



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

Fall 2016

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION



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Created by Lauren Rothschild, Graduate Assistant



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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings, and welcome to the Fall 2016 edition of the Exceptional Education Department's newsletter. This semester, the Exceptional Education Department's faculty, candidates, and staff have been busy engaging in a variety of events and activities that are aimed at celebrating and enhancing our knowledge in the field of special education, while improving the outcomes of children with disabilities.

In this newsletter, you will read about some of the exciting events and activities that took place this semester. For example, we have a cohort of students preparing to travel to the Dominican Republic in January. These students will work in schools, conduct research, and share evidence-based practices with the schools' professionals. In addition, in the beginning of December, graduate students disseminated the findings from their research projects at the *Dr. Horace Mann Research Symposium*, while others took the plunge into the cold waters of Lake Erie in an effort to raise awareness and money for the Special Olympics.

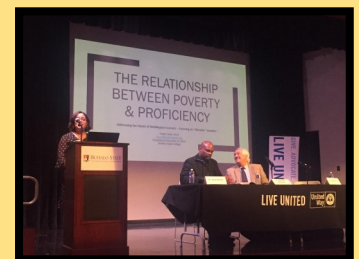
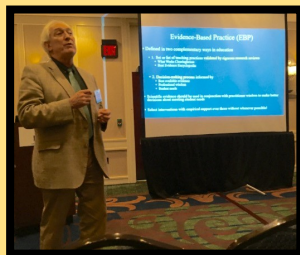
Although we provide a glimpse of the wonderful programming taking place in our department through our newsletter, we cannot encompass all of the exemplary happenings. I would encourage you to follow us on Facebook. Each week, we provide up-to-date information and highlights to keep you informed.

On behalf of the Exceptional Education Department, I would like to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and joyous New Year! We hope to see you at some of our exciting events in the spring.

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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Left to Right: Dr. Lawrence Maheady presenting at the Teacher Education Division Conference in Lexington, Kentucky; Dr. Lisa Rafferty visiting with Ms. Debbie Fields Dombroff, an undergraduate alumna and donor; Dr. Gliset Colón and Dr. Lawrence Maheady serving as panelists alongside School of Education colleague, Dr. Jevon Hunter at a United Way sponsored discussion entitled "The Relationship between Poverty and Proficiency"

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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.

VISIT US ON THE WEB:
exceptionaleducation.buffalostate.edu

STUDENTS WILL TRAVEL TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC THIS WINTER TERM

This January, Mrs. Tamara Horstman-Riphahn of the School of Education Office of the Dean, and Professor Wendy McLeish, lecturer in the Elementary Education and Reading Department, will accompany 15 students to Cabarete, Dominican Republic (DR) for a 2.5-week International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) program. While abroad, students will collaborate with the Mariposa DR Foundation, a local non-profit committed to empowering and educating young girls in an effort to combat generational poverty and contribute to community-based solutions. The Buffalo State

participants will partner with girls at the Foundation to complete service projects, learn Spanish, and teach English. In addition, the group will observe and volunteer at local schools, and enjoy local excursions to explore the culture and history of the Dominican Republic. The third IPDS-Dominican Republic cohort will include three students from Exceptional Education—Kassia Balus, Charlene Cook, and Samantha Reed—all of whom will complete research that compares various aspects of education in the Dominican to schools in the United States.



We wish the entire group a fantastic learning experience!

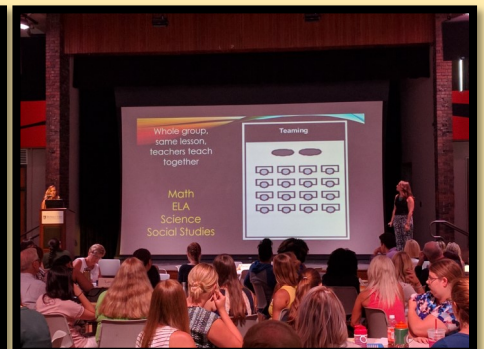
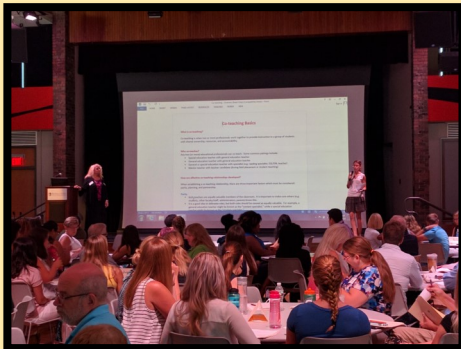
EXCEPTIONAL AND ELEMENTARY ED CO-HOST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

