



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

The **AFFILIATE**

BEOC Alumni Newsletter

2020...The Year of *Vision*

Although the Covid - 19 Pandemic was not an occurrence any one of us could have foreseen, 2020 did prove to be a year that changed the way Buffalo EOC Alumni looked at things. BEOC Alumni saw more time with immediate family; they imagined in their mind's eye new ways of doing things and they rolled up their sleeves and completed projects that were staring at them in the face. Take a glimpse and see how Buffalo EOC Alumni broadened their field of vision, saw what is truly important and how they caught sight of every day things that had become all too overlooked!



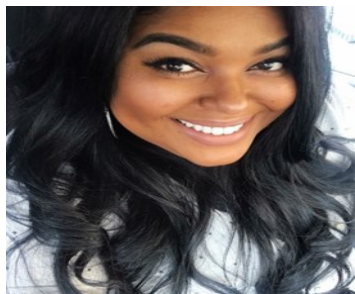
Inside this Issue

- Buffalo EOC Alumni Corona Chronicles.....Cover
- UBEOC 2020 Alumni Honorees...2
- New Buffalo EOC Website.....3
- Covid-19 Information.....3
- 2020 Virtual Commencement....4
- Buffalo EOC Retirements4
- Alumnus Moderates Forum.....5
- Be in the Know About Buffalo....5
- Movie Night.....6
- Employment Sites.....6
- Alumni Success Postcards.....7
- Alumni Class Notes.....7
- Message from the Executive Director.....8
- Alumni Lifelong Services.....8



Buffalo EOC Alumni 'Corona Chronicles 2020'

Buffalo EOC 2020 Alumni Honorees



MS. MARLYCE GODOY '11

Distinguished Alumni Recipient

Ms. Marlyce Godoy has been successfully contributing to the dental profession since 2011. She is a successful Registered Dental Hygienist, a SUNY Erie Assistant Professor/Clinical Instructor of the Dental Hygiene program and an Adjunct Dental Assistant Instructor at the Buffalo EOC. She proudly serves as President of the Buffalo Chapter of the American Dental Hygienists' Association and actively participates in nonprofit organizations such as Brown Girl and MOCHA which help young minority women become successful in their lives and careers. Her membership in these organizations is near and dear to her as she has experienced many of her own obstacles.

Ms. Godoy was born in Belize and came to the United States when she was six years old. She was raised in downstate New York and attended college at the University at Buffalo. She dropped out of college after becoming pregnant and raised her daughter as a single mother. She credits the Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center for her "...new beginning" as she returned to school by enrolling in the Dental Assisting program. Upon completion of her 300 hour clinical externship, she was awarded the Eighth District Dental Society Dental Assisting award, earned her Dental Assisting National Board certification and was hired as a Certified Dental Assistant at the WNY Dental Group, where she is still employed, now as a Dental Hygienist.

Ms. Godoy completed two Associate degrees, one in Dental Hygiene, from SUNY Erie and graduated at the top of her class with a Dental Hygiene Honor Society award. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY Buffalo State College with a 3.97 GPA in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and completed her student teaching requirements at BEOC while mentoring minority students through the program. Ms. Godoy also received the Cultural Diversity Graduate Fellowship from SUNY Buffalo State College covering full tuition and completed her Master of Science in CTE with a 4.0 GPA., while working as a Graduate Assistant.



MR. AHMED SALEH '98

Arthur O. Eve Education and

Community Service Award Recipient

In 1993, Mr. Ahmed Saleh escaped Eritrea in Eastern Africa at the age of 18. With the assistance of a retired immigration lawyer from the University at Buffalo School of Law, and sponsorship of Vive La Casa (an organization that assists those seeking asylum in the United States or Canada) he arrived alone in the United States speaking very little English. Mr. Saleh's resolve and courage to build a better life for himself was precipitated by the death of his father during his country's civil war and the passing of his mother.

