

arts & sciences

FALL 2023

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



[GEOSCIENCES]

Buffalo State Celebrates 'YEAR OF THE ECLIPSE'

Festivities culminate with rare total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024



[View the eclipse at Buffalo State](#)

University Hosts Space Fair and Trade Show

NASA captured the excitement of space exploration and celebrated its successful Artemis I mission at a Space Fair and Trade Show on August 23 at Buffalo State's Science and Mathematics Complex.

The free, family-friendly event geared toward K-12 students featured a variety of fun educational activities—from constructing paper rockets to exploring internships and interacting with engineers and scientists. An evening session highlighted the work of Western New York companies Moog, Eaton, Taber Industries, and Taylor Devices, which all contributed to the Artemis I mission.

Buffalo State's School of Arts and Sciences prides itself on meeting the needs of high-tech industries with its academic offerings in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and its state-of-the-art facilities.

Buffalo State University has designated April 8, 2023, through April 8, 2024, as the "Year of the Eclipse."

Western New York will be in the path of totality for the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, bringing thousands of visitors to the region. And Buffalo State, with its state-of-the-art Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium, is at the center of the year-long celebration.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to discuss and celebrate this very rare occurrence," said Kevin Williams, associate professor of geosciences and director of the

planetarium. "For most locations, a total solar eclipse occurs only once every 300 to 400 years. For it to happen, there must be an exact alignment of the moon between the earth and the sun," he said. "For just a few minutes at any location along the path of totality, the moon's shadow will block out the sun's light. For Buffalo next April, totality will last just under four minutes."

Williams said planetarium programming throughout the Year of the Eclipse will focus on related issues.

For the most current schedule of events, please visit planetarium.buffalostate.edu.



LETTER FROM THE INTERIM DEAN



**Kelly M. Frothingham,
Ph.D.**

**Interim Dean,
School of Arts and Sciences**

Welcome to the Fall 2023 newsletter of the Buffalo State University School of Arts and Sciences. And welcome to the Year of the Eclipse at Buffalo State! The world will descend upon Buffalo during this once-in-a-generation event and the School of Arts and Sciences will be ready to welcome them.

We are proud of our newly constructed Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium and are delighted to offer you a glimpse of a few of the exciting activities and developments across our academic departments, interdisciplinary units, and centers. The School of Art and Sciences is the academic home to most Buffalo State students and the source for most of the university's general education curriculum.

Please follow the links provided to learn more about our programs. Whether you're a high school student looking at colleges, a current Buffalo State student weighing your options, a prospective student looking for opportunities, or an alumnus checking in to see how your alma mater is doing, we think you'll find something to interest you here. Buffalo State provides a small campus atmosphere with large university opportunities. Please enjoy reading what we're all about!

Sincerely,
Kelly M. Frothingham, Ph.D.
Interim Dean
School of Arts and Sciences



ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Anthropology
Art and Design
Art Conservation
Biology
Chemistry
Communication
Economics and Finance
English
Geosciences
History and Social Studies Education
Mathematics
Modern and Classical Languages
Music
Philosophy
Physics
Political Science, Public Administration, and Planning
Psychology
Sociology
Theater

CENTERS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY UNITS

Africana Studies
Data Science and Analytics
Television and Film Arts
Women and Gender Studies
Arts and Letters Program
Great Lakes Center
Environmental Science and Society
Conflict Analysis and Resolution



Italy



Germany



Zambia

SAS Students Go 'Round the World with IPDS

In a fine example of cross-school collaboration, the 2022–2023 academic year saw increased participation by School of Arts and Sciences students in International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) programs hosted by the School of Education.

IPDS was created to provide teacher candidates, school partners, and teacher education faculty members with opportunities for short-term, faculty-led study-away programs to explore language learning, compare educational systems, and expand their understanding of schooling.

