



MURIEL A. HOWARD *HONORS PROGRAM*

Senior Edition

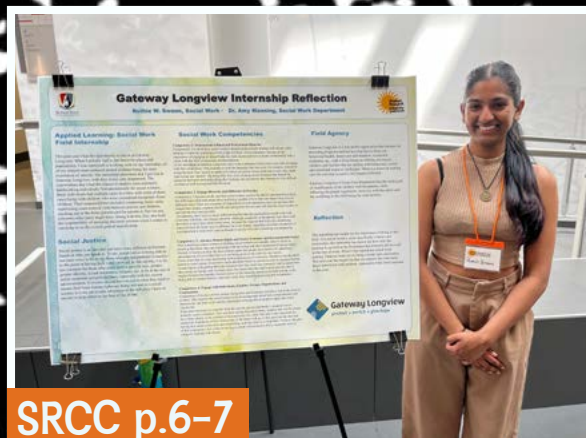
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Congratulations to our Seniors!



RUNWAY p.10-11



SRCC p.6-7



Ayoko Abaglo

Biology, Psychology Minor

Plans: To be a Future Anesthesiologist.

Involvement: RA for 3 years
Advice: Follow your goals. It's okay to change your mind but try to find out what you are passionate about so you can get a head start on entry level jobs and internships in that field.

Chloe Adams

**Childhood Education,
Liberal Arts Concentration**

Plans: Attend grad school at Buffalo State.

Involvement: Women's Soccer
Advice: Make the most out of the short time you have here!



Noah Adams

Criminal Justice

Plans: Pursuing a career in one of the three-letter organizations in the federal government.

Involvement: I was an Honors Leader and Admissions Ambassador.

Favorite Memory: The Honors Leaders retreat at Whispering Pines or the Honors Karaoke Night.



Catherine Alverson

**Biology, Aquatic Biology
Concentration**

Advice: Get involved. Take the time to get to know your classmates. Joining a club introduced me to so many of my current friends that I would not have met otherwise. My classmates have been a big part of my success in college. Sharing ideas and making time to study together is so helpful.



Jessica Auge

**Computer Information Systems
and Environmental Geography**

Involvement: Women's Ice Hockey.

"My favorite thing about Buffalo State is all the amazing friends it has brought me."



Catherine Baxter

**Communications Studies, Literary
Studies Minor**

Plans: Work in social media marketing.

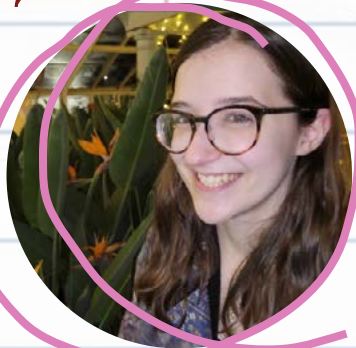
"One of my most influential professors was Ruth Goldman. The media class inspired me to learn more about photography and editing which is a skill I now feel more confident in!"



Brigid Benson

**Biology, Individualized Studies
Geanthropology Technology**

"I am grateful for the research experiences I have gotten at Buffalo State, from helping out in Dr. Warren's lab to conducting my own research projects on primates and agave plants. Everyone in the department is happy to give advice when needed which is very much appreciated!"



Moss Bertini

English Education (7-12)

Plans: Get my Master's Degree.

Advice: Attend as many campus events that you can!

Influential Professor: Dr. Macro. I always keep her motto about teaching in the back of my mind, "If students are laughing, they are learning."





Liliana Billi

Family and Consumer Sciences Education

Plans: To be a FACS Teacher.

Involvement: President of Delta Phi Zeta sorority.

"Do not be afraid to attend events."

Connor Bizal

Mechanical Engineering Technology

Plans: Play professional hockey and become a biomedical engineer.

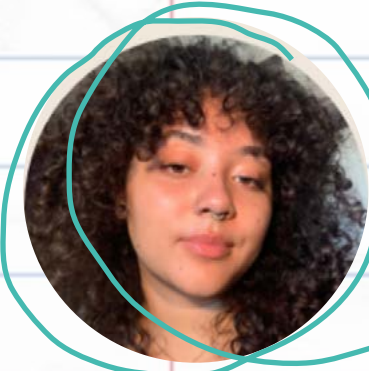
Influential Professor: Dr. Arjun Pathak because he genuinely cared about our academic success and pushed us to do our best every day.



