient levels and their relationship to excessive algae in lakes Erie and Ontario. This project will use a relatively new technique that examines the isotopes of oxygen in phosphate, which may aid in identifying sources of phosphorus.

The third grant of $111,264 funds a project on invasive species, headed by Randal Snyder, associate professor of biology. He and his colleagues will assess potential invasive species from the Pontos-Caspian region, which includes the Caspian and Black seas and their tributaries. GLC director Alexander Karatayev and research scientist Lyubov Burlakova, who are both fluent in Russian, will travel to the region to study research that is available only in Russian. They expect to collect data on more than 40 native species of fish.
Year of the Arts

President Aaron Podolefsky delivered his first State of the College address in February, declaring academic year 2011–2012 “A Year of the Arts” at Buffalo State. “The arts are something we do very well at Buffalo State,” he said. “They’re crucial to our mission as a public university. They are a source of pride as well as sustenance. And I believe this is the perfect time to highlight and celebrate them.” The campaign will showcase both established and emerging artists and celebrate the importance of art in our world. The president’s complete speech—text, podcast, and video—is available at http://president.buffalostate.edu/addresses/stateofthecollege2011. For more information on the Year of the Arts, visit www.yearofthearts.com.

Fulbright Scholar Travels to Chile

Pixita del Prado Hill, associate professor of elementary education and reading, received a Fulbright Scholarship for the spring 2011 semester. She taught at Universidad Mayor in Santiago, Chile, where she worked with teacher candidates in the university’s English education program, part of the Chilean Ministry of Education’s goal of English proficiency for all Chileans. Del Prado Hill also worked on developing partnerships between Universidad Mayor and Buffalo State, including a possible international professional development schools program.

The U.S. Fulbright Scholarship Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the United States. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected for their academic or professional achievements as well as demonstrated leadership in their fields.

Cuomo Visits Campus

New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (left) brought his statewide “People First” campaign to Buffalo State on May 12. Speaking to more than 400 people in Warren Enters Theatre in Upton Hall, Cuomo promoted his main legislative priorities—ethics reform in state government, a property tax cap, and marriage equality. Buffalo State graduates Byron W. Brown, ’83, mayor of Buffalo (center), and Sam Hoyt, ’92, New York State assembly member (right), introduced the governor.

PDS Consortium Honored for Exemplary Achievement

Buffalo State’s Professional Development Schools (PDS) Consortium received the 2011 Award for Exemplary Professional Development School Achievement from the National Association for Professional Development Schools in February.

Through the PDS Consortium, Buffalo State faculty members and teacher candidates collaborate with classroom teachers, administrators, and pupils from 45 schools throughout Western New York, including 21 schools in the city of Buffalo. The consortium provides clinically rich experiences to all exceptional education and elementary education majors. Buffalo State faculty members work on site in participating schools, where they present methods of teaching, oversee student teachers, and provide a resource for professional development for classroom teachers. Teacher candidates observe in classrooms, shadow teachers, and tutor students, beginning as early as their sophomore year. Thanks to the PDS Consortium, Buffalo State teacher candidates work with an average of 22,000 young students each year.
Buffalo State, Historical Society Continue Partnership

Buffalo State College and the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS) will continue their long-standing partnership under a new agreement that took effect in January. The two institutions will continue or expand collaborative opportunities, such as the sharing of space, facilities, and archival resources; library services and digitization; and joint grant applications, publications, and other development and fundraising opportunities. Buffalo State is also exploring degree programs in museum studies.

“Our collaboration has benefited our students very much,’ said Cynthia Conides, director of Buffalo State’s museum studies certificate program and associate professor of history and social studies education. “We look forward to continuing BECHS internships, archival training, and service learning opportunities for Buffalo State graduate and undergraduate students.’

Conides stepped down after four years as executive director of BECHS. Under Conides’s leadership, the BECHS received reaccreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM) in December. Just 800 of the country’s nearly 18,000 museums hold AAM accreditation. She will continue to serve the museum as its curator of special projects.

Anne Frank Project Honored

Buffalo State’s Anne Frank Project received a special Community Leader Award from the National Federation for Just Communities (NFJC) of Western New York in January. Launched in 2009, the project is a campuswide awareness initiative that uses the writing and wisdom of Anne Frank as a framework to examine the critical issues of bias, intolerance, and genocide as a recurring global tragedy. The annual event brings to campus international speakers, multimedia presentations, and interactive workshops in an effort to embrace our shared humanity and discover solutions toward an elevated human condition. More information about the project is available at www.theannefrankproject.com.

"We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different yet the same.”
— Anne Frank

Kiliszek, DeMarsh Earn Top SUNYAC Honors

The State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) announced the top women’s soccer honors in November, recognizing Buffalo State’s Barbara Kiliszek (top, Depew/Lancaster) as the conference’s Player of the Year, and Nicholas DeMarsh as the Coach of the Year. It is the first time either award has been given to someone from Buffalo State.

Kiliszek, a four-time All-SUNYAC selection, led the Bengals to an 11-6-3 overall record and a trip to the SUNYAC semifinals. The senior electrical engineering major ended her college soccer career ranked second in school history with 89 points, including 33 goals and 23 assists in 74 career games.

In his ninth season, DeMarsh guided his team to the semifinals of the SUNYAC Championship, the farthest the Bengals have advanced since their lone finals appearance in 1984.

Men’s Basketball Advances to Sweet 16

The men’s basketball team celebrated its best season since 1991–1992, finishing with a 23-7 record and capturing the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) championship with a 67-50 win over Brockport State. Head coach Fajri Ansari’s Bengals then went on to defeat Gwynedd-Mercy College and Johnson & Wales University in the first and second rounds, respectively, of the NCAA tournament to advance to the “Sweet 16” before falling to St. Mary’s College of Maryland.

Bengals Earn National Track Awards

Buffalo State’s Erica Johnson, Justin Allen, and Xavier Mateen raced to individual national titles at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships in Columbus, Ohio, in March. Johnson became the first Buffalo State female to secure a national title, winning the 55-meter dash at 6.97 seconds and setting a new school and facility record. Allen earned his title in the 400-meter dash, winning by four-thousandths of a second with a time of 48.27 seconds. Mateen claimed a share of a national title in the men’s 55-meter dash when he tied Phillip Jones of the University of Dubuque with a Division III season-best time of 6.37 seconds.

In addition, Eugene Lewis, head track and field coach, earned Atlantic Region Indoor Coach of the Year honors from the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA), and Markus Allen, assistant cross-country track and field coach, took home USTFCCCA Women’s National Assistant Coach of the Year and Atlantic Region Assistant Coach of the Year awards for the 2011 indoor season.
Celebrating Undergraduate Research

An extraordinary array of research, scholarship, and creative endeavors conducted by Buffalo State undergraduate students was on display during the two-day Student Research and Creativity Celebration in April. The annual event, now in its 13th year, showcased posters, papers, visual and performing arts presentations, displays, and demonstrations by hundreds of students from across the academic disciplines. This year’s celebration was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Horace “Hank” Mann (see page 8).

The U.S. House of Representatives recently acknowledged the significance of undergraduate research, declaring April 11–15, 2011, as national Undergraduate Research Week. But Buffalo State has been promoting and supporting undergraduate research for close to four decades. Dr. Irene Hulicka, SUNY Distinguished Professor of psychology emerita and former dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences, worked with faculty and students to establish an Undergraduate Student Research Grant Program at Buffalo State as early as 1975.

“It was really quite an enthusiastic effort,” Hulicka said. “The school’s faculty members, especially Dr. Bob Sweeney, who was director of the Great Lakes Lab, were so dedicated to helping their students. They donated their own time as mentors. The students held plant sales and flea markets, with all the money going to the grant fund.”

An original recipient of the grant program was a young Jill Singer, ’75. Now a professor of earth sciences and science education at Buffalo State, Singer has served as the founding director of the Undergraduate Research Office since it was formed in 2003.

The office coordinates, promotes, and supports undergraduate research and creative activities campuswide. These include the annual student research symposium, a small grants program to support academic-year research, travel support for students presenting or performing at professional conferences, faculty-development opportunities related to undergraduate research, and the summer research fellowship program.

Because of You

Gala chairs Louis P. Ciminelli (left) and Anthony J. Baynes, ’79, toast fellow Buffalo State supporters during the 14th annual Foundation Scholarship Gala in May.

The black-tie event raised more than $285,000 for students in the All College Honors Program, making it the single most successful fundraiser in Buffalo State’s history.
Johnson Appointed Interim Senior Adviser

Scott L. Johnson, dean of University College, has been appointed interim senior adviser to the president for equity and campus diversity following the retirement of longtime incumbent Dolores E. Battle. He will continue to provide leadership for University College while serving in this cabinet-level advisory post.

Johnson joined the Buffalo State faculty in 1994 as an assistant professor of criminal justice, receiving the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003. He coordinated the African and African American Interdisciplinary Studies Unit for six years before joining the newly established University College in 2004 as assistant dean for First-Year and Academic Support Programs. He has served as dean of University College since 2008.

He participated in Buffalo State’s Achieving Success through Leadership Program and the Millennium Leadership Initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. He holds a Ph.D. in administration of justice from the Pennsylvania State University.

Hart Named Member at Institute for Advanced Study

Kimberly L. Hart, assistant professor of anthropology, is serving as a member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, one of the world’s leading centers for theoretical research and intellectual inquiry, for the 2010–2011 academic year. There she joins colleagues from University College London, Columbia, Harvard, and Princeton, among others, in studying the year’s theme of “Secularism.”

Hart has conducted research on transformations in Sunni Islamic practice in rural western Turkey. Her research raises questions on the nature and construction of secularism because the Turkish state constructs Sunni Islamic doctrine and practice via a state body, the Presidency of Religious Affairs, also known as the Diyanet. She is specifically interested in how Islamic practice is enacted and constructed among people who do not belong to specific political or ideological Islamic movements, but combine several.

Buffalo State Challenge Scholarship

A new scholarship program, the Buffalo State Challenge, provides promising students from two local high schools—McKinley High School and Oracle Charter School—guaranteed admission and a four-year scholarship award to Buffalo State. Students who have a minimum high school average of 85, earn a combined score of 1,000 on the critical reading and math sections of the SAT (21 on the ACT), and participate in prescribed college-preparation coursework and activities are eligible for the $1,500 annual scholarship. The program aims to encourage and prepare students who might not otherwise consider college—through academic support, mentoring relationships, and volunteer and leadership development—to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

Go Green

Americans discard enough office paper each year to build a 12-foot-high wall from New York to California.* And that doesn't include newspapers, catalogs, or magazines like this one. Reducing paper consumption saves trees, certainly, but also reduces greenhouse gases and conserves energy, water, and landfill space. If you’d prefer to read 1300 Elmwood online, please let us know. We will remove you from our mailing list and notify you by e-mail when a new issue is posted at www.buffalostate.edu/1300elmwood. Write to collrel@buffalostate.edu to go green; please include your full name and address.

*Natural Resources Defense Council
It may be said that Buffalo State has had no greater friend and champion than Dr. Horace “Hank” Mann. As President Aaron Podolefsky aptly noted, “He was truly an institution at our institution.”

It may also be said that few American educators have had as profound an impact on the field of exceptional education as Mann. He helped change the way children with special needs are viewed by the educational system and society at large. He worked to ensure that every child is treated with dignity and compassion. He made a difference in this world.

What a life. What a legacy.

Mann passed away in his Buffalo home on November 18, 2010, at the age of 88, but he will forever be remembered on campus and beyond for his winning smile, lively sense of humor, fervent encouragement of colleagues and students, unwaivering dedication to his profession, and incredible generosity to the university he loved.
A Life Well Lived
Born on December 12, 1921, in Brooklyn, New York, Mann was named—appropriately enough—after Horace Mann, the nineteenth-century American education reformer and advocate of universal public education. Smart and athletic, Mann excelled in his Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood school and, after receiving his undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College, seemed destined to make his mark in the world of education.

Circumstances in the larger world, however, called Mann to serve his country as a navigator-bombardier aboard B-29 bombers in the Pacific during World War II. He flew 35 missions over Japan, earning a Distinguished Flying Cross and Purple Heart for his heroic efforts.

After the war, Mann was hired by the New York City public schools to teach children with developmental disabilities. He soon realized that there was a need for advanced teacher training in this emerging field and began studying how to best prepare others to teach children with special needs. In 1953, Penn State University granted Mann its first-ever doctorate in education. Smart and athletic, Mann excelled in his Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood school and, after receiving his undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College, seemed destined to make his mark in the world of education.

Mann served terms as president of the Foundation for Exceptional Children, the American Association of Mental Retardation (AAMR), and the New York State Federation of Chapters of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). His national and international service earned him many honors, including the 1996 Burton Blatt Humanitarian Award from the CEC; the 1998 Distinguished Educator Award of the AAMR; the State University of New York (SUNY) Distinguished Service Professorship in 1985; a SUNY honorary doctor of humane letters in 1997; and a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Brooklyn College in 2001.

By the time he retired in 1992, Mann had helped educate more than 7,000 exceptional education teachers. For the rest of his life, he maintained a close relationship with Buffalo State, with an office on campus and a special permit that allowed him to park in any lot. His continued service to the university included membership on the Buffalo State College Foundation board of directors.

Over the course of his 50-year working life, Mann set aside nearly one-third of his earnings for charity. In September 2001, he announced a $1 million planned gift to Buffalo State to be used for scholarships, faculty support, awards, lectures, and more. In September 2002, he donated another $1 million. Those gifts and countless other instances of his generosity—totaling more than $4 million—make him the university’s largest individual donor.

In a speech, Mann once quoted a favorite line from Henry James, a maxim he exemplified throughout his life: “Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind.”

Celebrating Hank Mann
On February 11, 2011, more than 300 guests from near and far gathered at the Performing Arts Center at Rockwell Hall to celebrate the life of Dr. Horace “Hank” Mann. Longtime friends and colleagues remembered Dr. Mann:

“It’s hard to lose someone who has had such an impact on so many of us, but we’ll always be able to reflect on Hank and a life that was certainly well lived.”—Richard J. “Dick” Lee, ’68, ’72, Dean Emeritus, Faculty of Applied Science and Education

“He was famous for the notes he would send to thank us and encourage us. We still feel his encouragement. He always urged us to be better, and sometimes it seemed he had more faith in us than we had in ourselves.”—Sharon F. Cramer, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emerita, Exceptional Education

“We miss him, and we will not stop seeing him walking the halls of this college anytime soon because he did put us all in his will—a living-memory will that says, ‘Share your enthusiasm for life. Appreciate and help others, and they will pass it on.’”—Lynn Smith, Niece of the Late Donald J. Savage, Professor Emeritus, Theater Science Education

Dr. Horace “Hank” Mann considered Buffalo State to be more than just his place of employment. “Buffalo State is the place that has given me intellectual and emotional enrichments,” he said, “and I treat it as my family.”

