

MURIEL A. HOWARD HONORS PROGRAM *official newsletter*



HONORING HONORS P.4-5



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT P.3

Newsletter Design by Brianna Reid

PLUS:

Ride the Cyclone p.2
Buffalo State Gives p.2

Senior Spotlight p.6
Registration Tips p.7

Ride the **CYCLONE** THE MUSICAL

Ride the Cyclone: The Musical ran March 13th-16th including a few actors from Honors! The musical is about six teens who lost their lives in a roller coaster accident and play a game for the chance to come back to life. The musical was directed by Sabrina Kahwaty.

Three Honors students played a role in this production. Junior Alex Rivas Ayala played Ricky Potts, junior Emily Cannon played Jane Doe, and junior Sage Lambie was the understudy for Jane Doe.

"We learned a lot from Sabrina. She taught us how to work in the round and was always supportive. This show is so fun, I never want it to end!" - Emily Cannon

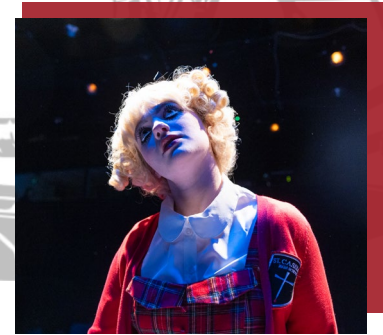
"This was such a unique musical and I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to be in such a fun show! Ricky is so important to me!" - Alex Rivas Ayala

"It was such a wonderful opportunity to work on such a unique show with an equally unique and talented group of people, especially for a non-theater major like myself." - Sage Lambie

By: Rylee Shott



Alex Rivas Ayala



Emily Cannon

Honors Feels The Love During Buffalo State Gives



buffalo state gives

The Muriel A. Howard Honors Program was one of more than 50 departments, teams, and initiatives that participated in the sixth annual Buffalo State Gives campaign. This day of giving enables all members of the community to provide support for the areas of campus that mean the most to them. We are delighted to share that during Honoring Honors, we surpassed \$1,000 in donations and at the time of writing, 24 different individuals contributed to our program fund for a total of **\$1,615!** We send a HUGE thank you to all of our generous donors whose donations will be used to sustain our Honors Leaders program as well as our engaging events throughout the year.

Alumni Spotlight: Tiffany Gaines '17

Honors program alumna Tiffany Gaines graduated from Buffalo State University in 2017 with a degree in journalism. Gaines is originally from Brooklyn, New York but found it hard to leave Buffalo after graduating.

When Gaines first arrived at Buffalo State, she had no idea what she wanted to study. The Honors Program's many class options in various departments helped her finally land on journalism.

"The Honors Program was very supportive. I appreciated the challenge that came with the classes that I took," Gaines said.

The Honors Program brought a sense of community to Gaines helping her find her place in college. Due to involvement in Honors and clubs, she was able to build a home away from home.

"I met people that have become like family to me, and formed some lifelong friendships in my time here," Gaines said.

A month after Gaines graduated, she was hired at The Burchfield Penney Art Center and has been there since in many different roles. First, she worked in admissions in the museum's store. Then she began writing and making digital content for the website. During COVID she switched to creating multi-media content for social media. Currently, Gaines is the Associate Curator, where she organizes exhibitions and highlights local artists from Buffalo and the larger Western New York area.

Buffalo State and the Honors Program pushing Gaines to "strive for excellence and for greatness" helped her to be able to build a fulfilling and rewarding career.

Gaines advises current Honors students to explore classes and departments they may not have a direct interest in, and to expand their college experience outside of academics by joining clubs and being involved with campus life. Gaines says to make the most of the time you do have on campus because it goes by too fast.

"My experience at Buffalo State was really incredible, very life changing," Gaines said.



By: Kylee Shott

HONORING HONORS

Cultivating Community and Connection

Each Spring, the Honors Program prepares for a night to celebrate the achievements of the Honors Seniors, Staff, Leaders, and Scholars. This year's program theme "Cultivating Community and Connection" could be felt across the event through the décor, food, games, and speeches. Austin Craig and the Chartwells team created a delicious meal inspired by sustainable agriculture (and chef William Dodge who cooked fresh pasta throughout created a sense of hospitality). The music and lighting provided by Gio Russo, Dwayne Melvin and the Student Union helped maintain a sense of joy and celebration. And the incredible graphics designed by Honors Intern Finneas Button reminded us of all our interconnected roots.



In her welcoming remarks, Interim President Dr. Bonita Durand commended Honors students for their ability to "take [their] talents and make it something special." Dr. Durand implored the seniors, "Don't forget about your alma mater, because we're not going to forget you."

Three graduating seniors delivered speeches during the program. Honors Student President Xinozea Ferguson-Giscombe said that she wanted to create solidarity and community, and that Honors taught her how to create that space. She reminded everyone that it is imperative that we create these spaces and develop unity. Mary Teresa Comerate, who served as both an Honors Leader and Honors Intern for several semesters, shared about her leadership experience as well as her intentional involvement as a commuter. Regarding making friends, she said that it is comforting knowing that the connections she made here will still be here after graduation. Jennifer Segura Lopez, an Honors Leader and Kenzie Scholar, discussed the importance of appreciating the stillness. She noted that there is a lot of uncertainty and division in the world, so it is vital to appreciate the "now." Quoting Taylor Swift, she concluded, "Hold onto the memories, and they'll hold onto you."



