



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

FALL 2014

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

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Created by Scott Silverman, Graduate Assistant

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR



Dr. Kevin J. Miller
Chair of the Exceptional Education Department



Dr. Raquel J. Schmidt
Associate Chair of Graduate Programs



Dr. Lisa A. Rafferty
Associate Chair of Undergraduate Programs



Welcome to the Exceptional Education Department's bi-annual newsletter. The newsletter provides a forum for us to share our successes and spread awareness about pertinent issues in special education and how the Exceptional Education Department at Buffalo State is committed to keeping current on changing trends, proactively engaging in professional development, and planning innovative events. We end the Fall 2014 semester with great pride in what our teacher candidates, dedicated faculty, and amazing staff have accomplished.

Accomplishments highlighted in this edition include the formal unveiling of the Buffalo State TLE TeachLivE™ Simulation Lab, a mixed-reality classroom with simulated students that provides pre-service and in-service teachers the opportunity to develop and enhance their pedagogical practice. Our partnership with Maryvale Intermediate School has flourished with them becoming a Professional Development School (PDS). The highly successful Winter Dr. Horace Mann Research Symposium and our 19th Annual Recognition and Awards Reception spotlighted the work and commitment of our talented teacher candidates. And, our Buffalo State Best Buddies and Student Council of Exceptional Children organizations continued their remarkable efforts through a variety of awesome activities they sponsored. Please take a few minutes to read about these achievements and much more in this edition of Exceptional Education Department Newsletter.

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FALL 2014 HIGHLIGHTS



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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.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Officially Unveils TeachLivE Lab

On Thursday, October 16, the School of Education, in collaboration with the Exceptional Education Department, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the TeachLivE Lab in Ketchum Hall 211. The event was part of the inauguration week events; President Conway-Turner offered brief remarks and experienced TeachLivE herself.

TeachLivE allows pre-service and student teachers to hone skills by using interactors, hardware, software, pre-programmed student behaviors, and real-time interactions between students and the teacher. The students are represented by avatars—on-screen images—each of whom has a distinct personality.

At Buffalo State, pre-service and in-service teachers will be able to practice teaching lessons to these students in a simulated, safe environment, with the opportunity to pause for immediate feedback from

instructors and the chance to go back and re-teach their lessons.

TeachLivE was developed at the University of Central Florida, where Krista Vince Garland earned her Ph.D. She is now Assistant Professor of Exceptional Education, and Director of the SUNY Buffalo State TeachLivE Simulation Lab. Buffalo State was the first SUNY campus to partner with TeachLivE, and it's one of just 42 campuses around the country using the technology.

"Preparing student teachers is just one way to use TeachLivE," Vince Garland said. "In-service teachers can also use it to develop new skills. Adult avatars are available, too, so students can practice holding a difficult parent-teacher conversation. And we have Austin, an avatar who represents a student on the autism spectrum."

"We are really excited about this technology," said Kevin Miller, Chair of the Exceptional Education Depart-

ment. "It's also a great way to celebrate the Year of the Innovator," said Miller.

Members of the campus community and area educators were invited to participate in lab simulations after the ribbon-cutting ceremony concluded. Classroom simulations included a middle school classroom, high-school classroom, and parent-teacher conference.

Article written by Mary A. Durlak



Ribbon Cutting Photo Gallery



NINETEENTH ANNUAL RECOGNITION AND AWARDS RECEPTION

The Exceptional Education Department held its 19th Annual Recognition and Awards Reception on **Tuesday, October 28, 2014 from 7:00-8:30pm** in the Rockwell Hall Performing Arts Center. The following recipients were recognized:

The Horace Mann K-12 Student Awards
**Ariana Pagan Reyes, Richard Seebald,
 Maxim Seefeldt, Benjamin Brauen,
 David Cruz, Madisen Northey**

*The Horace Mann Endowment for
 Exceptional Education Scholarships Fund*
**Ms. Jenna Bloom,
 Mr. Sean McCormick,
 Ms. Britany Breidenstein**

*Dr. Judith Bondurant-Utz Early Childhood
 Special Education Scholarship for
 Graduate Exceptional Education Majors*
Ms. Britany Breidenstein

