

BUFFALO STATE FORMALLY RECOGNIZED AS A UNIVERSITY

1300 Elmwood

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY SPRING 2023 > NO. 37

Thank You, Madam President

DR. KATHERINE CONWAY-TURNER
TO RETIRE AFTER LEADING
BUFFALO STATE FOR
NINE YEARS.



A photograph of three young women in a fashion design studio. The woman on the left is sitting on a wooden stool, wearing a leopard print cardigan over a black top and black pants. The woman in the center is standing, wearing a dark brown dress and a black cardigan. The woman on the right is sitting on the floor, wearing a black turtleneck and a grey and white checkered blazer. The background shows sewing machines, a mannequin, and large windows.

A TEAM OF THREE BUFFALO STATE FASHION AND TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY MAJORS advanced to the semifinals of the 2023 National Retail Federation (NRF) Foundation Student Challenge, which wrapped up at the end of 2022. Madison Bryant-Wagstaff (left), Emelia Seiferth (center), and Angelina Deleon (right) were charged with developing a growth and launch strategy for Public Lands, a new outdoor specialty retail concept for Dick's Sporting Goods. The NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, invites students from NRF university-member schools across the country to compete in the annual challenge.

Read more at bit.ly/bsufashion23

PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSE STEFFAN-COLUCCI



1300 Elmwood

SPRING 2023 > NO. 37

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY



“ ...we know that we have sitting in our classrooms the leaders of tomorrow ”

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Dr. Katherine Conway-Turner to retire after leading Buffalo State for nine years.

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BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York



Katherine S. Conway-Turner, Ph.D.
President, Buffalo State University

Saying Goodbye

As I approach my final days as president of Buffalo State University, I am in a reflective mood as I remember the last nine years and the amazing adventures we have been on together. From the first day I stepped onto campus in my formal role as president, I was enthralled with the legacy, possibilities, and promise that create the foundation of this great institution. The story of Buffalo State is one of transforming the lives of students across generations. Today, as a predominantly diverse institution, we continue the tradition of helping students find their path to individual and familial success.

I immediately felt at home at Buffalo State. I had entered a community that valued student success and was committed to lifting students from all backgrounds, cultures, and life situations to new heights. As we say at every open house for new students, "You are welcome here." We welcome students to an institution where they are valued, where they are seen, and where they will find mentors and supporters to help them find their way.

Over the years, we have accomplished many things together. We have developed and implemented significant plans and organizational changes. We have built and renovated our facilities in ways that increase efficiency and provide state-of-the-art environments where learning can best occur. We have clustered together to rethink curriculum and to augment our education with increased levels of engagement throughout our community. We have considered and incorporated student support efforts while also increasing high-impact practices. We have asked the question, What else should we do to support our students? And we have moved to increase programs that lean into greater successes for them.

These years have also seen significant challenges from the environments around us. The global pandemic accelerated an enrollment cliff that was already threatening higher education and challenging us all to engage in new, creative, and evolving ways to resettle Buffalo State as we moved toward our

future. Crises and change are not easy, and while some see opportunities, others see only obstacles. Together we have faced both.

“
**I am a true Bengal,
and I always will be.**
”

But as I reflect on the last nine years, I appreciate the senior team that has led the work of the campus. I am thankful for the many faculty, staff, community members, donors, friends of the university, and leadership boards that helped us keep student success at the center of our work. It is this terrific team and community that will

lead us into our next decade with dedication, innovation, and energy. I will be forever enriched by the thousands of students who have joined Buffalo State and have moved on to become leaders in their chosen fields. It is our students who have fueled my work every single day.

I am a true Bengal, and I always will be. My love for our urban-engaged anchor mission will not diminish as I start another chapter in my life. So to Buffalo State I say, "Live long and prosper," and may the Buffalo State community always hold high the virtues of excellence, engagement, and social responsibility.

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◀ Larry Lundy (left) with his mentor, the late Joseph Piccillo

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH PICCILLO, '61, '64

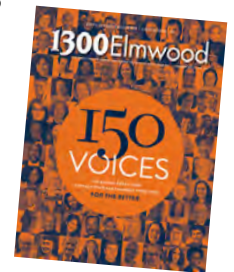
I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of my dear friend and mentor Joe Piccillo. Joe, as an artist and teacher, was a fundamental link for us as Buff State students to the ever-changing art universe. His drawings and concepts were inspiring to all of us. Joe provided leadership on campus as the adviser to the Art Club and challenged us to think not just out of but beyond “the box.” I had the good fortune of visiting with him in 2016 when I returned to Buffalo to create and produce DADADAY 100 at Hallwalls. He will be remembered for the magic he made!

—Larry Lundy, '78


Editor's note: Buffalo State mourns the passing of Joseph R. Piccillo, '61, '64, professor emeritus of art education, who died September 26, 2022. Piccillo joined the Buffalo State faculty in 1967 and retired in 2017, inspiring generations of artists and art educators. He received many prestigious awards and grants for his own art, which has been exhibited extensively across the United States and Europe. One of Piccillo's former students, Larry Lundy, wrote to 1300 Elmwood with this tribute:

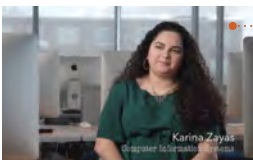
1300 ELMWOOD EARNS 2022 SUNYCUAD 'BEST OF CATEGORY' AWARD

For the third time in the past five years, *1300 Elmwood* magazine received a Best of Category award for magazines from the State University of New York Council for University Advancement (SUNYCUAD). The annual SUNYCUAD Awards for Excellence program recognizes top advancement work from across the 64-campus SUNY system, as judged by peers.

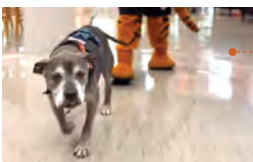


ontheweb www.youtube.com/buffalostate

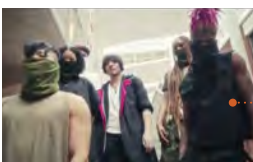
The Buffalo State  channel is full of great video content. Check it out!



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



• **'Faculty Engaged' Series**
Meet some of Buffalo State's most innovative faculty members.



• **Lloyd Goes to College**
Buffalo State welcomed the Niagara SPCA's now dearly departed pooch.

• **Bengals Dare to Care Day 2022**
A recap of Buffalo State's annual day of community service.

• **Runway 2023: Provoking Protopia**
Buffalo State's Fashion and Textile Technology Department and Buffalo Art Movement present the best work of senior designers.

yourturn

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Comments for publication may be edited for style, length, and clarity.



Burke Tapped as Chief of Staff

LeVar Nathaniel Burke joined Buffalo State in August as chief of staff in the President's Office. He most recently served as enrollment manager for strategic initiatives at the City

University of New York (CUNY) Medgar Evers College, a position he held since 2016. He also spent nearly a decade as a confidential executive associate at the Medgar Evers School of Business and Public Administration.

Burke earned a bachelor of arts in history from Morehouse College (1999), a master of public administration in policy analysis and program evaluation from Baruch College (2006), and a juris doctor from the University at Buffalo School of Law (2003) and is duly licensed to practice in the state of New York. He is currently earning a doctor of education degree in educational leadership, administration, and policy from Fordham University (2023).

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsuburke>.



Propeack Appointed BPAC Executive Director

The Burchfield Penney Art Center Board of Trustees and Buffalo State University appointed Scott Propeack as the center's executive director in

January. Propeack has been a key member of the Burchfield Penney team for over 25 years, most recently serving as acting director. He has provided visionary leadership to guide the Burchfield Penney's continued evolution within the local arts and cultural sector while raising its national profile as a top-tier multifaceted arts center.

As executive director, Propeack will continue fostering collaboration with the Western New York community, Buffalo State University, and countless arts and educational organizations. He oversees a budget of approximately \$3.6 million and about 30 staff members. Propeack started with the Burchfield Penney as the museum registrar in August 1997 and has held various roles of increasing responsibility in the years since, including collections and exhibitions manager, associate curator, chief curator, and deputy director.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsupropeack>.

STEM Majors Land Prestigious Internships



▲ Chris Burgio
◀ Joseph Wikar with Saquib Ahmed

Last spring, Joseph Wikar, a senior engineering technology major, was awarded a prestigious paid internship at the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology within the National Institute of Standards and Technology, one of the top research laboratories in the country. The lab is headquartered in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and houses a number of measurement and fabrication tools, as well as facilities for processing semiconductors and other nanoscale engineering processes.

"It's great for the students and the engineering program at Buffalo State," said Saquib Ahmed, assistant professor of engineering technology, and founder and director of the Integrated Studies in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Center, who is Wikar's research faculty mentor. The internship is offered to only two or three students from more than 100 of the top schools in the country, Ahmed said.

More recently, Chris Burgio, a sophomore physics major, was selected to participate in a competitive paid internship with the Department of Energy (DOE). He will spend 10 weeks at the DOE's Ames National Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, beginning May 30, working on "novel rare-earth-based magnetic materials that potentially show exotic physical properties."

Burgio, who graduated from Depew High School and received Buffalo State's \$4,000 annual Robert A. and Dorothy Stender Sweet Physics Scholarship, credits the influence of Arjun Pathak, assistant professor of physics, for his acceptance into the program.

"There is no way I would have near the opportunities I've had without Dr. Pathak," Burgio said. "Working in his lab has opened so many doors. While knowing the math and some of the subject material that I will be working on is more than useful, the hands-on experience I received working with Dr. Pathak is something that can't be found in a book."

Read more about Joseph Wikar at <https://bit.ly/bsuwikar>.

Read more about Chris Burgio at https://bit.ly/bsu_burgio.



Buffalo State Leads Area Teacher Recruitment Efforts

A new initiative from the Buffalo State School of Education is addressing teacher shortages in school districts across New York State. The program, called “Find Your Path Back to Teaching,” is aimed at potential teachers who have either let their New York State teacher certification lapse or did not complete their certification.

“Teachers are starting to retire,” said Wendy Paterson, dean of the School of Education, referring to the teacher shortages locally and throughout the state. “COVID-19 convinced a lot of people it was time to go. That’s the cyclical nature of teaching. You’ll have a glut, and then those teachers will age out. We’re responding to the job market as quickly as we can. Returning adults and career changers are an increasing population here, and that’s who the program aims to attract. These folks are eminently employable.”

The initiative assists those who are interested in resuming course by figuring out exactly what they need and creating a path to become a certified teacher in New York State. Teacher candidates who enter the program may have an opportunity to work as short- or long-term substitutes while they go through the program. Support is also provided through the university’s Teacher Certification Office and Career and Professional Education Center.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsuteachpath>.

College Lauded for Social Mobility Results

Buffalo State placed highly in the *U.S. News & World Report 2023 Best Colleges* rankings in September, tying for 34th place for social mobility and 40th place among top public colleges in the North. The social mobility category measures how well schools graduate students who received federal Pell Grants—typically from households earning less than \$50,000 annually.

Buffalo State’s ability to provide an affordable quality education and a path to social mobility for students from disadvantaged backgrounds is also reflected in a 2022 ranking by *Washington Monthly* magazine’s Best Bang for the Buck, which recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that offer the most valuable and economically friendly degree programs. Buffalo State ranked 27th out of 350 four-year colleges and universities in the Northeast region, making it both the highest-ranked college in Western New York and in the State University of New York (SUNY) system. Buffalo State also performed well in *Washington Monthly*’s 2022 Master’s University Rankings, placing 33rd out of 603 institutions. For this category, the magazine ranks liberal arts colleges based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility, research, and promoting public service.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsusnews22>.

College Earns ‘Student Voting’ Honors

Buffalo State earned national recognition for its voter registration campaigns in October, when it was named to *Washington Monthly*’s 2022 Best Colleges for Student Voting list, and again in March, when it was renamed a Voter-Friendly Campus for 2023–2024—the only institution so designated in the Buffalo area. This is the second consecutive time that Buffalo State has received the VFC designation, awarded by the Fair Elections Center and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA).

The university’s Civic and Community Engagement (CCE) Office works to ensure that students are aware of their voting rights through outreach, events, and an in-depth website offering a variety of resources. The CCE has also developed a series of videos on voting mechanics, covering such topics as absentee ballots, early voting, and tips for first-time voters, including how to register, completing registration forms, and understanding what is on the ballot.

“It’s incredible to see the culture of voting that our campus has fostered, thanks to the proactive efforts of the CCE,” said Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner. “A commitment to regular voting will serve our communities well here in Western New York and wherever our students live and work in the future.”

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsuvote22> and <https://bit.ly/bsuvote23>.



Photo by Element5 Digital

Elms Hall Renovation Underway

A \$78 million, two-phase renovation of Elms Hall—formerly known as the Classroom Building—will result in a future-ready, world-class educational facility. The project will provide modern classrooms and labs to meet the teaching and learning needs of students and academic departments.

Originally built in 1972, the complex will feature a spacious central entrance lobby extending three stories, with a generous student lounge and study space. A new south entrance will increase natural light and improve wayfinding. A high-performance building enclosure and efficient lighting and HVAC systems will reduce the building's carbon footprint and create the most energy-efficient building of its type on campus.

Phase 1 construction began in March 2022 and includes demolition and abatement. Phase 2 will include site and interior modifications, including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection systems.

Elms Hall will house the departments of Anthropology, Business, Creative Studies, Criminal Justice, Economics and Finance, Geography and Planning, History and Social Studies Education, Political Science and Public Administration, Psychology, and Sociology; and the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Office. The project is slated for completion in 2025.



NSF Awards \$250K Quantum Materials Grant

Includes student research opportunities

Arjun K. Pathak, assistant professor of physics, was awarded a \$249,934 grant from the National Science Foundation in August to further study quantum materials and develop an understanding of their properties.

Those materials, which contain rare-earth metal—one of the elements from the group of 17 metals from lanthanum to lutetium in the periodic table—are vital to the development of emerging technologies like quantum computing, clean energy, and breakthroughs in the defense industry.

The grant will allow Pathak to synthesize and examine the properties of quantum materials while providing Buffalo State students, especially underrepresented minorities, women, and first-generation college students, with hands-on research opportunities. Pathak currently has a number of students working with him on the project through the university's Undergraduate Research Office.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsuquantumgrant>.



Buffalo State Opens Nanoscience Center

A new Integrated Studies in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Center on campus brings together several disciplines with the goal of taking a comprehensive approach to emerging medical, technological, environmental, and transportation fields.

The new endeavor, the brainchild of Saquib Ahmed, assistant professor of engineering technology, is geared toward helping students, faculty, and businesses work on big ideas from small things—together. Renewable energy is one area where nanoscience and nanotechnology are having an impact. The center will conduct research on alternative battery and supercapacitor technologies to work toward more sustainable batteries for everyday items like smart phones, laptops, and tablets.

The center involves faculty members from several disciplines, including chemistry, mathematics, engineering technology, physics, and economics.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsunano>.



