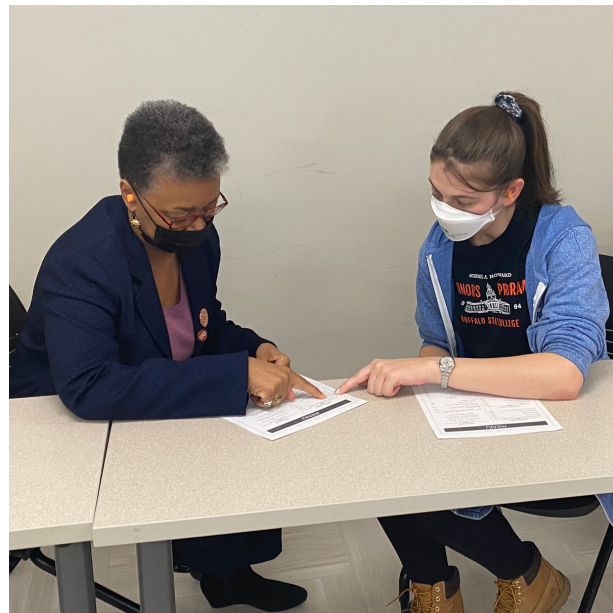


# Muriel A. Howard Honors Program Newsletter

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO STATE HONORS PROGRAM



**Top Left:** Ice Skating at Canalside

**Bottom Left:** Cookie Decorating in the Honors Hub

**Top Right:** Angela Nicotera with President Conway-Turner in Deaf Culture in America

**Bottom Right:** Honors and MUS201 trip to Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

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# Faculty Spotlight



## CAROLYN GUZSKI

Carolyn Guzski joined the Buffalo State faculty in 2009 as an assistant professor of musicology. Her research interests include American music, opera, and national cultural institutions during the Progressive Era. She has presented papers at the annual meetings of the American Musicological Society and the Society for American Music. She received her Ph.D. in musicology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where her dissertation on American opera at the Metropolitan was a winner of the Barry Brook Award, and holds degrees in performance from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and the Juilliard School. She previously taught at Hunter College, New York University, and the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College.

As a pianist, Guzski has performed throughout the U.S. and has been heard in New York at Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, and the Juilliard Theater. Past seasons have included concerts in Japan, Italy, Switzerland, South Korea, and the Caribbean, as well as broadcasts over RAI television (Italy), WFMT (Chicago), WNCN (New York), and the Voice of America network. As an opera coach, she has participated in seasons of the Florida Grand Opera, the Lake George Opera Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, and the Orvieto Musica festival in the Umbria region of Italy, and has served on the musical staffs of Montclair State College, Hofstra University, and the Mannes College of Music.

Professor Guzski recently led an Honors-sponsored trip with her MUS201 class to see the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall. She has also brought past Honors groups to the Darwin Martin house and other Buffalo attractions.



## KEN OROSZ

My Dad was a US diplomat, so I largely grew up in Belgium and England as an embassy brat. For me, going to college in the US was essentially a 4 year study abroad experience which I extended another 30-plus years and counting by staying on for grad school and then pursuing a teaching career. I've also had a lot of side jobs along the way, including factory work packaging picnic cutlery, phone service operator, bank teller, and international tour guide.

Given my childhood - which included stints in international schools with peers from around the world - it was inevitable that I would end up studying history. I came to Buffalo State in 2008 after holding faculty positions at Mansfield University (1997-1999) and University of Maine at Farmington (1999-2008). Over the years I have been involved in the Fulbright program as both an advisor and grant recipient (Germany 1995-1996), the Africana Studies program here at Buffalo State, am a past president of the French Colonial Historical Society (2012-2014), and just finished a 4 year stint as editor of the bilingual journal French Colonial History.

While I teach courses on the Holocaust (coming Fall 2022), modern Europe, imperialism, and African history, my particular area of expertise is French and German colonial rule in Cameroon. My published work generally falls into the realm of social and cultural history, ranging from missionary run schools to Sultan Njoya's invention of the Bamum alphabet, WW I propaganda in Africa, and the inspiration behind C. S. Forester's novel African Queen. Current projects include Eugène Jamot's work on battling trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) and how tourism and big game hunting in the 1920s led to the creation of Cameroon's first game preserves.

Outside of the classroom and archives I enjoy travel, hiking, and camping. I have been known to dabble in woodworking and during the pandemic I also learned to scuba dive and brew beer.

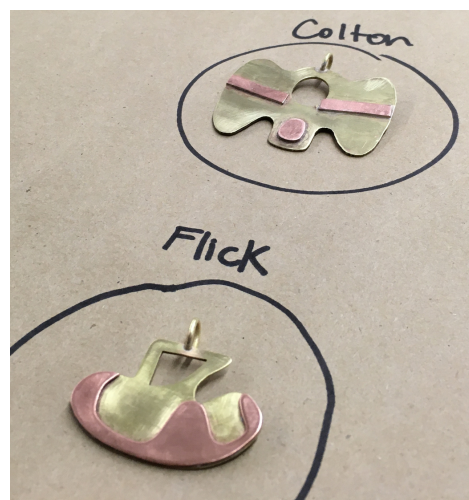
**Come see the film *Denial* with Professor Orosz on March 23rd!**



# HONORS IN ACTION

Students in Professor Steve Saracino's HON103 Intro to Jewelry Making class designed and fabricated necklace pieces based on abstractions of insects. What bugs do you see?

