



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

Spring 2017

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION



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Created by Lauren Rothschild, Graduate Assistant



Dr. Lisa A. Rafferty
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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of the Exceptional Education Department's newsletter. As you will read, our candidates and faculty members have been very busy this semester engaging in innovative and exciting activities in classes, across campus, within the community, and internationally.

One of the major themes that emerged as I read the many wonderful articles in this edition is "collaboration." You will read about student groups collaborating to host events, professors across schools engaged in collaboration to enhance teaching and research opportunities for our candidates, and collaborative efforts to enhance the lives of those in our surrounding communities.

Collaboration is a cornerstone skillset in education, especially when working with those with or at-risk for disabilities. It is awesome to see our candidates are utilizing those skills throughout their educational careers at Buffalo State and that our faculty continue to "practice what they preach" in terms of the power of collaboration.

I am honored and humbled to be a part of this wonderful community of educators; I hope you enjoy reading about all of their accomplishments, and I encourage you to follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram to learn more.

On behalf of the Exceptional Education Department, I would like to wish you a happy, healthy, and safe summer. We look forward to potentially seeing you at a department event this fall!

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SERVICE-LEARNING CONTINUES TO BE IMPACTFUL

Graduate students from the Exceptional Education Early Childhood Program enrolled in EXE 510: Language, Literacy, and Cognition of Young Children with Disabilities and EXE 650: Assessment of Young Children with Disabilities participate in service-learning opportunities in our community. See page 8 for additional photos and to learn more!

Right: Student volunteers pose at the Niagara Falls Aquarium, the site of Au-Some Aquarium Adventure night!



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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:
exceptionaleduca-
tion.buffalostate.edu

STUDENTS AND FACULTY PRESENT AT NAPDS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

About twenty representatives, including faculty and staff from a variety of Buffalo State education departments, attended the National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) conference from March 9-11 in Washington, DC. Representatives, including our Exceptional Education colleagues Dr. Kathy Doody, Dr. Angela Patti, and students Christine Garas, Marilyn Wang, and Ashley Gandt presented research and learned best practices from national colleagues. In addition, new PDS student representative Rachel Nati was in attendance.



BSC PDS reps with Co-Directors, Dr. del Prado and Dr. McMillen

Left top: Ashley Gandt presenting her poster

Left bottom: Allison Gunkler, Elementary Education and Reading major, and her faculty mentor for research, Dr. Kathy Doody pose with Allison's poster

Right top: Christine Garas and her faculty mentor for research, Dr. Angela Patti pose with Christine's poster

Right bottom: Marilyn Wang poses with her poster

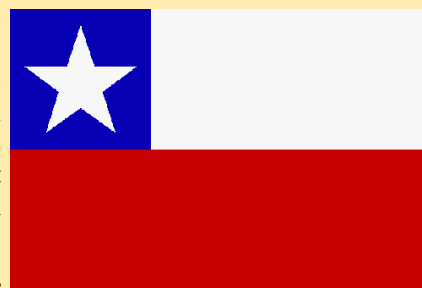


STUDENT REPRESENTS AT GRADUATE SCHOOL RECRUITMENT EVENT

On April 20, Amelia Kimble Dick represented all School of Education graduate students at The Graduate School's Education Programs Information Session. Amelia was recommended by faculty to speak on behalf of graduate students due to her completion of a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Education from Buffalo State as well as her involvement in Student Council for Exceptional Children and Kappa Delta Pi. Amelia is currently excelling in her Early Childhood Special Education studies at the graduate level. Thank you to Amelia for being a great representative of the Exceptional Education Department and School of Education!

STUDENTS AND FACULTY TO IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN SANTIAGO, CHLE

