



BUFFALO STATE
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believe. inspire. achieve.

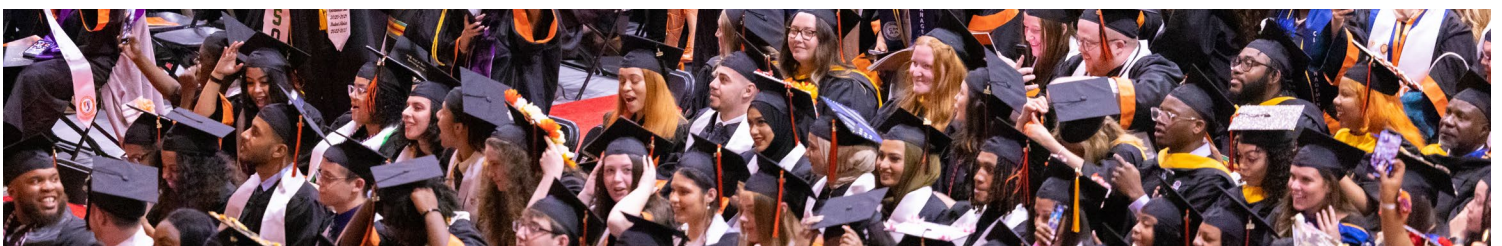
Muriel A. Howard Honors Program

Official Newsletter

Senior Edition



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2024
HONORS PROGRAM GRADUATES!





Jenna Agro

Music Education (Voice, Saxophone)

Plans: Hopefully, have a full-time job and make music with students!

Involvement: I was in almost every ensemble on-campus and it was a lot of fun!

Favorite memory: Making music with my peers!



Haleigh Balko

Speech-Language Pathology

Plans: After graduation I plan to stay here at Buffalo State to complete my Master's in Speech-Language Pathology.

Involvement: I was a member of NSSLHA all four years and even became president senior year.

"My favorite thing about Buffalo State has been the friends I have made along the way and the fantastic staff in the speech department."



Melanie Bebak

Music Education

Involvement: Member of the National Association for Music Education, Member of Buffalo State Music Department's Chamber Choir

"My favorite things about my time at Buffalo State were working with my accompanist Ivan Docenko and becoming friends with Jodie Amato, a wonderful person, student, and musician in the Music Department."



Rachael Blair

Childhood Education

Plans: I am hoping to fulfill my lifelong dream of being an elementary teacher! I do not have any specific location in mind, however it has recently been on my heart to teach abroad if the opportunity arises.

"Make the most of your years in college! I cannot even begin to express how quickly these four years have slipped past me and how sentimental I feel over nearing the end. Enjoy every moment and take advantage of every opportunity, you will not regret it."



Catherine Ajayi

Business Administration

Dean's List for four consecutive years

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: Health and wellness activities/programs - open gym, yoga sessions, spin classes, therapy dogs, self-defense classes, etc.

"Go to college away from home to get some insight on what it feels like to be an independent adult. It's good practice for how to manage balancing your work life, social life, and self-care."



Joey Bastian

*Music
Digital Music Production Minor*

Plans: Work as an audio engineer!

Influential Professors: Dr. Tomas Henriques and Dr. Kerry Renzoni - both heavily involved in helping me form my own degree path.

"I wish I joined WBNY 91.3 sooner!"



Winifred Benson

*Speech-Language Pathology and
Philosophy Dual Degree*

Plans: Will be going to D'Youville University to get my Master's in Speech-Language Pathology.

"My favorite thing about Buffalo State is that it has given me numerous opportunities that I may never have had. I have met many amazing people in the Honors Program, including some of my best friends!"



Victoria Bolden

Psychology

Involvement: Psychology Club, Hulicka Scholars Program

Favorite memory: Having the Honors Hub to go to when I was still trying to figure out my place at Buffalo State. Thank you to all the Honors staff, especially Dr. McMillan for making me feel welcome in my senior year as a transfer student.



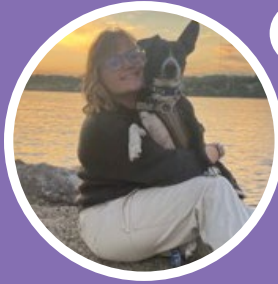
Joseph Cannizzaro

*Philosophy
English Education Minor*

Plans: Return to Buffalo State to begin the English Education Post Bacc program.

