



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York
Spring/Summer

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

Created by Gabriella Brzostowicz, Graduate Assistant



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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Embracing Change:

A Farewell to My Role as Department Chair for Exceptional Education at Buffalo State University

As I sit down to write this essay, I am filled with mixed emotions. My journey over the past five years as department chairperson has been an incredible odyssey, filled with profound experiences and learning opportunities. When I first assumed this role in 2018, I was filled with excitement and apprehension, wondering if I could make a meaningful impact on the lives of our students and the faculty I have been working alongside for decades. Looking back, I can confidently say that this experience has been nothing short of transformative.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my time as department chair has been witnessing the incredible dedication and passion of my colleagues. The exceptional education field is not just a job for us; it's a calling. I have had the privilege of working with educators who go above and beyond, who relentlessly strive to create inclusive and equitable learning environments for all students. Together, we have championed the cause of students with exceptionalities, tirelessly advocating for their rights and promoting their inclusion in all facets of society.

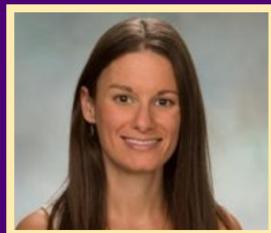
Our BSU students, mentor teachers, and the children they serve are the heart and soul of this department. It has been my utmost pleasure to witness their growth, resilience, and determination. Each student who walks through our doors brings a unique set of challenges and opportunities. They have taught me the true meaning of perseverance, and I am endlessly inspired by their unwavering commitment to their education. As I step down from my role, I know that our department will continue to nurture and support these remarkable individuals as they embark on their own journeys of academic and personal growth.



Dr. Raquel J. Schmidt
*Chair of the Exceptional
Education Department*



Dr. Kathy Doody
*Associate Chair of
Graduate Studies*



Dr. Angela Patti
*Associate Chair of
Undergraduate Programs*



Exceptional Education
Ketchum Hall 204
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:
exceptionaleduca-
tion.buffalostate.edu

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR (CONTINUED)

I am immensely proud of the accomplishments we have achieved as a department over the past five years. We have expanded our programs, initiated innovative research projects, and forged valuable partnerships within the community. Our commitment to excellence has been recognized not only within the university but also on a national level. These achievements would not have been possible without the collective dedication of our faculty, staff, and students. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this dynamic and forward-thinking community.

As I bid farewell to my role as department chair, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has been a part of the Ex Ed family. To my colleagues, both past and present, thank you for your dedication, support, and camaraderie. And to the exceptional education community at large, your tireless commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable world is needed now more than ever. We define divergence as diversity, counter hate with love, and view disability as differently abled.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, to learn, and to grow. I leave this role with a heart full of gratitude and a mind filled with the fond memories of our shared journey. Exceptional Education will always hold a special place in my heart, and I am excited to see the department continue to flourish and make a positive impact on the lives of individuals with exceptionalities under the new department chair, Dr. Andrew Hashey. He is a kind, brilliant, and inspiring leader who will helm the department with confidence and caring. I'd be remiss in not also thanking the associate program chairs Drs. Angela Patti and Kathy Doody, who not only lead the undergraduate and graduate programs, but have been incredible sources of support, advice, and sweat equity. Fortunately, they have agreed to continue to serve the department in these crucial roles and ensure continuity in the transition of leadership.

THANK YOU DR. SCHMIDT FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP!

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!



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Undergraduate: Hailee Cipollina



Where are you from and what brought you to Buffalo State?

I live in North Tonawanda. I came to Buffalo State because I knew it was an amazing school for teaching. So many of my teachers graduated from Buffalo State and I knew I'd get a fantastic education from Buff State. I also loved the size of it. It wasn't as huge as UB but it wasn't as small as NU. With the size being that perfect in between, I hoped there were opportunities to be involved on campus and there were so many opportunities that I always raised my hand for.

Why did you choose the Special Education and Childhood Education (SCE) Major?

I chose SCE because I absolutely adore working with children. All throughout my life I have been surrounded by children and I love the energy they have and I always tell people I connect better with children better than adults some days. Students with exceptionalities always had a special place in my heart. I love knowing that I am helping a student be the best they can be. I work at BOCES summer school program for students who need special education and I have had so many amazing experiences there and it has reassured me that I am in the right place and that teaching is meant for me.