Talidy Blijden

Social Studies Education 7-12

"Do not hesitate to reach out when you need help with literally anything. There are so many faculty members at Buffalo State willing to help you succeed!"

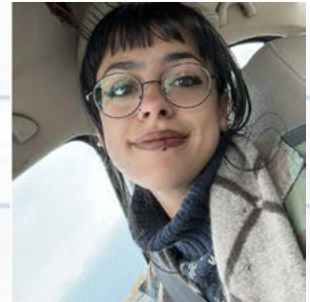


Jaden Brice

Philosophy and Fashion Design, Apparel Design Concentration

Influential Professor: Dr. Draeger, as he developed my interest in philosophy and inspired me to declare it as my second major!

"Get to know your professors and reach out for extra help when needed."



Cecilia Brooks

Psychology Major, Art Therapy Minor

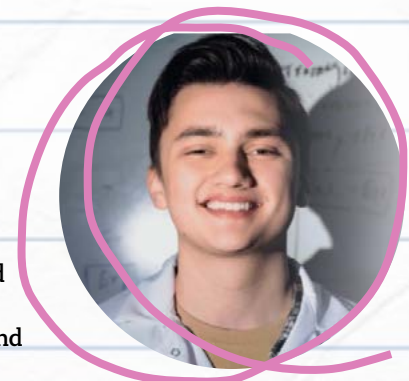
Plans: Go directly into the field and get more hands-on experience. Eventually I will get my Master's degree, possibly in Art Therapy, although I am keeping my mind open to different possible career paths that best align with my dedication to help others.



Christopher Burgio

Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics Minors

Influential professor: Dr. Grinnell. In taking just a few philosophy courses, he showed me how to appreciate topics I was uncomfortable with and find interest within them.

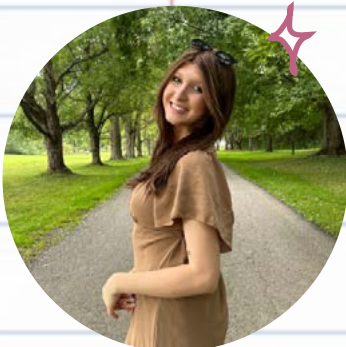


Kassidy Caldwell

Early Childhood Education

Involvement: Delta Phi Zeta, Pom Dance Team.

Plans: Teach UPK in the Orchard Park District, and continue my Master's in Early and Exceptional Education here at Buffalo State University.



Stephanie Clement

Speech Language Pathology, American Sign Language Certificate

Plans: Get my Master's in Speech Language Pathology.

Involvement: National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSHLA), National Black Association for Speech Language and Hearing (NBASLH).





Mary Teresa Comerate

Graphic Design

Involvement: Visual Arts Board (VAB) Publicity Chair & Gallery Coordinator, Honors Leader, Honors Design Intern, Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society.

"It goes fast, enjoy it :)
Ask questions, ask them until you get the answers you need."

Sarah Congelosi

Psychology, Criminal Justice and Intelligence Analysis Minors

Plans: To attend UB for psychology.

Involvement: 4 year collegiate softball player.



Emily Cooper

Psychology

Plans: Attend Niagara University and obtain my Master's degree in Early Childhood Education!

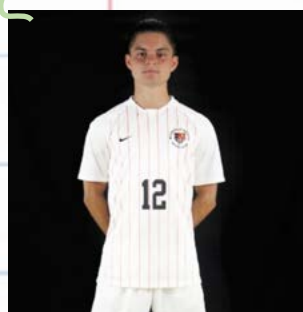
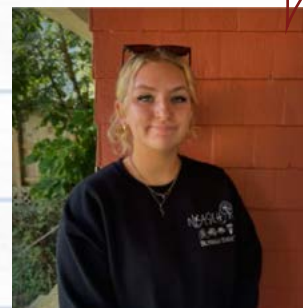
Influential Professor: Dr. DiPirro. She truly takes pride in educating and always puts the needs of her students above her own.

Nicolina Creasey

Speech Language Pathology

Plans: Attend graduate school at Buffalo State to earn my Master's in Speech Language Pathology.

Advice: Get to know your professors; at Buffalo State, class sizes are small enough to make friends and work closely with mentors, take advantage of that!



Ion Croitor

Political Science and Criminal Justice

Plans: Enroll in law school and become an attorney.