Following Mann’s retirement in 1992, colleagues and friends established a fund to honor his life, dedication to Buffalo State, and the Exceptional Education Department. Today, the Horace Mann Endowed Scholarship Fund continues to provide annual scholarships (one undergraduate, one graduate) to exceptional education students with a preference for underrepresented minorities who demonstrate financial need.

To make a gift in memory of Dr. Mann, please call (716) 878-3467 or visit www.buffalostate.edu/horacemanngiving.
Ciao, Siena!
BUFFALO STATE’S SIENA PROGRAM
—SUNY’S OLDEST STUDY-ABROAD ADVENTURE—
HAS BEEN CHANGING LIVES FOR 50 YEARS.

LENORE TETKOWSKI carefully lowered the phonograph needle onto a spinning 78 and walked back over to the ironing board. Her three young children were tucked in bed for the night. She had some time to concentrate. “Latte pastorizzato,” came the exotic voice from the album, turning each syllable into music. “Latte pastorizzato,” repeated Lenore, as she glided the iron across a sleeve. “Formaggio,” said the record. “Formaggio,” said Lenore.

The year was 1961, and everything was about to change for the Tetrkowski family. In fact, in many ways, everything was about to change for generations of college students. While Lenore was busy learning how to ask for pasteurized milk and cheese in Italian, her husband, Clem, was in Italy, scouting out the perfect location for the State University of New York’s (SUNY) first formal study-abroad program.

And he found that perfect location in the picturesque Tuscan hill town of Siena.

“I think we all want adventure in our lives; we all want to see new places and different things. We want experiences that change our lives,” said Lenore, now 87, as she poured herself a cup of coffee while poring over vintage family photos. “But adventure doesn’t always just happen. You have to make it happen. Clem made it happen.”
Clem Tetkowski, who passed away in 1998, was an inspiring art professor who brought out the best in his students during a 34-year career at Buffalo State. He also insisted on the best from himself. He was insatiably curious and always sought to learn more about art and culture. And, like John Dewey, Tetkowski believed the best way to learn was by doing; he wanted to see and hear and taste and touch other cultures. He wanted all that for his students, too.

In the early 1950s, Tetkowski had accompanied Harold Peterson, then the head of the Social Studies Department, and several graduate students on a short trip to Mexico. The group met with famed painter Diego Rivera, and Tetkowski was overwhelmed by how much more vibrant Rivera's murals looked in person than they did in the pages of a book. He became convinced that travel was an essential part of a true education. At the time, however, educational travel opportunities for American students were very limited, and SUNY offered no formalized program for international study.

A group called Experiment in International Living (EIL) was one of the few organizations arranging overseas travel for students, matching high schoolers with host families across the globe for stays lasting about a month. In 1958, Tetkowski led a group of Buffalo State graduate students on a five-country trip through Europe with short homestays arranged by EIL. That experience gave him an insider’s look at the amount of administrative work required to coordinate international study.

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As soon as he returned to the United States, he wrote down a detailed plan for a study-abroad program for Buffalo State art students that would allow them to live in culture-rich Italy, not just as short-term tourists but as scholars earning college credit for an entire semester.

According to Lenore Tetkowski, Buffalo State president Paul G. Bulger and other campus officials gave her husband their enthusiastic backing to submit his idea to Albany for state approval. She gave him her approval as well. “We had three young children at home, but Clem and I were both excited about the prospect of taking our family to Italy and starting this new program. We didn’t know exactly how long the program would last, but we did know that college students would love it,” she said.

In 1961—exactly 50 years ago—the groundbreaking Siena Program was officially born when SUNY approved a one-semester trial run of the program. Clem himself recruited the first class of 20 students by screening a 16 mm tourism film he had borrowed from Alitalia. Interestingly, that first group did not fly to Siena on Alitalia—or on any airline, for that matter. Instead, they spent 12 days crossing the ocean on the *Saturnia*, one of four Italian Line ships to survive World War II. And, as Lenore Tetkowski is proud to say, “That’s how the program started.”

The Program Today

Today, the Siena Program remains one of the flagship study-abroad opportunities sponsored by Buffalo State. About 15 students are admitted to the program each semester. Over the past five decades, more than 800 students have participated in the program, which is now open to students from any major and any college. According to comments posted on the program’s popular Facebook page, most alumni describe their time in Siena as “life changing.” That does not surprise Lee Ann Grace, assistant dean of international and exchange programs for Buffalo State.

“Students who travel abroad generally see their experience as life changing,” said Grace, who added with a smile, “but it’s true that there is something extra special about Siena.”

That extra-special something might just be the place itself, said Daniela Perozzi, a Siena native who has served as the on-site director of the Siena Program since 1999. “Students tell me that Siena feels like home. The city itself is not that big, so it only takes a few days to become familiar with the environment and meet people and recognize the buildings. Students go on weekend trips to larger cities like Florence and Rome and Paris and London, but they always return to Siena saying, ‘It’s nice to be home.’”

A well-preserved medieval city, Siena is steeped in history, but it’s hardly old-fashioned. Inside the city’s walls, architectural wonders...
abound—from the ornate Cathedral of Siena to the shell-shaped Piazza del Campo, the popular city center that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Around each cobbled corner, it seems, there is a fountain or a castle or a gelato shop. Outside the walls, at the edge of town, lies the Tuscan countryside, a breathtaking landscape dotted by vineyards, olive groves, and hidden gardens. In short, Siena is like a dream.

That dream continues for students in the classroom, too, where they study Italian language, history, and art in sublime surroundings. Non-art courses are held in the Siena Program’s office and classroom complex that overlooks the piazza. Art courses such as painting and ceramics are taught in the studio in the venerable Siena Art Institute, with its marble floors and fresco ceiling.

That extra-special something about Siena might also be the host-family aspect of the program. Each student lives with a local family for the duration of their stay in Italy. “The host-family experience is—and has been from the very beginning in 1961—one of the highlights of Siena,” said Grace. “The host family offers learning opportunities that are difficult to replicate in a classroom and can’t be achieved by living in a dormitory with other American students. The Siena Program gives students the chance to form real and lasting relationships with Italian families. Students learn the language from them, eat meals with them, and participate in family rituals, celebrating birthdays and holidays the way Italians do. Students really appreciate that connection, and many keep in touch with their host families long after they return home.”

While some host families have been working with the Siena Program for nearly 30 years, all new host families are personally selected by Perozzi. And, Perozzi readily admits, she is very selective. “I emphasize to prospective families that they’re not just providing a bed and meals. They must give some heart. Over the years, I have developed a good sense for identifying families who can provide that type of ‘home away from home.’ We have wonderful host families, and that makes such a difference for the students.”

“As an art student, there is no comparison between seeing famous works of art firsthand and studying them in books and slides. I really can’t express that enough. You have to be there; you have to see it to believe it. In 1997, I went on a tour with my high school art students, and when they saw the masterpieces, they understood why I often spoke about my study-abroad in Siena.”

—SUZANNE WELLS, FALL 1970
Add up tuition, fees, housing, meals, insurance, books and class materials, excursions, and international airfare and it becomes clear—study-abroad opportunities are more expensive than they used to be. Yet they may be more important than ever given today’s global economy. That’s where scholarships come in.

“We have put a high priority on fundraising and scholarships because study-abroad has become expensive, especially in southern Europe,” said Lee Ann Grace, assistant dean of international and exchange programs. “The average bill for a semester overseas is about $13,000 to $15,000. Every student who studies abroad says it’s worth every penny, but we need to help them understand how they’ll pay for it, and we need to offer financial assistance when possible.”

In addition to hosting the Siena Program, the International Education Office coordinates Buffalo State-sponsored exchange and study-abroad programs in Australia, Canada, England, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, and Spain. The university also provides access to hundreds of international programs sponsored by other State University of New York (SUNY) and National Student Exchange campuses. A list of scholarship opportunities for international programs—including the Clement and Lenore Tetkowski Siena Program Scholarship—is available at www.buffalostate.edu/pdf/fundslist.pdf. If you are interested in helping to support students studying abroad, please call the Buffalo State College Foundation at (716) 878-5536.
“When I returned to Buffalo, I looked up the program and applied immediately. I was accepted and learned so much about museum operations and why museums exist. Ultimately, I learned to connect the dots, to think of life in terms of ‘What can I do for people?’ and ‘How can my work at a museum help change a community for the better?’ I wouldn’t be where I am today or have the job that I have if I didn’t go to Siena,” Lyons said.

In the case of Jack and Jean Turner, it gets even more personal. They would not be celebrating 40 years of marriage if they had not gone to Siena. In the spring of 1968, Jack was a senior industrial arts major who applied to the Siena Program on the recommendation of a friend who had studied there a year before. Jean was a sophomore who saw a poster on campus advertising the program and decided to apply with her friend, Gail (Bartholomy) Antonik.

“Gail and I met Jack briefly in one of the meetings before leaving for Italy, and he got our phone numbers when we were standing in line to pay our bill,” explained Jean. “When I arrived at the Buffalo airport, I found out that my plane reservation to New York City was messed up and that I was placed on standby. My dad picked Jack out of the dozen or so people in our group at the airport and said to him, ‘You seem like a nice young man. Please keep an eye on my daughter.’ Forty years later, he still does!”

Although the pair did not begin dating in Siena, they did learn a lot about each other there. “While traveling, we saw each other in all circumstances: travel-weary, tired, hungry, and exuberant over our amazing experiences. It was a life-defining time for both of us. When we began dating in earnest, we already truly knew each other well. Our shared understanding of the experience has been an incredible bond throughout the years,” said Jean.

The Turners, whose photo hangs on the program office wall in Siena to this day, have become a symbol of the program’s life-changing possibilities. They have returned to Tuscany twice, in 2001 and 2006, for Siena Program reunions. Each time, the program staff surprised them with a wedding-anniversary cake and party. In 2001, Jean’s Italian host mother, whom she had not seen since 1968, attended the festivities.

This July, the Turners will venture to Siena to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary and to participate in a reunion marking 50 years of the Siena Program. Dozens of alumni and friends—and the matriarch of the program, Lenore Tetkowski—will join them. Undoubtedly, they will all toast the good fortune of having their lives changed by Siena—and Buffalo State.

“...the experience inspired in me an absolute love for travel, and a passion for Siena. My husband and I went back to Siena for a two-month stay in 2006 because of the love I feel for the city, and I wanted to explore every inch of it I could.” —ASHLEY LOMERY, SPRING 1992

Celebrating 50 Years
Buffalo State will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Siena Program with reunions in Siena, Italy, and on campus in Buffalo.

Reunion in Siena: July 18–20, 2011
The reunion in Siena will feature an opening presentation about the history of the program; an exhibition of artwork by Neil Tetkowski, son of Clem and Lenore Tetkowski; guided tours of the city; a reception with host families and program faculty and staff; and a gala dinner.

Reunion in Buffalo: October 21–23, 2011
The reunion in Buffalo will feature an exhibition of artwork by Fabio Mazzieri, retired vice principal of the Siena Art Institute and friend of the Siena Program, on Friday, October 21, in the Czurles-Nelson Gallery in Upton Hall. A reception for alumni of the Siena Program is also planned.

For more information, contact the International Education Office at (716) 878-4620 or intleduc@buffalostate.edu, or visit www.buffalostate.edu/studyabroad.
About half the people who commit suicide in China are not suffering from mental illness.

That surprising claim is made by Zhang Jie, professor of sociology and director of the Center for China Studies at Buffalo State. Zhang has been studying suicide in China for many years. “Most suicidologists are psychiatrists,” said Zhang. “Very few are social scientists.” Zhang suggests that suicide and mental illness may be comorbidities having the same cause, much as a person with the flu may experience both headache and fever. Neither symptom causes the other; both are caused by the same underlying problem.

“As a sociologist,” he said, “I believe that suicide is a social problem. Suicidology incorporates the study of poverty, education, and family relationships.”

Zhang recently received a three-year, $1.1 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to conduct his second major study of suicide in rural China. His first study, “Culture, Risk Factors, and Completed Suicide,” ended in 2009.

During his earlier research, which also received more than $1 million from the NIMH, Zhang postulated that the cause of suicide is psychological strain. To test his theory, he led a team of researchers who conducted psychological autopsies on 392 Chinese who had completed suicide. Those autopsies involved interviewing close family members and friends of the victims. Researchers also conducted psychological autopsy interviews on a control group, which included 416 people, for 1,600 interviews.
The research found that psychological strains were significantly associated with suicide, even after accounting for the role of mental illness. Zhang concluded that the strain theory of suicide forms a challenge to the psychiatric model of suicide, popular in the West, which emphasizes individual mental illness.

**Stress + Stress = Strain**

“Strain is the result of two stressors,” Zhang said. His research focuses on four kinds of strain, resulting from conflicting values, reality versus aspiration, relative deprivation, and deficient coping skills.

To explain conflicting values, Zhang cited the example of young women in rural China who are raised according to Confucian principles, which hold that women are inferior to men. The same young women are educated in schools that view men and women as equal. “If a woman rejects one idea or the other,” said Zhang, “she does not experience strain. However, if she believes in both, strain results.”

To explain reality versus aspiration, Zhang cited an example closer to home. “Say that a student wants to go to Harvard,” he said. “But the reality is that he is not smart or wealthy enough.” Because the student’s aspiration is not congruent with reality, strain will result.

Relative deprivation causes strain when a person who is poor becomes aware that others with similar backgrounds and abilities are wealthier. “If everybody is poor, there is no relative deprivation,” Zhang said.

Finally, Zhang argues that people with good coping skills will be able to handle a life crisis; those without such skills are at risk of experiencing strain when a crisis occurs.

**Studying Serious Attempters**

Suicide in China has drawn attention in part because China’s vast population means that even a moderate rate of suicide yields a high number of suicides—more than 250,000 a year. Also, suicide patterns differ from those in the West, with more Chinese women than men completing suicide. In most countries, the suicide rate is higher among men.

For the forthcoming study, Zhang will train young scholars from Chinese universities to conduct research in hospitals in three provinces in rural China. They will learn how to use the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV, an instrument used to assess commonly occurring psychiatric disorders described in the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. They will also learn the regulations governing research involving human subjects.

In the new study, researchers will interview 800 people who have made a serious suicide attempt. “Each hospital in these provinces admits about 100 people every year who have attempted suicide,” said Zhang.

Zhang, who was born in Shandong, China, maintains a close connection with his native country. He founded the Center for China Studies at Buffalo State to promote collaboration between Chinese and American scholars. In 2005, he received the State University of New York Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service, recognizing the international service he has rendered by creating many opportunities for shared scholarly research between American and Chinese scholars. In 2007, he received Buffalo State’s President’s Award for Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creativity. He has published more than 100 articles in refereed journals and coauthored four books in his field. He also received the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2001.

