



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York  
Summer 2024

# EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

*Created by Steven Swiatek, Graduate Assistant*



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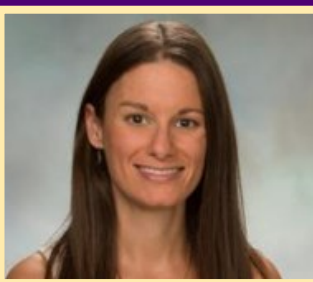
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**Dr. Andrew Hashey**  
*Chair of the Exceptional  
Education Department*



**Dr. Kathy Doody**  
*Associate Chair of  
Graduate Studies*



**Dr. Angela Patti**  
*Associate Chair of  
Undergraduate Programs*

## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

As we begin the Spring 2025 semester, I am excited to share the latest edition of our newsletter, which highlights the many achievements and initiatives led by faculty, staff, students, and collaborators in the Exceptional Education Department.

In my role as chair, I have the privilege of viewing our collective efforts through something akin to a cinematographer's wide-angle lens. This broad perspective allows me to witness the many rays of light that shine through our department's work: undergraduate and graduate student research, applied classroom-based learning, curricular innovations, thought-provoking discussions, campus and national initiatives led by EXED faculty, the development of new graduate programs, expert teaching practices, and the ongoing impact of our community partnerships with schools and local organizations. From this vantage point, the list of accomplishments worth celebrating seems endless. But how do these exceptional efforts come to life? What sustains and directs them?

As you read through this edition, I invite you to reflect on the unique paths that led each of us to the field of special education. The sparks that ignited our passions are as diverse as our individual experiences, yet together, they create a dynamic force that drives our department forward. Each of us plays a vital role in preparing the next generation of special education professionals, and it is an honor to showcase the latest examples of excellence that continue our department's proud legacy.

With the promise of spring ahead, I wish you a semester filled with renewed energy, inspiration, and affirmation in your personal and professional endeavors.



Exceptional Education  
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Buffalo State College  
1300 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
Phone: 716-878-3038

The mission of the Exceptional Education Department is to prepare teachers, scholars, and action researchers as exemplary leaders, and to advance the profession of special education through the science and art of teaching, learning, and collaborating. Our graduates will contribute to the community by serving the needs of persons with disabilities and by broadening the general population's understanding and appreciation of individuals with disabilities.

VISIT US ON THE  
WEB:  
[exceptionaleducation.buffalostate.edu](http://exceptionaleducation.buffalostate.edu)

## UPDATE FROM THE ASSOCIATE CHAIR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### Transform Lives Through Special Education!

Buffalo State's **Exceptional Education Graduate Programs** prepare educators to support diverse learners in **Grades P-12** even those without an education background!

### GRADUATE PROGRAM OPTIONS:

**Master's for Career Changers** – No education degree? No problem! Earn NYS initial certification in Special Education (PreK-12).

**Master's for Certified Teachers** – Expand expertise with Special Education certification, plus optional subject area extensions (Grades 7-12).

**Post-Master's Certificate (PMCO)** – 100% online, for educators with a master's seeking Special Education certification.

### WHY CHOOSE BUFFALO STATE?

Hands-on experience with expert mentorship

Dedicated faculty advisors guiding you every step

Flexible pathways for career changers, teachers and post-master's students

High-demand career opportunities in Special Education

Real-world teaching strategies from engaged faculty

Start your journey today! **Learn more** [Programs](#) | [Exceptional Education](#) | [SUNY Buffalo State University](#)

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND SHARE WHAT YOU DO!



Share your exciting class projects or research, field experience photos, or time spent with friends and faculty from our department and campus. Tag us when you post so we can share too!





## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Micah Stanton, a senior in the Speech-Language Pathology program, received the Outstanding Service-Learning Student award. This award is given to a student who provided exceptional achievement in a service-learning course through their contribution to the community and ability to connect their experiences to course curriculum. Congratulations Micah!!



Literacy Block students were already hard at work this week at Holmes Elementary in Kenmore! Principal Matthew Raines warmly welcomed students with a tour of the school, providing valuable insight into the daily literacy initiatives in action.

As part of their hands-on learning experience, students participated in a Banana Grams activity, reinforcing the idea that literacy learning is a life-long process. Through interactive wordplay and collaboration, they explored the power of language and its role in education.

