



MURIEL A. HOWARD HONORS PROGRAM

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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NRHC *ILLUMINATE*

Three students publish works in Volume 6 of the undergraduate journal!

Aoife Clune

Published "Evolution of Female Characters in Irish Folklore: Pre- and Post-Christian Perspectives."

"I am so grateful to have been able to present my research two years in a row at NRHC. NRHC is a multi-disciplinary Conference, so you are given the opportunity to sit in on discussions of topics you may not have the opportunity to learn about otherwise. Each year I have been able to make such great connections, acquire networking opportunities, and gain a closer relationship with my fellow honors students at Buffalo State. My first academic conference was NRHC and it was a wonderful experience. I was able to learn basic Conference etiquette and learn how to carry myself professionally. Thank you so much, Matt and Dr. McMillan, for giving me the opportunity to present my research and receive such a lovely learning experience."



Grace Maldonado


Grace's photography submission "Clone" evokes the process of looking at oneself in a whole physical form. "I wanted to depict feelings of wonder and confusion, those times where you wonder if the person you see in the mirror is who you really are or just some figment of your own imagination, questioning: 'How authentic is this person that I see right in front of me?'" To create this piece of artwork, my goal was to make the model look almost like someone you'd see in a dream by using eyeshadows such as green and blue and red lipstick to make the model pop with color. I then transferred the photo into Procreate, cutting out the head of the model and facing two heads towards each other. Using the Procreate app, I was able to transfer different colors that I wanted onto the models face. I played around and went for a darker aesthetic. Experimentation is what my art is built on, using what is in front of me to create something different."

Shaikh Ismid Jobayer Kibria

Shaikh's submission, "Parking Palooza: Avoiding Campus Car-tastropies," was based on his Spring 2024 Early Undergraduate Research Opportunity (EURO) project to develop a mobile app for parking at Buffalo State. His app would enable students to locate the nearest available parking lot based on their real-time location, view parking lot restrictions, and even receive reminder notifications. Shaikh also presented a demo of his app at the 2024 Student Research and Creativity Conference (SRCC).



Scan to access the Fall 2024 Edition of *Illuminate*



Each Spring, the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Conference brings together hundreds of students from honors programs across the region to present their research and creative works. In addition to presenting at a conference, attendees enjoy keynote speakers, networking and social events, and a full day of city explorations. Muriel A. Howard Honors Program students have participated in the conference each year since 2022.

The 2025 NRHC Conference will take place March 27-30 in Harrisburg, PA. Presentation proposals are due by November 18th. Visit www.nrhc-honors.com to learn more.

Alpha Lambda Delta Leadership Conference



In late October, Honors student Miranda Shepard and Interim Provost Dr. Amitra Wall traveled to Chicago to attend the ALD Leadership Conference. Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) is a national honor society that recognizes academic excellence among first-year students. This year marks the 100th anniversary of ALD which was founded in 1924 by Maria Leonard, the Dean of Women at the University of Illinois.

This was Miranda's second year attending the conference and first time attending as President of the Buffalo State chapter. The conference offers a range of breakout sessions that aim to equip the student attendees with the skills and knowledge that will help them lead (and grow) their chapters. Students and advisors also had opportunities to network and enjoy the many attractions of downtown Chicago. At the opening reception, ALD Executive Director and Buffalo State Alumna Eileen Merberg ('84, '86) delivered the Centennial Celebration address.

First-year students who earn at least a 3.5 GPA prior to earning 30 credit hours at Buffalo State are eligible to join ALD. These students receive an invitation email in February with details about accepting membership and about the induction ceremony. ALD benefits include academic recognition, scholarship opportunities, the ability to serve on ALD's executive board or at Buffalo State events, online and in-person leadership development, and an extensive network of members worldwide. Follow @aldbuffstate on Instagram for updates and information for members.

"The Alpha Lambda Delta Leadership Conference in Chicago was a remarkable opportunity for student members to connect with like-minded peers from around the world. We all learned more about the pillars of Academics, Scholarships, Service, Career Development, and Belonging while being able to represent Buffalo State University. Various sessions allowed students as well as Alpha Lambda Delta advisors the opportunity to enhance our personal and professional growth." - Dr. Amitra Wall, Interim Provost and ALD Advisor

"Attending the ALD Leadership Conference in Chicago was an incredible opportunity to connect with members from ALD chapters nationwide. The experience was both inspiring and motivating, and I'm excited to start implementing everything we learned to strengthen our Buffalo State chapter!"
- Miranda Shepard, ALD President and Third-Year Honors Student