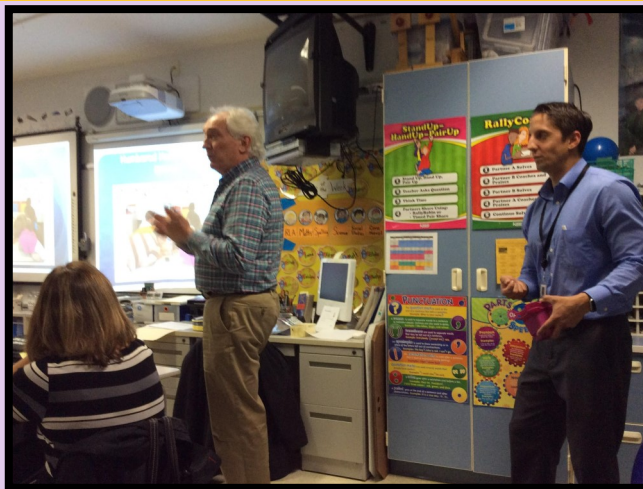
Drs. Angela Patti and Raquel Schmidt, along with Dr. Pixita del Prado from Elementary Education and Reading, led nine students to Santiago, Chile for three weeks in May and June for an International Professional Development School experience. Faculty and students who participated in the trip engaged in an immersion program alongside faculty and students at Universidad Mayor where they learned the Spanish language, and exchanged ideas and teaching methods. Participants lived with host families and spent time enjoying the historical and cultural experiences in and around Santiago.



We are proud of the five Exceptional Education students who took part in this year's experience: Claire Borczuch, Liz Brocki, Onnika Clarey, Christine Garas, and Catherine Welch. Each of these students blogged about their experiences, while they were in Chile. Please take some time to read about their life-changing adventures: <http://buffalostateipdschile.weebly.com/blogs.html>

KAGAN TRAINING WITH SCHOOL PARTNERS

Three Exceptional Education faculty members, Ms. Judi Harris, Dr. Larry Maheady (Dr. M), and Dr. Tim Zgliczynski (Dr. Z), have been working with teachers from the Buffalo City, Grand Island, and Tonawanda School Districts to implement Kagan cooperative learning structures in their respective classrooms. The project entitled, *Engaging Students with Kagan Structures*, is a professional development (PD) study group for which teachers receive 9-hours, of district PD credit. There are two primary program components: (1) ongoing professional development activities and (2) an asynchronous study group. Thus far, the former included two professional development activities; the first was a demonstration and interactive work session in Dr. Z's 4th grade classroom at William Street School in Lancaster School District. Dr. Z demonstrated many Kagan structures that he uses in class, as well as technology-based strategies for assessing and monitoring student progress. Dr. M shared research-based ways for teachers to evaluate the effects of varied strategies in their own classrooms. The second PD session was conducted at SUNY Buffalo State and provided teachers with opportunities to interact with avatars as part of the TeachLive Learning Lab. Teachers took turns teaching brief sample lessons and performance was discussed by Drs. Z and M in pre- or post-session discussions.



Dr. Larry Maheady (L) and Dr. Timothy Zgliczynski lead an interactive work session

The asynchronous study group has been using Edmodo to engage in three, specific PD activities: (1) implementation of at least one Kagan structure in their classrooms and making a YouTube video of student performance, (2) sharing videos with other participants via Edmodo for comment and discussion, and (3) reflecting and evaluating strategy effects on student performance. The latter findings were presented at a large group sharing session in May, 2017. Ms. Harris, Drs. Z & M, and other participants monitor Edmodo postings and respond as needed and appropriate. To date, there have been numerous postings, including some YouTube videos. Currently, there are about 25 participants from three school districts.

This professional development program is noteworthy for a number of reasons.

First, it is ongoing and interactive. Most research suggests that "one-shot" PD sessions have little, if any impact on teachers' practice. These activities actively engage participants with one another and the consultants throughout the project. Second, the program includes teachers from three, differing school districts in common PD activities. Participants, therefore, can learn about needs and demands within each other's district and share their expertise easily via Edmodo.

Third, the project has clear goals that focus on changing (i.e. improving) teachers' overt practices and collecting objective evidence to support these efforts. The development of video series can also facilitate the teaching of Kagan structures in other contexts. Ms. Harris, Dr. M, and Dr. Z state, "the project has been an exemplary learning experience for us as consultants. When providing PD for educators, one rarely has the opportunities to conduct 'follow-up' on how things are going. Teacher postings via Edmodo have been filled with valuable information; some commentaries on successes, a sharing of specific challenges, and offerings of mutual support for one another."

We are extremely proud of Ms. Harris, Dr. Maheady, and Dr. Zgliczynski on their collaboration to provide this unique support and training. We look forward to our continued relationships with all of the PDS partners involved.