This visit offered students an engaging opportunity to see literacy instruction in action while gaining practical experience in fostering a love for reading and learning in young students.



## GRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



### Exceptional Education Graduate Students Recognized with 2024 Outstanding Master's Thesis Award

The Exceptional Education Department is proud to announce that Gabriella Loewer, Clare McKeone, and Julianna Owczarczak have been selected to receive the 2024 Outstanding Master's Thesis Award for their outstanding research. Their collaborative thesis, *The Impact of the Writing Rockstar Mystery Motivator for On-Task Behavior in a 2nd Grade All-Inclusive Class*, has been recognized for its significant contribution to the field of special education.

Under the guidance of their faculty advisor, Dr. Budin, their research examines the effectiveness of motivational strategies to enhance student engagement and on-task behavior in an inclusive classroom setting. By implementing the Writing Rockstar Mystery Motivator, their study explores how targeted reinforcement techniques can foster a more focused and productive learning environment for students of varying abilities. Their findings provide valuable insights into evidence-based behavioral interventions that support both teachers and students in inclusive education settings.

This prestigious award highlights the dedication, scholarly excellence, and impact of Gabriella, Clare, and Julianna's work. Please join us in congratulating them on this well-earned recognition and their meaningful contributions to the field of special education!



## GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



### Highlights from the Exceptional Education Department Awards Ceremony

The Exceptional Education Department recently held its annual Awards Ceremony, celebrating the achievements of outstanding students and faculty. The event recognized individuals who have demonstrated excellence in academics, research, teaching, and service within the field of exceptional education, including K-12 special education students who were invited to participate.

During the ceremony, scholarships were awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students, recognizing their dedication to inclusive education. In addition, local mentor teachers were honored for their invaluable contributions to preparing future educators. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for students, faculty, and community members to come together and celebrate the dedication and commitment that define the department.

Congratulations to all award recipients and honorees on their well-earned recognition!

## FACULTY AWARDS & RECOGNITION

### President's Award for Excellence in Service to the University: Ms. Andrea Hoehman



Proactive, efficient, skilled, compassionate, and deeply knowledgeable. These attributes capture only some of the excellence Andrea Hoehman has brought to the Exceptional Education Department since her arrival in November of 2015. In her multifaceted role, Andrea is an essential member on everyone's team, where she shares new ideas and neutralizes even the most vexing problems with aplomb. Her ability to support faculty, staff, and student success is a result of her penchant for initiative-taking, her problem-solving skills, and her genuine interest in helping those around her do and be their very best. Andrea also goes above and beyond to make people feel cared for and valued, sending thoughtful notes, emails, and gifts to lift others up. These seemingly small choices help create a strong sense of community (and yes, Bills

mega-fandom) in the department where people feel exceptionally well-supported in their professional work, and also appreciated, cared for, and seen.

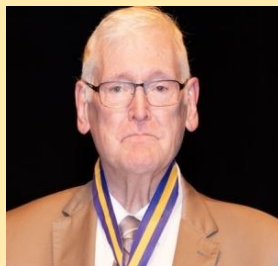
### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching: Dr. Kathy Doody



Deeply committed to the field of early childhood special education, Dr. Kathy Doody's career-long teaching excellence has helped lay the groundwork for countless children to reach their fullest potential. Her work supporting early childhood special educators has helped ensure that equity and inclusion are realities, and not aspirations, in our schools and society. She embodies the characteristics of an exemplary teacher: driven, self-reflective, relatable, and deeply skillful. While her career is replete with achievements that exemplify her expertise and passion, if you were to ask her what she enjoys most, Dr. Doody's answer would surely be: the relationships she establishes and maintains with her students. The high bar Dr. Doody sets in her courses is always accompanied by her own modeling of the very skills she aims to instill in

her students. Unwaveringly, her students feel valued, supported, challenged, and inspired. Dr. Kathy Doody is without regard, an exemplary and exceptional educator.

### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching: Prof. Jim Maloney



During Jim Maloney's illustrious career, he has held many titles: special education teacher, director, supervisor, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. On the Buffalo State campus, Jim is also: a mentor, an innovator, and, as he will tell you with enthusiasm, he is a lifelong learner. As such, Jim continually seeks out novel teaching approaches to prepare teachers of the highest. Whether he is piloting emerging technologies, teaching a new course, or chairing task forces that explore new pedagogical techniques, Jim is *always* looking for ways to enhance teaching and learning. In the last 25 years, as both an adjunct and a WNY administrator, it is not an exaggeration to say Jim has touched the lives of literally thousands of P-12 students.

