



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York  
**SPRING 2015**

# EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

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*Created by Scott Silverman, Graduate Assistant*



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Associate Chair of Graduate Programs



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## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to the Exceptional Education Department's bi-annual newsletter. In this edition you will read of recognitions, partnerships, events and accomplishments of our teacher candidates, faculty and student organizations. Included are features on international student experiences, faculty activities, service learning events and a faculty profile of Dr. Sharon Raimondi.



On a personal note, as my term limit as department chair comes to a close this year I wish to unreservedly thank the department faculty, staff, colleagues and administrators from across campus for the honor and privilege to have served as department chair for the past 7 years. Professionally and personally it has been an enriching and rewarding experience to say the least. I have truly appreciated the opportunity to represent the department and take pride in having been able to support and to varying degrees facilitate many of the initiatives and accomplishments we have realized. Among these are a new formalized PDS partnership with Maryvale School District, the Buffalo State TeachLivE Simulation Lab, enhanced collaborations with The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation and the Parent Network of WNY, publication of this newsletter since Fall 2012, and perhaps most importantly, the achievements of our teacher candidates and student organizations.



Next year Dr. Lisa Rafferty will assume the position of department chair with Dr. Shannon Budin as Associate Chair of Undergraduate Programs and Dr. Raquel Schmidt as Associate Chair for Graduate Programs. I am confident the department will be well served under the capable leadership of Dr. Rafferty and trust she will be afforded the same support and encouragement I experienced. Thank you!



## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

The Exceptional Education Department would like to congratulate all of our undergraduate and graduate students on the great accomplishment of being awarded their bachelor's or master's degrees! Please be sure to keep us updated on your future successes. Good luck to you all!



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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.



## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

In May and June, Dr. Angela Patti will return to Santiago, Chile leading 8 Buffalo State students with the International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) program. The Exceptional Education Department is proud that five of the eight students travelling are teacher candidates from our department. Congratulations to Kelly Beller, Chelsea Davidson, Christine Doherty, Emma Lieber, and Natalie Rasi! While in Chile, the program participants will study the Spanish language in an immersion program, live with host

families, conduct educational research, participate in field experience in Chilean schools, and engage in a variety of cultural activities. Please wish the travelers well and follow their travel blogs at [buffalostateipdschile.weebly.com](http://buffalostateipdschile.weebly.com). In addition, the Exceptional Education Department would like to recognize Nicole Sapienza, who participated in IPDS Italy in January, as well as Morgan Allender, who participated in IPDS Dominican Republic in January. All Exceptional Educa-

tion teacher candidates are encouraged to consider our wonderful international programs!



## BLOCK II WITH DR. PATTI

Dr. Patti's Block II had another successful semester at Maryvale Intermediate School. As always, the teacher candidates had a very rewarding experience working with the Maryvale mentor teachers and students. The group helped host two Family Math Nights and one Family Math and

Reading Night. While Maryvale teachers worked with parents to help them understand Common Core Standards and Curriculum, the Block II teacher candidates played math and reading games with the students. These family events, partially funded through a Buffalo State Professional Devel-

opment School (PDS) mini-grant, were a huge success for all involved. The Block II teacher candidates were very grateful for this additional opportunity to be a part of the Maryvale Community.



## BLOCK II PHOTO GALLERY



*Dr. Patti's Block II students helped host two Family Math Nights and one Family Math and Reading Night during the Spring 2015 semester.*

## KAPPA DELTA PI HAPPENINGS

The Kappa Delta Pi Gamma Mu chapter at Buffalo State has had an active Spring 2015 semester. As part of KDP's service project, over 100 personal care items were collected and donated to Gerard Place, a local not-for-profit that provides traditional housing and supportive programs for homeless, single-parent families throughout the City of Buffalo.

Chapter officers included Kaylee Gordon, Briggs Sgaglio, and President Ikhia Moore, who was Mistress of Ceremonies at the KDP-sponsored Honors Convocation on April 16th.

The annual chapter induction ceremony was held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Jill Gradwell, Associate Professor of Social Studies Education, who led an interactive speech by sharing information about local museum resources for educators in the Western New York region. Seventy new members from a variety of undergraduate and graduate education majors were inducted at the ceremony.

