E. H. Butler Library is evolving again—this time as the new home of the Academic Commons.
Buffalo State’s Casting Hall Productions staged *The Color Purple* in Warren Enters Theatre in Upton-Hall in November. Casting Hall was the first theater company in the region to take on a revival of the show that was originally made into a Tony Award-winning musical in 2006.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRUCE FOX
Next-Gen Library

E. H. Butler Library is evolving again—this time as the new home of the Academic Commons.

Going Underground

A look back at the Buffalo State tunnels.

“For me personally, that makes a huge impact on my life and what I’m able to do moving forward.”

DEPARTMENTS
FROM THE PRESIDENT 2
CAMPUS NEWS 4
DONOR IMPACT 22
ALUMNI NEWS 30
CLASS NOTES 32
IN MEMORIAM 38
MY TURN 40

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Adaptation Is the Mother of Success

If you stroll across campus or stop to have coffee and conversation with a faculty or staff member, you are likely to notice or hear about the many ways the Buffalo State campus is thoughtfully making changes across every sector. The curriculum, landscape, and business model of higher education in today’s world continues to evolve and adapt.

Today’s students are being prepared for the world of today and the yet-to-be-defined evolving needs of tomorrow. Often as I sit with other educators, we fall into a conversation or debate about how we are preparing students for fields of study or careers that are yet-to-be seen. We can all agree that the skills of critical thought, strong writing, and significant analytical abilities will best prepare students to be the flexible lifelong learners the future will demand, but we press to do even more. Adaptation to our rapidly changing technological world is crucial for the future success of our students. Although today’s students are often technologically well versed, we still need to augment their understanding with specific discipline-based applications. And perhaps even more critical, we must assist them in learning how to navigate the overabundance of information that is available to them. The huge amount of information ranges from the accurate and well researched to the fabricated and purposely misleading. Educated students now require the skills and aptitude to discern appropriate information from the sea of variable information.

The world is also a place of global interactions that require leaders not only to be culturally at ease with the diverse communities that coexist and routinely collide, but also to appreciate the growth that occurs from the intentional and unexpected connections. Twenty-first-century leaders will be successful only if they learn to adapt to, embrace, and be elevated by the diversity of people, thoughts, cultures, and customs that surrounds our communities. In many ways, being bombarded by differing views cultivates creative thought. There is no better way to foster innovative thought than by bringing together varied views and allowing them to influence each other, thus resulting in insightful and creative new thoughts.

Today Buffalo State is developing new academic and support programs that will prepare students for their futures. This important curricular development is led by our faculty as they revise, modify, and add to our existing array of academic offerings. Across our administrative divisions, we constantly review our processes and structures and ask how we can modify, adapt, and reenergize them to meet the needs of today and of the future. And we are looking at our physical spaces and modifying them to best master the twenty-first-century needs of today’s students and higher education systems.

Adaptation and innovation are occurring throughout Buffalo State College. Fundamental to our implementation of innovation and change is our desire to continue to move the college to ever-higher levels of success. Adaptation is the mother of success, and it is student success that we cultivate with every change and every innovation.

Follow the President Katherine S. Conway-Turner, Ph.D., is a regular on social media.
Follow her at ➡️@kate_kct ➡️kateconwayturner.tumblr.com ➡️Kctmatrix
TRAVELS WITH 1300 ELMWOOD

Editor’s note: We’re delighted to hear again from the Lofverses, 1300 Elmwood’s globetrotting couple.

Our travels have taken us to all seven continents—early in 2018 we literally circumnavigated the planet, exploring many amazing places. As you can see from the attached photo, we had a wonderful visit to Dubai, spending time on Umm Suqeim Beach where the ultraluxurious Burj Al Arab Jumeirah towers in the background.

Although almost everyone around us enjoyed splashing around in the exceptionally warm water, we had even more fun just by standing there in the hot sun reading the latest issue of 1300 Elmwood! It certainly is a wonderful world to explore, and we have no plans to stop!

—David Lofvers, ’74, and Susan (Polukort) Lofvers, ’75

Have photos from your travels that you’d like to share with fellow alumni? E-mail them to marcomm@buffalostate.edu and we’ll consider them for publication.

TRAVEL ICONS

Mumbai, India
Phuket Town, Thailand
Umm Suqeim Beach, Dubai

onthe web

www.youtube.com/user/officialbuffalostate

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

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

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

- Bengals Unite! 2018 Homecoming Highlights
  A recap of the fun-filled weekend.

- 2017–2018 Buffalo State Highlights
  An overview of the academic year.

- Bengals Dare to Care Day Highlights 2018
  A review of the college’s annual community service day.

- Buffalo State Opens the New Alumni and Visitor Center
  Highlights of the ribbon-cutting ceremony that officially marked the opening of the Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center.

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Comments for publication may be edited for style, length, and clarity.
College Receives $2.19 Million Title III Grant

Buffalo State will have more resources to support and retain students, thanks to a $2.19 million Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The five-year Insight to Impact grant will cover tutoring, coaching, and other initiatives to help students overcome roadblocks to earning their bachelor’s degrees. The grant will also support data analytics and monitoring of retention efforts.

Title III grants are designed for colleges and universities to expand their capacity to serve low-income students. This is the first time that Buffalo State has received the grant.

‘New’ Bishop Hall Fills Need for Student Housing

Bishop Hall returned to its original identity as a residence hall when it reopened last fall following a yearlong $16 million renovation. The building now houses 204 students—many of whom are enrolled in the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program or the newer Dean’s Honors Program—in double-occupancy rooms. Renovations include new mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; architectural improvements; and safety-related enhancements. Amenities include a study lounge and laundry room on each floor, a shared kitchen, a multipurpose gathering space, and an honors classroom that can accommodate two dozen students.

Built as a traditional dormitory in 1958, Bishop Hall was repurposed in the 1970s to house academic department offices and computer labs. The increasing demand for student housing spurred the college to reconvert Bishop to a living space for high-achieving students.

College Opens New Alumni and Visitor Center

Buffalo State officially opened its new $6.9 million Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 27.

The 10,800-square-foot two-story facility is located at the corner of Rockwell Road and Grant Street, solidifying the college’s Grant Street entrance as the second main gateway to campus. The center is a gathering place for alumni and also serves as an information center for campus visitors and a starting point for prospective undergraduate students and their families embarking on campus tours. Its conference areas and event spaces are available for rent by community groups.

A combination of state grants and private donations funded the multimillion-dollar project. The most significant individual donation was a $1 million gift from Jacqueline Vito LoRusso, ’62, ’64. “This house will be a happy place for everyone who goes through its doors,” LoRusso said. “It’s a place to share ideas, to learn from one another, and to return to the past and look forward to the future. It’s a place to laugh together, to celebrate together, and to recall all of the many gifts that Buffalo State has given us throughout the years.”
Durand Retires, Receives Citywide Recognition

Bonita R. Durand, longtime chief of staff and secretary to the Buffalo State College Council, retired on September 1.

Serving five presidents at Buffalo State over her 22-year career, Durand provided insightful leadership to countless committees and working groups at Buffalo State, including the Middle States accreditation steering committee, the presidential inauguration support committees, the facilities master planning committee, and the presidential search advisory committees.

Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown, ’83, proclaimed September 22 “Dr. Bonita Durand Day” in the city of Buffalo in honor of her retirement (right).

An active and influential member of the Western New York community, she has served as a commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority and as a member of the boards of directors of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and the Western New York Women’s Fund, as well as numerous City of Buffalo committees.

Durand received the Bernice Poss Award from the Western New York Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education in 2012 for her contributions to the field as both an administrator and a faculty member. In 2014, she and her husband, Henry J. Durand, were recognized with the Buffalo Urban League’s Family Life Award.

Mayrose Appointed Interim Provost and VP

James Mayrose has been appointed interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, effective January 15. Mayrose, who joined the Buffalo State community in 1999, has held the title of dean of the School of the Professions since 2015. He earned his Ph.D in mechanical engineering (2000), his M.S. in mechanical engineering (1993), and his B.S. in aerospace engineering (1989) from the University at Buffalo, where he served in various research capacities from 1991 to 2006.

He succeeds Melanie Perreault, who recently accepted the post of executive vice president of academic and provost at Towson University. A search for a permanent provost and vice president for academic affairs is expected to begin in fall 2019.

Barnum Named Head of Finance

Buffalo State appointed Laura J. Barnum as the college’s vice president for finance and management in August. Barnum previously served as associate vice president for resource planning at the University at Buffalo (UB), a position she had held since 2013.

Barnum earned her B.S. in exercise science with a sport management concentration from the University at Buffalo in 1993, her M.S. in sport administration from Canisius College in 1996, and her M.B.A. from UB in 2000.

She succeeds Michael F. LeVine, who retired in August after six years of outstanding service to the college and a 40-year career with the State of New York.

Rodriguez Named Chief of Staff

Crystal J. Rodriguez was appointed chief of staff in the President’s Office in October, succeeding Bonita R. Durand, who retired from Buffalo State after 22 years of distinguished service to the college.

Rodriguez worked in Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown’s office for more than a decade, serving as the city’s chief diversity officer since 2016. She spearheaded the mayor’s Opportunity Agenda, which focused on ensuring equity, diversity, inclusion, and opportunity throughout Buffalo’s economic renaissance. She also led an overhaul of the city’s minority- and women-owned business enterprise (MBE/WBE) policies, and initiated work on the first phase of the Buffalo Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative.