SAS students traveled to the following locations:

- Torremaggiore, Italy: Olivia Colby (English education), Alexa Hefner (math education), and Cameron Juzdowski (music education)
- Siena, Italy: Grant Asklar (music education), and Connor Tait (English education)
- Cabarete, Dominican Republic: Olivia Bell (psychology), Grace Gallagher (psychology), Andrea Newell (psychology), Emily Newell (psychology), Alyssia Schwab (psychology), Anna Stang (art education), and Janinna Farragher (art education—recently hired as a PDS graduate assistant and serving as an IPDS student ambassador)
- Germany (multi-city tour): Bailey Buckley (English education)

[MUSIC]

“MUSIC GIVES A SOUL TO THE UNIVERSE, WINGS TO THE MIND, FLIGHT TO THE IMAGINATION, AND LIFE TO EVERYTHING. — PLATO



Summer music camp



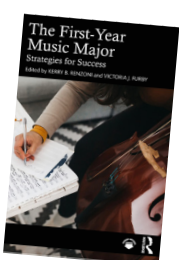
Music Department Pens New Book

Buffalo State Music Department faculty, staff, alumni, and students collaboratively released *The First-Year Music Major: Strategies for Success* (Routledge, 2022), a 236-page book edited by Kerry B. Renzoni, department chair and associate professor, and Victoria J. Furby, associate professor.

The First-Year Music Major provides a comprehensive resource to help first-year students develop foundational skills to pursue music degrees and careers. Rooted in research and extensive practical experience, the book is suited for use both in introductory music courses and by individual students and advisors.

The chapters demystify the path of majoring in music and address key topics, including

- planning a road map for the degree;
- developing needed musical, academic, professional, practice, and performance skills; and
- building financial, mental, and physical well-being strategies.



The First-Year Music Major is available in hardback, paperback, and e-book formats.

[ANTHROPOLOGY]

Indigenous Initiatives Caucus

The Anthropology Department has joined with other entities across campus to establish the Indigenous Initiatives Caucus. The group is an outgrowth of the campus Legacy Committee that previously worked to craft Buffalo State’s Land Acknowledgment and to welcome Indigenous students to campus each semester.

The first Indigenous event of this academic year—a Welcome Back Social Dance on September 22 at the LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center—was co-sponsored by the Indigenous Initiatives Caucus, the Indigenous studies minor (housed in Anthropology), the Native American SUNY: Western Consortium, Native American Community Services, and the Equity and Campus Diversity Office.



[SOCIOLOGY]

Sociology, Health Promotion Establish ‘Bengals and Bikes’

The Sociology Department has partnered with Weigel Health Promotion to establish Bengals and Bikes (B&B), a campus organization promoting the bicycle community. Open to students, faculty, and staff members with any level of experience,

B&B activities include group rides, educational workshops, and other events. B&B is committed to building bicycle culture and infrastructure on campus and in the community to promote rider safety and healthy lifestyles, as

well as advocate social, climate, and transportation justice. The group hosts repair clinics, riding events, and safety courses and maintains an on-campus Fix-It Station near the front entrance of E. H. Butler Library.





GLC Leads the Fight against Invasive Species

Non-native aquatic and terrestrial species represent a constant threat to native ecosystems, natural areas, parks, and landscapes of our region. Buffalo State's Great Lakes Center (GLC) hosts the Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (WNY PRISM) Office, which employs five full-time personnel and 23 summer interns to manage invasive species across the eight western counties of New York state.

The office coordinates with a wide range of partners across the region in its management efforts: treating infestations, removing problematic plants, assisting with biological control programs, collecting data on distributions, and educating the public on prevention and control strategies. Over its nearly 10-year existence, PRISM has created dozens of guides for homeowners, municipalities, landscapers, and others to help reduce the threats from non-native species.

PRISM has presented numerous workshops and training events, giving nearly 100 presentations on invasive species management in the region. The office is a leader in the regional natural resource conservation community for protecting landscapes from non-native species. Activities include testing the efficacy of predatory fish to control invasive crayfish in small ponds, developing protocols for using aerial drones in mapping plant distributions, deploying passive pheromone traps for invasive beetle surveillance, releasing biocontrol agents for plant control, and offering a popular boater-education program every summer at regional boat launches. PRISM's operations are supported by an award from the New York Department of Conservation Environmental Protection Fund.

