



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York

# The Graduate School Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11

SPRING 2014

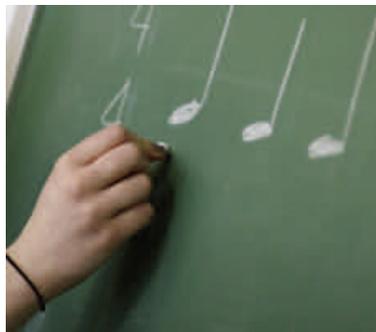
## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The GSA embarks on their second year.
- New graduate programs!
- Emerging Scholars present for YOTT
- Graduate students research presentation opportunities

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Dean's Message 2
- Faculty Spotlight 2
- 19th Century Letter Writing 2
- Student Spotlight 3
- Year of the Teacher 3
- Going Paperless 3
- Important Dates 4
- Graduate Research 4

## Master of Music Education (Mus.M.) Distinguished . Unique . Convenient



Beginning in summer 2014, Buffalo State will offer a unique, affordable, convenient way for music educators to attain the masters degree required for permanent certification through an online format. Designed for the practicing music educator, the program requires 30 credits, including graduate coursework in



The International Center for Studies in Creativity is no stranger to attracting exceptional students from around the globe to its distance-learning program. However, in summer 2014, they will extend their international efforts into a new chapter—offering a campus-based master's program in the Netherlands.

music history, music theory, music education, and a master's project or thesis. The goal is to offer an excellent program with the maximum flexibility of an online program to students across New York State. This academically distinguished program will compete for students with institutions

such as Kent State, Boston University, and Rutgers while allowing students a more economical option through the State University of New York. Similarly to the Art Conservation program, the Mus.M. will maintain small, close faculty mentorships, and stiff competition by limiting the acceptance to only fifteen stu-

dents per year. To accommodate busy schedules, the program is offered in a part-time format that will allow for working professionals to complete the program in five semesters. For more information about the Mus.M. program, visit:

<http://music.buffalostate.edu>



## Creative Studies Takes Europe

This international chapter of the M.S. program will offer a combination of seated courses based in the Netherlands with online courses to allow students to engage in classroom and virtual facilitation with other students while earning a degree from SUNY Buffalo State. The program will maintain identical structure, rigor, and specialization as the campus-based program of-

ferred on our campus but will advance the Center's international reputation. Dr. Gerard Puccio is eager to fully implement this project and continue to explore new creative opportunities for their programs. For more information regarding this initiative, please visit:

<http://masterchangeskills.eu>

## Message from Dean Kevin Railey

### GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION—YOUR GRADUATE STUDENT FEE AT WORK!!!



Over the past years it has been my great pleasure to work with outstanding graduate students in the Graduate Student Association. They work extremely hard with barely any notice. I want here to advertise just some of what they do in order to reveal what your fee supports!!!

- \* Four graduate student nights at Campus House
- \* One Graduate Research Fair—GSA paid for all posters!
- \* Graduate research and travel support to 33\* students from all academic schools, totaling \$14,925\*.

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!!**

\*correction to previously published version

### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: AMY McMILLAN, PH.D. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Sarah Chudyk and Meghan Jensen, winners of a 2014 Outstanding Master's Project Award and Thesis Award, respectively, are just two of Associate Professor Amy McMillan's success stories. Add in previous winner, Robin Foster, and you have a trifecta of outstanding advisement, exceptional research, and multiple published articles on the Eastern Hellbender. Dr. McMillan's research interests go beyond the giant salamander as she specializes in conservation genetics of the Common Loon, Bald Eagle, and spotted turtle. Her research is being used in the community to better monitor her species of interest. She and

Ms. Foster are collaborators on a multi-authored Regional Conservation Needs grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service while her work with Ms. Chudyk is exploring the parentage of hellbenders being raised at the Buffalo Zoo. Dr. McMillan was the 2010 President's Award Recipient for Excellence in Academic Advisement.



Thank you, Dr. McMillan, for your exceptional work with graduate students!