♥ Eric Greenberg, '78, wrote a catchy tune with Gordon Lightfoot



Alum Serenades City in Collaboration with Lightfoot

Eric Greenberg, '78, grew up downstate but has had a soft spot in his heart for Buffalo ever since his days as an undergrad. Greenberg, who received a SUNY honorary doctorate in 2022, serenades the city in his song *Up in Buffalo*, which he co-wrote with the late legendary Canadian singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot. (It turns out Lightfoot liked Buffalo, too.) Recently, Buffalo State's Marketing and Communications Office used the song in a music video that was the subject of a *Buffalo News* column about Greenberg and Lightfoot. The column sparked intense interest in the video, which quickly became one of Buffalo State's most viewed and widely shared videos of 2022.

Watch the video and read more at <https://bit.ly/bsulightfoot>.

NY Fed President Speaks on Campus

Federal Reserve Bank of New York President John C. Williams shared his thoughts on the regional and national economy, as well as monetary policy, on October 7 in the Burchfield Penney Art Center's Tower Auditorium on the Buffalo State campus. The event was free and open to the public.

Frederick Floss, professor of economics and finance, moderated the discussion, asking Williams specific questions about the Western New York economy, interest rates, inflation, and more in a "fireside chat" format. A question-and-answer session with the audience followed.

Williams's talk was part of a two-day visit to Buffalo to meet with leaders in government, business, education, and community development.

Read more and watch the talk at <https://bit.ly/bsufedpres>.



Chancellor Visits Campus

Many members of the Buffalo State University community had the opportunity to meet with SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. during his tour of campus on April 6. Dr. King peeked inside classrooms, learned about ongoing research, and spoke directly with students, often asking them why they chose Buffalo State and what they like about their experience. Buffalo State is the 39th campus the chancellor visited on his state-wide tour of the entire 64-campus state university system.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsuchancellor>.



Athletics

↳ buffalostateathletics.com



Eight Inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame

Buffalo State inducted eight new members into its Athletics Hall of Fame during a dinner and ceremony on September 23, as part of the university's Homecoming and Family Weekend festivities. The Hall of Fame Class of 2022 includes track and field national champion Jazmin Dunham, '16; fellow All-Americans Jazlyn Porter (track and field, '16), Cory Cox (track and field, '16), Rich Pete (football, track and field, '16), and Kendyl Clarkson (lacrosse, '12). This was Buffalo State's first hall of fame class to enshrine five All-Americans at once. Perennial all-conference selections Kyrstin Lekki (softball, '12) and Kelsey Bashore (volleyball, '14), along with dual-sport standout Barb Kilizek (soccer, basketball, '12), complete one of the most distinguished classes in recent memory.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsufame22>.



Left: Stark
Right: Holdridge

Bengals Name Two New Head Coaches

Buffalo State selected Alia Stark as the first head coach of its new acrobatics and tumbling team in August. The program will begin its inaugural season of competition in the 2023-2024 school year. Stark comes to Buffalo State after a yearlong stint in Waco, Texas, as assistant coach for national powerhouse Baylor University and legendary acrobatics and tumbling coach Felecia Mulkey. Meanwhile, Ashley Holdridge was hired as Buffalo State's new head women's lacrosse coach in August. Holdridge, who spent the last two seasons as the head women's lacrosse coach at SUNY Morrisville, led the Mustangs to the 2021 North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) regular-season title, NEAC Championship, and NCAA Tournament berth.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsustark>.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsuholdridge>.

College Mourns the Loss of Legendary Coach

Buffalo State mourns the loss of former Bengals football assistant coach Richard "Sparky" Adams, a legendary figure in high school and college football in the Buffalo community. Adams, who died on September 30 at the age of 91, served as the defensive coordinator for the Bengals in the mid-1980s and into the 1990s. He was a vital part of the "Golden Age of Buffalo State Football," helping transition the Bengals into a regional powerhouse in the 1990s. Adams also served as the longtime head football coach for Kenmore East High School and as a coach for the University at Buffalo and Canisius College, as well as a scout for the Buffalo Bills.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsusparky>.



Sawyer, Allen Earn All-America Honors

Freshman Nat Sawyer (second from right) and junior Shevaughn Allen (second from left) secured First Team All-America honors at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field National Championships at the Birmingham CrossPlex in Birmingham, Alabama, in March. Sawyer bested her own school record in the 400-meter dash, finishing fifth in the nation with a time of 55.96 seconds, which also broke the State University of New York Athletic Conference record. Allen finished seventh in the nation in the triple jump with a mark of 14.83 meters.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsuallamerica>.



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Buffalo State Hosts Urban STEM Symposium



Buffalo State hosted its inaugural Urban STEM Symposium on August 4 in the Campbell Student Union Assembly Hall. The event—created by Douglas Hoston Jr., a PRODiG visiting scholar and former completion coach at Buffalo State—provided incoming freshmen from underrepresented backgrounds with workshops focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines.

Twenty-seven Buffalo Public Schools graduates enrolled as incoming Buffalo State students were among those who participated in the symposium. The event included such activities as a faculty panel discussion on “Academic Success in Belonging”; a presentation by academic advisers, counselors, and retention specialists titled “Best Practices in Belonging”; and a poetry workshop with a focus on identity and Afrofuturism.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsurbanstem>.

Buffalo State Earns ‘Tree Campus’ Endorsement

Buffalo State received official designation as a 2022 “Tree Campus” from the Arbor Day Foundation in March for its commitment to preserving green space on campus. The Tree Campus Higher Education program honors colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

Buffalo State’s Maud Gordon Holmes Arboretum contains more than 1,400 varying species of trees and numerous flowering shrubs and perennials. Since 2019, Friends of the Maud Gordon Holmes Arboretum has hosted volunteer tree-planting events on campus. Big Dig IV, the most recent and largest effort to date, added more than 60 native trees and shrubs—in Mann Quad, near Neumann Hall, and along Rockwell Road.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsutreecampus>.



Art Con Unveils Unique Dual Degree Program

The Patricia H. and Richard E. Garman Art Conservation Department introduced a newly approved master of arts/master of science dual degree program in July, making Buffalo State the only college or university in North America to offer a dual graduate degree in conservation.

Starting in fall 2022, students entering the three-year program will earn an M.A. in the conservation of art and cultural heritage and an M.S. in conservation science and imaging. Previously, students earned an M.A. in art conservation with a certificate of advanced study.

The New York State Education Department approved the dual degree in October 2021; the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accredited it in May 2022.

The M.A. portion of the dual degree is focused on conservation treatment theory, practice, and ethics. Meanwhile, the M.S. is focused on the sciences—chemistry, physics, and materials science—and imaging—optics, industrial photography, and computational photography.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bsuartcondual>.

Go to www.buffalostate.edu/news for the latest campus news, and follow us on



1888–1927

STATE NORMAL
AND TRAINING SCHOOL

1928–1946

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
AT BUFFALO

1946–1950

NEW YORK STATE
COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS
AT BUFFALO

1950–1951

SUNY, NEW YORK STATE
COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS

1951–1959

THE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS
AT BUFFALO

1960–1962

STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
AT BUFFALO

1962–2023

STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE AT BUFFALO
(SUNY BUFFALO
STATE COLLEGE)





BUFFALO STATE FORMALLY RECOGNIZED AS A UNIVERSITY

SUNY Buffalo State formally changed its name from Buffalo State College to Buffalo State University, effective January 15, 2023. The institution's official State Education Department title changed from State University College at Buffalo to SUNY Buffalo State University.

A campus celebration open to all students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members was held on January 31 in the Campbell Student Union Social Hall to officially usher in the new name.

"I'm proud and excited that after much discussion, Buffalo State is becoming a university," said Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner. "Just last year we celebrated our 150th anniversary and the many facets of Buffalo State's rich history. As we look to the future, embracing the university designation is one of the many ways in which Buffalo State is aligning with the changing landscape of higher education."

The university designation, endorsed by the Buffalo State Council, follows new guidelines from the New York State Board of Regents for what constitutes a university. The guidelines require institutions of higher education to "offer a range of registered undergraduate and graduate curricula in the liberal arts and sciences, including graduate programs registered in at least three of the following

discipline areas: agriculture, biological sciences, business, education, engineering, fine arts, health professions, humanities, physical sciences, and social sciences."

"The university designation recognizes Buffalo State's 79 competitive under-

"Each year, we attract a diverse body of students from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures who become engaged not only with the classroom and the campus but also with the community as a whole. The university designation reflects this."

— President Conway-Turner

graduate programs and 64 rigorous graduate programs, as well as the tremendous efforts the faculty and staff make on a daily basis to support Buffalo State's mission of transforming lives," said Buffalo State Council Chair Linda Dobmeier, '71. "As an alumna myself, I am thrilled to see Buffalo State making this transition."

Buffalo State joins several other colleges in SUNY, as well as some private colleges, that have adopted the university designation over the past year.

Switching from college to university is expected to help elevate recruitment efforts domestically and abroad.

"We know that the term 'university' resonates more than 'college' with an international audience," said Randyll Bowen, Buffalo State's vice president for enrollment management. "It also informs all potential students of our academic rigor and reflects the research and accomplishments of our outstanding faculty and the real-world experience they bring to the classroom."

Provost James Mayrose noted that Buffalo State's academic programs are competitive with that of many universities.

"Being recognized as a university broadcasts to the world that we are an institution with a cutting-edge curriculum, unique programs, and research opportunities that fully prepare students for lucrative careers and further academic study at the graduate level," Mayrose said.

This latest iteration to university bolsters the school's focus not only on academic rigor and research but also on access, diversity, and inclusion.

Thank You, Madam President

DR. KATHERINE CONWAY-TURNER TO
RETIRE AFTER LEADING BUFFALO STATE
FOR NINE YEARS.

Katherine Conway-Turner, the ninth president of Buffalo State, will retire at the end of the 2022–2023 academic year after nearly nine years at the helm and 43 years in higher education leadership.

During her tenure at Buffalo State, Conway-Turner continuously championed student success and the ideals of public higher education. Since joining the Buffalo State community in August 2014, she has advocated equity, community engagement, and social mobility—all areas in which the university has gained significant national recognition.

“I did not make this decision quickly or lightly,” Conway-Turner said of her retirement. “But after careful consideration, I have decided that it’s time for me to concentrate on my next chapter and to commit more time and energy to my family, traveling, and writing the memoir I have mentioned from time to time.”

At her 2014 inauguration, Conway-Turner declared, “At Buffalo State College, we know that we have sitting in our classrooms the leaders of tomorrow, leaders who represent the diversity of our communities and who embody the talents required for our city, our state, and our world to move forward. Within the walls of our campus, we press students to reach further than they might have imagined—to become the innovators, scientists, artists, protectors, and stewards of our communities.”



Before coming to Buffalo State, Conway-Turner was provost and vice president for academic affairs at both Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and SUNY Geneseo. She also served as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University and as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Delaware, where she also directed the women's studies program and served as graduate program coordinator. She was an American Council on Education (ACE) fellow at the College of New Jersey, and she has held teaching positions at the University of Delaware, Santa Clara University, and California State University, Long Beach.

In addition, Conway-Turner serves on numerous boards, committees, and programs nationally, statewide, and locally, including as vice chair of the board of directors of the national coalition Campus Compact; vice chair of the executive committee of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities; and a member of the Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity for the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Locally, she serves as co-chair of the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council, a member of the advisory board of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, a member of the Say Yes Buffalo Operating Committee, and an emerita member of the Western New York Women's Foundation.

Conway-Turner earned her Ph.D. and master of arts in social psychology and her bachelor of arts in microbiology, all from the University of Kansas.

She said she firmly believes in the transformative role education plays in the lives of students, especially first-generation college students, as she understands this phenomenon firsthand.

"As a girl who was born in a tiny town in the Midwest and raised in a family that struggled to put food on the table, I could not have imagined how education would transform my life and the lives of my family," she said. "In just one generation, our family moved from one in which no one had earned a high school diploma to one that could claim college-educated family members. I have always felt a kinship to our first-generation students and those who have personally faced discrimination because of race, gender, or economic status."

Linda Dobmeier, '71, chair of the Buffalo State Council, is chairing the Presidential Search Committee that will recruit qualified candidates and recommend the next president to the SUNY Board of Trustees.

A TIMELINE OF KATHERINE CONWAY-TURNER'S PRESIDENCY

2014

The State University of New York Board of Trustees appoints Katherine S. Conway-Turner, Ph.D., as the ninth president of Buffalo State.

Buffalo State celebrates the completion of \$25.7 million in renovations to Houston Gymnasium with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 17.

Katherine S. Conway-Turner is formally installed as the ninth president of Buffalo State at an inauguration ceremony held October 21. Conway-Turner's inaugural theme is "Reaching for the Stars: Engagement, Excellence, and Social Responsibility."

2015

Buffalo State receives the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's 2015 Community Engagement Classification.

Roar in 4 completion initiative is launched.

The campus marks the successful completion of *Transforming Lives: A Campaign for Buffalo State*.

2016

The college unveils Bengal Pride Scholarship program.

The Great Lakes Center at Buffalo State celebrates 50 years as the leading institute dedicated to the study of the Great Lakes.

The Washington Center honors Buffalo State with prestigious Civic Engagement Award.

Buffalo State receives a \$4 million gift from the Richard E. and Patricia H. Garman family of Western New York to support the college's distinguished Art Conservation Department, marking the largest one-time gift to the college.

The Burchfield Penney Art Center marks its 50th anniversary.

2017

The Fashion and Textile Technology Department celebrates its 10th annual Runway student fashion show.

Buffalo State's Arthur O. Eve Educational Opportunity Program marks its 50th anniversary.

Buffalo State completes a \$27.6 million renovation of Caudell Hall. The hall houses multiple departments, including Hospitality and Tourism, Social Work, Speech-Language Pathology, and Health, Nutrition, and Dietetics.

Buffalo State and the Buffalo Public Schools launch the Urban Teacher Academy.



with President Conway-Turner

Q: Congratulations on your upcoming retirement! What will you think of first when you reflect on your career in higher education?

A: Thank you. Well, I will certainly think about how amazing it has all been—and what an unpredictable, unexpected journey it turned out to be! I grew up in a teeny, tiny town in Missouri, and going to college wasn't a usual option in that time and place. So I'll look back and think of what my life became through the power of education. Going to college was foundational for everything that has happened in my life. My grandparents never would have imagined me becoming a

college president! In fact, during grad school, I still remember trying to explain to my family that I wanted to pursue a career in higher education because I loved to learn and problem-solve, and that intellectual freedom suited me well. That was a very different career path to choose. Most of all, I will think of all the people I've met along the way. I've worked at five institutions and have gained a wonderful, broad network of friends and colleagues.

Q: What accomplishments are you most proud of during your time at Buffalo State?