Graduate Success

The Great Lakes Center currently offers two graduate degrees, a thesis-based master of arts (M.A.) and an internship-based master of science (M.S.). Both programs have minted excellent graduates who are now employed in the region's natural resource management and education sectors. Buffalo State graduates are working as park interpreters, project managers, GIS specialists, fishery biologists, and more in such agencies as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; New York Department of Environmental Conservation; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Niagara County Planning Agency; Erie County Environment and Planning Department; and New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

[GREAT LAKES CENTER]

[ART CONSERVATION]



Art Conservation Earns More Distinctions

Buffalo State's Art Conservation Department continues to be a national leader in its field, offering a new M.A./M.S. dual degree program to incoming students. Students entering the three-year program will earn a master of arts in conservation of art and cultural heritage and a master of science in conservation science and imaging. Buffalo State is the only college or university in North America to offer a dual graduate degree in conservation.

In other department news, Juan Juwan Chen, '21, associate professor of art conservation, was awarded the American Institute for Conservation's prestigious Sheldon and Caroline Keck award in spring 2023.



[MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES]

Modern and Classical Languages Revises Curriculum

The Modern and Classical Languages Department has developed a new educational mission statement and revised several parts of its curriculum to better serve students. Changes include the following:

- A revised bachelor of arts (B.A.) program in Spanish, which now takes 30 credit hours to complete and makes for a perfect second major.
- A revised undergraduate certificate program in world languages advantage with two basic tracks (Chinese and Spanish) and a revised advanced track in professional Spanish.
- A greater emphasis on Spanish for the professions, with one targeted Spanish elective offered each semester.





Buffalo State to Host SUNYMEU 2024

The State University of New York Model European Union (SUNYMEU) returns to the Buffalo State campus this April. The event is a simulation of diplomacy and foreign affairs, with students from across SUNY's 64 campuses convening to simulate policymaking at the ministerial and head of government levels in the European Union. SUNYMEU 2024 opens on Friday, April 12, and closes on Sunday, April 14. An optional pre-event trip to Niagara Falls will be available for students on Thursday, April 11.

SUNYMEU is managed on a two-year basis by a SUNY campus—SUNYMEU is hosted by a SUNY campus during even years and at the SUNY Global Center during odd years. SUNYMEU is a program sponsored by the Institute for European Union Studies at SUNY (IEUSS), but the simulation itself is designed as a student-run and student-directed activity—from writing and selecting the agenda items to chairing the meetings, agreeing the conclusions, and selecting awardees. The IEUSS Board awarded the directorship of SUNYMEU 2024 and 2025 to Buffalo State University. Buffalo State last hosted the event in April 2022.

Buffalo State Partners on Broadcasting Buffalo Series

The Buffalo State Communication Department has produced the weekly award-winning TV series *Broadcasting Buffalo* in partnership with the Buffalo Broadcasters Association (BBA) for the past three years. It airs at 6:30 p.m. Saturdays on WNYO-TV during the spring semester.

In spring 2022, the weekly public affairs show featured the talents of a journalism class (COM 347: Electronic News Producing, taught by lecturer Ellen Notarius), a media production class (COM 389: Broadcasting Practicum, taught by Rick Karnath), and BBA broadcasters plus a variety of guests and topics. The show has won BBA's Partnership Award and two Outstanding Partnership Awards from Buffalo State's Civic and Community Engagement Office. The fourth season will air this coming spring.

"This series provides a valuable real-world opportunity for our students to prepare for exciting careers in broadcasting, both in front of and behind the camera," said Deborah Silverman, chair and associate professor of communication. "To date, more than a dozen new graduates who worked on the show have landed jobs in broadcasting, and they've told us that having *Broadcasting Buffalo* on their résumé helped."



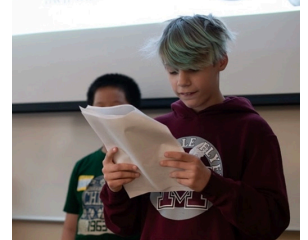
[COMMUNICATION]

English Department Showcases Youth Voices

Buffalo State's English Department and Center for English Teaching presented its seventh annual Youth Voices Conference on campus on May 4. A celebration of the remarkable stories and talents of students from across the Buffalo Niagara region, the conference was free and open to the public.