Favorite Achievement: Being accepted into the 2023 SUNY Oneonta Undergraduate Philosophy Conference and receiving the “Spirit of the Conference” Award.

“Special thank you to Dr. Duffy for her continuous support and dedication towards aiding me in my academic goals and dreams.”



Gracie Cognion

Special Education and Childhood Education

Plans: Pursue my Master’s degree in Early Childhood and Childhood Curriculum Instruction, and substitute teaching.

Most Influential Professor: Diana Maskell; I admire how hard she works and value her as a mentor.

“You will gain an immense amount of knowledge about yourself in your first four years of college. Every interaction will be a learning experience so soak it up like a sponge.”



Adrianna Conrad

Interior Design

Plans: My plans post-graduation are to enjoy being completed with my degrees and spend some time traveling and enjoying my summer while passively searching for a full-time career in the Interior Design/ Architecture field.

Tyler Chen

Business Administration

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The Honors Program and its people.

Favorite memory: Playing card games til 4:00am.



Michelle Colangelo

*Psychology
Art Therapy Minor*



Julia Crocker

Interior Design

Plans: Do some traveling and hopefully study abroad in Europe to study classical architecture.

Favorite memory: Spending long hours in the interior design studio working with my friends.

“One thing I wish I could’ve done differently was minored in something. I would’ve loved to minor in Literature or Philosophy.”



Grace Czyz

Special Education and Childhood Education

Plans: Pursue my Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction here at Buffalo State, and substitute teaching!

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The teaching programs and the students and faculty in those programs!

“Enjoy it. Life is more than just grades.”



Anthony Dinderski

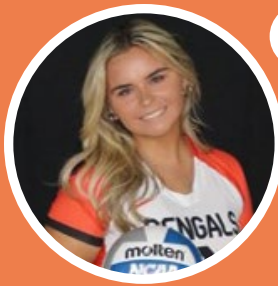
Economics and Finance

Plans: Work as a financial advisor.

“College flies by... take every opportunity you can get!”

“Join the Economics Club!”





Riley Domin

*Criminal Justice
Coaching Minor*

Awards: Criminal Justice Faculty Certificate of Merit

Involvement: Participated on Women's Volleyball and Basketball Teams.

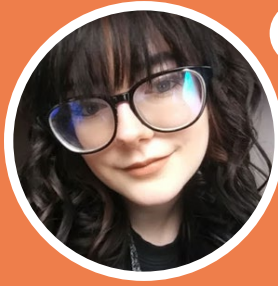


Molly Dunfield

*Art History
Anthropology and Indigenous Studies Minors*

Plans: Pursue a Master's in American Studies at University at Buffalo.

*"You could always catch me at yoga classes in the Houston Gym!"
"I have met all of my closest friends through Honors."
"Always study the things you are interested in, even if the career path is unclear."*



Katie Egan

English Education

Plans: Go to UB to get my Master's degree in English Education and Library Science and immediately start working.

Involvement: I am a part of EESA and Re-Crown Modeling Agency here at Buffalo State.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Lochte because we shared similar interests and you can tell she deeply cares for her students, which is what I hope to do as an educator.



Stephen Faro

Nutrition and Dietetics

Plans: Apply to and attend the dietetic Master's program at Buffalo State University.

Favorite thing about Buffalo State:

The Dietetics Program at Buffalo State arranged all 1200 hours of my supervised practice and allowed me to complete those hours while completing my dietetic coursework. I'm very grateful for the opportunities they have given me!



Cole Fisher

Technology Education

"Thanks to the many wonderful teachers at Buffalo State University... Clark Greene, Robert Tufte, and Amy McMillan."

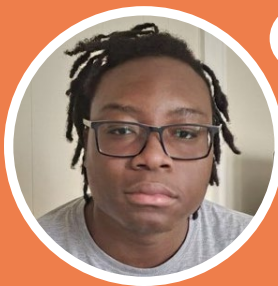


Victoria Florczak

*Psychology
Art Therapy Minor*

Plans: Accepted to Roberts Wesleyans Doctor of School/Clinical Psychology (PsyD) Program

"Get as much experience in your field as possible ASAP (especially if you want to go to grad school)! Labs, internships, volunteer work, jobs, etc."



Jerick Flores

*Criminal Justice
Communication (Speech) Minor*

Plans: Secret Service work.