*Gayle Fish '56 and Donald Schrader
 Awards for
 Undergraduate Exceptional Education
 Majors*
**Ms. Jodi Rospierski, Ms. Alexandra
 Siebert**

*Gustave A. and Geraldine F. Werner
 Awards for
 Undergraduate Exceptional Education
 Majors*
**Ms. Ayanna Woodburn, Ms. Courtney
 Denmark, Ms. Annalise Stark**

*Joseph & Mary Daly Varga '43 Awards for
 Graduate Exceptional Education Majors*
Ms. Brittany Wienke
Horace Mann Undergraduate Award
Ms. Annalise Stark

Horace Mann Graduate Award
Ms. Valerie Mortellaro

Bernard Yormak Undergraduate Award
Ms. Sarah Hurt

Bernard Yormak Graduate Award
Mr. Christopher Wittmeyer

*James Kreider Memorial
 Outstanding Cooperating Teacher Award*
Ms. Amy Blake, Ms. Melissa Bonaffini

*Horace Mann Scholarships for
 Exceptional Education Students Fund*
**Ms. Marilyn Wang, Ms. Cindy Chatoo,
 Ms. Devon Holler, Ms. D'Anne Frosell,
 Ms. Amber Martinez, Ms. Shawntell
 Milton, Ms. Gloria Lassiter, Ms. Jill
 Seifert**

*The Dorothea & Mildred Seegler
 Endowed Scholarship Fund*
**Ms. Jessica Boutet Andriatch,
 Mr. Aaron Deutschman, Ms. April
 Thompson, Ms. Jennifer Krok**

*Paul Thoms Council for Exceptional
 Children Membership Awards*
**Ms. Courtney Denmark, Ms. Kelsey
 Kilminster, Ms. Jodi Rospierski,
 Ms. Marilyn Wang**

*Horace Mann Travel Award for CEC
 Students*
**Ms. Cindy Chatoo, Ms. Angela Curto,
 Ms. Marilyn Wang**

*Aaron Podolefsky AmeriCorps
 ABE Fellowship*
Ms. Michelle Phillips

Faculty Awards and Recognition
**Ms. Tara Kaczorowski
 Mr. Dane Marco Di Cesare
 Ms. Gliset Colón**



"COOL" EVENTS HIGHLIGHT BEST BUDDIES FALL 2014 SEMESTER

In a first for the Buffalo State Chapter of Best Buddies, a Buffalo State sports team partnered with Best Buddies to provide a fun afternoon for everyone. Organized by Best Buddies Secretary Charles Lapierre, the members of the Buffalo State Hockey Team supported Buffalo State students and buddies with developmental disabilities to try their hand or renew their skills at ice skating on Saturday, October 18. Over forty people participated at the Buffalo State Ice Arena. The noise level indicated that all were having fun! We send a big thank you to the Buffalo State Hockey Team for helping to make a great event that we hope becomes a tradition. Buffalo State Best Buddies is a chapter of the interna-

tional organization which pairs college students with individuals with developmental disabilities for one to one friendships.

The Buffalo State Best Buddies Chapter also participated in the 2014 Polar Plunge, held at Woodlawn Beach State Park. The name of the Best Buddies team was the Buffalo State Orange Crushers. The Buffalo State Orange Crushers team had 58 registered team members that raised over \$3,250 for NYS Special Olympics. They also were formally recognized as the WNY Polar Plunge Top Fundraising College Team. Everyone had a great, if muddy and cold, time!



LEFT: Best Buddies enjoying a fun evening of ice skating at the Buffalo State Ice Arena.

RIGHT: The Buffalo State Orange Crushers raised \$3,250 at the 2014 WNY Polar Plunge.



Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC)

SCEC has had a busy fall semester! Just a few event highlights are shared in this article.

First, Dr. Raquel Schmidt, an Exceptional Education Faculty Member, led a very successful yoga and meditation event, which SCEC co-sponsored with Kappa Delta Pi and Best Buddies. Participants learned effective calming practices that can be used both in and out of the classroom.

Due to generous funding from United Students Government (USG), seven SCEC members attended the New York State CEC Conference in Syracuse. Four members had the distinction of presenting a conference session on the use of children's literature that depicts characters with disabilities.