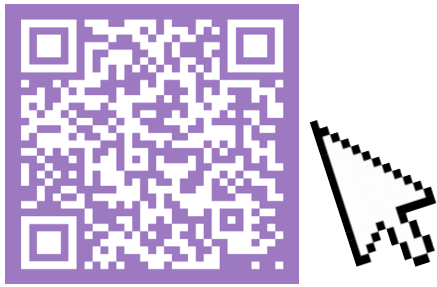
HONORS ART GALLERY



For the first time ever, the Honors Program curated its own art exhibition in the Dr. Margaret E. Bacon Gallery in Upton Hall October 21st-25th. The gallery featured 19 student artists from a variety of majors who contributed drawings, paintings, fabrics, sculptures, photography, and mixed media pieces. Mary Teresa Comerate, an Honors Leader and member of the Visual Arts Board (VAB), was instrumental in preparing the space for visitation and designed everything from track lighting to artist tags to wall vinyl. A reception was held on October 22nd to celebrate the success of the gallery and the students involved. Thank you to all who visited the exhibit and stay tuned for future Honors Art Gallery opportunities!



Spring 2025 Honors Courses Highlights and Registration Tips



Scan to check out our
Spring 2025 Courses
honors.buffalostate.edu/course-schedule

Honors students, it is that time of the year again! Now is the time to start registering for your Spring 2025 courses! Priority registration for all Honors students began on November 6th at 6:00 AM. If necessary, make an appointment to meet with your adviser to ensure you are taking the right courses for your major. We also recommend you take advantage of Banner’s Schedule Planner to plan out your courses. Head to registrar.buffalostate.edu for detailed instructions on how to use this tool.

If you are in the market for an experiential one-credit course, you’re in luck! We are offering two classes that may interest you!

Firstly, Assistant Director Matt Baran is teaching an entire course on exploring the culture of Buffalo, N.Y.! The official class title is **HON189 Special Topics Sem/The Queen City: Understanding Place in Buffalo, NY**. You’ll be able to participate in four off-campus explorations, diving into various aspects of Buffalo, like history, architecture, and cuisine. Alongside these adventures, students will think about complex questions such as “Who defines a place, and how?” and “Is The City of Good Neighbors a reality for all?” This course is truly an excellent choice for students of all interests and majors!

Next is a course in event planning taught by Ms. Elizabeth Grady in Institutional Advancement. **HON189 Special Topics Sem/Event Planning Fundamentals** explores the logistics of “conceptualizing, organizing, and executing events,” both small and large-scale. This course focuses on hands-on experience, with students required to participate in the upcoming 2025 Bengala. This is a great opportunity for students interested in learning about the complexities of professional event planning.

For those looking to fulfill gen-ed and/or Honors course requirements, we invite you to consider the following courses:

For the first time ever, we are excited to offer Dr. Ryan-Bryant’s **Women in Literature as an HON101** course! Examining texts such as Julia Alvarez’s *In the Time of the Butterflies* and Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home*, this course studies women’s depictions in literature through a comprehensive, multicultural lens.

Also making its way into the Honors catalog as a **HON101** course is **Humanities Sem/Professional Ethics** with Dr. Grinnell. Grappling with complex yet essential ethical questions that may arise in your personal and professional lives, this course is an excellent fit for any major!

Finally, we offer three interesting non-general education courses that will work for honors!

1) Dr. Goldman is offering **HON389 Special Topics Sem/Film Analysis & Evaluation for all interested in film, especially those in our TFA program**. This course considers how film, in general, plays a role in “building and sustaining a diverse and democratic society.”

2) If you are a person who enjoys science, we recommend **HON389 Special Topics Sem/Weather & Society** with Dr. Vermette. Focusing on discussions of current weather and forecasts in WNY, this course aims to provide you with a better foundational understanding of the science of weather in general!

3) Lastly, if you are interested in art, we recommend **HON389 Special Topics Sem/History of Collecting and the Museum** with Dr. Frances Gage. This course raises important questions about the history, economics, value, and cultural roles of art and museums as a whole.

Donation Drive To Benefit Jericho Road Community Health Center

Help support local families in need this season! Honors is collecting a large variety of items for the “Love Your Neighbor Adopt-A-Family Program” including:

- Self-care and hygiene
- Household essentials
- New baby items
- Winter clothes

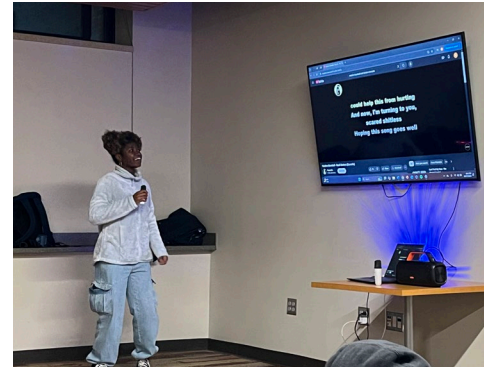
Find the full wishlist and collection bin in the Honors Hub (South Wing 320) until December 4th.

