

WORLD WAR II MEMORIES | CAMPUS HOUSE CAMARADERIE

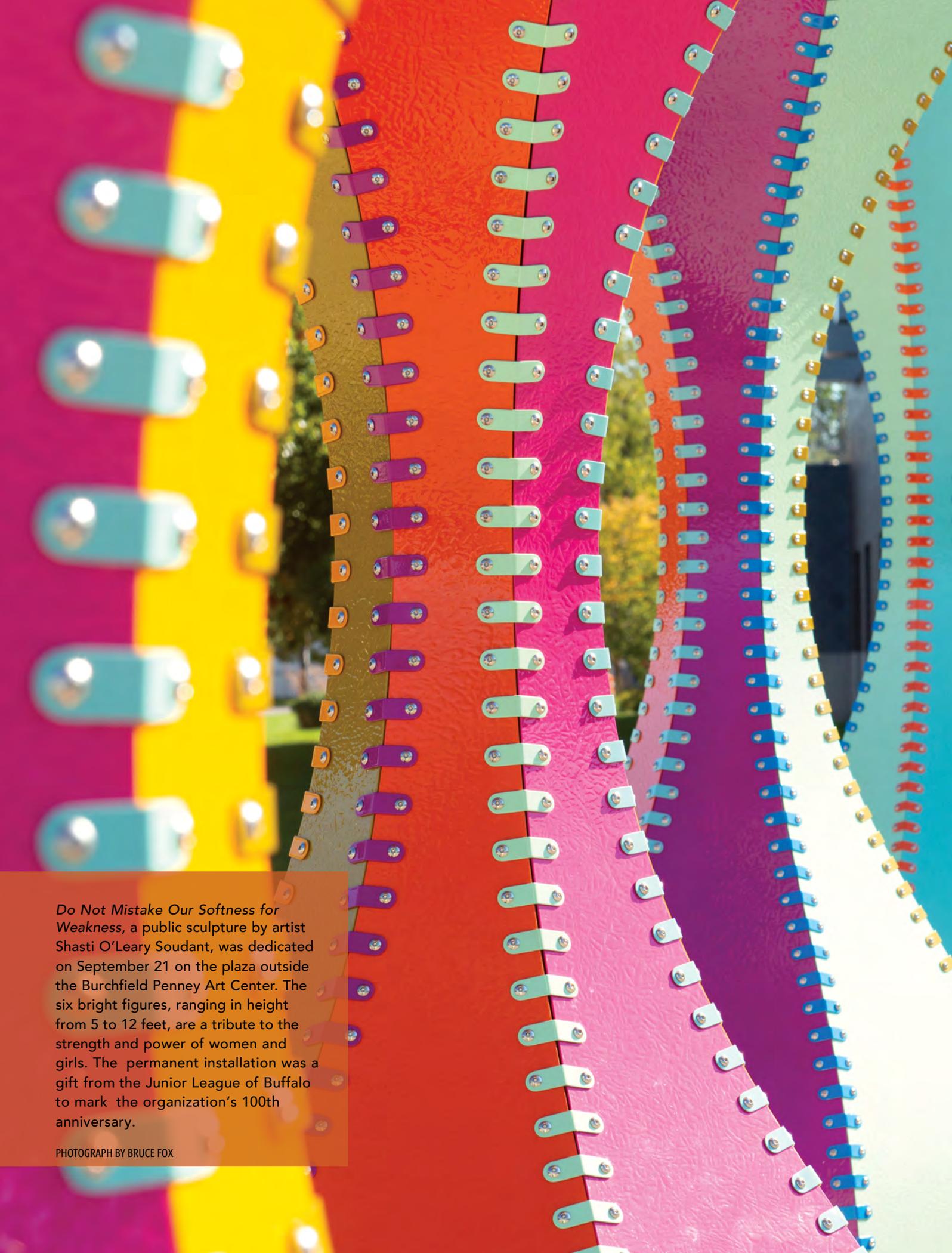
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THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE WINTER 2022 > NO. 35

Buffalo State Celebrates 150th Anniversary

COLLEGE HONORS PAST,
PLANS BRIGHT FUTURE





Do Not Mistake Our Softness for Weakness, a public sculpture by artist Shasti O'Leary Soudant, was dedicated on September 21 on the plaza outside the Burchfield Penney Art Center. The six bright figures, ranging in height from 5 to 12 feet, are a tribute to the strength and power of women and girls. The permanent installation was a gift from the Junior League of Buffalo to mark the organization's 100th anniversary.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRUCE FOX



“Step by step, we have all arrived here together to celebrate our significant history and look toward our next chapters.”

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Historic home features food, fellowship, and state-of-the-art teaching.

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

The Past, the Present, and the Future

There are three phases of time that ground the important work of educating students at Buffalo State: the past, the now, and looking toward the future. As we are currently reflecting, remembering, and exploring our rich 150-year legacy, we are also very much grounded within the present even as we look toward the future.

The present-day Buffalo State addresses the world of 2022 and all the policies, procedures, challenges, opportunities, and interests that are reflected. In many ways, the Buffalo Staters of the past could not have imagined our campus today. As alumni and visitors come to campus, they often remark on how very different the campus looks. The new and renovated buildings stand as physical manifestations of how Buffalo State has changed. The curriculum has expanded in ways that have moved us to include academic programs across the areas of arts and sciences, professional studies, and education. The modes of instruction have changed dramatically over the years, and even before there was a pandemic to worry about, our classrooms had become “smart” and technology augmented our teaching throughout the academy. Walking across campus, like anywhere in today’s world, you find students reading email and checking assignments on phones, listening to music or conversation through earbuds, and catching up on the happenings of today by scanning social media. Students today go to the Academic Commons for a variety of academic supports and are more likely to read a library source online than to go upstairs in Butler Library to grab a physical copy of the book. So, the rich past that accounts for 150 years represents a stark difference from today’s student’s normal experience.

What is still the same, however, is the importance of human connection between our students and their faculty and the many layers of professional staff that serve the needs of our students. The manner in which faculty teach may have changed, but the importance of faculty engaging with students remains the most important aspect of their academic journey. I have had numerous opportunities to hear from students about the mentorship they received from faculty, the undergraduate research that is encouraged, and the discussions that ground students in their success now and in the future. Similarly, students recount how advisers, coaches, and other support staff were the conduit for their success. The EOP adviser that provided the sound advice, the financial aid professional that recommended a pathway scholarship, the soccer coach that provided encouragement at a difficult time, or the adviser in the Career Development Center that connected the student to a paid internship all represent the kind of support that has been a part of the 150 years of educating students we proudly boast.

The future of Buffalo State is always salient even as we handle the opportunities and challenges of today. Our future requires us to carry on our outstanding legacy and to embrace the centrality of our urban-engaged mission. We have seen our student population continue to diversify over the years. We have always been a campus where first-generation students have found an academic home. As we have built on that past, our students have increasingly come to us from every racial, ethnic, and diverse background. Today we stand as a minority-serving institution with more than 50 percent of our students from underrepresented backgrounds. Buffalo State has always been a campus where we explored and researched the aspects that affect justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), and today we have an opportunity to advance this focus to a clear and future direction. Moving toward our future, we will lift justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in our work. We will not only celebrate being the most diverse campus within the SUNY system, but we will also elevate our programming, our support, our research, and our community connections to advance a JEDI focus.

So as we reflect on the past and ground ourselves in addressing the reality of today, we seek to look ahead to our future, where Buffalo State is a recognized leader in justice, equity, diversity and inclusion through our educational mission to lift students to new heights and to develop productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizens.

Follow the President Katherine S. Conway-Turner, Ph.D., is a regular on social media.

Follow her at @BuffStatePrez <https://kateconwayturner.tumblr.com> @BuffStatePrez

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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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EDITOR/DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE SERVICES

Brian C. Kantz

MANAGING EDITOR/
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Nancy B. Paschke, '87, '05

ART DIRECTOR/GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Chantel Kutzbach

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Michael T. Canfield, '13 • Laurie Kaiser, '16
Natalie B. Murphy • Jeffrey M. Ventura, '99, '01

COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHER

Bruce A. Fox

EDITORIAL BOARD

R. Scott Burns
Jerod T. Dahlgren
Claudine Ewing, '92
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A STEWART STORY

I loved the profile of Dr. Ron Stewart in the latest *1300 Elmwood*. One of my proudest moments at Buffalo State was helping to recruit him under the leadership of Dr. Roz Lindner, who swooped in on him practically before anyone else knew he was on the market. Dr. Stewart’s energetic classroom style was illustrated once when he covered an evening class for me. Ron, who loves the connection created by the simple sharing of names, asked me for some names. Though students in this big class had no reason to think I knew anyone’s name, I was able to give him a few, including one gentleman who always arrived a few minutes late, still dressed in suit and tie from work. I love imagining this fellow’s surprise when he snuck in the back door and noticed that his frumpy White professor had been upgraded to a tall, elegant Black man, and his shock when that new professor looked at him, grinned, and cried, “Bill! I feel like I’ve known you all my life!” That was Dr. Stewart, in action.

—Carl Backman (Sociology Department, 1985–2000)



◀ The profile of Dr. Ron Stewart prompted a colleague’s story.

BFF UPDATE

Our group from college included Janet Wohlhueter, Dottie Starbuck, Grace Bartlett, Doris Wilcox, Alice Knights, Betty Garrepy, Barbara Collins, M. J. Vantino, and Di Bixby. All of us were married shortly after college and we kept in touch. We are all 88+ years old. Five have passed on and we were scattered—Michigan, Arizona, Florida, and the others in New York State. We four continue to write to each other. Our photos from times together are very casual and a tad goofy! We all enjoyed our four years at State, plus we continue to remain good friends. We all taught. Life is good.

—Diane (Bixby) Price, '54

ADD SWARTNEY TO THE LIST

Hello! I just received my copy of the alumni magazine with the cover story, “Founding Mothers.” I looked for mention of one of the most gifted and memorable professors that I had while an elementary science student at Buffalo State, Dr. Joyce Swartney. I was disappointed to see that she was not one of the distinguished professors listed in this issue but would highly recommend her for any future recognition. She had a remarkable career and life.

—Gretchen (Baldauf) Seibert, '73

Editor’s note: I. Joyce Swartney, who died in 2007, is certainly a Buffalo State legend. After becoming the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in science education at the University of Wisconsin, she studied for a year in Germany and then taught chemistry and math in Japan. She joined the Buffalo State faculty in 1968 and later became associate dean of the Faculty of Natural and Social Sciences. Best known for her “hands-on, minds-on” science teaching methods, Swartney served as a consultant to the Peace Corps and the U.S. Department of Education, and received several National Science Foundation grants. Much loved by students, she brought distinction and honor to the college.

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 innovative faculty members.



● **150 Years of History**
A brief history of Buffalo State College, narrated by Tom Calderone, '86; Anthony J. W. Chase; Claudine Ewing, '92; and Jocelyn Tejada.

● **150th Anniversary Celebration**
A recorded live stream of the Buffalo State College Day celebration on September 17, 2021. The event included speakers, music, dancing, and more.

yourturn

WRITE
1300 Elmwood Magazine
Buffalo State College
Cleveland Hall 307
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

E-MAIL
marcomm@buffalostate.edu

PHONE
(716) 878-4201

FAX
(716) 878-3532

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

College Climbs in U.S. News Rankings

Buffalo State rated prominently in a number of categories published in the *U.S. News & World Report 2022 Best Colleges* education rankings in September. The college placed 10th in the North Region for economic diversity, 20th for social mobility, and 32nd (tied) for top public colleges in the North out of more than 170 institutions in the region.

Buffalo State's recognition for social mobility and economic diversity reflects the urban-engaged mission of the college and its ability to help low-income and first-generation college students obtain an economically stable and fulfilling life after graduation.

"Buffalo State's commitment to lifting up students toward a better future is embedded in our mission," said Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner. "We take great pride in providing students from all backgrounds with the opportunity to find careers that not only match their passions and aptitudes but also earn them a middle-class or higher living."

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bscusnews2022>.

Alum Sings on 'The Voice'



Joshua Vacanti, a 2016 graduate of Buffalo State's music program, performed this season on NBC's popular singing competition *The Voice*. Vacanti was one of 54 contestants selected to participate in the "Blind Auditions" season premiere of the American reality show

that began airing in September. The show is hosted by Carson Daly and features celebrity coaches Kelly Clarkson, Ariana Grande, John Legend, and Blake Shelton. Legend chose Vacanti for his team after hearing him sing "Into the Unknown" from *Frozen 2*.