SCEC held an All About Autism Event, led by one of SCEC's faculty advisors, Dr. Kathy Doody. Participants learned strategies for communicating, teaching, and encouraging socialization when working with individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Attendees were able to volunteer to work with children with ASD and their families at a recreational opportunity called Au-

Some Evenings at Explore and More Museum of Play in East Aurora.

SCEC finished up the semester with the 8th Annual Polar Plunge Event at Woodlawn Beach State Park. SCEC worked closely with Best Buddies to encourage members, the general student population, and faculty members to fundraise and support Special Olympics. SCEC looks forward to a promising spring semester filled with fun and engaging events for Buffalo State's future special educators!

RIGHT: Seven SCEC members attended the New York State CEC Conference in Syracuse. Funding was provided by the United Students Government.



HORACE MANN SCULPTURE CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED



Kevin Eichner, '92, was announced as the winner of the Horace "Hank" Mann Sculpture Competition.

Eichner's iron sculpture honoring the beloved Buffalo State educator will be installed in the Hank Mann Quad on the east side of the Donald Savage Building next spring.

Earlier this year, the Fine Arts Department opened the sculpture competition to students and alumni interested in contributing to the legacy of the SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Exceptional Education who passed away in 2010 after teaching at Buffalo State for more than 40 years. The effort was spearheaded by Susanne Bair, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, who envisions the Mann sculpture as the cornerstone of the quad that will be officially named in a dedication ceremony in April.

The sculpture, which Eichner is working on in his Hilton Head studio, will consist of multiple beams, "the

tallest of which represents Dr. Mann. The others will represent the students and community that continue to grow around his work and his legacy," said Eichner, who learned of the competition through fine arts professor Ken Payne.

"I have been actively involved with Buffalo State since my graduation." "Buffalo State is where I began my work as a sculptor and I wanted to give back to the community that has supported me," he said. "I am honored and excited to bring my work back to Buffalo and the Buffalo State campus."

*Article written by Laurie Kaiser
Staff Writer, Public Relations*

DR. PATTI'S BLOCK II NEWS

Dr. Patti's section of Block II continued to work with Maryvale Intermediate School this semester. The school officially became a Professional Development School (PDS), joining the highly-respected Buffalo State PDS network. The teacher candidates worked hard all semester to support the teachers and students at Maryvale Intermediate and to improve their own

knowledge and skills in relation to their teaching practice.

Dr. Patti and Mr. Michael Viscome, Principal at Maryvale Intermediate School, worked together to earn a PDS mini-grant for a project titled, "Engaging with the Common Core as a School Community: Family Math Nights at Maryvale Intermediate School." The current Block II students helped develop the first

family math night which was designed to help parents/guardians understand the new math standards and curriculum their children are using in school. This work will continue throughout next semester.



EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION RECEIVES ASSESSMENT AWARD

From the Associate Vice President for Assessment and Curriculum

On behalf of the Assessment Advisory Board, I am pleased to announce that the Exceptional Education Department has been awarded the Outstanding Assessment Award for 2013-2014. The department will

receive \$4,000 in recognition of its assessment efforts and resultant curricular changes. The department's submission, "[Department Award for Outstanding Assessment Application](#)" (PDF), can be found on the assessment website and serves as a model of best practices in as-

essment. Congratulations to Shannon Budin, Kevin Miller, and their Exceptional Education Department colleagues for their excellent efforts in reforming curriculum through assessment.



DR. HORACE MANN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Winter 2014 Dr. Horace Mann Graduate Research Symposium was held on Saturday, December 6, 2014 in the Classroom Building. Twenty Exceptional Education Graduate Students showcased their master's projects to their peers, as well as the Exceptional Education Department faculty and staff. Projects involved the design, implementation, and reporting of research studies responsive to the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Research topics ranged from The Effectiveness of Peer Video Modeling on Students' Ability to Socially Inter-

act with Peers to Examining Social Attitudes of College Freshmen Towards Students with Significant Disabilities in the College Environment..