Thanks to his never-ending drive, the impact of Professor Jim Maloney's excellence will continue to ripple through and invigorate classrooms for years to come.

### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching: Dr. Angela Patti



Angela Patti, professor of exceptional education, is a dedicated and innovative educator whose impact extends beyond the classroom. She has taught 13 diverse courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels, incorporating hands-on learning and inclusive teaching practices. As chair of the curriculum committee, she played a key role in enhancing programs for students with disabilities, fostering collaboration between special and general educators. Her contributions to the field include multiple teaching fellowships, such as the Anne Frank Fellowship (2013) and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Fellowship (2015), leading to innovative instructional methods. Recognized with the 2017 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Patti is praised for balancing high expectations with compassionate support, helping students gain confidence in challenging subjects. Organized, reflective, and committed to continuous improvement, she exemplifies academic professionalism and excellence.



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



### **Dr. Muriel A. Howard Presidential Award: Dr. Gliset Morales**

We would like to congratulate our very own Dr. Gliset Morales for being selected as this year's recipient of the Dr. Muriel A. Howard Presidential Award for the Promotion of Equity and Campus Diversity! Her achievement was recognized at the 2024 Student Leadership and Humanitarian Awards Ceremony on April 23, 2024.

We're proud of the essential leadership Dr. Morales continues to provide to our candidates and to a wide array of community and educational stakeholders--activities that contribute to the rich tapestry of impact in our department, campus, and communities. Keep leading and making a difference!



### **Congratulations, Dr. Vince Garland!**

Dr. Krista Vince Garland, Associate Professor, earned an enhancement degree (M.S.) in clinical mental health counseling from Niagara University in May 2024. She will use this to enrich her courses in teacher preparation for special education.



### **Congratulations, Dr. Kathy Doody!**

Dr. Kathy Doody, Professor, has published her latest book, *Medical and Educational Needs for Autism*. This resource is designed to help clinicians, educators, and caregivers better support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).



### **Welcome Back, Dr. Kevin Miller!**

We are thrilled to welcome back Dr. Kevin Miller to the Exceptional Education Department! A dedicated professor and leader, Dr. Miller has over 30 years of experience in special education, working extensively with individuals with learning disabilities, behavior disorders, autism, developmental disabilities, and traumatic brain injuries.

Dr. Miller has previously served as Chair of the Exceptional Education Department for seven years and as Director of the Graduate Studies Office. His expertise, leadership, and passion for student success continue to make a lasting impact on our department and the field of special education. Welcome back, Dr. Miller!

## THE HERO'S SHIELD": EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH LITERATURE AND ART

Please visit the painting as it is hanging near Ketchum Hall 204.



Buffalo State Exceptional Education professors, Prof. Judi Harris and Dr. Gliset Morales, local artist Nino Morales, and The Belle Center, a local community organization collaborated on a grant project titled, Literature and Art to “critically intervene in a way that challenges and changes,” middle school students. The culminating mural for the project, entitled "The Hero's Shield", powerfully represents how the grant achieved its aims of engaging middle school students in critical dialogue and reflection on social issues through literature and art. Centered on the shield shape [umbrella], the mural intricately weaves together elements from each student's individual artwork, with every component holding symbolic meaning. The young child reading under the chaos of fire depicts the many challenges marginalized communities face today. Echoing themes from the Miles Morales' Spider Man graphic novel, words like "Justice," "Togetherness" "Equality," and "Progress" float around the child, representing the students' focus on societal problems as well as their hopes for change. Imagery of children reading, educators standing firm, and creating art communicate the power of the integration of education and arts to foster community empowerment. At its heart, this piece invites future teachers to see themselves as the heroes who can defend and transform their communities and the young minds in tomorrow's classrooms. This profoundly embodies the project's goal of fostering youth empowerment and civic engagement. The mosaic of students' individual artwork informing a unified mural reflects the collaborative spirit and the connections built through literature, dialogue, and creative expression. By giving life to the collective vision for society, "The Hero's Shield" exemplifies how this grant used arts integration to promote critical consciousness and activation around social justice issues.



