



# MURIEL A. HOWARD HONORS PROGRAM *Official Newsletter*

**Pg. 2**

**RUNWAY 2023:  
PROVOKING PROTOPIAS**

**Pg. 3**

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:  
JORDAN STOVER '19**



**Pg. 4**

**NRHC23: PITTSBURGH**



**HONORS TRIVIA NIGHT**



**COURTYARD CLEANUP**

**Taking LOTE Seriously: Pushing Foreign Language Education**  
Sibgha Haider and Noushin Ahmed, College Writing Program  
Dr. Susan Mary Paige, Academic Success & Professor Jane Sullivan, College Writing Program

**Inspiration for Research**

- We were surprised by the notion that teaching students foreign languages from sixth grade and beyond would remove the stress of learning a new language.
- The reality is that at that age children have already moved beyond the optimal developmental stage for learning a second language.
- The time to teach a new language is actually as early as birth, and ages three to six is the optimum developmental age.

**Abstract**

It is a common misconception that speaking English can get you anywhere in the world. In reality, you need a second language even in America to have an advantage in society. In a non-English speaking country, non-bilingual English speakers are completely lost. Foreign language level is taught earlier in education, specifically before the age of 10, when the "critical period" of development ends. Even though studies in our literature review suggest that learning a second language earlier is very useful in a child's development, many schools in Western New York have pushed foreign language to middle school and grade six as a part of the research-based curriculum. Introducing two languages so late in a child's developmental stage is only setting them up for frustration and failure and making it increasingly difficult to attain a second language. This research project, with prior IRB approval, will survey Western New York School Board members and local administrators to see what factors they participate in the Erie County Association of School Board organizations to ascertain what and why these schools are offering foreign language studies in a child's elementary school years.

**The Research Questions:**

- When do public schools in the United States start offering foreign language studies?
- Why are public schools in the United States failing to offer foreign language studies in elementary school years?

**So What?**

- We acknowledge that we are part of a global economy.
- A world where we will compete internationally for jobs and resources.
- At one time being multi-lingual was considered a luxury, and we believe those days are past. We must be prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.
- The earlier we begin foreign language instruction, the benefit for students will be more robust and teacher practices will be maximized.

**Acknowledgements**

We wish to say thank you to Dr. Susan Mary Paige and Professor Jane Sullivan. They encouraged us and dragged us over the finish line.

**References**

Harris, Jennifer N., Brooks, A. & Buchanan, G. (2013). Second Language Acquisition in the Context of Teaching Foreign Languages to Pre-Adolescent Learners. *Journal of Second Language Research*, 19(6), 11-30. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10671735.2013.1121141>

Rao, C. (2019). Get serious about making public schools a multilingual education. *Indianapolis Business Journal*, 29(7), 12-16.

Kanwisher, E., & Howard, A. (2013). Intercultural connecting and organizing new languages: Young children's early socialization into foreign language learning. *Cognitive and Educational*, 11, 120-174.

**Data Collection**

With prior IRB approval, we will survey Western New York School Board members and local school administrators using the 26 school

**Pg. 5**

**HONORS RESEARCH**

**Pg. 6**

**HONORS FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:  
DR. LEIGH DUFFY**

**Pg. 7**

**COURTYARD CLEANUP  
HONORS STUDENTS ABROAD**

# RUNWAY 2023: PROVOKING PROTOPIAS

Each Spring, students in the Fashion and Textile Technology Department (FTT) produce a professional-quality fashion show complete with student design collections, models, VIP seats, and more. With Runway falling on Earth Day this year, the theme *Provoking Protopias* aimed to promote a more sustainable industry that emphasizes diversity, inclusion, and equity. The theme manifested quite literally in some collections that used sustainable imagery or materials, while other designs pushed for progress in more subtle ways. Honors students contributed to every aspect of the show including as designers, models, stylists, production assistants and more. Check out these incredible Runway shots of Honors students or their designs by photographer Aaron Bobeck!



"I hope people walk away inspired to make changes in their lives and help others to see how upcycling is an attractive possibility in fashion and how sustainability is achievable," wrote designer **Julia Jugoon**.