A: I'm very proud of building on the tradition we have here at Buffalo State of being student-centered. I hope that I've moved that legacy forward. We should always strive to keep students at the center of everything we do.

I'm also proud of the connections and collaborations we've made in the community. We are an "anchor institution" that really takes our name to heart. I've often called Buffalo State "Buffalo's college" or now, "Buffalo's university." We have a unique connection with the city. Events like Bengals Dare to Care Day are a beautiful manifestation of that engagement. Students come to Buffalo State wanting to make the world a better place, and we can help them find ways to do that that are important to them.

I'm proud of the facilities. We've invested about \$270 million in the physical campus during my time at Buffalo State. Alums who haven't been on campus in the past 10 years are shocked when they come back. We've had a very good working relationship with the

state, and the results are amazing. Learning spaces like the Science and Mathematics Complex and Academic Commons in the library are transformational for students.

I'm proud of our relationships with alumni and donors. Every alumni event we've held over the past nine years reminds me just how much alums love this university. And I'm happy to say that our endowment has doubled during my time here—that's a reflection of the people who believe in us and what we do.

I am proud to have deepened our work in the area of equity and diversity and in propagating JEDI [justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion] excellence—in supporting the Center for Social Justice and the development of the Social Justice Walk, which is based on Buffalo State's historical commitment to JEDI excellence.

And as an ongoing initiative, I'm extremely proud of the work we've done over the past two years to bring the Buffalo Public Schools' Da Vinci High School to Buckham Hall in 2024. This really brings us full circle. Alums certainly remember Campus West and the benefits of having an affiliated school on our campus. Da Vinci will bring back that energy.

Q: How do the past nine years fit into Buffalo State's 150-year history?

A: I was so delighted to learn more about Buffalo State's history during our 150th anniversary celebration in 2021. Much of what has happened in the past nine years builds on that history—things like our emphasis on preparing teachers and our dedication to academic excellence. But the past nine years have also been unique in our history; there are unique issues today. The integration of technology has changed the way we do a lot of things. The impact of our student-athletes has expanded over the past decade. And, of course, historians will look back at this time and study how we navigated the pandemic, flipping on a dime and following ever-changing rules and regulations as a member of the SUNY system to ensure the safety of our community.

Q: What is the importance of Buffalo State University going forward—in terms of its educational mission and as an anchor in the community?

A: Buffalo State is an absolutely vital part of this community—not only as an educator, but as a convener and a center of intellectual problem-solving. We are a powerhouse of engagement, which is a much-needed and



wonderful thing. New York State seeks to be a place of opportunity, a place where people can get ahead. Buffalo State provides that right now with our success in the area of social mobility. Many colleges and universities seek a diverse student body. We have that here right now. In many respects, Buffalo State is at the forefront of what higher education—and what our country—will look like in the future. I have coined the term “predominantly diverse institution,” or PDI, to describe institutions like Buffalo State that serve a largely diverse population and are worthy of support.

Q: Where do you think higher education is heading in general? What are your hopes for the future of higher ed?

A: Higher ed is evolving—and evolution can be painful. Because of the increasing diversity of students, the increasing use of technology in and out of the classroom, and a wide range of other factors, the expectations of today’s students are far different from traditional notions of college education. That puts a pressure on institutions to deliver their product in different ways that meet the current needs. There’s also a demographic pressure right now—the number of students doesn’t match the current capacity, so we’re seeing closures and mergers, which are painful. But we will get back to an equilibrium, and I’m hopeful that over the next decade or so, higher ed will be in a good place. That will likely mean a more traditional, on-campus experience for those who want it and more flexible options and online choices for those who want something different.

Q: Being a college president can be an all-consuming job. Please tell us a little about the support you have received from your family over the years.

A: Yes, my family has always been very supportive, and I am grateful for that. My husband, Alvin, has been semi-retired, running a small private practice in psychology. That has allowed him to be flexible—and to be with me for certain campus-related events. When I started this job, I had three daughters and no grandchildren. I now have three grown daughters and three grandchildren! My mother lives with Alvin and me and has been a great support. And I am one of seven sisters—and a few of them will be visiting Buffalo at the end of the academic year to celebrate my retirement with me.

Q: What’s next for you?

A: For one, I’m looking forward to more time with those grandkids! I also have a few projects in mind. I’m planning to write a memoir. I think I’ve had an unusual arc to my life, and friends and family are curious about the times and places and circumstances that led me from that tiny town in Missouri to where I am today. I’m also planning to write a book or a series of articles about being a college president in a time of internal and external crises. From the pandemic to the enrollment cliff to blizzards, I’ve experienced some situations and learned some lessons that may be helpful for others in the future. I’ve also been approached by some other recently retired college presidents to join a “Champions of Higher Education” group that can give voice to some of the issues currently facing colleges and universities around the country. Members of this group serve on panels, speak at events, and write op-eds. So I will certainly keep busy!

Also, Alvin and I have traveled a great deal over the last 30-some years, but I have always needed to navigate around the academic calendar and could never stay very long. So travel around the world will be on our to-do list, including a trip possibly next year to return to France and Morocco and enjoy places like Paris and Casablanca at a more leisurely pace.

2018

Buffalo State holds a ceremonial ribbon-cutting for the new \$6.9 million Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center.

Bishop Hall returns to its original identity as a residence hall following a yearlong \$16 million renovation.

Buffalo State’s Professional Development Schools Consortium receives the Exemplary PDS Achievement Award from the National Association for Professional Development Schools.

Buffalo State is selected as an inaugural member of the Higher Education Anchor Mission Initiative.

Buffalo State is named an Excellence and Innovation Award winner by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

2019

Buffalo State moves up 19 spots to enter the list of top 100 institutions on CollegeNET’s Social Mobility Index (SMI) national rankings, placing 82nd out of 1,380 benchmarked schools.

NAFSA: Association of International Educators honors Buffalo State’s International Professional Development Schools Consortium with the Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award.

Buffalo State is the highest-ranked four-year college in Western New York, according to *Washington Monthly* magazine’s 2019 “Best Bang for the Buck Colleges in the Northeast” ratings.

The American International Recruitment Council names Buffalo State its Institution of the Year for international student recruitment.

Hundreds of Buffalo State faculty, staff, and students serve the community during Bengals Dare to Care Day.

2020

Buffalo State establishes the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship to lift up future Black leaders who support racial justice and equity efforts in their communities.

In her State of the College address, President Conway-Turner lauds the campus’s response to the global pandemic and other 2020 challenges.

Buffalo State jumps another 47 spots in CollegeNET’s Social Mobility Index (SMI) national rankings, placing 35th out of 1,449 benchmarked schools.



BENGALS DARE TO CARE DAY. President Conway-Turner turned Bengals Dare to Care Day into the university's signature community service event and one of the campus's most cherished traditions.



QUALITY OF LIFE. President Conway-Turner has collaborated with government officials and community leaders in advancing the quality of life in Western New York.



COMMENCEMENT. Upon her retirement, President Conway-Turner will have led nine years of Commencement ceremonies—in person and virtually during the pandemic—relishing each moment with the graduates.



BIGGEST FAN. Whether at admissions events for prospective students, advancement events for donors, or athletic contests with her beloved Bengals, President Conway-Turner has always proved to be Buffalo State's biggest fan.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT. President Conway-Turner visited the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., to accept the 2016 Higher Education Civic Engagement Award on behalf of Buffalo State.



INFRASTRUCTURE. President Conway-Turner has presided over the opening of new and renovated state-of-the-art educational spaces across campus, including the 2018 ceremonial ribbon-cutting for the Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center.



SOCIAL JUSTICE. In word and deed, President Conway-Turner has advocated the 'JEDI' principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

2021

Buffalo State celebrates its 150th anniversary with a yearlong celebration featuring special events, speakers, performances, athletic competitions, and more.

A record 172 new students enter the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program—160 freshmen and 12 transfer students.

Buffalo State continues to climb in CollegeNET's national Social Mobility Index (SMI) for 2021, ranking 34th out of 1,550 benchmarked colleges and universities.

Buffalo State receives a \$1 million endowed gift from Donn Youngstrom, associate professor emeritus of theater, to support the Anne Frank Project.

Buffalo State celebrates the \$35.5 million final phase of the new Science and Mathematics Complex and \$16.1 million renovation of E. H. Butler Library's Academic Commons at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 1.

2022

Buffalo State receives a \$2.1 million endowment from the late Marie J. (Gagnon) Marillo, '56, to support the Speech-Language Pathology Department.

Buffalo State's 25th annual Bengala raises a record amount—almost \$500,000—for scholarship funds and student assistance.

Buffalo State presents inaugural Urban STEM Symposium.

Intercollegiate Athletics announces plans to add three new sports—acrobatics and tumbling, women's wrestling, and men's volleyball—over the next two years.

Buffalo State ranks 27th out of 350 four-year colleges and universities in the Northeast region on the 'Best Bang for the Buck' List, again making it the highest-ranked college in Western New York and in the State University of New York (SUNY) system.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Buffalo State a Top Performer on Social Mobility.

2023

Buffalo State formally attains university status, officially changing its name to Buffalo State University.

The university hosts a groundbreaking ceremony for its Bengal Walk redesign, with spaces to highlight the past, present, and future of social justice at Buffalo State.

Buffalo State celebrates its 25th annual Student Research and Creativity Conference.

The Anne Frank Project celebrates its 15th anniversary.

Buffalo State celebrates its 151st Commencement—and its first as 'Buffalo State University.'

Promoting Art Conservation *in* Film

When Grace Philips, '16, started making a film for her master of fine arts (M.F.A.) thesis at Columbia University, she drew on the skills she honed in Buffalo State University's television and film arts (TFA) program.

She also tapped the expertise of Fiona Beckett, assistant professor of paintings conservation in Buffalo State's highly acclaimed Garman Art Conservation Department.

Philips wrote and directed the short film *Georgette in the Garden*, which focuses on a recently discovered nineteenth-century painting of a young girl created by a fictional impressionist. When the protagonist, an art conservator at a small museum, starts restoring the painting, she discovers a second, somewhat controversial, painting beneath it.

"I knew from the beginning I'd be getting deep into art conservation science, so I consulted with several conservators, including Fiona," Philips said. "The collaboration has been great."

Beckett gave Philips a tour of Buffalo State's art conservation facilities and made sure the science depicted in the film was accurate.

"I've been providing advice related to conservation of paintings, technical analysis, and instrumentation used in conservation," said Beckett, who has served as an adviser on other film scripts. "Grace approached me a while ago about the script and the idea. I thought it was great to highlight art conservation and was happy to be a part of it."

Beckett also reviewed Philips's application for a competitive grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which Philips was awarded. The grants are specifically reserved for media productions that incorporate science in a meaningful way.

"I think a lot of people are intimidated by science, which probably increased my chances of receiving the grant," Philips said. "I really admire science, but it's not my strong suit."

Production began on January 9, with most of the filming taking place in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Philips was also able to reserve a private conservation studio for one scene. She said a kindhearted art conservator lent her not only his studio but also his microscope, which provides a realistic feel to the film.

Philips said she was well-prepared for the competitive Columbia program after spending four years in Buffalo State's TFA program.



◀ Fiona Beckett (second from right) specializes in paintings conservation

♥ Grace Philips



"The best thing they gave us was hands-on experience," she said. "The professors would say, 'Here's a camera. Go make something.' They give you so much freedom to experiment."

While at Buffalo State, Philips won a Pioneer Award for one of her short films and also participated in three TFA trips to the Toronto International Film Festival, which she called one of the best parts of her education.

After she completes her M.F.A. in October, Philips said, she plans to stay in New York City and pursue a career as a screenwriter.

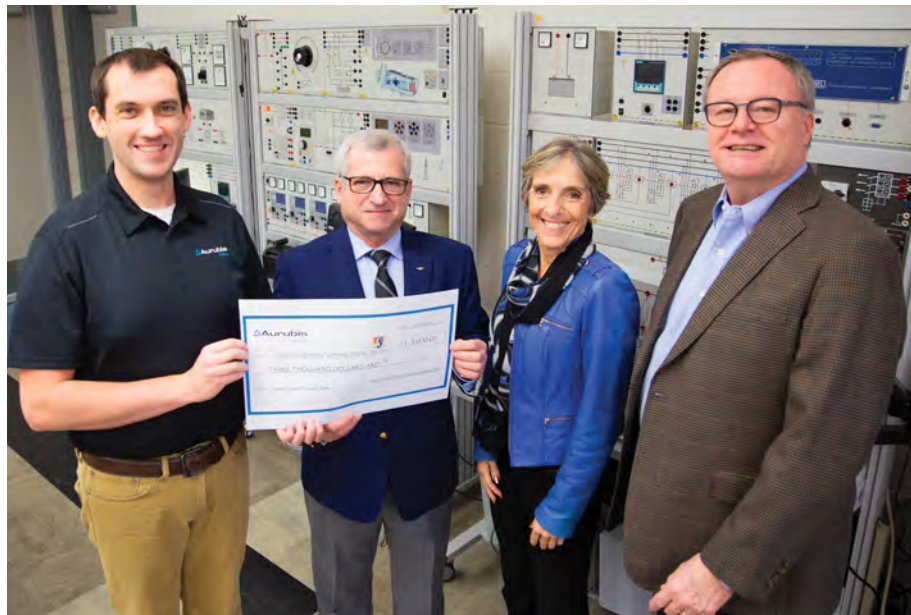
"I'm deeply fascinated with the world as it is," she said. "I like to tell dramatic stories that also have elements of humor in them. That is what life is like."

“ Grace approached me a while ago about the script and the idea. I thought it was great to highlight art conservation and was happy to be a part of it. ”

Fiona T. Beckett, M.A., is an assistant professor of paintings conservation in Buffalo State's Garman Art Conservation Department. She joined the university in 2018. Beckett earned her master's degree in art conservation with a specialization in paintings conservation from Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, and her honors bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Ottawa. She actively collaborates with local institutions, including the Memorial Art Gallery, Buffalo AKG Art Museum (formerly the Albright-Knox Art Gallery), Buffalo History Museum, and Burchfield Penney Art Center, regarding research and paintings treatments. While she actively oversees the work of her many students, she is also committed to conducting treatments herself. Her most recent is a large-scale nineteenth-century painting by American artist Daniel Ridgway Knight titled Springtime, owned by the Buffalo AKG Art Museum. Beckett serves as a professional associate of the American Institute for Conservation.

Aurubis Supports Electrical Engineering Technology Program

Aurubis Buffalo Inc. presented a check for \$3,000 to Buffalo State’s electrical engineering technology program on October 6. Aurubis’s Bobby Withrow, electrical project engineer, joined Buffalo State’s Ilya Grinberg, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of engineering technology; Carol DeNysschen, dean of the School of the Professions; and John Earshen, chair and associate professor of engineering technology, for the ceremony on campus. The gift supports the Senior Design Project Fund.



