

December 2017



affiliate
ə 'filēət/
noun:
a person or organization
officially attached to a larger
body

The **AFFILIATE**

UBEOC Alumni Newsletter



Alumni Affairs

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NEW BUFFALO EOC LOGO, WEBSITE & ALUMNI PAGE

www.buffalo.edu/eoc

The University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center unveiled its new website and logo in Summer 2017. The website offers easy navigation to source information regarding application procedures, academic and vocational programming, faculty and staff directory information, student services, center events and more.

The ALUMNI AFFAIRS menu tab links Alumni to its page which provides information as to how to receive UBEOC news via the Alumni email list-serv; express interest in the Alumni Society; read past issues of *The Affiliate*, the Alumni newsletter; view photos of Alumni in action, read the success stories of Alumni and of those formally honored through award recognition; access articles of Alumni in the news and update their contact information.

The new UBEOC website is another way Buffalo EOC Alumni can stay connected!

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2017 UBEOC Distinguished Alumni Awardee Ms. Charmaine Leonard Class of 1992, 2009

Ms. Charmaine Leonard returned to the Buffalo EOC in the Registered Medical Assistant program in 2008, after receiving her High School Equivalency Diploma seventeen years earlier. As a single parent raising three children on social services, she knew EOC could help her achieve her career goals. Upon graduation Charmaine juggled two jobs, as a Nurse's Aide at Sister's Hospital and a drug screener at Quest Laboratories.

Charmaine's determination paid off when she was offered a Registered Medical Assistant position at the

Buffalo Veteran's Administration Hospital (VA) where she also worked back-up for the Cardiology Department.

Charmaine was promoted to the position of Head Administrator for the Chief of Cardiology at the VA in 2014, where she continues to work. She performs administrative and clinical duties for the Chief, Attending Physicians, Student Fellows and Nurse Practitioners and assists in the Catheterization and Echo-Cardiogram Labs, Pacemaker/EKG Clinics and Stress Lab.

"EOC helped me find my self esteem." ... Ms. Charmaine Leonard
"EOC was the gear I needed to shift me." ... Ms. Patricia A. Elliott-Patton

2017 Arthur O. Eve Education and Community Service Awardee Ms. Patricia A. Elliott-Patton Class of 2005



Ms. Patricia A. Elliott-Patton shared her recognition as the 2017 recipient of the Arthur O. Eve Education and Community Service Award with Mr. Eve, former Deputy Speaker of the NY State Assembly and legislative spear-header of the Educational Opportunity Centers and Educational Opportunity Programs state-wide.

Ms. Elliott-Patton's accomplishments include completing her college preparation course work at Buffalo EOC, working at AmeriCorps Vista and serving as the Client Services Coordinator at the Canisius College Women's Business Center as a matriculated student. In 2008 she became a Case Manager at the Community Action Organization (CAO) assisting homeless women and presently is the Assistant Director at the CAO Alphonso "Rafi" Greene Jr. Masten Resource Center.

Patricia's service to community is vast and includes serving on the "Better Schools, Better Neighborhoods" initiative, as 2nd Vice President of the District Parenting Council, as Chair of the Buffalo Kwanzaa Children's Committee and facilitator of the Health Sciences Charter School "Raising Queens" program. In 2016, Ms. Elliott-Patton was endorsed by the *Buffalo News* and ran for the Buffalo School Board East District seat.



Alumni attending represented classes from the 1970's through 2016

2nd Annual Alumni Reception May 2017

Thirty-three Alumni attended the 2nd annual Alumni Reception on May 19, 2017 and shared camaraderie as "EOC family."

Alumni and their guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres during a social networking hour with live music performed by *Music by Rodolph*. Following the social, Alumni were honored for their volunteerism efforts at EOC, community service and career and higher education achievements. The highlight of the evening was the formal announcement of the recipients of the annual Distinguished Alumni Award and the Arthur O. Eve Education and Community Service Award. Dinner, catered by Chef's Restaurant in Buffalo, followed the formal program.



Goods donated by Alumni

In appreciation of the generosity of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy Food Pantry, which has donated Thanksgiving food baskets to EOC students for the past five years, Alumni donated non-perishable food items. St. Luke's Mission of Mercy received the *Friend of the EOC Award* during EOC's forty-fourth commencement ceremony held at the University at Buffalo on May 24, 2017.

The 3rd Annual Alumni Reception is scheduled for Friday, May 18, 2018.

Mark your calendar!