**Madison's** collection featured her handmade jewelry and photographs of her grandmother who inspired her business.



**Sai Sruthi's** design collection was inspired by traditional Indian garments and featured fabrics that her mum and grandmother had. "My grandmother is also a seamstress, and she had a habit of collecting pretty fabrics, all of which were sourced from local Indian fabric sellers. I want to show all the beauty that I grew up with to everyone else."



## HONORS STUDENTS INVOLVED:

JESSICA AGU - STYLIST

MADISON BRYANT-WAGSTAFF

- STUDENT COLLECTION

MIYA GIDDENS - MODEL

ALYJA GISCOMBE - MODEL

ASHER GLASS - MODEL

JULIANNE GUERCIO - SINGLE ITEM

ISABELLE HILLESTAD - MARKETING DIRECTOR

KALISHA JOSEPH - SINGLE ITEMS

JULIA JUGOON - SENIOR DESIGNER

& FRONT OF HOUSE ASSISTANT

JAMARI LEON - SINGLE ITEM & MODEL

MAX LIGUORI - MODEL

LINLIN LU - MODEL

SAI SRUTHI RAVISHANKAR - SENIOR DESIGNER

ALEXIS ROTH - STYLIST

LILLIAN SKUBIS - MODEL

KIARA TIRADO - MODEL

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JORDAN STOVER '19



Honors Program alumna and FTT graduate Jordan Stover was highly involved with Runway during her years at Buffalo State! Her accomplishments as a student included an award-winning Runway collection, a design internship with Zandra Rhodes in London, and graduating Summa Cum Laude among many other highlights. During college and after graduating in 2019, she spent a few years focusing on the bridal industry. This included everything from alterations, making custom dresses and wedding gowns to styling at a bridal store. She formed her own side business specifically for alterations and custom garments in 2018 that continues to this day. In 2020, Jordan started to build her costume design portfolio for theater productions and, in November 2021, she began a costume design residency at the Historic Palace Theater in Lockport, NY. She has since been costume designing full-time around Western New York!

### WHAT WAS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE HONORS CLASSES?

My favorite Honors class was HON 400 with Dr. Andrea Guiati. I had been looking forward to that class since I shadowed it as a senior in high school! It was truly fascinating to step outside of your daily life and analyze different cultures and world issues. I learned a lot in that class and appreciated the chance to grow as a person. Also, the final project with SRCC was a great way to blend what I learned in my major with the Honors Program!

### WHAT IS SOME ADVICE YOU HAVE FOR GRADUATING SENIORS?

Some advice I would share with graduating seniors would be to stay flexible and be open to new opportunities once you're out in the workforce. Some of the best experiences and opportunities I've had were unexpected and sometimes were outside of my comfort zone, but I ended up learning and gaining great new skills. I never anticipated going into costume design with my degree track, but it ended up being the best fit!



WATCH JORDAN'S STUDENTS WHO SOAR FEATURE ON YOUTUBE



# NRHC2023: PITTSBURGH

## FIVE HONORS STUDENTS ATTEND NORTHEAST REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL CONFERENCE DURING SPRING BREAK

Many students lay low during break or catch up on some much-needed rest, but these Honors students spent their break presenting work at NRHC in Pittsburgh! This is the second year that the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program was in attendance at the annual conference, growing from a single student at the 2022 conference in Philadelphia. The purpose of this conference is to bring together Honors students from institutions in the Northeast to showcase their scholarly works across numerous disciplines. Presentation formats range from research posters and academic panels to roundtable discussions and an art gallery.

The NRHC conference experience goes well beyond academics. Attendees heard from several keynote speakers who connected to this year's theme, "Building Resilience from Tragedy: Understanding Hate, Violence, Loss, and Reconciliation." Student events included a trivia night, open mic night, and a Red Carpet Gala. There are events for Honors faculty & staff as well to exchange ideas and build a stronger network of Honors Program professionals.

Despite the rainy weather, our students had a blast exploring Pittsburgh! The top of the Monongohela Incline offered a spectacular view of the skyline, and the Andy Warhol Museum proved to be an excellent space to stay dry while exploring the works of the 20<sup>th</sup> century pop artist.