Buffalo State Gives 2023 Nets \$100K

Buffalo State Gives 2023, the university’s fifth annual day of giving, raised more than \$100,000 from over 400 donors March 15–16. The virtual event is the institution’s largest online fundraiser of the year. Donors supported such causes as the Bengal Internship Fund; the schools of Arts and Sciences, Education, and the Professions; the Maud Gordon Holmes Arboretum; the Undergraduate Research Office; the Educational Opportunity Program; the Bengal 2 Bengal Student Emergency Support Fund; the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program; Milligan’s Food Pantry; and Intercollegiate Athletics. The event’s success was celebrated with a reception in the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center.



Bengala 2023 to Honor Career of President Conway-Turner

Bengala 2023, the 26th annual Buffalo State University Foundation Scholarship Gala, will be held April 29 in the Campbell Student Union. This year’s event will celebrate the career of retiring President Katherine Conway-Turner and the institution’s new university status as well as generate academic scholarships and financial assistance for Buffalo State students.

The university’s premier fundraising event, Bengala 2023 is co-chaired by Stacy E. Lewis Beauford, ’01, and Michael Garner, ’83. M&T Bank is the presenting sponsor. Look for photos in the next issue of *1300 Elmwood*.



donorprofile **M&T Bank**

A mentorship program pairing Buffalo State students with M&T Bank professional is continuing for a third academic year and expanding to include paid internships in summer 2023.

"We're so excited by this new development in our partnership," said Katie Welsted, director of corporate and foundation relations in Buffalo State's Institutional Advancement Office.

M&T is anticipating six paid internships in its Banking Services division and two in its Legal division specifically for Buffalo State students this summer, with the hope that the mentees will want to apply, Welsted said. She added that the bank is earmarking two of those internships for students in Buffalo State's Africana studies program, which also formed a new partnership with M&T.

"The bank decided to plan for paid internships for Buffalo State students because we've had such wonderful experiences with the mentees and are always looking at ways to enhance our relationship with the university," said Kara Handzlik, senior associate general counsel at M&T, who was integral to getting the mentorship program off the ground in fall 2020.

Leslie Wallace, '93, banking services manager and Buffalo State alumna, said, "Enabling students to have professional paid work experience before graduating will give them an advantage in their own

personal development and allow them to point to that experience when applying for a job."

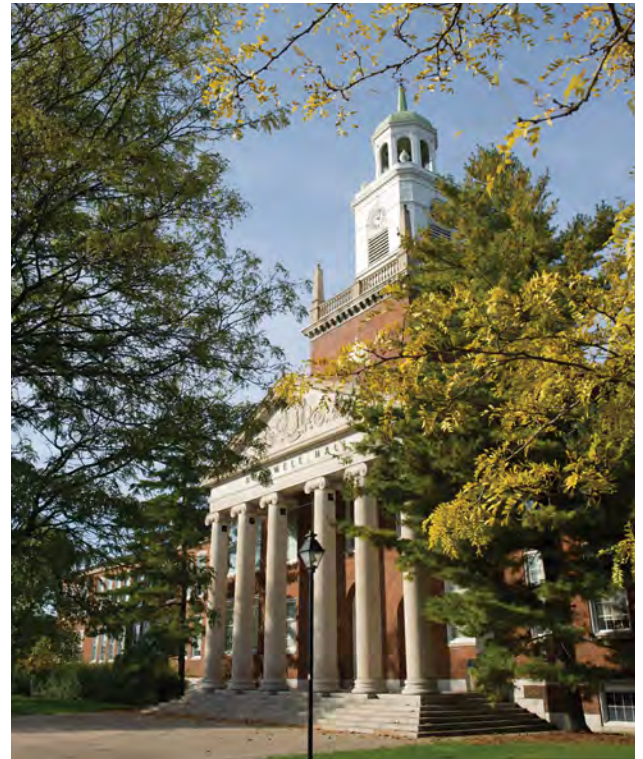
Handzlik worked with Jim Finnerty, Buffalo State's vice president for institutional advancement, and Laura O'Hara, chief legal officer for M&T and a member of the Buffalo State University Foundation Board of Directors, to develop the program.

For the 2022-2023 academic year, M&T selected 24 mentees from 29 applications across academic disciplines, and more students may be added as additional mentors become available.

The mentees meet virtually with their mentors one-on-one at least once a month to discuss how to create strong résumés and bone up on interviewing and networking skills. Some mentors are in Buffalo while others work in other states.

"Students have asked their mentors philosophical questions such as, How do I figure out what I want to do with my life? in addition to more pragmatic requests for reviews of résumés and cover letters," said Amy McMillan, director of Buffalo State's Muriel A. Howard Honors Program. In its pilot year, the mentorship program was open only to honors students, and McMillan orchestrated recruitment and served as the campus liaison to the program.

Last year, the program was opened to the entire campus, and M&T added mentors from other divisions.



The efforts paid off. Previous mentee Dawn Jones obtained an internship after her mentorship ended, and Ismail Ali, Reilly Kelly, and Oneika Webb landed full-time jobs at M&T.

M&T hosted a kickoff celebration for this year's participants on October 4 in Buffalo State's LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center. It was a huge success, McMillan said, with mentors and mentees having the opportunity to meet in a relaxed environment and ask questions.

The mentorship program is now moving from McMillan's purview to Buffalo State's Career and Professional Education Center (CAPE).

"Our staff members are excited to build on the great work of Dr. McMillan," said Denise Harris, director of CAPE. "We will continue building on the strong foundation of this mentoring program and look to bring additional community partner mentors to our students in the future."

mentorship program pairing Buffalo State students with M&T Bank professionals is

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

Peterson Society Inducts 13 New Members

♥ Fay Carney, '69, is inducted into the Peterson Society



Buffalo State inducted 13 new members into the Peterson Society at a luncheon on October 6 in the Burchfield Penney Art Center. The Peterson Society is the university's planned giving or legacy society for those who have made a gift to Buffalo State through a bequest, gift annuity, charitable trust, life insurance, or other estate-planning technique. The ceremony included remarks from Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner and Buffalo State Planned Giving Committee Chair James Brandys, '71, '73, as well as a thank-you on behalf of students from senior sociology major Elizabeth Evans, '23.

This year's inductees are C. Teo Balbach; Michael, '79, and Madonna, '80, Bonitatibus; Fay M. (Kroll) Carney, '69; Kathryn A. Christmann; Jean V. Losinger, '75, '77 (posthumously); Michael Malyak, '70, '72; Christy Marillo (posthumously); Russell Penner; Ruth A. Smith, '69 (posthumously); Harry and Athena Vardis; and Judith Walsh.

Lupo Funds New Award

Ann K. Lupo, who recently retired as the G. Allen McFarren Senior Lecturer in Social Studies Education in the History and Social Studies Education Department, has agreed to fund the department's Kathleen Mallea Award along with a new award to be known as the Ann K. Lupo Award for social studies education students for the next five years.

University Hosts Scholar-Donor Breakfast

The Institutional Advancement Office hosted its annual Scholar-Donor Breakfast on September 24 in the Campbell Student Union Social Hall as part of Homecoming and Family Weekend festivities. The invitation-only event celebrated the accomplishments of students and the donors who helped make a difference by funding campus scholarships.



♥ Christmann family and friends
♥ Chicola family and friends



The Buffalo State School of Education's International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) program was officially named the Michael and Nancy Chicola IPDS Program at Buffalo State at a ceremony in October. The new name honors Nancy Chicola, '66, associate professor emerita of elementary education and reading (seated, right), and her late husband, Michael, who made a generous commitment to support the IPDS mission.

The Buffalo State School of Education educational leadership program officially became the Christmann Family Educational Leadership Program at a naming ceremony in October. The new name recognizes Robert Christmann, '75, and Karen (Sudyn) Christmann, '77, '81, whose generous gift established an endowed fund in honor of Charles Christmann, '46. Kathryn Christmann directed a significant estate gift toward the eponymously named fund as well.

Join in! To make your gift, contact the Buffalo State Foundation at

(716) 878-3141 • bscfoundation@buffalostate.edu • giving.buffalostate.edu

scholarshipprofile

Karina Zayas, '22, '24



“
After asking a few questions, I realized the Buffalo State honors program has an amazing support system. I joined right away.

”

Growing up in Rochester, New York, with a single mom and two siblings, Karina Zayas knew that money was tight. Going to college was not a given, despite Zayas’s strong affinity for science and math that propelled her into gifted classes and resulted in excellent grades in high school.

She discovered an affordable option in Buffalo State, a State University of New York (SUNY) school located about an hour down the road.

“I was attracted to its proximity to home, its academic programs, and warm and helpful staff,” said Zayas, who began as a freshman in fall 2019 and graduated in May 2022.

In particular, staff members in the Financial Aid Office helped Zayas secure the necessary resources, including scholarships, to fund her education.

“They enabled me to go to college,” she said.

Zayas didn’t just go to college—she thrived. Soon after being accepted at Buffalo State, she was offered a spot in the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program.

“After asking a few questions, I realized the Buffalo State honors program has an amazing support system,” Zayas said. “I joined right away.”

Benefits of the program include the chance to live in Bishop Hall, the honors residence hall on campus.

“Living in Bishop is a really great way to stay involved,” Zayas said. “I also became part of the honors e-board and helped plan events, including the annual barbecue, trivia nights, and movie nights.”

In addition, the honors program staff, especially its director, Amy McMillan, provided needed support.

“I remember a couple of times when I was super stressed, I’d email Dr. McMillan,” Zayas said. “She definitely pushed me through it and got me on the right path.”

McMillan noted that Zayas was a joy to support because she made things happen for herself.

“Karina is just the kind of student we want in the honors program,” McMillan said. “She works hard but also finds time to engage with our program, other students, and Buffalo State as a whole. Karina was one of our honors ambassadors and always made new students feel welcome.”

Although Zayas initially planned to major in forensic chemistry and minor in computer information systems (CIS), she soon decided to flip the two disciplines.

“I found I really enjoyed the CIS classwork,” Zayas said. “It was the first homework I’d do, and I always looked forward to the classes. This is the kind of passion you want in a major.”

She said CIS was not what she expected it would be.

“They let you pick the area of computer science you’d like to focus on,” she said. “I wasn’t really into the hardware side as much as coding. I was able to gear my classes toward coding and languages.”

Zayas is now enrolled in Buffalo State’s master’s program in data science and analytics. She was able to get a head start by taking two graduate courses her senior year.

“I felt a little lost about what I wanted to do with my career, and this program seemed like the best fit for me,” she said. “I began to look into what type of person should go into this career, and many of the values fit with my personality. I hope to become a data scientist and data analyst.”

She added that what she managed to accomplish while an undergraduate—maintaining a near-perfect grade point average, working three on-campus jobs, and getting involved in extracurricular activities—bolstered her confidence.

“I really challenged myself at Buffalo State,” she said. “I pushed myself to do things I didn’t think I could ever accomplish before going to college.”

Watch Karina’s video at https://bit.ly/bsu_zayas.

alumni**profile** Sheila Rayam, '90

Connecting with Readers

by Laurie Kaiser

Sheila Rayam, '90, chose Buffalo State for her undergraduate studies for the same reason many students do: the program she wanted—journalism—was well-regarded, and it was the perfect distance from home, not too close and not too far.

That seemingly simple decision reaped remarkable results for Rayam, who has reached the pinnacle of her profession. She was recently named executive editor of the *Buffalo News*, a role she began on August 22, following the retirement of Mike Connelly.

She is the first Black journalist and the second woman to hold the position in the newspaper's 142-year history.

"It's a paper I've always admired," Rayam said. "It has a staff that is experienced and energized, and the paper still has resources."

She attributes her success, in part, to her alma mater.

"You know how people say that the college years are the best ones? For me, it's really true," said Rayam, who recently visited campus and marveled at the improvements while sitting in the Starbucks café in Buffalo State's E. H. Butler Library.

A fitting location, as the library was named in 1950 for Edward Hubert Butler Sr., who founded the *Buffalo Evening News* (then the *Buffalo Sunday News*) in 1873, serving as its editor and publisher until his death in 1914. The Butler family steered the affairs of the college for almost a century, serving on the Buffalo State Council (originally called the Local Board of Managers) for three generations. The library's Archives and Special Collections houses the Butler Family Papers, which Rayam also had the opportunity to visit while on campus.

"My years at Buffalo State made me the woman I am today," she said. "I developed through the people I met from all over, from the professors who were tough but fair."

One of those professors was Charlie Adair, an associate professor of journalism who died in 2000 at age 58.

"He was tough, an old-school newsman," Rayam said of Adair, who also worked at the *Niagara Gazette* when she was an intern there and at the *News* before joining Buffalo State. "It was great working with someone like that."

She also has fond memories of living in Bengal Hall (then Porter Hall), working on the staff of the *Record*, and joining the historic Zeta Phi Beta sorority, which she said is still an important part of her life.

"This place is just so special to me," Rayam said. "There are so many memories. I can feel them here."

Rayam, who grew up in Rochester, New York, returned to her hometown after graduating from Buffalo State and rose through the ranks at the *Democrat & Chronicle*, a flagship Gannett newspaper.

"I held almost every job there besides sports writer," she said with a laugh.

Indeed, her positions have included news reporter, feature writer, copy editor, editorial writer, concert critic, entertainment magazine editor, and "female audience editor."

Like many newspapers, the *Democrat & Chronicle* has shrunk in recent years after its heyday of big staffs and thick papers. Despite the changes and the cutbacks, Rayam never gave up on newspapers.

"Whenever I thought of doing something different, I did something different there," she said. "I never jumped shipped."

A couple of years ago, her editor asked if she'd like to run her own newsroom. In 2021, she stepped into the role of executive editor of Gannett's Mohawk Valley news operations and oversaw three news operations, including the *Utica Observer-Dispatch*.

"Newsrooms need more people of color in decision-making roles," she said. "We all bring life experiences to the table. Being able to lead a newsroom in a community with a big immigrant population was exciting and meaningful."

When Connelly announced his retirement and the *Buffalo News* began a national search for his replacement, Rayam said, someone recommended her.

"I still don't know who that person was," she said.

Months after joining the *News*, Rayam said, she's still pinching herself.

"I feel so blessed to be the executive editor of a paper that is respected in the community and filled with wonderful veteran journalists," she said. "This city is like my second home. It's nothing like I could have imagined when I was a student."



New York City Alumni Reception

More than 80 alumni from the New York City area joined Buffalo State for an alumni event on June 22. Graduates from class years 1971 to 2021 met with President Katherine Conway-Turner and fellow alums to network and share memories. Fundraising efforts resulted in over \$3,000 in donations to the Student Emergency Fund. Thank you to the alumni event steering committee: Martin Braxton; Onida Coward-Mayers, '86; Michael Garner, '83; Angela Green, '81; Benita Law-Diao, '81; Karen Mitchell, '82; Deborah Padmore, '80; and Gene Peters, '84. If you live in the New York City area and would like to attend a future event, please update your information with the Alumni Engagement Office by emailing alumni@buffalostate.edu.