A graduate of Lockport High School, Vacanti transferred to Buffalo State from Niagara County Community College. He studied privately with Buffalo State associate professor of voice Holly Bewlay and sang with the Buffalo State Chamber Choir and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Victoria Furby, chair and associate professor of music.

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

New Certificate Program Blends Ecology, Society



A new undergraduate certificate program in environmental science and society at Buffalo State uses a problem-oriented, interdisciplinary approach to identify, understand, and begin to address complex environmental issues—such as industrial waste, deforestation, or rising sea levels—from a societal perspective. The curriculum covers the ethical, social, and historical context of such problems and the associations between natural and human-made systems.

The certificate requires 18–20 total credit hours, bridging several disciplines, including geography, biology, chemistry, and history. Four required courses include Philosophy 113: Environmental Ethics, which explores the moral implications of human's impact on the environment, touching on such areas as sustainability, environmental justice, preservation, and the value of species.

Certificate programs can be included in a bachelor's degree or pursued independently, making them an attractive option for both students and working professionals interested in focusing on a specific area or topic.

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

College Joins with Roswell Park on New Genomics Fellowship

The Buffalo State Data Science and Analytics Interdisciplinary Unit and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center have partnered on a research internship program for graduate students in the growing field of genomics. The 15-month DSA Genomics Fellowship provides \$33,000, including \$15,000 for tuition and fees, to qualifying students pursuing a master of science in data science and analytics at Buffalo State.

Fellows complete 30 credit hours of coursework at the college and conduct full-time research for 12 weeks during the summer at Roswell. The curriculum includes mathematics, statistics, and computer science and is closely aligned with the Biology Department. Genomics is the study of the human genome—or the entirety of a person's genes, including how they interact with each other and with the environment. The fellowship program is geared toward underrepresented groups to increase the diversity of professionals working in genomics data science in business, industry, government, and academia.

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



◀ The new Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium (left) and Academic Commons (below).



Open House Spotlights New Campus Spaces

Buffalo State hosted an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 1 to celebrate the completion of major renovations to two key academic spaces: the Academic Commons within E. H. Butler Library and the Science and Mathematics Complex (SAMC).

SAMC, which began as an ambitious \$100 million renovation project 10 years ago, houses the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Science Education, Mathematics, and Physics. The fourth and final phase of construction was completed in January 2021. SAMC boasts a multi-story glass atrium, upgraded research and teaching facilities, an advanced imaging suite, greenhouses, and the newly imagined Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium.

The reconfigured Academic Commons—a \$16 million reconstruction project begun in 2018—serves as a one-stop resource for students to achieve academic success. It houses the Writing Center, the Math Center, Tutoring Services, the Educational Opportunity Program’s Academic Center for Excellence (EOP-ACE), the Academic Advising Center, and Student Accessibility Services. Falling under the umbrella of Academic Success, the Academic Commons supports Buffalo State’s commitment to the persistence, retention, and completion of its students. Many of the entities within the Academic Commons were previously scattered throughout campus.

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



Anchor Bar Opens on Campus

Buffalo is synonymous with chicken wings, and the iconic restaurant where Buffalo-style wings were born opened a new location on the Buffalo State College campus this fall semester. The Anchor Bar in the Campbell Student Union opened August 27 for students, faculty, and staff with a selection of locally based delights as well as late-night options for students. It’s the restaurant’s first venture on a college campus.

The food court in the Student Union also features newcomers Tu Taco and True Burger. Tu Taco has a street taco theme, while True Burger offers hand-spun milkshakes. Three percent of the revenues from True Burger will be donated back to the college to fight food insecurity on campus.

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

Hunter Named ACE Fellow



Jevon Hunter, Woods-Beals Endowed Chair in Urban Education in the School of Education, has been named a member of the 2021–2022 class of the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program.

Hunter will spend the academic year at SUNY Fredonia, where he'll work with and learn from Fredonia President Stephen H. Kolison Jr., who started in August 2020, on how a college president builds a cabinet, interacts with the community, and conducts the daily business of higher education.

The ACE Fellows Program gives interested educators the opportunity to develop leadership skills and learn about the culture, policies, and decision-making processes of another institution. The program is meant to train educators looking to move into administrative roles in the future.

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



Big Dig III

More than 90 volunteers stepped up and dug in to plant 40 new trees—some over 10 feet tall—along the Grant Street side of the Buffalo State campus during Big Dig III on November 6. The selection of native trees included oaks, redbuds, serviceberries, lindens, and river birches. Participants from Buffalo Sunrise Rotary; Friends of the Maud Gordon Holmes Arboretum; Buffalo State faculty, staff, students, and alumni; and members of the broader Buffalo community participated in this third “Big Dig” event to increase the diversity of trees in the campus arboretum and offset those lost to storm damage, construction, infestation, and disease. Funding for the trees was provided by the Sunrise Rotarians and the Friends of the Arboretum.



Second Student Receives \$10,000 Floyd Memorial Scholarship

Jeremiah Simon, a first-year public relations and advertising major at Buffalo State, was awarded the college's second annual George Floyd Memorial Scholarship in September. The endowed scholarship provides one incoming freshman each year with a \$10,000 scholarship that is renewable over four years.

A Brooklyn native who graduated from high school a year early, Simon served as class president of his Boerum Hill School for International Studies from ninth through 11th grade. He served as chapter president of the High School Democrats of America and as a member of Students and Educators for Equality. He also worked for the NYC Department of Education, planning the annual youth summit and serving on the communications subcommittee.

Buffalo State was one of the first colleges in the country to establish the scholarship fund, dedicated to social justice in honor of its eponym, George Perry Floyd Jr., who was killed in an act of police brutality in Minnesota in May 2020.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/bscfloyd2>.

Alums Release Feature Film



Mother's Day, a riveting full-length feature film created by six Buffalo State College alumni about the complex nature of mental illness and its effects on personal relationships, made its screen debut in June at the North Park Theatre in Buffalo.

Filed as an unbroken, continuous shot of a conversation between two actors, *Mother's Day* is based on a real conversation that the film's writer-director, Travis Carlson, '13 (television and film arts), had with his mother soon after he graduated from college and started navigating adult life.

"I grew up with my mother, who has struggled with mental health," Carlson said. "It was an important story to tell and an honest story about people and families affected."

Carlson, Marc Braun, '17 (psychology), and Maria (Marinaccio) Braun, '18 (creative studies), produced the film with Pan-American Film Division, the production company they co-founded.

Carlson said the connections he made at Buffalo State were instrumental to the film. He knew immediately that Michael Charles Wagner, '15 (theater)—whom he met through the campus improv group Friday Night Live—would be right for the role of Jordon, who is inspired by a younger Carlson. At Buffalo State, Carlson also formed a relationship with Lee Becker, '13 (theater), who appears in this Buffalo-based film. Julia Bottoms, '12, '17 (art education, multidisciplinary studies), created original artwork for the film poster.

Visit panamericanfilms.com for the trailer and behind-the-scenes information.

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

Faculty and Staff Recognition Ceremony

Sixteen outstanding Buffalo State College faculty and staff members were recognized for excellence during the 10th annual Faculty and Staff Recognition Ceremony held on October 14 in the Performing Arts Center at Rockwell Hall. The event honors Buffalo State recipients of SUNY Chancellor's and President's awards and those elevated to SUNY distinguished faculty ranks.

SUNY Distinguished Professor

Gerard J. Puccio, Ph.D., Chair and Distinguished Professor, Creativity and Change Leadership

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service

Mary E. Codick, M.S.Ed., Administrative Assistant 1, Teacher Certification Office

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching

Johanna M. Fisher, M.A., Lecturer, English
Maureen A. Porter, M.A., Lecturer, Theater

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service

Meghan E. B. Pereira, M.Ed., Director, Instructional Design and Distance Learning
Linda A. Rainforth, M.S., Associate Director, Financial Aid

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Pamela Schuetze-Pizarro, Ph.D., Professor, Psychology
Ron Stewart, Ph.D., Professor, Sociology

President's Award for Excellence in Career Achievement for Faculty

Karen O'Quin, Ph.D., Professor, Psychology

President's Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Equity and Campus Diversity

Amy M. McMillan, Ph.D., Director,
Muriel A. Howard Honors Program

President's Award for Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creativity

Saqib M. Ahmed, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Engineering Technology
Guanqiu Qi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Computer Information Systems

President's Award for Excellence in Service to the College

Todd R. Benzin, B.A., Educational Technology Specialist, Instructional Design and Distance Learning
James E. Cercone, Ph.D., Associate Professor, English Education
Carol A. DeNysschen, Ph.D., Professor, Health, Nutrition, and Dietetics

President's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Keunyoung Oh, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Fashion and Textile Technology

Athletics

• buffalostateathletics.com



Smith Tapped as Assistant AD

Nate Smith, '15, was hired as assistant director of athletics for athletic communications and student support August 1. Smith served as the director of athletic communications at Alfred

University for the past two years following a three-year stint as the athletic communications assistant at Skidmore College. He also worked one year as a sports information intern at Rochester Institute of Technology. While at Buffalo State, Smith worked as a student assistant in the sports information office and also served as the sports director with the campus radio station, WBNY-FM 91.3. Smith takes over certain responsibilities from Jeffrey Ventura, who has been promoted to senior associate athletics director. Ventura has worked in the Buffalo State Intercollegiate Athletics Department since 1999 and served as the sports information director since 2001. Ventura will add corporate relations and development responsibilities while continuing other administrative duties, including serving as the department's NCAA compliance officer.



College Hosts Bengal Club Golf Classic

Buffalo State Athletics hosted its 38th annual Bengal Club Golf Classic fundraiser on July 13 at Glen Oak Golf Club to support programming for the 2021–2022 seasons. The Vascular and Endovascular Center of WNY and MacLean-Fogg Component Solutions were presenting sponsors of the event. Alyssa Krantz, Maddy Kromer, Megan Reukauf, and Emma Ruggiero were women's team champions, and Dennis Playfair, Michael Playfair, Steve Murphy, and Jim Glownia were overall team champions.



Grampp Promoted to Interim Head Women's Ice Hockey Coach

Buffalo State has promoted Rachel Grampp to interim head women's ice hockey coach for the remainder of the 2021–2022 season. A native of Williamsville,

New York, Grampp has served as an assistant coach with the Bengals since 2019 and has previous coaching experience as an assistant with SUNY Canton and an intern coach for the U15 USA National Development Camp. She was a standout player at Elmira College, where she was the United Collegiate Hockey Conference Defensive Player of the Year and an American Hockey Coaches Association Academic All-American as a senior while earning her bachelor's degree in psychology.

Athletics Raises Nearly \$30K on Bengal Giving Day

Buffalo State College Athletics raised \$29,403 during the inaugural Bengal Giving Day fundraiser on November 10. The funds will benefit the 13 Buffalo State team programs as well as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and will help the Athletics Department enrich the student-athlete experience.

"This is an amazing feeling to raise this much support from over 450 donors on a single-day campaign," said Athletics Director Renee Carlineo. "It shows the dedication and love that our alumni, families, and friends of Buffalo State Athletics have for the Bengals. Special thanks to all who gave, shared, and supported us."



[@bscathletics](https://twitter.com/bscathletics)



facebook.com/buffalostateathletics



[@buffalostateathletics](https://instagram.com/buffalostateathletics)



Dare to Care 2021

More than 300 Buffalo State community members participated in Bengals Dare to Care Day 2021 on September 25. Led by 80 site coordinators, volunteers fanned out across the city for this annual day of service that put the campus's civic, urban-engaged mission into action. Numerous faculty members prepared their students to participate and reflect on the day as part of fall semester course content and civic learning.

TR Site Creates Buffalo State Fellowship

Students enrolled in Buffalo State's history and social studies education graduate programs will have the unique opportunity to secure a paid fellowship with the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site in Buffalo beginning in spring 2022. Shirley Hudders, a longtime volunteer and trustee emerita of the TR Inaugural Site Board of Directors, made a gift to the site earmarked for fellowships at Buffalo State. The \$2,500 Hudders TR Inaugural Site Masters Fellowship will be awarded to one student each fall for use the following spring semester over the next 10 years, according to Stanton Hudson, executive director of the TR Inaugural Site and a lecturer in Buffalo State's Communication Department.