**Expanding Opportunities in China**

Buffalo State president Aaron Podolefsky led a delegation of campus representatives to China in May to celebrate 10 years of collaboration between Buffalo State College and Capital Normal University in Beijing, and to sign a new agreement that continues the institutions’ long-standing partnership (left). The president also signed a formal articulation agreement with the Beijing Film Academy that will allow students from the film academy to earn their bachelor’s degrees from Buffalo State. The Beijing Film Academy is the preeminent institution in China for students studying the television and film industries. The students will major in either theater or Buffalo State’s highly competitive television and film arts program. This is Buffalo State’s first international articulation agreement.

During the trip, new collaboration agreements were also signed with Zhengzhou University of Light Industry and the East China University of Science and Technology that will promote faculty and student exchanges, as well as cooperative scholarly and creative projects. The Buffalo State delegation also visited Shanghai Jiao Tong University to advance agreements discussed during earlier visits.

Over the last 10 years, partnerships between Buffalo State and Chinese universities have flourished, thanks in large part to the SUNY Research Foundation at Buffalo State. The Research Foundation, which manages externally funded contracts and grants on behalf of SUNY, has fostered and supported a wide range of scholarly and creative collaborations between the two countries, including scholarly exchanges, joint research, and publications.
Class of 2011

Buffalo State welcomed more than 1,800 undergraduate and 800 graduate students to its alumni ranks during the college’s 139th Commencement celebrations on May 14. Aaron Podolefsky, installed in October as Buffalo State’s eighth president, proudly conferred the degrees during two baccalaureate ceremonies and one master’s hooding and C.A.S. ceremony.

Buffalo State recognized two of its most accomplished alumni—Stephen Musolino and Bob Williams—with Distinguished Alumnus Awards and two of its most ardent supporters—John Hoskins, chair of the Buffalo State College Council, and his wife, Susan—with the President’s Distinguished Service Award.

Five students received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence, three of whom—two undergraduates and one graduate student—also received the President’s Medal for Outstanding Student.

Distinguished Alumnus Awards

Stephen V. Musolino, Class of 1976, B.T. Electrical Engineering Technology

Stephen Musolino is one of the nation’s foremost authorities on the security of radioactive materials and radiological emergency response. A certified health physicist with the U.S. Department of Energy’s Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, New York, Musolino focuses much of his current work on counter-terrorism efforts. He is trained to evaluate the consequences of a radiological emergency—including the detonation of radiological weapons by terrorists—and advise local authorities on how to minimize the health and environmental effects.

A fellow of the Health Physics Society, Musolino has served as president and treasurer of the society’s Greater New York chapter. In 2008, he was elected to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. In addition, he serves as a member of the editorial board of the journal *Health Physics*. He holds a Ph.D. in health physics from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Bob Williams, Class of 1979, B.A. Broadcasting

Bob Williams is vice president of communications at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), where he has served since 2005. Williams directly supports NCAA president Mark Emmert and leads overall communication with an emphasis on strategy, working closely with NCAA members, external constituents, and the media to promote student-athletes who compete in the classroom and on the field. The NCAA represents more than 1,200 member institutions, conferences, and organizations.

Williams joined the NCAA following a 25-year career in the United States Air Force, where he managed public affairs in a variety of capacities, earned numerous awards, and retired as a colonel. He served as director of public affairs for Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia from 2002 to 2005, and as chief of the Air Force’s public communication division at the Pentagon from 1998 to 2002. He holds a master’s degree in mass communication and public relations from Boston University.

President’s Distinguished Service Award

John T. and Susan Hoskins

Since John Hoskins was first appointed chair of the Buffalo State College Council by Gov. George E. Pataki in 1998, he and his wife, Sue, have served as exemplary stewards of Buffalo State College. They are longtime, generous supporters of Buffalo State’s two biggest annual fundraisers—the Foundation Scholarship Gala and the Golf and Tennis Scholarship Classic.

They established the Arthur E. Smith-Hoskins Art Conservation Fellowship in honor of Sue’s uncle, artist Arthur E. Smith, ’39, and the Curtis Screw Quality Scholarship Endowment, awarded to eligible students enrolled in the Technology Department’s quality program. For many years, the Hoskinses hosted alumni during the annual Florida Reunions, and a graduation-day gathering for hospitality and tourism majors and their parents, during which they presented monogrammed professional cutlery sets to the graduates. The Buffalo State College Foundation awarded them the Leadership by Example award in 2008, in recognition of their generous and diverse service to the campus.
The President's Medal, the highest honor that Buffalo State awards to its graduating students, recognizes excellence and distinction in scholarship, service to the university and community, and overall academic achievement. The Chancellor’s Award recognizes academic excellence and accomplishments in the areas of leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, or career advancement. The following graduates of the Class of 2011 were recognized for their academic and extracurricular achievements, leadership, and service:

President’s Medal for Outstanding Undergraduate Student
SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence
Undergraduate Student Address

Stephanie N. Berberick, B.A. Communication; Clark Foundation Scholarship; Lambda Pi Eta; Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

Watoii T. Rabii, B.A. Sociology; Psychology Minor; Outstanding First-Year Student Award for Scholarly or Creative Achievement; Dr. Anna P. Burrell Diversity Scholar; Ross B. Kenzie Family Presidential Scholar; Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Scholar; Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

Watoii Rabii is the third Kenzie scholar in three years to receive both the Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence and the President’s Medal for Outstanding Undergraduate Student. The Ross B. Kenzie Family Presidential Scholarship Fund is designed to enhance diversity at Buffalo State by awarding scholarships to academically talented minority students. These awards benefit outstanding Native American, African American, Asian American, and Hispanic students. Preference is shown to students seeking admission to the All College Honors Program. Kenzie, CEO of the former Goldome Bank and longtime supporter of Buffalo State, served as chair of the Buffalo State College Council from 1980 to 1998. He currently serves as vice chair of the Buffalo State College Foundation.

President’s Medal for Outstanding Graduate Student
SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence
Graduate Student Address

Justin L. Wojcik, M.S. Student Personnel Administration; Graduate Association of Student Personnel Administration President; Graduate Assistantship: Operations Manager, Campbell Student Union; Graduate Assistantship: Orientation and New Student Programs Office; Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence

Kathryn S. Boughton, B.S. Applied Mathematics; Coaching Minor; State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) All-Academic Team; SUNYAC Commissioner’s List; CoSIDA/ESPN Academic All-District Team; National Student Exchange Program; Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

Christopher R. Guidarelli, B.S.Ed. Exceptional Education, English Concentration; Paul Thoms Council for Exceptional Children Membership Scholar; Gustave and Geraldine Werner Foundation Exceptional Education Scholar; Brigitte V. Kallen Scholar; Kappa Delta Pi; Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

For complete profiles of all award recipients, visit www.buffalostate.edu/commencement/documents/2011booklet.pdf.
Mellon, NEH Grants Advance Art Conservation Program

Buffalo State has received two generous grants to benefit its art conservation program—$388,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and $250,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

The Mellon grant will support a three-year pilot program, which begins in September, to enhance the college’s current offerings in the important conservation specialties required by libraries and archives.

Until now, Buffalo State’s Art Conservation Department has offered limited training in library and archives conservation as part of its specialized program in paper conservation. The goal of the expanded curriculum is to thoroughly train skilled conservators of paper-based media—such as rare books, photographs, maps, and manuscripts—for positions in libraries, archives, and museums.

The NEH grant will provide fellowships to students accepted into the highly selective master’s program in fall 2011. “We have been without the NEH fellowship support for one year,” said Meredith Lavelle, program manager in the Art Conservation Department. “We are incredibly grateful to have it back.”

Lavelle said graduate-level conservation education programs across the country are threatened by diminished funding. She said the Kilgarlin Center for Preservation of the Cultural Record at the University of Texas at Austin, for example, stopped accepting new students last September. With few institutions offering the demanding, complex program in art and artifact conservation and preservation, such a loss undermines the United States’ ability to prepare the next generation to care for the nation’s most important cultural treasures.

Founded in 1970, Buffalo State’s art conservation program is one of only four such comprehensive graduate training programs in North America. Alumni of the program can be found in the conservation laboratories of such major institutions as the National Gallery of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Library of Congress. The department is currently planning an expansion in Rockwell Hall, scheduled for completion in 2012.

Honoring a Fallen Hero

Professor Wanda Davis was a child when her uncle was drafted into the Army and sent to Vietnam, yet he had already made an indelible impression on her life.

“Bobby always encouraged my education,” Davis said. “He used to walk me to school when I was in first grade. Even in the letters he wrote from Vietnam, he asked how I was doing in school.”

Megan Barr

Megan Barr, ‘12, received the Engelbrecht Summer Fieldwork Scholarship for 2011, working with assistant professor of anthropology Susan Maguire at the Old Fort Niagara excavation from May through June (see page 21). A Buffalo native, Barr is majoring in anthropology with minors in forensic anthropology and museum studies. She said the chance to participate in the Archaeological Field School was an important part of her education at Buffalo State.

“It was a great experience,” Barr said. “I’d never done fieldwork before. I also got the chance to interact with the public, since part of your responsibility at the field school is to answer questions from people who are visiting the Old Fort Niagara site.”

Barr said her summer fieldwork experience will help her when applying for internships and will be an important addition to her résumé. After earning her bachelor of science degree next year, she plans to pursue graduate school and someday work at a museum.
**William Engelbrecht**

William Engelbrecht, professor emeritus of anthropology, joined the Buffalo State faculty in 1973 and later initiated a summer field study program for undergraduate students at the Eaton Archaeological Site, a mid-sixteenth-century Iroquois village in West Seneca, New York. He led the field school program for 17 years, during which time students unearthed the remains of three Iroquois longhouses and amassed a vast collection of artifacts such as arrowheads, stone tools, and pottery.

Engelbrecht, a member of the Peterson Society, retired from teaching in 2003, but he continues to support students through the Summer Fieldwork Scholarship, a fund he established in 2008. The annual scholarship provides an undergraduate student with the opportunity to do excavation work at one of Buffalo State’s two local archaeological sites: Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown or Beaver Island State Park on Grand Island.

“They are both very important sites,” said Engelbrecht, who remains active in the New York State Archaeological Association. “They provide students with a great opportunity for hands-on learning. I specifically designated the award for summer fieldwork, because it’s tougher for students to find funding in the summer.”

Summer Fieldwork Scholarship recipients must be undergraduate students with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher; preference is given to anthropology majors and minors. Lisa Marie Anselmi, chair and associate professor of anthropology, mentors the fieldwork scholar at the Beaver Island site, and Susan Maguire, assistant professor of anthropology, advises the scholar at the Old Fort Niagara site, in alternating years.

“It’s been very rewarding to stay engaged with some of my former students and my colleagues at Buffalo State,” said Engelbrecht, who recently completed the task of sorting, categorizing, and cataloging 335,433 pieces of debris found by students at the Eaton Site. “I learn from them, and it has made me really enjoy retirement.”

Eleven days before he was scheduled to be discharged, Robert “Bobby” Davis was killed in the Battle of Ia Drang, a horrific three-day siege that resulted in hundreds of casualties and changed the course of the Vietnam War. Bobby died a hero—he acted as a human shield to protect his fellow soldiers from enemy gunfire—and was awarded the Purple Heart, the Gold Star, and the Bronze Star with the “V” device for valor.

Davis, who joined the Educational Foundations Department in 1993, established the Robert A. Davis Endowed Scholarship as a way to honor her uncle’s legacy and to give to Buffalo State. She also serves as the faculty representative on the Buffalo State College Foundation Board of Directors and is a member of the Peterson Society (those who have made a gift to the college through their estate planning).

The Davis Scholarship, which began in 2003 as a small gift, has grown into an endowed scholarship that is awarded annually to one or two graduate students in the higher education and student
affairs administration program. Recipients, who must have a GPA of at least 3.5, are chosen by a national board after a blind review of an essay, references, and extracurricular or volunteer activities. The 2010–2011 Davis scholars were Max DeSignore, ‘11, and Anjalee Wijewickrama, ’11.

“It is a tremendous and humbling honor to be chosen as a recipient of the Davis Scholarship,” said DeSignore, currently the assistant director of young alumni giving at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. “The award is a generous complement to the higher education and student affairs administration graduate program at Buffalo State.”

Wijewickrama said the award gave her an invaluable chance to participate in a national conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Reading around the World
Fourteen children visited Germany one Saturday in November without leaving the Market Café in Wegmans on Amherst Street in Buffalo. They traveled in a time-honored tradition—by book—thanks to Buffalo State students, associate professor of elementary education and reading Kim Truesdell, and Wegmans markets.

The Global Book Project is in its third semester. It’s part of a service-learning course in which students perform community service to deepen their understanding of course material while contributing to society. Using children’s stories, Buffalo State teachers-in-training present a geography and vocabulary lesson, while Wegmans provides a snack and a lesson in nutrition. “We try to introduce a fruit or vegetable from the place the story is from,” said Amy Pastore, assistant store manager.

That Saturday, the children visited Germany by way of Little Red Riding Hood, based on the fairy tale recounted by the Brothers Grimm. The group has also visited Australia, India, Colombia, Uganda, and Mexico.

“Reading out loud to children is a special skill,” said Truesdell. “Part of helping children develop literacy skills requires connecting the story to the world the children know, helping them develop a sense of narrative flow, and connecting the pictures to the story.”

The Global Book Project prepares student teachers to present literacy practices that support diverse populations. The families who take part represent ethnic backgrounds as diverse as the books they read; however, stories and friendship—and maybe the snack—are the biggest draws.

Helping Exceptional Teachers Succeed
When she retired in 2008, Judith Bondurant-Utz, professor emerita of exceptional education, knew she wanted to continue her life’s work in a very special way. Bondurant-Utz joined the Buffalo State faculty in 1977 as an assistant professor in the learning and behavioral disorders program. She became coordinator of the program in 1980 and was instrumental in developing the college’s early childhood special education graduate program. In her three decades of service to the university, she taught every class in early childhood special ed that the department offered and wrote two books on the subject.

“When I retired, I decided to put my mark on the program with a scholarship,” said Bondurant-Utz, who is also a member of the Peterson Society (Buffalo State’s honor society for those who have made a gift to the college in their wills or through other estate-planning techniques).

Recipients of the Dr. Judith Bondurant-Utz Early Childhood Special Education Scholarship demonstrate excellence in achievement, dedication to the field of early childhood special education, and potential and excellence in teaching young
children with special needs. The award is specifically earmarked for graduate students.

“There aren't a lot of scholarships for master's-level students,” Bondurant-Utz said. “These students are often going to school and working full time; they may have children. I felt the need to support them.”

**Lombardo Awards Blend Artistry, Business Acumen**

Ten students from Buffalo State's visual arts programs received the inaugural James Lombardo Sr. Awards for Excellence in the Visual Arts in 2010–2011. James Lombardo Jr., '95, a graduate of Buffalo State's business program, is a New York City investment adviser and art collector. He established the awards to honor the values and inspiration of his late father and to help undergraduate visual arts majors prepare for successful careers by augmenting their creative talents with practical business skills.