Involvement: Men's Soccer and Student Leadership and Engagement.

Daniel Dale

Media Production, Coaching Minor, Sports Communication Certificate

Involvement: General Manager of WBNY.

Gregory Harvey was the most influential person I met at Buffalo State.



Chelsea Daley

Speech Language Pathology, American Sign Language Certificate

Plans: I will be attending graduate school to get a Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology.
"My favorite thing about Buffalo State is that it's a small school which makes it feel more personal."

Sarah Dauer

Math Education (7-12)

Plans: I will be in the classroom post-graduation while finishing my Master's degree.

"My favorite thing about Buffalo State is the amazing people I have met the past 4 years!"



Madeline Della Vella

Biology

Plans: Pursue a Master's Degree in Biology.

Influential Professor: Dr. Xiang-Dong Zhang has helped not only me, but many of his students both in their studies and in life. He truly cares about each of his students and wants to help them succeed.

Elizabeth Denis-Torres

Spanish and Social Work

Plans: I plan on working for Erie County's Child Protective Services as an Assistant Case worker.

"My favorite memory about being in Honors has been the activities they always host, my first year Honors BBQ was so fun especially as a freshman being new to campus."

Madison Dobucki

Speech Language Pathology

Plans: To continue my education in a graduate program in my field.

Involvement: NSSHLA

"Keep working hard, as difficult as school can be, in the end it will truly be rewarding knowing all that you have accomplished."

Devin Dulinawka

Social Studies Education (7-12)

Plans: Come back to Buffalo State to get my Master's degree, and start the hiring process to become a social studies teacher in Western New York.

Josette Fleming

Political Science, Coaching Minor

Plans: Become a real estate lawyer.

Involvement: Member of Phi Sigma Alpha political science honors society, Women's Basketball, two year Resident Assistant.

"Study hard because your GPA is important, but make sure to have fun and make friends along the way!"

Jenny Flick

Early Childhood and Childhood Education

Plans: Get my Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction here at Buffalo State and substitute teach.

Involvement: President of Bengals Passionate About Education (BPE) and IPDS Italy.

Ashbiya Giri

Economics

"One of the most memorable and influential experiences was taking a philosophy class and having an eye-opening conversation with my professor, Dr. Blessing. That discussion shifted my perspective on college, inspiring me to explore courses beyond economics and business."

Evelyn Grapes

Nutrition and Dietetics

Plans: I have an internship with the sports dietitian at Cornell! Then, I will continue my education at Buffalo State to get my Master's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics.

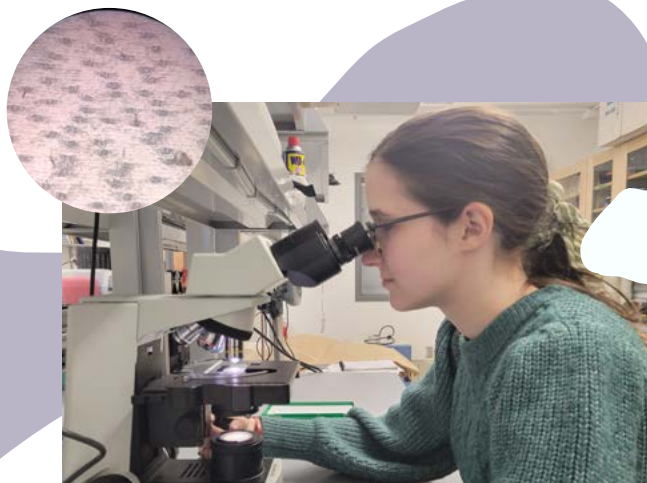
"My favorite thing about Buffalo State is the small class sizes! This helped me to learn better and have a better connection with my professors, especially the ones in my major!"

THE 27TH ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH & CREATIVITY CONFERENCE

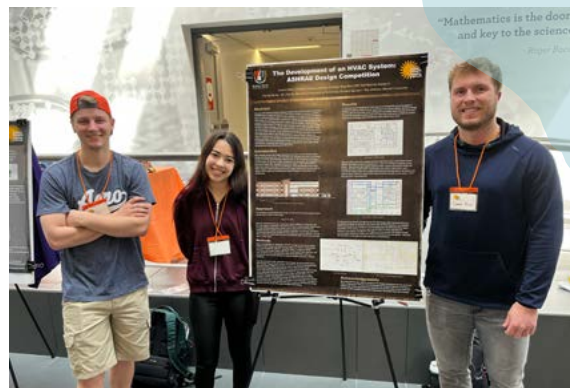
Each year, undergraduate students spend many hours researching, designing, and preparing projects that will be on display at the Student Research & Creativity Conference (SRCC). This Spring, students, professors, and visitors came together on May 2nd for the annual event.