Buffalo poet laureate Jillian Hanesworth kicked off the conference, which featured a musical performance by Buffalo hip-hop artist Chuckie Campbell and an interactive art installation in collaboration with the Burchfield Penney Art Center.

The conference gives young people the opportunity to showcase their academic work along with their thoughts, beliefs, and ideas about issues that are important to them and the larger community. Student presentations included short documentaries, spoken word poetry, podcasts, and TED Talks based on creative classroom projects. The conference drew more than 500 students from large and small schools across the Western New York and Rochester regions to present their projects to audiences.



[MATHEMATICS]

A New Pi Day Tradition

Pi Day is the annual worldwide celebration—on March 14—of the mathematical constant π , or 3.14, and Buffalo State's Mathematics Department, Math Center, and E. H. Butler Library joined in the fun this past spring semester by hosting its second annual Pi Day Competition for students, faculty, and staff.

Jane R. Cushman, chair and associate professor of mathematics, noted that the 2023 competition pitted teams in a scavenger hunt, Pi Sudoku, a famous mathematician age-matching game, and Pi poetry. All competitors received a free T-shirt, pizza, and of course, a personal apple, blueberry, lemon, or cherry pie. The campus is already planning for the next round of Pi Day events on March 14, 2024.

[HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES]



PAC Unveils Fall Lineup

The Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Rockwell Hall has announced its fall 2023 schedule:

- Randy Rainbow, November 2
- Brian Regan, November 3
- Squirrel Nut Zippers, November 10
- Kirk Whalum, November 11
- Jim Brickman, December 5

In addition, the PAC will host a fall Music Department Series of performances by Buffalo State student groups: the Buffalo State Wind Ensemble, Buffalo State Chorale, Buffalo State Chamber Choir, Buffalo State Jazz Ensemble, Buffalo State Percussion Ensemble, and Buffalo State Philharmonia Orchestra.

Visit buffalostatepac.org for tickets and more information.

Sixty Nine Seventy to Debut at Buffalo State on November 18

Grad's latest play is set on Buffalo State campus

Michael Eichler, '72, will host a staged reading of his new play, *Sixty Nine Seventy*, at Buffalo State's LoRusso Alumni and Visitor Center on Saturday, November 18. The public is invited to attend the reading in Costello Hall at 1:00 p.m., with a critical discussion to follow. Buffalo theater veteran Kyle LoConti will direct the reading.

Sixty Nine Seventy tells the story of four Buffalo State classmates navigating the tumultuous social and political events of 1969–1970 and the protests on campus that led to the cancellation of final exams.

Presented in a direct-address style, each character “breaks the fourth wall,” speaking directly to the audience. The characters include Barry, a student-protest leader from New York City; Naomi, a SEEK student and aspiring teacher; Sharon, a home economics major from suburbia; and Andy, a working-class student from Buffalo.

Sixty Nine Seventy examines issues such as misinformation and public manipulation, women’s rights, racial equality and inherent racism, abortion access, political corruption, and federal surveillance of activist groups. The play, which Eichler wrote while combing through online archives of Buffalo State’s student newspaper, *The Record*, incorporates vintage television news footage of events such as the Kent State shootings, the draft lotteries, and the first Earth Day.

While workshopping the play with the Yale University School of Drama and IRT Theater in New York City, Eichler received fascinating feedback from audiences comprising multiple generations, from baby boomers to Gen Zers, who all agreed that the critical issues of the time remain current today.

“In order to really launch the play out in the world, I wanted to go back to my hometown—and the place where the play is set—for a reading and discussion with the public and current Buffalo State students,” Eichler said. “And, hopefully, that will lead to a first full production at a theater in Buffalo.”