The Lombardo Awards support an annual exhibition of the student recipients' works, including promotional advertising, select materials, and an opening reception; lectures and seminars by visiting artists, scholars, and curators who address the business aspects of the visual arts; and an annual trip to New York City to learn firsthand about the business of art from museum and gallery officials.

The 10 Lombardo Award winners were Zachary Boehler, East Aurora, art education; Hillary Fayle, Elma, fiber design; Ryan Fisher, Endwell, communication design; Suzanne Molnar Goad, Buffalo, ceramics; Adam Kessler, Spencerport, wood and furniture design; Ekaterina Klepikova, Amherst, sculpture; Christina Laing, Tonawanda, photography; Brian Nacov, North Tonawanda, painting; Stas Ogadzhanov, Williamsville, printmaking; and Vincent Pontillo, Lancaster, metal and jewelry design.

**Rockwell's Grandson Donates Photos**

Chris Vogelsang recently presented the university with a set of vintage portraits of his grandfather, former Buffalo State president Harry W. Rockwell. Vogelsang discovered the photos in a box of family memorabilia stored in his attic. Six images from the set will be displayed in the Campus House conference room.

Aaron Podolefsky, current Buffalo State president; Edward O. Smith Jr., SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of history and social studies education and director of the Monroe Fordham Center; and Chris Root, special project assistant at Buffalo State’s Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, facilitated the donation.

Harry Westcott Rockwell was named principal of the Buffalo State Normal School (now Buffalo State) in 1919. He became the college's first president in 1926, when the institution became the New York State College for Teachers at Buffalo, serving until his retirement in 1951. Rockwell Hall is named in his honor.

**Seven Named to Foundation Board**

The Buffalo State College Foundation welcomes seven new members to its board of directors: C. Teo Balbach, principal with Mercury Capital Partners, a private equity firm in Buffalo; Michael Bonitatibus, '79, owner and president of Millington Lockwood Business Interiors of Buffalo; Steven B. Detwiler, president of Buffalo Crushed Stone Inc.; Judy L. Elliott, '82, chief academic officer for the Los Angeles Unified School District; Michael L. Joseph, president of Clover Management Inc., a Williamsville-based property ownership and management company; John Livsey, '86, vice president of sales and business development for the Buffalo Sabres; and Penny Munschauer, an attorney in Williamsville.
Armed with a talent for math and science, Robert Baxter, ’94, ’03, once dreamed of becoming a doctor.

He changed his mind while watching his friends drop out of the rigorous classes that came naturally to him. “No one really expected me to be the smart one, because I was black,” he recalled. Increasingly he became frustrated with being the only black male excelling in these subjects.

Coming from a family of teachers and school administrators, Baxter soon found himself wanting to prove that “everybody can learn.” Biology and science education became the focus of his studies at Buffalo State.

Today Baxter is a highly regarded science teacher at Westminster Community Charter School in Buffalo. He was one of about 50 teachers across the country, and the first in Western New York, to receive the Milken Educator Award last October. Teacher magazine calls the Milken Awards the “Oscars of Teaching.” It is the nation’s preeminent teacher-recognition program for exemplary K–12 educators.

Recently almost 70 percent of his eighth-graders passed the high school Regents biology exam, a notable achievement by Westminster students, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds and were raised in a struggling urban school district.

When asked about his success as an educator, Baxter credits “personal relationships.” He believes “showing an interest” makes all the difference. He goes to students’ homes when necessary, or invites them to his, he said, “demanding the same things I would demand from my own kids.”

While he began his teaching career with idealistic goals, Baxter soon encountered roadblocks. He discovered student problems ranging from reading difficulties to misdirected hostilities.

“For years, students would get attitudes with me,” he said. He realized he had to make a connection and establish a relationship with his students, especially those who are high-risk. “You can’t take it personally, and you can’t be afraid of them.”

Baxter also recognizes how young people have changed since he first started teaching. “Today’s students are the technology generation. I try to limit the time I talk. I want to get them doing.” That could mean anything from a field trip to an amusement park to learn about machinery to a biology lesson taught at a nature preserve.

Baxter and his wife, Vicki, also a graduate of Buffalo State and a teacher at Westminster, own a salon and barber shop on Main Street. They plan to use the $25,000 Milken Award to open a cosmetology school.

One of their four children is currently enrolled at Buffalo State. “Their fate is etched in stone,” he said. “They will teach.”

Baxter also serves as president of the Bethesda Community Development Corporation. The organization recently took over a historic building on Main and Utica streets with intentions of “totally renovating it and making it a business incubator for students to come in and get started.”

“It’s time for the people of our city to save themselves,” Baxter said. “We have to be producers of products that people can buy and use. It’s one way to stabilize the community.”

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM WOLF
For most people, stepping up to the plate at McDonald’s means devouring a juicy Big Mac. For Rob Liddle, ’72, it means quite a bit more. Liddle works at the Fortune 500 company’s global headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, managing employment law and labor relations that affect more than a million workers worldwide.

Liddle is used to the responsibility. He’s been stepping up to the plate his entire life. “When I was 13, I was the player-manager for my MUNY baseball team,” said Liddle, who grew up in a working-class family on Buffalo’s West Side. “I attended league meetings with adults at the Delaware Park casino, went downtown to City Hall to pick up permits, and knocked on doors of different businesses to ask for sponsorships. I never thought about it at the time, but I had a lot of freedom and a lot of responsibility at a relatively young age. I think that helped me get where I am today.”

Today, Liddle and his staff of 17 legal professionals monitor the ever-changing labor laws in 72 countries. When a nation passes new employment legislation, the McDonald’s team ensures that the law is incorporated into the company’s human resources policies and that franchise owners receive the information. It’s painstaking work, but vitally important to the successful operation of the world’s largest chain of hamburger fast-food restaurants.

“When you’re conducting business in that many countries, you get to see how various labor relations models work. There are a lot of differences between United States labor law and the laws of other countries, but there are also a lot of similarities,” Liddle said. “At the end of the day, no matter where you do business, it comes down to good people practices. You must treat people fairly.”

This spring, Liddle was on campus to speak to Buffalo State students as part of the university’s Leadership Lecture Series. He spoke about ethical leadership and those “good people practices,” emphasizing the importance of corporate and personal responsibility.

“Operating by well-defined values and standards of conduct is essential for corporations,” said Liddle, who joined McDonald’s in 1982. He has played a part in such efforts as the company’s global women’s initiative, which aims to place more women in management roles. “Personal responsibility is about doing your work to the best of your ability and looking for opportunities to be productive.”

Despite his natural intelligence and self-sufficient ways, Liddle said he never really enjoyed studying and learning until he enrolled in college. He credits Tom Weinberg, professor of sociology, and a course called Sociology of Addiction with flipping that switch.

“After writing a major research paper for that class, I realized that I was pretty good at the soft sciences. “And for the first time, I enjoyed digging deeper into a topic and writing a persuasive argument,” said Liddle, who earned his law degree from the University of Akron and a master’s degree in labor and industrial relations from Michigan State University. “I realized then that I had the ability—and the desire—to pursue a career in law.”

“PHOTOGRAPH BY DON HEUPEL

“At the end of the day, no matter where you do business, it comes down to good people practices.”
Marianne Russell Marti, ’87, is a rare breed.

From the age of 12, she knew precisely what she wanted to do with her life: become an art conservator. Inspired by a trip to the Saint Louis Art Museum, Marti was fascinated by the work being done at the museum’s art conservation studio. She loved making art as a child, but treating and cleaning artwork was a whole new world for her. “I really fell in love with it,” she said.

Today, Marti is living her dream as an art conservator with her own practice. After earning a B.A. in art history from Washington University in 1982 and an M.A. in art conservation from Buffalo State College, she and her husband, Bob, who is also a conservator, established Russell-Marti Conservation Services in California, Missouri. They specialize in outdoor sculpture with a focus on bronze. “We very much enjoy working on outdoor public art,” she said, “because of the interaction with the local people and the sense of pride that is felt, or sometimes reestablished, through the attention and care given to a community’s public monuments.”

Marti’s work goes well beyond conserving artwork; it’s also about preserving history. In 1988, for instance, her firm was first commissioned to work on Abraham Lincoln’s tomb in Springfield, Illinois. Over the years, they’ve done maintenance work on the outside of the burial tomb and spent some time inside the tomb itself, cleaning the decorative bronze works. Ironically, they’ve done similar work in Chicago on the tomb of Stephen Douglas, Lincoln’s political opponent in the presidential election of 1860.

Several years later, Marti and her crew traveled to Pearl Harbor to work on the ship’s bell from the U.S.S. Arizona, which was sunk during the surprise attack in 1941 and is still submerged today. “At the time, there were some questions as to whether the bell had actually come from the Arizona,” she said. “But we discovered charred and burned material inside the bell, indicating that it had been on the boat during the attack.”

In May 2010, Marti’s career came full circle when she arrived back in Buffalo to conserve part of the Queen City’s history. During a three-month project overseen by the Buffalo Arts Commission, she and her crew restored 19 indoor and outdoor sculptures. Work included removing dirt and grime from a marble bust of Millard Fillmore in City Hall, reapplying a protective coating on the Young Lincoln in Delaware Park, and removing graffiti from the Indian Hunter, also in Delaware Park. The work that probably received the most attention involved the David sculpture along the Scajaquada Expressway. These restoration efforts included attaching the statue, which had previously been free-standing, to its pedestal.

Busy in her flourishing career, Marti points to her degree from Buffalo State as a great starting point. “Buffalo State offered a well-rounded education in art conservation,” she said. “And it helped me enormously right from the start. It’s such a respected program, and it opened a lot of doors for me. I still get a lot of ongoing support from the faculty. So it’s just been a wonderful resource.”
John Bies, ’66, ’67, when asked the secret to the success of his 40-year marriage to Susan Bies, ’67, recounted an epiphany he had during a study of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* in a Buffalo State literature class.

“In ‘The Wife of Bath’s Tale,’ a woman asks her new husband to choose between her being ugly and faithful or beautiful and unfaithful,” John said. “He decides to give the choice to her. Trust and support of one’s partner, implies Chaucer, is the key to marital happiness. ‘She becomes fair and faithful, and lives with him happily until the end of their days.’”

Susan laughed. “I told John right up front that I wanted a career,” she said. As a two-career couple in the early 1970s, they were ahead of their time.

The daughter of an industrial salesman and a public school secretary, Susan had entered Buffalo State intent on becoming a social studies teacher. Three years later she graduated with a degree in education, a sense of confidence, and a newfound passion for economics. Those attributes gained her entrance into the male-dominated banking industry, where she worked her way up to executive vice president at First Tennessee National Corporation.

In 2001, Susan was invited to serve on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, the central bank of the United States, which she did with distinction until 2007. The board is charged with overseeing the nation’s 12 regional reserve banks and setting national monetary policy.

“Buffalo State helped me realize there was a larger world of opportunities available to me than I had originally thought,” Susan said during an April visit to campus, when she headlined Buffalo State’s annual Economics and Finance Forum. “Learning to interact with others in my education classes, learning to think on my feet while on the debate team, having my economics professor encourage me to go to graduate school — those things paid huge dividends over the years.”

Growing up, John had watched his father labor in the furnaces of General Abrasives in Niagara Falls, New York. Realizing that education was the key to a different life, John attended Buffalo State to become an industrial arts teacher.

“As with Susan, Buffalo State opened my eyes and got me to look at the bigger picture,” John recalled. “One of my professors said to me, ‘Do you realize you’ll be teaching in the next century?’ That taught me to think creatively.”

Education classes also taught him to analyze a situation, develop a strategy, and adapt to change—skills he used as an educator on many different playing fields.

“My two sons starting playing soccer when they were little, and I started coaching,” John said. “In 1982, I was offered the opportunity to coach professionally and train in Argentina, which I did for 20 years.”

That experience made John a passionate advocate for traveling abroad. He established an international travel program for students at University of Missouri-Columbia, where he earned a Ph.D. in industrial education.

Susan loves to pass the torch to young people as well, as she did in a lecture hall of economics students and faculty during their recent visit.

“I tried to offer them a worldview,” Susan said, “as my professors did.”
Matthew Ryan, ’99  
President, Buffalo State Alumni Association

**It is a special bond** we Buff State alumni share. I’m regularly taken aback by how many times I hear, “Hey, I went to Buff State, too!”—most recently from my own Uncle John, after he saw this column in the last issue. More remarkable than my embarrassment over not having known this is the inevitable smile I see on the faces of these alumni as they recount their Buffalo State experiences.

The Alumni Association is constantly looking for new and exciting ways to keep our alumni connected to the institution they look upon so fondly. Through our online community and other social media sites, as well as the many events we host, such as the new Wine Club, the Bengal 5K, Homecoming, and reunions, we provide numerous outlets for our alumni to stay connected.

Buffalo State is in the midst of an incredible multi-phase construction project. Our alumni have played critical roles in these projects by donating time, talent, and of course treasure. The Alumni Association assists alumni in finding the outlet that they are most passionate about in supporting these extraordinary accomplishments.

I believe that the value of our Buffalo State degree is directly correlated to the success of our alumni. Nothing raises the profile of a university quite like the advancement of one of its own. The Alumni Association acts as a central directory, ready to connect alumni to the people and resources they need. We stand ready to guide alumni to the many resources the association offers and to campus departments who support our alumni and our initiatives.

It is the connection to and involvement with our alumni that keep this Alumni Association flourishing.

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**Oppenheimer Named to Top-Level NBC Post**

Academy Award–winning producer and Buffalo State alumna Deborah Oppenheimer has been named executive vice president of NBC Universal’s International Television Production division.

Oppenheimer, whose credits include the *Drew Carey Show* and *George Lopez*, graduated magna cum laude from Buffalo State with a bachelor’s degree in English education. She has maintained close ties with the university through the years, and currently serves as a member of the television and film arts program’s strategic council. Oppenheimer received the Buffalo State College Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2001 and a SUNY honorary doctor of fine arts in 2005.

Her film *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport* won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 2000. The film chronicles the British rescue mission that saved almost 10,000 children—including Oppenheimer’s mother—from Nazi-occupied territories in the months leading up to World War II.

In her new role, Oppenheimer will lead NBC Universal’s productions and partnerships in the international marketplace.

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**Young Alumni Networking Event**

Young alumni of Buffalo State joined other young alums from Brockport, Canisius, Daemen, D’Youville, Fredonia, Medaille, Niagara, Oswego, and UB, along with the Social Media Club of Buffalo, at the Pearl Street Grill and Brewery on January 20 for a reunion networking event. Drinks, food, and laughter were flowing throughout the happy hour, while some 200 young alumni connected, reconnected, and renewed old friendships. The event was a huge success, and we encourage all young alumni to participate in future endeavors. If you are interested in volunteering with the Alumni Association for any future young alumni events, please e-mail us at alumni@buffalostate.edu, and check out the Alumni Association website for up-to-date information on all upcoming events.