### 19th Century Letter Writing

A submission by Distinguished Teaching Professor of English,  
Dr. Ann C. Colley

Graduate students taking English 615 have been reading and thinking about British nineteenth-century letter writing. They have been going through and discussing the selected correspondence of Jane Austen, Mary Wollstonecraft, John Keats, Charlotte Bronte, and Charles Dickens. They have not only been considering the letter as a distinct genre of writing but have also been learning about the letter as a physical object. At the beginning of the course, Dr. Lisa Berglund talked to the students about how letters would have actually looked. She gave them lessons on how a quill pen was shaped, how ink was made, and how

the correspondent filled the paper. Dr. Berglund also taught the students how the letter was folded, addressed, and sealed. [Early in the 1800s there were no envelopes.] Dr. Ann C. Colley, who was teaching the course, also instructed the graduate students about the frequency and costs of postal delivery as well as the history of the Royal Mail. In order to offer them experience in transcribing and editing nineteenth-century letters, the students were periodically given facsimiles of various letters written in the 1800s and asked to copy them

out and attach notes explaining references to names, places, and things in these letters. Throughout the course, Dr. Colley asked members of the class to write letters based upon the various kinds of correspondence they had been reading. These were written in ink, folded, and sealed as if the students were posting letters in the 1800s. The images to the left are of some of these letters. Stacy Creech, one of the class members, took the photographs.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: **KAITLYN MARIE GARDNER** M.S.Ed. Childhood & Early Childhood Education



In the department of Elementary Education and Reading, the graduate assistant is not only an office assistant, but also a Professional Development Schools (PDS) Representative, a PDS Advisory Council member, a researcher, a collaborator, a leader, and a respected member of the department staff. In her role as the graduate assistant, Kaitlyn Marie Gardner provides administrative and advisement assistance to the department and students of EER. As a PDS representative, her job duties include organizing and directing the under-

graduate PDS representatives, preparing for PDS Consortium and Advisory Council meetings, and preparing for the annual PDS Retreat. Furthermore, under the direction of Leslie Day and Pixita del Prado Hill, PDS Co-Directors, Kaitlyn is conducting research to be presented at the Annual National Association for Professional Development Schools Conference.

Kaitlyn's position is providing her with incredible opportunities and has added depth and quality to her education at SUNY Buffalo State. In addition to her active roles with

EER and PDS, Kaitlyn also serves as a Graduate Student Senator for the Graduate Student Association and chairs the Public Relations and Marketing Committee. Kaitlyn has proven to be an outstanding asset to the Graduate Student Association, the Elementary Education & Reading department, the Professional Development Schools, and to SUNY Buffalo State. She is dedicated to ensuring that the work in which she engages continues to be rewarding, enriching and prepares her for excellence in her future career as an educator.

## YOTT: YEAR OF THE TEACHER—EMERGING SCHOLARS

In alignment with the Year of the Teacher, the speakers for the 2013-2014 Emerging Scholar Series were carefully chosen to showcase Buffalo State's dedication to lifelong learning and its commitment to education. Each of the five faculty shared their intellectual work with the campus community and offered a diverse array of teaching related research. The campus community is encouraged to attend all Year of the Teacher events.

**Dr. Chris Shively, Assistant Professor of Elementary Education** [October 11, 2013]  
Taking the Next Step: What Should Happen after My Students Collect Science Data

**Dr. Kimberly Kline, Associate Professor of Higher Education Administration** [November 8, 2013]  
Facilitating Student Learning and Developmental Outcomes Assessment: Exploring Grass Roots Research Efforts and Collaborative Dialogue through a Social Justice Lens

**Dr. Andrea Nikischer, Assistant Professor of Adult Education** [February 7, 2014]  
Social Class Segregation and the STEM Career Pipeline: An Ethnographic Examination of High School Opportunity Structures

**Dr. Michelle Bae, Assistant Professor of Art Education** [March 21, 2014]  
Reconsidering Public Pedagogy: Media Performance and the "Planned Authenticity" of Diasporic Korean Youths

**Dr. Robert Warren, Assistant Professor of Biology**  
Stumbling Through the Forest and the Trees—Fortuitous Insights into Climate Change Ecology from Southern Woodlands [to present Friday, April 18, 2014 in Bacon Hall 115 from 12:00—1:30 p.m.]

REQUIRED COURSES	
<input type="checkbox"/>	American Higher Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Student Development and Learning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Student Personnel Administration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning and Finance in Higher Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Techniques of Counseling I
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internship/Practicum I
<input type="checkbox"/>	Internship/Practicum II
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Student Assessment Tests
<input type="checkbox"/>	Methods of Educational Research
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensive Exam

A screenshot from a student record in Degree Works.