Home Economics, Family and Consumer Sciences Reunion



Alumnae with degrees in home economics or family and consumer sciences gathered on July 14 for their first reunion in 32 years! Attendees represented a wide range of class years and the many iterations of the program originally named "home economics." Guests reconnected with former classmates and learned about the current state of the program from Steve Macho, department chair, and Wendy Paterson, dean of the School of Education. A special thanks to the planning committee: Natalie Bialy, '73; Judy Davis, '65; Joyce Gubala, '71; Martha Nuchereno, '78; and Judy Reynolds, '64. (Originally planned for July 2020, this reunion event was postponed until 2022 because of the pandemic.)

50-Plus Club Luncheon

This annual event returned on July 17 for the first time post-pandemic and celebrated all alumni who graduated from Buffalo State 50 years ago or more. Guests reflected on their part in Buffalo State's 150-year history and reconnected with alumni friends. The 2022 Senior Service Award was awarded to Sarah Anderson, '63, '67, '75, at the event for her commitment to teaching, service, and the Buffalo State community.



← Sarah Anderson (left) and fellow alums met at the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center.

SAVE THE DATE: The 50-Plus Club will return for 2023 on Sunday, July 16.

'Buffalo State Talks' Lecture Series Fall Event

The Alumni Engagement Office hosted alumna Colleen Coughlin, '06, to lead a discussion on upcycling and sustainability in fashion on October 27, in collaboration with Buffalo State's Honors Program and Fashion Club. Coughlin is the Miami-based owner of The Full Edit, a zero-waste lifestyle agency that helps people organize their homes and upcycle their textile and plastic waste. She holds a degree in fashion and textile technology from Buffalo State. The talk focused on educating and answering questions from attendees on sustainable choices they can make in their own lives. The event was attended by students, alumni, faculty, and staff and funded in part by a grant from Buffalo State's Faculty-Student Association.



Seated from left: Alice Galvin, '72; Marsha Mikos Lipke, '70; Catherine Cummings Lyttle, '72; Liz Syposs Maerten, '70; and honorary sister, Karen McLean. Standing, from left: Catherine Kieffer Gervase, '75; Renate Buechler Yuhnke, '70; Mary Hermann Vesneske, '72; Liz Mikos Stackpole, '73; and Sue Nellany, '72.

Alpha Tau Sigma Sorority Gathering

Ten alumnae sorority sisters from Alpha Tau Sigma gathered in Stiglmeier Park in Cheektowaga, New York, on May 14, reconnecting and sharing memories of Buffalo State. Thank you to Alice Galvin, '72, for coordinating the event and providing pictures.



'80s Alumni Reunion Weekend

More than 150 attendees engaged with Buffalo State over four events that were offered during '80s Reunion Weekend on October 14 and 15. The festivities started with a reception at the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center on Friday night. During Saturday afternoon's campus tour, attendees were able to see how much Buffalo State has changed and share memories from their time here as students. The next event featured the new Science and Mathematics Complex, which was highlighted during the Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium's '80s Laser Vinyl Show with planetarium director Kevin Williams. The weekend ended with a party at Mr. Goodbar on Elmwood Avenue on Saturday night. Thank you to the planning committee: Maureen Hammett, '85; Mindy Silverman, '85; Pam Voyer, '88; and Dave Zapfel, '85.

STAY CONNECTED AND GET IN THE KNOW

The Alumni Association regularly sends emails about Buffalo State news, events, volunteer opportunities, and benefits for alumni. Contact alumni@buffalostate.edu or go to alumni.buffalostate.edu to update your contact information and receive communication from your alma mater.

Veterans Day Silent March Alumni Speaker

The campus celebrated Veterans Day with the 14th annual Silent March on November 11. The event honored veteran alumni, faculty, staff, and students and featured alumnus Kevin Reynolds, '04, as the distinguished speaker. Reynolds is a disabled veteran and the owner of RBR Technologies, an IT engineering company in Baltimore with more than 120 employees, about 60 percent of whom are veterans. Remarks were also given by Daniel Flick, a patriot guard from Buffalo Legacy Vets, and Tim Carver, president of the Buffalo State chapter of Student Veterans of America. The Buffalo State Alumni Association's Military Service Scholarship was presented at the event to data science and analytics graduate student and veteran Carl Grim.

Read more at bit.ly/bscsilentmarch2022.

Class of 1972 50th Reunion

Members of the Class of 1972 returned to the Buff State campus during Homecoming and Family Weekend, some for the first time since their commencement, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation. Attendees took part in a weekend of Homecoming events and then celebrated their own milestone with a special dinner at the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center.



Buffalo Alumni College Network Reunion

Alumni from across the country returned to campus for a reunion hosted by the Buffalo Alumni College Network (BACN), an organization made up of alumni who attended colleges across the Buffalo area, many who have Divine Nine fraternity and sorority affiliations. The Alumni Engagement Office hosted the Buffalo State alumni from this group for lunch at the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center and gave a campus tour. Attendees then had the opportunity to engage with current Educational Opportunity Program students. Alumni shared their career stories with students and gave advice and encouragement on how to succeed during and after college. The BACN then hosted a 200-person event for attendees from all the colleges in Buffalo State's Social Hall later that night.



Record '70s Reunion

Editors and contributors to the *Record* in the 1970s returned to campus for two days of events the weekend of June 3. The group toured campus and received a special tour of the Communication Department's new space in Buckham Hall, including the new *Record* offices used by the current student staff. The group is now working to nominate alumni for the Communication Department's Hall of Fame and intends to reconnect at Buffalo State in a few years.

50_s



Ruth (Kimmler) Johnson, B.S.Ed. '52,

writes, "What a shock coming back to Buff State after graduating 70 years ago. I thought I would try to get my master's. I no longer drive, so two of my retired children had to drive me to class. The growth of the campus was amazing. But the big laugh came from my drivers asking me if I did my homework, packed my lunch, had my cell phone, etc. Culture shock. When I left in 1952, I had to look up sources in a card catalog, and the phones were attached to the wall! This oldie widow is having fun with my laptop, Zoom, and online ordering. I never want to stop learning."

60_s



Barbara (Breeding) Blackburn, B.S.Ed. '64,

has been reconnecting with her Sigma Sigma sorority sister Carol Scheiber Dworski, '62. She would like to hear from others as well. Blackburn and her husband, Alan, who have been married 53 years,

recently attended the 50-Plus Club luncheon at Buffalo State. She is working as a home/hospital instructor for the Williamsville Central Schools, as well as a culinary instructor for the community education program. The Blackburns enjoy vacationing in their St. Petersburg, Florida, home, where they visit with their two children and four grandchildren. She keeps busy with the Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service and Saints Peter & Paul Church in Williamsville, and is surviving the surprises of being 80.

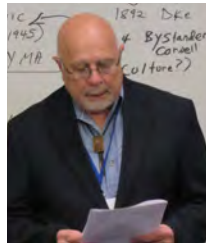
DEWEY



Henry Dewey, B.S.Ed. '66, M.S.Ed. '71, has now kayaked the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain canals from end to end. Most of the trips were completed with his older daughter and son-in-law.

Stephen Ash, B.S.Ed. '67, '71, writes, "I simply want to wish all of my classmates the very best of health in the upcoming years and that you are active and well as we age into our advanced years. God bless each of you always, as well as your families. Take care and be safe."

NUWER



Hank Nuwer, B.S.Ed. '68, teaches two senior courses as an adjunct faculty member of journalism at Ball State University. He previously taught there from 1985 to 1989. He is an elected member of the Ball State Journalism Hall of Fame. After serving as a keynote speaker at a HazingPrevention.org conference at Ohio State in June, Nuwer and his wife, Gosia, sojourned in Sarawak, Malaysia, for an adventure vacation. In October 2022, Nuwer presented his essay on "Hazing in Art, Literature, and Myth of the American West" at the International Conference of the American West, sponsored by Spain's University of the Basque Country. In addition to his current book, *Hazing: Destroying Young Lives*, and publishing scholarly reviews in *Western American Literature* journal and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society's *Forum* magazine, he published a book chapter in *Gender-Based Crime: Learning through Experts and Cases* for editor Kathleen Bogle. He also serves as editor of the *Celina Daily Standard* newspaper.

He writes, "My goal is to make it Ohio's most respected lower-circulation daily paper and show the big Cleveland/Cinci/Columbus papers we can scoop them on good journalism with hard work, brass, and sheer determination."

Nancy (Matthews) Currier, B.S.Ed. '69, writes, "After graduation, I worked at Wayne Middle School as an English teacher. It was there I met my husband, Ed. He was a graduate of SUNY Oswego, and 52 years later, we are still together. After teaching at Wayne, I gave birth to a son named Andrew. Five years later, we adopted our daughter, and three years after that I became the children's coordinator for our church. In 2000, I became a teaching assistant at Webster Central School District, for four years at Schroeder High School and then Thomas High School for six. During this time, we visited relatives in Scotland and Romania. Now we are both active in our church and visit our children in California and Arizona. I would love to hear from anyone I have lost contact with."

William Rogowski, B.A. '69, has been married 53 years and has three children and seven grandchildren. Now retired, he taught for 34 years at West Seneca West High School, coaching football, basketball, and baseball. He held elected public office for 40 years as a trustee, eight years as mayor, 26 years as a councilman, and three years as a tax receiver. He has been inducted into four halls of fame and signed a professional baseball contract with the Philadelphia Phillies organization.

70_s

Joyce (Carpenter) Gubala, B.S. '71, M.S. '74, enjoyed the Buffalo State Home Economics and Family and Consumer Science Reunion in July. She celebrated with friends Natalie Bialy, '71, and Sharon Heim, '72.



FROM LEFT: HEIM, GUBALA, BIALY

James Maher, B.A. '71, has retired after 43 years at Xerox Corporation as an area manager for Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania.



Barbara (Oertel) Compa, B.A.Ed.

'72, writes, "I used my degree indirectly... art education

turned into art for people who lived in long-term care. I am now retired, but am working to exhibit my collection of portraits of elderly people I have known. We have moved to Albany to be closer to our children. I am struggling to use my digital camera to photograph my work. (I was not particularly clever to begin with!) My fondest memories are printmaking with Frank Eckmair, drawing and painting, and theater backstage work. Thank you, Buffalo State!"



M. Robert Petrik, B.A.

'73, writes, "After I graduated

in 1973, I opened a shop on Elmwood Avenue called Mother Nature Florist and closed it in November 2018. I still live in the Elmwood Village on West Ferry. I am happily retired. I spend my days reading, watching films, walking, and hiking. I often have lunch with family and friends, most of whom I met at Buffalo State."



S. Brian Rickert, B.A.

'73, celebrated 50 years as a professional

broadcaster this year, the last 25 as Brian J. Walker on WHTT-FM in Buffalo. He has been a part-timer for the last 25 years, also working in information technology from 1989 to 2004 and teaching at Erie Community College from 2002 to 2021.

Hawwao (Green) Wajed,

B.S.Ed. '73, writes, "Thanks to Councilperson Arthur O. Eve for the SEEK Program I attended, as well as my daughter, Sufana, and son, Edreys Wajed. Those funds allowed us to graduate!"



John Mariner,

B.A.Ed. '74, writes, "I taught art in

Florida for 28 years and have run a graphic design firm since 1970. I retired back north to Rochester, New York, and have enjoyed a successful time exhibiting my artwork as a member of the Arena Art Group and the Artists' Breakfast Group. My online art gallery has artists from around the globe and is always growing. My time at Buffalo State was a great time of my life, and I learned

many good life lessons that have served me well these last 70 years." (tbsstudio.com)



James McCabe, B.A.

'74, is working on an article about

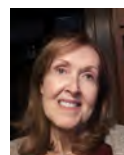
a computer graphics project. He writes, "It's not so much compared to some of our stellar alumni, but it will give you some idea of how I've been using my degree. All three parts are on my LinkedIn page for those who are interested."

David Meinzer, B.A. '75,

writes, "I retired from Buffalo State United Students Government at the end of May 2020. I made the decision at the beginning of that spring semester, never knowing that a pandemic would cause me to spend the last couple of months doing my job as USG Press Services director from home. Having been invited to come back to campus two years after graduation and apply for a job with the student government, I was hired and started in the summer of 1977.

There were many changes in graphic design production, evolving job duties, and 43 student government

administrations to follow. I have many fine memories of the students, staff, and faculty that I worked with over the decades at Buffalo State. Many student-related posters, flyers, programs, newsletters, magazines, photographs, and more that I accumulated in the Press Services files have been donated to the Butler Library Archives."



Gail (Vastola) Simpson,

B.S.Ed. '75, writes, "On July 1, 2021,

after 49 years of teaching elementary school in Akron, New York, I officially retired. I always felt lucky that I enjoyed my job. My wonderful colleagues and students were the reason I wanted to teach as long as I did. Along with teaching, I was also a wife and busy mom of twin sons. Now I am enjoying having more time to be with my 3-year-old grandson, Finnley, who brings me such joy every day. My husband and I live in Williamsville, New York, and feel fortunate that our sons and their families live nearby. Our entire family enjoys getting together and relaxing at our cabin in the woods in Varysburg, New York. Time to enjoy the next chapter!"

Stay connected with Buffalo State anytime, anywhere.



Hodgson Russ's Leadership Streak



Hodgson Russ LLP is one of the nation's oldest and most-trusted law firms. Founded in 1817, the Buffalo-based firm has grown significantly over the years and now employs 200 attorneys practicing in all major areas of U.S. law. A community leader, Hodgson Russ supports more than 250 charitable and community organizations throughout Western New York and across the country. But did you know that this iconic firm has been led in recent years by a streak of Buffalo State Bengals?

Meet **Mark S. Klein, '78**, **Rick W. Kennedy, '77**, and **Benjamin M. Zuffranieri Jr., '80**, who have worked together at Hodgson Russ for nearly 40 years.

"Rick, Ben, and I were all first-generation students," said Klein, chairman and partner, who has guided the firm since 2018. "We came from working-class families and went to Buffalo State because it was affordable and provided great opportunities."

"I was the first person in both parents' families to attend college," echoed Kennedy, a partner who served as the firm's managing partner from 2016 to 2022. "I worked my way through State; it was affordable and accessible."

"Like many BSC students, I was the first in both of my parents' families to graduate from college," said Zuffranieri, the firm's managing partner since 2022 and business litigation and construction practices leader.

"I attended Buffalo State because it was affordable and offered an opportunity to participate in athletics. Best of all, I met my wife of 40 years, Mary Ellen Sztorc ['80], at college orientation and have been blessed with three wonderful daughters," he said.

Kennedy also met his wife of 43 years at Buffalo State. "Christine Ruter ['79] was a decidedly better student," he joked. "Her training at State led her to a fulfilling career in health care."