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Visit [www.alumni.buffalostate.edu](http://www.alumni.buffalostate.edu) for the latest alumni news.
English Receives Writers Guild Award

Diane English, '70, creator of the Emmy Award–winning series Murphy Brown, has received the Writers Guild of America West's 2011 Paddy Chayefsky Laurel Award for Television, the guild's highest award for television writing.

English is best known for creating, writing, and producing the groundbreaking comedy series Murphy Brown, which ran for 10 seasons on CBS and earned three Emmy Awards. She was named one of the 50 Greatest Women in Radio and Television by the American Women in Radio and Television association.

English, who earned her bachelor's degree from Buffalo State in English education, was awarded a SUNY honorary doctor of letters and a Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994.

The Chayefsky Award, named for one of the entertainment industry's most influential artists, honors lifetime achievement for outstanding contributions to television writing. Past winners include Larry David (Seinfeld), Steven Bochco (L.A. Law, NYPD Blue), Susan Harris (Soap, The Golden Girls), Norman Lear (All in the Family, The Jeffersons), and Rod Serling (The Twilight Zone).

New Clubs!

Hop to It

Sit back, relax, and crack open a cold one with the Buffalo State Alumni Association as we begin to brew our new Alumni Beer Club. Gathering every other month (opposite the Alumni Wine Club), the Beer Club celebrated its first event on February 16, hosted by the Flying Bison Brewing Company. Flying Bison, owned and operated by alumnus Tim Herzog, '80, is known for “Buffalo’s favorite ruby ale,” Aviator Red. Herzog introduced us to several beers and matched each with savory morsels, including pulled pork sandwiches from Suzie Q's Barbeque Shack. The Beer Club meets at popular spots around the Buffalo area. Our hosts educate us on the basics of beer and what foods pair best, information that can come in handy for a tailgate party or just for personal enjoyment. Keep up to date with event locations and details on our website and social media pages, and come have a pint with us!

Uncorking the Possibilities

It's official! The Buffalo State Alumni Wine Club was officially uncorked on January 27, when the inaugural meeting of eager alumni gathered to eat, drink, and be merry. Just Vino hosted the event with fun lessons on wine and food pairings. The Buffalo State Alumni Wine Club is here to tutor alums on the basics of wine—where it comes from, how it is made—and foods that best pair with it. The club meets every other month (opposite the Beer Club) at different locations around the Buffalo Niagara region. Watch for upcoming club events through the online community, Facebook, and Twitter. We hope you’ll join us. We know you’ll have a grape time!

Nominate a Fellow Alum

Did you know that you can nominate a friend or colleague who is a Buffalo State alumnus for an award? Each year, the Alumni Association bestows awards on exceptional alumni who have made a positive difference in their business or community. Nominations and self-nominations for our Distinguished Alumnus Award, Senior Service Award, and Young Alumnus Achievement Award are accepted year-round. If you know someone who deserves recognition, let us know. Visit the Alumni Association web page for details or to complete a nomination form.
Florida Reunion

The Buffalo State College Alumni Association hosted a series of events in Sarasota, Naples, and The Villages, Florida, in February intended to reach out to alumni, share news from Buffalo State, and discuss ways that alumni can remain involved in meaningful ways. President Aaron Podolefsky, his wife, Ronnie, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Susanne Bair joined the Alumni Association staff in hosting receptions to celebrate the growth and vitality of Buffalo State.

Events were held at Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota and Naples Botanical Garden, while the Waterfront Inn served as the venue for The Villages. Alumni took advantage of the opportunity to reconnect with classmates, network with fellow alumni, and hear a message from our new president about his vision for the future of Buffalo State. If you are a resident of Florida and would like to get more involved in planning future events, please contact Landrum Beard, assistant director of alumni affairs.

Orange Fridays = Free Lunch!

Wear something orange to work every Friday now through December 31, 2011. This is a nationwide project designed to infuse school pride among our 96,000 alumni. Rally your fellow alumni co-workers to take part, too! Then share your photos with us on our Facebook page at facebook.com/buffalostatealumni. Each month, the Alumni Association will choose the most creative “Orange” photo and cater lunch to you and 10 of your fellow alumni and supporting co-workers. Belle (Walls) Montree, ’77, was the first winner. Her office at Child and Family Services in Buffalo was awarded a free lunch, courtesy of the BSAA, from Salsarita’s Fresh Cantina. All alumni present were awarded a small gift for their desks, so they can continue to show their pride for Buffalo State.

Who wouldn’t love a free lunch from their alma mater? We want to see you in orange!

New Online Bengal Store Opens Wide

The Buffalo State Alumni Association is proud to announce its new and improved online Bengal Store, which opened January 1. Operated by Rally Jungle, the store now offers a wider selection of apparel—hats, T-shirts, sweatshirts, and more. Rally Jungle works with companies such as Champion, Adidas, Columbia, and New Era to create products just for Buffalo State. A portion of every purchase from the Bengal Store benefits the Alumni Association and helps fund future events and endeavors. Shopping online at the Bengal Store is another way to give back to Buffalo State. Inventory is updated regularly, so be sure to check back often. Start clicking! http://bit.ly/BSAAgear.

Join the online community at www.alumni.buffalostate.edu
Bengal Tales: Did you meet your sweetheart at Buffalo State?

Stanley Kosick, B.A. ’94, and Rachel (Itzka) Kosick, B.S. ’94, were introduced by the ninth-floor girls RA (resident assistant) in Porter Hall. “About a week after we were introduced, we ran into each other three times during the course of the day,” he said. “I was leaving and she was coming in. I was walking down Elmwood in front of Coles, and she was walking back to campus. Then I was coming into Porter Hall, and she was on her way to dinner. I said, ‘We really have to stop meeting this way.’ Destiny was definitely calling. It was on the fourth meeting that I got the courage to ask her out.”

He recalled, “I asked her to a BSC hockey game. She didn’t want to go because it was the same time as an aerobics class she was taking. She countered, asking me to attend the class with her. I decided to skip the hockey game, and the affair began. In January ’93, we moved off campus to an apartment on Crescent Avenue and were married July 31, 1993. In 1994, we both graduated from Buffalo State, Rachel with a B.S. in social work and me with a B.A. in history. We now live in Everett, Washington, with our son, Joe, and two dogs, Max and Monty. We are going on 18 years married.”

Michael Schuler, B.A. ’98, said, “My wife and I met on the fifth floor of Tower 4 in 1994. She lived in 520, and I lived in 510. Love at first sight, for me at least! My suite-mate and her suite-mate also met at the same time and got married. Must be the Tower of Love!”

Charles Carswell, B.S. ’79, met Colleen Rileye-Carswell, ’79, in a Probability and Statistics class in 1979. He recalled, “I enrolled in a Mathematics of Finance course taught by Rudolph [‘Jim’] Cherkauer [’44, ’47], which he taught in Bishop Hall. On the first day of class, a very classy young lady sat next to me and proceeded to prepare her notes and materials for the first lesson. I was enthralled with her, and I meekly introduced myself. She acknowledged me with a curt smile as she continued with her paperwork.

After the first three lessons, many of the students were kind of at a loss in dealing with the complexities of the higher math formulas, and quite a few took the option to leave on Add/Drop day; but I persuaded this lady to stay, assuring her that I could help her get through this course. After class, we had late lunches in the Student Union cafeteria. Our favorite were the grilled vegetable subs, which are still favorites to this day!

I graduated in June of 1979, and although I had a burning desire to leave Buffalo for warmer weather, like California, I couldn’t leave her! As it turned out, a large corporation was interviewing recent graduates for positions in Western and Central New York, and I attended. I was made an offer and was immediately hired—the company was Agway in Syracuse—not too far from Colleen. I secured a small, cozy apartment close to my job and asked her to come and live with me. She refused, but I understood. Heartbroken and realizing that I may not see her again, life just went on.

One day I pulled into my apartment’s parking lot and saw her standing there waiting for me. I was so happy to see her that I jumped out of my car to run to her and forgot to put the car in park! Luckily it was stopped by a fence close by, and we both laughed ourselves silly. I asked her to marry me that week and she said yes. We were married January 19, 1980, and every year on or close to that date, we have veggie subs and a little champagne.”

Bengal 5K Funds Scholarships

Stations were ready and volunteers were set on March 19 as the Buffalo State Alumni Association welcomed hundreds of runners to the 14th annual Buffalo State Alumni Association Bengal 5K Scholarship Run. Athletes from across the Buffalo Niagara region enjoyed a brisk morning run around the campus on the newly designed course, as well as the post-race party and awards ceremony. The run was a great success, with all net proceeds going to the Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship for children and grandchildren of alumni, and the Armed Services Scholarship for active servicemen and women.
Veterans Continue Tradition of Service  By Jerod Dahlgren

Service. It’s in their blood—and always will be.

The men and women who make up the Alumni Association’s Veterans Committee served their country proudly as members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. Today, these members are committed to serving Buffalo State’s newest veterans through scholarship support and camaraderie.

Established in 2005 with a grant from New York State, the Veterans Committee was charged by then-Buffalo State president Muriel A. Howard to accomplish three tasks. “The first was to establish a group where veterans could meet and be recognized,” said Schwob. Robert Gore, a retired lieutenant colonel with the Army, added, “We have a lot of experience we can pass on.”

In addition to sharing knowledge, the committee is dedicated to providing direct monetary support to today’s veterans through the Military Service Scholarship Award Fund, which benefits students who are currently serving or have served in any branch of the military.

Since the establishment of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, enrollment of veterans of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has surged at Buffalo State. With that boom comes an increased need for support. To make a gift to the Military Service Scholarship Award Fund, please contact the Alumni Association at (716) 878-6001 or donate online at http://alumni.buffalostate.edu.

Alumni who have served are encouraged to identify themselves to the Veterans Committee by contacting Jack Lang, committee chair and former Air Force captain, at alumni@buffalostate.edu.

Richard C. Auerbach
1930–2011
Veterans Committee Founding Member

Buffalo State College is deeply saddened by the death of Richard C. Auerbach, ‘52, ’55, founding member of the Alumni Veterans Committee, who died unexpectedly during the production of this magazine. The campus community extends its deepest condolences to his family and friends, particularly to his wife of 58 years, Rita, ’54, ’74, and their three children.

Auerbach earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Buffalo State and his doctorate in education from the University at Buffalo. He served as an elementary and junior high school teacher in Amherst and Williamsville, and as principal of Sweet Home’s Willow Ridge Elementary School. He also served for 10 years as an adjunct professor of education at Daemen College after retiring from public education in 1980.

He served four years in the United States Navy and 26 years in the Reserves, attaining the rank of captain. He was a life member of the Association of the U.S. Navy and the Reserve Officers Association, president of the Western New York Chapter of Retired Officers, and a member of the Disabled American Veterans and the American Legion. He was also a member of the Alpha Honor Society, the Buffalo State Peterson Society, Phi Delta Kappa, and the Burchfield Penney Art Center, and generous sponsor of the Dr. Richard C. Auerbach Scholarship in Art Education. He received special recognition for his work on the 2004 Burchfield Penney capital campaign, which raised funds to build the new museum, and he was honored with the college’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2007. He and Rita, also a distinguished alumna, earned the title “Lifetime Donors,” a designation reserved for Buffalo State’s most dedicated contributors.
40s

Norma (Hoffman) Salz, B.S.Ed. ’40, writes, “I have many memories of life at Buffalo State ’36–40. It was a very conservative institution, no questioning or deviation allowed. How I marvel at the changes that have taken place over these many years. If only I could do it all over again! Those years when I was a student, the war in Spain was raging and World War II was imminent. None of that was reflected in our studies. How fortunate the students are now in the open environment that was closed to us.”

50s

Rita Argen Auerbach, B.A. ’54, M.S.Ed. ’74, had three of her watercolor images of Buffalo architecture selected for the U.S. Department of State’s Art in the Embassies Program. She continues to spend summers at the Chautauqua Institution teaching master class watercolor workshops, exhibiting art, and painting the Victorian environs. In October, the Peter A. and Mary Lou Vogt Gallery at Canisius College presented the exhibition Recalling: Sketches and Reflections of a Journey, a retrospective of drawings and watercolors that Auerbach created in her role as the official artist of record during the 1986 Chautauqua Institution/ Eisenhower Institute Conference on U.S.-Soviet Relations that took place in Riga, Latvia.

Mary Jane (Wickham) Hoare, B.S. ’56, lives in Bridgewater, New Jersey, and spends her summers on Seneca Lake in Hector, New York, in the heart of wine country. She married her husband, John, in 1957. Four of their five grandchildren are now in college.

60s

Jon Chisholm, B.S.Ed. ’60, has finally retired—for the third time—after 50 years. Chisholm, who holds an Ed.D. in college teaching in studio in ceramics from Columbia University Teachers College, has taught art history, art therapy, sculpture, and design at several colleges and universities, including the University of Tampa, Saint Bonaventure University, and Jamestown Community College. He is preparing for a one-man show of his artwork this summer, from August 19 to September 9. This will be his 17th solo exhibition; his first was in 1968. Chisholm performed with the Erie Philharmonic Chorus at Carnegie Hall in New York City last May and spent a week as part of a choir-in-residence at Canterbury Cathedral in July. He writes, “Silas Boyd’s A Cappella Choir in ’57 was the beginning of 53 years of a musical avocation.”

James Viggiani, B.S.Ed. ’63, M.S.Ed. ’65, writes, “I attended State after serving in the Navy and was the first family member to attend college. In those years, State did not charge tuition, which is why I attended, since our family could not afford college. Buffalo State was directly responsible for my future in education, as I went on to become a teacher, school administrator, and college professor. After holding positions in Western New York and Rochester, we moved to Manassas, Virginia. My wife, Linda (Veit) Viggiani, B.S. Art Ed, ’63, and I retired from the Prince William County Schools. Our only son, Jasen, is a high school special education teacher. He and his wife, Sandi, just had our first grandson, James, who is now 8 months old. I am still playing senior tennis and basketball, participating in our local, state, and national Senior Olympics.” Viggiani holds a doctorate in educational administration from the University at Buffalo.

Marsha (Siegl) Fried, B.S. ’64, M.S.Ed. ’69, writes, “When I graduated from Buffalo State, I taught art in public schools for a few years before starting a family. While my three children were young, I had an art school in my home. My career changed direction, and I became involved in interior design and eventually became a kitchen and bath designer. My education, including an M.S. in art education, did not go to waste. I teach kitchen and bath design in the interior design interior design department of Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut, in addition to working for a kitchen and bath design firm.