Many Muriel A. Howard Honors Students participated in the SRCC, including 17 graduating seniors. Check out some of their featured work!

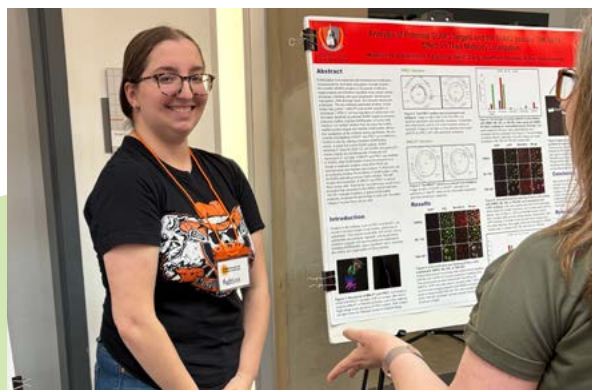
By Arie Dorsey



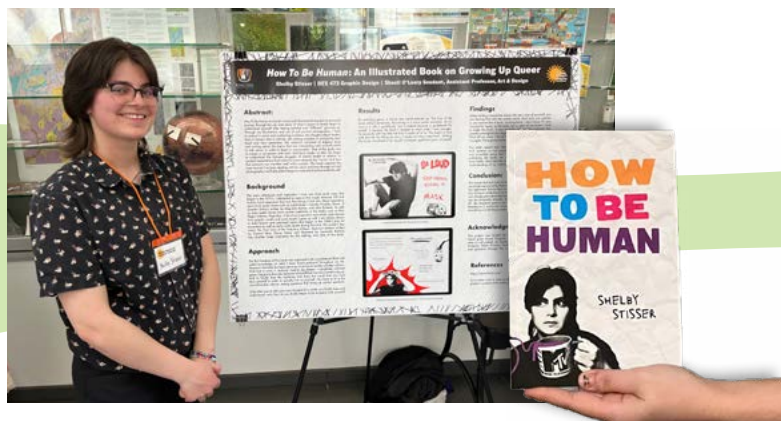
[Brigid Benson, Biology]: I am examining the variation in stomatal traits between domesticated and wild Agave species. I chose this topic for my Biology Honors Research project. There is an overlap between biogeography and anthropology, areas that I find quite fascinating.



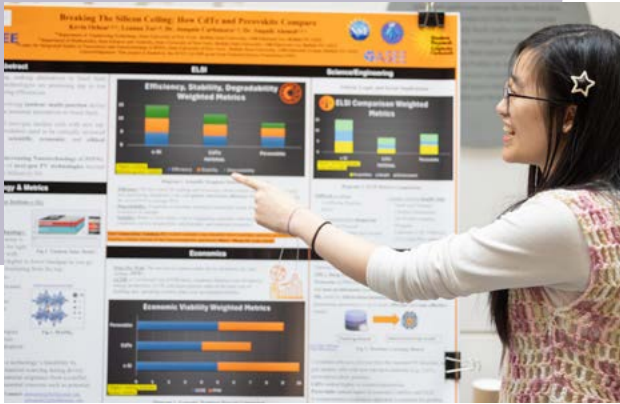
[Connor Bizal, Mechanical Engineering Technology]: Our project is about designing an HVAC system for a medical office building in Manchester, United Kingdom. We worked really hard on it throughout the semester and have developed a final product that we can all be proud of. This was overall just a great experience.



[Madeline Della Vella, Biology]: I have been investigating two potential SUMO target proteins and seeing whether treatment with a SUMO-activating enzyme (SAE) inhibitor, TAK-981, alters their localization in human HeLa cells. I am pleased with the work I have done.



[Shelby Stisser, Graphic Design]: My project was about my self-published book on my experience of growing up queer in a small conservative town. I chose this topic when I realized it was finally time to dig deep at the questions I've been avoiding confronting for years. It felt as if a weight was lifted off my chest by finally being able to share this project with not just my family and friends, but the public as well.