What are a few highlights of your undergraduate experience?

In my literacy block in Fall 2022, we took our classes from Holmes Elementary in a field trip to Buffalo State where they got to go in the Planetarium, participate in a nerdy derby and get a tour of our library. Dr. Hashey and Ms. Lavin let us, the teacher candidates, lead the field trip and it was such an amazing and unique experience. Not a lot of people in their undergraduate get the opportunity to lead a field trip and then teach a lesson about the field trip so that was a super cool experience. I then later was able to present at conference in Jacksonville, Florida with Dr. Hashey, Ms. Lavin, and Miss Caruana (a teacher from Holmes) about the field trip. I also had the opportunity to travel with the IPDS program to the Dominican Republic in January 2023. We worked with 3 Mariposa Montessori, CORAL (a private school), and the Mariposa DR Foundation (an all-girl's foundation). This trip we did so much and learned so much not only about the schools there, but about the culture and the people there as well. Two weeks was definitely not long enough, and I would do anything to back there and visit all the amazing people we made connections with. Over summer 2022, I was asked to become a PDS student representative and obviously I signed my name up, got interviewed, and become a student rep for the year. This was such a phenomenal opportunity that I have learned so much from. I was able to travel to Jacksonville, Florida to the NAPDS (National Association for Professional Development Schools) where not only did I present about the field trip from my literacy block, I also presented research that I conducted on my IPDS trip to the Dominican Republic. This and every PDS event was a great chance for networking and learning more about the education field. While it hasn't happened yet, I am traveling again with IPDS but to Zambia this time in May-June 2023 for 3 weeks. I know this trip is going to be just as amazing and life-changing as the Dominican Republic trip was. I cannot wait to attend this trip and learn and be immersed in a new culture.

What are your career plans beyond your undergraduate program?

After my undergraduate, I plan on staying at Buffalo State to complete my masters (however, what program I will do is still undecided). I also have always had this strong desire to go teach in a different country after I finish my masters. I don't necessarily know where I would want to teach but somewhere in Spain is definitely calling my name. And obviously I cannot wait for the day when I am the lead teach in an inclusive room, shaping the minds of so many students. No matter where my path takes me I know I will always be working with students with and without students with exceptionalities.

Who or what has motivated/inspired you during your undergraduate program, and how?

My family has definitely been my biggest supporters and motivators. Anytime I need practice with a lesson plan, to read through my presentation, get advice on color matching for anchor charts and so much more my parents, my sisters, my boyfriend, they're all always there cheering me on. They are all so supportive of all my travels and all the amazing opportunities I was presented with throughout my undergrad and my life in general. Within Buffalo State, Dr. Hashey has definitely been one of my biggest motivators. He is someone who I always know I can go to with absolutely anything, is always there for help and to support everyone and always take the time to check in.

What advice would you give to a student just starting out in the SCE Major?

I would say, make as many connections as you can. Having those positive connections with your professors is so important in so many ways. Having a support system of faculty within the program is super important when you have difficult decisions to make or just need advice in general. It also allows you to have connections for letter of recommendations and job opportunities. I would also say to get involved on campus. There are so many educational clubs and even non-educational clubs that help you meet new people within the education field and people outside of it. Take the opportunities given to you and make the most of your college career.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Graduate: Anthony DeJoseph

Which program are you in here at Buffalo State? What made you choose Buffalo State?

I am currently in the Exceptional Education program here at Buffalo State, specifically in the generalist program. A few of my professors at my undergraduate college, Medaille, also work at Buffalo State and have mentioned good things about the education program. I also knew a couple of students that have been through here, and they have all said that the education program is good, informative, and helpful. I heard that the staff is great, and I really enjoyed my professors that teach here. All of these reasons made me choose this college!

What is your bachelor's degree in, and where is it from? What made you decide to pursue your graduate degree in exceptional education?

I graduated from Medaille College, with my bachelors degree in Education, specifically in 7-12 Students with Disabilities and 7-12 Social Studies. I have always wanted to stay in a field around people with disabilities and special education really stuck out to me, as it has really made me feel like I am doing something worthwhile. The exceptional education program allows me to continue to have that feeling.

What is your educational background/experience? (i.e. club or organization participation, field experience, internships, observation hours, etc.)