The three alums also attest that the Buffalo State experience directly shaped their professional careers.

"One lesson we learned at Buffalo State was that if you work hard, you can achieve your goals," Klein said. "I'll never forget—I had a professor who gave me the responsibility of overseeing a computer lab; that trust really made an impression."

Zuffranieri credits the economics and business management program, which, he said, provided the educational foundation for his success in law school. "Moreover, participation in student government and available internships gave me the tools and confidence to succeed in law and management," he said.

Kennedy added, "I had the privilege of sitting under highly accomplished professors who challenged and encouraged me. Drs. Stone and Park were particularly influential. I also had the rich experience and privilege

of attending with many other first-generation college students from very diverse backgrounds—an enduring legacy of the college.

"The work demanded by the college and relationships with its people forged the foundation for handling the rigors of law school and the legal profession. More importantly, they forged the character of men like Ben Zuffranieri and Mark Klein, who have risen to the top of their profession and to leadership positions in the firm."

Likewise, all three men are deeply grateful for the experiences and opportunities that Buffalo State afforded them.

"While my Buffalo State story is not unique, what is unusual, indeed remarkable, is that I have been blessed with the good fortune of having Rick Kennedy and Mark Klein as my law partners for over 37 years," Zuffranieri said. "These two highly accomplished professionals, and wonderful people, remind me often of the incredible value and opportunity that an education from Buffalo State offers. It also demonstrates the extraordinary talent and quality of students attending Buffalo State. For all of these things, I will be forever thankful."

"I have been blessed beyond measure," Kennedy concurred. "And the genesis of many of those blessings is Buffalo State University."



Rick W. Kennedy concentrates his practice on complex environmental matters and the law governing lawyers. He served the firm as its co-general counsel and loss prevention partner, and as a member of its board of directors and compensation committee for more than two decades. He served on the Buffalo State Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1992 to 1995 and was presented with Buffalo State's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2020.



Mark S. Klein concentrates his practice in New York State and New York City tax matters. He has more than 35 years of experience with federal, multistate, state, and local taxation—and may be best known for his public speaking on tax topics. He has represented numerous Fortune 500 companies and has been quoted in dozens of news outlets and periodicals, and appeared on television news programs.



Benjamin M. Zuffranieri Jr. has extensive experience in commercial, construction, and international law. Before becoming managing partner, he served as leader of the firm's business litigation and construction practices. A longtime member of the Buffalo State College Foundation Board of Directors, he was presented with the President's Distinguished Service Award in 2009.

PAGE



Gregory Catalano, B.S. '76, M.S. '83,

was married for 33 years to Joan Ardillo, who died of cancer in 2020. He has two children—Lucas, who is employed by Fredonia State, and Rebecca, who is employed by Buffalo State. Catalano taught in the Dunkirk City Schools for 34 years and coached a variety of athletics at the high school and college levels. He is a past chairman of the City of Dunkirk Planning Board and the current president of the Dunkirk Historical Society. He enjoys golf and tennis, and his avocations are writing, painting, and religious studies.



Cynthia (Ruffin) Mathews, B.S. '76, M.S. '80, C.A.S. '89,

has a long chronology of literary contributions, beginning with joining the Nia Writers' Workshop, a Buffalo-based group of writers and performers, in 1974. Recently, she wrote *The Principal's Handbook: Practical Details for a Smooth Operation* (iUniverse, 2020) and "The Little Book of Buffalo: Cynthia Mathews in Conversation with Edric Mesmer" (2020).

William Page, B.S. '76, recently created a painting depicting the expression *We All Can't Sleep through Climate Change*, 10 feet by 10 feet, with dinosaur bones and an asteroid, suggesting "Don't sleep through our own extinction." He writes, "College education helps us learn how to contribute to our own species survival!"



Mark Ballard, B.A. '77, retired in May 2022 after 42 years

as an American Baptist pastor and 10 years as a certified special education teacher. He is living in Rochester with his wife of 44 years. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Barbara (Levy) Daniels, B.S. '77, writes, "I have been busy working in different roles as a social worker. At first, I was working with clients through their company's EAP. I liked the variety of cases, and I also enjoyed being in a solo private practice. After graduate school, I continued to privately practice but added music performance to my schedule. I received a grant to perform with a trio at correctional facilities. It was the first concert since the Attica uprising and was well received. I continued with

the jazz concerts (called "Jazz Behind Bars") until COVID shut down all performances. I am now involved in DWI-related evaluations and have enjoyed the work. I will continue working for as long as I can. I am hoping to return to performing jazz concerts for all audiences."

Larry Lundy, B.F.A. '78, presented a lecture at the Evanston (Illinois) Art Center in October, detailing his unique artistic journey from the Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center in Buffalo to the film business and back to creating shows in Chicago. The presentation was part of the organization's In Focus lecture series, which features a variety of talks by artists, art professionals, historians, and more. In addition, an interview with Lundy is included on the new special edition Blu-ray version of *Flatliners*. He served as the film's Chicago art director.



Judith (Siwy) Kosinski, B.S.W. '78, M.S. '93,

returned to Buffalo State after a 17-year career in social work to earn a master's in education and then taught for 23 years.

Now semi-retired, she enjoys spending time with her husband, daughters, grandson, and extended family and friends. She is a part-time educator with the Buffalo Botanical Gardens, teaching fine art workshops there. Since retiring, she also returned to Buffalo State to audit classes with professors Lin Jiang and Joe Miller and loved working with them both, finding them to be amazing educators and gifted artists.

80s



Roberta Merklings-Worthington, B.A. '81, B.S.Ed. '93,

M.S. '97, retired from the Kenmore-Tonawanda Union Free School District at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. She taught English at Kenmore West High School and Hoover Middle School for 28 years. Most recently, she taught eighth and 12th grades in the International Baccalaureate Program. She has also authored two young adult supernatural mysteries: *Relic* and *Eye of the Peacock*.

Greg Krauza, B.S.Ed. '82, writes, "I have six children, seven grandchildren, two businesses (Twinstar Business Solutions Inc. and Hometown Construction LLC), two RVs, and two Jet Skis; the best tailgate in the NFL and still playing hockey.... It's a long way from Forest and Grant, but I channel it often!"

Brian Kubik, B.A. '83, received his degree in 1983 and returned to complete his teaching certification in 1999. He became a vocational instructor at the Gowanda Correctional Facility, providing vocational assessments for more than 7,000 incarcerated individuals and assisting them in furthering their knowledge in an assortment of trade specialties. In 2005, he was promoted to vocational supervisor at Elmira Correctional Facility, and eventually worked his way up to facility superintendent at Moriah Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility and then to Lakeview Shock Incarceration Correctional. He retired in 2022 after a successful career and is now enjoying life in sunny Florida.

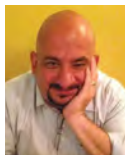
Joey Himelfarb, B.S. '84, has been serving and training clients for more than 25 years. He recently published his first book, *Don't Paint Your Kitchen: How to Sell Yourself and Get the Job You Want*. He studied physics and mechanical engineering and began his career working on the installation of transoceanic fiber optic telecommunications cables around the globe. Since then, he has worked across a range of industries including high tech, automotive, home improvement, real estate, and training and education. He uses his problem-solving techniques to help professionals at all levels maintain a positive attitude and an optimistic approach to work and life. He leads discussions and facilitates seminars designed for job seekers, career changers, and small-business owners. He is a voracious reader and puzzle enthusiast and attributes his successful two-word and three-word guesses on Wordle to that combination of joyful pastimes.

John Hocienec, B.S.Ed. '85, is a senior attorney with Neighborhood Legal Services in Buffalo.



Michael Johnson, B.A. '85, has been named director of

government and community relations at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo.



Gabe DiMaio, B.A. '86, has been hired as communications director

for the International Institute of Buffalo. He continues as an adjunct instructor in the Buffalo State Communication Department, where he's served since 2001.



Joseph Marren Jr., B.A. '86, is preparing to retire

from the Buffalo State Communication Department in May 2023 after 26 years of teaching journalistic theory and applied media writing courses. Before his academic career, he spent 18 years as a newspaper reporter and editor. He also taught religious studies courses in the Philosophy Department for four years. He rose to the rank of full professor and was chair of the Communication Department for seven and a half years and chair of the College Senate for two years.



Mead Retires from Buffalo State, Continues Involvement in Arts

Gerald Mead '85, '86, recently retired from a 35-year career at Buffalo State that included tenure as a

curator and educator at the Burchfield Penney Art Center and a lecturer in the Design, Fine Arts, and Art Education departments. He will continue his involvement in the regional art community as an exhibiting artist; art collector and patron; guest curator for galleries at the Kenan Center, Daemen University, and the Town of West Seneca; and contributing writer for *Buffalo Spree* magazine.

"It has been a long and rewarding career," Mead said, "and Buffalo State has been the source of so many personal and professional milestones in my life. I have much to be grateful for."

Mary Dianne Richardson, B.S.W. '86, has been living and working in Rochester, New York, since 2000. She has been employed full time at East House Corporation as a career counselor II for 23 years.



Bruce Burton, B.S.Ed. '87, M.S.Ed. '97, has retired

from the Buffalo Public Schools, where he was a social studies teacher for 32 years. He is now working for the



Colleen (Floss) Hiam, B.S. '87, who retired in 2019,

was recently inducted into Cardinal O'Hara High School's Hall of Fame for her distinguished career

with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), where she worked for 30 years. During that time, she progressed from a business opportunity specialist to the center director in the Disaster Assistance Program. She directed the Customer Service Center, a national call center dealing with disaster survivors. Her center handled calls related to a variety of disasters, including hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma and the World Trade Center bombings. She was featured in the Summer 2018 edition of *1300 Elmwood* magazine.



David Reichlin, B.A. '87, writes, "My youngest [left] started at Buffalo State in fall 2022."

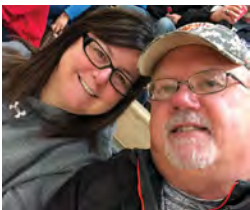
Deneen Hernandez, B.A. '88, a graduate of the Criminal Justice Department, received the 2022 American Indian Science and Engineering Society's Professional of the Year Award. She is currently employed by the FBI as a forensic examiner.



HERNANDEZ

90s

Terry Bitka, M.S.Ed. '91, writes, "After a 36-year career coaching football at Buffalo State, I retired this October. My responsibilities on campus included being a graduate assistant in the Residence Life Office for three years, acting associate director of residence life, offensive line coach, defensive line coach, offensive coordinator, defensive coordinator, and associate head football coach. I'm married to Buffalo State alum Heather Hewitt Bitka, '91."



BITKA

Joseph Brautman, B.S.Ed. '91, has been a vocalist and proofreader in addition to his work with the Lewiston-Porter Schools and Orleans-Niagara BOCES. He also continues as a volunteer member of Lewiston Fire Company No. 1, serving as an EMT and the finance officer.



Patricia (Tomasello) Sachse, B.S. '91, retired from the

Orchard Park Central School District after a 33-year teaching career with special-needs students. She's now enjoying retirement by volunteering, playing sports, creating art, and traveling.



Kathy (Pequet) Wilde, B.S. '91, M.S. '05, recently

accepted the position of controller at the Salvation Army Buffalo Area Services.



Joan (Wilemski) Carroll, B.S. '93, M.S. '98, writes, "I

graduated from Buffalo State with a bachelor's degree in exceptional education and a master's degree in elementary education. I then returned to college to pursue a degree in TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages). After 25 years of teaching for the Buffalo Public Schools and five years of New York State service, I retired. My interests now lean toward my first love, the environment. I plan to volunteer to help identify invasive species in our local parks."



Michael Greenberg, B.A. '94, has been producing

and hosting *The Kol Yehudim Show* since 1997, playing the widest variety of Jewish music from around the world. The program began on 1640 WJPR, based in Highland Park/Edison, New York, and has now expanded to Buffalo State's 91.3 WBNY-FM, making it the very first Jewish music show ever aired in Buffalo. The show broadcasts every Sunday morning from 6:00 to 10:00 a.m. on air as well as online at 1640wjpr.com, or the Radio FX app. (Search for 91.3 WBNY.) Email KolYehudimRadio@gmail.com for more information or to request a song.

Lauriel Larkin, B.A. '95, writes, "I was given a second chance at life. I was born again on September 27, 2016. God gave me the gift of life through a kidney transplant. Six years later and I'm still going through the recovery stage."

00s



Vincent Cutrona, B.S. '00, has joined Uniland

Development Company as director of the Capital Markets Group, where he manages all phases of the real estate financing process and oversees the ecosystem of Uniland's funding and banking partners to obtain securitization and other financing vehicles. He was previously commercial banking director and senior vice president at Evans Bank.

WILLIAMS



Jeremai Williams, B.A. '00, writes, "I recently became the pastor at Mt. Zion in Batavia, New York. After attending Buffalo State and graduating with a bachelor's in communication, I eventually attended Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina. I got my master of divinity and moved back to Western New York in 2000 to fulfill the call of ministry."



Anedda (Gens) Trautman, B.S.Ed. '02, M.S.Ed. '13,

has been appointed assistant superintendent of instructional services for the Erie 1 BOCES Board of Education. She oversees the divisions of Career and Technical Education, Exceptional Education, and Workforce Development. She is also accountable for the performance of students, staff, and administrators within the assigned divisions as well as the design, development, delivery, and evaluation of instructional programs and services provided by Erie 1 BOCES. Trautman has been with Erie 1 BOCES since 2017, and also serves as a lecturer at Buffalo State. She is the elected president of the Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators, serves as a board member for the Niagara Frontier Industry Education Council, and is an advisory council board member for SUNY Erie's Automotive Technology program. In addition, she is a member of the National Association of Women in Construction and the New York State Association for Women in Administration, as well as a graduate of the Leadership Niagara Class of 2011. Originally from Gowanda, she lives in Lockport with her family.



Kimberly Kadziolka, B.S. '04,

completed her educa-

tional doctorate in health administration from D'Youville University. She was appointed executive director of the Parent Network of Western New York in June 2022. She also serves as a board member of Journey's End Refugee Services, BRICK Buffalo Academy Charter School, Unique Theatre Company, the Care Management Coalition of Western New York, and Families Together in New York State.



Michelle Scheib, B.S. '04,

has been hired as director of

Independent Living of Niagara County. She brings considerable experience from prior positions, among them three leadership positions at Best Self Behavioral Health in Buffalo. She also held roles at the Restoration Society in Buffalo. Scheib is a certified recovery peer advocate with the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State and a certified family peer

ZIELEN



advocate with Families Together in New York State. She is also the founder of the Mental Health Awareness Month Flash Mob in Buffalo. She was elected by her colleagues as a peer on the Western New York Regional Planning Consortium of the NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors.



