



MURIEL A. HOWARD HONORS PROGRAM *Official Newsletter*

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HONORS DONATION DRIVE
International Institute of Buffalo

HONORS FACULTY & STAFF SPOTLIGHT



DR. ROBERT WARREN is Professor of Global Change Ecology at SUNY Buffalo State. He has been teaching at Buffalo State for 10 years. He teaches the Global Change, Ecology, and Biostatistics courses as well as a new Sustainability Honors Seminar. His lab's research focuses on how species interactions respond to habitat fragmentation, non-native species invasion and climate change. Warren is author of more than 75 academic papers. He holds a PhD from the University of Georgia (Athens) and did postdoctoral research at Wright State and Yale Universities.

Advice for Honors Students: Excel at the job you have to get the job you want.

Fun Fact: Dr. Warren collects and restores antique microscopes and electro-magnetic machines. Check out the vintage microscope in Dr. McMillan's office!



DR. GEHAN SENTHINATHAN is an Assistant Professor at SUNY Buffalo State. He completed an Honor's Bachelor's degree in Psychology at the University of Toronto, followed by a Masters Degree and a PhD in Behavioral Neuroscience at Wilfrid Laurier University. His research explores how ecological variables influence behavioral patterns and underlying neural mechanisms associated with the excessive consumption of drugs and natural rewards. Thus, his research interests and publications intersect with many areas in psychology, including motivation, age-development, learning, and memory.

Since starting his position at SUNY Buffalo State in 2020 he has taught Introduction to Psychology for the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program as well as other undergraduate and graduate courses including Child Development and Education, Educational Psychology: Elementary Education, Human

Development During Early Adolescence and Adolescence, Adolescent Psychology, Methods and Techniques of Educational Research, Research Methods in Speech-Language Pathology, and he has an upcoming Graduate Workshop on Social and Emotional Learning in Spring 2023.

Advice for Honors Students: There is value to being "well-rounded". If you want to be good at one thing, you should try many things. Each of these experiences will give you different "lenses" or perspectives to view the world. I played competitive national-level tennis and basketball and continue to play sports for recreation. I am a neuroscientist today, but I have been many things along the way. I was, and perhaps still am an artist, a song-writer, and a rapper. Remember, the more you practice, the better you get at each individual element in your life. Furthermore, the diversity of your experiences will make you a more "well-rounded" person. Ultimately, all of these experiences will make you a better problem solver in the future. Research suggests that creative people show preference for elaborate, intricate, and complex stimuli and thinking patterns. They also tend to "dabble" in many things and all of this experience can facilitate problem solving. Embrace adversity and challenges, overcoming these experiences will foster resilience. Be persistent with your efforts, but also, be human - rely on others for social support whenever it is required.

CONGRATULATIONS MS. STEVENS!

Recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Academic Advisement

Elizabeth A. Stevens, senior academic adviser for the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program, has been recognized for excellence among faculty and staff members who distinguished themselves in work performed on behalf of the college. Scan the QR code to see all faculty & staff recognized on October 13th.

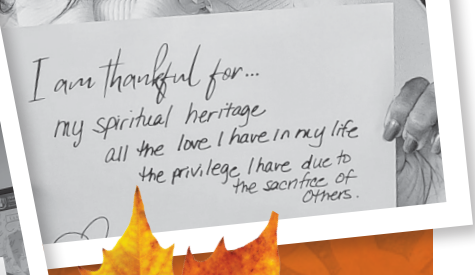


Ms. Stevens joined by two former advisees, Laurian Kidd ('05) & Ruth Jean ('04), & Ruth's son, Kelvin.

HONORS GIVES THANKS

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Often times, we are so busy in life we forget to take time to reflect on what there is to be thankful for. We reached out to Honors staff, faculty, and students, to hear what they are most thankful for. Here's what they said:

I am thankful for...



HONORS ON STAGE

CASTING HALL'S PRODUCTION OF PIPPIN



On October 20th, over 40 Honors students packed the seats of Warren Enters Theatre to enjoy a performance of *Pippin*. The musical featured a talented cast of 10 Buffalo State students telling the coming-of-age story of a young prince. The main character Pippin, performed by Jake Gear, navigates a long list of experiences from love to royalty to fatherhood to murder all in the quest for self fulfillment. Audience members were entertained with lots of songs, choreographed dance numbers, and comic relief by the Leading Player (narrator).



Before the show, Chair and Associate Professor of Theater Carol Beckley arranged an exclusive backstage tour and talkback for Honors! Students visited the lighting & sound booths, the scene shop, and the costume shop. Then they enjoyed a dinner discussion with Ron Schwartz (set designer & technical director), Erica Fire (costume shop director), Nick Quinn (lighting designer) and Carol Beckley (costume designer).

SEE THE HONORS STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION!





EMILY CANNON

YEAR: FRESHMAN

MAJOR: MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

MINOR: THEATRE MINOR

ROLE: FASTRADA

"Being in Pippin was an extraordinary experience. I came into the process knowing practically nobody because I was starting a new school and was the only freshman cast in the production, but I left as a valued member of the theater community with cast mates that will be my friends long after graduation. I'll never forget how alive I felt during the last time we sang Morning Glow and our voices echoed off the walls. The best advice I can give to anyone wanting to pursue theater at Buff State is to go for it, even if you're afraid like I was in the beginning; without this show I don't think I would have been able to adjust to college life as smoothly as I did."