[Leanna Tse, Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics]:

My project is called COSMOS and is about creating a rover with the ideal purpose of competing in the University Rover Challenge. The path was not so linear! I definitely enjoyed the process and am happy with the results, lots of work that paid off!



[Sarah Pratt, Early Childhood/Childhood Education]:

This project is about board games and how they can be used as effective learning, management, and community tools in the elementary classroom. I would love for my research to reach other teachers, administrators, and parents so that they can use these skills and information to drive their instruction.



[Samantha Kaufman, Earth Science]: My project explores how different rock types in the southeastern Pennsylvania Piedmont recorded strain during the Alleghenian orogeny. I also presented at the Geological Society of America Northeastern-North Central 2025 Conference. I got a lot of compliments and feedback on my research and I couldn't be happier with the experience.

[Mike Vullo, Chemistry/Physics]: My project was one that was conducted at the University of Pittsburgh. I was accepted for an REU in Summer 2024 and placed in an electrochemistry lab. The project consisted of measuring the effect of chiral additives on the oxygen evolution reaction. I was eager to keep working; It felt like I was being pulled away from something I was glad to work on. The poster turned out great, and I felt confident presenting.

[Elizabeth Denis-Torres, Social Work/Spanish]: My project is about my social work field internship placement at Erie County's Child Protective Services (CPS). My experience was amazing, I was able to learn so much that I hadn't known before about CPS. I also plan on applying to work as a caseworker there after graduation.



Ava Grohusko

Social Work, American Sign Language Certificate

Involvement: Cru campus ministry.

"Get involved with extracurriculars on campus! There is so much offered to students, so take advantage of it and make friends that will last outside of your four years here!"

Eden Harrison

Social Work, Criminal Justice Minor

Involvement: Women's Volleyball and Residence Life.



Mackenzey Holmes

Art Education

Organizations: Visual Arts Board, Bengals Passionate about Education.

Influential Professor: Bob Wood always pushed me to create better and think bigger.
"Go outside and never skip lunch!"

Samia Hussain

Childhood Education

Plans: Pursue my Master's and start working in the teaching field.

"It is okay to not know what you want to do with the rest of your life. You're just starting, and it is completely okay to make some mistakes at first."



Abigail Jacobs

Mathematics Education

Involvement: Math Tutoring.
"I've been tutoring at the Math Support Services since my second semester here. And I have loved every second of it. I'm excited to keep assisting in learning as I go on in my life."

Martie Jones

Earth Science

Involvement: Vice President of AstroGeo Club.



Mya Jones

Early Childhood Education

Plans: Continue my education by attending graduate school here at Buffalo State University. I'll be starting the Literacy Specialist Program in Summer 2025.

Sencere Jones

Early Childhood and Childhood Education

Involvement: African American Student Organization(AASO) and Residence Life.

"My favorite thing about Buffalo State University is the community. You can always find a friendly face."





Madison Joyce

Speech Language Pathology

Plans: Attend Buffalo State's graduate program in Speech Language Pathology in Fall 2025.

Influential Professor:
Dr. Maldonado.

Cameron Juzdowski

Music Education

Plans: Teach K-3 Music Education locally, or teach English Language Learners abroad! Certified in K-12 Music Education.

"Dr. Kerry Renzoni has been one of my most influential professors. She gave me a love of teaching elementary music and guided my teaching in Italy. Without her, I never would have found my interest in teaching internationally or be half as good of a teacher as I am."



Jack Kaczmarowski

Childhood Education (1-6) with a Math Extension (7-9)

Plans: Go to grad school at Buffalo State University and apply for teaching jobs at elementary and middle schools.

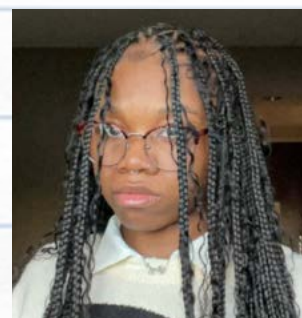
Influential Professors: Dr. Mercer and Dr. Schiera.

Aliyyah Karam

Business Administration, concentration in Management, Business Economics Minor

Influential Professor: Natalie Szymanski.

"Stay true to yourself and don't let peer pressure get to you. Also, get involved on campus. Join clubs, sports, organizations, etc."