"IT WAS SUCH A REWARDING EXPERIENCE TO BE SURROUNDED BY LIKE-MINDED AND HARDWORKING PEOPLE WHO HAD SUCH CREATIVE AND INTERESTING IDEAS TO SHARE. THE INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPERIENCE ALLOWED ME TO LEARN ABOUT THINGS THAT I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT TO RESEARCH OR THINK ABOUT WITHIN MY OWN DEGREE." - MADDI CROSBY

"THE GREAT THING ABOUT THE NRHC CONFERENCE IS THE ABILITY TO USE MATERIAL THAT YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING ON FOR YOUR CLASSES AT BUFFALO STATE. I WAS WORRIED THAT I WOULD BE OUT OF PLACE AS AN ADULT LEARNER, BUT I WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE A DIVERSE STUDENT BODY COMING TOGETHER WITH A COMMON CONFERENCE THEME." - MISTI ELLINGER

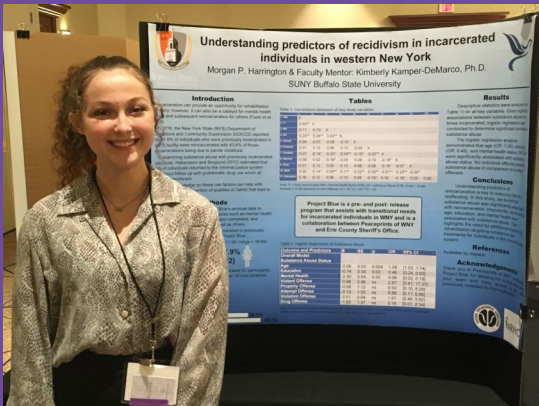
"ATTENDING NRHC NOT ONLY ALLOWS ME TO MEET HONORS STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS BUT I ALSO GOT MUCH CLOSER WITH THE OTHER BUFFALO STATE STUDENTS THAT ATTENDED. EACH YEAR I HAVE EXPLORED NEW CITIES WITH NEW FRIENDS WHILE ALSO GETTING TO SHARE MY WORK THAT I AM BEYOND PASSIONATE ABOUT." - MORGAN HARRINGTON



"Silver Clouds" exhibit at Andy Warhol Museum



Misti Ellinger at the Student Art Gallery



Morgan Harrington presents her research poster



Students with featured author Brian Broome



Muriel A. Howard Honors Program wins 1<sup>st</sup> place in Publications Contest



Joe Cannizzaro presented “Differentiating Zen: How the Zen Practice Can Improve the Classroom Experience” at the SUNY Oneonta Undergraduate Philosophy Conference earlier this month.



First-year student Frank Pennesi will be presenting “Representations of America Post-9/11: Sam Raimi’s Spider-Man 1 and 2” at SRCC. “I never would have gotten to present and talk about my passions if it wasn’t for the support of Dr. Ninacs and the Honors Program. I am so grateful for this opportunity and am so excited to move forward with this project!”

Sam Wild is presenting “Effects of RNF4 Interactions with Poly-SUMO Chain Modification Signals on SENP6-Mediated SUMO Chain Disassembly” at SRCC. “I recommend to anyone curious about research science to seek it out at Buffalo State. Dr. Zhang has taught me new laboratory techniques, interesting concepts of cell biology, and has encouraged me to continue this pursuit! I am very grateful for him letting me work in his lab.”

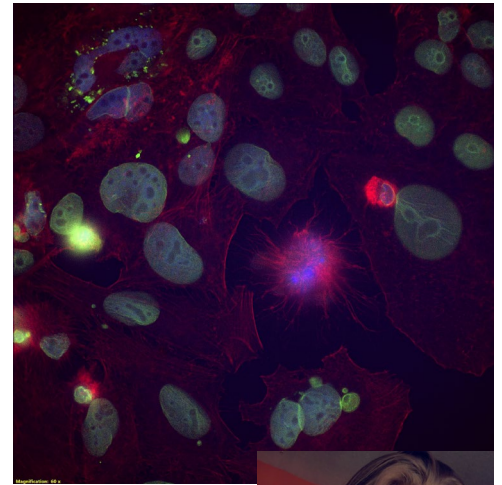
# HONORS RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Come see over 50 Honors student presentations at the Student Research and Creativity Conference (SRCC)!