Denis Umsinski, B.S. ’64, M.S. ’67, is serving his second year as acting village justice in Kenmore, New York. He continues to assist deploying reserve soldiers with their legal affairs. He served 27 years in the National Guard before attending the University at Buffalo Law School and being commissioned as a JAG officer in the New York Guard.

Kenan Yumurtaci, B.A. ’67, M.A. ’69, holds a Ph.D. in educational administration and supervision from Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey. He writes, “After working for 45 years in education in the U.S. (Buffalo, Albany, Schenectady public schools, New York State School Boards Association, SUNY Albany) and in Turkey (public schools, Middle East Technical University), Saudi Arabia (King Abdulaziz University), and Cyprus (Eastern Mediterranean University), I am fully retired in Ankara, Turkey. I’d love to see Buffalo State one more time if I can.”

Greetings to all from Turkey!”

Barry Diamondstone, B.A. ’69, M.A. ’71, and Cindi (Pollicove) Diamondstone, B.S. ’68, M.S. ’71, currently reside in Walkersville, Maryland. They have two grown daughters, Jessica and Rebecca, and a 10-month-old grandson. Cindi will begin her 43rd year teaching special education this fall. During her career, she has taught special education at the elementary, secondary, and high school levels. Her daily routine includes working out at the local YMCA. Barry retired from the federal government in 2004 as deputy director of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He currently spends his time volunteering with a therapeutic riding program that uses horseback riding as a rehabilitative tool for people with a wide variety of disabilities. His responsibilities include training donated horses for the program and working in the ring with the riders. In addition, he is in his fourth year as assistant men’s basketball coach at Frederick Community College, and is completing his sixth year as chairman of the board of directors of Goodwill Industries of Monocacy Valley.

Richard Frizzell, B.S. ’69, instructor of political science and international relations at the College of Coastal Georgia, attended his second lecture series at the Oxford Round Table at Harris Manchester College in the University of Oxford, in Oxford, England, last summer. The round table is an invitational gathering of university and college professors designed to develop and gather ideas on interesting and important issues of the times. He writes, “I was the first faculty member to attend the round table representing Coastal College of Georgia since it turned into a four-year institution, and was very honored to be sponsored by the college.”

Mary Jean ( McGrath) Hendrix, B.S. ’69, retired from the Hamburg Central School District after 32 years. She is currently supervising Fredonia-Hamburg inclusive education interns. Her son, Jon, is a writer; her daughter, Gretchen, is a special education teacher.

Gordon R. Terry, B.S. ’69, writes, “In addition to my degree at Buffalo State, I received an A.A.S. in mortuary science from SUNY Farmingdale, and after completing a combined career of 21 years teaching in the Roslyn Public Schools and SUNY Farmingdale, I purchased a funeral home in central New York in 1990. I have been active in the New York State Funeral Directors Association, serving as president in 2008–2009, and I continue to serve as a member of the board of directors. Serving as Otsego county coroner since 1997, I have also been appointed to the board of directors of the New York State Association of County Coroners and Medical Examiners.”
50s

Loeta O. (Ayrault) Werren, B.S. ’50, writes, “Thank you so much for sending me a copy of the alumni magazine. As an octogenarian of the Class of ’50, after all those years, it was indeed a surprise when your questionnaire arrived months ago. I decided what the heck, I’ll fill it out and send it back. There can’t be too many of us left. My daughter offered to drive me up for the reunion, but long drives and all-day events are hard for me to do now.

Buff State is a fond memory of mine. The Quad with its four buildings around it, the president’s house tucked next to the front corner, and just across the street, the Albright-Knox Art School. As an art major, one of my favorite places was the art gallery and nearby, the history museum. The old gym held so many great dances with the girls in their long gowns and the young men, most just back from the war, in jackets and ties.

Dr. Stanley Czurles was head of the Art Department. It was headquartered in the main building along with a small room on the second floor designated as the art students’ lounge. Many socks and the occasional sweater, always in a jacquard pattern, were industriously knitted there; also canasta was the favorite card game. Some studying also went on, believe it or not!

Mina Goosen taught us literature, and what a fabulous person she was! She was small and wiry, of indeterminate age and exuded energy. When she was lecturing or reading a passage from a book, she became that person in speech and especially in her body. It was fascinating to watch! An old man leaning on a cane or a stately queen…they seemed so real in speech and action.

Miss Goosen was also the college’s theatrical director. What events she directed! Her annual Christmas pageant was noted throughout the whole region and was repeated at least three times every year to accommodate everyone. The yearly play she directed was worthy of Broadway.

Your alumni magazine is fabulous, and I have read every page. What mostly happy memories it has brought back. I spent over 32 years teaching art in Chautauqua County, over 30 in Sherman. Several of my graduate professors encouraged me strongly to get my Ph.D., but for financial reasons it was impossible, and besides I loved being in the classroom. I finally got my M.S. from Syracuse U., plus a little extra.”

Jim Vozekas, B.A. ’69, is a full-time instructor at the Florida Career College School of Business and an adjunct professor at the Keller Graduate School of Management. His previous work has been as a practicing attorney in Boston and as a management consultant for Drake Beam Morin, an international career management firm dedicated to assisting organizations that are undergoing change. He lives in Delray Beach, Florida, with no plans to leave the warm weather.

70s

Diane M. (Berebko) Panasiewicz, B.S. ’70, writes, “After teaching in the Buffalo Public Schools for 34 years, especially enjoying the last 15 working with gifted and talented children, I retired in 2004 and have really enjoyed traveling. I work part time as a travel escort for Know How Tours, where I escort groups on one-day and overnight trips in the Eastern United States. For 13 years, I have also been a trustee on the Cheektowaga Central School District’s Board of Education, holding the offices of president, vice president, and legislative representative to both state and federal legislators.”


Kathleen (Paterson) Strickland, B.S. ’70, has been appointed interim dean of the College of Education at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. Strickland taught public school for several years in the City of Tonawanda and was assistant director of the Academic Skills Center at Buffalo State from 1984 to 1998. She joined the Slippery Rock faculty in 1998, serving as a professor in the College of Education and in the English department, and as director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching, before assuming her responsibilities as dean. Strickland has published six books in the area of literacy and assessment. She holds a Ph.D. in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Linda Dase-Daily, B.S. ’71, serves as national director of 2-1-1 and Disaster Services at United Way Worldwide in Alexandria, Virginia. Like 911 for emergency services, the 211 dialing code designated by the FCC in 2000 provides easy access to community-based information and referral services. The service is currently available in 82 percent of the United States and is widely available in the Western New York area. For more information or to volunteer, please visit www.211.org or www.211US.org.

Donald Ogilvie, B.S. ’71, received the Theodore Roosevelt Exemplary Citizenship and Service Award from the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation in September. The award recognizes an individual whose life and work exemplify the ideals and spirit of the nation’s 26th president, which include a strong devotion to the betterment of the community, daring and unselfish leadership, and contributions that are inspirational to all. In his current position as district superintendent of the Erie 1 Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Erie 1 BOCES), Ogilvie is responsible for providing a variety of instructional, managerial, and technology services to 20 school districts in Erie County and throughout New York State. He is also the field representative of the New York State commissioner of education for the region, including the Buffalo Public Schools. His strong commitment to the Western New York community is reflected in his involvement with numerous community organizations, including the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society, the Western New York Public Broadcasting Association, and the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

Stephen Baker, B.S. ’72, has retired from the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where he worked for more than 30 years. He is now pursuing a career in writing. His first love is science fiction, followed by military history. He has published his first book, Wrong Time and Place, in a four-part series, United Worlds Authority. The sci-fi story is a unique blend of international and intergalactic intrigue of friendship that spans time and space as a poor world goes from rags to riches and a young female pilot and ensign becomes empress of her planet.

Edward L. Robinson III, B.A. ’72, writes, “After serving almost 30 years in the U.S. Navy, six as an executive program consultant, I was recently sworn in to the for-
foreign service as a diplomat in the State Department. My initial assignment after language training will be as a political officer at the Embassy of the United States in Rangoon, Burma. I’d love to hear from my Buffalo State classmates at elr35@cornell.edu."

James "Jim" Nieves, B.S. ’73, writes, "For the last four years, I have served as vice president of human resources for Omniflight, an air medical transport services company. I have lived in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for the past 25 years."

(www.omniflight.com)

Paul Callens, B.A. ’74, received his M.A. in anthropology from Florida Atlantic University in 2008 and now works in the archaeology field. He writes, "It’s what I should have done in the first place! I retired from city government in Sunrise, Florida, in 2008." He also serves as a board member for the Broward County Historical Commission in Florida.

Edward Qualey, B.S. ’76, was awarded the 2010 Richard B. Lewis Award from the Criminal Justice Educators Association of New York State, the association’s highest honor. Qualey is chair of the Criminal Justice/Forensic Science Division and associate professor of criminal justice at Hilbert College. A New York state trooper for 25 years, he served as a sergeant and station commander, earning 10 commendations during his law enforcement career. He has received numerous awards, including the Faculty/Staff Lifetime Achievement Award, President’s Medal, and Excellence in Service Award, all from Hilbert College; a Service in Law Enforcement Award from the Erie County Law Enforcement Foundation; and Buffalo State’s Criminal Justice Outstanding Alumni Award.

Claudia (Szabla) Evans, B.S. ’74, M.S.Ed. ’77, writes, "I am currently working as a business instructor at YTI Career Institute, a two-year degree-granting private career college. I am the chair of the nominating committee for Alpha Beta Kappa Honor Society for the school. I am living in Dover, Pennsylvania, just north of York, Pennsylvania. I am married to Scott Evans, a graduate of Elizabethtown College, B.A. business management, M.B.A. from the University of New Haven. We have three children: Mary, who graduated from Shenandoah University Conservatory of Music with a B.A. in cultural studies and a concentration in arts management; Abraham, a sophomore at Gettysburg College studying economics; and Sarah, who just completed her first year at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in physics. I also have my own part-time business as a training consultant for Microsoft Office software. I just received my MCT certification (Microsoft certified trainer) from Microsoft after becoming certified in Access, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Outlook 2007."

Margaret Gryko, B.A. ’74, has been elected president of the Niagara Frontier Corporate Counsel Association, a nonprofit association of Western New York attorneys, for 2010–2011. Gryko is an assistant general counsel for Delaware North Companies.

Jim Hartman, B.A. ’74, M.S. ’77, the former director of veterans affairs on campus during the waning years of the Vietnam War, recently retired from the U.S. Department of Labor after 32 years, the last 17 as New York State director of the Veterans Employment and Training Service. Hartman currently lives in Saratoga Springs, New York. He keeps busy by playing golf and writing poetry. (After many years of rejection slips, he was finally published in 2010.)

Randi (Steevelman) Ornellas, B.S. ’74, retired in June 2010 after teaching elementary art in New Jersey for the past 26 years. She writes, "I restarted my jewelry business, Classy Glass, a silver and enamel jewelry line. After a 22-day trip to Rome, Venice, and Florence last July, I am ready with many new fresh ideas. (e-mail: Randaala@comcast.net)

Patricia Whirl-Lasarte, B.S. ’76, writes, "While at Buff State, I had the pleasure of receiving instruction from Jean and George Dowdall from the Sociology Department. Not only did I benefit from their excellent teaching skills, but they also encouraged me to pursue an advanced degree. On their advice, I applied for and was accepted to law school. I have been an attorney now since 1982 and have represented hundreds of limited-income, undocumented workers to gain lawful immigration status in the United States. As a result of the education I received at Buff State, I am able to understand the conditions that cause people to flee from their countries and the adverse effects of corrupt governments. I am grateful for the support I received, specifically from the Dowdalls, and generally from the staff and instructors. I was fortunate enough to have met. The world was very different when I lived in Buffalo while attending Buff State, but the lessons I learned have endured the changing world."

Kenneth T. Jones, B.S. ’77, is currently completing his second term as undersheriff in Orange County, New York, after retiring from the New York State Police. The Orange County Sheriff’s Office holds four accreditations between the Law Enforcement Division and the Corrections Division, the most accreditations of any sheriff’s office in the state of New York.

Daniel Rosati, B.S. ’77, marked his 30-year anniversary at William S. Hein & Co., Inc. in July. Rosati joined Hein in 1980 as a contract computer programmer and was soon hired as the computer coordinator. In 1986, he became assistant vice president, and today, as senior vice president, he oversees the IST, Editorial, and HeinOnline production areas. He was one of the original architects of Hein’s most successful program, HeinOnline, moving the company from its traditional roots into the digital age. HeinOnline is the world’s largest image-based legal research collection and contains more than nine centuries of legal history.

Tom Holehan, B.A. ’78, writes, "I am the artistic director of the Square One Theatre Company, a small professional theater in Stratford, Connecticut, which just celebrated its 20th anniversary this season. I cherish my Buff State days and my mentors Professor Warren Enters and Terry McDonald."

Donald Gwyasky, B.A. ’78, is the first assistant director of the Galveston County Legal Department in Galveston, Texas. He is the chief of civil litigation and appeals, and practices in state and federal court. He recently successfully argued before the Texas Supreme Court and regularly appears before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the Texas Courts of Appeals.

Kevin M. Brisson, B.S. ’80, writes, "I am currently completing my 30th year with the Onondaga County Sheriff’s Office. I was promoted to the rank of captain in 2005. I’m married to Sheryl Brisson. B.S. ’82. My daughter, Shannon, is a high school history teacher, and my son, Kyle, is starting his final year of college (electrical engineering). I competed in my 11th marathon in Albany, New York, in fall 2010."

Judith L. Pfoltzer, B.S.Ed. ’80, is currently living in Rochester, New York, and working for Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, a Johnson & Johnson company, as a senior occupational safety specialist. She writes, "After teaching for two years after graduating, I decided that being a schoolteacher was not for me and went into the biotechnology industry, first working for Genencor International, an industrial enzyme producer, in the research and development group before joining Johnson & Johnson’s biotech development team. Safety has always been a part of my interests/career, and I have seen increasing responsibilities over the years in this field. I do have an alter ego named Miss Hap who comes out to play at work on Bring Your Kids to Work Day. Funny thing is, when I was working on my master’s program for teaching, I focused on safety in the
science classroom for my thesis. Today I am still teaching, but now it is with adults and focused on industrial safety principles. It’s amazing where our career paths can take us! I am also enjoying life as an Adirondacker in Old Forge, New York, and looking forward to retirement there.”

Sharon Grandinette, B.S. ’80, M.S. ’85, is a pediatric acquired brain injury educational consultant and trainer serving all of California. As a certified brain injury specialist, Grandinette serves on the boards of directors for the California Brain Injury Association and the Brain Injury Association of America’s Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists. She is published in the field, present at state and national conferences, and is an adjunct instructor in the graduate special education program at California State University, Dominguez Hills. (www.helpingkidsbrains.com)

Michael Clark, B.A., B.S. ’82, writes, “I graduated in 1982 with two degrees from Buffalo State. One was a B.A. in fine arts and the second was a B.S. in physics. I enjoyed my years at Buff State. Now I am a manager at Northrop Grumman Amherst Systems in Amherst, New York.”