DR. MILLER PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL CEC WORKING GROUP

Dr. Miller, current Interim Dean of The Graduate School and former Exceptional Education Department Chair, has been participating in a working group responsible for drafting a framing document that will guide future standards development at Council for Exceptional Education (CEC). Proposed standards for special educators will be updated to reflect current literature as well as shifts in the field of teacher preparation. Ultimately, the updated professional ethics and standards will be featured in CEC's book, "What Every Special Educator Must Know."

Dr. Kevin Miller and Virginia McLaughlin of the College of William and Mary working together at the CEC offices in Arlington, VA. This picture originally appeared in CEC's February 2, 2017 e-newsletter.



FACULTY PROFILE: DR. SHANNON BUDIN

Dr. Shannon Budin is an Associate Professor of Exceptional Education and Associate Chairperson for the undergraduate program. She joined the Exceptional Education Department in 2005 after earning her Ph.D. in Special Education at The Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Budin is passionate about teaching her students to use evidence-based practices in the classroom and loves to incorporate them into her own teaching at both the pre-service and in-service levels. Currently, she teaches courses in applied behavior analysis and educational technology for special education. Dr. Budin enjoys teaching online as well as face-to-face courses and was recently recognized by the Center for Online Teaching Excellence (COTE) with their Open SUNY Effective Practice for Online Teaching award.



Dr. Budin serves on the editorial board of many journals, including *Learning Disabilities Research and Practice*, *Teaching Exceptional Children*, and *Action in Teacher Education*. Recently, the Council for Learning Disabilities recognized Dr. Budin's publication as their "Must Read" article for 2016. The article, titled *Promising Practices in the Prep-*

aration of Special Educators to Provide Reading Instruction, was co-authored with colleagues from the University of Georgia and appeared in *Intervention in School & Clinic* in 2015.

Dr. Budin has served on the boards of several professional organizations over the years, including *The International Dyslexia Association of WNY*, *Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) Division for Learning Disabilities*, and most recently *CEC's Teacher Education Division*. She is also past president of *New York State Council for Exceptional Children*. Dr. Budin serves as the faculty advisor for Buffalo State's chapter of *Kappa Delta Pi*, an international education honor society.

Dr. Budin enjoys traveling and presenting at conferences focusing on special education. When she is not working, Dr. Budin enjoys yoga, cooking, trying new restaurants, and being outdoors skiing in the winter and sailing or hiking in the summer. Her two rescue dogs and five-year-old daughter keep her very busy. Stop by her office to enjoy the artwork by many Budin family members!

KAPPA DELTA PI AND HONORS CONVOCATION

On the evening of April 13, students who achieved academic excellence were inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, an International Honor Society in education. Earlier that day, students were celebrated at the college's annual Honors Convocation ceremony.



Left: Students recognized at the honors convocation pose with their supportive professors. (L to R): Mrs. Lynne Sommerstein, Marilyn Wang, Christine Garas, Claire Borczuch, and Dr. Angela Patti



Right: Student group celebrates KDP inductions at Salvatore's ceremony. (L to R): Nicole Sapienza (Graduate Student Liaison), Rachel Nati (Inductee), Marilyn Wang (Inductee), Claire Borczuch (Inductee), Mackenzie Elliott (President)

BEST BUDDIES AND SCEC HAVE EXCEPTIONAL YEAR

Best Buddies. Second semester was even busier for Best Buddies. They partnered with Buffalo State Teams for several events: ice skating with the Women's Hockey Team, swimming with the Women's Swim Team, and Zumba with the Pom Dance Team. In addition, over 25 people traveled to Syracuse to attend the Best Buddies Friendship Ball and to Rochester to attend the first annual Best Buddies Rochester Friendship Walk. Members engaged in a Flag Football game supported by the Buffalo State Athletic Department and the Office of Campus Equity and Diversity, and The Closing Ceremony took place at the end of the semester to celebrate the friendships that were made this year.

SCEC. Collaboration with other student groups defined the activities of Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) this semester. After co-sponsoring with Best Buddies an event titled "What to Do in a Medical Emergency" and a second event with Kappa Delta Pi titled "Preparing for Your Job Search and Transition from Undergraduate Studies," they also partnered with Best Buddies to co-sponsor "Spread the Word to End the Word," a campus-wide initiative to eradicate the use of the word "retard." Moreover, SCEC focused on professional development through attendance at professional conferences and presentations at Student Research and Creativity Celebration. Student Council for Exceptional Children is a chapter of the international advocacy organization representing children with special needs.