## STUDENT TEACHING IN SIENA, ITALY

*IPDS Siena Student Teaching* is part of the International Professional Development Schools Consortium. IPDS provides study abroad experiences that enrich the lives of future teachers and help prepare them to be leaders in their schools and communities. Undergraduate student, McCartney Geartz, recently traveled to Siena, Italy to complete her final student teaching placement at the International School of Sienna. You can read her blog here: <https://buffalostateipdssiena.weebly.com/mccartney>.

*Thank you so much for supporting my travel to Siena, Italy. This scholarship is extremely meaningful and helps give me the confidence that I am doing what I meant to be doing with support behind me. When looking at colleges I had no idea where I wanted to apply, and it was so hard to find the school for me. My last college tour was to Buffalo State, and I knew automatically that this would be a school environment where I would thrive and gain so much knowledge to become the best teacher I can be. With my major being childhood education and special education, I never thought that it would be possible to study abroad being a special education major, so when the opportunity to student teach in Siena, Italy came about I knew this was a sign and I needed to take advantage of the opportunity. I feel very passionate about extracurricular activities and being involved within the school community. I am a collegiate athlete at Buffalo State and a part of the women's volleyball team and I use the leadership skills and team building skills and all the important life skills that I have been taught while being on the team and being involved with the school community and have been able to apply it to my teaching and education. I chose to pick my research topic on the role extracurricular activities have on academics because I know the positive impacts being a student athlete and very involved in the school community had on me and I am curious to see the way it plays a part in young students lives and especially in the international school setting. I am going to continue my education to get my master's at Buffalo State in the Fall 2024 semester. I am excited to build on my knowledge as an educator and hopes to continue to travel around gaining many life experiences that I can take with me throughout my life and teaching career. I again thank you for the support for this opportunity. Best, McCartney Geartz*



## EXED Dept. Welcomes Delegation of Education Faculty from Univ. of Zambia

In October 2024, Buffalo State's Exceptional Education Department welcomed faculty members from the University of Zambia's School of Education as part of a continuing initiative to promote awareness of education as a global priority, share effective teaching practices, and build intercultural competencies of current and future educators. During the delegation's visit, the Univ. of Zambia faculty members led several presentations at the Fall 2024 PDS Conference, participated in research roundtables with faculty, visited local schools, and participated in classes on campus. This visit continues a partnership established in May 2023 when a delegation of Buffalo State educators visited Zambia through the International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) program led by Dr. Hashey and Prof. Mary Lavin. In May 2025, Dr. Hashey & Dr. Budin will lead the next IPDS trip to Zambia, where they will continue this collaboration by highlighting and exchanging best practices, advancing equity and access to learning through the sharing of educational resources, and developing a deeper understanding of educational issues and opportunities through visits to local schools. This ongoing partnership highlights Buffalo State's commitment to global engagement and cross-cultural learning in the field of exceptional education.



**INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT IPDS? VISIT [HTTPS://PDS.BUFFALOSTATE.EDU/INTERNATIONAL-PDS](https://pds.buffalostate.edu/international-pds)**

## SPRING 2024 DR. HORACE MANN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Buffalo State Exceptional Education Department hosted the Spring 2024 Dr. Horace Mann Graduate Research Symposium on May 6th. Dr. Maheady and Dr. DiCesare's EXE 690 students proudly shared their Master's projects with their colleagues, fellow teachers, and other members of the community.



### Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sharon Raimondi

With over 50 years of experience at Buffalo State as both a student and educator, Dr. Sharon Raimondi has been a driving force in the field of special education. She played a pivotal role in drafting the ABA master's program application and has collaborated with Buffalo Public Schools on over seven initiatives to enhance support for students with disabilities.