Introducing ‘The Studio’

The Theater Department and Residence Life Office have partnered on a new housing initiative open to all music, television and film arts, and theater majors. Dubbed “The Studio,” this arts-based living and learning community provides resident students with the opportunity to live and collaborate with artistically minded peers and participate in a variety of arts-based events. The Studio is located in Tower 1 with suite-style living and includes a student lounge with a full kitchen.

“**THERE ARE NO RULES. THAT IS HOW ART IS BORN, HOW BREAKTHROUGHS HAPPEN. GO AGAINST THE RULES OR IGNORE THE RULES. THAT IS WHAT INVENTION IS ABOUT.**”
—HELEN FRANKENTHALER

[PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT ROCKWELL HALL]





Casting Hall Productions



Mentorship Project

Mentorship Project Connects Students with Theater Professionals

Twelve Buffalo State students received a true sense of the theater world by participating in the yearlong Western New York Theater Arts Professional Mentorship Project during in the 2022–2023 academic year.

The Theater Department formed a partnership last year with the Association of Regional Theater Artists (ARTA), a trade association of almost 400 Western New York industry professionals. Elizabeth Oddy, the mentorship project director, worked with a committee made up of Buffalo State theater alumni and industry professionals to get the program off the ground in August 2022.

“It has given our students exposure to a vast number of theaters in Buffalo,” said Carol Beckley, chair and associate professor of theater. “The program also benefits the theaters because they’re interested in having a pipeline of new theater professionals who choose to stay here rather than move to Los Angeles or New York City once they graduate.”

More than 50 professionals applied to be mentors, and 12 individuals—a mix of actors, directors, playwrights, prop masters, and set designers—were selected as good fits for the students who signed up to be mentees. Throughout the year, students met with their mentors at least once a month, attended theatrical performances, and participated in group mentorship sessions.

“I’ve made connections with filmmakers and theater people, earned a credit on IMDb [Internet Movie Database], and became inspired to become a prop master like Diane,” said Madison “Scout” Chase, a

theater and television and film arts major, who was paired with prop master Diane Almeter Jones, ’16. “We usually met one Monday a month at a coffee shop. We’ve also gone to see plays and worked on projects together.” This included a position for Chase as a production assistant on a short film Jones wrote, *This Is Not a Pipe Dream*.

Meanwhile, student Carolyn Freeman, an English education major, was paired with Kristen Tripp Kelley, an actor and educator at Nichols School.

“The first time we met, we had an honest and fruitful conversation, and we continue to do so every time we meet up,” Freeman said. “Most recently, we’ve talked about shows we have seen together, and I went to support her students’ run of *She Kills Monsters* at Nichols. I love that this program inspires me to constantly carve time in my schedule to see shows, and Kristen diligently introduces me to the people she knows when we go to see a show together.”

The inspiration goes both ways.

“I have enjoyed learning from my mentee’s fresh perspective on the theater pieces we’ve seen and the theater industry in general,” Kelley said. “On a personal level, I have enjoyed getting to know my mentee personally. She’s both intelligent and kind.”

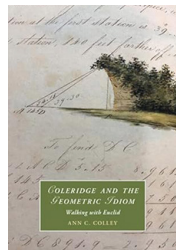
In Beckley’s eyes, the partnership reflects the Theater Department’s goal.

“We want to have our students working locally before they graduate,” she said, “as interns, mentees, and in paid positions.”

Distinguished Prof Publishes Distinguished Book

Ann C. Colley, SUNY Distinguished Professor Emerita of English, recently published *Coleridge and the Geometric Idiom: Walking with Euclid* (Cambridge University Press, 2023), a book that examines poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s landscape journals vis-à-vis Euclid’s *Elements*.

Colley outlines Coleridge’s alertness to the geometric idiom that helped shaped his responses to the landscape of his surroundings. She explains why Euclid’s *Elements*—an essential text in Coleridge’s time, not only for the elite but also for the “ordinary” tradesmen who used it in their work—was basic to Coleridge’s cultural context: “an environment that nurtured a geometric frame of mind and...a mathematical ordering of the entire universe” (available at cambridge.org/core).



Student rehearsal for the 2022 production of *Pippin*