I am from West Seneca, New York and have been in the school district for my whole educational life. I graduated from West Seneca West in 2018 and attended Medaille College, in Buffalo, for the next four years, graduating in 2022. I observed at many different schools during my time at Medaille: Kenmore West, Maritime, Health Sciences, Transit Middle, etc. I student taught at Transit Middle School and JFK High School. All of these different schools and environments taught me a lot about different cultures, and different perspectives to look at in the classroom. I also substitute taught in the Williamsville school district immediately following my graduation from Medaille.

Would you like to note any personal accomplishments? (i.e. awards, research, projects, current endeavors, etc.)

I played baseball for all four years at Medaille. Although I did not have any standout seasons, I was a captain of the team my Junior and Senior year, which was a nice honor. I was also recognized as a member of Chi Alpha Sigma, which is an honors society for student athletes. During my time at Medaille, I was a part of the honors program. I was also on the Dean's List for every semester of my college career, which is an accomplishment I am proud of. I also presented a piece on assessment in the classroom at a symposium provided by Medaille, which is another achievement I am proud of completing.

Do you currently have a teaching job? If so, where and what grade are you teaching?

I am currently a building substitute at Casey Middle School in Williamsville. I have been here the entire year, and I have been filling in as a long-term substitute for most of the year. I started as a long-term substitute in a seventh grade 8-1-1 class. When that assignment was up, I moved to a sixth grade 8-1-1 class. When that teacher came back, I moved over to a seventh grade co-taught and resource setting, where I am the co-teacher as well as the resource room teacher. Since January, I have been doing this resource/co-taught position as well as a long term substitute for an eighth grade science class. Both teachers have been out since January, so I have been covering both of them for the most part over the course of these last four or five months.

What are your plans post-graduate? What is your ideal classroom placement?

My plans post-graduate is to get hired as a special education teacher in the Williamsville School District. My dream placement would be at one of the high schools, specifically in a self-contained room. However, I would be thrilled with any special education placement in the district, especially at Casey considering I am here now and enjoy it greatly.

Have you had any people on your teaching journey who have motivated/inspired you? Who are they, and how did they motivate you?

I have had plenty of important people who have inspired me on this teaching journey. First of all, my parents have helped me through many different times of my life, and they are some of the most helpful, caring, and intelligent people. They have really done so much for me that have inspired me to help as many people as I can. Matt Rydelek, a teacher at Medaille and Transit Middle, has been incredibly influential. He took me under his wing and has taught me a ton about teaching, communicating with people, and being passionate about doing things the way he believes they should be done. I have had many other teachers inspire me: Colleen Wilkinson, Angela Patti, Kristen Saperston, and my professors now at Buffalo State. I have been lucky to have had so many great teachers over the course of my schooling. I also work with amazing teachers at Casey and have been inspired by them as well. Andrea Hauber, a fifth-grade self-contained teacher, is just one example of the teachers at Casey that are fantastic and have inspired me. I am just grateful to have been around so many inspiring people and teachers.

Anything else you would like to add?

I would just like to say thank you to those who have nominated me. This is a nice honor and I have felt really welcomed, especially this semester here at Buffalo State.

FACULTY FEATURE**Carol Shaw****What do you teach at Buffalo State University? What made you come to Buffalo State?**

I am the Program Director for the newly implemented ABA Program. I am or will teach most of the courses in the ABA program: EXE544 Intervention for Students with Challenging Behaviors, EXE522 Assessment and Instruction of Behavior, EXE634 Applied Behavior Analysis, EXE644 Advanced ABA, EXE684 Introduction to Research Methodology, EXE690 Master's Project, EXE683 Personnel Supervision and Management, and the fieldwork courses EXE685 -689 (one per semester).

I came to Buffalo State because of the unique opportunity to remain connected with The Summit Center, where I worked for 13 years, while being able to expand my reach across adult learners who are interested in learning ABA.

What made you decide to become a professor?

I started teaching for the same reason many teachers do – to support children in learning. As I progressed through my teaching career I realized that as a leader and teacher of teachers I would influence, support and guide teachers to be the best they can for the students they teach and I would be able to influence the education of more students, not only the ones I taught directly.

FACULTY FEATURE (CONTINUED)

How long have you been teaching? Where did you earn your accreditations?