Involvement: Mock Trial.

Most Influential Professor: David Ben-Merre taught a lot of very useful information and was my most influential professor.



Brandon Garcia

Special Education and Childhood Education

Plans: Continue at Buffalo State to finish my Master's degree.

Involvement: Council for Exceptional Education, Best Buddies, Future Teachers, Bengals Passionate About Education.

Most Influential Professor: Judi Harris has been with me throughout all four years at Buffalo State and is someone I can't thank enough for all that she does.



Kristin Greiner

English Education

Involvement: delta Delta Phi Zeta, EESA.

Favorite Memory: Connecting with my fellow future English teachers and building connections for years!

“Get involved! College can be stressful, but friendship doesn’t have to be!!”



Lauren Guido

Mathematics Education

Plans: Continue my studies at Buffalo State by getting my Master’s degree.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Peter Mercer is very intelligent and goes out of his way to build relationships with his students.

“Stay focused and organized. Creating a schedule will help you while you work through the semester.”



Danae Hardy

Childhood Education

Plans: I plan to pursue a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction here at Buffalo State University!

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: I love how kind and helpful faculty are! Knowing that my professors and supervisors genuinely care about me as an individual motivated me to serve as a better student leader on campus.



Bethany Horvatits

*Biology
Psychology Minor*

Provost Scholarship, Dean’s List, SUNYAC Honor Roll

Involvement: Forward on the Women’s Ice Hockey team since 2020.

Plans: Accepted into UB’s Accelerated Bachelor’s degree (ABS) in Nursing Program – May ‘24-’25.



Evan Jaskula

*Interior Design
Photography Minor*

Involvement: IIDA Board Member - Student Representative; Interior Design Student Organization Member.

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: How creative I get to be.



Kalisha Joseph

Metals/Jewelry Design

Plans: Go to graduate school for Fashion Design at FIT. Before doing so, I plan to take a year off to work as a CAD Designer or become a Freelance Jewelry Designer in New York. I want to see if I solely enjoy jewelry, or if I want to continue to innovate both fields and integrate them into my own aesthetic.

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The Tech Hub is truly a field of wonders, and it became a catalyst promoting my interest in 3D printing.



Julia Koller

Early Childhood and Childhood Education

Plans: Start substitute teaching and get my Master’s degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Favorite memory: Having the opportunity to observe classrooms in several different schools around the Buffalo area, and being able to create relationships with the students and teachers.



Kaleigh Kropidlowski

*History
Anthropology Minor*

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: how small it was. It was easy getting around campus and I appreciated the small class sizes.

“A piece of advice I have for college students is, it is okay not knowing what your future might look like. Take one day at a time.”



Jackson Kuffel

Television and Film Arts,
Business Administration

Plans: Use the knowledge gained from my two degrees to scale up my video marketing business and start a wedding venue alongside Olivia, my fiancée.

“Thanks AD Annas, Jeff Hirschberg, and Gary Berger for their investment in my professional and personal growth, as well as the members of CRU for their friendship.”



Luke Lojek

Dietetics

Plans: Obtain Master’s degree in Dietetics at Buffalo State University; Earn RD credential by passing the CDR exam; Begin searching for local clinical dietitian position.

Most Influential Professor: Professor Grinnell encouraged me to approach situations from different angles to come to a better understanding/solution. I have used this while studying, completing projects, taking exams, and completing assignments. I do not think that I would be the same student without the experience from Dr. Grinnell and his class.



Jessica Martinez

Fashion and Textile Technology

Favorite Honors memory: Attending the Honors BBQ, receiving the t-shirts that Honors students designed, and meeting new people at that event. I loved attending because I was surrounded with students and

faculty who welcomed people of many different backgrounds.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Reid would really allow her students to be creative and speak openly about their issues regarding the fashion industry. She is a kind, calm, and inspirational person, even through Runway Evaluation she was there for emotional support.



Gabrielle McCrory

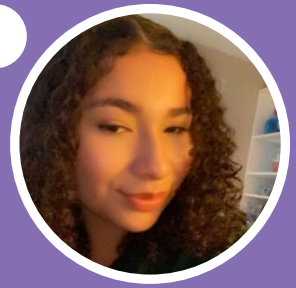
Art
Writing Minor

Involvement: Women’s Ice Hockey.