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

Honors Program Enrolls Record Number of Students

A record 172 new students entered the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program this fall—160 freshmen and 12 transfer students. The honors program now boasts 550 total students, more than double the number enrolled when Honors Program Director Amy McMillan assumed the position in fall 2017. To qualify for the program, students must have a minimum high school average of 90 and strong extracurricular activities. To accommodate the program's expansion, the college hired Matt Baran in September as the new assistant director. Baran holds a master's degree in higher education and student affairs from Ohio State University.

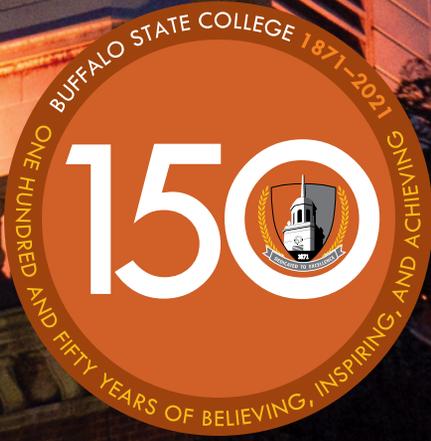
Read more at <https://bit.ly/bschonors2021>.

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Buffalo State Celebrates 150th Anniversary

COLLEGE HONORS PAST,
PLANS BRIGHT FUTURE



Buffalo State College officially launched its 150th anniversary celebration on September 17 with a spirited Buffalo State College Day event in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Rockwell Hall.

The celebration included music by the African American Cultural Center’s Kakilambe Dance and Drum Performance Company, speakers, video greetings from public officials and notable alumni, a short video history of the college, and a local dance troupe performance called the “Sounds, Echoes, and Spirits of Yemaya.”

Buffalo State alumni Claudine Ewing, '92, anchor at WGRZ-TV, and Matt Bové, '13, sports director at WKBW-TV, served as masters of ceremonies for the event, which was followed by a reception on the front lawn of Rockwell Hall.

“
I look
toward
building
on the
strong
foundation
that has
been laid
during
the past
150 years...
”



▲ President Katherine Conway-Turner

That evening, Buffalo City Hall, the Electric Tower, Curtis Hotel, Central Library, and other area landmarks, as well as Buffalo State’s Rockwell Hall, Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium, and Burchfield Penney Art Center, were illuminated in orange in honor of the sesquicentennial celebration.

President Katherine Conway-Turner addressed the campus community during the PAC event, describing the amazing stories that constitute Buffalo State— from its inception in 1871 to today— and how far it’s come.

“We were once a small and scrappy college that singularly focused on the very important goal of developing teachers to go out into the world and shepherd our youth to new heights,” Conway-Turner said. “But our dream grew, and now we stand as a campus with a significant range of programs. We touch the city of Buffalo, Western New York, New York state, the entire country, and even the world.”

She also recognized the important roles Buffalo State plays in the community as an economic engine, an urban-engaged campus, and a significant anchor institution.

Alma Mater —Updated

After 70 years, Buffalo State College has a new alma mater. Dawn Pustelnik, audience services manager for the Performing Arts Center at Rockwell Hall, penned the winning lyrics in the alma mater competition and was recognized at the college’s sesquicentennial kickoff celebration—Buffalo State College Day—on September 17. The new song, “Bengal Pride,” performed by students from the Buffalo State College Chamber Choir under the direction of Victoria J. Furby, associate professor and chair of the Music Department, made its debut at the event. The previous alma mater, “Our Finest Hour,” was written by L. Harry Ray and was first published in the Elms yearbook in 1951, Ray’s graduating class year. The new version keeps the same tune as the original version:

“BENGAL PRIDE”

By Dawn Pustelnik

Buff State you taught us to believe,
Be inspired and achieve.
With great minds and caring hearts
We’re here to lead and serve.
With hope anew we’ll venture forth,
It’s with one voice we proudly roar
We are Bengals to the core.
In years to come, we’ll reminisce,
Filled with joy for times gone by.
We’ll not fail you Alma Mater,
Change the world for good.
Though we must leave our
Elmwood home,
In our hearts for ever more
We are Bengals to the core.

Read more and hear the Chamber Choir perform “Bengal Pride” at <https://bit.ly/bscalmamater>.



▲ Claudine Ewing, '92, and Matt Bové, '13 (middle)
◀ Buffalo City Hall was illuminated in orange to mark Buffalo State College Day



“We are a campus that forges community connections through the research we focus on and the many ways we contribute to the social, economic, and cultural landscape of Western New York,” she said. “We breathe life into our urban-engaged mission. We are also a part of the national and international dialogue on issues related to transformative, creative, civic-engaged, and innovative education across the disciplines.”

Throughout the coming year, she said, the college will reflect on both the good and the troubled times throughout its history, as well as the many ways the campus community has persevered.

“Our dreams have not always allowed us to move ahead in measured ways, but we have always moved ahead, and we have grown in significant and important ways,” Conway-Turner said. “Step by step, we have all arrived here together to celebrate our significant history and look toward our next chapters.”



Looking toward the future, Conway-Turner said she’s confident Buffalo State will build on its tremendous foundation to “become more than the most diverse campus within the SUNY system; we will be the campus that forges the critical path to illuminate true inclusion that benefits all individuals, New York state, and our entire world.”

She also highlighted Buffalo State’s ongoing commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, or JEDI, and the



specific ways in which the JEDI focus will expand over the next two decades.

In closing, Conway-Turner said, “I look toward building on the strong foundation that has been laid during the past 150 years. Tomorrow requires new tools, new experiences, and an innovative approach to the education of our Buffalo State students.”

See photos from the event at <https://bit.ly/bsc150photos>.

WATCH THE BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE DAY VIDEO at <https://bit.ly/bsc150video>.

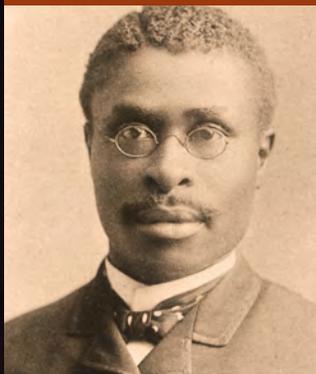
♥ Zhanna Reed, '19, marked the college's anniversary with a beautiful rendition of "Over the Rainbow" (top)

♥ President Katherine Conway-Turner with former Buffalo State president and SUNY chancellor D. Bruce Johnstone and his wife, Gail Johnstone (bottom)

THE STORY OF

Charles Augustus Thompson

By Laurie Kaiser



Buffalo State College, which today proudly heralds its many facets of diversity, also reflected inclusion early in its 150-year history.

In 1880, what was then the Buffalo Normal School graduated its first African American student, Charles Augustus Thompson, who was born in 1858 in Buffalo.

Although the Normal School did not document the race of admitted students, researchers have pegged Thompson as its first Black graduate, said Hope Dunbar, special collections archivist with E. H. Butler Library. Soon after the Normal School opened in 1871, Thompson enrolled in the classical curriculum in 1875 and graduated in June 1880.

"Charles Thompson had a lot of firsts," Dunbar said. "He was the first African American student in the Buffalo Public School System to be awarded a Jesse Ketchum medal (1873); he is considered the first African American graduate of the University of Rochester (1891); and he was likely the first African American born in Buffalo and educated in Buffalo schools to graduate from any university."

Thompson used his education to pursue a range of careers, including positions as a teacher, principal, chiropractic practitioner, and preacher.

"During a year in which Buffalo State is celebrating its landmark 150th anniversary while simultaneously forging new social justice efforts, it's exciting that we can recognize the first African American graduate," said Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner. "Like many of our students of color today, Charles Thompson found success at Buffalo State and went on to enjoy not one but several illustrious careers. We are proud to include Charles Thompson among our first graduates as we reflect on our college's rich history."

Read more: <https://bit.ly/bsccharlesthompson>.





BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE 1871-2021



believe. inspire. achieve.



A Look Back *By Michael Canfield*

WORLD WAR II GRIPS BUFFALO STATE

The early 1940s were a time of change, sacrifice, and perseverance at Buffalo State College, then known as the State Teachers College at Buffalo.

Heading out of the Great Depression, which decimated the country's economic system throughout the 1930s, Buffalo State was in relatively good shape, thanks to financial backing at the state and federal levels.

But on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the Pearl Harbor naval base on Oahu, Hawaii, widely recognized as one of the deadliest attacks on American soil by a foreign adversary. On December 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the nation, delivering one of the most memorable lines in American history: "a date which will live in infamy."

With America’s involvement in World War II came a significant drop in male enrollment in the college and changes to daily life on campus. Nearly 770 students and faculty members served during the war. Thirty died. And when the war ended in 1945, the rush of service members back to the States, buoyed by victory and the G.I. Bill, led to boom times for Buffalo State both in enrollment and campus construction.

With the onset of war, the number of male students enrolled at Buffalo State dropped almost immediately, from over 300 to less than 50, as men rushed to service.

Changes are apparent in the *Record*, the student-run newspaper, and the *Elms* yearbooks. Before Pearl Harbor, it wasn’t unusual to see a front-page story about the undefeated cross-country team, or a bus full of students traveling to a game in Syracuse. After that infamous date, however, the articles take on a more serious tone. In the January 16, 1942, issue, a piece headlined “Defenses Begun” lays out some of the steps being taken on campus to conduct air raid drills and collect materials needed for the war effort.

The cover of the 1942 *Elms* shows a squadron of planes beneath the phrase “We Also Serve.” The Foreword begins and ends:

“There will never be another year like this past one, and there will never be another *Elms* like this present one.... Our energies, our resources, and our courage are now engaged in a war to prove that the free and democratic people of the world are, in the final test, the strongest people in the world.”

By 1944, the annual takes a more somber turn, calling the Class of 1944 a class divided “—divided by a war which has drafted most of its men from our campus. Like the tree for which it is named, the *Elms* has forked in two directions—the one depicting the life of service to college and community, the other, of much greater service to country. This is an *Elms* for you who will graduate in June...and for you who would have graduated had not fate intervened.”

Throughout the war years, the *Record* is full of stories of the campus community’s war efforts: book drives, blood drives, and organizing committees to send care and holiday packages and letters to service members overseas.

Interestingly, there is a gap in issues between May 1942 and October 1943, presumably due to the war.

Women from Buffalo State who served during World War II were also recognized in the *Record*.

“We are always hearing about our boys in service,” chides the November 19, 1943, article “Women in Service.” “It is time that we realized that of the ‘587’ honored on our service flag, 40 are women from State.”

Several service members wrote letters from wherever they were stationed around the world back to Buffalo State, providing firsthand accounts of what the war was like. Walter Mordaunt, president of the freshman class of 1942, chimed in from Sicily in the January 21, 1944, issue of the *Record*.

“I have had many opportunities to indulge in my fondness for travel,” he wrote. “I was sent first to North Africa, then to Sicily.... For myself, everything was full of wonder. I walked through every town with the wide-eyed expression of the provincial first visiting New York.”

Throughout the course of the war, Buffalo State President Harry W. Rockwell had an eye on the post-war campus. Anticipating an influx of students after the war’s end, the Post-War Planning Commission approved the construction of a new library, a new science building, and a new industrial arts building.

With the war’s end on September 2, 1945, service members from various deployments around the world started to return home, and started to think about their next steps. For many, that included going to college.

The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the G.I. Bill, afforded returning soldiers an opportunity to go to college they

might not have had before the war. The G.I. Bill provided returning veterans with payments for tuition and living expenses to attend college or vocational school, as well as low-cost mortgages, low-interest loans, and a year of unemployment compensation.

A special issue of the *Record* on May 12, 1944, was dedicated to the 650 members of the campus community serving in the war, and included a rendering of what campus would look like as it expanded. The February 8, 1946, issue notes that the “second semester” was filled to capacity, largely from veterans returning home and enrolling in the Industrial Arts Department.

“These veterans are returning from every theatre of war and represent all branches,” the article says. “[Professor of vocational education Irving C. Perkins’s] reaction to this influx of students is that we are glad to have them with us again and that they are probably glad to be back.”

The Foreword to the 1945 *Elms*, however, hints at the disillusionment of the Beat Generation to come:

“Wrenched out of its one chance for a normal college life, the Class of 1945 has been thrust into a world of insecurity and introspection as to what it’s all about. We have questioned traditions as to their relative value in light of present world events, and have appraised their worthwhileness....”

It would be another generation before the Buffalo State community would again be torn asunder by the civil unrest of the Vietnam era. For now, the campus—elated by the twin victories of V-E and V-J days—was at peace.