## The Graduate School is Going Paperless

Buffalo State is embarking on the launch of two new electronic management systems that will stream-line the management of student records and support the mission of Buffalo State.

The implementation of document imaging will allow the campus to pursue more eco-friendly ways of maintaining and reviewing student records. The undergraduate admissions office will pilot this venture in the summer of 2014 with the Graduate School following quickly behind.

Over the next few years, paper files and folders will become obsolete as all student records are maintained in a safe, online environment.

During the spring 2014, all student records, including those of graduate students, will be entered into Degree Works, a SUNY wide degree audit system. Graduate students will now have the same access to their progress toward degree completion as undergraduates. In time, this system will streamline the master's degree conferral process.



## SUNY Buffalo State

1300 Elmwood Avenue  
Cleveland Hall 204  
Buffalo, New York 14222

Phone: 716-878-5601  
Fax: 716-878-5630  
E-mail: [gradoffc@buffalostate.edu](mailto:gradoffc@buffalostate.edu)

### Because of Buffalo State...

### Important Dates

April 4th	GSA Meeting Bacon Hall 225   5:30—7:00 p.m.
April 9th	Summer/Fall 2014 Registration Begins
April 18th	Emerging Scholar: Robert Warren Bacon Hall 115   12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.
April 20th-27th	2014 GSA Executive Board Election Graduate Student Association Blackboard Group
April 25th	Conversations In and Out of the Disciplines Ketchum Hall 320   3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.
April 26th	Master's Level Graduate Research Conference SUNY Brockport   8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
May 9th	Graduate Research Fair SAMC   4:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
May 17th	Commencement Undergraduate: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.   Graduate: 6 p.m.
May 23rd	May 2014 Multidisciplinary Studies Graduates Research Methods & Master's Projects Due

#### Want to contribute to the Graduate School newsletter?

Please email Marnie Letzelter at [harrismt@buffalostate.edu](mailto:harrismt@buffalostate.edu)

Deadlines: Spring Newsletter: December 1st

Fall Newsletter: July 1st

# Graduate Research Recognition

At Buffalo State, we have the distinct privilege of working with some of the most motivated, brilliant, and exceptional students. During the next few weeks, several of our students will be honored with the opportunity to present their research.

The first **Graduate Research Poster Presentation**, sponsored by the Graduate Student Association, will be held on Friday, May 9th from 4:30—8:00 p.m. in the Science and Math Complex. Registered graduate students will have the opportunity to display and discuss their research with the campus and community. All are encouraged to attend.

The **2014 Master's Level Graduate Research Conference** will be held at SUNY College at Brockport on Saturday, April 26th. Buffalo State graduate students will join with other SUNY graduate students to present research in a variety of formats including oral, poster, and video "poster" presentations.

## GRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR

SPONSORED BY YOUR **GSA** Graduate Student Association

### WHAT

POSTER PRESENTATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS TO DISPLAY AND DISCUSS THEIR RESEARCH WITH THE CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY. ALL ARE WELCOME!

### WHEN

May 9<sup>th</sup> 2014  
4:30pm - 8pm

### WHERE

Science and Math Complex  
at SUNY Buffalo State

Next to Baseball Diamond, Building #55 on Campus Map

ANY QUESTIONS? EMAIL ASHLEY AT  
[GSARESEARCHFAIR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GSARESEARCHFAIR@GMAIL.COM)



Finally, members of the Graduate Advisory Council reviewed thirteen manuscripts that had been nominated by advisers, chairs, and faculty members to determine the **2014 Outstanding Master's Project and Outstanding Master's Thesis awards**. The following students will be honored at the awards dinner on Friday, April 25th for their exceptional research and applied scholarship.

### Outstanding Master's Project Awards

Lisa Pavlak, M.S.Ed. Art Education  
Sarah Chudyk, M.S.Ed. Biology  
Katarina Silvestri, M.S.Ed. Literacy Specialist

### Outstanding Master's Thesis Awards

Joelle Mann, M.A. English  
Darlene Garcia Torres, M.S.Ed. Art Education  
Meghan Jensen, M.A. Biology  
Heidi Wallace, M.A. English