



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

The Graduate School Newsletter



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New curriculum coming to Buffalo State.
- 4+1 Pathway provides less expensive way to earn a masters degree.
- Student, Faculty, and Alumni Spotlights.
- Graduate students opportunity to receive funding through the GSA.

New Graduate Curriculum to be Offered in Fall 2016

Buffalo State offers a wide variety of programs at the graduate level. In fall 2016 even more options will be available to students. These include curriculum in data analytics, public relations, and an accelerated pathway in early childhood/exceptional education.

Dr. Joaquin Carbonara, professor in the mathematics department, will serve as the principal adviser for students interested in the data analytics curriculum. This curriculum will be offered through the Multidisciplinary Studies M.S. degree program and will offer courses in big data, database management, statistics, machine learning and business intelligence. The degree will also inaugurate a partnership between SUNY Buffalo State and SUNY Fredonia.

There is a great need for data analysis in the job market, and students in mathematics, economics, statistics, and similar disciplines are encouraged to apply as they will have an array of career options when finished with their degree. Students can begin taking courses in fall 2016; those interested should contact Dr. Carbonara.

Dr. Deborah Silverman, associate professor in the Communication Department, is very excited about the

impending arrival of a masters program in Public Relations. Currently in queue at the New York State Department of Education, this degree program will be available soon. This new degree will be a more robust curriculum than that currently offered through the multidisciplinary studies program with a concentration in public relations. Students with an undergraduate degree in Communications, Journalism, Broadcasting, English, and similar programs are recommended to apply for the Public Relations program. It will integrate current research in the field and include experiential learning initiatives.

Lastly, students now also have the option to take advantage of an accelerated bachelor's/graduate pathway in early childhood education and exceptional education. Students accepted into the pathway take 9 graduate credits their senior year, thus saving time and money on their way to a graduate degree. Interested students should contact the Department of Elementary Education and Reading.

Stay tuned for more news about graduate programming in the months ahead.

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4+1 in Dietetics and Adult Education=Great Opportunity

SUNY Buffalo State has established a 4+1 pathway that allows undergraduates in Health, Nutrition and Dietetics the opportunity

to apply for conditional admission into graduate school and complete 9 graduate credit hours in the master of science in adult education degree during their senior year. When admitted into the pathway, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

The graduate program is 100% online and prepares students for careers in adult education and human resource development. The program integrates practice, by implementing current research and theory, allowing stu-

dents to connect their adult education coursework to content knowledge in dietetics and wellness.

Dr. Carol DeNysschen, chair and associate professor of Health, Nutrition and Dietetics, believes that this program is a great opportunity for current undergraduate students. They will be able to start their master's program in their senior year and continue only one more year online to complete their masters degree while working in the field. With the mandate that all registered dietitians entering the field in 2025 need a master's degree, this pathway bridges the gap for students currently at Buffalo State.

To schedule an advisory meeting to learn more about the 4+1 Dietetics and Adult Education pathway, please contact your academic advisor or Dr. DeNysschen.

Message from Dean Kevin Railey

FOCUSING ON STUDENTS—NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

One of the most important parts of my role as graduate dean is to research and recommend new degree and curricula options that can help students find the success they seek. I listen to students, talk to faculty, and research economic and societal trends in order to try to identify the way that students interests, faculty expertise and emerging trends can be joined in new curricula. This newsletter identifies some of the new developments in these areas, and I look forward to helping to guide students into these new opportunities.

I also look forward to the ongoing strategic plan discussions and the opportunities students and faculty will have to share their thoughts and hopes about graduate education at Buffalo State. The future looks bright!!

Thanks to all who contribute to graduate education here at SUNY Buffalo State.



- Applications for May Graduation are due to the Graduate School by **February 1st**
- Nominations for Outstanding Master's Project and Thesis are due to the Graduate School by **February 12th**
- GSA Research Fair participants must register by **April 17th** through the GSA website: <http://gsa.buffalostate.edu>

Important Information



Meet the Graduate School Staff: Jessica Sobczak Senior Staff Assistant & Recruiter

Jessica Sobczak is the Senior Staff Assistant in the Graduate School at SUNY Buffalo State. Jessica has been working in the Graduate School since 2006. She started her career as the graduate assistant in the Graduate School, while she completed her master's degree in Student Personnel Administration (now Higher Education and Student Affairs

Administration). When she completed her masters degree in 2008, she applied for and was hired in a professional position in the Graduate School.

Jessica's major responsibilities include recruitment, on and off campus, planning recruitment events, assisting with admissions and enrollment, and working with technology on campus. Recruitment on and off campus went well for the fall 2015. Jessica remarked that the Graduate School is always thinking of new ways to reach out to undergrad students on and off campus. This particular recruitment season she travelled to Canada to recruit students over the border to attend SUNY Buffalo State.

Also, on January 6th, she organized the first online chat session through "Blackboard Collaborate." This live web based "chat"

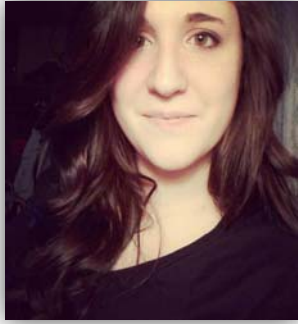
allows students to speak with a representative from the Graduate School and receive information about graduate programs and admissions requirements. The first session was very successful and more are planned. For information, please visit <http://graduateschool.buffalostate.edu/newsevents>.