I have been teaching since 2004. I have been at The Summit Center since 2009 and at Buffalo State University since July 2022. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Education for Elementary and Exceptional Education with a concentration in Mathematics from SUNY Buffalo State in May 2004 and my Master of Science in Education (Early Childhood) in Dec 2005, also from SUNY Buffalo State. I earned my certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in 2013 from Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) and Licensure through NYS (LBA) in 2014. I earned my second Master of Science in Educational Leadership through Niagara University in 2019.

What is a highlight of your career at Buffalo State so far?

The highlight for me so far is the warm welcome and continuous support from the entire Exceptional Education department. Every member of the faculty and staff has been extremely supportive. They are a wonderful group to work with.

Anything else you would like to add? (For example, any awards you've maybe won, any work you're proud of, anything else that you're working to change or improve, etc.)?

I am excited to be back at Buffalo State, in the capacity to shape new teachers and BCBA's the way that Buffalo State educators shaped me through my first few college experiences. With the help of faculty from the exceptional education department, I am working to build the ABA Program at Buffalo State. We started our first semester with five students. We were able to double enrollment in our second semester and we are continuing to expand our program every semester. We are looking to bring on more instructors to support the need for more courses taught by BCBA/LBAs each semester.

TEACHLIVE SESSION WITH EDUCATION PATHWAYS ACADEMY STUDENTS



The Exceptional Education Department has been actively engaged with high school students enrolled in the New Visions Education Pathways Academy over the past several months. This academy is a one-year, senior level, highly academic program that allows current high school students across Western New York to explore the field of education while earning high school and college credits. Since January, seven high school students have been enrolled in EXE 100, a foundational course in special education, led by Dr. Andrew Hashey. As a culminating experience for EXE 100, the students participated in a mixed reality classroom teaching experience with student "avatars" in a virtual classroom environment. The TeachLive(tm) simulated classroom experience was facilitated by Dr. Budin, whereby each student had the opportunity to teach and interact in a virtual classroom of middle school students with and without disabilities. The simulation provided the high school students with an opportunity to practice skills they learned in their college courses within a supportive and low risk environment. The students were able to get immediate feedback, coaching, and opportunities to "try it again". This experience can be used to help prepare future teachers for success in the real-world classroom.

GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE HOSTS ANNUAL LIGHT UP THE NIGHT: A WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY PARTY



Did you know that March 21st is international acceptance day for Down Syndrome? Every year, Gigi's Playhouse Buffalo celebrates the individuals and families it serves by hosting a community event called "Light up the Night: A World Down Syndrome Day Party". Graduate candidates in the early childhood program from Exceptional Education participated in this event as part of their service-learning activities for the Spring 2023 semester by facilitating play, encouraging language development and enjoying their time with guests. It was a wonderful celebration as evidenced by these photos. Additionally, Gigi's Playhouse is the latest organization to join the Teacher Education Unit's Professional Development Schools consortium or PDS. We are looking forward to our future collaborations with Gigi's!



SPRING 2023 DR. HORACE MANN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Buffalo State Exceptional Education Department hosted the Spring 2023 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.



Jonte' C. Taylor (JT)

*Associate Professor at Penn State University
Keynote Speaker*

Jonte' C. Taylor (JT), Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Special Education at Pennsylvania State University. His research includes examining effective strategies for Inclusive STEAM education for students with disabilities and improving school/classroom climates for students, families, and teachers. His STEAM scholarship focuses on supporting inquiry-based STEAM instruction and using research and evidence-based interventions and practices. His school/classroom scholarship emphasizes student/classroom motivation, using the arts in instruction, followership/leadership dynamics, and justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations across educational settings. He earned his bachelor's degree in Special Education from Tuskegee University and his master's and doctorate from Auburn University in Collaborative Education and Special Education with an emphasis in Autism and Emotional/Behavioral Disorders respectively. His classroom experiences have included a variety of settings (e.g., juvenile justice, PreK-12 schools and classrooms, and group homes environments) with students including adults with moderate to severe Intellectual Disabilities and students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or Emotional/Behavioral Disorders.