Carolyn (Cohen) Halbert, B.S.Ed. ’85, is a cancer epidemiologist for the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, Virginia Cancer Registry in Richmond, Virginia.

Ann Marie (Eacho) Hoster, B.S. ’84, is currently an industrial engineer at Energizer (Playtex) in Dover, Delaware.

Brian Quinn, B.S. ’84, is working as an IT contractor supporting legacy, Java, and .NET applications. He writes, “In 2010, I finished up a Medicaid project for the State of Virginia’s Department of Medical Assistance Services.”

James JJ Ferrara, B.A. ’86, writes, “I have spent the last 15 years working as a senior media editor/producer. I am also a field audio technician covering stories including wars, hurricanes, and political candidates. In June 2010, I was in New Orleans running audio for the live Anderson Cooper 360° show, covering the gulf oil spill. The show was broadcast from Woldenberg Riverfront Park.”

Kate (Shands) Haq, B.S. ’86, has taught at Akron Elementary School since 1987. She received her master’s in early childhood education from the University at Buffalo in 1990. She lives in the Parkside neighborhood of Buffalo with her husband, Kush Haq, and three sons.

Lori E. (Lukasik) Miller, B.A. ’86, M.S. ’90, is president and owner of Developing Professionals, a Buffalo-based training and consulting company that provides leadership, communication, and customized skill-based training programs. The company recently started a new division in health-care management. The division, Healthy Workforce Today, provides training programs and tools to help individuals proactively manage personal health, health-care utilization, and personal spending. (www.developingprofessionals.com; www.healthworkforcetoday.com)

Franmarie Mulla, B.S. ’86, writes, “I stayed in the Western New York area and am happy to report that I have been an employee at Moog Inc., in East Aurora, New York, for slightly more than 20 years. I completed my master’s degree in global business while at Moog. I have made my way through Moog, beginning in accounts receivable and moving to customer support contracts and credit manager; contract administrator; senior contract administrator; and export compliance, operation trade specialist, and empowered official to my current position, corporate export compliance manager and empowered official. I look forward to continued growth and achievement.” Mulla is a member of the National Contract Management Association, the Society for International Affairs, and the International Compliance Professionals Association.

Michael Zich, B.S. ’87, M.S. ’96, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1988. His illness led him to develop workshops using creative problem solving, mental rehearsal, goal setting, and other discussion formats to engage people diagnosed with the disease. In 1991, he became an advocate and volunteer federal lobbyist for disabled rights for the Rochester area Multiple Sclerosis Society. In 2002, he was recognized by the Upstate New York Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for his dedication and service and named Advocate of the Year. Zich has served as a child and family therapist for the Catholic Family Center and the Wayne Behavioral Health Network. Currently, he is employed full time by Cayuga Community College as an associate professor of psychology. He and his wife, Denise, recently celebrated 30 years of marriage and reside in Rose, New York, with their daughter, Aubrey, and son, Zachary. The Ziches continue to restore an 1849 brick Victorian, which was on the Underground Railroad, and stay active working on numerous projects.

Andre Nottingham, B.S. ’89, M.S. ’91, currently serves as the director of the Educational Talent Search program at the University of Maryland, College Park. Educational Talent Search (ETS) is a federal TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and sponsored by the University of Maryland since 1985. The program provides free precollege assistance to disadvantaged students enrolled at 10 target high schools in Prince George’s County (Maryland) public schools. The goal of the program is to increase the number of students who graduate from high school and enroll at an institution of higher education.

Mark Strauss, B.S. ’89, is the principal of Virginia Shuman Young Elementary Montessori Magnet School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He was recently elected to the governing board of PDK International, an international education association, to represent the Southeast United States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee), the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Additionally, he is serving as a member of the state of Florida’s Education Practices Commission. He teaches as an adjunct professor in the Educational Leadership Department at Florida Atlantic University. He holds an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Nova Southwestern University.

90s

Scott Ellsworth, B.S. ’89, M.S. ’97, writes, “Sometimes we idealize the past, but I can honestly say that my years at Buff State were among the best times of my life. It’s a great feeling to remain engaged through the Alumni Association and still be in the local area.”

Denise Rossitto-Gavilan, B.A. ’90, writes, “I graduated from the Communication Department in 1990 and have had a very busy and exciting career in marketing and PR ever since. I relocated to the Washington, D.C., area 18 years ago, and have worked for a PR firm, Sallie Mae, and two associations. In 2008, I opened my own consulting practice, Gavilan Marketing & PR, and currently provide strategic marketing communication and implementation for five associations. With two young kids, owning a business provides the best of both worlds: time to attend all their school functions and volunteer when needed, and time to manage and grow my company. Buff State definitely prepared me for the early stages of my career, and I eventually went on to pursue a master’s degree in communication from American University. I visit my family and friends in Buffalo at least twice a year and still miss so many of the things...”
that made it home! (8502 Browning Ct., Annandale, VA 22003. Please note that this is a new address.)"

Fubarnomics, a book by Robert E. Wright, B.A. ’90, was published in July. Wright, an economic historian, takes a fresh approach to public policy in this witty, informative, nonpartisan overview of contemporary economic ills. His book offers unique insights into the recent crippling recession, including the subprime mortgage meltdown, as well as the looming health-care crisis and the perennial problem of Social Security. 

Wright is the Net Family Chair of Political Economy at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For many years, he taught at New York University’s Stern School of Business. He is also a curator for the Museum of American Finance. His articles have appeared in Barron’s, the Los Angeles Times, Forbes, and Moody’s Economy.com. He has been a guest on NPR, C-SPAN, the BBC, The Lou Dobbs Show, and Larry Kane: Voice of Reason.

Eric Majchrzak, B.S. ’91, marketing manager for Freed Maxick & Battaglia PC, was named one of the 100 Most Influential People for 2010 by the national trade publication Accounting Today. Majchrzak was recognized for his innovative integrated marketing strategies using digital and social media. He joined Freed Maxick in 2003, where he develops the firm’s overall marketing and communications strategy, including branding, industry niche marketing, and public relations. He is a board member and former website committee chair of the national Association for Accounting Marketing (AAM). He was named AAM’s Rookie Marketer of the Year in 2006 and received the AAM’s award for Best Public Relations Campaign in June 2010 for his use of a digital Twitter billboard.

Majchrzak is a frequent speaker at national and regional accounting industry events and has been profiled in several news and trade publications, including AICPA Insider, CPA Practice Management Forum, and Buffalo Business First. He resides in Boston, New York, with his wife and two children.

Craig Howard, B.A. ’94, writes, “After Buff State, I completed an M.A. in applied linguistics and TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) at Columbia University Teachers College and took a position in Japan. I returned to the U.S.A. in 2006 after seven years on the faculty of Kanda University of International Studies in Chiba (near Tokyo). I will finish a Ph.D. in instructional systems technology at Indiana University in May 2011, and have recently married Shoko Furuya, a native of Ibaraki, Japan. I am the assistant editor of the International Journal of Designs for Learning, the first multimedia academic publication dedicated to instructional design.” (http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/jidl/index)

Amber (Romanczak) Stasio, M.S.Ed. ’95, writes, “I am a special education teacher at a private school in Buffalo; I love teaching in the city! I was married in 2008 to my husband, BJ, who is a self-advocacy liaison for a large statewide agency. We live right here in the city of Buffalo, near Buff State. We love concerts, cultural events, and local coffee shops, and enjoy showing pride in our City of Good Neighbors! I love singing soprano in a community chorus.”

H. Jeffrey Marcus, M.S. ’87, writes, “I am an attorney. My firm represents parents of children with disabilities in special education matters. We provide representation all across New York State. From 1995 to 2005, I was on the faculty at the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. I taught special education law and directed the Special Education Clinic. I developed and maintain a blog addressing current developments in special education law.” (http://blog.jeffmarcuslaw.com; http://jeffmarcuslaw.com)

John Spero, B.S. ’95, a New York State trooper, was awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Association Police Award in 2010. This award is presented annually to a police officer who has overcome a handicap and who continues to render outstanding service to his or her police department. Spero was wounded in the line of duty in 2002 with Trooper Shawn Dean following a routine traffic stop. As a result of his heroic actions during the incident, Spero was awarded the Brummer Award, the New York State Police’s highest honor, recognizing personal bravery and outstanding courage in the performance of one’s duties. He has received numerous letters of commendation from his troop commander and zone commander for his exemplary enforcement of criminal and DWI laws. He has received advanced training and is certified as a field training officer (FTO) and an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) peer counselor. He entered the State Police force on October 30, 2000. Spero and his wife, Bridgette, reside in Buffalo with their children, 6-year-old Grace and 3-year-old Jude.

Stephanie L. Brizard, B.S.Y. ’96, recently married SUNY Binghamton alumnus Keith Macklin in their hometown of Brooklyn, New York, before family and friends.

Trent Morris, B.S. ’96, received a second bachelor’s degree—in athletic training—from Grand Canyon University in 2006. He is currently a certified athletic trainer at a 5A high school in Surprise, Arizona, just outside of Phoenix. Morris played defensive back for the Buffalo State Bengals from 1990 to 1994, serving as captain, and accomplished All-American (1992) during that time.

Christine Ziegler Clark, M.S.Ed. ’96, writes, “I am now in sunny Florida teaching history. I was named American History Teacher of the Year for Brevard County, Florida, in 2004. I am also teaching this summer at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. I am enjoying my career since getting my master’s degree from Buffalo State.”

Grant Van Leuven, B.A. ’96, was ordained and installed as pastor of the Puritan Evangelical Church of America, in San Diego, California, on November 5.

Van Leuven graduated with a master of divinity degree in 2010 from the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he also served for a number of years as the director of development and communications. Prior to working for the seminary, he served as an account executive for a large Pittsburgh ad agency and for WORD-FM radio (Salem Communications), as well as director of communications for several nonprofit organizations, including the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium. Originally from Rochester, New York, Van Leuven lives in Chula Vista, California, with his wife, Jennifer, and their three children: Rachel (7), Olivia (5), and Abraham (2). He also enjoys songwriting. (www.dumbsheep.org)

Jermaine Fuller, B.T. ’97, is currently employed by Flextronics International, and is located at the Charlotte, North Carolina, manufacturing facility. He writes, “I am entering my 10th year with the company, which was previously Soelec Technology. I currently hold the position of operations engineering manager and am responsible for equipment maintenance and MRO procurement (maintenance, repair, and operational assets).” Fuller celebrated his eighth wedding anniversary in September.

Risa (Reback) Klee, B.S. ’98, M.S.Ed. ’03, writes, “I am a third-grade teacher at Thomas Edison Elementary School in the Ken-Ton School District. I co-teach with a special education teacher, which I enjoy very much. I have also taught second and fourth grades at Thomas Edison, as well as second grade for the Buffalo Public Schools. I’m a building literacy facilitator and will be a grade level liaison in the upcoming school year. I just came back from Incheon, South Korea, where my 23-year-old daughter, Courtney, is teaching English. It was a great experience. I taught
her classes for two days and went on a field trip with them to the Biological (science) Museum. I have a 26-year-old son, Matthew ‘06, who is also a graduate of Buffalo State College with a business degree in marketing and finance. He is the head estimator for Kelley Bros Buffalo, a commercial hardware distributor. I have been married to my wonderful husband, Fred, for 27 years, and we enjoy traveling and gardening. I am now also dabbling in a little bit of golf so we can play together in our retirement years.”

Christina (Lougen) Yuknis, B.S.Ed. ’98, writes, “I recently graduated with my Ph.D. in education policy studies from the University of Maryland, College Park. I have also received a promotion at Gallaudet University to the rank of assistant professor.”

Allison “Corky” (Pugliese) Giambra, M.S. ’99, is a photographer and the owner of Wild Eye Photos Mobile Pet Photography. She writes, “Although my degree enabled me to reach high-level management positions at both Motorola and General Motors, I grew tired of the corporate world. I decided to start my own business doing something that I love and that is very rewarding.” (www.wildeyephotos.com)

00s

Joel Malley, B.S. ’00, is a Buffalo teacher and teacher consultant with the Western New York Writing Project. He was featured in Teachers Are the Center of Education, a series of reports highlighting the importance of teachers and the quality of their work. Malley was one of eight Writing Project teachers chosen nationally for their innovative use of digital tools for writing and learning. He was quoted: “We are preparing kids for a different world—a world where they need to know how to tell compelling stories. And the types of stories that are compelling these days are not just print stories … When kids make a video about something, they know it a lot better than if they were writing a research paper. There are a lot of decisions involved when they decide how to match up music, sound effects, audio, who to video, or what shot to take. There is a deeper embedded knowledge required.” (www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/3154)

David Dileas, M.S. ’01, is currently working at Heritage Centers in Western New York as an enclave manager. 

Harry Ginty, M.S.Ed. ’01, is a science consultant inclusion teacher at Binghamton High School. He writes, “It’s very rewarding work, and the applied sciences at Buff State promise a degree, but more importantly, we work!”

Penny (Kota) Kerr, B.A. ’03, was married on May 22, 2009, and graduated from St. Bonaventure University’s integrated marketing communications master’s degree program the following December. Kerr is marketing manager for Seneca Gaming and Entertainment in Irving, New York.

Naomi Yané, B.A. ’04, writes, “Getting into the broadcasting field after my time at Buff State was challenging, but with persistence and positivity it finally happened. After two and a half years with Metro Networks and WCBS-TV (NYC) as a traffic producer, I’m currently at NY1 News as a traffic anchor/video journalist. I want to say thank you to Dr. William Raffel for his guidance during my time at Buff State and for the recommendations afterward.”

Nicole Blackwell, B.A. ’05, writes, “Since graduating from Buffalo State in December 2005, I have worked as a bilingual paralegal at Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled or Disadvantaged of WNY. My journey since graduation has been a truly amazing experience, and I am so thankful for the education I have received and the knowledge I have gained at Buffalo State. On a more personal note, I have met the love of my life and we have a 5-year-old daughter, Imani, who is such a joy and a blessing. She entered kindergarten in fall 2010 and is excited to learn and make new friends. Imani is such an imaginative little girl with a world of opportunity ahead of her. I have also bought a condo in Williamsville, which is perfect for our family and represents an accomplishment that I am really proud of.”

Anneliese Gryta, B.A. ’05, is a practicing attorney who has dedicated her work to helping low-income workers gain access to legal aid. She is a fellow with Equal Justice Works, a non-profit organization that provides training and skills to help lawyers provide effective representation to underserved communities. Gryta has set up the Microenterprise Legal Assistance Project with Advocates for Basic Equality in Toledo, Ohio, to provide legal advice and access to capital for entrepreneurs interested in starting their own small businesses.

Lisa Velte-Harris, B.S. ’06, graduated from the University of Rochester William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration in January with a B.S. in business administration and a medical management concentration.