From 2008 to 2016, she served as executive director of the city’s Commission on Citizens’ Rights and Community Relations, where she developed a mission-focused strategic plan. She also designed and implemented programs on race relations, anti-bullying initiatives, and community-police interactions.
Buffalo State Cited in *New Yorker, Time*

The work of three Buffalo State faculty members recently made national news. Research by Rebecca Ploeger, associate professor, and Aaron Shugar, Andrew W. Mellon Professor, in the Garman Art Conservation Department was mentioned in the September 3 issue of the *New Yorker*. The article “Blue as Can Be,” by Simon Schama, examines the science behind creating specific hues. Ploeger and Shugar discovered new evidence supporting an extraordinary nineteenth-century eyewitness account of the production of the pigment known as Indian Yellow. Their research was conducted over the past several years in collaboration with two researchers at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields. A scientific paper summarizing their findings appears in the January 2019 issue of *Dyes and Pigments.*

And Gerard Puccio, chair and professor of the International Center for Studies in Creativity at Buffalo State, was quoted in a *Time* magazine special edition, “The Science of Creativity,” published in August: “Many K–12 schools and universities across the country are experimenting with innovative teaching methods to foster greater creativity in their students, motivated by global competition and the realities of the ever-changing workforce,” he said. Alumna Ismet Mamnoon, ‘13, was also quoted in the article, describing the role creativity has played in her life as if “someone had turned on a light in a part of my brain that I hadn’t even known was in darkness.”

Buffalo State has entered a new collaboration with Google to offer computer and data science courses to undergraduate students. The Applied Computing Series teaches the foundations of computer and data science through hands-on project-based coursework, topical designed to attract students who might not consider themselves destined for careers in technology.

Buffalo State is one of only eight schools collaborating with Google on these pilot courses this school year—courses aimed to increase undergraduate access to quality computer and data science education by leveraging new technologies and teaching techniques. The Google instructional team builds the centralized content and in-class projects; the courses are then delivered by Buffalo State faculty in STEM-adjacent fields.
More Than 800 Buffalo State Volunteers ‘Dare to Care’

Projects completed at 40 sites

More than 800 Buffalo State students, faculty, staff, and alumni spent the morning serving the community during the fourth annual Bengals Dare to Care Day on September 15. The college’s annual service day brings together volunteers to assist with service projects like neighborhood beautification, garden planting and maintenance, and painting. The event has grown rapidly since President Katherine Conway-Turner began her tenure at Buffalo State four years ago.

“Historically, it’s been around 200 to 350 people involved,” said Laura Hill Rao, director of civic and community engagement. “With Dr. Conway-Turner’s leadership, it’s grown so that last year, we had 800 students, faculty, and staff out in the community on that day working on 38 different projects.” This year, 40 sites were coordinated to provide service opportunities for more than 800 volunteers.

Diversity Initiatives Garner National Award

Buffalo State College has again earned national recognition for its diversity initiatives, receiving the 2018 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. This is the sixth time that Buffalo State has been named a HEED recipient.

INSIGHT Into Diversity is the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. The annual award recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. Buffalo State has a long tradition of incorporating diversity initiatives into the campus fabric.

“At Buffalo State, we not only recognize the many facets of diversity; we also celebrate them on a regular basis,” said Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner. “Receiving the HEED award confirms what we already know—that Buffalo State is committed to being a place of inclusion, tolerance, and open-mindedness for our students, our faculty, and our staff.”

Buffalo State Receives Excellence and Innovation Award

Buffalo State received an Excellence and Innovation Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) on October 28 at the opening session of the organization’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

The AASCU awards program honors AASCU member institutions for excellence and innovation in several major areas of campus life and leadership. Buffalo State, one of nine institutions recognized, received the Leadership Development and Diversity Award for its Emerging College Leaders (ECL) program. This program enhances the leadership capacities of high-potential staff and faculty at all levels of Buffalo State. Each cohort is purposefully created to ensure diversity in age, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation as a means of improving equity, inclusion, and innovation across campus.
College Mourns Passing of Lehr
Buffalo State Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Carolyn A. Lehr died on October 27 in Athens, Georgia, at the age of 77. Regarded as the pioneer of women’s athletics at Buffalo State, Lehr served as an administrator and coach at the college from 1965 through 1978. She coached the women’s basketball team during her entire tenure at Buffalo State and the field hockey team for her final six years at the college. In addition, she served as associate athletics director from 1975 to 1978 before joining the University of Georgia’s Athletics Department. Lehr made a generous financial contribution to Buffalo State Athletics in 2005 to create the Carolyn A. Lehr Student-Athlete Academic Center. Her contributions supported a number of other enhancements to the athletics facilities as well.

Boyes Steps Down as Football Coach, Remains as AD
Buffalo State athletics director Jerry Boyes stepped down as head football coach on November 16, and the college announced the promotion of Christian Ozolins to interim head coach through the 2019 season. Boyes, who will retain his role as athletics director, coached the Bengals for 25 seasons, from 1986 to 2000 and again from 2009 to 2018, posting an overall record of 138-116. He led the team to seven NCAA playoff appearances and four ECAC Bowl Championships. Ozolins has been a member of the Bengals’ coaching staff since 2003 and was promoted to assistant head coach and offensive coordinator in 2013.

Hall of Fame Inducts Seven New Members
The Buffalo State Athletics Hall of Fame inducted seven new members at a ceremony on October 5. The Class of 2018 includes a pair of former national track and field champions—Erica Johnson, ’12, and Sasha Henry, ’13—along with two-time All-Americans Karen Shaddock, ’12 (lacrosse), and Mustapha Janneh, ’83 (soccer). Warren Gassman, ’67 (tennis), and the 1967 men’s soccer team—the first to win a SUNYAC title—were honored as well. Hal D. Payne, longtime vice president for student affairs, and Edward Lazzaro, ’64, founder of the college’s weightlifting program, were inducted as honorary members.

Kordrupel Breaks School 5K Record
Senior Veronica Kordrupel broke Buffalo State’s all-time women’s cross-country record for a 5K in September, traversing the course at the Roberts Wesleyan Harry F. Anderson Invitational in 18:39 and placing third out of 243 runners. The old 5K record was held by Lynn Lambright, who clocked 18:46 at a Plattsburgh meet in 1996.

Gridders Post Big Homecoming Win, Play First Game under Lights
The Bengals football team celebrated Homecoming with a decisive 41-7 victory over Hartwick on September 29. The team piled up 447 yards of total offense, led by Martin Bailey’s 117 rushing yards and two touchdowns. The following Saturday, October 6, the team hosted its first game under the lights at Coyer Field, falling to Alfred University, 51-7.
Nash Brings Civil Rights Lessons to Campus

Diane Nash, one of the most esteemed student leaders of the civil rights movement, spoke at the Performing Arts Center at Rockwell Hall on September 5. Her visit, which included meeting with students, was part of the college’s Dr. Paul G. Bulger Lecture Series.

Nash became involved in the civil rights movement in 1959 as a student at Fisk University and was one of the founding members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). An organizer of the Freedom Rides in 1961, she was jailed numerous times for her activism.

She served in various roles with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) from 1961 to 1965. She was appointed to a national committee by President John F. Kennedy to promote the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In 1965, Martin Luther King Jr. presented Nash with the SCLC’s highest honor, the Rosa Parks Award, for her work on the Selma voting rights campaign. Other awards include the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation’s Distinguished American Award in 2003, the LBJ Presidential Library’s Award for Leadership in Civil Rights in 2004, and the National Civil Rights Museum’s National Freedom Award, bestowed in 2008.

Currently she lectures at colleges and universities across the country and continues to work for civil rights and peace issues.

Bengal Bookshelf Books by Buffalo Staters

The Odyssey and Dr. Novak: A Memoir
Ann C. Colley, Distinguished Professor Emerita of English
Well known for her many writings on Victorian literature and culture, Colley delivers a memoir that has received high praise from the Times Literary Supplement (London) and Kirkus Review. The story connects Colley’s memory of meeting Dr. Novak, a mysterious Czechoslovakian scholar, when she was a child in post-war England and her lifelong fascination with Central and Eastern Europe (She Writes Press, 2018).

Completely Incomplete
Jeffrey N. Hirschberg, Associate Professor of Television and Film Arts
Hirschberg’s forthcoming debut novel tells the story of a romantic rectangle—a marriage counselor and a psychiatrist who become romantically entangled with each other and their New York City power couple patients. This book is now available for purchase with a release date of February 5 (Inkshares, 2019).

Niagara Falls for Everybody
Barbara Lynch-Johnt, B.S. ’93, B.A. ’98
This richly illustrated guide recounts the history and geography of the region and uncovers new opportunities for planning a memorable excursion on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border. The book features photography by Lynch-Johnt, a Niagara Falls native and professional photographer whose work has been exhibited in numerous local galleries (Amherst Media, 2018).

Go to www.buffalostate.edu for the latest campus news, and follow us on...
NEXT-GEN LIBRARY

E. H. Butler Library is evolving again—this time as the new home of the Academic Commons.
Since the day it opened in 1951, E. H. Butler Library has been the academic heart of the Buffalo State campus. While times have changed over the past 68 years, the library has continually evolved to keep up with—and stay ahead of—current student needs, academic standards, and technology trends.