JUMPING INTO FALL

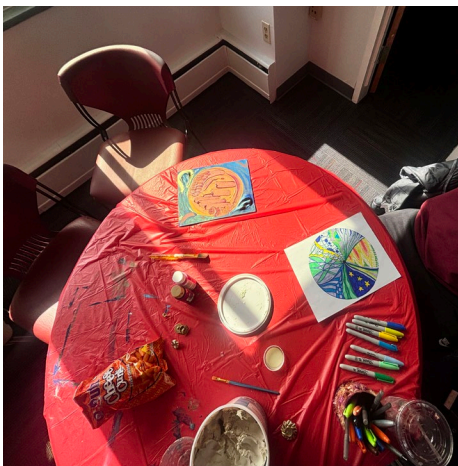
*Photoshoot by Honors Intern
 Grace Maldonado*



OCTOBER EVENTS RECAP



Honors Leaders were busy hosting a variety of events in October as midterms approached and autumn set in! Xinozea, Chelsea, and Jennifer hosted a “Fall Festivities” day in the Honors Hub featuring DIY vision boards, poetry and creative writing prompts, and a ‘do-nut’ stress station. Ceci leaned on her psychology major and art therapy minor to offer a “Mindful Mandalas” creative wellness event. Two Honors Leaders hosted free movie screenings: Jessie celebrated the 25th anniversary of The Matrix by leading a philosophical discussion of the film with Dr. Leigh Duffy, and Kevin offered a spooky screening of the classic Beetlejuice. Noah, Vincent, and Morgan led a smash hit Karaoke Night for over 50 students in Bishop Hall. Additionally, Asher co-hosted Trivia Night with Assistant Director Matt Baran and Jamie led a walking trip to visit the nearby Buffalo History Museum. Across all of these events, Honors students have had opportunities to connect with each other and de-stress during the busier weeks of the semester.



Find Upcoming Honors Events on Bengal Connect!

HONORS HALLOWEEN



Halloween is one of the most exciting times of the year, and students were able to celebrate in the Honors Hub! The Honors staff offered candy, spooky movies, and pumpkins of all sizes to paint and carve! There was even a costume contest, an excellent opportunity to showcase the creativity of our students. With midterms finally over, students got the chance to relax and celebrate all their hard work with a little bit of seasonal fun!

When we think of Halloween, we think of nostalgia. We think of friends and family. The Honors Program at Buffalo State strives to offer opportunities to foster connections on campus. Whether you commute or live on-campus, you'll always have a family here at the Honors Hub!





HONORS IS GIVING THANKS

WE ASKED HONORS STUDENTS AND FACULTY: "WHO ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?"

"First, a giant squeal of love and appreciation to my current cohort of amazing humans and writers in College Writing 101. Your intro board questions always start the day with joy and discussion; your artwork graces the whiteboard for all MWF classes to enjoy; and your generous sharing (and creation of "positive Fridays")

has built the most brilliant and supportive community. Oh, and you're really amazing thinkers and writers too! I'm honored to get to hang out with all of you every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Thank you for sharing your freshman year with me.

Second, a big hug (or air high five) to all my past CWPers! I am a better teacher and human for meeting and learning alongside you, and I am so proud of the scholars and leaders you have become on campus. Whenever your names come across the Daily, my inbox, or a meeting agenda I can't help but smile a bit too big. Don't be strangers, come visit me and my fidget toys in Ketchum!" - Dr. Natalie Szymanski

"I am thankful for my best friend, who is helping me get through this semester"

"I'm thankful for my fellow Honors Leader Michelle! She has helped me so much <3"

"I'm thankful for my best friend César E. Galarza Arzola, he always makes my day better"

"I'm thankful to my family n friends cuz they always there for me in my difficult times"

"I would like to give a special shout-out to my HON 202 Data and Global Conflict Class. This is my first time teaching an Honors class and they have made the experience an enjoyable one. Their enthusiasm and creativity make teaching a dream." - Dr. Mehwish Sarwari

"Mr. Matt and Dr. McMillan because they work so hard to keep Honors afloat!"

"Htee Ku - Thank you for being such an amazing friend and always supporting me through thick & thin. Love you <3 Linda"

"I am thankful for my mentees! I may be here to support them, but they support me more than they know!"

"I am thankful for the HON 101 Romantic Love students for creating a trusting and supportive environment where we can explore and challenge each other. I am grateful for the honesty and for how they make me a better instructor. I really do learn something new every day. Also, I am thankful to Dr. McMillan for the opportunity to teach this class. This happened just when I needed a meaningful challenge."

- Professor Ann Emo

"I am thankful for the "front row" from the Honors Meaning of Life section Spring 2024, who made teaching an absolute joy. They know who they are!" - Dr. Leigh Duffy



honors.buffalostate.edu



Buffalo State Honors Program



@buffstatehonors

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