Plans: Join the Buffalo Firefighters, and also build my art career by drawing and

writing a comic book series.

Favorite Honors memory: At Honoring Honors 2022, I ate a cupcake that was dyed all black, and it made my tongue black. My friends and I were laughing so much.



Nikkita Laidlaw

Biology
Mathematics Minor

Plans: Pursue a career in wildlife conservation after graduation.

Involvement: I have studied abroad in Kenya and Belize.

Most Influential Professor: Gavin Leighton. He always goes above and beyond to support students and encourage learning.

Sebastiano Lombardo

Music
Digital Music Production,
Philosophy Minors

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The size of campus; I was able to walk from Buckham to Rockwell in only 10-15 minutes - very helpful in the snowy months!

Most Influential Professors: Dr. Bewlay and Ivan Docenko, who helped me discover what I was capable of as a musician. However, Dr. Draeger challenged me as a student and as a person in general. I truly valued every class period he taught.



Robin McCarthy

Psychology
Philosophy Minor

Involvement: Psi Chi, Hulicka Scholars Program.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Bellus, as he suggested I pursue an undergraduate research publication and presentation at SRCC.

“Don’t commit to a 9 am class if you are not a morning person, because attendance matters in certain classes.”



Jillian McKinney

Childhood Education

Plans: After graduation I will be continuing my education here at Buffalo State for my Master’s program, focusing on Curriculum & Instruction!

“My biggest piece of advice would be to get involved on campus! The best thing I ever did was join my sorority, delta Delta Phi Zeta. I have met the most amazing girls while also getting involved around campus & Buffalo.”





Madison Merrill

Speech-Language Pathology

Involvement: I was an active E-Board member of NBASLH and a member of NSSLHA. Both are clubs involved with Speech-Language Pathology on campus.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Maldonado is one professor that I would highly recommend to people. He is highly educated and wants to share his knowledge to his students so that they can be the best professional for their future clients.



Angela Nicotera

*Speech-Language Pathology
Philosophy Minor, Communication
Strategies for the Deaf (ASL)
Micro-Credential*

Favorite Honors memory: Hanging out in the Honors lounge with my friends! Whether we were just studying or taking time to eat snacks and relax, the Honors lounge was the place to go. I also loved the opportunity to chat with the Honors staff who were always warm and welcoming! They showed me the heart that they have for their students, and they made the Honors Program especially meaningful to me.



Zachary Ogren

*English
Diverse Literatures Minor*

Involvement: Peer Tutor in the Writing Center, EOP Academic Mentor, Treasurer of the Wilderness Adventures Club.

“Try new things, especially if it’s outside your comfort zone! Try at least one new thing a week! Talk to someone new, go to a new club meeting, on-campus event, or off-campus event!! Open yourself up as much as possible, the best things can be the most unexpected!”



Lindsey Parini

*Biology
Chemistry Minor*

Plans: Continue my studies at Buffalo State in the Science Education Master’s program to obtain my Teaching Certification.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Skerrett because she was the first professor I had in college and that first class solidified my love for Biology.



Lindsey Parisse

Dietetics

Most Influential Professor: Professor Katie Manis; she has become a friend and is very helpful and reliable, and she inspires/motivates me to succeed and follow in her footsteps to make a difference for others.

“Choosing Buffalo State as your college is an amazing experience that will last with you throughout your entire life, and you should enjoy it. Join organizations and make long lasting friendships. Make the most out of your time here because it will go by faster than you think it will.”



Caitlyn Parsons

*Environmental Geography
Environmental Science Minor,
Geographic Information Systems
Certificate*

Involvement: SUNYAC All-Conference First Team for Women’s Softball.



Allarae Prigan

*Biology
Environmental Science Minor*

Involvement: USG, Swimming and Diving Team, Residence Life, College Senate.

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The people! Everyone on this campus is genuinely so amazing and I love the community that everyone is working so hard to build here!

Most Influential Professors: Dr. Jason Grinnell and Dr. Christopher Pennuto.



Saisruthi Ravishankar

Fashion and Textile Technology

Involvement: I was the treasurer in the International Student Organization, and I was part of the Fashion Club.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Lee Ji Young encouraged me to participate in as many events as possible and offered me many opportunities throughout my time at Buff State.

“I really liked my faculty at Buff State and the friends that I made through these years.”