And now, Butler Library is undergoing a $16.1 million transformation aimed at making it more important than ever.

E. H. Butler Library was originally constructed as a prominent but basic three-story building at a cost of $880,000. Just 15 years later, college officials agreed it needed a major expansion. Beginning in 1966, a large addition was constructed around the original footprint, resulting in a massive 215,259-square-foot building.

Since then, the building has undergone several modifications to accommodate emerging technologies and to meet changing standards for safety and accessibility.

**HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY**

Butler Library is named for Edward Hubert Butler Sr., founder of the *Buffalo News*. For more than a century, the Butler family has played a prominent role in national, state, and local business, politics, and cultural affairs. Edward Sr. founded the *Buffalo Evening News* (then the *Buffalo Sunday News*) in 1873 and served as its editor and publisher until his death in 1914. His son, Edward H. Butler Jr., published the paper until his death in 1956, and Edward Jr.’s widow, Kate Robinson Butler, ran the paper until she died in 1974.

The Butler family has also played a prominent role in the development of Buffalo State College. Edward Sr., a longstanding patron of the institution, fought for nearly a decade to secure appropriations for construction of the new Buffalo Normal School—the three-story Colonial Revival–style structure located on 14th Street in Buffalo. (It now houses Public School 198, the International Preparatory School.) He laid the building’s cornerstone on October 9, 1913.

When the campus moved to its current location on Elmwood Avenue as the new State Teachers College, his son, Edward Jr., would lay the cornerstone for the new group of buildings on October 9, 1929, using the same trowel his father had used exactly 16 years earlier.
The Butlers steered the affairs of the college for almost a century, serving on the Buffalo State College Council (formerly the Local Board of Managers) for three generations: Edward Sr. (1902–1914); Edward Jr. (1914–1956); and Edward Jr.’s daughter, Katherine “Kate” Butler Wallis Wickham (1954–1980). She also served on the Buffalo State College Foundation Board of Directors from 1980 to 1983. (Kate Butler Wallis Wickham died on November 17, 2018. Her obituary appears on page 39.)

The library’s Archives and Special Collections houses the Butler Family Papers—250 liner feet of personal correspondence and papers, photographs, and business records spanning from 1880 to the 1970s. The collection includes 10 letters written to Edward Sr. by Grover Cleveland while he was New York governor and U.S. president (June 1884–October 1886), including one from August 4, 1884, referencing the “infamous scandal.” (Portions of the collection, including Cleveland’s letters and an audio interview with Kate Butler Wickham, have been fully digitized and are available on the library’s website.)

Construction of the original library building began in May 1950. Kate Butler Wickham (then Kate Butler Righter) formally dedicated the library two years later, on May 16, 1952, in memory of her grandfather. Butler Library was the first building on campus to be named for a person.

In more recent years, the library has transformed from a traditional books-on-shelves library to a multipurpose academic space with 24-hour study quads, a writing center, group study areas, and technology-based study. The current renovation project began in October, and construction will take place over the next year and a half. The state-funded project will reconfigure parts of the first and second floors, situate librarians in upstairs offices, provide greater technology support for students, and offer a reimagined Information Commons. The project architect, Architectural Resources of Buffalo, designed the renovation with students in mind. “A guiding principle for the project is to improve the overall student experience by offering a suite of highly visible support services in a coherent, intuitive, and connected manner so that we can better meet students’ needs, and perhaps even preempt their needs by presenting them with services before they even realize they need them,” said Charles Lyons, the library’s director.

### Academic Commons

The centerpiece of the library reconstruction project is the new Academic Commons, which is billed as a “one-stop shop” to meet students’ academic needs. It will house the Writing Center, the Math Center, the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), the Advising Center, the Academic Center for Excellence, subject-specific tutoring, and Student Accessibility Services.

| PEW RESEARCH CENTER DATA ON U.S. LIBRARY ATTENDANCE SHOWS THAT MILLENNIALS VISIT PUBLIC LIBRARIES OR BOOKMOBILES—AND PUBLIC LIBRARY WEBSITES—MORE THAN ANY OTHER GENERATION. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Percent in each generation who visited a library** | **Percent in each generation who visited a public library website** |
| **MILLENIALS** (AGES 18–35) | 53% | 41% |
| **GEN X** (AGES 36–51) | 45% | 33% |
| **BABY BOOMERS** (AGES 52–70) | 43% | 24% |
| **SILENT** (AGES 71–88) | 36% | 11% |
All of these services exist now, but they are scattered across campus and can be difficult to locate as a result.

Aimee Woznick
Academic Commons Director

“A guiding principle for the project is to improve the overall student experience by offering a suite of highly visible support services in a coherent, intuitive, and connected manner so that we can better meet students’ needs.”

Charles Lyons
Library Director
The Academic Commons will serve as the new front door to student success at Buffalo State by providing welcoming and supportive services that strengthen the relationship between students and the advisers, tutors, librarians, and other support staff who are dedicated to helping them succeed.

“All of these services exist now, but they are scattered across campus and can be difficult to locate as a result,” said Academic Commons director Aimee Woznick.

Additionally, the Academic Commons will include a variety of shared spaces for testing, as well as individual and group tutoring and advising space.

The Academic Commons brings together offices with a diverse set of missions, each providing assistance to students as they seek to fulfill their academic potential and graduate in the timeliest manner. The Academic Commons started in 2016 with the Oishei Drop-in Advising Center, funded by a $75,000 grant from the John R. Oishei Foundation.

“I’m particularly excited that the Academic Commons will build on the vital roles that E. H. Butler Library plays in meeting the needs of twenty-first-century learners by incorporating a wide variety of educational environments for students, from quiet study to active learning and from individual to group work,” Lyons said. “I envision the Academic Commons as a new heart and hub of the campus, providing student-centric spaces that are versatile, fast paced, technology rich, and highly collaborative.”

**ACCESSIBILITY, COMFORT, TRANSPARENCY**

E. H. Butler Library is an example of the brutalist architectural style— with exposed concrete, large geometric shapes, and utilitarian design—that was popular on university campuses in the early 1950s. The renovation will soften that style, making the library more accessible, comfortable, transparent, and inviting.

“One of the themes of the library renovation is transparency,” Lyons said.

The transparency will be literal, with glass-enclosed offices and glass walls. Comfortable furnishings have been selected to encourage students to spend more time in the building studying and socializing.

A new concierge desk will greet visitors when they walk into the library. The desk staff can direct students to all the services available to them.

“It’s all about bringing lots of disparate entities on campus together under one roof,” Lyons said.

In addition to programmatic goals, the reconstruction project will address critical maintenance needs that include hazardous material removal, new mechanical systems for ventilation and air conditioning, electrical and data distribution upgrades, window replacements, finish upgrades, and a reconfigured vestibule.

A spring 2020 opening for the newly designed areas of the library is planned.
GROUND
IN THE BUFFALO STATE TUNNELS
BY MICHAEL CANFIELD • PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRUCE FOX
Hidden just below the surface at Buffalo State are two elaborate sets of tunnels that date back to when the college first moved to Elmwood Avenue in the 1930s. Their purpose? That depends on whom you ask.

One set of tunnels has been used to carry utilities since the campus was built, and they continue to serve that purpose. The other set, connecting the Campbell Student Union with several residence halls, is more mysterious. The exact date they were built, and what, exactly, their purpose was remains clouded in conjecture and lore.

The tunnels are not open to the public.

Stories written about the tunnels in old issues of the Record, Buffalo State's student-run newspaper, point to a variety of reasons for their existence.

For instance, in a 1976 article, then Physical Plant director Robert Broomfield told the paper that the tunnels connecting the Campbell Student Union to Chase Hall, Perry Hall, and Cassety Hall were built in the 1960s over fears of a nuclear attack.

"To my knowledge, no one has ever used them," he said in the article. "There would be no reason to use them. They are only for emergencies, such as a bombing."

However, another article, penned in 1983, dates the tunnels connecting the Union and residence halls back to the 1930s and says they were built for pedestrian use. In this article, as well as in a later one from 1984, George Rackl, former engineer with the Physical Plant, said the tunnels were closed in the 1970s because of civil unrest over the Vietnam War and a spate of other issues.

In yet another Record piece from 1974, Brian Cole, former director of physical safety, said the tunnels under the residence halls were closed to students because people were using the tunnels to break into offices and dorm rooms.

People were also coming in off the street—even setting up living arrangements—according to former Physical Plant director Joseph Groupil, who was quoted in the 1974 article.

"One fellow we found was virtually living in the tunnels," he said. "He had a coffee pot set up and was very comfortable."

The first set of tunnels has a far more mundane history. It was the original steam tunnel system for the campus, according to Brian D. Wittmer, design and construction manager with Facilities Construction and Maintenance.

The original Elmwood Avenue campus consisted of just five buildings: Rockwell, Bacon, and Ketchum halls; the Old Gym (now Savage Theater and Communication
Building); and the old President’s House (now Campus House).

“Back then, there was a small boiler at the back end of Rockwell that was generated by coal,” Wittmer said. “The boiler produced steam for heat, which served Rockwell, but also served Bacon, Ketchum, and Savage.”

From there, the tunnels expanded as other parts of the campus were built up.

“As the campus grew, we had to provide heat for those buildings,” Wittmer said. “We had to connect steam from point A to point B.”