KATHLEEN DUNNE

YEAR: SENIOR

MAJOR: MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR

MINOR: THEATRE MINOR

ROLE: MUSICAL DIRECTOR

"I knew that being on the directing team as a student would be challenging, but I could not have asked for a better support system, production team, and cast! The show truly turned out to be magical and this brilliant cast made me a better teacher. I am SO proud of this show and everyone involved."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SEE GABBY PERFORM AS TONI STONE AT THE UJIMA THEATRE WITH HONORS ON NOVEMBER 13TH!

Since graduating, Gabby has been cast in several professional shows in Buffalo including Camelot at MusicalFare, Pride and Prejudice and People, Places & Things at the Kavinoky, and others. She has also worked as a Teaching Artist with the Anne Frank Project on campus and as the Education and Community Outreach Coordinator with Shakespeare in Delaware Park for the last year. Soon she will start a new role as the Program Director for Ujima Co. Inc., a professional theater here in Buffalo.

What advice would you give current Honors students?

TRY EVERYTHING!!! As students we are often our own worst critics. We can talk ourselves out of just about anything with our own self-doubts. Seek spaces on campus that show you that you matter and push to help you grow. During my college career I found that in the Honors Program and with the Anne Frank Project. That's why I came back to work with AFP. I knew the growth I made as a performer and as a person was directly correlated with AFP telling me that I mattered and that my story mattered. The Theater Department /Casting Hall was also a place where I found belonging. We all had a desire to create and honor this craft and I sought opportunities within there to do that. I highly recommend that you find groups that are passionate about what you're passionate about. And if there isn't one, start it! You must jump to fly!

Tell us a bit about Toni Stone!

Toni Stone has very quickly become permanently woven into my heart as the role I was born to play. Not because I'm an athlete (because I am not by any means), but because of Toni's spirit to fight and break down walls of racism and sexism that try to keep her from the thing she loves most- playing baseball. It is a high intensity glimpse into the world of the first woman to play professional baseball. "Toni Stone" blazes a path in the male-dominated sports world, shattering expectations and creating her own set of rules. Follow Toni's journey as she fights for love, equality, and a chance to do what she loves the most- play ball!



GABBY MCKINLEY

(FALL '20), B.A. THEATER

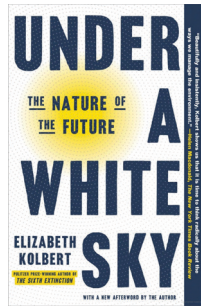
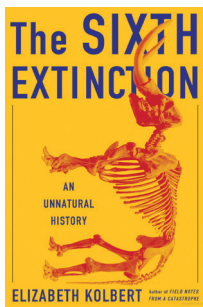
BABEL AUTHOR TALK

ELIZABETH KOLBERT

On October 14, Honors went to Kleinhans Music Hall and listened to a crucial conversation led by author Elizabeth Kolbert. Kolbert is known for writing captivating books based on scientific facts with a mix of dry humor. At her BABEL Author Talk, she discussed her two more popular books, *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* (2014) and *Under A White Sky* (2021).

Though talking to a diverse audience of varying ages, she addressed what we as college students should be concerned about. As she put it, we are the next generation with the most impact. We have the power to make the change we want to see, and if we don't, there will be negative consequences. The world is in our hands.

Join us on November 10 for our second outing to Kleinhans Music Hall to see another BABEL Author Talk featuring Omar El Akkad. El Akkad is a political fiction writer known for his books *What a Strange Paradise* (2021) and *American War* (2017), and we are anticipating another captivating night of stories.



JOIN US FOR THE NEXT BABEL TALK

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 10

BABEL AUTHOR TALK:
OMAR EL AKKAD
RSVP required



Dec. 9

FARE WELL FRIDAY

Stop by the Honors Hub for free food & winter crafts.

Nov. 16

LASER ROCK SHOW
AT THE PLANETARIUM
featuring the music of Queen!
RSVP required



CHECK OUT MORE EVENTS:
ON BENGAL CONNECT!



HONORS HALLOWEEN

Who knew Honors was so scary?! Honors students joined us in the Honors Hub on Halloween to paint and carve pumpkins, eat LOTS of candy, and a few even showed off their fun costumes. Head to our Instagram to see more pictures of the festivities we had!



THE
SPOOKY
SIDE OF HONORS

HONORS DONATION DRIVE

to support



INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE
OF BUFFALO

Support immigrant families
from around the world as they
start a new life in Buffalo!

Learn more at iibuffalo.org

Most requested items:

- Blankets (Full & Twin)
- 13-Gallon Kitchen Trash Bins & Waste Bags
- Rice Cookers
- Cookware Sets
- Sheets & Pillow Cases (Full & Twin)
- Mops & Brooms

SCAN THE
QR CODE
for a full list
of items



Throughout the month of November, Honors will be collecting new or unused bedding & household items. Drop off items in the Honors Hub collection bin anytime during regular business hours.



ARE YOU AN HONORS ALUM? Please update us on how you're doing!
Scan the QR code & fill out the survey to get a chance to be featured in our newsletter.



honors.buffalostate.edu



Buffalo State Honors Program



@buffstatehonors

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