The keynote speaker was Dr. Spencer Salend, Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York at New Paltz. Dr. Salend's research background included 125 articles and book chapters addressing such topics as effective inclusive education practices, students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, educational assessment, and model teacher evaluation

programs .

"The symposium provides a unique opportunity for our students to showcase their knowledge, skills, and dispositions as critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, and inquiry-based reflective practitioners," said Dr. Wendy Paterson, Dean of the School of Education. "We are proud to provide an opportunity for these emerging experts to showcase their work," said Dr. Kevin Miller, Chair of the Exceptional Education Department.



Dr. Spencer Salend, Professor Emeritus at SUNY New Paltz, was the keynote speaker at the Winter 2014 Dr. Horace Mann Research Symposium.

2014 Winter Symposium Presenters

★ Ashely Barrick	Sabrina Luke ★
★ Sumeet Gulati	Jason Malczewski
★ Marlena Franke	Valerie Mortellaro ★
★ Samantha Gaglione-Reinhart	Deenah Simchick
★ Zachary Gitlin	Jessica Obercon ★
★ Kristen Green	Alicia Palmer
★ Meaghan Hayes	Constance Smith ★
★ Thomas Homestead	Jenna Smith ★
★ Kaitlyn Kinan	Jennifer Walter
★ Katherine Kipp	Deanna Wood ★

DR. ANGELA PATTI VISITS CHILE WITH TEACHER CANDIDATES

In June, Dr. Angela Patti, faculty member in the Exceptional Education Department, accompanied Dr. Pixita del Prado Hill, faculty member in the Elementary Education and Reading Department, and several teacher candidates to Santiago, Chile for a three week International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) program. The program incorporated a number of compo-

nents including Spanish language study, cultural activities/excursions, collaborating with a partner university in Santiago, and field experience working with students in a partner public school. Dr. Patti has been researching the design and impact of international experiences as related to the development of teacher candidates and will lead another group of students to

Chile in May/June of 2015. On her next visit Dr. Patti hopes to work with the university and public school personnel to help guide the implementation of inclusive practices, in accordance with recent initiatives of the Chilean government.



DR. DOODY'S STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SERVICE LEARNING

During the Fall 2014 semester, Dr. Doody's graduate classes participated in a multitude of volunteer service learning opportunities, attending over twenty different events in our community since September. Community partners included the Jewish Community Center of Buffalo, the Community Music School of Buffalo, Kelkenberg Farms, Explore & More Children's Museum, and Tops Soccer. Needless to say, a

good time was had by all; teacher candidates loved the hands-on, authentic experiences with children (with typical development and special needs), and our community partners welcomed the collaboration and support. When anonymously surveyed, 100% of 30 graduate students said that service learning opportunities strengthened their coursework and provided them opportunities to interact with children and fam-

ilies that they would not have otherwise received. Special thanks are given to the Volunteer and Service Learning Center of Buffalo State for their continued support and guidance.



Exceptional Education Graduate Students visit Kelkenberg Farms



Dr. Patti Teaching a Lesson on the Playground at a Partner Public School in Santiago, Chile



Buffalo State Group Hiking in the Andes



Graduate Students help kids out with Musicconnect at the Community Music School of Buffalo

DR. ZAGARRIGO'S BLOCK I NEWS

During the Fall 2014 semester, students in Dr. Zagarrigo's Block I course learned about different strategies to manage classroom and student behavior. Students created a tri-board consisting of a behavior modification strategy that could be used to reduce or increase a behavior. The behaviors ranged from increasing behaviors such as on-task behavior or bringing in homework, and reducing behaviors such as shouting out and out of seat behaviors. Block I students did a wonderful job on their presentations and were very creative in the making of their tri-boards. The students learned that applying simple behavioral strategies can

make a difference in student behaviors and helps promote desirable classroom behavior that can have great impact both academically and socially for students.



A SUCCESSFUL NOVEMBER UNDERGRADUATE OPEN HOUSE

During the Fall Undergraduate Open House held on November 1st, Dr. Zagarrigo, Dr. Budin, and Mrs. Sommerstein represented the Exceptional Education Department. They had an opportunity to meet with many interested students and their parents to discuss the undergraduate program. Many students were excited to learn more about the program as they had heard about its quality reputation for preparing undergraduates for careers as Exceptional Educators.