At the start of the semester, the Exceptional Education and Elementary Education and Reading Departments co-planned and facilitated a professional development workshop on co-teaching for teacher candidates and mentor teachers. Participants included over 100 teacher candidates, former teacher candidates, teacher candidate supervisors, and mentor teachers. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about co-teaching concepts, various methods, and high

leverage practices. The workshop also featured common co-teaching myths as well as the benefits to constant communication and planning in advance. Not only did attendees have the opportunity to network and build connections, teacher candidates and mentor teachers were able to use part of the time to discuss beliefs/philosophies and strategies to help guarantee a productive 16 weeks in the classroom. Kudos to Professor Rosemary Arioli, Dr. Pixita

del Prado Hill, and Dr. Dave Henry of the Elementary Education Department, Professor Kathy Palumbo, Dr. Angela Patti, and Dr. Kathy Doody of the Exceptional Education Department, and Dr. Susan McMillan of the Mathematics Department for planning such a productive event.

This event was sponsored by: SUNY Buffalo State Professional Development Schools, School of Education, Elementary Education and Reading Department, Exceptional Education Department, and the Master Teacher Program.



Left to Right: Exceptional Education Faculty, Dr. Doody and Dr. Patti present the concepts of co-teaching; attendees break to work together; Mentor Teachers, Lindsey Ragusa and Hannah Tanalski present on planning and co-teaching with multiple adults in the room.

21ST ANNUAL RECOGNITION AND AWARDS RECEPTION PHOTO GALLERY

On November 15, 2016, we honored an impressive group of teacher candidates, K-12 students, and teacher colleagues for their many accomplishments.

Congratulations to all award winners!



The entire group of award winners



(L to R): Chelsea Card, Sean McCormick, Bronwen Leahey



Professor Paul Thoms speaking with one of his fund recipients, Robert Fuszara



The lady recipients of the Paul Thoms Council for Exceptional Children Membership Award Fund



(L to R): Meghan Cuddihy, Stephanie Caie, and Emily Fleetwood



Ms. Daliana Rosado (L) of Bilingual Center # 33 and Ms. Theresa DellaVilla of Buffalo Public School #81, recipients of James Kreider Memorial Outstanding Cooperating Teacher Award



Multi-award winner, Christine Garas with her two professors, Dr. Patti (L) and Dr. Ramos Zagarrigo (R)

- Morgan Allender
- Claire Borczuch
- Sarah Braun
- Stephanie Caie
- Chelsea Card
- Meghan Cuddihy
- Angela Curto
- Theresa DellaVilla
- Siobhan Difiglia
- Dr. Kathy Ralabate Doody
- Tina Gonzalez Febres
- Emily Fleetwood
- Robert Fuszara
- Christine Garas
- Bronwen Leahey
- Kristen Maggio
- Brianna Matheis
- Sean McCormick
- Donovan Okonczak
- Sarah Redman
- Maureen Remus
- Jaclyn Robbins
- Daliana Rosado
- Devante Suits
- Brittney VanGorden
- Heather Walker
- Marilyn Wang

BEST BUDDIES HAS A BLAST THIS FALL SEMESTER



Best Buddies provides an opportunity for college students to be matched in one-to-one friendships with individuals who have intellectual disabilities. This year's Buffalo State chapter had a fun-filled fall semester. The chapter participated in college-wide events such as Bengals Dare to Care Day where they participated in a service project in the City of Buffalo. They also decorated a float and walked in the Homecoming Parade.



The group celebrated Halloween during a Fright Fest celebration, in which participants dressed up (see below) in costumes. Other fun times were had at bowling night and open skate with Buffalo State Women's Hockey Team. The group continued their annual tradition of participating in the Polar Plunge on Saturday, December 3. In addition to taking a dip in Lake Erie, participants fundraised for Special Olympics. For more information about this organization, e-mail bestbuddiesbsc@gmail.com



*Top Left: General Interest and Kick-off Meeting
Below, L to R: (1 and 2) Buddies at the Buddy Match Party; (3 and 4) Fright Fest*

SCEC ENGAGES IN OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OTHERS LEARN

The Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) is an academic-based organization that hosts professional development sessions, engages in service-learning, and generally has fun while making friends and eating! This semester, the chapter came together to create sensory materials and early literacy activities for children who are currently living in Gerard Place, a residential facility for women and children who are experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Additionally, several members also attended the New York State CEC Convention, gaining exposure to a professional development opportunity with experts in the field. Angela Curto, undergraduate student in the Exceptional Education department was selected to present. Her session was entitled "Effective Special Education Teachers: What Qualities Should they Have?" Lastly, the chapter also joined Best Buddies during the Homecoming Parade and the Polar Plunge.

For more information about this organization, feel free to contact SCEC at buffalostatesscec@gmail.com.