***RIGHT: Chapter President Ikhia Moore speaks at Spring 2015 Honors Convocation***

***BELOW RIGHT: The 2014-15 Gamma Mu Executive Board at the chapter induction ceremony.***



## DR. PATERSON PLEDGES TO SPREAD THE WORD

In early March, the Buffalo State Council for Exceptional Children and Best Buddies Chapter set up a table in the Student Union to raise awareness for Spread the Word to End the Word, a nationwide campaign whose mission is to raise peoples' awareness of the derogatory use of the "R" word (retard or retarded) and its negative effects on people with intellectual disabilities, as well as their families and friends. Dr. Wendy Paterson, Dean of the School of Education at Buffalo State, joined the effort by signing the pledge banner and talking to student representatives on the importance of this issue in our society.



***Dr. Wendy Paterson signs the pledge banner to Spread the Word to End the Word.***



***Dr. Paterson (Right) poses with CEC and Best Buddies student representatives.***

## BEST BUDDIES RAISES MOST MONEY IN FRIENDSHIP WALK

For the fourth consecutive year, the Buffalo State Chapter of Best Buddies sent the largest team to the Capitol District Best Buddies Friendship Walk on April 19th. Thirty members traveled to Albany to participate in the largest walk ever at Crossgates Mall.

The Buffalo State team won the College Team division for fundraising with \$2770 in donations.

Susan Koloski, President of Buffalo State Best Buddies, did a masterful job of organizing transportation, housing and logistics for thirty people. Thank you to USG, the Exceptional Education Department, and chapter advisers Mrs. Lynne Sommerstein and Dr. Kathy Doody.



## STUDENT COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN HAS BUSY SEMESTER

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 hosted a professional development session, led by Dr. Angela Patti, and past SCEC president, Morgan Brown, on implementing co-teaching in general education classrooms. At the event, SCEC was especially honored to be joined by teacher candidates and a professor from Universidad Mayor in Chile (PHOTO: Page 5).

The chapter also held a drive on campus to collect toys and mate-

rials for donation to a local women and children's housing facility. After the toys were collected, SCEC members used knowledge gained from their coursework and practicum experiences to create "activity bags". The bags contained materials and step-by-step instructions for fun, engaging, and age appropriate activities that parents and children could enjoy together. The SCEC executive board officers later personally delivered the activity bags, and met some wonderful parents and children (PHOTO: Page 5).

SCEC's other major event of the semester was the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign,

an annual undertaking conducted in conjunction with the Best Buddies organization. The campaign focused on highlighting respect for individuals with disabilities, which is central to SCEC's mission.

For more information about this organization, feel free to contact SCEC at [buffalostates-cec@gmail.com](mailto:buffalostates-cec@gmail.com).



## FACULTY PROFILE: DR. SHARON RAIMONDI

When Dr. Sharon Raimondi was in high school, her school secretary suggested she apply to the Buffalo State Exceptional Education program. Not completely sure of her career intentions, she also applied to the Art Education program, and that was the program she thought she had been accepted into. This was not the case. However, after hearing an inspirational speech on the Exceptional Education field from Dr. Horace Mann, Raimondi thought "I can do that!" She has now done so for over 40 years.

After graduating from Buffalo State in 1971 as class president, and earning her master's degree from the Exceptional Education program in 1975, Raimondi began a teaching career with the Buffalo Public Schools. She later moved to Binghamton, NY, as she wanted to teach at the college level. She worked on a mainstream project at SUNY Binghamton before enrolling in a doctoral program at American University part-time while working full-time at a research firm in the Washington, DC area.

After returning to Buffalo, Raimondi "did the mom thing" as a Girl Scout

leader and served as a school board member for Hopevale, a special act school serving students with emotional and behavioral disorders. She also became active with New York State CEC, serving as president and treasurer. Most recently, she was elected to serve as treasurer for the National CEC.

Raimondi began teaching at Buffalo State as an adjunct instructor in 1988, and served in that role until being hired to teach full-time in 1992. She has taught a variety of master's level courses, including supervision of student teachers. Her favorite courses were assessment, and a course no longer offered, Understanding the Problem Child. She redesigned this course based on her work with a New York State Grant designed to provide information to teachers on students who were emotionally and behaviorally disordered. During her first year as a full time faculty member, she also wrote a New York State grant to educate graduate students in the field of Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities. Funding provided a stipend and tuition for several students.

For the last 15 years, Raimondi has



been "on loan" to the University at Buffalo, where she directs the joint doctoral program with Buffalo State. The purpose of the doctoral program is to prepare future leaders in the field of special education. Most graduates are now faculty in many of the colleges in Western New York. Others serve as superintendents, directors of special education, or principals. Individuals interested in this program should contact Dr. Raimondi at [raimondi@buffalo.edu](mailto:raimondi@buffalo.edu).