The open house afforded the opportunity to speak about the Student Council for Exceptional Children and the Best Buddies Organizations, which students were interested to hear more about. Also of interest to them was the WNY Special Olympics Polar Plunge, discussed by Mrs. Sommerstein. Some students had heard about our wonderful reputation as plungers and looked forward to taking part in a future plunge with us.

Awards and scholarship opportunities were of major interest to both students and parents. They were surprised at the number of scholarships offered by the department. Overall, the open house was extremely successful and we look forward to seeing some of those students enter our program and become excellent educators.



AWARDS CEREMONY THANK YOU

On behalf of the Exceptional Education Department and the Awards Committee: Dr. Awilda E. Ramos Zagarrigo, Dr. Kathy Doody, Mrs. Lynne Sommerstein, and Dr. Krista Vince Garland, we would like to thank everyone who attended the 19th Annual Exceptional Education Awards Ceremony. Because of you, it was a successful event! We are so grateful to all of the donors. This event would not be possible without you.

A special thank you goes out to Dr. Sol Messinger who spoke to the audience about Dr. Horace Mann, whose life

and legacy we celebrated during the ceremony. The event was filled with many deserving recipients who were very grateful to have received the scholarship funds and awards. We were very thrilled to award the new scholarship funds provided on behalf of Dr. Horace Mann, and were very excited to have K-12 students be with us to share this magnificent experience. This year's ceremony was the largest to date and we were very excited to be able to share this night with all of you. Again, on behalf of the Exceptional Education Department, congratulations to all the winners.

LAFFERTY AWARDED RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Shannon Lafferty was the first Exceptional Education Major to be awarded an Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship. With this prestigious honor, Shannon was awarded funding to complete an 8-week summer research project, under the guidance of a faculty mentor, Dr. Angela Patti. In her research, Shannon examined and compared classroom management practices between two distinct settings: a Montessori classroom in the

Dominican Republic and a rural, public school classroom in Western New York. Undergraduate Exceptional Education Majors are encouraged to follow in Shannon’s footsteps by applying for an Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship in 2015!



KACZOROWSKI INVITED TO HARVARD SUMMER INSTITUTE



Tara Kaczorowski, who is entering her final year in the joint doctoral program in special education offered by SUNY Buffalo State and the University at Buffalo, recently completed the highly competitive and intensive Learning Analytics Summer Institute at Harvard University.

Held June 30–July 2, the institute accepted 30 participants from around the world. The majority of

participants were computer scientists and statisticians with a few educators. Kaczorowski, was the sole educator from the field of exceptional education.

“Not one individual from special education was represented last year,” said Sharon Raimondi, exceptional education professor and director of the joint doctoral program. “We are very pleased Tara represented both special education and the exceptional education program we have here.”

Along with attending workshops, each participant had the opportunity to discuss his or her work. Kaczorowski shared an interactive iPad-based math tool she created for students with learning disabilities. “It gives them a way besides pencil and paper to practice their math

skills,” said Kaczorowski, who previously taught in the Attica Central School District and now teaches a Buffalo State graduate course on adapting literacy instruction for students with mild disabilities.

Her expertise in making learning tools accessible for a diverse population was embraced by her peers at the institute. Last spring, she piloted her creation with third-graders in the Buffalo School District and garnered positive results.

“One student who did extremely well was about three grade levels behind,” she said. “She realized when she got stuck, she could look back at the video component of the program and support herself. That was pretty exciting to see.”

Article by Laurie Kaiser

HELP US MAKE AN IMPACT

Over 600 students are currently enrolled in Exceptional Education, with their sights set on becoming a special educator. Through innovative programs, service, and research, the Exceptional Education Department continues to prepare educators and advocate for and serve the growing needs of children and adults with disabilities. We encour-

age you to follow our progress, and join in our efforts to prepare the next generation of exceptional educators.

Click [here](http://giving.buffalostate.edu) or go to giving.buffalostate.edu and click “how to give” to make a difference in the lives of our students. Be sure to add ‘Exceptional Education Department’ to your check or online

donation. Thank you!