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Charles L. Davis Sr. '08

Presented the *Men of Integrity Award*, November, 2017.

Mandy Ferrini '09, '10

Earned Masters Degree in Mental Health Counseling, Medaille College May, 2017.

Carol Heavern '14, '15

Earned Certified Tutor credential-National Tutoring Association. Employed as an IT Tutor/Test Center Proctor at Bryant & Stratton College.

Kathleen Pagan '17

Promoted from Nutritional Service Worker to Medical Assistant, Kaleida Health.

Chanel Saleh '15

Promoted to Lead Assistant, Woods Dental Associates.

Hamadi Shebule '17

Passed the United States of America Citizenship Exam and took the Oath of Allegiance April, 2017. Presently enrolled at Erie Community College.

Tanya Spencer '93

LPN Graduate Erie 1 BOCES 2004. AAS Liberal Arts Erie Community College 1999. BS Business Administration Houghton College 2009. MS Strategic Leadership/ Business Administration Roberts Wesleyan College 2012. Promoted to Practice Manager, Buffalo Pediatrics Associates, LLP, 2017.

CENTER UPDATES

New Associate Executive Director



Ms. Debra EJ Thompson

Congratulations to Ms. Debra EJ Thompson, UBEOC's new Associate Executive Director. A 20 year EOC employee serving in a variety of roles including Adjunct Instructor, Instructor, tenured Associate Professor and Director of Instructional Services, Ms. Thompson is currently working on her doctorate in educational leadership and policy at UB.

Tenure and Promotion

Mr. Joe Luh

Associate Professor for EOC

Dr. Chris Yuen

Associate Professor for EOC

In Memoriam

Ms. Lenora Johnson

EOC Secretary

Ms. Ollie Mixon

Associate Professor for EOC

Hurricane Relief Drive

Alumni, faculty, staff and students participated in the City of Buffalo relief drive supporting those impacted by hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Bottled water, flashlights, batteries and other goods were collected.

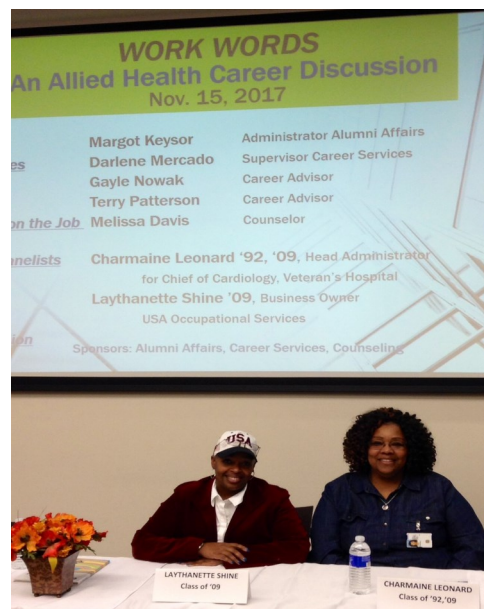
"Work Words" Alumni Panelists

November 15, 2017

Students currently enrolled in Allied Health programs learned first-hand from working Alumni who shared their personal and professional experiences as EOC students, interns and health care employees.

Alumni offered insights on topics related to balancing school/work life with family responsibility, learning from constructive criticism, networking on the job, developing collegiality and building professional confidence.

Staff from the Career Services Office and the Counseling Unit also presented information relevant to "the first day on the job" and real stories that messaged "do's and don'ts" in the workplace.



Pictured Left to Right: Laythanette Shine '09; Charmaine Leonard '92, '09

Strengthening Families Event...It's a Celebration!

October 21, 2017



Alumni volunteers helped make the 4th Annual Event a HUGE SUCCESS! Approximately 300 people (110 adults, 188 children) enjoyed carnival games, a photo booth, face painting, the Bookmobile, Zoomobile, Explore & More Children's Museum activities, Buffalo firefighters and truck, a Teddy Bear Health Clinic and more! Whether making popcorn, facilitating children's games, giving directions, helping vendors set up and break down, EOC Alumni helped families connect and have plain old fashioned FUN!

Pictured Top to Bottom, Left to Right: Marcelina Rondon '70's, Brenda Harris '88, Ombeni Kitsa '14, Raphael Mitchell '15, Marcella Overton '94

Alumni Research Project

October 12, 2017

EOC Alumni participated in an Information Session and learned of the Alumni Research Project. Dr. Danis Gehl, retired UBEOC Associate Executive Director, is leading the project study.

The purpose of the project is to connect with EOC graduates and learn from their experiences in order to strengthen programs for future students.