And as the campus grew, so did the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, which had a need for additional heat as well, Wittmer said.

“This was roughly the late 1940s, early 1950s,” he said.

The Power Plant and the Bakery and Laundry Building (built where the Technology Building is now) were built in the same decade, Wittmer said. Tunnels from those buildings went all the way to the Psychiatric Center, providing power for heat, laundry, and food services for residents there.

For the most part, Wittmer said, the tunnels are still used to carry steam to campus buildings for heat.

But whether they carried pipes or people, the tunnels allegedly had “great acoustics,” according to alumnae Leslie Cohen, ’69, and Beth Suskin. In an article in 1300 Elmwood in 2016, they describe sneaking into the tunnels late at night to practice singing and playing the bongos:

Cohen remembers one epic evening when Suskin belted out “Summertime” from Porgy and Bess, and then, taken by the moment, they spray painted “James Brown Lives” in large red letters across the tunnel wall. When they heard footsteps, they made a dash for it—laughing hysterically.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

Do you have memories—or photos—of the Buffalo State tunnels? Send them to marcomm@buffalostate.edu and we may include them in the next issue of 1300 Elmwood magazine.
Issues in Children’s Books

“I grew up in a house full of books,” Sands-O’Connor said, “and my brother, my sister, and I all developed into who we are today, in part, because of the books we read as kids. Even though we each liked different kinds of books, we always shared what we were reading with each other—that allowed us to understand different points of view and get a bigger picture about the world around us.”

But not all households are like hers, and there are many reasons why. One is that children’s books, traditionally, have not spoken to all children. Not all children find characters they can relate to—characters of their own race or ethnicity.

Sands-O’Connor contributes her scholarly expertise to some of Britain’s most influential children’s literature associations. As an academic consultant for the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education in the United Kingdom, she recently advised the national organization on the development of the country’s first annual report of diversity in British children’s books.

“The issue of diversity in children’s books has been studied in the United States for quite some time, but it’s still a relatively new idea in Britain,” said Sands-O’Connor. “Brits struggle to talk about it. Since the majority of publishers, teachers, and librarians are white, they haven’t always recognized the lack of diversity in books. And when they have, the solution was as simple as, say, coloring in the illustrations of white children and calling them ‘diverse characters,’ and not actually developing new characters of color. Producing this annual report is an important way of putting the issue of diversity in front of people.”

While there has been a slow increase in the number of diverse authors and characters in British children’s literature over the years, most of the increase is attributable to independent presses. The #OwnVoices movement, started by Dutch young adult novelist Corinne Duyvis, for instance, has spurred diverse authors around the globe to find publishers or self-publish their work.

Sands-O’Connor is also bringing attention to the issue by helping the Children’s Literature Association (ChLA) organize a focus panel on diverse authors in 2019. She is a member of the ChLA’s international committee.

Extending the impact of her research beyond the books and articles she has written on the subject, Sands-O’Connor encourages her undergraduate and graduate students at Buffalo State to take a critical look at the literary hierarchy.

“I'd really like to make myself obsolete. I realize that I’m studying diversity in British children’s literature from the perspective of a white, middle-class American woman,” she said. “I truly hope my work will inspire and attract young scholars of color to continue to address these issues and push for more diverse books.”

Karen Sands-O’Connor, professor of English, is the world’s leading scholar on black British literature for children and the author of Children’s Publishing and Black Britain, 1965–2015 (Palgrave Macmillan). She received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities in 2018 for her work.
Peterson Society Induction

Buffalo State’s Peterson Society inducted 27 new members at its annual luncheon on September 13 at the Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center. The Peterson Society recognizes those who have made a gift to the college in their wills or through other estate-planning means. The group has more than 400 members.

New members welcomed into the society this year were Eleanor C. (Dolacinski) Ash, ’77; Audré J. Bunis; Robert W. Collin, ’78; Elizabeth A. Doherty; Rock D. Doyle, ’99; Todd B. Duval, ’10, ’12; Scott M. Goldman, D.M.D.; Peter M. Hall, ’64; F. Dean Hansen, ’59, and Elizabeth J. Hansen, ’59; James E. Hofmeister, ’61, ’70; Joyce Day Homan, ’55; Ross B. Kenzie; Mary E. O’Leary, ’72; Melanie L. Perreault and Karen F. Silverstrim; Russell J. Ram, ’74; Carol J. Scorsone, ’83; Catherine Tillou; Dana E. Tillou; Michael E. Urbanski, ’66; and Mark K. Warford.

Samuel “Sam” Saia Jr. was inducted posthumously. Four anonymous donors were inducted as well.

The ceremony also honored members of the society who died during the past year: Ruth T. (Thompson) Auer, ’49; Arline Thompson Deckert, ’42; Eugene F. Dobbs, ’60, ’64; Helen (Muehlbauer) Dobmeier; Samuel M. Ferraro, ’78; John T. Hoskins Sr.; Frederick A. Jacob, ’50; Phyllis M. Lutwack; Thomas J. Morrisey; Gioia Ottaviano, ’46; Lilia Peters; Mary Lou Puleo; and Leonard S. Sikora, ’50.

For more information or to become a member of the Peterson Society, please call Michelle Rudnicki in the Buffalo State Development Office at (716) 878-4508 or visit giving.buffalostate.edu.

Foundation Names New Chair, Board Members

Michael Bonitatibus, ’79, has been named chair of the Buffalo State College Foundation Board of Directors for 2018–2019. He holds a bachelor’s degree in secondary education from Buffalo State and has owned Millington Lockwood Business Interiors for the past 16 years. He previously served as vice chair of the foundation board.

This year’s new vice chair is Jill M. Syracuse, executive vice president, chief engagement and servicing officer for Independent Health.

Four other individuals have been named to the foundation board:

- James Brandys, ’71, ’73, who retired a few years ago as a managing director at Merrill Lynch (now a subsidiary of Bank America Corporation) after 39 years of service, served with distinction on the Buffalo State College Council. He has also served in the past on the Foundation Board of Directors and the Burchfield Penney Art Center Board of Trustees.
- James P. Lombardo Jr., ’95, is vice president, senior portfolio manager, and financial adviser at Morgan Stanley in New York City. In 2010, he established the James P. Lombardo Sr. Award for Excellence that benefits Buffalo State art students.
- Aurora Schunk, staff representative, has served as the assistant director of the Civic and Community Engagement Office (formerly the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center) for six years.
- I’Jaz Eberhardt, student representative, is a senior Muriel A. Howard Honors Program student and student president of the honors program.
**donorprofile**

Laraine Wright

**“Buried in a box was this letter saved by my mother, Lenore. A reminder of how very important this was to her.”**

This past November, Laraine Wright, a long-time donor to the college, mailed a small but significant family artifact to Buffalo State’s Institutional Advancement Office. She included this note: “Buried in a box was this letter saved by my mother, Lenore. A reminder of how very important this was to her. The death of her father and the coming Depression changed her future, but she did get the one year there, at least… I hope you can keep this letter in her file. It would bring things full circle.”

The note referred to the beautifully preserved original letter of college acceptance that her mother, Lenore Rollett Wright, received from Buffalo State Teachers College President Harry W. Rockwell in 1928. The letter indicated that the college received a large number of applications that year and had room to admit only 250 applicants for fall 1928 classes. Lenore was selected based on her Regents average.

At the time, State Teachers College at Buffalo was located on Normal Avenue in a three-story building that later became Grover Cleveland High School and is now Buffalo Public School 198, the International Preparatory School. The 1928 Elms yearbook included a full-page announcement of “The New College” that would be built at Elmwood and Forest avenues next to the State Hospital. The facing page featured a rendering of the new campus’s first building, Rockwell Hall.

Unfortunately, the combination of her father’s death and the beginning of the Great Depression ended Lenore’s career at Buffalo State after just one academic year. Although she spent a short time at the college, it left a lasting impression on her. While a student, she particularly enjoyed the music classes.

When Lenore passed away in 1998, her estate included a gift to Buffalo State to establish the Lenore Rollett Wright Award for Achievement in Music. The gift, which commemorates Lenore’s lifelong love of classical music, provides an award presented annually to a senior in music who is nominated by the faculty for his or her outstanding instrumental or vocal performance, or outstanding academic achievement in the music curriculum at Buffalo State.

Subsequently, Laraine Wright, who resides in Carbondale, Illinois, made another gift to Buffalo State to establish the Carol Wright Henry Pre-Medical Studies Award Fund in 1999 in honor of her aunt. Wright has made regular gifts through the years to maintain the Lenore Rollett Wright Award for Achievement in Music. She also established a planned gift of her own that will add to her mother’s music award fund, resulting in her induction into the Peterson Society, which recognizes donors who have decided to designate a gift to Buffalo State through a bequest in their will or living trust, life insurance, or other means.

These generous gifts from Lenore Rollett Wright and her daughter Laraine Wright demonstrate the value the family places on a Buffalo State education and their desire to encourage others to pursue their college dreams.

Find out all the ways you can make a difference. Contact the Buffalo State College Foundation at (716) 878-4658 or giving.buffalostate.edu.
Golf and Tennis Scholarship Classic

The Buffalo State College Foundation presented its 21st annual Golf and Tennis Scholarship Classic on September 10 at Park Country Club in Williamsville, New York. Sponsored by Pepsi, the event included a four-person scramble golf tournament, a mixed-doubles tennis tournament, a lunch buffet, cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, dinner, and awards.