As of January 9th, the Graduate School will be tabling at the Elmwood-Bidwell Farmer's Market, which is located on campus in Buckham Hall. The Graduate School will attend on Saturday's from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to discuss the various programs offered, as well as answer any questions regarding graduate school. Tabling at the Farmer's Market is a great opportunity to interact with the community, and students on and off campus.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: HILDA MYER-POST

M.S. Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration

Born and raised in Fredonia, N.Y., Hilda Myer entered into the Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration (HESAA) program in the fall of 2014, with the passion to genuinely encourage students to learn and grow throughout their academic jour-



ney. This past fall semester, Hilda received the “Outstanding Graduate Student” award presented by the College Student Personnel Administrators of New York State, (CSPA-NYS). The “Outstanding Graduate Student” award is given to a current graduate student who has positively impacted either CSPA-NYS, higher education, and/or the academic program in which they are enrolled. Dr. Amy Wilson, assistant professor in the Higher Education Department, nominated Hilda due to various volunteer work for the HESAA department, including designing graphics and planning events, as well as her participation in outside research with two members of the

HESAA faculty.

Also, Hilda recently received a position as the Assistant Director of the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at St. Bonaventure University. She graduates from the HESAA program this fall, and is excited to learn everything in her new position and to gain more confidence as a new professional. When asked what her favorite part of working in Higher Education was, Hilda stated “I like to know that I am able to make a difference in the lives of students like so many professionals have done for me.”

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: BARISH ALI, PH.D.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Dr. Barish Ali, assistant professor of English, was recently presented with the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award publicly acknowledges and rewards individuals who demonstrate consistent effective teaching.

Dr. Ali was recognized for his outstanding teaching, scholarship and service to students during his eight years of teaching at Buffalo State. Dr. Ali is very involved on campus, serving on more than 10 departmental and college-wide committees and interdisciplinary groups. Dr. Ali has taught 18 different courses relating to the political, cultural, and social connections and their relationship to literature. Dr. Ali has

published four peer-reviewed articles, two book chapters, a translated article, and presented at 18 conferences. He integrates his courses with other literature

and education courses to prepare students interested in becoming teachers with a strong literary foundation.

Dr. Ali is the director of the college’s Summer in Istanbul program, which he designed, implemented and managed. Students experience the Middle Eastern and Turkish history, culture and literature inside and outside the classroom. He states, “By participating in my Istanbul program, students were able to shape their worldly perspective by directly experiencing the rich history of the places they were studying; the coursework was enhanced by daily interactions with the art, architecture, and



people of Turkey. And the writing assignments allowed the students to record impressions of the city that were based, in part, on knowledge from the classroom.”



Alumni Spotlight: Kori Grasha

M.S. Multidisciplinary Studies, 2003

Kori Grasha attended Buffalo State from 2001-2003 and completed her

Master of Science degree in Multidisciplinary Studies. In 2004, Grasha was awarded the *Graduate School Outstanding Master’s Project Award*, and in both 2004 and 2005 was recognized with a “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers Award.”

Grasha began her teaching career at Hamburg Middle School in the fall of 1999. Since

the fall of 2000, Grasha has been teaching Latin (Levels 1R-4R) at Clarence High School. She is also co-advisor of the Latin Club, teaches for the Clarence High School Freshman Orientation Program, has served as a Clarence Teachers’ Association Union Representative, served on the Clarence High School Senior Scholarship Committee, was a member of the Clarence High School– School Improvement Team, and is a Latin Tutor. Aside from teaching, Grasha enjoys golfing, and volunteers as an instructor of racquetball at local clubs.

Each year, Grasha attends the Graduate School’s Outstanding Master’s Project and Thesis Award Reception to celebrate and honor the new award recipients. She also visits the Burchfield Penny, and other various events hosted by Buffalo State.

Grasha enjoys watching her students progress from September to June to see how much they have learned and accomplished over the course of the year. Grasha states, “I tell my students every day, ‘Today is your lucky day! You never know what you’re going to learn.’”



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Important Dates

January 25th	First Day of Semester (Spring 2016) / Late Registration with Fees—If First Registration
January 31st	End of Drop/Add Period
February 1st	May Graduation Application Deadline
February 5th	GSA & Graduate Student Focus Group regarding College's Strategic Plan (Ketchum Hall 218; 5:30 p.m.)
February 15th-16th	President's Day Recess
March 21st- 26th	Spring Recess
May 6th	4 Minute Thesis Contest at 1 p.m. (Social Hall) GSA Research Fair at 5 p.m. (Social Hall)
May 14th	Commencement Ceremony at 6 p.m.

Funding Through the Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) represents the interests of current and future graduate students at Buffalo State. The GSA promotes social opportunities for networking with students and professionals, and encourages leadership and scholarly activities on and off campus.

Christine Matos, current president of the GSA, is a graduate student in the Public Administration in Public and Nonprofit Management program, and is currently searching for avenues to advertise funding for scholarships, conferences, and research provided by the GSA. Most graduate students are unaware of the funding provided by the GSA and how easy it is to



Several Higher Education students received funding to attend the CSPA-NYS Conference in October.

apply for funding. The GSA offers funding for research and scholarship, participation in professional organizations, travel for professional purposes and conferences, and the creation and or presentation of professional posters and documents related to research and scholarship. For more information, please visit <http://gsa.buffalostate.edu/>.

Also, the GSA meets every other Friday throughout the semester from 5:30pm-7:30 pm to discuss networking initiatives, ways to connect graduate students and professionals, and many other topics. Feel free to attend meetings to discuss possible ways to make graduate students feel connected to Buffalo State and the community.

This issue was written by Rebecca Catalano, Graduate Assistant in the Graduate School and student in the Higher Education & Student Affairs Administration Program.

Want to contribute to the Graduate School newsletter?

Please email Marnie Letzelter at harrismt@buffalostate.edu

Deadlines: Spring Newsletter: December 1st
Fall Newsletter: July 1st