

# MURIEL A. HOWARD HONORS PROGRAM *official newsletter*



Honors Student Lands Prestigious Internship p.3



Dean's List Reception p.2



IPDS x Honors Study Abroad p.7



Ice Skating! p.2



Buff State Fashion x Africana Studies p.9

Newsletter Design by Brianna Reid

**PLUS:**

Honors Faculty Spotlight: Kimberly Hart p.4  
Affordable Museum Days p.4

Can you find yourself in the Honors collage? p.8

# WELCOME BACK!

Here, at the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program, we are starting the Spring 2025 semester off with a bang.

Despite the constant snow, ice, geese, and some below zero wind chills, the Honors Program has seen great progress and success during the winter break and at the start of this “spring” semester. Many students participated in study abroad programs, internships, and athletic competitions during the winter break. And many, of course, got a much-needed rest.

As the Spring 2025 semester began, it was great getting to see new and familiar faces at recent events such as Honor’s ice skating, chess night, Valentine’s Day crafts, and planetarium night. And on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, many Honors students were recognized and celebrated at the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) Dean’s List Reception.

## FALL 2024 HONORS FACTS

- As of Fall 2024, the Honors Program officially surpassed 600 students.
- 25 students joined the Honors Program as continuing or transfer students.
- 82% of our 200 first-year Honors students finished their first semester with at least a 3.0 GPA.
- 67% of all Honors students achieved a Dean’s Honors List term GPA of at least 3.5.

◀ But what about Fall 2024? How did we do? Check out some of our accomplishments from last semester!

This March, we invite you to save two very important dates! Honoring Honors, our annual recognition dinner, will take place on March 14<sup>th</sup> and you can find a full invitation on page seven. The Buffalo State Gives annual fundraising campaign is happening March 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, and we hope to raise funds for our Honors Leaders Program and student supports. Learn more at BuffaloStateGives.com.

*by Arie Dorsey*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Students who achieve a cumulative 3.5 GPA or higher and have completed a minimum 60 credit hours at Buffalo State (30 for transfer students) will be invited to attend the Honors Convocation ceremony on April 25, 2025 (this event is sponsored by the Provost’s Office and is not an Honors Program event).



*SAS Dean’s List Reception*



*Candy Snowman at Ice Skating event*



MURIEL A. HOWARD  
**HONORS PROGRAM**  
*official newsletter*

***What do you think we should call our newsletter?  
 Submit your ideas to [honors@buffalostate.edu](mailto:honors@buffalostate.edu)  
 for consideration!***

# Honors Senior Lands Prestigious Internship

“Us opening our horizons and learning and taking on what we see and take that outside and apply that to our career.” – Leanna Tse



*Internship organizer, Aleida Perez, with Leanna Tse (left)*

*You apply for a very competitive internship, but you get turned down. Then you build up the courage to try again... this time you succeed, and you get your dream internship!*

Leanna Tse did just that to get an internship at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, NY. Tse is a senior Honors student who majors in electrical engineering technology.

The Brookhaven National Laboratory is an extremely competitive internship. The application involves an essay on why you would be a good fit for the internship and a typical internship application as well. Tse applied twice, being denied the first time and getting the opportunity the second time.

Tse said this was a new opportunity for her and described it as “a once in a lifetime experience.”

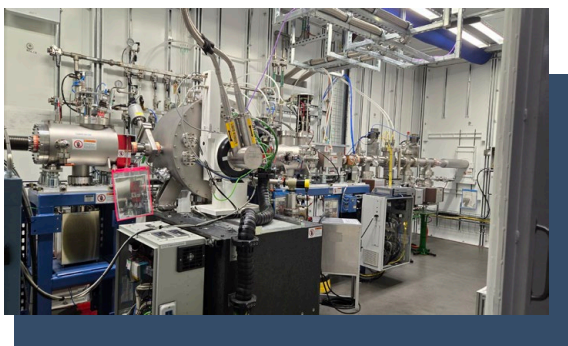
“When I did get into it, I was really impressed and really enjoyed my time there,” Tse said.