May 5th, 2023  
3:00-6:00pm  
SAMC Atrium



Sibby Haider and Noushin Ahmed prepared a poster, “Taking LOTE Seriously: Pushing Foreign Language Education” (see p.1), for SRCC 2020 which was cancelled due to the pandemic. “This project was a huge learning experience and the advisement from both mentors was very supportive. We loved working with Dr. Susan Mary Paige and Professor Jane Sullivan.”



Microscopic image of HeLa epithelial cancer cells. Colors indicate different cell structures.



Jaylyn Zimmer is presenting “Women Awake! The Effects of Propaganda on Women in World War I” at SRCC.



“If you have something that interests you, why not try to learn everything you can about it? The faculty at Buffalo State offers such great support in encouraging you to find and follow what interests you, so take advantage of this opportunity!”

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. LEIGH DUFFY



## DR. LEIGH DUFFY

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, PHILOSOPHY  
HONORS FACULTY COORDINATOR  
HON201 PHILOSOPHY OF YOGA**

Leigh Duffy earned her BA in Philosophy and English at SUNY Geneseo in 2000 and her PhD in Philosophy at University at Buffalo in 2009. She began her time at Buffalo State as an adjunct instructor in the Philosophy Department in 2009. She was hired as Visiting Assistant Professor in 2014 and Assistant Professor in 2019. Dr. Duffy teaches courses in Philosophy of Mind and its sub-disciplines as well as courses in Eastern Philosophy. In 2013, Dr. Duffy was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching.

Dr. Duffy has served as the faculty coordinator for the Honors Program since 2019, implementing ways for faculty teaching in the Honors Program to work with one another and learn from one another. She has served on various department, school, and university committees over the last decade, and currently serves on the Humanities Oversight and Assessment Committee and the Applied Learning Oversight Committee.

Dr. Duffy's most recent scholarship includes publications and presentations on using mindfulness and meditation practices in the classroom and comparative work on Eastern Philosophy and contemporary analytic Philosophy of Mind.

### WHAT IS SOME ADVICE YOU HAVE FOR CURRENT HONORS STUDENTS?

This is not a dress-rehearsal. You'll never have a time like this in your life again, so take advantage of all the opportunities you have here! Get involved, try new things, do things that scare you. Join a club, attend a performance, watch an athletic event, attend a lecture outside of class, visit the museum (for free!). Not only will this add to the rich experience of your time here, but it will allow you to make connections with peers, staff, and faculty that could help you in your future.

### WHAT CLASSES ARE YOU OFFERING IN THE FALL 2023 SEMESTER?

In the Fall, I am teaching two sections of PHI 115, Minds and Machines, and an upper-level Philosophy class on Zen Buddhism, two of my favorite classes! I typically teach for Honors in the Spring, and I have taught Western Ideals of Excellence; Philosophy of Yoga; as well as Mindfulness, Meditation, and Philosophy.

### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OUR GRADUATING SENIORS?

Here's what I wish someone told me when I was a senior: you are not going to find the job of your dreams when you graduate; you might not even find a job in your desired field when you graduate! That's normal. Work hard in the job you do find, make connections with the people with whom you work, take risks, and put yourself out there. Be hard-working but be patient and eventually, that will all help you be successful in the field in which you do want to work.

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING THE HONORS FACULTY COORDINATOR?

The Honors Program has amazing faculty from all different departments on campus teaching for us that change every semester. As faculty coordinator, I am the point-person for communication with our faculty. I also try to create a sense of community so that we feel a little more like a department. The best part about the job is working with other members in the Honors Program. They are the hardest-working people on campus, but also the most fun! I've also learned so much from my colleagues in other departments - about teaching, about their fields of study, about activities on- and off-campus - and I might not have if it weren't for being the faculty coordinator.



**FUN FACT:** Earlier this semester, Dr. Duffy presented papers at two conferences in the same weekend! She presented to the Popular Culture Association in San Antonio, Texas, before flying straight to San Francisco, California to present to the American Philosophical Association!