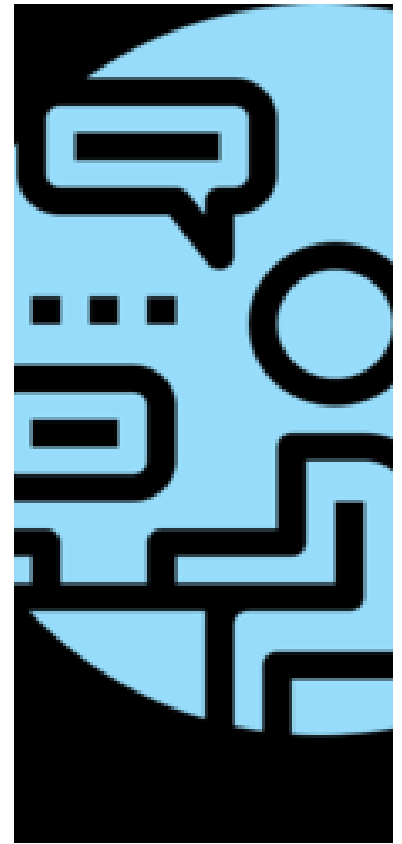
Dr. Gehl is interviewing Alumni willing to speak of their student experiences and of their lives after attending EOC. To preserve the integrity of the project, names of Alumni who participate will not be divulged.

If you are interested in learning more about the Alumni Research Project, or

would like to participate and be interviewed, please contact Dr. Gehl at 716.645.1920 or at dgehl@buffalo.edu.



Dr. Danis J. Gehl
Retired; UBEOC
Associate Executive Director



“Alumni Antics” at Juneteenth!

June 17, 2017

Alumni were very busy sharing their EOC experiences, answering questions and handing out flyers and promotional items during the annual Juneteenth festival held at Martin Luther King Jr. Park in Buffalo, NY. As you can see, however, they certainly had time to have some fun with the UBEOC Executive Director!

Along with administration, faculty and staff, Alumni informed the Western New York community of Buffalo EOC’s academic and vocational training programs and student support services.

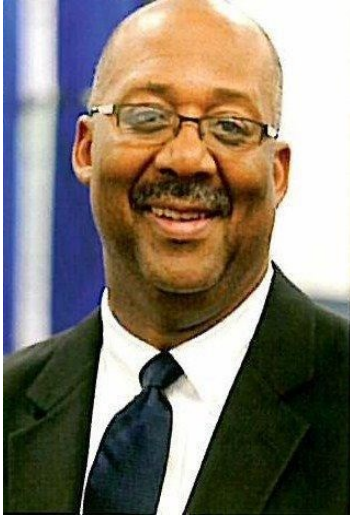
The annual event commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and celebrates African American heritage. This year’s theme was: “Remembering the Past, Focusing on the Future.”



Pictured Left to Right:
Kim Dixon '15; Dr. Julius Gregg Adams UBEOC Executive Director;
Raphael Mitchell '15
Not Pictured: LaShawn Chinn 90's, Ombeni Kitsa '14, Vilma Quinones '06

Message from the UBEOC Executive Director

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.
Seneca



Julius Gregg Adams, Ph.D.
UBEOC Executive Director

The 2017-18 academic year is promising to be an exciting year of growth and development for the UBEOC.

The University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD) has approved our implementing new programming to include Central Sterilization, Central Sterilization Recertification, Certified Nursing Assistant and Certified Nursing Assistant Recertification. UBEOC has developed an innovative approach towards Student Orientation, now known as STAR (*Steps Toward Academic Readiness*). A new job developer position has been created to conduct labor market analysis, serve as liaison on regional and state-wide workforce development consortia and assist with the development of strategic partnerships to increase opportunities for UBEOC students and Alumni. Also, UBEOC continues its commitment to WNY through workshops and events open to the community at large, including the annual *Strengthening Families Celebration*.

Finally, the new Buffalo EOC logo that is presented in this newsletter attests to our commitment to continued movement forward.

Happy New Year and Happy New Beginnings to you and yours!

Mission of UBEOC

The University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center is committed to producing lifelong learners who are self-directed, empowered, and committed to excellence.

Lifelong Services Available to Alumni

Career Services

Job search, resume writing, cover letter writing, interviewing skills, portfolio development, career exploration
716.645.1944

College Connections

College application and financial aid assistance
716.645.1910

Counseling Unit

Connections with community agencies and services
716.645.1945

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