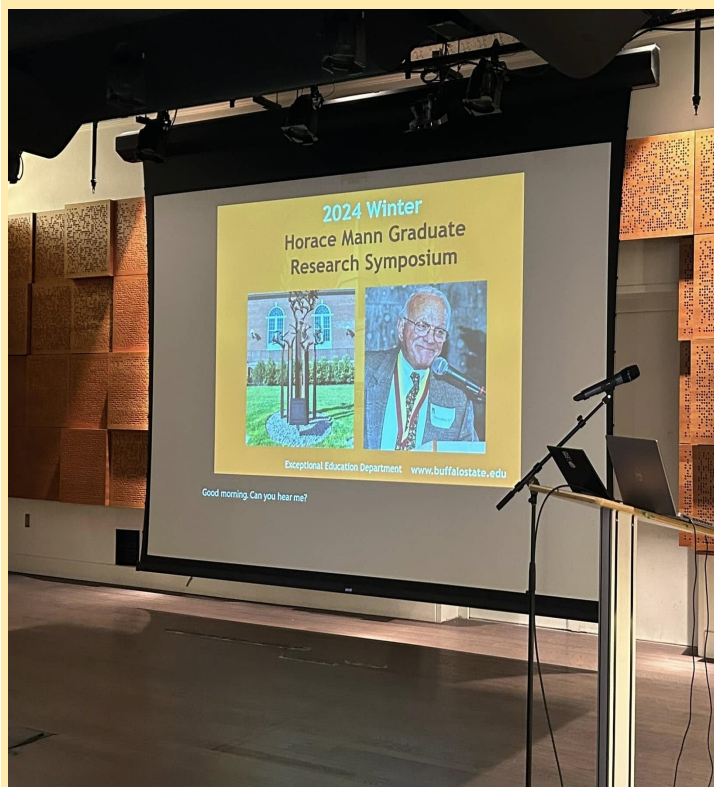
As Director of the Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education between Buffalo State and the University at Buffalo, Dr. Raimondi has mentored future leaders, guiding 39 doctoral graduates whose impact extends to thousands of educators and students. Her dedication to evidence-based instruction, advocacy, and leadership has earned her numerous accolades, including the 2017 NYS Council for Exceptional Children Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor in her field.

With over 60 publications and 200 presentations, Dr. Raimondi's influence spans scholarship, policy, and practice. She remains committed to advancing inclusive education, ensuring students with disabilities receive the quality education they deserve.



## FALL 2025 DR. HORACE MANN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

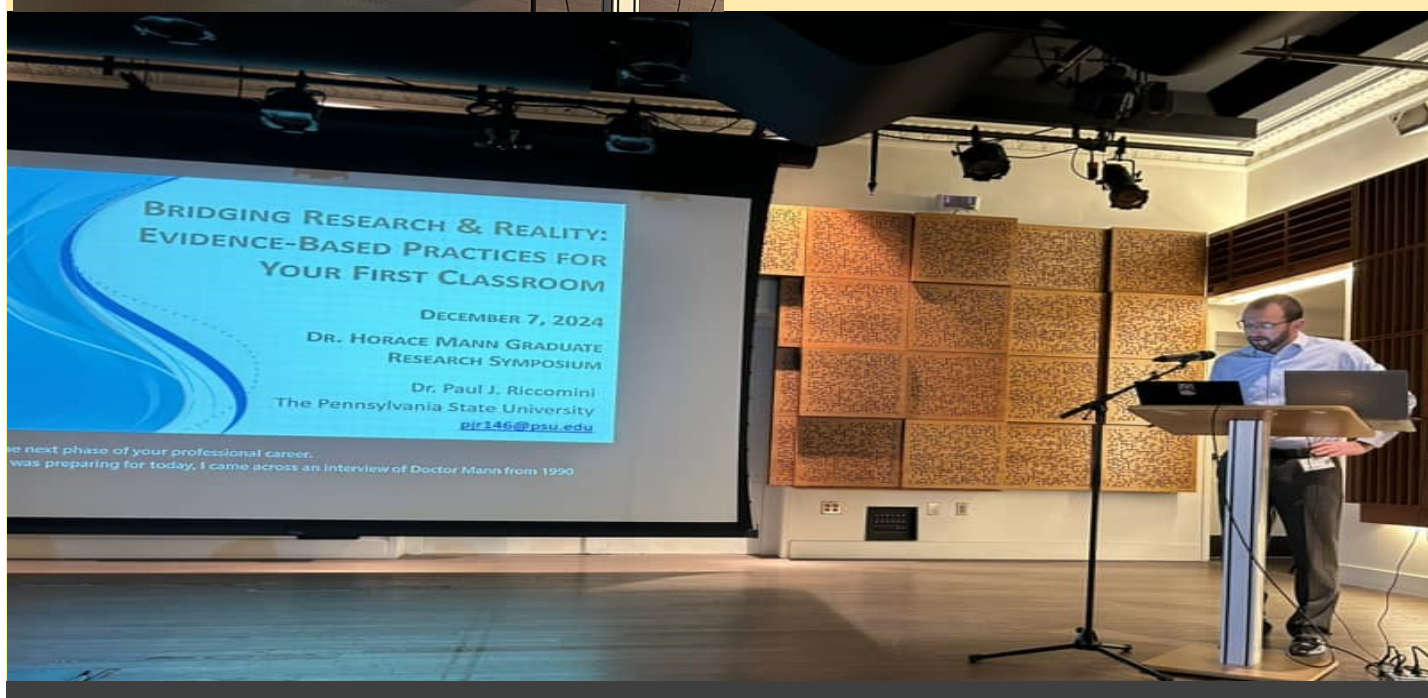
The Buffalo State Exceptional Education Department hosted the Fall 2024 Dr. Horace Mann Graduate Research Symposium on December 7th. Dr. Budin, Professor Shaw, and Professor Askew's EXE 690 students proudly shared their Master's projects with their colleagues, fellow teachers and other members in the community.