The Mock Trial teams, coached by professor David Ben-Merre and consisting largely of Honors students, recently culminated their season at the Great Lakes Regional Tournament which Buffalo State hosted virtually.











On Friday, March 18th, the Honors Program successfully hosted its first **Honoring Honors [H<sup>2</sup>]** event since 2019! Students, staff, faculty, and administrators enjoyed the return of this occasion to formally recognize the graduating senior Honors students.

Attendees started off the evening with an 'Honors Bingo' icebreaker to get to know each other, a timeline reflective writing station, and a slideshow featuring Honors graduates as well as Honors memories from the both recent and not-so-recent past. The formal program included remarks from Provost Mayrose, President Conway-Turner, Honors staff members, and graduating seniors Becket Panfil, Bree Gilliam, Calogero Tiermini, and Clara Sensini. Prior to congratulating the Honors seniors, the program also recognized the Honors Ambassadors for their service and presented Faculty Assistant Director Carol Beckley with an award for her tremendous contributions to the Honors Program.

The Chartwells catering team led by Austin Craig delivered an exquisite meal tied to this year's theme, "Looking Back, Moving Forward." Each of the five stations included a traditional dish such as Beef Stroganoff or Chicken Tetrazzini, and a modern dish such as Buffalo Chicken Wing Soup or Xango Cheesecakes. The delicious food, table settings, and classy atmosphere provided by Chartwells made the night truly one to remember.





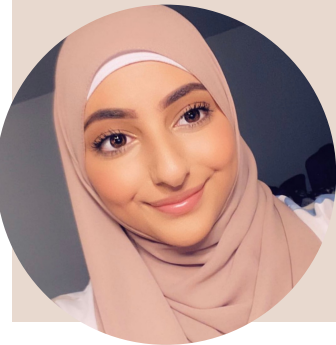
**Awards/Accomplishments:** Future Teachers Club

**Favorite Memory from Honors:** I loved getting to spend time in the Honors Hub as well as getting to take various Honors classes!

**Would you like to give a shout out to anyone?** My sisters, brother, husband, parents and friends! There were times where I was ready to give up but they reminded me that becoming a teacher will be so worth it at the end! Every hardship comes with ease!

**What's Next?** I will be moving to Michigan and hopefully becoming a full time teacher! I'd love to work with grades 1-4!

**Do you have a message for current Honors students?** It's been an Honor to be an Honors student here at Buffalo State!



## Summer Albaneh

*Childhood Education*

**Hometown:** Buffalo, NY

**Awards/Accomplishments:** Presidential Scholarship; James J Morris Award; Captain of Buffalo State Varsity Women's Ice Hockey team; Dean's List all semesters; SUNYAC Honor Roll; AHCA Scholar Athlete 2019

**Favorite Memory from Honors:** All of the welcome back barbecues and meeting some of my closest friends through the honors learning communities

**Would you like to give a shout out to anyone?** Dr. David Ben-Merre, Professor Maureen Porter, Dr. Timothy Bryant, and Professor Kim Chinquee- all four of these outstanding professors have supported me academically and athletically all four years of my time at Buffalo State by offering me support and opportunities in the classroom, as well as challenging me in a way that helped me grow, not only as a student, but as a person as well

**What's Next?** I'm unsure of what lies ahead for me, but I am sure that I will be utilizing all of the lessons and experiences I have had at Buff State along the way

**Do you have a message for current Honors students?** Take it one day at a time and appreciate/cherish the experiences available to you!

**Final Thoughts:** Go Bengals!

## Angelina Cruzal

*Writing*

**Hometown:** Campbell, CA



# Senior

## Brendon Kendall

*Applied Mathematics*

**Hometown:** South Byron, NY

**Awards/Accomplishments:** I have worked in the Math Center and as an Academic Mentor of the EOP Program; Certificate of Statistics in Insurance (STI); Buffalo State Achievement Award (2018-2020); Buffalo State Calculus Award (2018-2019)

**Favorite Memory from Honors?** Honors BBQ and Bengals Dare to care days

**Would you like to give a shout out to anyone?** Dr. McMillan and Celestine

**What's Next?** Graduate school either here with the PACM Program or at UB with their Operations Research MS Program

**Final Thoughts:** Thank you Honors Program for offering many different opportunities and creating a wonderful atmosphere especially in freshman year

## Jonathan Poethig

*Individualized Studies: Social Work, Sociology, and Psychology*

**Hometown:** Bronx, NY



**Awards/Accomplishments:** Senator on United Students Government

**Favorite Memory from Honors:** The last honors celebration that we had in person before COVID.

**Would you like to give a shout out to anyone?** My mom and grandma and girlfriend. They all supported me by believing in the person I am and the person I will become.