Best Buddies tables in the Student Union for "Spread the word to End the Word"



Signatures of the Buffalo State Community committing to "Spread the Word to End the Word"



Best Buddies celebrates Spread the Word: Night of Inclusion



SCEC at a "Spread the Word to End the Word" event



SCEC tables in the Student Union for "Spread the Word to End the Word"



SCEC takes the plunge in Lake Erie to raise money for Special Olympics

VISIT FROM DR. SCHEELER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY



Dr. Mary Catherine Scheeler, Professor of Special Education from The Pennsylvania State University, visited our campus in March to learn more about ways in which TeachLive can be used with pre-service teachers. She took part in a live simulation with Dr. Budin's EXE 634 students where they learned how to observe and operationally define challenging behaviors in the classroom. During her visit, Dr. Scheeler guest lectured for our Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education at the University at Buffalo which included a visit to the Virtual Reality Lab coordinated by Dr. Richard Lamb. Additionally, she facilitated a professional development conversation with the School of Education faculty about Bug-in-Ear Technology used to provide immediate feedback to student teachers and ways to improve the use of evidence based practices in the classroom.



THE 10TH ANNUAL DR. HORACE MANN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

PRESENTERS

Rebekah Balsano
 Rebecca Barber
 Kelly Bellwer
 Erica Birdsong
 Jenna Bloom
 Alicia Bowman
 Ryan Caprio
 Chelsea Card
 Clare Castelletti
 Tonya Cowling
 Eric Daigler
 Michelle Eggert
 Emily Fleetwood
 MaryLynn Iglesias
 Michelle Joseph
 Cassandra Kernan
 Kathryn Kozlowski
 Chelsey Kump
 Heather Longfritz
 Timothy Mapes
 Sean McCormick
 Brittany McGraw
 Benjamin Mullin
 Amanda Muscarella
 Elena Puccio
 Lawrence Ramos-
 Miranda
 Emily Rankin
 Ryan Roberts
 Alexis Schopf
 Joshua Treu
 Noelle Waldmiller
 Katelyn Warden
 Laci Zywar



The Spring 2017 Dr. Horace Mann Graduate Research Symposium was held on Saturday, May 6 in Rockwell Hall. There were 33 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 "Investigating the Effects of a Yoga Program to Decrease Transition Time and Inappropriate Behaviors in an Integrated Preschool Classroom" to "Examining the Effects of Behavior-Specific Praise in Spanish and in English to Increase On-Task Behavior of English Language Learners."

Presenters and guests had the pleasure of listening to Keynote Speaker, Dr. Randy Sprick, an educational consultant who presents to over 30,000 educators per year throughout the United States and Canada.

During his presentation, Dr. Sprick delivered an engaging lesson on how to utilize data to improve classroom management, specifically student behavior and conduct.

At the end of the symposium, students were presented with a certificate as a recognition of their hard work and research examining practical tips on what works in the classroom.

Congratulations graduates on your many accomplishments!



Pictured (counterclockwise from top left): Eric Daigler, Dr. Warren Gleckel, and Ryan Caprio; Kathryn Kozlowski and Tonya Cowling; Timothy Mapes, and Brittany McGraw; Clare Castelletti and Chelsey Kump; Lawrence Ramos-Miranda, Dr. Theresa Janczak, and Sean McCormick; Dr. Kathy Doody, Rebecca Balsano, MaryLynn Iglesias, Laci Zywar



TWO STUDENTS RECEIVE UPSTANDER AWARDS

As part of the "Take Back the Night" event on Monday evening, April 10, 2017, the Buffalo State Counseling Center honored Claire Borczuch and Kassia Balus, undergraduates in the Exceptional Education Department with their annual UPstander Awards. The Counseling Center uses the term "UPstander" to demonstrate the opposite of "bystander." UPstanders are involved in and contribute meaningfully to our community. The awards celebrate those who have gone over and above their assigned roles or duties on campus. UPstander Awards are given annually to members of our Buffalo State Community who have made a difference in someone's life by acts of kindness, unselfish actions, proactive behaviors, and caring attitude.



L to R: Kassia Balus and Claire Borczuch

Claire was recognized for her quick think-

ing and compassion at a Best Buddies meeting when a buddy with intellectual disabilities had a medical emergency on the stairs in Campbell Student Union. Claire physically supported the individual

and stayed with him long after help arrived. She later visited with him at home

to let him know that he had friends.