Buffalo State's Exceptional Education Department hosted a dynamic research symposium featuring presentations on innovative strategies in special education and mathematics instruction.

Dr. Paul Riccomini, a respected expert in mathematics education, shared insights on high-intensity instructional techniques, emphasizing evidence-based strategies rooted in cognitive science and the science of learning. His work focuses on engaging students in conceptual understanding, critical thinking, and problem-solving to improve mathematics instruction across all grade levels.

The symposium also highlighted student-led research on effective interventions, including the CUBES mnemonic strategy for solving math word problems, the impact of self-monitoring checklists on student attention, and the use of technology to enhance active student responses. Presenters explored strategies to support students with disabilities in mathematics and literacy, ensuring equitable access to learning.



## 2024 TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY



On April 25, Faculty and Staff participated in Take Your Child to Work Day! Parents and kids participated in fun learning activities all throughout campus, including a visit to the Planetarium, Butler Library, and Caudell Hall! It was a great day and many memories were made. Thank you to all the faculty and staff that helped make this day so successful!

## KAPPA DELTA PI

Two of our very own candidates, Masha Polk and Katherine (Kate) Pellow were recently inducted into the KDP (Kappa Delta Pi). KDP's mission is to support and recognize scholarship and excellence in education.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS!!

We would like to honor our 2023-2024 graduates—your efforts and hard work have not gone unnoticed. We wish you nothing but the best!!

### UNDERGRADUATES

Rosemarie Bell	Matthew Henry
Hailee Cipollina	Gavin Janas
Gracie Cognion	Marisa Leitten
Jillian Czajkowski	Jennifer Luchowski
Grace Czyz	Caitlin Morris
Lindsay Deboth	Matthew Carlini
Grace Eleey	Maria Phelps
Adrianna Frerichs	Connor Pellicane
Taylor Gehen	Madison Pawarski
Mccartney Geartz	Casey Rymarczyk
Cody Giras	Brooke Rinow
Brandon Garcia	Chloe Solomon
Alyssa Hartman	Isabella Vene
Olivia Herschell	Meghan Washington
Carson Hensley	Jenna Zamrok

### GRADUATES

Alexis Andres	Gabriella Loewer
Marilyn Brauer	Kim Luchey-McDuffie
Gabriella Brzostowicz	Emily MacDonald
Marie Emmanuelle Brown-Cashdollar	Matthew Millace
Matthew Carney	Clare McKeone
Alexei Carstensen	Gracie McNamara
Christina Canedo	Madison O'Brien
Alessondra Chimera	Alexandra O'Hara
Jessica Cieri	Julianna Owczarczak
Amanda Dailey	Melissa Pawlik
Amanda Daniele	Leanne Poltowicz
Kayla DeLange	Ross Pochatko
Holly Dolan	Rachael Pulinski
Danielle Duck	Rebekah Quinlivan
Emily Felong	Wissberline Rene
Ethan Fischer	Lara Reece
Hannah Faltisko	Juliane Reimer
Brandon Friedman	Katrina Santiago
Gabrielle Gajewski	Samantha Saunders
Taylor Gould	Samantha Schultz
Taylor Guas	Isabella Scozzaro
Tori Hackett	LeAnn Steff
Renee Haase	Jake Storey
Elizabeth Harm	Samantha Urbino
Samantha Himes	Morgan Vullo
Savanna Hinten	Jordan Vazquez
Ruth Hewson	Caitlyn Vishion
Jamie Kemp	Amy Walter
Andrea Kaye	Natalie White
Alex Kostek	Cara Wolcott
Parker Linsley	Quinn Wu
Rebekah Lobur	