Presenters

- Tricia Andres
- Laura Bagley
- Jessica Bennett
- Jacqueline Brown
- Kyla Campanella
- Amanda Daniele
- Melissa DiVirgilio
- Hannah Gleason
- Maya Gooding
- Sarah Harter
- Rianne Hoffman
- Michael Lamar
- Olivia Lamar
- Victoria Lewis
- Mackenzie Mahony
- Tricia Markel
- Sarah Myers
- Alexandra O'Hara
- Rachel Ouimet
- Jessica Plewniak
- Kalieggh Reding
- Lara Reece
- Lauren Riley
- Aracely Rodriguez-Perez
- Carly Shank
- Jacob Sillett
- Kaitlyn Stickney
- Ashley Sutton
- Chaniah Trueheart
- Leah Weiss
- Nynasia Williams



2023 TAKE YOUR KID TO WORK DAY



On April 27, Faculty and Staff participated in Take Your Kid 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!

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOUR CAMPUS AND LEARN ABOUT EXED!

Our campus has hosted visiting high school students from Ken-Ton and Lew-Port during the spring semester. Students toured campus, participated in Dr. Zagarrigo's EXE 371 undergraduate class, heard about freshmen learning communities from Professor Harris and teacher candidates, and enjoyed lunch in the Campbell Student Union Dining Hall. The high school students also learned about IPDS travel opportunities from Dr. del Prado and Brandon Kawa and met with the New Visions students to hear about their experiences as high school seniors taking college courses on campus. We hope the Ken-Ton and Lew-Port students decide to become Bengals!



CONGRATULATIONS SPRING 2023 GRADS!!!!

We would like to honor our Spring 2023 graduates—your efforts and hard work have not gone unnoticed. We wish you nothing but the best as you head toward your futures!

UNDERGRADUATES

Owen Adamec
Alana Kilminster
Syrena Kohlman
Marita Miller
Jennifer Purpura
Casey Rymarczyk
Christina Stoessel
Stacie Tchorznicki
April Wright
Kelsey Sabawa

TESOL/BILINGUAL

Rumana Akter
Olivia Maldonado
Beh Meh
Michelle Mitri
Aracely Rodriguez-Perez
Jeffrey Thomas

GRADUATES

Tricia Andres
Laura Bagley
Jessica Bennett
Allison Block
Jenna Bradley
Jacqueline Brown
Kyla Campanella
Amanda Daniele
Melissa DiVirgilio
Vernia Garvin
Hannah Gleason
Maya Gooding
Rianne Hoffman
Michael Lamar
Olivia Lamar
Victoria Lewis
Tricia Markel
Sarah Myers
Jessica Plewniak
Kaliagh Reding
Lara Reece
Lauren Riley
Aracely Rodriguez-Perez
Carly Shank
Jacob Sillett
Kaitlyn Stickney
Ashley Sutton
Chaniah Trueheart
Angela Van Kuren
Leah Weiss
Nynasia Williams



SPRING 2023 SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

Candidates in the Exceptional Education graduate program participate in service learning activities in our community. We support "Au-Some" experiences which are recreational events held for children with ASD and their families, friends, and invited guests. These events are held monthly and are hosted by our community partners, including Explore & More Children's Museum and the Aquarium of Niagara. EXED candidates participate by playing with children, engaging in musical activities and crafts, and encouraging language and communication. Dr. Alexandra Allen from Art Education participates, as well, and extends the invitation to her Art Ed majors, who are a wonderful addition to the events. EXED candidates and Art Ed students work in pairs to learn about each other's disciplines and collaborate in an inter-disciplinary way. Additionally, members of our campus student groups including the Council for Exceptional Children, Future Teachers Club, and KDP joined us as volunteers. All of these components result in a rich and fun experience for children!



SPRING 2023 RECRUITMENT

Graduate candidates in Exceptional Education presented to nearly fifty students in Buffalo State's undergraduate programs in Psychology and Speech-Language Pathology. During this presentation, the EXED candidates provided an overview of special education, shared their experiences from working in the field, and gave an overview of what a special education teacher does on a daily basis. The candidates also provided feedback on our EXED graduate program. They highlighted service learning, field placements, caring instructors, and amazing advisement. Their stories were powerful. Hopefully, we can expect to see some SLP and Psychology students in our graduate classes moving forward as a result of their presentation!



SPOTLIGHT: JIM MALONEY**Jim Maloney – SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching**

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 life-long 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.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR 25+ YEARS OF
DEDICATED SERVICE TO BUFFALO STATE
AND EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION!!!**

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION FACULTY RECEIVE PROMOTIONS!