Proceeds from the event support Buffalo State’s Muriel A. Howard Honors Program, which is funded entirely by private donations. The program provides deserving students with scholarships, an honors lounge, special campus housing, and opportunities for internships, seminars, and research.

College Honors Physics Donors at Naming Ceremony

Buffalo State honored two families who have made significant contributions to the college’s physics program at a naming ceremony held on August 10 at the Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center.

Cynthia Steiger Beery, ’74, ’81, was presented with a plaque dedicating the Dr. Dewayne A. Beery and Mrs. Cynthia Steiger Beery Upper Division Instructional Lab. Steiger Beery, a retired school speech-language pathologist, recently pledged a substantial contribution through annual gifts to establish a graduate scholarship in physics education.

Her late husband, Dr. Dewayne Beery, was a long-time physics professor and associate vice president for academic affairs at Buffalo State.

Dr. Om P. Rustgi, a member of Buffalo State’s physics faculty from 1973 to 2005, and Meena R. Rustgi, ’88, were honored with the dedication of the Dr. Om P. Rustgi and Mrs. Meena R. Rustgi Family Thin Film Deposition Research Lab. The Rustgis pledged an endowment gift to establish a fund that provides one scholarship annually to an undergraduate physics major. The fund was established in memory of Dr. Rustgi’s parents, Misri Lal and Laxmi Devi Rustgi.
Amber Martinez, ’18

Amber Martinez could have spent her last spring break in college doing what college students do: relaxing, hanging out with friends, or heading to a variety of spring break hot spots.

Instead, she chose to go to Croatia as part of a service-learning trip to help bring a culture of volunteerism to the former communist nation.

For Martinez, it was the trip of a lifetime. And it was made possible through assistance from the Edgar H. Turkle International Service-Learning Scholarship.

“This was actually my first experience ever leaving the United States,” she said. “I really had no expectations, but I knew going abroad, doing service learning, and helping another community was something I wanted to do before I graduated.”

Under the guidance of Christine Lai, professor of business, Martinez and five of her peers participated in the 10-day Alternative Spring Break trip. The opportunity was born out of a partnership established between Buffalo State and the University of Rijeka (UNIRI) following Lai’s stint as a Fulbright scholar there during spring 2017.

According to Lai, the University of Rijeka was interested in incorporating civic and community engagement into its curriculum.

“For me personally, that makes a huge impact on my life and what I’m able to do moving forward,” she said.

Going on the trip was “super eye-opening,” Martinez said. She realized that she has a passion for helping people, and it’s motivated her to do more to help people in the United States.

“I came back just ready to give back,” she said, noting that she does volunteer work through her job.

Martinez said the trip was life changing, and she had some advice for students who are considering a similar trip.

“I one-thousand percent recommend it for anyone who wants to personally better themselves,” she said.
alumni profile Nicholas Irion, ’17
Nicholas Irion, ’17, was one of the first Buffalo Public Schools students to be involved with the Say Yes to Education initiative. Through the program, Irion landed at Buffalo State, where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in music education.

Wasting no time, he completed a master’s degree in educational leadership at Michigan State University and started classes at Duke University this past fall toward a master’s degree in divinity.

For Irion, Buffalo State provided the opportunity to flourish and grow as a student. It also gave him the experience to mentor other students from Say Yes.

The Say Yes program provides scholarships, grants, and academic support services for qualifying graduates of Buffalo public and charter schools. The program is privately funded.

“I became active right away,” Irion said. “I was involved with different programs—student government, the College Senate, working with different faculty members on projects and running different programs at Buffalo State.”

Irion worked with Say Yes’s Summer Bridge program, where he mentored incoming Say Yes students. He also worked with the Center for Excellence in Urban and Rural Education, running after-school programs. In his role with the center, he had about 25 student assistants working under him.

Irion often found himself mentoring students who had nothing to do with the programs he was working with.

“I was working with primarily minority students who would come seeking help on campus, and they knew of me,” he said. “Different things, whether it was classwork, academics, or they needed help just going to the next level. It was just mentoring, which I’m very big on. I just did it because I felt it was my duty to give back to this campus that had done so much for me.”

Irion also credits Greek life on campus for some of the connections he’s made and successes he’s had. As a member of Omega Psi Phi, he became an advocate for student organizations. He made connections in the Career Development Center focusing on career counseling, and he was able to get mentoring programs started at several neighborhood schools by working with precollegiate programs.

“This is Buffalo’s school. This is Buffalo’s campus,” he said. “We have a lot of students that come here and love it here. Part of me working here was trying to make it more enjoyable for students. I had a good time, and it was part of my duty to make sure other students had a good time, whether they were part of my group of students or not. That’s what we do here.”

For incoming students, Irion said, it’s vital that they do more than the bare minimum to get by.

“Education is what you are here for,” he said. “Education is key. Education is the most important thing. With education comes experience, and you make it what it is. If you want to have fun, go and have fun. But make sure you’re putting that education part first.”

Students who immerse themselves on campus learn valuable networking and social skills, Irion said.

“You have to get out, get involved, get to know people,” he said. “You need that camaraderie.”

Irion is a pastor in Buffalo, and he plans to continue his pastoral duties in North Carolina as he completes his degree at Duke. He also plans to continue his mentoring work with Duke students and others he may run into.

“I may start my own mentoring program in the area that I’ll be in,” he said.
Niagara Falls, New York, is known to tourists and locals alike thanks to its natural wonder, state park, and family-fun activities. In a city famous for its long-standing attractions, Ally Spongr, B.F.A. ’12, and her small team were tasked with opening the first new Niagara Falls cultural attraction in over 35 years.

“It’s our job to commemorate the freedom seekers and abolitionists who weren’t necessarily famous like Frederick Douglass or Harriet Tubman, but who played a pivotal role in the activity of the Underground Railroad that happened exactly where we stand today,” said Spongr, who is director and curator of the Underground Railroad Heritage Center in Niagara Falls. “Our goal always has been to showcase the everyday individual.”

The Heritage Center, which opened in May 2018, is an immersive museum located in the former U.S. Custom House, built in 1863. It features historical interpretations, interactive displays, and artifacts from Underground Railroad activity in Niagara Falls.

“You can engage visitors by working through a historical lens,” Spongr said. “The stories of the past can turn into conversations about how those legacies unfold today. We also have a critical responsibility to highlight contemporary issues and to connect the past to the present.”

Many tourists—and even local residents—were unaware of the key role Niagara Falls played in the Underground Railroad, according to Spongr. The Niagara River served as a critical gateway from the United States to Canada on the secret network of routes and safe havens that helped guide enslaved African Americans to freedom.

“It was often easier to travel across the Niagara River than Lake Erie or Lake Ontario,” Spongr said. “When freedom seekers reached customs at the Canadian border, they could cross without identification or being questioned.”

Visitors to the Heritage Center meet several “characters” on their journey, she said.

“The characters are based on real people who lived and worked in Niagara Falls in the late 1800s. We wanted to help shift the traditional slave narrative to one of self-agency, to showcase how ordinary people had the courage to risk death daily for freedom, to be able to work for a living wage, and to own property.”

In 2015 Spongr was hired as a project coordinator for the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, an area designated by Congress in 2008 that includes the communities of Niagara Falls, Youngstown, and Lewiston. The Heritage Area spans from Niagara Falls to Old Fort Niagara and has profound cultural and natural significance to American history. Spongr assumed the director role in fall 2016. Her current position is split between overseeing the Heritage Center and developing new programs for the Heritage Area.

“I can wear pretty much any hat,” she said. Although a community coalition created the vision for the Heritage Center over a decade ago, Spongr said, the design-build phase of the museum was relatively short.

“We worked under an aggressive timeline, from starting construction in January 2016 to the opening in spring 2018. It’s been a lot of work, but so rewarding to see the museum go from ideation to reality.”

More than 9,000 people have visited the center since it opened in May.

“We don’t have one goal or expectation for our visitors. Our hope is that they connect the past to the present with their own perspective and life experience,” she said. “Ultimately, we want visitors to take some action, no matter how small, to hopefully create change.”
The semester has been busy, to say the least! We officially opened the doors to the Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center at the ribbon-cutting ceremony last semester. Since then, hundreds of people from Buffalo State and the surrounding community have passed through the new building for alumni events, research symposiums, professional conferences, and more. The building was designed with you in mind and to welcome you whenever you visit Buffalo State. The alumni and visitor center also serves as a way to extend Buffalo State’s presence in the surrounding community by hosting outside professional and community organizations on campus.

Whether your connections to Buffalo State are through your academic program, various athletic teams, special-interest networks, or other groups, the Alumni Association can be a valuable resource for connections, resources, and support. We hope you will attend upcoming events and contact us if you have suggestions for how we can better serve your interests in your post-academic life and career.

If you find yourself near campus, please do not hesitate to stop by the alumni and visitor center. Our team would be happy to update you with what’s happening around campus and answer any questions you may have about your benefits and services as alumni.

Alumni Network and Event Snapshots

Regional events are an important way to engage alumni who do not live in Western New York. Over the past few months, the Alumni Association has hosted events in Washington, D.C., Rochester, Syracuse, New York City, and the Dallas–Fort Worth areas. If you are interested in helping the Alumni Association plan an event near you, please e-mail alumni@buffalostate.edu or call (716) 878-6001.