Matthew Karovski

Individualized Studies: Society and the Individual, Writing, Philosophy

Plans: Pursue the Multidisciplinary studies program at Buffalo State, combining coursework from Higher Ed. & Public Administration.

"If a negation does not exist, then the answer is technically 'yes'."

Samantha Kaufman

Earth Science

Involvement: President of the Astronomy Geology Club, Women's Soccer, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).



Cora Kubiak

Physics, Mathematics Minor

Plans: Attend graduate school to earn my PhD in either physics or astronomy.

Involvement: Sigma Pi Sigma National Honors Society.



Danielle King

Graphic Design

"My favorite professor who I had the pleasure of learning from was Laurie McMurray. I genuinely have never felt more inspired or educated in my program than my time taking her course."



RUNWAY

Honors Seniors Perspective.

RUNWAY is a student fashion show showcasing senior designs that took place on April 26th. The event truly has the feel of a professionally run fashion show. This year, RUNWAY was dedicated to former Buffalo State professor Nancy Belford and the theme was *Intersectional Identity*.

"This focus challenges participants and viewers to reflect on the complexities of their own identities, drawing attention to the ways in which our unique differences also unite us as one," according to the RUNWAY program.

RUNWAY investigated intersectionality with the 22 senior design fashion lines showing their expression of what intersectionality means to them.

Four Honors Program seniors participated in RUNWAY this year. Amy Ramos, Noah Roberts, and Jaden Brice designed their own collections, and Alexis Roth served as co-director.

Noah won 3rd place as a senior designer that came with a \$500 cash prize sponsored by Burchfield Penney Art Center. Jaden won the RUNWAY Impact Award that came with a \$500 cash prize sponsored by Connolly Studios.

By: Rylee Shott



Amy Ramos

SENIOR DESIGNER

"RUNWAY has been such a rewarding experience. My collection explores the blend of masculinity and femininity, and I'm proud to share a message that reflects both strength and softness through design."



Noah Roberts

SENIOR DESIGNER

"RUNWAY was a great way for me to explore my own intersecting identities while learning about the unique experiences of others! My collection expresses the intersections of race and culture as the overarching theme but adds layers like gender and sexuality through the individual looks. This was a way of highlighting the depth of intersectionality and its personal impact on all of us!"



Jaden Brice

SENIOR DESIGNER

"RUNWAY has been a huge learning experience that I am incredibly grateful for. Everyone has put so much work into this production, from the elaborate set design to the senior designers spending hours in the studio after class. The theme 'intersectional identity' allowed me to explore this medium in a new lens. I'm so happy to have been a part of this show with so many creative and hardworking people."



Alexis Roth

STUDENT DIRECTOR

"This show is so much more than just clothing. They are extremely personal details being shared with the crowd in the hopes of uniting us all through fashion. It's different backgrounds and personalities coming together to create a one-of-a-kind show."



Find the entire
RUNWAY Program at
[buffalostaterunway.com/
program](https://buffalostaterunway.com/program)



Bethany Kulikowski

Speech Language Pathology

Involvement: NSSLHA and NBSLHA.

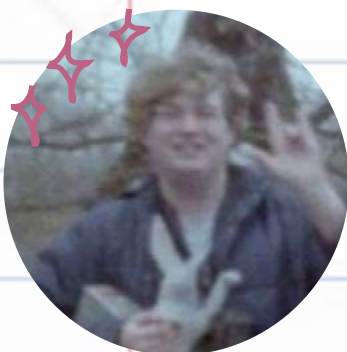
"Lean into the support contacts provided and take every opportunity possible to absorb the experiences your professors share."

Haley Mazgaj

Dietetics

Plans: Become a Dietetic Technician (DTR) and work toward my Registered Dietitian (RD) credential.

"Find a group of people within your major and create a study group. I found it easier to learn challenging topics when it was explained in different ways by peers."



Edward Murphy

Television Film Arts and Writing, Film Studies Minor

Plans: Study in NYC and work as a script reader.

"Once you know what you wanna do, go all in."

Sarah Pratt

Early Childhood Education, American Sign Language Cert.

Plans: Graduate School and job search!

Involvement: Bengals Passionate about Education and PDS Student Representative.

"Say 'yes' to as much as you can."



Amy Ramos

Fashion and Textile Technology, Writing Minor

Involvement: Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority and P.U.L.S.E

"Be who you are and your most authentic self."