# HONORS STUDENTS "HERE & THERE"



With the arrival of springtime, Honors students and staff prepared the South Wing Courtyard for use during the warmer months! This included clearing out tons of weeds and leaf litter, planting new perennials, mulching, and repurposing paving bricks to create a new landing near the door. The courtyard is free to use Monday-Friday 8:00am - 6:00pm.



Marita Miller, Grant Asklar, and Connor Tait visit the Piazza del Campo in Siena, Italy. These Honors students are completing their student teaching abroad through the International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) program. Follow their journey at [buffalostateipds.siena.weebly.com](http://buffalostateipds.siena.weebly.com).



Hannah McMahon is studying abroad this semester at Akita International University in Japan! AIU is a partner university of SUNY Oswego, and students at any SUNY institution can participate in any SUNY study abroad opportunities! Stop by the Office of International Education in South Wing 430 to learn more or visit [studyabroad.buffalostate.edu](http://studyabroad.buffalostate.edu).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

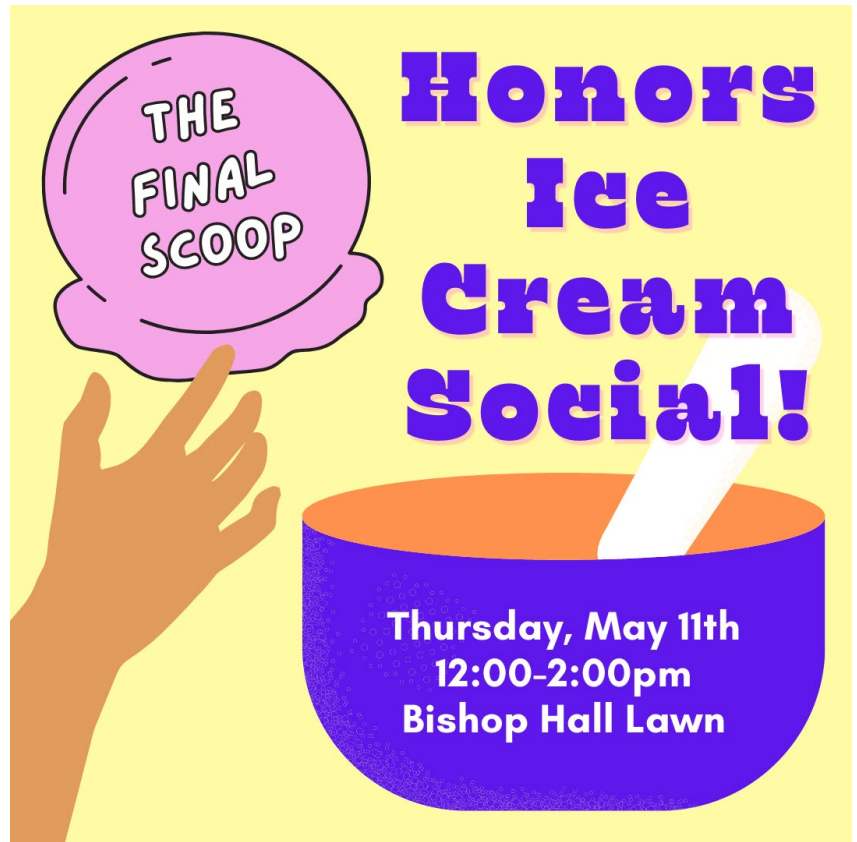


**4/12 - DR. JOHN TORREY LED A DISCUSSION ON "POST-RACIALIST ORIGINS OF OUR DIVIDED AMERICA" FOR THE BUFFALO STATE TALKS LECTURE SERIES**

**4/28 - KENYA HOBBS FACILITATES OUR SPRING HONORS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP, "COMMUNICATING TO CULTIVATE COMMUNITY CHANGE THROUGH COMPASSIONATE CONFRONTATION"**



**CONGRATULATIONS HANNAH MCMAHON, WINNER OF THE 2023 HONORS T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST!**



[honors.buffalostate.edu](https://honors.buffalostate.edu)



[Buffalo State Honors Program](#)



[@buffstatehonors](#)