Colby Riexinger

Forensic Chemistry, Biology

Plans: Master's program in Pharmacology at CU Denver, Georgetown, or University of Rochester.

Involvement: Member of the Swim Team and org representative for the Chemistry and Forensics Club.



Kateland Roux

Art Education

"I would not be the artist nor teacher I am today without the support of my friends, family, and my professor, Joe Miller. My advice to anybody in college is don't be afraid to speak up, ask questions, or even make a

comment to a classmate. I realized far too late that the people around you are either here to help, or are just as lost as you are."



Ettan Saiwala

*Biology
Chemistry Minor*

*"Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."
-Matthew 6:34*



Samantha Schafer

*Mathematics
Coaching Minor*

Involvement: Women's Softball Team.

Plans: Attend graduate school.

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The athletic community.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Cushman because she helped me so much when I decided to change my major.

Andy Rivera

*Business Administration
World Language Certificate in Spanish*

Plans: Apply to the ASPCA & attend bartending school

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Mark Warford. Had the privilege of taking his Honors Greek Mythology course and his SPA 202 course back-to-back my junior year. He is so nice!

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: Small and diverse campus.



Joshua Rutkowski

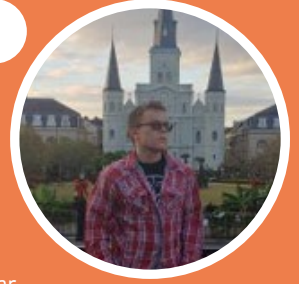
*History
Anthropology Minor*

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The professors in the History Department.

Favorite Honors memory: Freshman year, acclimating to campus and college life and what it has to offer.

Involvement: Member of Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society

"I wish I could have been more involved in campus activities."



Katie Sarich

*Psychology
Coaching Minor*

Involvement: Women's Ice Hockey and active in the Psychology Department.

Plans: Attend graduate school for I/O psychology.

"If I were to give any advice about college, it would be to take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way and make sure you make every moment count."



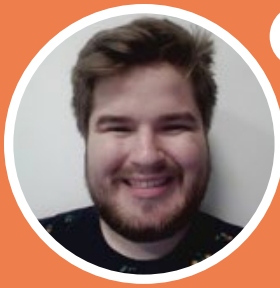
Rosie Schuh

Childhood Education

Plans: After graduating I will continue my education at Buffalo State and get my Master's degree in TESOL!

Most Influential Professor: Diana Maskell, she made me feel confident in math which is something I never felt confident in before. She always made me feel validated and helped me every step of the way!





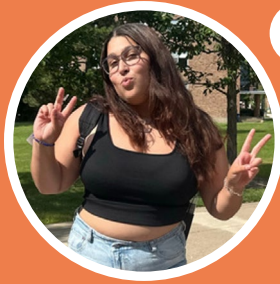
David Schuler

*Philosophy and English
Political Science and Mathematics
Minors*

Plans: Attending Boston College for a Master's in Theology.

Involvement: Math Center tutor, contributor to Portrait Literary Arts Magazine.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. McGovern taught me how to read and write effectively, as well as many important research skills.

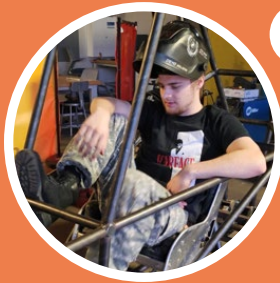


Deanna Souchet-Soto

*Public Relations & Advertising
Sports Communication Certificate*

Involvement: President of delta Delta Phi Zeta sorority, RA for 4 years, Student Assistant at Alumni Center, Intern with Athletics, Student Conduct Board, Lambda Pi Eta Communications Honor Society, Greek Presidents Council.

Most Influential Professors: Dr. Natalie Szymanski and Jeff Ventura; both allowed me to grow into my career and encouraged me to enter the sports field even as a womxn.



Anthony Tedesco

Mechanical Engineering Technology

Involvement: Joined the Football team, built a dune buggy with the SAE Baja Team.

Plans: Join the army as a Second Lieutenant and stay for 1 contract. Then

find a job as an engineer when I get home but if life has different a plan I gotta follow that one.

Most Influential Professors: Dr. Hunter, Dr. Purizhansky, Mr. Reed, and many more. If not for some of these wonderful professors, I would have never made it to the end zone.