Past, Present Board Members Attend Ribbon Cutting

More than 200 people attended the official opening of the Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center in September 2018, and many current and past Alumni Association board members had the opportunity to help with the official ribbon cutting of the new building.

SAVE THE DATE: Florida Reunions in February 2019

It’s almost time for the Alumni Association’s annual events in the Sunshine State. Watch our website for updates: alumni.buffalostate.edu/
Have You Heard? We’ve Moved!

The Alumni Engagement Office, previously located in Cleveland Hall, is now located in the Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center, at the edge of campus between Grant and Rees streets. The Alumni Office will provide visitors with a complimentary parking pass during their visit to the alumni center. Normal hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Community Sing

Internationally acclaimed musical artist Ysaÿe Barnwell visited the Buffalo State campus in November to deliver two master classes and conduct a community sing for alumni and students. Dr. Barnwell rose to fame after joining the all-female African American musical group Sweet Honey in the Rock in 1979. Her musical life followed a career as a professor at the College of Dentistry at Howard University and as a health program administrator at Children’s Hospital National Medical Center at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

EOP Alumni Network in NYC

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and the Alumni Association teamed up to host the first EOP network event in New York City last September. More than 30 graduates spanning the class years of 1982 to 2018 attended the mixer in Midtown Manhattan.

Alumni Return to Campus to Discuss #MeToo, Mental Health

Several notable alumni in their respective career fields were involved with events at the alumni and visitor center in fall 2018 that highlighted mental health awareness as well as the implications of the #MeToo movement for women in television and film.
Barbara (Ernst) Plezia, B.S. ’56; Carol (Vertalino) Diliberto, Phyllis Horton, Bob and Helen (King) Jennette, Norm Plezia, Rosemarie (Acquino) and Paul Sugg, and Bev Zucker, all B.S. ’58, were hosted by Rich Thompson, M.S. ’66, at his home in Elma over the summer. The group lost a dear friend this year, Joanne (Waskey) Echaniz, B.S. ’58.

A group of Delta Sigma Upsilon alumnae from the class years of 1967–1969 met for their annual reunion in San Diego, California, in September.

Dave Rapp, B.S. ’71, owner and founder of Triple Crown Construction, recently retired after 25 years overseeing the business. Triple Crown Construction is a mid-Atlantic hotel and hospitality renovation company and works with international clients such as Marriott Hotels.

Robert Lamendola, B.A. ’72, volunteers at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, New Jersey, where he prepares and serves breakfast for families coming to see their loved ones graduate. An op-ed by Daniel Moreau, B.A. ’75, titled “Thank You to My Many Fathers,” was published in the Washington Post on June 17 (Father’s Day). The essay paid tribute to his father, Arthur, an artist and photographer in Western New York, and to five men who stepped in to guide him after his father’s death. Moreau is a retired financial writer and the author of six books, including two novels.

Maria Emmi Schory, M.S.Ed. ’77, was elected to a two-year term as president of American Women for International Understanding. She delivered the welcome address at the fourth annual Career Opportunities in International Relations Symposium, held on June 28 at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.


Kenneth Holmes, B.A. ’83, is expecting twin grandchildren in spring 2019.

An op-ed by Daniel Moreau, B.A. ’75, titled “Thank You to My Many Fathers,” was published in the Washington Post on June 17 (Father’s Day). The essay paid tribute to his father, Arthur, an artist and photographer in Western New York, and to five men who stepped in to guide him after his father’s death. Moreau is a retired financial writer and the author of six books, including two novels.

Fellowship of the Ring

Raymond Haines, B.S. ’57, M.S.Ed. ’65, has a new appreciation for the Buffalo State alumni network.

The Athletic Hall of Famer joined some friends on a trip to the beach in Angola, New York, last Fourth of July weekend, but after coming in from the water, he realized his class ring was missing.

He checked the kayaks, made sure he hadn’t put the ring in his bathing suit pocket, and retraced his steps. All to no avail. The ring, which his late wife, Phyllis, had given him as a gift for his 50th birthday, was gone.

But Jimmy Ewy, a local law enforcement agent, stepped on the ring in the sand when he was at the beach later that weekend.

Ewy thought the inscription on the ring read “Raymond L. Haines,” and he tracked down a man by that name who had recently retired from the State University of New York. That Raymond Haines said it wasn’t his ring, but he pointed Ewy to the Buffalo State Alumni Engagement Office, which verified that the college had an alumnus named Raymond C. Haines. The Alumni Office connected Ewy and Haines, and the ring was returned to its elated owner.

The saga was featured on a WIVB-TV news report, complete with footage of the two men meeting on campus in the Sports Arena’s Hall of Fame gallery.

“It’s a great thing,” Haines said of Ewy on the broadcast. “Thank God for honest people.”
last spring. Mead was also inducted into the St. Francis High School Fine Arts Hall of Fame, which recognizes performing and visual arts alumni for their career achievements, in spring 2017.

Sharon (Szafranski) Turano, B.S. ‘88, has worked in journalism for 20 years and now serves as the volunteer coordinator for Cattaraugus Community Action.

Pamela (Bandelian) Voyer, B.A. ‘88, has accepted a new position at Buffalo State as the alumni center coordinator for the new Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center. She has worked at Buffalo State since 2000.

90s

Jackie (Burgos) Cousin, B.S. ‘90, was featured in Wilmington University magazine, as an impact community leader. She is the executive director of ContactLifeline, a crisis helpline and crisis center serving Delaware residents. Cousin was also recently promoted to adjunct professor at Wilmington University, where she teaches courses in organizational leadership. She holds a master of public administration and a doctor of education in organizational leadership from Wilmington.

Anthony Turano, B.S. ‘90, was appointed to a five-year term as commissioner of social services by the Cattaraugus County Legislature. He previously worked as a caseworker, probation officer, and supervisor of the county’s Foster Care Unit. Turano is also vice president of Leadership Cattaraugus and has presented leadership topics to the New York Public Welfare Association. He met his wife of 28 years, Sharon (Szafranski) Turano, B.S. ’88, at Buffalo State. The couple resides in Little Valley and has two adult children.

Fontana Moves to City

Tom Fontana, B.A. ’73, one of Buffalo State’s most recognized alumni—with three Emmys and 19 nominations to his credit—will serve as executive producer and writer of City on a Hill, a new 10-part drama series that premieres on Showtime later this year. The series will star Kevin Bacon.

Based on an original idea by Academy Award winner Ben Affleck and created by Chuck MacLean (Boston Strangler), the series is set in early 1990s Boston and tells the story of an assistant DA who forms an unlikely alliance with a corrupt FBI veteran.

Matt Damon and Barry Levinson, Fontana’s producing partner, are among the show’s executive producers. Fontana is best known for his work on the television tours de force St. Elsewhere, Homicide: Life on the Street, and Oz.
Grants for G.I.R.L.S.

Cecelie Owens, B.S. ’85, M.S. ’99, Buffalo State Athletics Hall of Famer and former women’s basketball star, was honored in October as a “Toyota Everyday Hero” at the ninth annual espnW: Women + Sports Summit in Newport Beach, California. Toyota Everyday Heroes are individuals who make a difference for women and girls in their local communities through sports. One of four award recipients, Owens was recognized on stage at the event and was awarded grants totaling $10,000 to use for her program, the G.I.R.L.S. Sports Foundation Inc. (GSF).

Owens, who serves as principal at Buffalo’s School 94—West Hertel Academy—is the founder and president of GSF. She created the nonprofit organization in 2007 to make a positive impact on girls in Buffalo through sports participation, mentoring, educational workshops, and more, preparing them to be successful in all aspects of their lives. G.I.R.L.S. stands for Goals, Integrity, Respect, Leadership, and Sports.

Owens involves parents and community members in the program to help teach girls strategies for overcoming adversity, encourage a healthy lifestyle, and promote teamwork. More than 5,000 girls have participated since the organization was founded.

Jonathan Gill, B.A. ’95, is vice president at MDS Associates in Cheektowaga. He also owns Man Cave Outfitters of Buffalo, located on Hertel Avenue in North Buffalo.

Sundra (Roberson) Ryce, B.S. ’96, earned her doctorate in organizational leadership from Pepperdine University in May. Her dissertation was titled “Self-Care for Leaders: Cultivating Extraordinary Functioning and Psychological Well-Being: A Quantitative Study Examining Burnout and Self-Care Practices of Small-Business Owners.”

Scott Reuther, B.A. ’98, received an Emmy Award for Outstanding Editing for his role as supervising editor of seasons one and two of the Netflix series Queer Eye.

James Anstett, B.S. ’01, worked as a federal agent in dignitary protection for 15 years. In 2008, he led the security detail for the presidential candidate. Anstett recently assumed the role of executive protection manager for MGM Resorts in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Lisa True, B.S. ’00, was included in the 2018 list of Top Women in Benefit Advising, published by Employee Benefit Adviser magazine in October. One of just 20 women in the country to receive the recognition, True is the chief operating officer of Nova Healthcare Administrators.

Michael Logan, B.A. ’03, was elected to the board of trustees of Woodland Hill Montessori School in Rensselaer County, New York. Logan is a senior associate at Hodgson Russ in Albany.

Loni Blandford, B.A. ’04, is news director of WDTN-TV’s 2 NEWS in Dayton, Ohio. Blandford has worked in five cities since graduating and has held management roles in Indianapolis and Las Vegas.