Magdalene Restuccia

BFA in Art Education

"My 3 roommates and best friends are all in Honors."



Olivia Rodriguez

Interior Design

My favorite Honors memories are the Fall BBQs—great food, vibes, and people. I also loved touring the abandoned Richardson Olmsted Complex, one of the most intriguing events I attended.

"While school is important, don't miss out on creating meaningful memories—you'll want to look back with no regrets!"

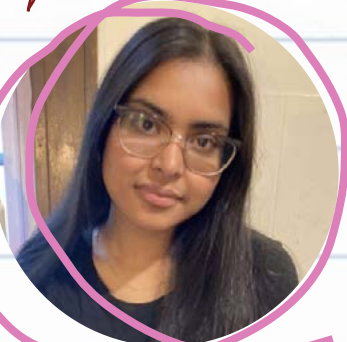


Shimla Rima

Business Administration

Plans: Work in the banking field.

"Get involved on campus. Join clubs and organizations to meet new people and build a network."



Isaiah Ruth



Criminal Justice, Intelligence Analysis Minor

"MAKE FRIENDS!! Friends that you make freshman year could be the same people you stand shoulder to shoulder with on graduation day. The Honors Program gave me the opportunity to make those friends and provided an atmosphere where we could support each other throughout our college experiences."

Jaeko Salas Batista

Criminal Justice

"Remember your 'why.' College can be overwhelming but holding onto the reason you started whether it's a personal goal, a career dream, or a deeper purpose can help you stay focused and motivated, especially when things get tough."



Mary Schmitz

Art Education (PK-12)

Plans: Begin teaching and pursue my MSEd in Curriculum and Instruction.

"Utilize your school resources (library books, Honors Hub printing, the Weigel Clinic, and any event with free food!)."

Jennifer Segura Lopez

English Education (7-12), Diverse Literatures Minor

"Through Honors I was able to meet my friends that followed me through college. I have met such wonderful people and made such wonderful connections."



Andrew Sheedy

Interior Design

Plans: I plan to work a few years with an Architecture/ Interior design firm to grow my experience and skill set. After I have my feet on the ground I want to go independent to design and construct anything my mind can think of.

Rylee Shott

Journalism, Political Science and Africana Studies Minors

Influential Professors: Dr. Niman and Dr. Perez.

"Don't put a lot of effort into the people around you but put that effort into yourself and your studies."



Abby Silsby

Early Childhood and Childhood Education

Involvement: Vice President of Delta Phi Zeta and Student Assistant at Alumni Center.

Influential Professors: Beth Farrar and Lisa Bair, they both have become mentors for me and my teaching career.

Keely-Ann Simpson

Speech Language Pathology, Social Welfare Minor

"You are enough and what is for you will always find you. Have fun and just know learning never stops."





Demisha Smith

Social Work

Plans: I would like to continue my education and earn my LMSW.

Influential professor: Prof. Mark Boser, as he truly embodies dedication to the field.

Daniel Sorge

History and Economics

Involvement: Buffalo State Track and Field and Cross Country.



Joshua Spalding

Criminal Justice, Psychology Minor

Plans: Go into Border Patrol.

Favorite Honors memory: The Honors BBQ.

Anna Stein

Special Education and Childhood Education

Plans: Find a job as a full time special education teacher in a primary grade and make a difference working towards inclusive education for all children.

"I loved being the treasurer for Bengals Passionate about Education and conducting undergraduate research with Dr. McCabe!"



Hannah Steiner

Public Relations and Advertising, Business Administration (Marketing)

Involvement: President of PRSSA.

Favorite thing about Buff State: The opportunity to travel to conferences across the U.S. to learn more about PR!

Shelby Stisser

Graphic Design, Photography Minor

Plans: Continue making meaningful art and sell my work to others who enjoy my style and messages within my pieces.

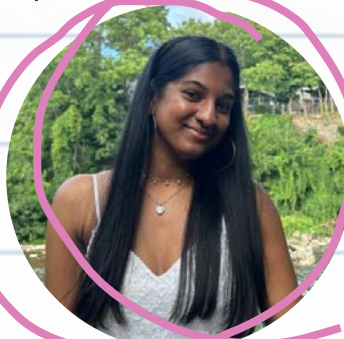
Influential Professor: Shasti O'Leary Soudant.



Ruthie Swann

Social Work; Political Science and French Minors Child Advocacy Certificate

Plans: I will be attending University at Buffalo for their 1-year Advanced Standing Social Work program.