**What's Next?** Graduate school hopefully at Lehman College.

**Do you have a message for current Honors students?** Try to join orgs and enjoy campus life in general. Try to be involved in some capacity.

**Final Thoughts:** I have enjoyed my 4 years here and glad that I was able to make the connections I made and met the people I was able to meet. Thank you Buff State and the Honors Program for believing in me.



# Highlights

**Awards/Accomplishments:** NSSLHA, National Society of Leadership and Success

**Favorite Memory from Honors:** My history class with Professor Randaccio.

**Would you like to give a shout out to anyone?** My parents have always been extremely supportive and have always pushed me to do my best. I am extremely lucky to have their constant support.

**What's Next?** I plan on continuing my education in Speech Language Pathology to get my Masters Degree.



**Molly Dolata**

*Speech Language Pathology*

**Hometown:** North Tonawanda, NY



**Fadel Saleh**

*Criminal Justice & Business Administration*

**Hometown:** Lackawanna, NY

**Awards/Accomplishments:** Dean's List; Donald J. Griffin Memorial Award; Class of 1946 Scholarship

**Favorite Memory from Honors:** Doing the scavenger hunt throughout the course with our Honors group members.

**Would you like to give a shout out to anyone?** AMYYYY. As real as they come. Always willing to help whether it is Honors related or not.

**What's Next?** Law school

**Do you have a message for current Honors students?** Get involved! The Honors Program has so much to offer. As college students we feel as if our workload is never ending sometimes. The Honors Program has so many fun activities and extracurriculars that it can feel like a break from school

**Final Thoughts:** You can pursue and achieve anything you want. If you pursue what you want, you can achieve everything you can imagine

**Awards/Accomplishments:** Presidential and Horace Mann Theater Arts Scholarships; Dean's list; -Cast in "Intimate Apparel" and "Macbeth"; Previously on the executive board of Casting Hall as Audience Services Manager; Member of campus improv comedy troupe Friday Night Live; Academic Mentor for EOP

**Favorite Memory from Honors:** The first ever Honors BBQ I attended all the way back in Fall 2018.

**Would you like to give a shout out to anyone?** My family, all of my friends, the Theater Department, Dr. Anthony Chase, Joy Guarino, Ron Schwartz, Jonathan Seinen, and Andrea Guiati for being wonderful professors and/or advisors. The staff of EOP and ACE.

**Do you have a message for current Honors students?** Don't give up!

**Final Thoughts:** Come see Macbeth and Friday Night Live!

**Nathaniel Schumacher**

*Arts & Letters*

**Hometown:** Rochester, NY



**Kierra Morrow**

*Biotechnology*

**Hometown:** Buffalo, NY

**Awards/Accomplishments:** Recipient of the Arthur O. Eve Equal Opportunity Program's Honors Award; Peer Mentor for 2019-2020 academic year; Member of the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program; Member of the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP); Member of Black Active Minds (BAM) - United Student Government

**Favorite Memory from Honors:** When I was offered the opportunity to participate in the educational board conference because it was the first time I felt as a minority student in STEM that my voice was being heard.

**Would you like to give a shout out to anyone?** I'd want to express my gratitude to Amy McMillan for all of the love, support, and chances she has provided me throughout my college career. She always manages to motivate me to keep giving it my all, even when I'm exhausted.

**What's Next?** I have so many ideas for my future, but the ultimate objective is to have a large farm and a lovely family to go with it!

**Do you have a message for current Honors students?** Don't become too comfortable in your academic career; constantly take risks and seek help; the people you meet here will be worth more than the paper you'll write at the end of the day; make this time memorable for you.

**Final Thoughts:** I want to express my gratitude to the Honors Program. You've been a tremendous support system for me, and I don't take you for granted.



**Congratulations to Sara Hillman, winner of the 2022 Honors T-Shirt Design Contest!**  
**The shirts will be distributed at the Annual Honors BBQ this Fall. Thank you to everyone who submitted a design and everyone who participated in voting!**



## Upcoming Events

### **Holocaust Film Series Part I: *Denial***

*2:30pm, March 23, Bulger 214*

Join Honors Professor Ken Orosz for a screening of *Denial*, which depicts a libel court case pitting a Holocaust denier against a university professor who must prove the genocide actually occurred.

### **Holocaust Film Series Part 2: *Downfall***

*5:00pm, April 5, Upton 230*

Join Honors Professor Dan Blum for a screening of *Downfall*, which recounts Adolf Hitler's chaotic final days in a bunker as the Nazi regime prepares for its end during World War II.

### **Honors Trivia Night**

*4:30pm, April 13, Honors Hub*

Compete in teams of 1-4 people in a test of wide-reaching knowledge! All categories are on the table.

Hosted by Assistant Director Matt Baran in the Honors Hub. You won't want to miss this one!

### **Earth Week with Honors**

*April 18-23*

The Honors Program has a week full of programs planned to celebrate Earth Day this year! Highlights include Planetarium Night, Recycled Art, an eco-friendly food demonstration, and a Scajaquada Creek clean-up.