Dr. Raimondi loves the opportunity to shape future students and faculty. She especially enjoys finding funding opportunities to support individuals. "Obtaining a doctorate requires extreme personal and financial commitment. Without funding, many would have not entered the field," said Raimondi.

## SCEC SPRING SEMESTER PHOTO GALLERY



***LEFT: CEC students participate in a professional development session on general education classroom co-teaching.***

***RIGHT: A toy drive for a local women and children's housing facility was a spring semester highlight for CEC.***



## DR. HORACE MANN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Spring 2015 Dr. Horace Mann Graduate Research Symposium was held on Saturday, May 2, 2015 in Bulger Communication Center. There were 41 Exceptional Education Graduate Students who 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 effects of using high probability request sequences to increase compliant behavior of preschool students to using Skillstreaming to increase social skills of young adolescents with autism.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Anita Archer, Educational Consultant and Co-author of "Explicit Instruction." Dr. Archer's presentation discussed the research behind explicit instruction and how effective it is for teaching all students, not just students

with disabilities.

"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. Horace Mann Graduate Research Symposium • Spring 2015

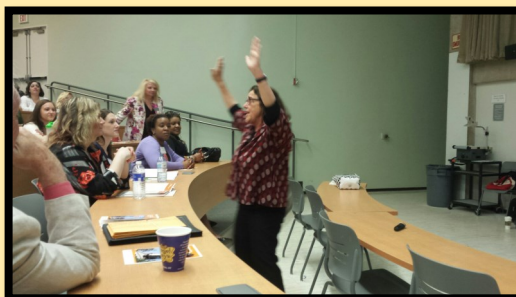
### Presenters

★ David Barron  
 ★ Britany Breidenstein  
 ★ Elisa Burgasser  
 ★ Alicia Buss  
 ★ Katherine Coley  
 ★ Delee Croisdale  
 ★ Victoria Czine  
 ★ Benjamin Daley  
 ★ Krista Engels  
 ★ Meghan Enright  
 ★ Christa Frost  
 ★ Tabitha Izard  
 ★ Mary Johnson  
 ★ Hannah Kassel  
 ★ Shannon Kelley  
 ★ Amanda Krzysiak  
 ★ Elizabeth LaRocca  
 ★ Natalie Lazarus  
 ★ Starr Lederer  
 ★ James Leppert  
 ★ Starr Lederer

★ James Leppert  
 ★ Ashley Lynch  
 ★ Sean McGarry  
 ★ Brittany Nagowski  
 ★ Justine Pelligrino  
 ★ Sarah Pressburg  
 ★ Leeann Pilarski  
 ★ Shauna Pucillo  
 ★ Gabrielle Rodriguez  
 ★ Jill Seifert  
 ★ Lauren Stegemann  
 ★ Eric Streebel  
 ★ Megan Sullivan  
 ★ April Thompson  
 ★ Marissa Thompson  
 ★ John Tresmond  
 ★ Chanelle Wallace  
 ★ Kristen Weber  
 ★ Brittany Wienke  
 ★ Harley Wiertel



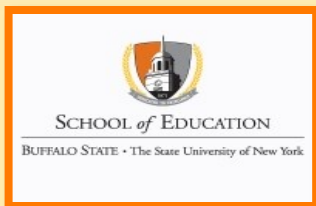
*Drs. Kevin Miller (Left), Anita Archer, Katherine Conway-Turner (Buffalo State President), and Wendy Paterson pose briefly after Archer's presentation on explicit instruction.*



*Dr. Anita Archer engages Exceptional Education students and faculty using explicit instructional techniques.*



***RIGHT:*** Meghan Enright (Left), Shauna Pucillo, Jill Seifert, and Amy Jaskowiak studied the effects of Skillstreaming to increase social skills of adolescents with autism.



## DR. RAFFERTY AND DR. BUDIN PRESENT AT CEC CONFERENCE

Exceptional Education faculty Drs. Lisa Rafferty and Shannon Budin presented along with a colleague, Dr. Dee Berlinghoff from Mt. Saint Mary College, at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention in San Diego, CA. Their presentation, entitled "Collaboration between Faculty and Local Education Agencies Using Strategy Intervention Model," described a collaborative project with teachers from Maryvale Union Free School District.