Jillian Tung

*Chemistry
Legal Studies Minor*

Plans: Attend a chemistry PhD program.

Involvement: I did Mock Trial for three years, I play oboe in the Wind Ensemble

when I have time, I participate in Chemistry Forensics Club, and I am a chemistry tutor.

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The opportunity to be involved in so many different areas, with professors and friends who really care about me in all of them.

Sydney Shuta

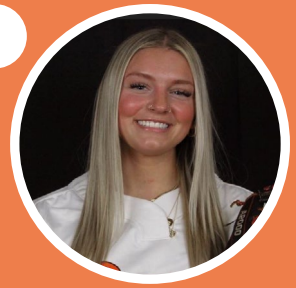
Speech-Language Pathology

Involvement: Women's Softball Team Transition Program.

Plans: Attend graduate school.

Most Influential Professor: Thomas Scheria because of how supportive he was with his students and because he truly cared about learning rather than meeting a quota.

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The Athletics Department and the athletic community.



Lauren Stashak

*Social Studies Education
Coaching Minor*

Plans: Continue my education in Social Studies for my Master's degree and become a teacher in the Buffalo area.

Favorite Honors memory: Meeting life-long friends along the way.



Iris Thomas

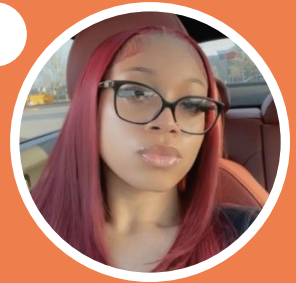
Childhood Education

Plans: Teach at an elementary school.

Most Influential Professor: Fred Gilbert.

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The Education Program.

Something I would do differently: Be more involved on-campus.



Fikiri Victoire

Political Science

Plans: Embarking on a journey to graduate school.

Most Influential Professors: Dr. Yacobucci and Dr. Sarwari.

Involvement: Student Conduct and Community Standards, Student Senator in USG.

"Forge strong bonds with your professors."





Morrigan Waller

Social Studies Education

Involvement: Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Future Teacher's Club.

Favorite Honors Memory: All of the events that I attended. They were so much fun and I made some friends during some of them.

"College only lasts four years and I know that sounds long but trust me it will be over before you know it. So, do everything you can to have a great experience."



Zachary Wier

*History
Anthropology Minor*

Involvement: Vice President of Buffalo State Anthropology Society.

Most Influential Professors: Dr. York Norman and Dr. Bridget Chesterton because both of them helped me further myself as an historian and better my research abilities.

"If you aren't happy in your program, it's okay to switch your major/minor. Don't be miserable for the rest of your life because you were afraid to change your major."



Kyle Zak

Social Studies Education

Plans: Enter the field as a social studies teacher while going for my Master's degree at night. I want to get a jump on my first-year teaching as soon as possible!

"One of my favorite things about Buffalo State is the classroom size and individual attention you receive. Professors know you by name, and smaller classes allow you to become close with your classmates."



Fasika Zewdie

*Sociology
Political Science Minor*

Plans: Pursue further education in graduate school in International Relations.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Stewart made a lasting impression during my time at Buffalo State. He has pushed me to do better in my academics and in my personal goals.

"One of the most alluring aspects of Buffalo State is the faculty and staff. I've had the honor of encountering some exceptional individuals who have been integral to my academic journey."



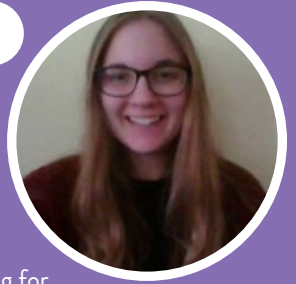
Caden Wheeler

*Health/Wellness
Coaching Minor; Exercise Science
and Health Promotion Certificates*

Plans: Attend OCS for the US Army.

Involvement: Football Team and Cru.

"Take advantage of every resource and service available for you, your success, and your happiness!"



Alyssa Wisniewski

Mathematics Education

Favorite thing about Buffalo State: The inclusiveness that is present throughout the entire campus.

Involvement: Kappa Mu Epsilon, Tutoring for STAR-NY.

Most Influential Professor: Dr. Susan McMillen always created a welcoming classroom environment and had a genuine care for all of her students.