Matt Baran recognized the Fall 2024 Honors Leaders and commended them for their exceptional effort in welcoming and assisting the largest freshmen class in the Honors Program history. "I can't tell you how much joy it brings us to hear laughter and endless positive energy pouring out of the Honors Hub, and it is directly thanks to the Honors Leaders for fostering that environment."

Dr. McMillan closed out the evening by recognizing this year's graduating seniors on stage with a passionate send-off. "I have the extreme privilege of working with the most amazing, committed, dedicated, kind, lovely, incredible, and spectacular students on campus. Students, you have made this job the best 8 years in my career."



By: Arie Dorsey



Campus Partner Recognition

The Honors Program recognized Alumni Engagement Director Katelyn Brickhouse (MS '22) for her ongoing support and collaboration. She has worked with Buffalo State alumni since 2013 and has helped strengthen relationships with Honors alumni through the alumni newsletter communications and the Honors tent at Homecoming.



Honors Staff Recognition

Assistant Director Matt Baran was recognized for his contributions to the Honors Program since 2021. Dr. McMillan described Matt as "inspiring, insightful and indispensable to the students and staff of the Honors Program."

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: PURSUING LAW IN 716

JOSIE FLEMING

Can you be both a Buffalo State Honors student and UB law student? Yes, you can.

Honors student Josie Fleming is the first Buffalo State student to participate in the UB 3+3 Law Program, where students take accelerated courses to graduate with a law degree within six years.

A native Buffalonian, Josie attended Clarence High School where she played basketball. She is a huge sports fan and is currently pursuing a career in Sports Law.



Arie: What motivated you to pursue a law degree?

Josie: Ever since I was a little kid, I loved reading and writing. I would get home from school every day and my mom would make me read a chapter of a book and write a short story before I could do anything else. Growing up I thought I wanted to be an author. But when I was a sophomore in high school, I took an elective class called “Business and Personal Law” and in that class we did court case readings, we wrote opening statements, depositions and closing statements, and I fell in love with everything. I thought it was so fun and I realized that I could have a really big impact in the world by pursuing law.

Arie: How did you find out about the UB program?

Josie: When I was a senior in high school, I had to make the decision about where I would go to college. My two biggest goals were that I wanted to find somewhere where I could play basketball and find somewhere with a great pre-law program that would help me achieve my eventual dream of going to law school. I was really indecisive. I didn’t decide where I would go to school until the summer before I was supposed to go off to college. And my basketball coach, who was kind of recruiting me to Buff State, mentioned to me that they had a brand new program called the 3+3 program with UB. And it just turned out to be the perfect situation for me because I could get my undergrad degree done efficiently, start law sooner than I even anticipated, and play basketball for my home city.

Arie: What were some of the highlights of the 3+3 program?

Josie: I would definitely say that the biggest highlight was the support that I got from my advisors, the staff, and professors, specifically in the Political Science department and the Honors Program, too. Dr. Patrick McGovern was my principal advisor for the 3+3 program. He and Dr. Amy McMillan really worked together to make sure I got through the program successfully. I just had a lot of people reaching out to me, making sure I was okay, and offering help. That support was really great. Also, my professors for my classes were amazing. They really helped prepare me for law school so that I was ready to move onto that next step.

Arie: What would you say to students in the area who want to pursue law in the future?

Josie: I’m glad you asked me this because I wish I would’ve had somebody to tell me some of these things when I was going through the program and trying to navigate law school as an undergrad student. My first point for Buff State students who want to go to law school would be to take as many classes as possible with Dr. Peter Yacobucci, because his classes were as close to law school content as I could get at Buff State. For anyone in general who wants to go to law school or to complete the 3+3 program, networking is important because the support system is going to help you. Building great relationships with your professors or people like me who are in law school to give you some advice and support you is something that is so super important.

Josie will receive her undergraduate degree from Buffalo State this Spring and will start her second year at the University at Buffalo in the fall.

By: Arie Dorsey

Stressed about registration? - We got you!

How to Get Ready for Fall Registration FOR HONORS STUDENTS

Follow these tips to make sure you are ready to register beginning Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:00 am:

- Meet with your Academic Advisor. Contact Ms. Stevens if you have questions about who you should see.
- Use Degree Works to understand your requirements and track your progress towards your degree.
- Follow your Academic Roadmap to select the correct classes for your major.
- Resolve any Registration Holds as soon as possible.
- Doublecheck your Registration Status in Banner to ensure your Registration Date correctly lists April 2nd.

One of the benefits of being in the Honors Program is priority registration!



Buffalo State Talks Lecture Series Presents:

The Path of Purpose: How Nutrition Fueled my Medical Career

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 | 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

JVL Alumni & Visitor Center

Free to attend, refreshments provided!

DR. ALEX FORD '12

Family Medicine Physician
at Community Care Physicians



Preview our Fall 2025 Honors Course Schedule on the Honors Program website!



SCAN ME!

Congratulations to Calista Robillard!

Winner of the 2025 Honors T-Shirt Design Contest



Collect your free T-shirt in Fall 2025 at our Honors BBQ!



honors.buffalostate.edu



Buffalo State Honors Program



@buffstatehonors

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