Jeremy J. Zellner, B.A. ’05, was elected to serve on the Legislative Committee of the New York State Election Commissioners Association.

Cristina Logal, B.S. ’07; Erin Farley, B.A. ’08; and Mary Logan hosted a launch for their new book, Changing America: The Women’s March, at the Jacqueline Vitolo LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center in November.

Scott Jarrett, B.A. ’08, visited Buffalo State in fall 2018 to talk to students about his experiences working as a staff writer for the television series NCIS on CBS.
**Alum Igntes Buffalo Youth**

Get Fokus’d Productions, owned by Aitina Fareed-Cooke, B.A. ’12, M.S.Ed. ’16, was one of three Buffalo-based businesses awarded $100,000 grants in July from Ignite Buffalo, a Shark Tank–like competition sponsored by 43 North, Facebook, M&T Bank, and other companies.

Get Fokus’d offers photography, film, and video services—and provides training to youth interested in the profession. Fareed-Cooke started the company in 2012 after honing her photography skills as a way of coping with personal problems. Her mother died of a drug overdose when Fareed-Cooke was 3, and she spent her childhood in foster care. She battled low self-esteem and depression as a teenager but found Buffalo’s CEPA Gallery and its photography programs as a refuge.

She said the grant will allow her to establish an expansion strategy—and invest in more equipment—for working with youth in Buffalo and beyond. To Fareed-Cooke, it’s more than just teaching the basics. “I’m teaching them photography skills,” she said. “I’m also teaching them interviewing skills and how to be confident when you’re talking to someone. Eye contact, engagement. Developing and understanding that, yes, photography is this tool, but there are other jobs that connect to it.”

**10s**

Henry Zomerfeld, B.A. ’11, joined Hodgson Russ as an environmental attorney in the Buffalo office in September. Zomerfeld focuses his practice on representing businesses and municipalities in a variety of commercial and contract-based litigation, as well as advising clients on regulatory compliances, regulatory enforcement actions, and environmental risk assessment issues.

**Jimmy Patrick Doran, B.S. ’12,** is a special education teacher for the Rochester City School District. Previously he worked for two years as a teacher of record in a self-contained autistic classroom. Doran is pursuing a master’s degree.

**Lis Gallant, B.S. ’12,** a fifth-year Ph.D. student at the University of South Florida, studies lava flow hazards and their effects on local populations. Gallant’s research has brought her across the United States as well as to Nicaragua and Colombia. After graduating from Buffalo State, Gallant interned at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory before starting her doctoral program. At Buffalo State, she participated in undergraduate research with Bettina Martinez-Hackett, assistant professor of earth sciences and science education, exploring the eruption cycles of the Santa Ana volcano in El Salvador.

**Tamara (Burross) Grisanti, B.A. ’12,** works as an editorial assistant for the University at Buffalo’s College of Arts and Sciences. She married Anthony J. Grisanti II in 2016, and in 2017 founded the online literary journal Coffin Bell, now in its fourth issue. She plans to produce a print anthology later this year. Grisanti is pursuing a master of arts degree at UB.

**Lauren Kirchmyer, B.A. ’12,** is the marketing and communications specialist for the Better Business Bureau of Upstate New York. She is also the program coordinator for the Buffalo Bandettes, the dance team for the Buffalo Bandits of the National Lacrosse League.

**Joshua Lipka, B.S. ’12,** is a quality engineer at Zoox, an autonomous driving car startup, in Silicon Valley. Lipka has also worked as a supplier quality engineer for Lucid Motors, where he helped create the Lucid sedan electric vehicle. After graduating from Buffalo State, Lipka began his career at Jiffy-tite Motorsports (now Oetiker), based in Lancaster, New York.

**Elise Caroompas, B.S. ’13,** and Steve Malone, B.S. ’12, were married on August 24 in Poughkeepsie, New York.

**Mo Sumbundu, B.S. ’13, M.P.A. ’15,** was promoted to assistant director of the Western New York Regional Economic Council. Previously, he served as assistant project manager for Empire State Development (ESD) in Western New York. In his new role, Sumbundu will lead community outreach, work with elected officials on ESD funding programs, and serve as a liaison between the Western New York Office and offices in Albany and New York City. He will also support ESD administration and maintain a portfolio of economic development projects.

**John Lang, B.S. ’14, M.S. ’16,** is a biological science technician with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Lodi, California. He studies fish populations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and his research helps make real-time decisions about operating the water export pumps in parts of the Delta. While studying at Buffalo State, Lang participated in undergraduate and
graduate research, including studying the morphological differences in the emerald shiner populations inhabiting the Niagara River, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario.

Jamie Vallone, B.S. ’14, received the “Early Contributions/New Professional Award” from the Western New York Dietetics Association in June. She is a registered dietitian for Meals on Wheels in Western New York.

Jennifer Carland, B.S. ’15, was named “Young Dietitian of the Year” by the New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Western New York Dietetics Association in June. She was also recently named one of Western New York’s “30 under 30” by Buffalo’s Business First. She is a registered dietitian for Meals on Wheels in Western New York.

Shatai Melvin, B.S. ’15, is a premium account specialist at Microsoft and is based in New York City.

Kicking It in Israel

Luke Pavone, B.S. ’18, is fulfilling his lifelong dream of playing professional soccer. Pavone signed a two-year contract last summer to play for Hapoel Petah Tikva FC in the 16-team Liga Leumit, the second division league in Israel.

A Churchville, New York, native who transferred to Buffalo State from Division I University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Pavone posted a stellar two-year career with the Bengals soccer team. In 38 games, the midfielder produced 19 goals and nine assists for 47 career points. He was a two-time All-SUNYAC and All-Region selection and was named second team All-America during his senior campaign.

He received an invitation to try out for a team in the Israel Football League while he and Buffalo State teammate Barak Ben Yehuda were traveling in Israel with Taglit-Birthright Israel, a nonprofit organization that coordinates heritage trips for young adults. Although that team did not have a roster spot for Pavone, word of his impressive tryout spread, and Hapoel Petah Tikva followed through with a contract offer. The team is based about 30 minutes east of Tel Aviv.

Lazarus Lynch, B.S. ’16, Buffalo State’s budding celebrity chef and Food Network personality, is set to publish his first cookbook, *Son of a Southern Chef: Cook with Soul*, through Avery Publishing, an imprint of the Penguin Group. The book will be released on June 11, 2019, and is available to order now wherever books are sold.

The book is billed as a “wildly inventive soul food bible from a two-time *Chopped* winner and the host of Snapchat’s first-ever cooking show.” It offers more than 100 recipes with a Southern-Caribbean take on classic dishes. Loaded with splashy color photos, the book blends Lynch’s love of food, fashion, and storytelling.
SPRING OPEN HOUSES 2019

UNDERGRADUATE
SATURDAY APRIL 6
9:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Contact the Admissions Office
(716) 878-4107
admissions@buffalostate.edu
Or text the Open House hotline at (716) 261-2365

GRADUATE
WEDNESDAY MARCH 20
4:30–6:00 p.m.

Contact the Graduate Admissions Office (716) 878-5601
gradoffc@buffalostate.edu
in memoriam

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

Alumni

1930–1939
Margaret Ethelyn (Mayer) MacDonald, ’39
Dorothy (Moore) Madden, ’39

1940–1949
Harriet Lucille (Fischer) Drake, ’40
Ruth Edna (Breck) Luippold, ’40
Earla Sweeney, ’40
Thelma (Abel) Fisher, ’41
Arline L. (Thompson) Deckert, ’42
Janet (Stowell) Koelbl, ’43
Corinne R. (Bebber) Carlson, ’44
Betty (Treiber) Boeckel, ’45
Audrey (Robertson) Chandler, ’45
Norma (Berwanger) Stephan, ’45
Jane D. (Owens) Reed, ’46
Helga M. (Sy) Hermann, ’46

1950–1959
Marydith Lee Degolyer, ’50
Janice E. (Phinney) Beales, ’56
Clark F. Aubrey, ’67
Jessica B. (Moatz) Smith, ’66
Lon Hacker, ’66
Adrienne (Greenberg) Broere, ’66
Ambrose Daniel Bille Jr., ’66
Charles Elmer Faraci, ’65
Wayne E. Ransom, ’64
Antonia Josephine (Brine) Gittler, ’64
Wayne E. Ransom, ’64