President Harry W. Rockwell ▲

Stanley Dietz, one of the first from Buffalo State to die in World War II ►



Sources for this story include *New York State College for Teachers at Buffalo: A History 1871-1946*, by Andrew W. Grabau, Charles A. Messner, Harry W. Rockwell, and Kate V. Wofford [1946]; the *Record* student newspaper, the *Elms* student yearbooks, and E. H. Butler Library Archives and Special Collections.





Campus House Marks 20 Years of Food, Fellowship, and State-of-the-Art Teaching

By Laurie Kaiser

Created from a dream, a prayer, and dogged determination, Campus House opened as a teaching lab for the Hospitality and Tourism Department and a private dining club for the Buffalo State community 20 years ago. Since then, the gracious brick colonial revival structure tucked on the corner of campus has simultaneously echoed the college's storied past and buzzed with students preparing for the future.

Typically, 40 students work at Campus House each semester, earning academic credit as they create original menus, manage and market the club, and conduct hospitality and tourism-related research.

One of Buffalo State's five original buildings, Campus House initially served as the primary residence for three Buffalo State presidents and their families: Harry W. Rockwell,

Harvey M. Rice, and Paul G. Bulger. In the late 1960s, the college used the building as a faculty lounge, then for administrative offices, and finally for dining services for the Faculty-Student Association—until a small group of faculty and staff members envisioned a space that could provide a training ground for hospitality administration students and connect disparate parts of the campus with elegant food in a friendly atmosphere.

“Not only do students learn the intricacies of cooking, serving, and managing the front of the house; they’re also exposed to faculty members and administrators who get to know them,” said Kathleen O’Brien, lecturer and chair of the Hospitality and Tourism Department, who was instrumental in getting the popular dining club off the ground.

Campus House has also evolved into a cozy spot for book clubs, artistic events, and more. The club offers members amenities such as complimentary coffee service from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Tuesday through Friday and an annual members-only picnic in the summer. It also boasts a full-service cash bar and a boardroom that seats 14, providing an ideal place for conferences, receptions, and retirement parties.

“Campus House is one place where everyone knows your name, not unlike the popular television show *Cheers*,” O’Brien said. “We wanted to have a private club with a bar for networking, and this was attractive to faculty, some of whom remember having a bar on campus back in the 1970s and ’80s.”

However, it almost didn’t happen.

“When we first started discussions, writing our business proposal and feasibility study, some naysayers on campus said we could never break the culture of faculty and staff eating lunch in their offices,” O’Brien said. “Also, the building was in disrepair and needed work.”

In 1998, O’Brien was participating in a faculty internship sponsored by the Finance and Management Office. She was one of two faculty members who worked with then-Vice President of Finance and Management Stan Kardonsky.



“
Campus House
is one place
where everyone
knows your name.
”



“My project was figuring out how to upgrade the facilities for hospitality students, who were then using older kitchen equipment in Caudell Hall, while also creating something in which the whole campus could benefit,” she said.

Kardonsky put together a steering committee composed of representatives throughout campus, and they worked with his cabinet to create a business plan and bylaws.

Renovations began in 2000, and the newly imagined Campus House opened in fall 2002.

“Stan really believed in the project and said he wanted his membership card to read ‘No. 1 Member,’” O’Brien continued with a laugh. “I’m grateful we had his support and also that of highly respected faculty members and administrators, many of whom continue to visit regularly today.”

To generate excitement, the project steering committee offered the campus a couple of promotions, including a sampling

of foods that would be offered at the club before a performance at the Performing Arts Center.

“When Campus House opened, the reception was great,” O’Brien said, “and people were thoroughly excited. We found the perfect venue to teach specialty service training—cooking, food safety, how to run everything from lunch to special events.”

In spring 2002, O’Brien worked with faculty members who taught Principles of Food Service to have their students brainstorm menu ideas.

“This is where I found the start-up crew: Brendan Krebs, kitchen manager; Theresa Radder Keohane, guest services manager; and Josh Blumberg, general manager, all of whom are alumni of the hospitality and tourism program,” O’Brien said. “They joined me in the grand opening that fall. And it only grew and evolved from there.”

The first semester, Campus House had 50 members; by the end of the first year, there were 100.

Today, more than 300 faculty, staff, emeriti, alumni, and friends of the college are members. In 2019, Jeffrey Hirschfeld, ’07, ’12, took the reins as the club’s director.

“Each department across campus is represented among our members and guests,” Hirschfeld said. “It’s nice to see the camaraderie Campus House provides, with some groups meeting for lunch monthly. Others come more often.”

Hirschfeld noted that members of Campus House share the same core value: helping students.

“The regulars see students on their first day stumbling through the orders and then watch them grow over the next 15 weeks,” he said. “They get to know the students’ names, what their plans are, and sometimes help them find a job through their connections.”

Over the years, the dining club has offered special events, such as Beaujolais Nouveau, a worldwide celebration held on the third Thursday in November, marking the first release of a variety of wine made from the Gamay grapes grown in the Beaujolais region of France.

Laurence Shine, a longtime lecturer in the English Department, brought his James Joyce book club to Campus House for several years, and other faculty members have used the club to share their passions and talents.

This creativity based around food, fellowship, and graciousness would not be a reality if O’Brien and her cohorts had not persevered until the doors opened.

“How to take a project from concept to reality? Find the best people and be persistent with your vision,” O’Brien said. “Keep at it, and it will happen.”

Connecting Social Work Students *with the* Right Organization

“
It’s a passion
to see how
students can
find their
calling within
this important
profession.”

Since joining Buffalo State College’s Social Work Department in 2013, Karen Edmond, ’99, has accumulated a host of accolades and high-profile appointments, including spots on the College Senate and the Professional Staff Caucus Executive Board. Last July, her influence reached the national level when she received a three-year appointment to the Field Directors Committee of the Council on Social Work Education, the accrediting body for all social work education programs across the United States.

“I feel humbled and blessed,” said Edmond, who serves as her department’s director of field education and teaches the Field Practicum courses. With a master’s in social work from the University at Buffalo, she also possesses 30 years of clinical experience in a variety of roles, primarily working with children and families.

“It’s an honor for a group of people outside of SUNY to recognize the work that I’m able to do, respect me for the work I’ve done, and appreciate what I bring to the table from my years of practice,” she said.

While such roles and recognitions reflect her commitment to her work and fulfill professional goals she has set for herself, it’s something else that makes Edmond’s eyes light up—her students. Edmond not only wants to see them thrive in a field that requires a certain temperament, determination, and compassion; she also wants to help them find positions that best fit them individually, where they can make the most difference.

“I was determined when I came to Buffalo State that no matter how large the population of juniors was, I would meet individually with each one in the fall,” Edmond said. “I learn about their history, their current life, and why they want a social work career.”

From there, she helps connect them with one of the many nonprofit and health-care organizations that offer internships—relationships Edmond has cultivated over the past eight years. There are now some 40 organizations where Buffalo State students are placed, including Gerard Place, Crisis Services, Adoption Star, Catholic Charities, and Horizon Health Services.

“When I started, I recognized that some field agencies had a need for interns but had never worked with them before,” Edmond said. “I helped them to figure out their needs and find the right students for the internships.”

Her dedication begins before she even gets to campus, as she often gets up early to respond to student emails first thing.



“Usually, in the first semester of the Field Practicum, students have some uncertainty about what they will do the first couple of weeks in their agencies,” she said. “I address any concerns they have before they go into their field sites.”

In her classroom, Edmond passes along knowledge she’s garnered from her many social work positions, which have spanned from addiction treatment to teen pregnancy prevention.

Her passion for the field stems from a childhood witnessing despair firsthand. Growing up on Buffalo’s East Side in the 1980s, during the height of the crack epidemic, she saw kids disappear into gangs and parents of close friends fall into the grip of addiction. And, she said, she felt powerless.

“I watched my community change into something that didn’t look familiar anymore,” Edmond

said. “I wanted to pursue a career that would help me fight the crack epidemic and its impact on children and families.”

She started by landing an internship with the Erie County Medical Center’s Children of Addicts and Alcoholics program in its downtown clinic while she was a student at Erie Community College. After transferring to Buffalo State, she continued helping this population by interning at Children’s Hospital, where she specifically handled intakes for infants born to women suffering from alcohol or drug addiction or who had been diagnosed with HIV or AIDS.

Several years later, she returned to Children’s through the community action organization Early Head Start as the coordinator of home-based services for medically affected

children. She was assigned her own interns and had what she called “an awakening moment.”

“I often felt like a fish out of water,” Edmond said. “It was working with students that put me on the path of social work education, which I believe I was meant to do.”

She started teaching in 2004, and in 2008 was hired as the coordinator of field education at Niagara University. When she found a similar position at Buffalo State, she said it was akin to coming home.

“Buffalo State College is my heart,” she said. “This is the place that shaped who I am today.”

It’s also truly part of Edmond’s family. Her son, daughter, mother, and mother’s husband all earned either their bachelor’s or master’s degree from Buffalo State and found fulfilling careers as a result.

This is her hope for the students she works with every day: the ones she emails early in the morning, the ones she follows up with if they falter, the ones she works with until the end to find their right place in the field.

“This is not just a job for me,” she said. “It’s a passion to see how students can find their calling within this important profession.”

Karen Edmond, ’99, who holds an M.S.W. from the University at Buffalo, has 30 years of experience working with various client populations, with a specific focus on infant and toddler mental health and wellness. Her research interests include COVID-19 and field practicums; best practices in field education; diversity, equity, and inclusion education; and student retention practices in professional social work education and practice.

Golf and Tennis Scholarship Classic >

In celebration of the college's 150th anniversary, the Buffalo State College Foundation hosted a unique city version of its annual Golf and Tennis Scholarship Classic. This year's event, held on September 27, started at the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center with coffee and lunch. From there, all participants paraded through campus on golf carts to the nearby Delaware Park Golf Course for the day's fun and games, after which players shuttled back to campus to enjoy a 19th hole reception, catered by Chartwells, at the alumni center.

Proceeds from this 24th annual event will provide financial support and academic scholarships for students.



▲ Peterson Society Luncheon

Peterson Society Inducts 24 New Members

Two dozen new members were inducted to the Buffalo State College Peterson Society during the group's annual luncheon on September 17 at the Burchfield Penney Art Center. The Peterson Society is Buffalo State's planned giving or legacy society for those who have given to the college through a bequest, gift annuity, charitable trust, life insurance, or other estate-planning technique.

This year's inductees are Raymond Barrett, '49 (posthumously); Robert W. Christmann, '75; Karen S. Christmann, '77, '81; June M. Clase, '57, '61 (posthumously); Sylvia Fahey Kleindinst, '72; Mary Kozub; Thomas Kozub; Susan Maguire; Grace Meibohm; Helene Carol Melasky (posthumously); Ann Millacci, '81, '89; Michael Brock, '82; Gary Minagawa (posthumously); Cynthia Olson, '73 (posthumously); Ben Perrone; Stephen Phelps; Scott Propeack; Tracy Sawicki, '84; Richard Sawicki, '91; Nick Sinatra; Donna Swain, '90; Roy A. Swain; Janet Breu Weatherall, '53 (posthumously); and Donn Youngstrom.

Kenzie Honored with Tree Dedication



The late Ross B. Kenzie, who provided exemplary leadership as a chairman and member of the Buffalo State College Council from 1980 to 1998, was honored on the occasion of his 90th

birthday with the dedication of a tricolor European beech tree in the Plaza near the Campbell Student Union.

A plaque marks the dedication ceremony that took place on September 28, 2021, and also recognizes Kenzie's generosity in establishing the Ross B. Kenzie Family Presidential Scholarship Fund, which supports the academic achievement, leadership development, and community service of historically underrepresented minority students.

Join in!

To make your gift, contact the Buffalo State College Foundation at (716) 878-3141

bscfoundation@buffalostate.edu

giving.buffalostate.edu

donorprofile **Donn Youngstrom**



Buffalo State College's Anne Frank Project (AFP) received a \$1 million endowed gift from retired faculty member Donn Youngstrom this summer. Now in its 13th year, AFP is an international story-based-learning initiative directed by Drew Kahn, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, that focuses on community building, conflict management, and identity exploration.

Youngstrom, who served in the Theater Department at the college for 24 years until his retirement in 2018, is intimately familiar with the importance of both the AFP's annual social justice festival and its accompanying story-based

training for teachers in the Buffalo schools and abroad.