Beginning Fall 2023, Dr. Kathy Doody has been promoted to full professor! Dr. Doody has been with the Exceptional Education Department at Buffalo State University for over 10 years. Her dedication, hard work, and passion for teaching has not gone unnoticed. **Congratulations, Dr. Doody!**

Beginning Fall 2023, Dr. Angela Patti has been promoted to full professor! Dr. Patti has been with the Exceptional Education Department at Buffalo State University for over 10 years. Over the years, Dr. Patti has demonstrated a consistent history of exemplary teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. **Congratulations, Dr. Patti!**

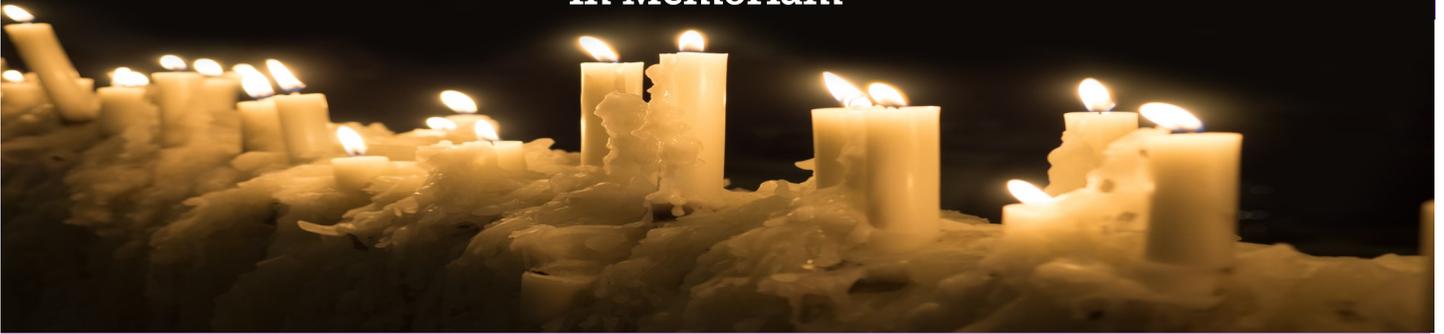


Beginning Fall 2023, Dr. Gliset Colon has been promoted to associate professor! Dr. Colon has been with the Exceptional Education Department at Buffalo State University for over 6 years. As well as working in the Exceptional Education Department, Dr. Colon is also the Coordinator for Bilingual Certificate Program. **Congratulations, Dr. Colon!**

Beginning July 2023, Dr. Raquel Schmidt will be leaving the Exceptional Education Department after 27 years and beginning a new position as the associate dean of the School of Education. Over the years, Dr. Schmidt has taught a multitude of courses in the Exceptional Education Department. Dr. Schmidt has been a great leader and mentor to many in the department and she will be greatly missed!
Good luck and Congratulations on your new adventure, Dr. Schmidt!



In Memoriam



Paul Thoms

1935-2023



The Buffalo State community is saddened by the death of Paul L. Thoms, graduate of Buffalo State in 1963, assistant professor emeritus of exceptional education, who died March 2, 2023. Mr. Thoms joined the campus in 1965 and retired in 1998, after which he continued teaching as an adjunct faculty member until 2006. During his career at Buffalo State, Mr. Thoms believed strongly in on-going professional development for teachers. To that end, Mr. Thoms advised the student group Student Council for Exceptional Children, a branch of the national Council for Exceptional Education (CEC) organization that is the international voice of advocacy and research in special education. For 31 years, he encouraged students' intellectual growth and leadership by accompanying them to conferences, encouraging scholarly pursuits, having guest speakers and planning retreats at the BSC camp.

After his retirement, Professor Emeritus Paul Thoms continued to emphasize the importance of staying current in our profession through CEC's magazines and journals by awarding CEC memberships annually to deserving Exceptional Education students. His belief in the value of professional development through CEC participation has resulted in almost two hundred membership scholarships being awarded since 2001. The Paul Thoms CEC Membership Scholarships will continue to be awarded through his generous donation to the Buffalo State Foundation, allowing his commitment to high quality special education to continue into the future.

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Special Education and Childhood Education (B.S.Ed.) 120-126 credits

Contact: *Angela L. Patti, Undergraduate Associate Chair*

Email: pattial@buffalostate.edu)

Phone: (716) 878-5429

Candidates who successfully complete the program will be recommended for initial certification in special education and childhood education, grades 1-6.