Shavonne Faircloth, B.S. '05,

writes, "I am currently living in the

state of Alabama, working at an agency that is truly helping individuals daily. Before coming to Alabama, I worked as a phlebotomist with Kaleida Health in the city of Buffalo. In all, I worked in the Kaleida Health system for 12 years in various positions."

Lori (Donofrio) Consola, B.S. '07,

married Richard Consola on October 22, 2022.

Karen (Black) Smith, B.S. '07,

writes, "I got married August 2021, my new last name is Smith. I have a new grand-

daughter named Violet, so that makes four grandchildren total for me. My son, Daniel, is a Niagara Falls police officer, and my other son, Mike, continues to work for the Niagara Falls Department of Public Works. I work at Intandem, a nonprofit that cares for individuals with developmental challenges."

Jenelle (Orosz) Zielen, B.S.Ed. '08,

writes, "My husband, Nick, and I opened Nicky 2 Scoops ice cream parlor in City of Tonawanda, New York. We love serving people dessert and being part of our community, with free children's book author visits, small business vendor markets, and other family events."



Danielle (Weaver) Nesselbush, M.S. '09,

a graduate of

Buffalo State's higher education administration master's program, was named dean of students at D'Youville University.

10s



Colleen Orgek, B.S.Ed. '10, was selected by the U.S.

Department of State for a virtual project engaging with English language learners and teachers online at Zaporizhzhia National University in Ukraine. She will be teaching courses on communicative English and American culture and literature, as well as hosting an English-speaking club. She is among the first to be selected for the program, which was created for the 2022-2023 academic year. After graduating with a degree in childhood education, Orgek volunteered with Journey's End Refugee Services. As a citizenship tutor, she worked with adult refugees to prepare them for their naturalization interview. Finding the work both challenging and rewarding, she pursued her master's in teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) at Canisius College. For the past seven years, she has led the English as a New Language Department at South Buffalo Charter School.



Henry Zomerfeld, B.A. '11, has received the Buffalo State

Political Science Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award for 2022. Prior recipients include Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Congressman Brian Higgins, Hon. Frank Caruso, and Rick Kennedy of Hodgson Russ. In addition to participating in a number of alumni activities, Zomerfeld has been active in Buffalo State's Mock Trial program for over a decade. Recently, he has played an important role in developing an attorney-alumni mentoring program for pre-law students, in conjunction with Buffalo State's 3+3 program with UB Law.

GOT NEWS?

Keep us informed.

Class Notes

Alumni Engagement Office
LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center

Buffalo State University
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Fax (716) 878-6050
alumni@buffalostate.edu



◀ President Conway-Turner (left) with Julia Bottoms, '12, '17.

Alumni Awards Dinners

The Buffalo State campus community assembled to honor the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award and Young Alumnus Achievement Award recipients at two separate dinners this fall: the first during Homecoming Weekend on September 23 and the second on October 28, both at the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center. Distinguished Alumni Award honorees for 2022 were **Dianne Baumert-Moyik, '87; Mike Bonitatibus, '79; and Dr. Rose Thevenin, '90. Rick Kennedy, '77, was presented his 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award (postponed because of the pandemic). Young Alumnus Achievement Award honorees for 2022 were Julia Bottoms, '12, '17; and LaStarsha McGarity, '19.**



Michelle (Clapps) Battino, B.S. '12,

has been hired by the Trust Company of Tennessee as a staff accountant in the firm's Knoxville office. After earning her bachelor's degree in business administration, she served as deputy treasurer for the Village of Williamsville, New York. Battino, her husband, Lou, and their son, Matthew, recently relocated to Knoxville, after previously living there while Lou was in law school. Battino is a fan of the Buffalo Bills and enjoys family time, cooking, traveling, and outdoor activities such as hiking, snowshoeing, and golf.



Alyson (Franklin) Borowczyk, B.A. '12,

writes, "I began my boutique marketing agency, Alyson Kelly Design, in 2019. This year, I am proud to say that we now have three employees, a brand-new office space, and will be ending the year earning over six figures in revenue."



Kent Olden, B.A. '12,

was selected in September as one of 10 national fellows for the Connecting Leaders Fellowship Program powered by the

Association of Black Foundation Executives. He also officially achieved Life Membership in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. in July.



Emily Masotti, B.A. '13,

writes, "I married the love of my life at the height of the pandemic, and I work as a therapist for Niagara County Department of Mental Health. Life is good here in Niagara Falls."

Tonya Myles-Day, B.S.W. '14, is currently enrolled in the doctor of social work program at Simmons University. She also works at Buffalo State as a full-time lecturer in the Social Work Department.

RODRIGUEZ



Miguel Rodriguez, B.A. '14, writes, "I started working at Daemen University in September 2020, and after 10 months, became the inaugural director of community standards and student advocacy. In this position, and as the adviser to the Hispanos y Latinos Unidos Hispanic student organization, I've

created many changes—so much so that I was recognized by Mayor Byron Brown at the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration for my contributions to the Hispanic community and the City of Buffalo."



Juanita McClain, B.S.Ed. '16, M.S.Ed. '20,

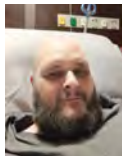
writes, "My journey through graduate school was challenging, to say the least, but it has also opened many doors to success for me. Shortly after graduation, I gave birth to my third healthy baby boy; I went on to become an earth science teacher for the Buffalo Public Schools; and I also became the founder and CEO of the Sickle Cell Warriors of Buffalo Inc. Getting to where I am today took a lot of years, hard work, dedication, and tears, but I am proud of the woman I have become. I am pleased to express my gratitude to the professors who have helped me get to where I am today. I also want to give special thanks to my family and my kids for helping me to never give up on this journey."

Daisha Bates, B.A. '19, obtained her degree in fashion and textile technology with a concentration in fashion merchandising. She is currently a personal shopper

and stylist at Hanna Andersson, a Portland, Oregon-based corporation that specializes in children's apparel. The company operates online and by mail order in the United States and ships to almost 200 countries around the world. She is also an expert stylist at Hyde Closet, a men's personal styling service, and she is a digital fashion stylist at FindMine. She is preparing to launch her own personal styling company (@stylesfordais on Instagram).

Danielle Campbell, B.A. '19, graduated with her bachelor's degree in social work and then attended Canisius College and earned her master's degree in higher

education and student affairs in 2021. After graduation, she started her career as a student success coach at Hartwick College, where she works extensively with college students to inspire and guide them to success.



Jason McNair, B.A. '19, graduated with a bachelor's degree in history, and then went on to graduate from Niagara University in May 2021 with a master's in social studies education. Following two temporary positions with the Buffalo Public Schools, he started a full-time position at Southtowns Catholic School

as the sixth-eighth grade social studies and science teacher. He writes, "Unfortunately, at the end of November 2021, I came down with COVID and was placed into a coma on Thanksgiving Day. I was given a 5 percent chance of survival. I came out of the coma in January 2022 after being under for 45 days. I have been dealing with all sorts of complications stemming from the coma, but the long-term prognosis is good. I'm about to finally transfer to a rehab center, and home from there. My eventual goal is to get back to my happy place and get back to the classroom! My motto is 'Never Give Up,' and I truly endorse that!"

20s

Hutong Fan, M.A. '22, has established a career at Super Map Inc. in Beijing, China, one of the largest geographic information systems (GIS) companies in the country. Fan came to Buffalo State as a 3+2 international graduate student, earning his master's degree in the Great Lakes environmental science program with adviser Tao Tang, professor of geography and planning. His other graduate committee faculty members were Stephen Vermette, professor of geography and planning, and Bruce Swan, associate professor of mathematics.

Correction

In the Summer 2022 issue of *1300 Elmwood* magazine, we mislabeled the photo of Rick Chiorando, B.S. '77, on page 32 as Michael Giangreco, B.S. '77. We apologize for the error and are happy to include correctly labeled photos of the classmates here.



Rick Chiorando, B.S. '77
Chief Executive Officer and Chief Creative Officer, Austin Williams

Michael Giangreco, B.S. '77
University Distinguished



Professor of Special Education, University of Vermont



Supporting Buffalo's Immigrant Community

After spending years at a refugee camp in Kenya, Hamadi Ali, '13, came to Buffalo, where he earned a bachelor of science in economics, cum laude, from Buffalo State, and has been dedicating his professional

life to supporting Buffalo's immigrant community ever since.

One of the founding members of Buffalo's Providence Farm Collective (PFC), Ali has risen through the ranks to his current role as the full-time manager of the collective's new farmers market on Grant Street.

While the PFC has been supporting immigrants by promoting agricultural self-sufficiency while simultaneously providing the community with fresh and healthful food since it began as the Somali Bantu Community Farm in 2017, this new market is providing further opportunities for farmers and community members alike. Farmers can sell their crops closer to home and grow as entrepreneurs,

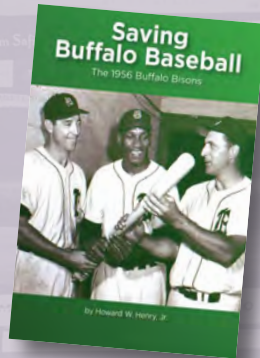
while the West Side community can enjoy easy access to fresh, local food.

Curated with the diverse population of Buffalo's West Side in mind, the market sells locally grown crops from around the world, including niche African and Asian produce that can be difficult to come by locally, in addition to traditional American farmers market staples. Vendors also accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, ensuring equitable access to healthful produce.

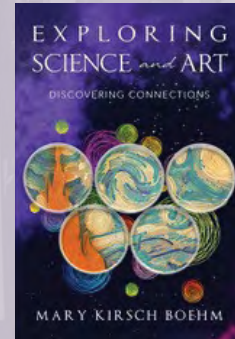
"We're serving underserved communities, bringing them fresh, healthy, organic food," Ali said, speaking of the vision behind the market. "This is what we have intended it for; we're doing good."

Bengal Bookshelf

Howard W. Henry Jr., lecturer emeritus of social work and health and wellness, has written *Saving Buffalo Baseball: The 1956 Buffalo Bisons* (NFB Publishing, 2022). Drawing on historic newspaper accounts and contemporary personal interviews with the players, Henry tells the fascinating story of how Buffalo almost lost its professional baseball team were it not for two significant events: the birth of community-owned professional baseball in Buffalo and the inclusion of African American ballplayers on the Buffalo team for the first time since 1888.



Mary Kirsch Boehm, B.S. '56, is the author of *Exploring Science and Art: Discovering Connections* (City of Light Publishing, 2022), a venture of discovery that offers a fresh perspective. As the chapters evolve, science is studied with an artistic eye, art is probed with a scientific lens, and surprising relationships between science and art are uncovered.

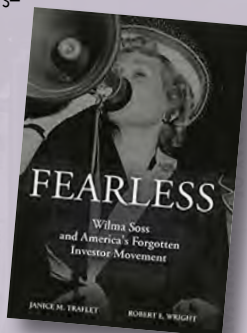


Carol (Snider) Mann, B.S. '58, has penned *Creek Songs* (Aquazebra, 2021), a collection of short stories. Having grown up in Western New York along the banks of Ellicott Creek, Mann noticed similarities between the flow of a creek and the journey of a person's life. Her stories describe everyday people living in an everyday world, confronting decisions and consequences when events of their lives don't flow smoothly.



Jean (Condren) Lichtenthal, M.S. '77, recently self-published her fourth children's book, *Kim the Horse Nurse*, which she wrote and illustrated. Lichtenthal noted, "I started writing and illustrating in my middle 70s, and I will turn 80 in a couple of days. I'm working on my fifth book, *Spirit the History Horse*. I live on a small farm with three horses and my dog, Cloud. I have two amazing sons and daughters-in-law—Jim and Stephanie and John and Becky—and seven grandchildren, Brigid, Shannon, Alexis, Anna, Ashley, Kennedy, and Ethan."

Robert E. Wright, B.A. '90, has co-authored with Janice M. Traflet his 21st book, *Fearless: Wilma Soss and America's Forgotten Investor Movement* (All Seasons Press, 2022). Based on archival documents, this true story tells of how a disparate group of activist investors—from a public relations star to a Holocaust survivor—found each other and became the advocates Fortune 500 management loved to hate.



Vickie Rubin, M.S.Ed. '01, has published *Raising Jess: A Story of Hope* (Page Publishing, 2021). Her first book, *Raising Jess* chronicles a family

changed forever by the birth of a child with special needs and their courageous decision to choose hope. This enlightening story, written from a parent's perspective, provides valuable insight to teachers and students in educational and therapeutic settings. Rubin, who writes a popular blog, is a regular contributor to the *Buffalo News* (vickierubin.com).

Caroline Hagood, M.A. '08, has published *Weird Girls* (Spuyten Duyvil Publishing, 2022), a combination memoir, cultural critique, and manifesto. The book traces the art monster—from ancient myth to modern literature and pop culture. Hagood is an assistant professor of literature, writing, and publishing and the director of undergraduate writing at St. Francis College in Brooklyn. She is the author of the poetry books *Lunatic Speaks* (2012) and *Making Maxine's Baby* (2015), the book-length essay *Ways of Looking at a Woman* (2019), and the novel *Ghosts of America* (2021). Her work has appeared in *Creative Nonfiction*, *LitHub*, the *Kenyon Review*, *Hanging Loose*, the *Huffington Post*, the *Guardian*, *Salon*, and *Elle*.