For the first five days, Tse toured the lab facilities and classroom spaces. Then she spent time networking with professionals in her career field, learning how government research facilities work, and learning from the experts she met.

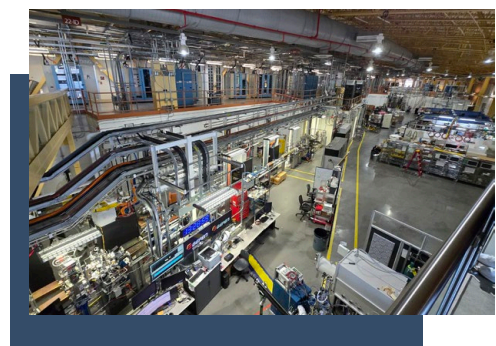
The main takeaways for Tse were the research experience and being able to learn and see the behind the scenes.

Tse advises students who want to take a shot at a competitive opportunity like this one to have an open mind, expect everything, and to not be too shy and closed off but to use this experience to help advance your career.

*by Rylee Shott*



*Machinery Room*



*National Synchrotron light source (NCLS II)*

# Faculty Spotlight:



**K**imberly Hart, Associate Professor, is a cultural and visual anthropologist. She teaches a rotation of several different Honors seminar courses, each informed by her own research experiences. Her dissertation work was on a women’s carpet weaving project, marriage, and the politics of gender and labor in a Turkish village. This work informs her class, HON202 Global Marriage Practices. In 2012, Hart curated an exhibit for Koç University’s Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) in Istanbul titled, “What Josephine Saw.” Another exhibit, also about Josephine Powell’s photographic works in Turkey 1960s-1980s, was exhibited for the Erimtan Museum in Ankara in 2015. These exhibits, as well as the exhibit she had at Buffalo State in 2018 on the street animals of Istanbul – the result of a year of street photography – inform her class, HON202 Visual Anthropology. Her book, *And Then We Work for God: Rural Sunni Islam in Western Turkey*, Stanford University Press, 2013,

My advice to Honors Students is to learn to enjoy working hard and appreciate your youth by making friends. Often your friends are a more significant resource and source of support as you graduate than any course you will take.

-KIMBERLY HART

## Looking for something to do on Fridays?

The AKG Art Museum on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month where you can pay-as-you-wish to explore the museum, enjoy live music, and plenty of free community activities from 10am-10pm!

Burchfield Penny Art Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month for free (students can get in free every day!) to explore the museum, screenings, concerts, and more from 10am-8pm!

Each Friday, every month, you can visit some of Buffalo’s local museums for free!



Honors Students at the History Musuem!

Buffalo Arts Studio on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month for free to see galleries, film screenings, concerts, local art, and more from 11am-8pm!

The Buffalo History Museum on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month for free to explore the museum, tours, family events, and more from 10am-5pm!

by Rylee Shott

# Kimberly Hart

informs much of her teaching, especially as it relates to empathy and compassion, charity and good deeds. This work is related in part to her HON201 Anthropology of Food class to be offered again in Fall 2025. In turn, interest in these issues relates to her recent research project on the street animals of Istanbul, funded by Fulbright, the UUP, and TUBITAK the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey.

Given Hart's visual orientation in her research it should not be surprising that she also is a visual artist. She has worked in photography, printmaking, and drawing. She is now exploring the medium of oil paint. Most of her imagery is about the relationship between the construction of human and natural worlds, exploring gardens, animals and plants, and urban landscapes.