1960–1969
Sara B. Bailey, ’60, ’68
James M. Carnevale, ’60
Mercuria Mary (Scrupa) Centofanti, ’60
Jane Leydecker Glavin, ’60
Gregory Hejmanowski, ’60, ’72
Louise (Loesch) Rupp, ’60
Phyllis Mary (Roberts) Staplin, ’60
Margaret J. Barr, ’61
Emily J. Momot, ’61, ’64
Sandra C. Pierce, ’61, ’64
Gary Olen Carman, ’62, ’64
John C. Duggan, ’62, ’67
Sondra M. (Yaffee) Kaplan, ’62
Irene G. (Robinson) Kline, ’62
Beverly A. (Fest) Allen, ’62, ’68
Clyl E. Harrishburg, ’63
Wesley Ray Moore, ’63, ’70
Carolyn E. (Wilken) Semenick, ’63
Marjorie J. (Gadra) Clemons, ’64
Antonia Josephine (Brine) Gittler, ’64
Wayne E. Ransom, ’64
Charles Elmer Faraci, ’65
Ambrose Daniel Bille Jr., ’66
Adrienne (Greenberg) Broere, ’66
Lon Hacker, ’66
Jessica B. (Moatz) Smith, ’66
Clark F. Aubrey, ’67
Janice E. (Phinney) Beales, ’67, ’72
Marydith Lee Degolyer, ’67
Patricia Ann (Centore) Guarneri, ’67
Patricia Ann (Clarke) Hall, ’67
Patricia Louise (Clark) Hall, ’67
Karen (Acker) O’Malley, ’67
Robert A. Parness, ’67, ’69
Robert Albert Widger, ’67
Robert M. Atanasio, ’68
Paul E. Covell, ’68
Joseph A. Krause, ’68
Alice B. O’Connor, ’68
Suzanne L. (Ossakow) Wolstein, ’68
Cynthia Ann (Lesniowski) Fiedrich, ’69
James E. Hassett, ’69
Eugene A. Hochreiter Sr., ’69
Dianne H. Oakland, ’69
Kenneth J. Rogan, ’69

1970–1979
Kathleen A. (Flanagan) Antonini, ’70
James G. Christman, ’70
Mildred Louise (Moore) Cody, ’70
Daniel Ward Curtis, ’70
Peter A. Haber, ’70
William Carl Balzer, ’71
Richard A. Bohm, ’71, ’73
Bonnie L. (Dickman) Cohn, ’71
Patricia M. Lorentzson, ’71
Casmer Henryk Sewruk, ’71
Katherine (Graham) Verney, ’71
Meryl (Tuchfeld) Zaglin, ’71
Thomas V. Zeff, ’71
Lawrence J. Buono, ’71
Paul Casey, ’72
James F. Casey, ’72
Charlote P. Graver, ’72
Thomas F. Higgins, ’72, ’76
Carmella Pawlowski, ’72, ’77
Ronald J. Schulenberg, ’72, ’75
Sue C. Smith, ’72
Jerry J. Blue, ’73, ’75
William Bosshart, ’73
Debra Sue (Schlesss) Bruck, ’73
Victoria (Long) Keidel, ’73
Robert I. Mclain, ’73, ’77
Gloria A. (Simca) Mecca, ’73, ’79
Virginia O. (Patterson) Smeltzer, ’73
James G. Bevill, ’74
Kathleen (Sipolato) Lazar, ’74
Edward J. Ringler, ’74
Genevieve (Stevenson) Stenhouse, ’74, ’77
Ruth Warnock, ’74, ’78
Helaine Weisberg, ’74
David L. Conley, ’75
Donald J. Geisen, ’75
Thomas D. Grobe, ’75
Buffalo State College mourns the passing of Kate Butler Wickham, who joined the Buffalo State College Council in 1954 and served as its chair from 1959 to 1980. She also served as a member of the board of directors of the Buffalo State College Foundation from 1980 to 1983. She died on November 17 at her home in New York City. She was 97.

Active in many civic, cultural, and educational organizations, Butler Wickham took special interest in Buffalo State. She was instrumental in many projects at the college, including the establishment of the library, which was named in honor of her grandfather, Edward H. Butler Sr., founder of the Buffalo Evening News. She received the President’s Distinguished Service Award from the college in 1981.

Born in Manhattan, she attended elementary school in Buffalo for several years before attending schools in Paris, France; Virginia; and Ohio. She returned to Buffalo during World War II and met James H. Righter, a Naval Academy graduate stationed in the office of the inspector of naval material. They married in 1943. Butler Wickham spent decades living in Buffalo and served as vice chair of the board of the Buffalo News from 1976 to 1986. She was the last member of the Butler family to be involved in the management of the newspaper. She served as a member of the City of Buffalo Planning Board from 1972 to 1974 and was chair of the Edward H. Butler Foundation when it was established in 1974. Her philanthropic efforts in Buffalo began with the Junior Board at Buffalo General Hospital and the Junior League of Buffalo and extended over the years to the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society and Buffalo Children’s Hospital, among others. In New York City, she was a dedicated patron of St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center and the Soldiers’, Sailors’, Marines’, Coast Guard and Airmen’s Club, among others.

In 1973, she married her second husband, Bruce E. Wallis, a newsprint company executive. Following his death in 1997, she married Dr. Robert D. Wickham, a prominent New York City urologist. He died in 2013.

She is survived by her son, Edward B. (Pamela) Righter, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Her daughter, Kate Righter Gardner, died in 2016.

Kate Butler Wickham
The Six-Decade Love Story
That Began at Buffalo State

Al Mastrangelo hadn’t given college a lot of thought. Like most of his buddies from Union-Endicott High School, he planned to get a good job and live at home or locally. He had been working for a year as a draftsman at Modern Design when his colleague, John Pankow, suggested that they check out the industrial arts program at Buffalo State Teachers College (BSTC). With only $25 in his pocket, Al set off for Buffalo, got a part-time job at the Buffalo Club, found a place to stay, and began his freshman year.

At the same time, I had definite plans for college. My parents, Martha and Herman Betschen, were not in agreement. They planned for their four daughters to settle down and marry fine husbands who could provide for them. As the oldest of six siblings, I knew that if I wanted to go to college, I would need to pay my own expenses. I applied for and received the Jenkins Memorial PTA Scholarship for Elementary Education and headed off to Buffalo State.

During my freshman year, I worked hard at my studies but also found time for activities such as volleyball and student government. I campaigned on behalf of the Live Wire Party. They won and were elected class officers for the next year.

Al’s freshman year was consumed in work and studies. Fortunately, he saved enough extra money to really enjoy his sophomore year. He played soccer on the BSTC team in 1957 and had the honor of meeting Eleanor Roosevelt at a discussion group after her convocation presentation.

That same autumn, Al noticed me at a Delta Kappa–Alpha Sigma Pi gathering at Gleason’s. He mentioned this to his buddy, Bill Ogden. Bill and I both sang in the a cappella choir. At one rehearsal, I asked Bill’s advice about a date for my sorority dance. “Al Mastrangelo, of course!” Bill suggested. “Remember, I told you he already asked about you last fall.”

Al and I had a marvelous time at the winter ball. We continued to date until Al posed the question: “Can you picture yourself married to me?” I responded, “I don’t see marriage in our future!” Al was both surprised and annoyed. There are seven gals for every guy on campus, he thought to himself. Who needs this aggravation?

It was goodbye forever—almost.

That would have been our last date except that Al had promised to take me to the Four Freshmen concert, and he had already purchased the tickets. We continued to date that spring, truly enjoying each other’s company.

When summer vacation was at hand, I said to Al, “During this summer vacation, we should be free to date others. By the way, I have a date tomorrow night.” Looking back, it’s a good thing Al never gave up on me!

Al wrote me many letters that summer. The autumn of 1957 was a happy reunion. We were pinned that junior year. Al was my escort for the Delta Kappa Crystal Ball, and I was crowned Miss Varsity. The brotherhood of the fraternity serenaded me, followed by a dance with President Harvey Rice.

I married Al at Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsville, New York, on December 20, 1958. BSTC classmates Jean Covel Deahn, Caroline Mitchell Kreutz, Bill Ogden, and Whitey Huber were in the wedding party.

After graduation in 1959, Al and I began our teaching careers in Smithtown School District on Long Island. Al later went on to become an assistant principal, then a longtime principal. His Buffalo State degree served him well.

I taught for six years, then became a stay-at-home mom when our children, Michael, Peter, and Ann, were growing up. My leisure time pursuits were painting and drawing, so I went back to college, studying one course per semester in undergraduate art studies. With a penchant for circles, I began painting round manhole covers and related utility covers. This unique theme has been central to my artwork ever since. With Al’s encouragement, I’ve exhibited my artwork across the country, and collections of my work are held at the Baltimore Public Works Museum and the Islip Art Museum in New York.

Our life’s work has been generously recognized. In 1991, the Smithtown Chamber of Commerce chose Al as its “Citizen of the Year.” In 1994, I was inducted into the Maryvale High School Hall of Fame for achievements in art and the environment.

Al and I moved to Central Florida in 2004. In the Solivita community, we continue to be active in music, art, exercise, and reading. We also enjoy family reunions with our adult kids and our four grandchildren, Max, Sophia, Drew, and Noelle.

On December 20, 2018, we celebrated 60 years of marriage and toasted the fact that our love story—and our lives together—began at Buffalo State Teachers College.

When the Buffalo State community has something to say, myturn gives them a place to say it.
It’s always a great time to Stand for a Student.

Stand for a Student. It’s one of Buffalo State’s wonderful new traditions.

Each year, Bengala—the annual scholarship gala hosted by the Buffalo State College Foundation Inc.—ends on a simple yet powerful note. Members of the college’s Muriel A. Howard Honors Program stand to be recognized while donors pledge to make a difference in their lives by supporting scholarships.

Of course, you don’t have to be at Bengala to make a difference. You can Stand for a Student anytime. All it takes is an e-mail or phone call.

For more information on making a difference with a planned gift, please visit buffalostatelegacy.org or contact Michelle Rudnicki, director of planned giving, at rudnicmy@buffalostate.edu or at (716) 878-4508.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Graduate Spring Open House
March 20

Undergraduate Spring Open House
April 6

Commencement
May 18