Victoria Hanson, M.S. ’06, was recently promoted to assistant director for operations and budget for the Dobbs University Center at Emory University.

Kevin Manne, B.A. ’07, is the new media specialist for Genesee Community College (GCC). Manne started in December 2010 and leads GCC’s communication efforts across social media, blogging, web, and other emerging media. GCC’s social media presence has seen rapid growth thanks to a renewed, refocused effort, including 169 percent growth in its Facebook page traffic. GCC’s new Twitter account, @sunygcc, was established in December and has already connected with more than 140 followers. Manne also serves as secretary of the Public Relations Society of America Buffalo Niagara Chapter board of directors and is a member of its E-communications Committee. He was awarded the platinum "best of show" Excalibur award for development of a web-based employee newsletter in 2009, and he received a silver Excalibur in social media in 2010.

Elaina Pasquale, B.S. ’08, moved to Phoenix, Arizona, and within two months found an art teaching position at Dos Rios Elementary. “I am going on my third year at the school, and I am truly loving my job and of course the weather. However, I do miss Buffalo’s chicken wings and pizza!”

Joshua Fehskens, B.A. ’09, is currently working as the sales manager for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Laura Freeburg, B.A. ’09, writes, “I am currently working toward my M.S. in student personnel administration at Buffalo State College and will graduate in spring 2011. This will be my second year working as the graduate residence coordinator at Medaille College. I already completed two internships, one at Collegiate Village (programming intern) and the other at SUNY Fredonia (orientation intern). In fall 2010, I completed a third internship at Hilbert College as the student activities intern. My objective after graduation is to become a full-time residence director with active support in orientation, student life, and international student support.”

10s

Brayan Melo, B.S. ’10 (left), is the first scholar to complete the Marriott Scholars Program, earning a bachelor’s degree in hospitality administration in May. The Marriott Scholars Program was founded by the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation in 2007, in partnership with the Hispanic College Fund and the United Negro College Fund. The program awards grants totaling up to $500,000 annually to students pursuing degrees in the areas of hospitality management, hotel management, culinary,
and food and beverage. “I’m so honored to be the first Marriott Scholar to graduate,” said Melo, an assistant rooms manager at the New York Marriott Downtown. “I’m also thankful to the foundation and to my mentor, David DiFalco, for investing in my education, professional development, and future.” DiFalco (right) is director of event management at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge.

A ceramic sculpture by Sumiyo Roland, B.F.A. ’10, titled Twins (shown), took the grand prize in the Mayo booth gallery at the 2011 conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, held in Tampa, Florida, March 30–April 2.

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<td>Send your news to CLASS NOTES Alumni Affairs Office Cleveland Hall 319 Buffalo State College 1300 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, NY 14222 Fax (716) 878-6050; e-mail <a href="mailto:alumni@buffalostate.edu">alumni@buffalostate.edu</a>. Submissions for the winter 2011 issue must be received by August 15, 2011.</td>
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Faculty and Staff

Robert B. Chotoff served as an adjunct assistant professor in the History and Social Studies Education Department from 1990 to 2000, following his career as a history teacher in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda school district. He also served in the United States Army Air Forces during World War II.

Emanuel J. “Manny” Fried, professor emeritus of English, joined the Buffalo State faculty in 1972. An acclaimed actor and playwright, Fried was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee for his work as a union organizer, blacklisting him for much of his professional career. His plays, such as *The Dodo Bird, Drop Hammer,* and *Elegy for Stanley Gorski,* mirrored his working-class politics. Fried retired from Buffalo State in 1983 but continued to teach part time until 2008.

Joseph R. Guetta, a retired instructional support technician, joined the Buffalo State staff in 1973 following a career as an engineering assistant with Bell Aerospace. Guetta maintained the laboratory, equipment, and facilities for the engineering technology faculty. He supervised student laboratory activities and developed an inventory control system, aiding in developing budget requests for all new and replacement electrical and electronics equipment. He also designed and constructed equipment. He retired in 1991.

Mary C. Hall, librarian emerita of E. H. Butler Library, joined Buffalo State in 1967 after serving as an elementary school librarian and as a cataloger and reference librarian with the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. During her career at Buffalo State, she headed the Catalog and the Bibliographic Control departments. As the library’s interim director from 1980 to 1982, she led efforts to secure microcomputers and to train the library’s staff in their use, thereby paving the way for the integration of technology into the operations of the library. She received the President’s Award for Excellence in Librarianship in 1985, the year she retired.

Birtres Daughtry Mackin, keyboard specialist 1 in Alumni Affairs, started her career at Buffalo State in 1960. She worked in many departments on campus, including E. H. Butler Library, the Performing Arts Department, the Affirmative Action Office, and since 1991, various Institutional Advancement offices.

Kirk J. Massey, retired university police officer, joined the Buffalo State community in 1981 and served as a university police officer until his retirement in 2008. Early in his career, he served as coordinator of the college’s volunteer ambulance corps in the Weigel Health Center. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves for several years, as well as in the Kenmore Volunteer Fire Department.

Jerome Rothlein, associate professor emeritus of fine arts, joined Buffalo State in 1964 as a professor of art history, specializing in nineteenth- and twentieth-century art. Throughout his career, he continued his research into art history, and he led many student trips to New York City and elsewhere to see important works firsthand. His colleagues praised him for his ability to convey his enthusiasm to students. He retired in 1990.

Lee R. Snyder, professor emeritus of philosophy and religious studies, joined Buffalo State as an instructor in 1974. His research interests included phenomenology and existential philosophy, and he was fluent in French and German. An accomplished scholar, he published numerous articles and a book, *The Development of Cognitive Synthesis in Immanuel Kant and Edmund Husserl.* His knowledge of Eastern philosophy and the Sanskrit language enabled the Philosophy Department to expand its course offerings in Eastern thought, and he was instrumental in the development of the department’s religious studies program. He retired in 2003.

Ruth Sugarman, ’38, professor emerita of the Curriculum and Instruction Department, joined Buffalo State in 1946 as a fifth-grade demonstration teacher in the School of Practice. In 1955, she was appointed professor of elementary education at Buffalo State, and in 1956, interim principal, then principal, of the Campus School (formerly the School of Practice), a position she held until she joined the education faculty in 1963. Her publications included several articles for the *Journal of Geography* and a teachers’ manual for fifth-grade geography. She retired in 1975.

Louis A. Ward, former chief of University Police, joined Buffalo State in 1979 as assistant director of University Police, then known as Campus Security. He assisted in the implementation of the community policing model, starting a bicycle patrol system and developing the Public Safety Aid Program. He also helped to obtain a $375,000 grant from the federal Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, which enabled the college to add five officers. He was a member of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police. He retired in 2002.

Barry J. White, project staff associate with the Center for Development of Human Services (CDHS) at Buffalo State, joined CDHS in 1983 as a training activities coordinator. He worked on many CDHS training grants during his career. He also served as a lecturer in UB’s American studies program and as a social studies teacher with the Buffalo Public Schools. White was a member of the Turtle Clan of the Seneca Nation and a resident of the Cattaraugus Reservation. He served as a board member of the Seneca Nation Library Museum and a Faith Keeper of the Newtown Longhouse.
Maeruth P. Wilson, assistant professor emerita of English, joined the college in 1967 as an English instructor in the SEEK program, the precursor to today’s Educational Opportunity Program. She provided leadership in the developmental English program and later played an important role in developing courses in English as a second language (ESL). She also taught first-year English composition classes. She served as chair of a poetry symposium of Upward Bound and SEEK students at Buffalo State for several years, and she presented programs at a number of conferences about developing programs for disadvantaged students. After retiring in 1989, she taught for 10 years in the composition program for ESL students.

Bernard B. Yormak, professor emeritus of exceptional education, joined Buffalo State’s exceptional children education program in 1963 and served as chair of the Learning and Behavioral Disorders Department from 1969 to 1971. An accomplished scholar, Yormak was named a diplomat of the American Board of Examiners in Professional Psychology, the highest honor in his field at the time. He also served as an adviser to the Mental Health Association of Erie County and the Buffalo Board of Education. Upon his retirement in 1985, he established two annual awards for students pursuing exceptional education degrees—one undergraduate and one graduate—and sponsored them ever since.

Alumni

1930–1939
Thelma (Hubbard) Messinger, ’36
Crede Dale Hagerty, ’39

1940–1949
Ethel Florence Andrus, ’40
Catherine E. Crocston, ’41
Stephen W. Harrison, ’41
Frances (Weisman) Kramer, ’41
Mary (Lutz) Ball, ’42
Donald R. Goodman, ’42

Eleanor F. (Wright) Greatbatch, ’42
Jeanne F. (Padginton) Schmidle, ’42
Rose M. George, ’43
Sonja (Hugo) Klinkow, ’43
Margaret (Murray) Down, ’44
Janice (Rance) Yorke, ’44
Annette (Dress) Caughel, ’45
Gloria (Radaelli) Miller, ’45
Lucy Osgood Steiter, ’45
Carolyn (Fiore) Beal, ’46
Jean M. (Goodell) Clifford, ’48
Antoinette E. (Newton) Steck, ’48, ’58
Jack W. Berger, ’49
Carl A. Burkhartd, ’49
Martha G. (Dispenza) Cook, ’49
Edward W. Flayer, ’49

1950–1959
Carol (Metke) Jacobs, ’50
Janet (Browne) Kloper, ’50
Wilma H. Meyer, ’50
Dorothy A. Klaia, ’51, ’55
Richard C. Auerbach, ’52, ’55
Bernard Belfer, ’52
Robert A. Binner, ’53
Margaret (Fee) Adams, ’54
Richard A. Petrie, ’54
Nancy M. Wilmott, ’55
Irene J. (Laszewski) Boron, ’56
Marshall Chazen, ’56
Alberta B. Ford, ’56
Marie J. (Gagnon) Marillo, ’56
Evelyn (Rosenstein) Kaplan, ’57
Frank Dunn, ’58
Patricia A. (Miller) Mitten, ’58, ’61
Richard Barmasse, ’59, ’64
George C. Notter, ’59

1960–1969
Barbara Jean (Hammer) Downs, ’60
Werner A. Huber, ’60
Charlotte (Donovan) Spencer, ’60
Roseann E. (Oheron) Converse, ’61
Joanne M. (Viner) Kovacs, ’62
Salvatore S. Acquisto, ’63, ’70
Mary E. (Ryan) Barrese, ’63
Chester C. Czekaj, ’63
Joseph Robert Levesque, ’63
Janet H. O’Brien, ’63
Alice M. Shimer, ’63
Dennis F. Feldman, ’64
Judith Ann (Exler) Perlstein, ’64
Dorothy J. Walker, ’64
David J. Kahla, ’65
Kristine Kubala, ’65
Shirley E. Berger, ’66
Michele L. (Speth) Hereth, ’66
Edward A. Lung, ’66, ’68, ’74
Dorothy Theiss Myers, ’66, ’74
Sheila A. Robinson, ’67
Gary E. Schiller, ’67, ’69
Linda A. (Widdowfield) Blattner, ’68
Janet H. Bradley, ’68
Gail (Paul) Eisen, ’68
Yvonne (Buchina) Kaminski, ’68
Thomas E. Peters, ’68, ’70, ’73
Marleen M. (Ackerman) Astudillo, ’69, ’75
Cynthia Ann (Fluke) Crowley, ’69
Clarence Franklin, ’69
James E. Hatch, ’69

1970–1979
Arthur E. Jones, ’70
Barbara A. (Tomaszewski) Ryan, ’70
Dennis H. Block, ’71
Regina A. Kaier, ’72
Patty L. (Tenent) Tyler, ’72, ’77
James J. Careere, ’73
Frank Horvatis, ’73
Norbert J. Jagodzinski, ’73
Hope (Hanson) Manning, ’73
Frances M. Donovan, ’74
Peter L. Duttweiler, ’74
Clifford M. Platt, ’75
Rheta Reinbird, ’75
Kathleen Kuczowski, ’77
John C. Kennedy, ’77
Ann G. Newell, ’77
Susan (Turniel) Smith, ’77
Robert L. Sodano, ’77
Christine M. Weil, ’77
Thomas Brown, ’78
Lynda J. (Marx) Marinechek, ’78
Dorothy White, ’78

1980–1989
Gilda Tunis, ’80, ’83
Mary M. Donoghier, Esq., ’81
Paul L. Coleman, ’82
Christopher Strycharz, ’82

George Baker, ’83
Thomas H. Collins, ’83
Janice L. (Connet) Smith, ’83
Paul A. Cappola, ’84
Anthony J. Patalano, ’85
Cheryl Sadler, ’85
Lawrence S. Burris, ’86
Mary E. Eckhardt, ’86
Leon M. Gorczyca, ’86
Mary Ann Kelleher, ’87
Pamela R. (Mc) McBryde, ’89

1990–1999
Clare E. Roney, ’90
Leslie H. Kemmerer, ’91
Mary M. (Hurst) Baughman, ’93
Janice J. Faleski, ’93
Thomas E. Lundgren, ’93
Ranae E. (Stilwell) Lores, ’97
Randolph A. Piazza, ’97

2000–2009
John C. Kennedy, ’01
Thomas M. Stytle Jr., ’01
Tanjanika L. Pinkston, ’04
Karl J. Jacobik, ’05
James B. Woodard, ’07
Christopher Hoefert, ’09

Peterson Society member

The Peterson Society is Buffalo State’s honor society for those who have made a gift to the university in their wills or through other estate-planning techniques.

Peterson Society

in memoriam
As a child growing up in Gambia, in West Africa, Muhammed Sumbundu, ’13, used to watch influential American political figures on CNN. Today, as a political science major at Buffalo State, he watches them in person. Tomorrow, he plans to be one.

Since immigrating to the United States in 2004, the outgoing Sumbundu has dedicated himself to one goal: representing people as a democratically elected official.

He’s off to a good start. On International Youth Day in 2006, Sumbundu was chosen to speak at the United Nations on behalf of the International YMCA of New York City. That experience led him to work with the New York City Council, which has brought him face-to-face with many of the major players in New York State politics, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo, U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

“I always take the opportunity to meet people and network. That’s very important to me. When you open yourself up to others, they respond,” said Sumbundu. “No matter where you go around the globe, there’s always an opportunity to bring people together and work toward a common goal.”

On campus, Sumbundu serves as a student assistant in the President’s Office, an Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) mentor, a resident assistant, and a team leader for the University Police Student Assistants. He’s also one of the faces of Buffalo State’s new brand campaign, Because of Buffalo State.

“Because of Buffalo State,” said Sumbundu, who plans to go to law school, “I feel my future is very bright.”

Support students with big goals. Support the Buffalo State College Foundation.
Join us this fall and throughout the 2011-2012 academic year as we celebrate the arts at Buffalo State.

For a listing of events, visit www.yearofthearts.com.