Jenna Zamrok

Childhood and Special Education

Plans: Pursue the rest of my 4+1 Program and earn my M.S.Ed in Literacy Specialist while searching for a full-time teaching position.

"My favorite thing about Buffalo State is all of the people I have met throughout my 4 years here."



Spring 2024

Honors Graduates

Jenna Agro

Jessica Agu

Catherine Ajayi

Haleigh Balko

Joseph Bastian

Melanie Bebak

Winifred Benson

Sarah Berlinger

Rachael Blair

Victoria Bolden

Joseph Cannizzaro

Tyler Chen

Gracie Cognion

Michelle Colangelo

Adrianna Conrad-Laford

Julia Crocker

Lisa Czaplá

Grace Czyz

Anthony Dinderski

Riley Domin

Molly Dunfield

Katelyn Egan

Stephen Faro

Cole Fisher

Victoria Florczak

Jerick Flores

Brandon Garcia

Kristin Greiner

Lauren Guido

Danae Hardy

Bethany Horvatits

Natalie Jankowski

Evan Jaskula

Kalisha Joseph

Julia Koller

Kaleigh Kropidlowski

Jackson Kuffel

Nikkita Laidlaw

Luke Lojek

Sebastiano Lombardo

Jessica Martinez

Robin McCarthy

Gabrielle McCrory

Jillian Mckinney

Madison Merrill

Angela Nicotera

Zachary Ogren

Lindsey Parini

Lindsey Parrisé

Caitlyn Parsons

Allarae Prigan

Saisruthi Ravishankar

Colby Riexinger

Andy Rivera

Kateland Roux

Joshua Rutkowski

Ettan Saiwala

Katie Sarich

Samantha Schafer

Rosie Schuh

David Schuler

Sydney Shuta

Deanna Souchet-Soto

Lauren Stashak

Anthony Tedesco

Iris Thomas

Xaneya Thomas

Jillian Tung

Fikiri Victoire

Morrigan Waller

Caden Wheeler

Zachary Wier

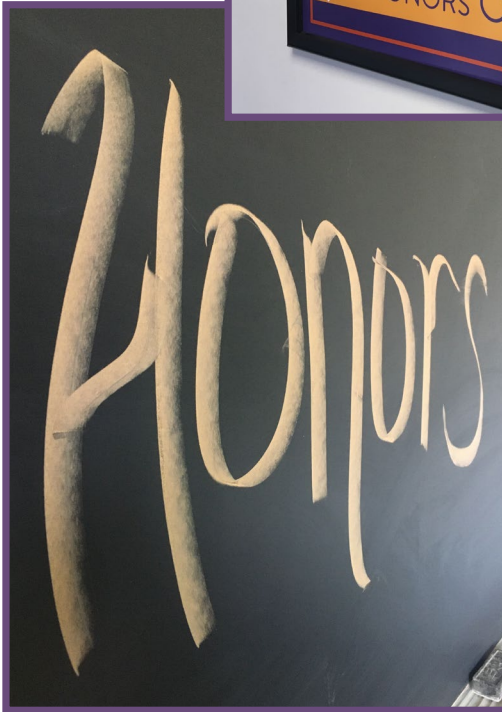
Alyssa Wisniewski

Kyle Zak

Jenna Zamrok

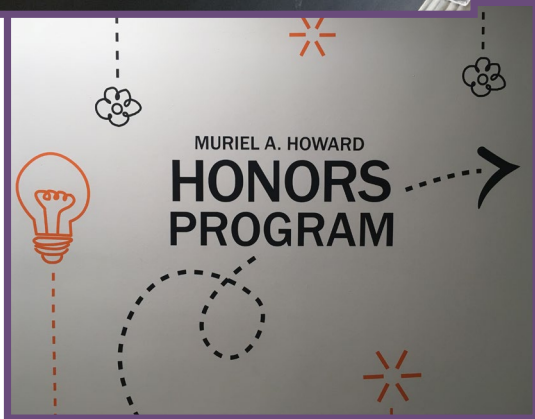
Fasika Zewdie

Congratulations to our **76** Honors students graduating this semester!
We are so proud of your accomplishments at Buffalo State and
can't wait to see you take the next step in your careers!



**STAY
IN
TOUCH!**

Come back to visit us and make sure to let us know the amazing things you do! We love to feature the accomplishments of our Honors Alumni!



**AND
FOLLOW US!**