This project provided year long professional development and instructional coaching to teachers in both the general education and special education classroom with an emphasis on improving teaching practices to include students with disabilities in the general education curriculum. This project and the dissemination of findings were funded with grants from The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation and the Horace Mann Faculty Research Fund.



*Dr. Shannon Budin (Left), and Dr. Lisa Rafferty (Right) present at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention in San Diego, CA.*

## CEC AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

On January 23rd, Exceptional Education Professor Sharon Raimondi met with U.S. Department of Education Leaders as part of CEC's leadership team to discuss the department's Results Driven Accountability Initiative and the supports needed to improve re-

sults for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and their families.

*Dr. Sharon Raimondi (Third from left facing camera) meets with U.S. Department of Education Leaders as part of CEC's leadership team.*



## DAVIDSON RECEIVES CHANCELLOR'S UNDERGRADUATE AWARD

The Buffalo State Exceptional Education Department is proud to announce that Chelsea Davidson is a recipient of the statewide SUNY Chancellor's Undergraduate Award. The SUNY Chancellor's Award recognizes students who show exceptional achievements in the areas of scholarship, research, leadership, and community service.

In addition to a 3.8 overall GPA, Ms. Davidson was elected to Kappa Delta

Pi Education Honor Society, and was named to the Buffalo State Provost's Scholar Athlete's List. She combined her interest in athletics and advocacy for individuals with disabilities in her long-term involvement in Special Olympics from high school to the present. Ms. Davidson was accepted to the selective International Professional Development Schools Program and will be traveling to Santiago, Chile in May for a service learning experience.



*Chelsea Davidson (Center) was the recipient of the Spring 2015 SUNY Chancellor's Undergraduate Award.*

## TEACHER CANDIDATES PARTICIPATE IN SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

Teacher candidates in Dr. Doody's EXE 650 graduate course, Assessment of Infants and Preschoolers with Disabilities (pictured right), participated in several service learning projects. One service learning project involved implementing a universal screening tool, The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), to children between the ages of 3 months and 5 years. Exceptional Education teacher candidates teamed with students from Dr. Pamela Schuetze's PSY 417 course, The

Atypical Infant, and screened over 45 children in total. Teams implemented the ASQ at Buffalo State's Child Care Center and Gerard Place, a transitional housing facility located on the east side of Buffalo and a Buffalo State Professional Development School.

The ASQ screenings were implemented as part of a larger grant project called Help Me Grow of WNY. Help Me Grow's local partners include Niagara University, the Early Childhood Direction Center, and the

Child Care Resource Network. For more information regarding the Ages and Stages Questionnaire or the Help Me Grow of WNY project, please visit [helpmegrowny.org](http://helpmegrowny.org).



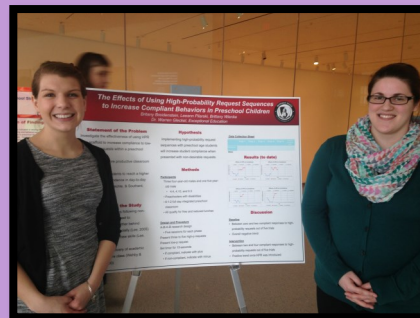
## FACULTY AND STUDENTS PRESENT POSTERS FOR NCATE



*Graduate students Meagan Riordan (left) and Emily Markel (right) share their poster on the effects of planned ignoring and behavior specific praise on pre-school student compliance.*



*Drs. Kevin Miller (left), Kathy Doody, Shannon Budin, and doctoral candidate Gliset Colón were front and center for the Exceptional Education Department during poster presentations for NCATE accreditors.*



*Graduate students Brittany Wienke (left) and Britany Breidenstein (right) share their poster on implementing high probability request sequences with preschoolers.*

## DR. SCHMIDT TO VISIT ISRAEL

Dr. Raquel Schmidt will travel to Israel & Palestine this summer to present at the Council for Exceptional Children (Division of International Special Education & Services) International Round Table in Jerusalem-Bethlehem in early August. Schmidt's presentation is entitled "Social Skills for Teachers: Educating Educators About Supporting English Language Learners with Autism and Behavior Disorders".

## OUTSTANDING MASTER'S PROJECTS

The Exceptional Education Department would like to congratulate graduate students Corinne Carter-Stadler, Kimberly Farr, Liane Schaub, and Jessica Washington, as recipients of the Graduate School's Outstanding Master's Project Award. Under the guidance of Dr. Theresa Janczak, their project focused on using an early reading intervention program to increase phonological awareness skills in pre-kindergarten students at-risk of reading failure.