"I wanted to do something to make a difference," Youngstrom said, "and I decided the most deserving entity was the Anne Frank Project."

The gift will support AFP in three main ways: to fund two part-time teaching artists-theater program alumnae Jonise Hall, '20, and Gabriella McKinley, '21—who will assist with the AFP in the Schools component; to support high-profile keynote speakers for the social justice festival each fall; and to develop a new AFP Global Learning Lab, which will allow Buffalo State students to interact with students

living in partner countries, including Rwanda, Kenya, and Switzerland. The lab, which should be completed next spring, will be located next to the AFP offices on the fourth floor of the Campbell Student Union and include multiple video and audio components.

The 2021 AFP festival, "Believe. Inspire. Achieve," was held October 13–15 on campus. Samantha Turner, a senior adviser in the U.S. Agency of International Development within the Biden-Harris Administration, delivered the keynote address.

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

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

SAVE THE DATE!
BENGALA
MAY 7, 2022

Join us at Bengala, the 25th annual Buffalo State College Foundation Scholarship Gala, on Saturday, May 7.

This year's event will be hosted by President Katherine Conway-Turner and Dr. Alvin Turner and gala co-chairs Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown, '83, and New York State Assemblymember Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, '74, '02.

Please visit giving.buffalostate.edu/gala for the latest information.

Sponsorship Opportunities

We are eager to work with you to customize a sponsorship package that best meets your business needs and objectives. Proceeds support Buffalo State College students through emergency financial assistance and academic scholarships. For information or sponsorship inquiries, please contact Alexis Greinert at greineas@buffalostate.edu.



Donors enjoyed the chance to meet and chat with students who benefit from their scholarships



Annual Scholar-Donor Breakfast

Buffalo State's Institutional Advancement Office held its annual Scholar-Donor Breakfast on October 2 in the Campbell Student Union Social Hall. This unique event brings together donors with the students who benefit from the scholarships they provide.

#BuffaloStateGives 2022

Please mark your calendars for #BuffaloStateGives on March 16–17, 2022. This annual 24-hour online crowdfunding event allows donors to direct gifts to their favorite Buffalo State programs, from scholarship funds to individual academic departments to athletics and extracurricular activities, and more. Be sure to visit giving.buffalostate.edu for details. Thank you!

scholarshipprofile { Muriel A. Howard Honors Program }

Chris Jackson, '23



“
**Don't be afraid
 to talk to people
 or try new things.
 And if you need
 help figuring
 things out, ask.**”

Buffalo State College psychology major **Chris Jackson** epitomizes the idea of jumping into college with both feet, even if that jumping occurred during a worldwide pandemic.

For Jackson, a junior transfer student, involvement with Buffalo State meant showing up to all his virtual classes and team practices, following up with phone calls when necessary, and heading to campus on occasion. Through the latter effort last spring, he got to know the faculty, staff, and students involved with the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program, housed in the South Wing of Twin Rise.

“I contacted Chris early in January as a new transfer honors student to talk about the program and course needs,” said Amy McMillan, professor of biology and director of the honors program. “I then invited him to visit us safely in our computer lab space. He joined our Ambassador Program so he could meet other honors students and make some connections, and he immediately volunteered to help out around the office in between classes.”

This included assisting with a mammoth mailing project, said Celestine Simmons, the administrative assistant in the honors program office.

“There were days, quite honestly, that I don’t know what I would have done without him,” Simmons said. “One of the things that impressed me most is when I was busy, and a student would come into the office, Chris would volunteer to assist without being asked. He treated all the students with respect. He has been and continues to be an unexpected asset.”

When Jackson transferred to Buffalo State from Erie Community College, he knew only one other student. By April, he knew many more. He got involved not only in the honors program but also in the Rotaract Club, InterVarsity

Christian Fellowship, the Psychology Club, and the Bengal Experience and Transition (BEAT) Team, which helps incoming freshmen and transfer students become familiar with the college. Even though he’d never rowed before, he decided to give the Rowing Club a try. Jackson said it’s been a fun experience where he’s gotten to know friendly students and coaches.

“One of my biggest accomplishments so far has been reaching out and opening up with my classmates and teammates,” Jackson said, adding that he would advise other transfer students and freshmen to get to know the campus by simply getting involved. “Don’t be afraid to talk to people or try new things. And if you need help figuring things out, ask.”

Describing himself as having poor social skills in early adolescence, Jackson said he blossomed under the encouragement of a high school teacher and a couple of friends at Cleveland Hill High School in Cheektowaga, New York.

Encouragement and positive feedback have continued to boost his self-confidence at Buffalo State. Jackson pointed to several individuals on campus who have believed in and encouraged him, including, along with McMillan and Simmons, Stephen Bellus, lecturer of psychology; Jean DiPirro, associate professor of psychology; Naomi McKay, assistant professor of psychology and adviser to the Psychology Club; and Shawnté Wilson, associate director of student leadership and engagement, who oversees the BEAT team.

Now, Jackson is contemplating a possible career as a school counselor, where he could help students struggling socially, emotionally, or academically.

To gain more experience and explore other career options, he applied for and landed an internship at Compass House in Buffalo under the supervision of Jill Norvilitis, professor of psychology. Since the fall, he’s been working directly with homeless and runaway youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who live there.

“He serves as a role model and sounding board for the residents,” Norvilitis said. “He’s also learning to conduct intakes and answer the hotline.”

Jackson will also serve as president of the Psychology Club, where he hopes to establish a group of like-minded people, both majors and non-majors, who will support each other and have fun.

“I can’t wait until next semester,” Jackson said. “I’m ready to hit the ground running.”

alumni profile Jacob Becker, '12

What makes a successful entrepreneur?
Jacob Becker, '12, president of Belly Marketing LLC, has a pretty good handle on that.

"First thing is perseverance—you have to be prepared to be hit from all angles and just keep on going," Becker said. "Then there's vision—you have to have the ability to see opportunities as they unfold. And continual learning. That may be most important. Marketing strategies that worked a decade ago are completely different today. You have to be able to continually learn and adapt to achieve any level of success."

Becker has used these attributes to build an impressive business portfolio.

The Marilla, New York, native has always had an entrepreneurial spirit. After graduating from Alden High School, he attended Pace University in New York City for two years to study business, but then took some time off from college to work full time.

"By the time I was in my mid-20s, I had worked for a few years, but didn't know exactly what I wanted to do next, so I went back to school at Buffalo State," Becker said.

It was here that he had an epiphany.

"In my last semester, I was taking a class with Michael Niman on the psychology of marketing," he said. "I had never been exposed to these concepts before. It was like, 'Ah, so this is how people get sales!' I was completely fascinated, and it changed the course of my life. It was a real turning point."

At the time, Becker's sister owned The Walk In Closet, a clothing store in East Aurora. She gave her brother carte blanche to try different digital marketing strategies to promote the store. Not only did the store benefit from a more robust online presence, but people started asking

who was behind the marketing efforts. Becker began adding clients for his burgeoning marketing firm, which he called Marketing Mayor, by word of mouth.

Within two years, Becker scored his first major client, Certo Brothers, a local beverage distributor. That contract allowed him to open a new office space and hire staff.

As Marketing Mayor grew, Becker started a new entity called Belly Marketing (after the family's last initial plus his oldest daughter's name, Elly) that has a national client base. At the same time, Becker began experimenting with adding other businesses to his portfolio: he owns Buffalo Video Pros, a videography service, and a few other entities such as a junk removal company and a separate digital marketing agency that works strictly with contractors across the country.

Belly Marketing has staff in Buffalo and across the United States as well as international employees in Australia, Ukraine, and the Philippines. Becker attributes the company's growth to the efficiency and leadership lessons he learned through the years, as well as the evolving nature of technology and the global economy.

"I've made a very concerted effort to learn from experience and become a better leader. Not everything you try will be successful, but finding out what doesn't work definitely contributes to success down the line," said Becker, who goes to a business coach and participates in a Mastermind business group to continually hone his leadership skills.

"Of course, the pandemic has changed a lot of things," he said. "More people are shopping online. More people are working from home. Fewer people are working in the traditional office. There is an expectation of flexibility. Our business moves along with those trends."

With that entrepreneurial mindset, Becker looks to the future.

"At this point, I'm very interested in existing businesses that maybe need improvement or are owned by a baby boomer looking to sell and retire," he said. "Taking existing businesses and improving them is something we've gained valuable experience in these past few years. That's the future for me."



The **ART** *of* Entrepreneurship



Alumni Association Welcomes New Board President

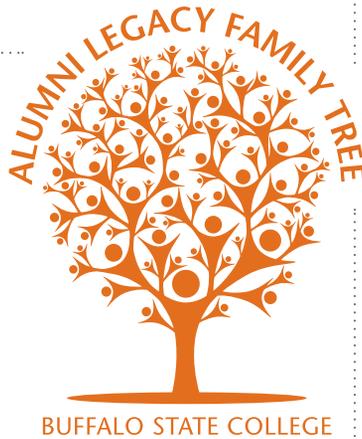
Stacy Lewis Beauford, B.A. '00, was elected president of the Buffalo State Alumni Association in July 2021, taking over for Richard Trigilo, B.S. '85, who served as board president from July 2014 to June 2021. Beauford is a 24-year veteran of the City of Buffalo Police Department. She is currently a lieutenant assigned to the Internal Affairs Division, where she helps strengthen police and community relations. She is committed to serving children and the community through membership in local chapters of The Links Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and several regional nonprofit committees and boards. She is married to Thomas Beauford Jr., and they have three children, Mimi, Vaughn, and Jewel.

Did Your Family Members Graduate from Buffalo State College?

The Alumni Association presents the Alumni Legacy Tree Contest! Enter to win prizes, earn bragging rights, and share your family's legacy at Buffalo State. Participants will be recognized in the following categories:

- The contestant with the most family members who graduated from Buffalo State
- The contestant with the most family members who graduated from Buffalo State between the years 2000 and 2022
- The contestant with the most family members who graduated from Buffalo State between the years 1900 and 2000
- The contestant with the earliest and/or most family members who graduated from Buffalo State closest to the year 1871
- A contestant selected randomly

The Alumni Association will host a celebratory picnic for all participants in spring 2022 at the Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center. To enter now through April 1, 2022, go to alumni.buffalostate.edu/legacy-family-tree or email alumni@buffalostate.edu.



STAY CONNECTED AND GET IN THE KNOW

The Alumni Association regularly sends emails about college 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.

BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE 1871–2021



150th Anniversary Celebrations in Full Swing

As Buffalo State prepares for the spring semester, alumni are invited to special events and reunions celebrating our 150th anniversary. If you would like more information about our anniversary, please visit buffalostate.edu/150. To receive email communications about spring and summer engagement opportunities on campus, please email or call the Alumni Engagement Office with your updated contact information.

♥ Therese Deutschlander, B.A. '03, owner of Thin Ice Gift Shop in the Elmwood Village



Submit Your Company Info to Our Bengal Business Directory

Are you an alumni entrepreneur, or do you own a small business? The Alumni Association wants information about alumni-owned organizations for our revamped Bengal Business Directory. Please note: submissions will be reviewed before adding to the directory, and inclusion should not be considered an endorsement by Buffalo State College or the Buffalo State Alumni Association. For more information, contact Alumni Engagement at alumni@buffalostate.edu.



◀ Michael Garner, B.S. '83 (top)
 ◀ Nathan Mroz, B.S. '16 (middle)
 ▼ Linda Lombardo Appleby, M.S. '80



Homecoming Weekend 2021: A Long-Awaited Welcome to Campus

Alumni Association and Foundation board members, President Katherine Conway-Turner, friends of the college, faculty, and staff enjoyed a reception on October 1 to recognize the 2021 Alumni Association award honorees:

- **Linda Lombardo Appleby, M.S. '80**, retired music teacher, Buffalo Public Schools, with 40 years of service
- **Michael Garner, B.S. '83**, chief diversity officer of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, State of New York
- **Nathan Mroz, B.S. '16**, owner of the BFLO Store
- **Raven Baxter-Travis, B.S. '14, M.S. '16**, director of diversity initiatives at the University of California, Irvine School of Biological Sciences

The following day, October 2, alumni geared up for the Homecoming football game with a family-friendly "Bengals Brunch" at the Jacqueline Vito Alumni and Visitor Center before heading to Coyer Field to cheer on Buffalo State. Later that evening, alumni and guests attended a combined 50-year reunion celebration and reminisced with old classmates.