Teaching Bilingual Exceptional Individuals GCP: Graduate Certificate Program -18 credits

Contact: *Gliset Colón, Ph.D., Program Coordinator*

Email: colong@buffalostate.edu

Phone: (716) 878-4639

Students who complete the certificate program are eligible for a New York State Bilingual Education Extension.

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Certificate of Advanced Study Program (CAS) - 18 credits

Contact: *Awilda Ramos Zagarrigo, Program Director*

Email: ramosza@buffalostate.edu)

Phone: (716) 878-3038

After successfully completing the program and all other state-mandated requirements, candidates will receive a college recommendation for initial certification in *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages* (TESOL) that will prepare them to teach in K-12 classrooms, college, and adult education programs.

Students with Disabilities (SWD) Birth-2nd grade (Early childhood) Master's Degree in Special Education- minimum of 30 credits

Contact: *Kathy R. Doody, Program Coordinator and Associate Chair of Graduate Studies*

Email: doodykr@buffalostate.edu

Phone: (716) 878-3038

After successfully completing the program and all other state-mandated requirements such as New York State Teacher Certification Exams and workshops, candidates will be eligible for SWD B-2 NYS certification **as well as** B-2 NYS certification in general education. This certification will prepare them to teach in day cares, preschools, or elementary schools, Birth-2nd grade, as a special or general education teacher.

Students with Disabilities (SWD) Grades 1-6 (Childhood) Master's Degree in Special Education- minimum of 30 credits

Contact: *Kathy R. Doody, Associate Chair of Graduate Studies*

Email: doodykr@buffalostate.edu

Phone: (716) 878-3038

After successfully completing the program and all other state-mandated requirements such as New York State Teacher Certification Exams and workshops, candidates will be eligible for SWD Childhood Grades 1-6 certification. This certification will prepare them to teach in elementary schools, Grades 1-6 as a special education teacher.

Students with Disabilities (SWD) Grades 7-12 (Generalist) Master's Degree in Special Education- minimum of 30 credits

Contact: *Kathy R. Doody, Associate Chair of Graduate Studies*

Email: doodykr@buffalostate.edu

Phone: (716) 878-3038

After successfully completing the program and all other state-mandated requirements such as New York State Teacher Certification Exams and workshops, candidates will be eligible for SWD Grades 7-12 Generalist certification. This certification will prepare them to teach in Grades 7-12 as a special education teacher. Additionally, candidates with 18 credits or more in a content area such as Math, English, Science, Social Studies, Spanish, French, etc. may also be eligible for the SWD Grades 7-12 Generalist certification with subject area extension.

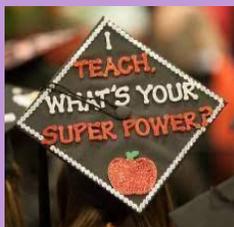
EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FACULTY & STAFF



Raquel Schmidt
Department Chair



Andrea Hoehman
Administrative Asst



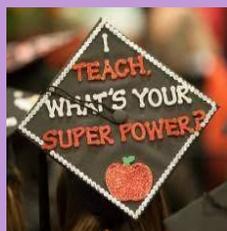
Stacey Glogowski
Office Assistant



Shannon Budin
Professor



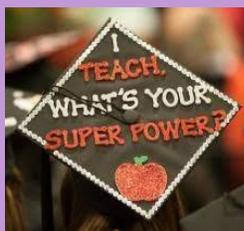
Gliset Colón
Assistant Professor



Dane DiCesare
Lecturer



Kathy Doody
Associate Professor



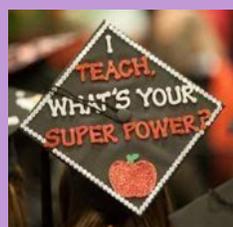
Judith Harris
Lecturer



Andrew Hashey
Associate Professor



Lawrence Maheady
Endowed Chair



Lauren J. Mirabella-Ormsby
Lecturer



Kathleen Palumbo
Practicum Lecturer



Angela Patti
Associate Professor



Mark Posluszny
Associate Professor



Lisa Rafferty
Professor



Awilda Ramos Zagarrigo
Associate Professor



Krista Vince Garland
Associate Professor