Top right: Members creating sensory materials to donate to local residential facility



Bottom right: Members at the CEC convention held on November 4-5 in Buffalo, NY



STUDENTS PRESENT AT NYS CEC ANNUAL CONVENTION

On November 4, 2016, Graduate Students Devin Grau, Samantha Jo Bowes, Kelsey Kilminster, and Jessica Andriatch presented their Master's Project at the New York State Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Convention held in Buffalo, NY. The purpose of the project was to understand why parental involvement in schools is generally low. They gathered information regarding the challenges and barriers to parental involvement, and then searched for methods and programs that have been used in the past to address this issue. Their findings led them to de-

velop literacy workshops. They worked with a local elementary school to implement a workshop for students in Kindergarten-2nd grade and their parents/guardians. During the workshop, parents and students participated in literacy games designed for the specific grade levels. The parents also received some information on how the games were related to Common Core Learning Standards and school expectations. Parents were able to ask clarifying questions about the games and address any concerns regarding literacy content in school. Their presentation deliv-

group worked tirelessly to research, implement, and learn from the results of the literacy program. They reported the following as the key to their success:

- Constant communication
- Creating a timeline and remaining accountable to it
- Creating shared expectations
- Keeping in mind the goal of the project and recognizing the great benefits this can bring to students, families, and schools
- Identifying individual strengths and points of weakness
- Guidance from Dr. Theresa Janczak

The team is grateful for the opportunity to present their research and findings at the statewide convention. They are also appreciative of the chance to learn from experienced professionals in the special education field. As teachers, they know the importance of learning new instruction delivery and student engagement methods, as well as strategies to better meet the diverse needs of students.



Left to Right: Devin Grau, Kelsey Kilminster, Dr. Theresa Janczak, Jessica Andriatch, and Samantha Bowes

ered at the Annual Convention, titled "Increasing Parents Involvement Through the Implementation of Literacy Workshops," reviewed what took place during the three literacy nights they implemented, as well as results and outcomes. The

BUFFALO STATE RECOGNIZED BY PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

This semester, Buffalo State was named the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. According to Buffalo State's Public Relations Director, Jerod Dahlgren, "Buffalo State identified more than 492,000 hours of community service activities during the 2014-2015 academic year." Many of those hours were completed by students in the Exceptional Education department. In EXE 245 alone, students completed 6,750 volunteer hours, over 3 semesters, towards this honor. Additionally, Buffalo State was one of just five institu-

tions to receive the Higher Education Civic Engagement Award, accepted by President Conway-Turner at The Washington Center in September.

Congratulations to all the students, faculty, and staff who contributed to Buffalo State receiving these distinguished awards!



DR. HORACE MANN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Fall 2016 *Dr. Horace Mann Graduate Research Symposium* was held on Saturday, December 3, 2015 in The Classroom Building. There were 21 Exceptional Education Graduate Students who showcased their master's projects to members of the campus community. Projects involved the design, implementation, and reporting of research studies responsive to the needs of individuals with disabilities. Research topics ranged from determining if physical activities prior to mathematics fluency assessments increases student academic performance to examining the effectiveness of the 3 jars

mystery motivation game on homework completion and accuracy.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Jevon D. Hunter, the Woods-Beal Endowed Chair of Urban Education in the School of Education and an Associate Professor in the Elementary and Reading Department at Buffalo State College. Dr. Hunter delivered a riveting talk on educational dignity and showed the audience how he reimagined TeachLive (a mixed-reality classroom tool to help train teachers) in the pursuit of educational dignity in his classroom.

Dr. Wendy Paterson, Dean of the School of Education and Dr. Lisa Rafferty, Chair of the Exceptional Educational Department, challenged the group to some self-reflection in their opening remarks. They encouraged candidates to celebrate their accomplishments, but continue to look for opportunities to develop along their career paths.

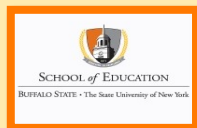
It's safe to say that the group of presenters listed below have accomplished a great deal this semester. We wish them the best of luck on their future endeavors!



Left to right: Dr. Jevon Hunter delivering his keynote speech; Robert Klepp, Melissa Recht, and Janelle Stepien pose after a successful presentation

Top:
Julia Krezmien, Brittney VanGorden, Dr. Kathy Doody, and Jessica Strozykwith

Bottom:
Stephanie Potfora, Selena Walker, Bradi Worley after presenting "Three Jars Mystery Motivator"



Presenters

Kelli Cala	Robert Klepp	Melissa Recht
Gina Caprio	Julia Krezmien	Janelle Stepien
Molly D'Angelo	Megan Land	Jessica Strozyk
Gabriela Foster	Claire Licata	Brittney VanGorden
Michelle Gable	Meghan McCormick	Selena Walker
Florence Hawkins	Nicole Palmisano	Bradi Worley
Amanda Kalata	Stephanie Potfora	
deLacy Kennedy		