Kassia is a very involved Exceptional Education major and works to raise awareness on the importance of really listening to and advocating for those who are in need or cannot express themselves. When an individual with intellectual disabilities was wandering around campus and looking for assistance, passersby ignored, feared, or rejected him. Kassia did not pass by or just stand by, but she spoke up, got involved, connected, and made sure he got to a safe place. This event compelled Kassia to share her message in a letter to the *Record* in which Kassia implored readers to look past ourselves and look out to those who need help.

Claire and Kassia are the epitome of the definition of UPstander and are inspiring role models for other students. They are valued members of the "Caring and Civil Academic Community" and our Exceptional Education Department.

FOUR DOCTORAL STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS



Four Buffalo State—University at Buffalo Joint Doctoral students were part of a group of accomplished students to receive scholarships this year.

Heather Walker, UB Paul A. and Margaret E. Bacon Scholarship and the Gregory J. Dimitriadis, Ph.D., Dean's Excellence Fund
Abdullah Abdulrahman, UB Paul A. and Margaret E. Bacon Scholarship and the Gregory J. Dimitriadis, Ph.D., Dean's Excellence Fund
Huda Almumen, UB GSE Mary Lou and S. David Farr Scholarship for digital technology and learning research
Riza Ozdemir, UB GSE The Leroy and Margaret H. Callahan Scholarship for research in mathematics

SERVICE-LEARNING CONTINUES TO BE IMPACTFUL

(Continued from Page 1) Dr. Doody's Early Childhood graduate students collaborate with Occupational Therapy (OT) program students from University at Buffalo (UB) to form trans-disciplinary teams to work with young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) or other developmental delays. Prior to joining in service-learning experiences, Dr. Doody provides a three hour guest lecture to the students at UB. Dr. Doody's lecture provides a thorough training and overview of how to work with young children with ASD, a requirement before volunteering. This equips all students with the skills necessary to provide support during events.



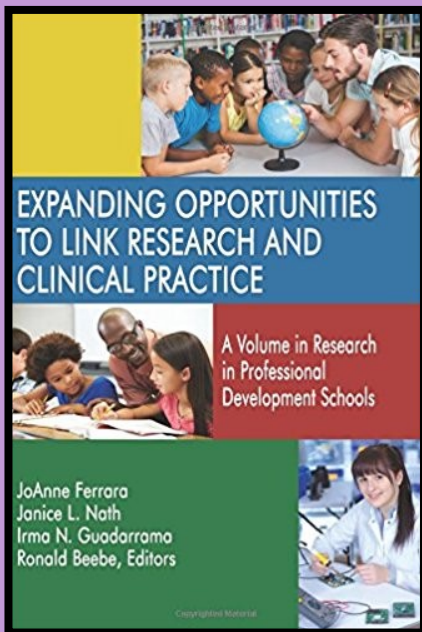
Student volunteers pose at the Explore & More Children's Museum, a recurring host for Au-Some Evenings, an opportunity for children with ASD and their families to play and learn together in a safe environment.



Student volunteers pose at the BPO Zoo! Event. Animals and music come together as children interact with their favorite animals and listen to the sounds of them interpreted through musical instruments by BPO members.

CROSS-DEPARTMENT FACULTY COLLABORATIONS

Dr. Kathy Doody worked with Dr. Pixita del Prado Hill and Dr. Sue McMillen to write and publish a chapter titled "Extending PDS to All: Successes and Challenges at a Comprehensive Public Institution". This chapter is part of the published text (pictured below), *Expanding Opportunities to Link Research and Clinical Practice*, which was published this year.



Dr. Gliset Colón will be collaborating with Dr. Hunter, Woods Beals Endowed Chair for Urban Education, this Summer working with African-American and Latino youth. Dr. Hunter runs the African-American Youth Summer Research Academy. Dr. Colon will be the lead professor for the Latino Youth Summer Research Academy also known as *Raíces Academy*.

This Summer initiative is an educational enrichment opportunity hosted at SUNY Buffalo State, created to engage adolescents of African or Latino descent from the City of Buffalo in youth-focused participatory action research projects that are intellectually rigorous, literacy-based, and literarily rich to foster and cultivate racial and cultural awareness, intellectual discovery, personal advocacy, and collective empowerment.