Tyler Troyer

Social Studies Education 7-12, Art History Minor

Plans: Get a job in education and return to Buffalo State to obtain my Master's.

Influential Professors: Dr. Frances Gage, whose passion for Art History encouraged me to obtain my minor, and both Dr. Bridget Chesterton and Dr. York Norman, for encouraging me to write and forever changing how I write for the better.





Leanna Tse

**Electrical Engineering
Technology, Mathematics
Minor**

Involvement: President of the Robotics Club, Vice President of the Gaming Guild, & Secretary of IEEE student branch.

"Don't be shy about making new friends."

Abigail Verner

**Business Management,
Business Economics Minor**

Involvement: Women's Volleyball, SAAC, Internship Program.

Favorite Honors Memory:
Living in the Honors dorm my freshman year and meeting my current roommate through the Honors Program.



Rachel Vitko

Media Production, Theater Minor

Plans: Produce videos once I graduate and go into the growing film industry in Buffalo.

Involvement: President of BFT Productions/ BSC-TV.

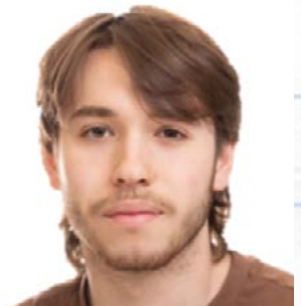


Mike Vullo

Chemistry and Physics

Plans: Ph.D in materials chemistry.

"Don't speedrun college."



Notebook Wiertel

Psychology

Plans: After a gap year, I plan to attend University at Buffalo's behavioral neuroscience PhD program.

Influential Professor: Dr. Jean DiPirro nurtured my deep appreciation for neuroscience and has inspired me to follow my dreams of being a professor and researching dissociation and dissociative disorders.

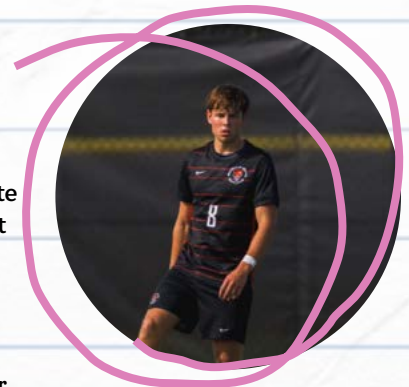
David Wozniak

Biology

Plans: Enrolled in the Doctorate Program in Physical Therapy at the College of Staten Island.

Involvement: Men's Soccer.

"Truly live in the moment. Your college years are some of the best of your life, so make the most of them. As cliché as it may sound, these years fly by in the blink of an eye."



Honors Graduates

Congratulations to our 81 Honors students graduating this Spring and Summer! We are so proud of your accomplishments at Buffalo State and can't wait to see you take the next step in your careers!

Spring 2025

Ayoko Abaglo
Noah Adams
Chloe Adams
Catherine Alverson
Jessica Auge
Catherine Baxter
Brigid Benson
Moss Bertini
Liliana Billi
Connor Bizal
Talidy Blijden
Jaden Brice
Ceci Brooks
Christopher Burgio
Kassidy Caldwell
Stephanie Clement
Mary Teresa Comerate
Sarah Congelosi
Emily Cooper
Nicolina Creasey
Ion Croitor
Chelsea Daley
Sarah Dauer
Madeline Della Vella
Elizabeth Denis-Torres
Madison Dobucki
Devin Dulinawka
Anthony Falzarano
Josie Fleming
Jenny Flick

Ashbiya Giri
Christopher Goodlander
Evelyn Grapes
Eden Harrison
Mackenzey Holmes
Samia Hussain
Abigail Jacobs
Martie Jones
Mya Jones
Sencere Jones
Madison Joyce
Cameron Juzdowski
Jack Kaczmarowski
Aliyyah Karam
Matthew Karovski
Samantha Kaufman
Danielle King
Cora Kubiak
Bethany Kulikowski
Haley Mazgaj
Edward Murphy
Sarah Pratt
Amy Ramos
Magdalene Restuccia
Shimla Rima
Olivia Rodriguez
Isaiah Ruth
Jaeko Salas Batista
Mary Schmitz
Jennifer Segura Lopez
Andrew Sheedy

Rylee Shott
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Summer 2025

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