FACULTY PROFILE: DR. GLISET Colón

Dr. Gliset Colón is a new full time Lecturer with the Exceptional Education Department as of Fall 2016. She has been an adjunct for the Exceptional Education Department at Buffalo State since 2014. Currently, Dr. Colón teaches EXE 100: Nature and Needs of Individuals Who Are Exceptional, EXE 362: Behavior and Classroom Management, and ESL 602: Assessment in Foreign and Second Language Education. She has over 18 years of prior experience working with individuals with disabilities both in classroom and residential settings.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Colón has research interests and expertise in Bilingual Special Education, Literacy Interventions, Response to Intervention, Disproportionality, and Intersectionality. Dr. Colón is actively involved in several professional organizations including the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the Division for Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL) and the Teacher Education Division (TED) Diversity Caucus.

We are so fortunate to have Dr. Colón join the faculty of the Exceptional Education Department!



BILINGUAL CENTER # 33 SELECTED TO HOST VISITING AUTHOR

Exceptional Education collaborative school partner, Bilingual Center #33, had the joy of hosting visiting author Dianna Hutts Aston on Monday, November 7. Supported by The Project Flight Initiative, students in grades PK-8 attended a forty minute interactive presentation with the author. A select group of students had the opportunity to eat lunch with her and every classroom received a signed copy of one of Ms. Aston's books.



Students sign and draw on Ms. Aston's car!



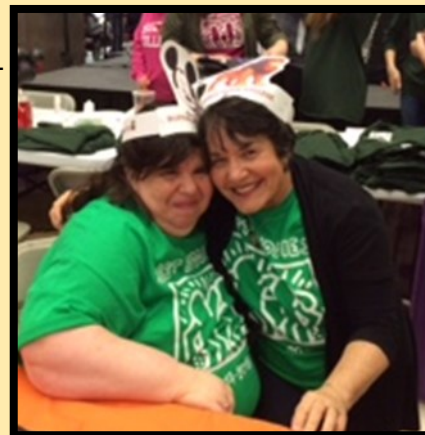
Ms Aston embraces students



Students checking out Ms Aston's props and award-winning books: Dream Something Big, The Moon Over Star, and more

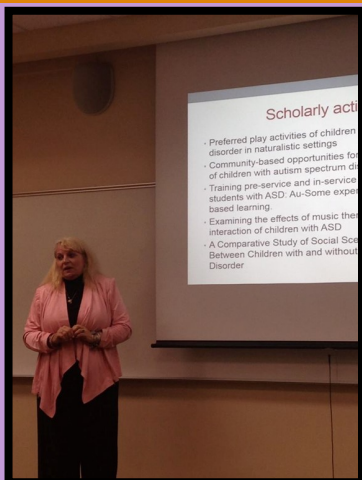
MRS. SOMMERSTEIN & DAUGHTER PRESENT NATIONWIDE WEBINAR

On September 15th, Professor Lynne Sommerstein, Exceptional Education Lecturer, and her daughter, Michelle Sommerstein, were one of three mother-children duos to share their experiences in the webinar titled “Fruition: Families Demonstrating the Adult Lives that are Possible.” This presentation was part of a larger series called, *Envisioning a Full Future for Your Child with a Disability* and is co-presented by RAISE and TASH. This was not the first time Michelle has shared her experiences as an advocate with a wide audience. Michelle frequently speaks at conferences about living with disabilities. She has advocated for disability legislation with political leaders and is proud to be working and living semi-independently in her own apartment.



We are so grateful to have these leaders as part of our Exceptional Education family!

DR. DOODY INVITED TO DELIVER FASCINATING TALK



Dr. Kathy Doody was invited to present a lecture as part of The English Department's *Conversations in and out of the Disciplines Lecture Series*. On Friday, October 21, Dr. Doody delivered a fascinating talk on "Coursework to Practice: Au-some Experiences in Community Based Learning." During her presentation, she shared her professional and personal perspectives on working with children on the Autism spectrum. She shared her experience developing service-learning curriculum and explained how she is turning her passion for service-learning into an opportunity for scholarly research and inquiry.

We are so proud of the work Dr. Doody has accomplished and are lucky to have her leading our students in meaningful service-learning courses.

EXE 375 STUDENTS PUTS THEORY TO PRACTICE

Dr. Budin's students from EXE 375: Integration of Technology in Special Education, visited Dr. Tim Zgliczynski's 4th grade class at William Street Elementary in Lancaster to share lessons they developed using instructional technology on the topic of the Haudenosaunee confederacy. Students noted that it was a valuable experience; the Exceptional Education Department is fortunate to have strong partnerships to provide our candidates with these practice-based experiences!