*Fish monger shares a fish with a street cat in Istanbul*



*Honoring Honors*  
 CULTIVATING COMMUNITY & CONNECTION

FRIDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>  
 5:00 - 7:00PM  
 CAMPBELL STUDENT UNION SOCIAL HALL

RSVP ON BENGAL CONNECT  
 BY FRIDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>



**ZEINAB KEITA**  
Sophomore

2025/01/04



Traveling to Ghana fine-tuned my Afrocentric perspective on the world and lifestyles outside of the U.S. Because of the Africana Studies department, I've been able to grasp a sense of belonging, gratitude, and safety amongst the Ghanaian community. - JAY



### BUFFALO STATE FASHION

x

### AFRICANA STUDIES

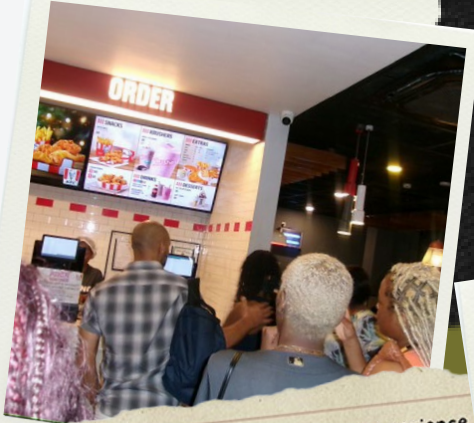
# GHANA

## 2025

Over Winter Break, 11 Buffalo State students travelled to Ghana to culminate a semester-long collaboration between Fashion & Textile Technology and Africana Studies. Students completed FTT389: Black in Fashion and/or AFS373: "Saving" Africa in Fall 2024, and then experienced Ghana's culture, history, and fashion scene first-hand. Honors students Jay Phillips and Zeinab Keita captured these beautiful moments from their trip.



**JAY PHILLIPS**  
Senior



The Ghana trip was a complete experience filled with culture, food, and fashion. Everyone who went on the trip learned about their own American privilege and how intersectional our actions/identities are. Especially in terms of clothing and our waste we learned that although it might not be affecting us here it is definitely affecting someone else in the world.

**-ZEINAB**



# IPDS x HONORS ABROAD

During the Winter break, Honors students along with the Buffalo State International Professional Development Schools Consortium traveled to Italy and the Dominican Republic. As part of this program, students participated in service-learning initiatives and worked alongside local teachers and students. Honors students Jennifer Flick, Emily Gruber, Mary Quinn, and Miranda Shepard participated in the IPDS trip to Italy. They spent two weeks in January in Torremaggiore, Italy.

*“Over the J-Term, I was able to travel to Italy! My cohort and I taught in an elementary school in the small town of Torremaggiore, and I was able to get hands-on experience teaching music in a classroom. I was also able to do lots of sightseeing in Rome and Florence and learn so much about the Italian culture!” - MARY QUINN*



*“My time in Italy was an amazing experience that helped me grow as a teacher and a person. Not only did I see how education is a way to share cultures and build connections, but I also got to practice strategies for teaching English language learners and experience what it is like to be in a place where your primary language is not always spoken. My time in Torremaggiore made this experience special as I became fully immersed in the culture-- engaging with the teachers and students, experiencing daily life, and learning about the rich history of the town and country.” - JENNY FLICK*



*This experience was such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that it is hard to put into words. My time in Italy not only allowed me to grow personally, but it also deepened my appreciation for Italian culture and architecture (The Colosseum is just breathtaking, and everyone should get a chance to see it once in their lifetime). The teachers and students I worked with were incredibly welcoming, and I loved using music and hands-on activities to create connections. This trip has taught me that cultures and adaptability in my teaching are extremely important.”*

**- MIRANDA SHEPHERD**

Honors students Mya Jones and Sarah Zakeri participated in the IPDS trip to the Dominican Republic. They spent two weeks at the Mariposa Center for Girls in Cabarete, Dominican Republic. Here are some highlights from their trip:



*“It was invaluable to travel to the Dominican Republic through IPDS! While there, we had the opportunity to create activities and work with children at a Montessori, as well as conduct research. We spent the rest of our time exploring the town of Cabarete and the rest of the beautiful country, its history, culture, and communities.” - SARAH ZAKERI*

At the end of this semester, IPDS will be bringing students to Chile, Germany, and Zambia. To learn more about this program and if you could participate, check out the IPDS website at <https://pds.buffalostate.edu/international-pds>.

by Arie Dorsey



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



Buffalo State Honors Program



@buffstatehonors

| South Wing 330 | Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm | (716) 878- 3093 |