Notable Communications Alumni Share Career Paths

Buffalo State College has hosted esteemed alumni who offer guidance, share their work, and provide expert knowledge to our students and graduates. This fall, three communications, film, and production leaders spoke to students about finding success in their fast-paced careers.

Marcia Mulé, B.A. '81, is an Emmy Award-winning television producer and executive-level entertainment consultant. Mulé recently cofounded RonMar Studios, creating content for nonprofit organizations, national conferences, and digital platforms. She spoke to students about her career path and the impact of COVID-19 on the industry.



Deborah Oppenheimer, B.A., is an Academy Award-winning film and television producer and previous vice president of NBC Universal International Television Production. Oppenheimer returned to campus for a free screening of her 2019 HBO documentary, *FOSTER*, followed by a Q&A with the audience.



Bob Williams, B.A. '79, is senior vice president of communications for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Williams is also a 25-year veteran of the United States Air Force, where he supported communications and media relations.



Dallas-Fort Worth Mixer Brings Bengals Together

Regional alumni network volunteers Joseph Amadio, B.A. '88, and Tracy Johnson, M.S. '98, hosted a November social event at Blue Mesa Grill in Dallas, Texas, where graduates and guests had the opportunity to reconnect in person.

The Alumni Association provides support for regional events across the country. If you are interested in volunteering to host an event in your area, please contact Alumni Engagement at alumni@buffalostate.edu.

40s

Hazel Bowman-Griffith, B.S. '49, is 92 years old, a retired home economics teacher for 38 years, and the author of three books. The latest, *Gus, Our Incredible Resident Goose*, is available on Amazon. She lives in a senior residence with her husband, John.

50s

Marlene Corkery, B.S. '56, has lived in New Bern, North Carolina, since 1996. Her husband, Leo, died 10 years ago. She does not miss the upstate New York winters!

Silas Manspeaker, B.Ed. '57, has four great-grandchildren, ages 6 months to 12 years.

Thomas Elliott, B.S. '58, celebrated his 85th birthday in summer 2021 and has been retired since 2002. Elliott lives in Brantford, Ontario, with his wife, Paula. He is an avid exerciser and plays underwater rugby.

Jean (Acenowr) Stebbins Feller, B.A. '58, lives in Davis, California, near her youngest daughter, Emily.

60s

Vincent L. Marando, B.S. '60, wrote and published *When Gertrude Came, I Wasn't Home: Musings on My Early Life*. This book tells the story of the first part of Marando's life, from birth to age 14. It is a compelling read that illuminates the beauty and challenges of life for Sicilian immigrants in post-war Buffalo. The book is available in paperback or through Amazon Kindle.

Barbara Star, B.S. '61, is a retired associate professor emerita of social work at the University of Southern California. Star was an early pioneer in the field of spousal abuse. Her research led to the publication of a book and numerous articles, as well as the development of profiles of both the victim and the abuser used in court cases where she testified as an expert witness. She currently teaches and consults with individuals and companies interested in the technical analysis of the markets. She also contributes to *Stocks and Commodities* magazine, where she writes articles and software product reviews.

Dan Hunter, B.S. '63, and his wife **Linda (Hodge), B.S. '64**, were recognized by the New York State Assembly and Assemblyman Michael J. Norris as Hometown Heroes for their volunteer work with the Niagara County

HUNTER



Department of Health, Points of Distribution for COVID-19 vaccinations. Dan received the 2021 Niagara County Senior of the Year award for his volunteerism.

LEWIS-SPECTOR



Jill Lewis-Spector, B.S. '65, recently retired as professor emerita from New Jersey City University and completed her term as president of the International Literacy Association. Lewis-Spector and her husband, David, live in Sarasota, Florida. Her photography has been exhibited at juried galleries in the Sarasota area. She and her husband have two children.

Carole (Skripek) Rotando, B.S. '66, M.S. '71, is enjoying retirement as a member of the Corvettes of Buffalo. She has two adult sons, Paul and Ryan, and a 15-year-old granddaughter, Emily. Rotando writes, "Hello to all my sorority sisters and '66 friends."

NUWER AND WIFE, GOSIA



Suzanna (Paterno) Calnon, B.S. '68, M.S. '69, writes, "There are 18 sisters from Delta Sigma Upsilon sorority still in close touch from the classes of '67, '68, and '69. Every week since April 2020, we have met via Zoom, technical challenges notwithstanding. We chat, catch up with our divergent lives, and laugh a lot. One blessing of COVID is that we are closer than ever since we are now intimately aware of each other's daily joys, frustrations, celebrations, and disappointments."

Kathy (Drabik) DiBona, B.S.Ed. '69, lives in Hollywood, Florida, and writes, "My years at Buff State remain some of my most cherished memories and set much of the basis for my future."

Linda Nachbar, B.S. '68, M.S. '71, is grieving the loss of her husband of nearly 33 years. She relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina, to be closer to her son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren.

Hank Nuwer, B.A. '68, received "Best of Show" from the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists for his weekly "Near Darke" column in the *Greenville Daily Advocate*.

70s

Eileen (Stoler) Goldman, B.S. '70, retired after a 25-year real estate career in Rochester, New York. Goldman was a teacher for four years and worked in food services for 18 years.



GOLDMAN

Jo Ann Smith, B.S. '71, has traveled to all 50 of the United States, the seven continents, and a majority of Central and South America.

Leigh Eckmair, B.A.

'72, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from AmeriCorps and the Office of the President of the United States for her lifetime commitment to volunteer service.



ECKMAIR

Orazio Salati, B.S.Ed. '72,

owns Orazio Salati Gallery, located at 204 State Street, in Binghamton, New York. The gallery is celebrating its 20th year of operation. Salati is featured on the City of Binghamton Wall of Fame, and his paintings have been exhibited at the Burchfield Penney Art Center.

Amy (Leibowitz) Goldman

M.S. '72, is a retired speech pathologist who continues her work in volunteer positions. She currently chairs the P.A. Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and is president of the National Council of State Boards.

Barbara (Ortel) Compa, B.A.

'73, has been retired for 15 years and is relocating to Albany from Rochester. She writes, "My degree prepared me for a career in long-term care as an art specialist. It gave me an excellent base for teaching all ages."

HILL



Priscilla (Wood) Hill, B.S.

'73, now retired, was a resource teacher at Grover Cleveland High School. Hill is a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and self-published writer of poems and short stories.

Harald Schweizer, B.S. '73,

served as a police officer, deputy sheriff, police chief, and federal agent. He currently works as a professor of criminology. Schweizer has an M.P.A. and a Ph.D. and is married with three children, ages 19, 22, and 24.

Christine Alsford, B.S. '74,

M.S. '77, was featured in the *Buffalo News* "Home of the Week" for her 9-foot Christmas tree. Alsford and

her husband, Brian, kept their tree in their home throughout the year, redecorating it based on seasons and annual holidays. Alsford has lived in the Elmwood Village for 35 years.

BROWAREK



Matt Browarek, B.S. '74,

is currently a substitute teacher with the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District in Harris County, Texas. He was also a librarian and an attorney.

Susan Burritt, M.S. '74,

is the author of *SOS GOD!* a book of humorous poems to teach children about the Bible and prayer. Burritt films readings of her book on YouTube.

Anne Tindall, B.A. '75,

recently celebrated 29 years as president and founder of Employee Management Strategies Inc. (EMSI), a human resource consulting firm. EMSI was a go-to source for consulting services during the pandemic, including employee handbook development. Associates have presented many recent employer-focused seminars on how the new marijuana regulation and Tax Act fits into employer policies and updates many substance testing policies. Tindall resides in Manlius, New York, and is thrilled to be "Nana" to her new granddaughter.



TINDALL

Paul Guminski, B.A. '76,

started a ministry, Reflections of His Grace.

Dave Madden, B.S. '77,

writes, "The education I received was instrumental in my being awarded a full academic scholarship to the University of South Carolina, where I studied for my master's degree in Sociology." Madden has been married for 40 years and has three children and two grandchildren.



ALSFORD

Stay connected with Buffalo State anytime, anywhere.



Susan Tocci, B.S. '77, retired after 27 years with Teradyne, a leading semiconductor test company, as global director of human resources.

Paul Neiss, B.S. '78, retired from the United States Postal Service on July 31, 2021, after 37 years. Neiss and his wife, Jeanne, have been married for 37 years. They have two children, Kelly and Rob, and two grandchildren, Charlotte and Nolan.

Chris Raymond, B.A. '78, led the user research, design, and prototype testing for the Spanish version of the website PBS KIDS for Parents (www.pbs.org/es/parents). The site launched in June 2021. Raymond is a senior user experience designer at PBS in Arlington, Virginia.

80s

Brenda Alesii, B.S. '80, joined the Buffalo Niagara Association of Realtors as the government affairs director and vice president of diversity, equity, and inclusion.



ALESII

Nancy (Voorhees) Hey, B.S. '82, retired in 2004 and relocated to Zephyrhills, Florida. She enjoys spending time with her brother, two daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

CARDEN



Dennis Carden, B.S. '84, was appointed as a distinguished engineer at I.B.M., which designates sustained technical achievements over a period. Carden also serves as chief technology officer in financial services, and a senior manager responsible for mainframe, distributed, and cloud architects.

FRANKLIN



Joanne Franklin, B.S. '84, M.S. '97, designed a quilt titled "Blue Oak Leaf" that was displayed at the Texas Quilt Museum in La Grange from March to September 2021. Franklin has three grandchildren.

MIS



James Mis, B.S. '84, has worked at Independent Health for 18 years and is currently the content management and implementation director. Mis has an M.B.A. from Regis University and Six Sigma Green Belt certification. He and his wife, Lynnette, have been married for 21 years, and he has two children and two grandchildren.

ROSSI



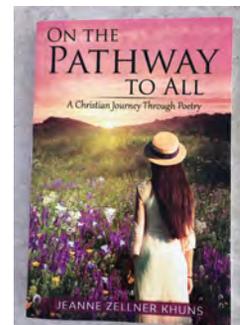
Alan Rossi, B.A. '84, relocated to New York City several years after graduation to pursue toy design for the Manhattan Toy Company. He also worked in design and illustration for DreamMakers Inc. Rossi's clients include Disney, Build-A-Bear, and Party City. Simultaneously, Rossi has worked for the past 25 years as a professor and program chair, most recently for Herzing University Online. Rossi's professional work is online (www.pinterest.com/alanrossi/alan-rossi-design-samples).

Tom Calderone, B.A. '85, was named president and C.E.O. of Buffalo Toronto Public Media.



CALDERONE

Jeanne (Zellner) Khuns, B.S. '85, M.S. '86, retired after 35 years as a full-time speech-language pathologist in public schools. Following her retirement, Khuns moved with her husband to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. During the pandemic, she compiled her Christian poetry into a book, *On the Pathway to All*, available on Amazon.



KHUNS

Frances R. Schmidt, M.S. '85, recently published *FRED: Buffalo Building of Dreams*, which earned 2021 New York City Big Book Award

recognition as a distinguished favorite in historical fiction. The apartment building FRED, also known as 1469 Niagara Street in Buffalo, tells its tenants' stories of struggle, longing, and hope in twentieth-century America. The book is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble (francesrschmidt.com).

Thomas Doran, B.A. '86, wrote a screenplay, *Innocence Traded*, that was selected as a semifinalist in the Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards in summer 2021.

Scott Fitzgerald, B.S. '86, is married, has two children, and lives in Westlake Village, California. His daughter attends Southern Methodist University, and his son is a high school senior. Fitzgerald works at Mercury Systems as a senior director of corporate business development in electronic warfare and spectrum operations.

Kate Haq, B.A. '86, is a retired teacher and member of NYSUT retirees Council 2. She has an educational consulting partnership with Monica Miles called Mother Earth Literacies LLC. They

HAQ



offer an interdisciplinary K-12 curriculum using an environmental justice education framework and professional development for private and public schools, colleges, and student-centered spaces. Haq is proud to have her youngest son currently attending Buffalo State College, majoring in sociology.

inspired me to share my story (www.pamelapalmade-signs.com/julia-tuttle-mural).

David Ribakove, B.A. '87, and **Tina Webb, B.S. '88,** have operated a private chiropractic practice for three decades. They audited their first class at Buffalo State in 2021 and have participated in the West African Drumming Ensemble.

David Reichlin, B.A. '87, M.A. '88, writes, "When Buff State becomes part of your life, it never leaves you."