### TESOL/BILINGUAL

Rumana Akter  
 Luisa Arias  
 Marie Emmanuelle Brown-Cashdollar  
 Kristen Davis  
 Sawsan Esaleh  
 Gloria Ocampo Galeano  
 Mary Hussein  
 Beh Meh  
 Sarafina Miles  
 Kelin Moskowitz  
 Nora Sachs  
 Megan Stachewicz  
 Carla Stumpo  
 Juliane Reimer  
 Mayeley Ruiz Torres



## Celebrating the Retirement of Dr. Awilda Ramos Zagarrigo



The Exceptional Education Department honors the retirement of Dr. Awilda Ramos Zagarrigo (Sisi), a dedicated professor, mentor, and advocate for bilingual special education and TESOL programs at Buffalo State. An alumnus of Buffalo State, Dr. Zagarrigo dedicated over a decade to shaping future educators, leading the Bilingual Special Education Program, and serving as the director of the TESOL program.

Known for her unwavering commitment to students and colleagues, Dr. Zagarrigo was a recipient of the March 2021 Caring Bengal Award and the President's Medal for Excellence in Academic Advisement (2013). She went above and beyond to support students, from providing essential resources to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning environment. Her efforts extended beyond the classroom through campus leadership, faculty mentorship, and her role as past president of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education.

Colleagues describe her as the heart of the department, always leading with kindness, enthusiasm, and a can-do attitude. Her generosity, whether in organizing student welcome initiatives or uplifting faculty and staff through her leadership in the Sunshine Club, has left a lasting impact on the department's culture.

We thank Dr. Zagarrigo for her years of service and dedication and wish her all the best in her well earned retirement!



**DR. LARRY MAHEADY RETIRES AS HORACE MANN ENDOWED CHAIR IN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION**

The Exceptional Education Department celebrates the retirement of Dr. Larry Maheady, an esteemed educator, researcher, and leader in special education. As Buffalo State's first Horace Mann Endowed Chair in Exceptional Education, Dr. Maheady has made a lasting impact on teacher preparation and evidence-based instructional practices.

A Distinguished Professor recognized by the State University of New York Board of Trustees, Dr. Maheady achieved national and international prominence in his field. Over his career, he has co-authored five books, 110 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, edited three special journal issues, and conducted more than 300 professional development sessions across 29 states. His research, particularly in peer-mediated interventions and high-leverage teaching practices, has shaped inclusive education and strengthened teacher training programs nationwide.

Beyond Buffalo State, Dr. Maheady's contributions to education extend to his involvement with the Wing Institute and the CEEDAR Center. His excellence in teacher education has been recognized with the Pearson Excellence in Teacher Education Award from the International Council for Exceptional Children. He carried forward Dr. Horace Mann's legacy, advancing teacher education and improving instructional practices for students with disabilities.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Maheady for his years of dedicated service and wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement!

## In Memory of Dr. Judith Bondurant-Utz



The Exceptional Education Department honors the memory of Dr. Judith Bondurant-Utz, an esteemed Emeriti Professor whose contributions to SUNY Buffalo State left a lasting impact on the field of early childhood special education. Her dedication and leadership led to the establishment of the Early Childhood Special Education Master's Program, shaping the future of educators committed to supporting young children with special needs.

Dr. Bondurant-Utz began her career as a staunch behaviorist but later embraced a developmental approach, which became the foundation of her teaching and program design. Her passion for early childhood education was evident in her unwavering commitment to her students and her work with young learners.

Beyond her leadership in education, Dr. Bondurant-Utz was a respected author, contributing to widely regarded publications on early childhood curriculum and assessment. Colleagues and former students remember her as an inspiring mentor, a dedicated educator, and a passionate advocate for young children with disabilities.

Her legacy continues to shape the field of exceptional education, serving as a guiding light for those who follow in her footsteps. Her impact is further honored through the Dr. Judith Bondurant-Utz Early Childhood Special Education Scholarship, ensuring that her dedication to the field lives on by supporting future educators committed to serving young children with special needs.