1920–1929

Rosa M. (Dorio) Wilson, '26
Marion (Marcinowski) Flanagan, '27

1940–1949

Harriette Josephine (Ebbbie) Curtis, '43
Sylvia (Garofalo) Miller, '43 🌻
Catherine V. DiVizio, '44 🌻
Mary Elizabeth (Litzenburger)
Herman, '46
Joseph L. Ferrar, '48
Carmen L. (Hare) Harris, '48
Mary C. (Wick) Eichinger, '49
Cynthia Joyce (Spies) Scannell, '49
Grace A. (Mancini) Suozzi, '49

1950–1959

Getelle (Beckerman) Rein, '50
Judy (O'Leary) Anderson, '51, '80
Edward J. Joyce, '51, '65
Frank L. Manzella, '51
Ruthe L. (Chupas) Nemmer, '51, '60
Betty Jane (Wahl) Yesny, '51
Doris (Field) Faulks, '52
Patricia (Maishak) Heydenreich, '52
Bernadette A. Howard, '52
Alexandra M. Romanczuk, '52 🌻
Helen L. (Cehulic) Stewart, '52
Edward John Szado, '52
Phyllis A. (Bragan) Brockley, '53
Jeanne (Eldridge) Fisher, '53
Franklin G. Helfrich, '53
Glenna (Joseph) Prestine, '53
Elenie (Dellas) Basil, '54
John T. Willett, '54
Patricia Ann (Deakin) Fortunato, '55
Norma Mary (Sherman) Mulvey, '55
Kathleen (Moynihan) Parker, '55, '69
Mary L. (Vertalino) Stremlow, '55

Sarah Marie DiNatale, '56
Kathryn (Childress) Dorney, '56
Robert E. Kaufmann, '56
Hon. Barbara Ruth (Cordes) Peck, '56
Carolyn Ann (Feeley) Shankland, '56
Angeline (Colafranceschi) Yelich, '56
Charles A. Gerlock, '57, '62
Rose Ann (Genovese) Grimaldi, '57
Anthony V. Hoppa, '57, '62
Robert Duane Horton, '57
Richard A. Stotz Sr., '57, '60
Albert Dinero, '58
Audrey D. (Scheibel) Kolbe, '58
Albert W. Montanari, '58
Diane B. (Aures) Schopf, '58
Robert W. Sekowski, '58, '61
Irving Slater, '58, '63
Daniel Louis Zwolinski, '58
Saleme Rose (Zienne) (Michael)
Arthaud, '59
Chester E. Dryja, '59
Marian L. (Wright) Harrison, '59
Judith A. (Yauchzy) Klug, '59, '65
Jean F. McCracken, '59
John P. Panko, '59
Marjorie (Connor) Reidell, '59, '63
Glenda R. (Colebert) Sleeper, '59

1960–1969

Willard Anderson, '60
Edward P. Crapol, '60
Dianne L. (Wenninger)
Harwood, '60, '78
Annette M. (Derengowski)
McGraw, '60, '68
Patricia A. Skok, '60
Ann (Bigelow) Vanhorn, '60
Suzanne L. Weisleder, '60
Ronald E. Wood, '60
Richard J. Davidson, '61

Peter D. Mueller, '61
Austin Thomas O'Grady, '61
Carol Jean (Lexer) Vincek, '61
Geraldine M. Graziano, '62, '66
Tadeus J. Kozminski, '62
Robert T. Mulig, '62
Joseph Regan, '62, '66
Linda (Holtyn) Cherry, '63
Felix M. Fronckowiak, '63, '67
Paul G. Kant, '63
Howard A. Lehman, '63
Richard J. McCleary, '63
Marie (Leopold) Palermo, '63
Frank F. Winter, '63
Ronald B. Louchren, '64
C. Arthur Plant, '64, '67
Douglas M. Scott, '64
Sharon R. (Claus) Kabel, '65
James C. Lynch, '65
Donald Bowen Mudge, '65, '70
Mary Louise (Marchese) Weber, '65
Clayton L. Adams, '66, '71
John A. Ernst, '66
Lucy E. (Reynolds) Ryan, '66
John F. Smeadola, '66, '77
Marianne B. (Miskowski) Stevens, '66
Keith W. Church, '67
Kent J. Clulow, '67
Kenneth J. Feltges, '67
Daniel M. Gregorio, '67
Martha E. (Rau) Fletcher, '68, '69
Marcia O. (Larson) Hartman, '68
Mary C. (Breen) Heneghan, '68, '77
Sally J. (Gay) Lewke, '68
Mary L. (Trombley) Mahlmeister, '68
Frederick B. Niedermeyer, '68, '71, '73
Arlie J. Schwan, '68
Phyllis A. (Mellerski) Dolan, '69, '75
James M. Lojek, '69

Rose M. (Micale) Micale, '69
Dennis M. Sanders, '69
Ruth A. Smith, '69 🌻
1970–1979
Patricia M. (Gorman) Collins, '70
Robert Dekoff, '70, '71
Mark F. Emminger, '70
Lawrence F. Helminiak, '70
Lynn J. (Eisenhardt) Ienco, '70
Honi Ann (Wittenberg) Kurzeja, '70
James P. Maloni Jr., '70
Marcia A. (Plandowski) McCarthy, '70
Dennis S. Pilecki, '70, '74
Patricia Jean (Petroski) Dinardo, '71
Ronald A. Helwig, '71
Shirley M. (Albee) LeRoy, '71
Elliott E. Loesch, '71
Susan (Coughlin) McCann, '71, '74
MaryAnn (LaVigne) Thomas, '71, '89
Bruce F. Van Houten, '71
Barbara Lee (Boles) Ward, '71, '74
Bruce G. Wojick Sr., '71
Paula Theresa (Nagowski)
Costello, '72
Joyce A. Cromwell, '72 '83, '13
Richard M. Daniels, '72
Ronald L. Kukucka, '72, '77
Douglas James Linderman, '72
Janice M. (Elder) Bensley, '73
John A. Depasquale Jr., '73
Eugene D. Grasso, '73
Robert J. Holland, '73
Susan (Cinotti) Leonardi, '73
Patrick E. Roche, '73, '77
Joseph A. Scervo, '73
James A. Till, '73
Linda M. (Wiatrowski) Wall, '73, '77
Lillian (Maedl) Dunlavy, '74

Patricia G. Green, '74
 Joan (Aspell) Smith, '74
 Robert G. Harlos, '75
 Neil A. Savage, '75
 Thomas A. Vincek, '75
 Cyril R. Alessi, '76
 Phyllis M. (Hine) Baumann, '76
 Martin W. Januszkiewicz, '76
 Timothy D. Kraatz, '76
 Robert W. Mossman, '76
 Joyce Ellen (McLean) Wahl, '76
 Janie (Nowak) Ziemba, '76
 Rose M. (Lane) Craig, '77
 Robert J. Dana, '77
 Barbara (Wood) (Vonhasseln)
 Dascomb, '77
 Dana A. Digiulio, '77
 Margaret R. (Goodemote) Fanning, '77
 Nancy (Fromer) Frisch, '77
 David Jonathan Gurney, '77
 Barbara (Bainbridge) Leary, '77
 James V. McGowan, '77, '78
 Francis J. Pordum, '77
 Charles Edward Reedy, '77
 Cynthia A. (Jendras) Sherman, '77
 Susan (Ebersole) Skoney, '77
 Darlene (Baranski) Whelan, '77
 Kyle A. (Gademsky) Giammaresi, '78
 Etta M. Guite, '78
 Ernestine H. Moody, '78
 Joann C. (Heffer) Nash, '78
 James Walter Swinnich, '79
 Damian V. Turski, '79

1980–1989

Jeffrey L. Donato, '80
 Bettye J. Swain, '80
 Shirley M. (Davies) Davidson, '81
 Reginald C. Eyre, '81

Cheryl (Ettenberger)
 Glamack, '81, '85
 Darlene P. (Mohr) Kuhn, '81
 Anthony J. Lattuca Jr., '81
 Raymond A. Mercer Jr., '81
 John Albert Foot, '82
 Patricia A. Keefe, '82
 Ronald J. Pillozzi, '82, '98
 Beverly Ann (Smith) Whitehead, '82
 Jean M. (Arnes) Cuddy, '83
 Paul Joseph Mudie, '83
 Jolene Marie (Colangelo) Simon, '83
 Elizabeth Susanne Wasiluk, '83
 Beth R. (Krown) Mahier, '84
 James J. Mason, '84
 John N. Ahlstrom Sr., '85
 Denise M. (O'Connell) Bernas, '85
 Noemi K. Heckenast, '85
 Marilyn Frances (Pawlowski)
 Kogut, '85
 Joann M. (Ciaccio) McMahan, '85
 Mary Jane (Malinowski) Miga, '85
 Ronald J. Rybak, '85
 Beth (Alper) Slepian, '85
 Ronna L. (Johnson) Swiatlowski, '85
 William J. Yeager, '85
 Charles D. Amo, '86
 Martin E. Bernas, '86
 Anthony J. Lesakowski, '86
 David J. Finger, '87
 Michael S. O'Shei, '87
 Maryjo A. Perna, '87
 Diane M. Andreana, '88, '95
 Allen Terry Butcheri, '88
 Peter S. Seminara, '88, '05
 Wendy Sue (Wood) Gloss, '89
 Walter F. Kempa, '89
 Richard B. Olma, '89

1990–1999

Douglas A. Studd, '90
 Catherine F. (O'Donnell) Gibbs, '91
 Vincent D. Ciraolo, '92
 Christopher Kulbago Sr., '92, '02
 Lisa M. Chiaravalle, '93
 Jeffrey D. Gorski, '93
 Claire A. (Pankow) Nablo, '93
 Carl J. Poydock Jr., '93
 Yvette G. Jones, '94
 Glenn Michael Lendel, '94
 Thomas M. Smith, '94
 Jeffrey B. Harmon, '95
 David M. Palumbo, '95
 Michelle S. (Hedges) Raymond, '95
 Anthony L. Gloster, '96
 Brian M. McGuire, '96
 Clinton K. Seaver, '96
 Jeffrey M. Blajszczak, '97
 Allison C. (Mawhinney) Kifner, '98
 Richard M. Leggio, '98
 Mary Louise (Foxworth) (Daniels)
 Wallace, '98, '00
 Teresa D. Zeigler-Holland, '98, '00
 Cheryl Clontz, '99, '02
 Dianne (Milliron) Day, '99
 Christopher Grover, '99, '04
 Kate Hoffstetter, '99

2000–2009

Ralph D. Andolina Jr., '02
 Jaime C. (Faulhaber) Bloom, '03
 Anthony Michael Friona, '03

Nicholas L. Golembieski, '08
 Elizabeth M. (Ruppel) Newton, '08, '15
 Jamie L. (Haseley) Reid, '08
 Manuela T. Sanabria, '09

2010–2019

Andrew J. Pfeiffer, '10
 Barbara Ann Clawson-Cole, '13
 David M. Berndt, '14
 Jonathon-Tyler R. Southwell, '16

2020–2022

Jensen Alliyah Daniels, '21
 Althea Jones-Johnson, '22

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 William T. Ganley, Ph.D.
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 Carmen J. Iannaccone, '61, Ed.D. 🍁
 Bradley A. Lown, Ph.D.
 Joseph R. Piccillo Jr., '61, '67
 Dennis J. Sheehan
 Shirley (Bommer) Spriegel, '53, '63
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Reflections *from* Retirement

How mentoring helped shape my career

I've definitely done my share of reflecting post-retirement and during the COVID-19 pandemic. No, this is not another article about the pandemic, but rather the story of my educational journey as a student and as a professor. First things first. How did I end up at Buffalo State after graduating from Howard High School, a historically black high school in Wilmington, Delaware?

Like so many families of the 1950s and 1960s Civil Rights era, we relocated north from my birth home of Wilmington because Buffalo was a robust employment mecca. My formative years of education were spent here in the Queen City until I reached the 10th grade.

Judge Curtin of the U.S. District Court in Buffalo had ruled on a locally submitted lawsuit regarding education. He made his ruling in favor of those who filed based on the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954. Thus, I ended up being bused to South Park High School. Unfortunately, some of the South Buffalo community and South Park High School faculty and students did not welcome the integration of Black and Brown students at the time. We were met with violence and threats daily, and Black and Brown students were dismissed early to ensure safety. This wasn't working for me, and my education was suffering.

So, in October 1971, my younger brother (who was attending South Side Junior High School) and I were sent back to my birth home in Wilmington. I enrolled at Howard High School, and that is where I was first exposed to "mentoring." And that is what this article is really about—the role, importance, and benefits of mentoring.

I was blessed to have a couple of mentors at Howard High School: my homeroom and math teacher for three years (geometry, trigonometry, and calculus) and my biology teacher, who was also the assistant principal. It was Mr. Brown who convinced me to participate in the Summer Science Institute for High School Students at Delaware State College at the conclusion of my sophomore and junior years at Howard High. That program exposed me to the college environment, and I loved it!

It was my homeroom teacher who recommended that I take college courses my junior

(Delaware Technical College) and senior (University of Delaware) years of high school. By the time I graduated from high school, I had 15 credit hours toward my undergraduate degree. My two mentors arranged for all juniors interested in attending college to participate in several class trips to colleges and universities in the area. We were encouraged to apply for admission to every college we visited.

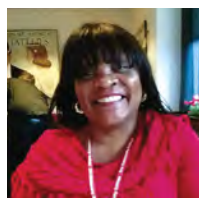
I shared this information with my older sister, who was a junior at Buffalo State. She convinced me to come to Buffalo and spend the week shadowing her. She was also a dormitory resident assistant. I spent the week with her—attending her classes, visiting student service offices, dormitories, dining room facilities, student activities, etc. I didn't know it then, but she was mentoring me. She convinced me to apply to Buffalo State and increase my college acceptance options. By the conclusion of my junior year, I had been accepted at about 10 colleges and universities. The University of Delaware was offering me a full scholarship, which was tough competition for Buffalo State. But I had already fallen in love with Buffalo State—and my older sister would be there my freshman year to mentor me. I was accepted as an out-of-state student, and I had a couple of private scholarships that I could carry to any college or university, so I decided on Buffalo State.

But the story doesn't end there. In retrospect, I believe the universe intended for me to attend Buffalo State. During my first week of classes, in September 1974, the Financial Aid Office notified me that my private scholarship money had not been received. I was devastated and crying in the corridor of Cleveland Hall. A stranger, who I would later learn was Dr. Isaiah Reid, executive director of SEEK/EOP, asked me what was the matter. I explained and he told me to wait right there. He left for about 10 minutes and then

returned. He said the matter was resolved. I could remain on campus, but was required to work in his office. He became my mentor for my undergraduate and graduate studies. I was never an EOP student, but his program gave me employment and guaranteed my financial stability until my scholarships, grants, and loans arrived.

My sophomore year, I declared my major in criminal justice. My assigned adviser was Dr. James Gillham. I never asked him to be my mentor, but he began mentoring me, and it was one of the best things that could have happened to later set me up for a successful career in criminal justice. Every summer, he recommended me for jobs in the criminal justice field. When it was time for me to graduate, I told him that I had been offered a full scholarship to the University of Michigan School of Law and a paid position as a resident director with free housing. Dr. Gillham convinced me to consider the graduate program in criminal justice that had just been implemented at Buffalo State. The rest is history—I graduated in the program's first class in May 1980. When I graduated, Dr. Gillham persuaded me to apply for adjunct faculty positions, and I was hired. Later, I would apply for a full-time teaching position at SUNY Erie, where I would spend the bulk of my career.

Mentoring contributed to my success and catapulted me into my career as a criminal justice professor. Over the years, I've mentored many students. And I won't stop mentoring while I'm retired. My advice to any student: mentoring matters; it makes a difference, and it will help you succeed. It need not be a formal agreement, just a connection with someone you can receive guidance and direction from, who is established in the career path you are seeking. Even if you haven't figured everything out yet, you still need a mentor. I did!



Joanne Howard, '78, devoted 36 years to teaching criminal justice at SUNY Erie. A pioneer and trailblazer within her profession, she held several positions in the criminal justice field before becoming a full-time professor. She is also a certified mediator and arbitrator with more than 20 years of faith-based experience teaching and developing curricula for leadership training and development.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Commencement
May 20

Homecoming/Family Week
September 25-30

Fall Open House
October 14 and November 18