90s

Joseph Brautman, M.S.Ed. '91, retired from teaching for the Lewiston-Porter Central School District. Brautman works for a regional radio station and is currently an emergency medical technician for a fire and ambulance company.

PALMA



Pamela Palma, B.S. '87, co-created a mural project, *The Mother of Miami*, unveiled at the HistoryMiami Museum on July 28, 2021, marking the 125th anniversary of the city's founding by Julia DeForest Tuttle. Palma is the director and founder of the PLY-Miami Fiber Art Collective of artists, who created the mural. She writes, "The recent issue of *1300 Elmwood* with its cover of "Founding Mothers" has

BUCKLEY



Melissa Majchrzak Buckley, B.A. '92, exhibited a solo show, "Wonder-land," November 10–December 24, 2021, at the Springville Center for the Arts in Springville, New York.

MCCAFFERTY



Michael McCafferty, B.S. '92, retired from the Office of the Sheriff in Broome County, New York. He served in corrections for 25 years and thanks "Mom and Dad, Aunt Pat, Aunt Mary, my wife Nicole, and children Quinn, Harper, and Reese."

SEABORN



Jalanda (Brown) Seaborn, B.S. '93, is a licensed life insurance agent with Primerica. She has twin boys, Miles and Tremaine, and a daughter, Telle.

Diane Donohue, B.S. '94, joined eHealth Technologies as a clinical customer success manager. She is a registered nurse with a master's degree in health-care administration and lives in Fruitland Park, Florida.

GREENBERG



Michael Greenberg, B.A. '94, recently celebrated his fifth anniversary as the producer and host of "The Kol Yehudim Show," on 1640 WJPR Highland Park / Edison (N.J.). One of the most listened-to and popular Jewish music shows today, the Kol Yehudim Show integrates different styles of Jewish music, both new and old, from around the world with an international reach. The program was featured in several print media publications, including the *Jewish Link* and *N.J. Jewish News*. Greenberg returned to school to earn an M.S. in elementary education at Long Island University and, for the last 27 years, has taught for the New York City Department of Education.



DONOHUE

GOT NEWS?

Keep us informed.

Class Notes

Alumni
Engagement Office
LoRusso Alumni and
Visitor Center

Buffalo State College
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

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

BROWN



Brothers **Darren Brown-Hall, B.S. '96, M.S.Ed. '98,** and **George Brown, B.A. '06,** competed in the nationally televised game show *Family Feud*, hosted by Steve Harvey.

WHEELER



Russell Wheeler, B.S. '98, M.S. '01, joined Amazon Web Services (A.W.S.) as a senior global solution readiness program manager for its Worldwide Public Sector division. Wheeler helps provide consultative learning services, including development, delivery, and efficacy monitoring of A.W.S. product and service training and enablement programs aligned to the priority workloads of public sector customers.

Andrew Bowen, B.S. '99, M.S. '04, is principal of Country Parkway Elementary School in the Williamsville Central School District and was named Educator of the Year for 2021 by the Western New York Region P.T.A.

Joshua Margolis, B.S. '99, is publishing his third children's book, *Melvin and the Robot*. He writes, "I wrote, sculpted, and then photographed across the country this unique story about a lost ceramic robot in New York City. The story focuses on the struggles between monsters

and robots, and how with a little bit of kindness, we can build bridges over any walls."

Rebecca Schuelke Staehr, B.A. '99, lives in Springport, New York, with her husband, Edward, and their daughters, Greta and Rosa. They own and operate a farm, raising grain crops, vegetables, turkey, and chicken for wholesale. Schuelke Staehr teaches online business planning and online marketing courses through the Cornell University Small Farms Program. She volunteers with the Aurora Free Library, Cayuga County Farm Bureau, and Cayuga County 4-H.

00s

Tomicka Wagstaff, B.S. '01, M.S. '02, was named vice provost for diversity, equity, and inclusion for the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Wagstaff



WAGSTAFF

has a doctorate from the University of Rochester and previously worked at Rochester Institute of Technology.

WATERS



James Waters, M.S. '02, writes, "Buffalo State was an amazing opportunity to learn and grow intellectually. Upon graduation, I pursued a human resources career and work as a human resources business partner at a large nonprofit."

David Milazzo, B.S. '03, M.S.Ed. '06, was recently promoted to the rank of full professor at SUNY Niagara County Community College (NCCC). Milazzo has been the mathematics coordinator at NCCC for the past seven years. He is also currently finishing a degree in computer science, has been married to his wife, Sherilyn, for 12 years, and has four children. He writes, "My wife and children's support, and the foundation I had from Buffalo State College, have been imperative to my successes."

LANE



Nadia (Grabiner) Lane, B.S. '06, married in summer 2020 and lives in Livingston, Montana. Lane is a business development manager at a print and software company.

Erin Wilson-Fontenot, B.S. '06, has been named community manager of HANSA workspace, a full-service, professional shared office space and modern co-working community located in downtown Buffalo. Previously, Wilson-Fontenot was cofounder and director of operations at the Warehouse, a co-working center in New Orleans.

SORO



Corinn (Harms) Soro, B.F.A. '07, and her husband, Eric, welcomed their second daughter, Elora Sophia Soro,

July 6, 2021. Soro also self-published a children's book titled *Fiona Finer the Interior Designer*. The book highlights how the interior design industry affects communities and shared spaces' health, safety, and wellness.

10s

Henry Zomerfeld, B.A. '11, was appointed chair of the Environmental Law Committee of the Erie County Bar Association. The Environmental Law Committee provides environmental practitioners and other attorneys with a forum to discuss current environmental legal trends; DEC/EPA regulatory, statutory, and enforcement initiatives; and current or emerging case law. Zomerfeld is a senior associate at Hodgson Russ L.L.P. He concentrates his practice in civil litigation focusing on environmental, energy, and municipal law.



ZOMERFELD

OSINSKI



Laura Osinski, M.S. '13, was appointed principal of the Randolph Academy's Hamburg campus. The Randolph Academy is a public school that supports, empowers, and educates children struggling with various emotional and mental health disabilities. Previously Osinski served as the school's physical education teacher and high school health education teacher. She resides in Eden, New York, with her husband and three sons.

Emma Hawke, B.A. '15, M.S. '17, has worked at the Buffalo City Mission since August 2020 and recently was promoted to community engagement administrator. Hawke and her husband welcomed their first child, Frederick James, in March 2021.



HAWKE

Darra Kubera, M.S. '18, is a marketing and communications manager for Facility Optimization Solutions LLC (F.O.S.) of CannonDesign, where she is responsible for marketing, branding, and public relations. F.O.S. is a wholly owned subsidiary of CannonDesign.



KUBERA

Jessica McCarey, B.S. '18, is a forensic scientist assigned to trace evidence and arson casework at the Forensic Investigation Center. Previously, she was a microbiologist at P.D.A. Analytical Inc. in Kinnelon, New Jersey, and a pharmacy technician for Hannaford.



MCCAREY

GATES-CRANDALL



Trevor Gates-Crandall, M.S. '18, is an assistant professor of social work at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

MUISE



Kaitlyn Muise, B.A. '18, was hired as an account manager for FIFTEEN, a marketing and advertising agency in Buffalo, New York. In her new role, Muise supports the client service staff in optimizing satisfaction and results on behalf of her main client, Rich Products Corporation.

CHU

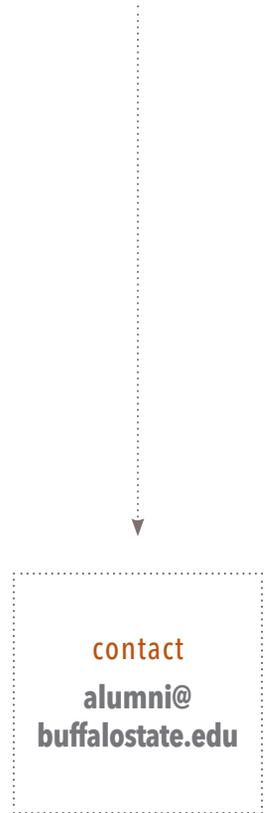


Cassie Chu, B.F.A. '19, was hired as a junior art director for FIFTEEN, a marketing and advertising agency in Buffalo, New York. Using her background as both a graphic designer and an art director, Chu visually communicates concepts and ideas to FIFTEEN's clients.

Zanisha Suter, B.A. '19, has accepted a position as a personal banker at the Summit Federal Credit Union and relocated to Rochester, New York. Suter has been with her boyfriend, Steven, for three years and has two cats.



SUTER



contact
alumni@
buffalostate.edu



'I Would Be Able to Teach and Earn a Respectable Income'

A fictional memoir from the Class of 1914

“

Nevertheless, this was a time when women rarely graduated from high school let alone attended college, and even fewer attended college with the goal of obtaining a wage-earning profession, and, from that group, even fewer who came from my humble background.

”

Here I sit. Waiting with my graduating class of 1914 to have our group photo taken for the yearbook. The photographer has placed us in alphabetical order. “Condon” puts me sitting in the front. My hands are crossed, and I am sitting up straight. My outfit is new. Tailormade by my sister and the nuns at the orphanage where I live. Today is not just my graduation from Normal College, but a day I receive academic honors and recognition. I have successfully completed the teacher’s program at Normal Teachers College in Buffalo, New York. Everyone is proud of me. The yearbook editor just collected each graduating student’s favorite phrase to include with the group photo. My favorite saying is: “Do not waste time.” I have lived by that motto; I never waste time. As the camera man is arranging the rest of the graduates for the picture, my mind wanders back to the time when I became aware of the fragility of life...

It is a small, barely furnished room. My mother is lying on the bed with the midwife looming over her. I hear my mother screaming in pain, and the smell of blood. Finally, the wail of a newborn. Then, silence! My mother died in childbirth. I was only 4 years old. I remember sitting in a corner of the room looking at my older sister who was holding my mother’s clenched hand. Then, my mother’s hand goes limp. Catherine is standing there frozen, not quite understanding that mother is dead. The midwife is focused on the baby. She gently places the very slippery newborn on the table near the wash basin. She wipes off the afterbirth from our brother, Jack. She places the infant in a soft, old blanket and wraps him in it. She then hands the baby to Catherine and tells her, “Now you must be his mother.” My 8-year-old sister, Catherine, moves from our mother and takes a squirming bundle from the midwife. Catherine then takes him from the midwife and walks toward me to show me our new brother. “Alice, we will both be his mother,” Catherine tells

me softly crying. The midwife is consoling father who sits looking blankly into space. He shakes his head and mutters, “Luck of the Irish? The only luck we have is bad luck. What will I do?”

My parents were immigrants from Limerick in Ireland, a country still reeling from the Great Potato Famine that had swept through Catholic Ireland 30 years earlier. With few prospects in Limerick at the end of the nineteenth century, they emigrated from Ireland for a better future in the United States, but found limited job opportunities when they arrived. Many companies in New York City had signs in the windows, “Irish need not apply.” So we moved to Lockport, New York, to be near father’s sister’s family, and for my father to find work on the Erie Canal, where Irish laborers were welcome. However, both family support and work were limited in Buffalo’s impoverished Irish immigrant community. Everyone struggled to survive, and few people, even relatives, were willing to open their homes to help a struggling widower with three small children.

I do not remember much before that fateful day when mother died giving birth to my brother. However, I remember vividly that day and what happened shortly after her death. My father bundled us all up after mother’s funeral, and took the trolley from Lockport to Buffalo. I remember holding my older, 8-year-old sister’s coat sleeve while she held our newborn brother. My father told us God would protect us. I remember getting off the trolley and walking to a large building. Father pounded on the doors of the building. It was the Sisters of Charity orphanage.





◀ Alice Condon, front row, third from left.

◀ The Condon siblings, opposite page.

A nun came out and father pushed us through the door. My sister told me years later that father and the nun argued about his abandoning his children. When it was clear he was going to abandon us with or without the nun's help, she relented but told him they only accepted girls. At some point, he grabbed my brother out of Catherine's arms and left the two of us standing with the nuns. I would never see my father again.



The sister welcomed us into our new home and told us not to worry about John. My sister whispered to me that night before I went to sleep that the nun reassured her John would be safe. Father took our infant brother to Father Baker's orphanage for boys in Lackawanna, a town just a couple of miles south of Buffalo. The nun assured Catherine that she would make sure that my sister and I would stay in contact with John.

Growing up in the orphanage, I realized very young that there were few options for girls outside of marriage or joining a religious order. These options were even more slim for an uneducated, poor girl. Since neither of these options appealed to me, I decided on an uncharted course for poor girls, education as a profession. I would be a teacher!

I excelled in my studies. My academic success was recognized by the nuns, and the nuns reached out to another religious order to provide me the unusual opportunity to attend Nardin Academy, the exclusive Catholic private school for young ladies in Buffalo.

It was a rare opportunity offered a poor Irish orphan, but the nuns and my sister and brother supported my hard work, and with the nuns' direct support and my siblings emotional support, I succeeded at Nardin Academy, taking advantage of every opportunity offered to learn and grow.

After I completed my studies at Nardin, I was offered a scholarship to attend Normal Teachers College. Partly, this was a result of the connections I made at Nardin, but the scholarship was also the result of the great demand for public school teachers in the industrial, flourishing city of Buffalo in the early 1900s. Because industry was booming in Buffalo, there was a demand for labor. So, many immigrants with families flowed into Buffalo to work on the Erie Canal and in the factories.

Nevertheless, this was a time when women rarely graduated from high school let alone attended college, and even fewer attended college with the goal of obtaining a wage-earning profession, and, from that group, even fewer who came from my humble background. After today's graduation, I would be able to teach and earn a respectable income as a professional, and I had achieved this before my 22nd birthday.

"Alice, Alice, smile..." the photographer calls my name, bringing me back to the moment. I look up at his camera. I do not smile, but stare into the camera with the determination that got me here. My early memory of my mother's untimely death reminds me that life is fragile, valuable, and unpredictable. I do not waste time, but I do sit up a little straighter.



Catherine A. Mettill, '07, is a lecturer in the Buffalo State Writing Program. She drew on family history to write this memoir in the voice of her grandmother, Alice Condon, who earned a teacher's certificate from Buffalo State (then called the State Normal and Training School) in 1914 and then went on to a 50-year career teaching in the Buffalo Public Schools and St. Mary's School for the Deaf. Condon returned to Buffalo State several decades later for her bachelor's in education.

Bengal Bookshelf

Agents of Change

They say the most effective way to bring about change in the world is to “think globally and act locally.” Linda Drajem, ’75, and her son, Christopher Drajem, extol the virtue of that philosophy in their coauthored book, *Wandering Close to Home: A Gay Son and His Feminist Mother’s Journey to Transform Themselves and Their Family* (NFB Publishing/Amelia Press, 2019).

In exchanging letters and emails for more than a decade, the mother-son duo realized that they had been facing parallel challenges throughout their lives. Linda, who came of age in the 1950s and 1960s, faced societal limitations placed on women. Christopher, who came of age in the 1980s and 1990s, faced societal limitations placed on gay men. They’ve each done their part to help break down those barriers.

Their poignant book is a testament to the inner strength and perseverance required to buck conventional gender roles and expectations. It is also a homage to the power of family support systems.

“Christopher and I were both English majors and are avid readers and writers,” Linda explained. “One Mother’s Day, Christopher suggested that we co-write a book telling our stories. It’s been a wonderful experience for both of us, and I hope people find the book useful.”

At first, the book was only about how Christopher’s coming out in 1994 had changed their family, including Linda’s reaction to her son’s news. But Christopher’s husband read an early draft of the book and suggested that the pair tell the story of Linda’s feminist work as well.

After marrying her high school sweetheart and having two children, Linda decided that she wanted to venture beyond life as a housewife. Although she felt a societal bias against women in the workplace, she taught English in the Buffalo Public Schools for 25 years. After earning a master’s degree at Buffalo State and a doctorate from the University at Buffalo, she served for almost a decade more as a member of the English Education Department at Buffalo State, guiding prospective teachers into the profession.

Christopher struggled with his sexuality, particularly in the context of his Catholic upbringing. With the support and understanding of his parents, he embraced his true self and eventually met



▲ Linda Drajem, ’75, and her son, Christopher Drajem

his husband, whom he married in 2001. They are parents to an adopted son and daughter. Following in his mother’s footsteps, Christopher is an educator who helps high school students hone their writing skills. He also presents workshops on LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum for teachers, administrators, and preservice teachers.

“The act of writing is very cathartic,” Christopher said. “Telling the story of your life is both a big responsibility and a test of vulnerability. You don’t really want to think about reliving the most painful moments of your life, but there is a power in turning those dark memories into tender moments that led to better days. I think my mom and I both felt that in writing this book.”

Linda is now retired and enjoys having conversations with her grandchildren about how the world has changed during her lifetime. Christopher is a proud son and father who recognizes that while many things have changed, there is still more work to do. Linda and Christopher continue that work by “thinking globally and acting locally” together.

Visit www.drajem.com to purchase *Wandering Close to Home* and for more information about the Drajem Family Writers.

Alumni

1930–1939

Jane C. (Grennell) McDaniel, '31

1940–1949

Jean (Hyde) (Corser) Muchow, '45
Miriam Thea (Frakenfeld) Pearce, '47
William L. Sdao, '47
Kathleen "Debbie" (O'Hagan) Daly, '48
Patricia (Radtke) Wild, '49

1950–1959

Donald A. Banks, '50
Joan Esther (Marks) Lesswing, '50
Salome J. "Sally" (Roy) Moehlau, '50, '73
John D. O'Neil, '50, '53
Anne Louise (Marnon) Bonn, '51
John Swan, '51
Joan (Finley) Wright, '51
Rita (Abrams) Stromberg, '52
Patricia (Behling) Whitney, '52
Mary (Makowski) Blackey, '53
James J. Kavanagh, '53
Joseph Michael Pentick, '53
Augusta (Brunner) Schultz, '53, '61
Sylvia M. (Juszczak) Scott, '53
Harry Ausprich, '54
Luella C. (Noeller) Fisher, '54
Marian M. Gray, '54
Mary Jane (Cerato) (Burns) Zimmer, '54
Eileen F. Higgins, '55, '66
Mona L. (Raybuck) (Devlin) Lariccia, '55
Joan E. (Braven) Coughlin, '56
Dolores Mildred (Adams) Hanna, '56
Conway T. Magee, '56
Lois (Young) Nouhan, '56
Vincent Charles Scamacca, '57
Marlene (Gerstel) Elkin, '58
Lucille Victoria (Sabuda) Knapp, '58
Bruce H. Clark, '59
Laurence A. Dunn, '59
Joyce C. Kindt, '59, '64
Deanne (Margolius) Palatsky, '59
Alburn R. Sleeper, '59, '66

1960–1969

Barbara (Johanson) White, '60
Frances I. Wilson, '60
Michael L. Stempowski, '61, '70
Charles P. Woodworth, '61

Barbara (Halligan) Czajka, '62
Carol L. (Estes) Huber, '62
Peter P. Prince, '62
David A. Waite, '62
Salvatore P. Cardinale, '63
Carol Ann (Krebs) Drew, '63
Henrietta Diem, '64
C. Roger Ressman, '64, '68
Stephen J. Virostko, '64
Mary Louise "Maryse" Crisman, '65
Marcia A. (Weslow) Swiatek, '65, '70, '91
Gregg G. Wagner, '65
Elaine S. (Laffer) Gingold, '66
Edward Allen Wight, '66
Charles Reesman, '68
Elizabeth (Rivette) O'Brien, '69
George W. Wallace, '69

1970–1979

Sara C. (Leach) Colligan, '70
Lois J. (Gordon) Livingston, '70
John R. McEvoy, '70
Susan Lee (Heckel) Oster, '70
Bernie J. Ozolins, '70
Andrea Marie (Wilson) Patton, '70
James J. Roll, '70, '73
Douglas H. Schading, '70, '76
Roger R. Smith, '70, '75
Damaris Lee (Pask) Curtis, '71
John D. Horton, '71
Harmon L. Houseknecht, '71
Gordon M. Olson, '71, '78
Ann D. (Campbell) Polson, '71
Susan Jane (Rosenfeld) Schulman, '71
Elizabeth Jane (Embser) Wattenberg, '71
William R. Wickens, '71
George H. Yoviene, '71
Thomas David Stryker, '72
Russell J. Rieman, '73
Jacqueline E. Boyce, '74
Lance R. Buchner, '74
Rebecca A. Garrecht, '75
Paul D. Kalinowski, '75
Paul William Leonberger, '76
Daniel Alan Nagle, '76
Karl H. Quackenbush, '76
Sybil (Youmans) Reisch, '76
Jimmy Walls, '76
Daniel J. Metz, '78
Mark A. Tarr, '78
Mark Szczerbinski, '79

1980–1989

William D. Schempp, '83
George A. Woodworth, '83
Andrea M. (Gawrys) Calabrese, '84, '97
John R. Hill, '84
Cheryl J. (Foster) Thompson, '87, '04
Thomas M. Militello, '88
Sandra (Syposs) Drozdowski, '89
Daniel J. Lewis, '89

1990–1999

Corrinne E. Cristofaro, '91, '97, '10
Julie Ann (Clement) Hertel, '91, '94
Michael C. Vacanti, '95
Jackie H. Stowe, '96
Matthew J. Swetland, '98, '01

2000–2009

Tracy L. Farris, '04
Stephen L. Baker, '05
Jeffrey A. Shearer, '06
Eric O. Egan, '08

2010–2019

Jessica Marie Caputi, '11
Charles John Whitcomb, '16
Culture T. Hall, '18

Faculty, Staff, Emeriti, Retired Staff

John L. Allen
Paul A. Andruczyk, '62, '67
David E. Atzrott
Proves R. Banks Jr.
William John Champion
Lori M. Christmastree
Corrinne E. Cristofaro, '91, '97, '10
Colleen H. Frey, Ph.D.
Lorena R. (Brown) McDonald
Paul John Schillo
Douglas P. Schmidt
Matthew J. Swetland, '98, '01
Cheryl J. (Foster) Thompson, '87, '04



Ross B. Kenzie

September 22, 1931–November 26, 2021

Buffalo State College mourns the loss of Ross B. Kenzie, longtime College Council member and Buffalo State benefactor, who died November 26, 2021.

Mr. Kenzie was born in Prattsburgh, New York, in 1931 and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1953. He served as chairman and chief executive officer of Goldome Bank in Buffalo (previously known as Buffalo Savings Bank), from which he retired in 1989.

Mr. Kenzie built a remarkable legacy as an advocate for Buffalo State College and the State University of New York. Having served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Buffalo State College Council for 19 years—as chairman from 1982 to 1998—he worked to develop strong links between Buffalo State and the business community. He was a director of the Buffalo State College Foundation Board of Directors and a member of its Finance and Investment committees. He also served on the Burchfield Penney Art Center board and on its Executive Committee.

He established the Ross B. Kenzie Family Presidential Scholarship at Buffalo State College in 1998 to foster and recognize the academic achievement, leadership development, and community service of underrepresented minority students. His involvement included hosting an annual picnic for scholarship students.

Mr. Kenzie received an honorary doctorate from the State University of New York at Buffalo State's Commencement ceremonies in 2002 and the President's Distinguished Service Award at Commencement ceremonies in 2021.

A noted business and civic leader, Mr. Kenzie was director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and served on the boards of the National Council of Savings Institutions, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Buffalo Branch, and the Savings Banks Association of New York State.



Before joining Goldome, he was executive vice president of Merrill Lynch & Co. and a member of the Merrill Lynch & Co. board of directors.

The Greater Buffalo Chamber of Commerce named Mr. Kenzie Western New Yorker of the Year in 1985. He was named 1987 Business Executive of the Year by the Canisius College School of Business Administration, and he received a Citation Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Additionally, the Greater Niagara Frontier Council of Boy Scouts of America chose him to receive the Distinguished Citizen Award for 1988.

Mr. Kenzie served on the boards of several companies, including many entrepreneurial ventures that are privately held. The son of a physician, he had long been active in hospital affairs. He was a director of Millard Fillmore Hospitals and chairman emeritus; served on the board of the Kaleida Health, Education, and Research Foundation and its Investment Committee; was a director of the Health Systems Agency of Western New York; and was a member of the Western New York Commission on Health Care Reform.

His wife of 54 years, the former Langley Hoge, died in 2007. He is survived by two daughters, Rachel K. King and Mary L. Kenzie; two sisters, Linda Mahley and Joyce North; two grandchildren; and a great-grandson.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Undergraduate Spring Open House
March 5

Bengala
May 7

Commencement
May 21

For the latest list of 150th anniversary events,
please visit buffalostate.edu/150.