From 1993-1997, Mr. Saleh worked numerous jobs to support himself, including working as a corner store cashier and then as a UPS driver. In 1997, he enrolled in the English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program at the Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center.

Mr. Saleh worked his way through business school and established Mandela Market in 2007. This market has made a positive impact on the lives of Buffalonians living in a federally recognized "food desert" on the city's east side. The market's success led to a second location which opened in 2018. Mr. Saleh's work was further recognized when he received funding from the East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund to expand one of his stores. His was one of nine projects identified to receive this funding.

Mr. Saleh graduated from SUNY Erie and earned a bachelor's degree in computer science along with an entrepreneurial certificate from Buffalo State College. He became a US citizen in 2001 and is married with three children. As a community leader and social activist, Mr. Saleh has used his markets to support families in the community, mentor area youth and provide internship and employment opportunities to 11 – 12 EOC students, paying his personal success forward.

Mr. Saleh honors the legacy of Nelson Mandela, South African anti-apartheid fighter, as he lives by his favorite quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: *"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."*

COVID-19 INFO



STOP THE SPREAD
Stay Informed
Get Vaccinated
Wear a Mask
Social Distance
Avoid Large Gatherings
Wash Hands

**Buffalo Public Schools
Covid Information**

[COVID-19 Coronavirus
Updates / Coronavirus
Preparedness
\(buffaloschools.org\)](#)

**Erie County
Covid Updates**

[Coronavirus | Erie County,
NY Department of Health](#)

Covid Alert NY

[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID
-19\) | Department of
Health \(ny.gov\)](#)

**NYS
Office of Mental Health**

[COVID-19 Guidance:
Mental Health in the
Next Phase of Corona-
virus \(ny.gov\)](#)

**NYS Vaccine
Distribution/Eligibility**

[COVID-19 Vaccine Distri-
bution | New York For-
ward \(ny.gov\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine |
COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Look for a New Look to the Buffalo EOC Website

An exciting new look is coming to the Buffalo EOC website! EOC administrators, faculty and staff have been busy designing and creating a website that reflects the vibrancy of the Center and its students and alumni.

Alumni can specifically look forward to viewing a new Alumni Affairs landing page and subpages that showcase the success of Alumni, highlight EOC Alumni activities and provide the means for Alumni to stay connected.

Alumni in action pictures and videos, user friendly navigation tools, hyperlinks that will take viewers directly to information, Alumni Affairs updates, Alumni in the news stories and more, will soon be just a click away!

Be on the lookout!



Community Mourns Loss of Lorna C. Hill, Ujima Co. Founder
Lorna C. Hill, founder and Artistic Director of Ujima Company, Inc. for 41 years, where she received her degree in 1978, died at home on June 20, 2020 exactly as she lived it — surrounded by her beloved community.
Lorna was the dearest daughter of Ruby Byars and Curtis Mills, sister of Donna Mills, devoted mother of Amilcar Hill, Zos Cabral, and Rahwa Obimartan, grandmother of Asa and Solace Hill, and aunt of Rikka Mills. Dearest beloved friend of Bob Hill, and all of the Ujima Company Members.
Lorna founded Ujima Company, a multi-racial professional theater company dedicated to preservation of African art and artistic ideas, in 1978. Ujima a Bahili word meaning lecture work and re-ability. That core essence the dedication to excellence, but persons that ex- could only be in front of all to multi-talented, director, teacher, community leader — instead that valiant was first and a means of fight- ack communities a communities of do so, she taught fight.

Judges Row Block Club to 'Walk for Justice'
On Saturday, July 11, 2020 at noon, at St. Michael's Church, 81 Butler Drive, Buffalo, the "Judge Row Block Club" will have a "Walk for Justice."
In light of the death of George Floyd and many others while being in the hands of those who use to protect and serve, the Block Club will "Walk for Justice", taking a stand against injustice.
According to the Block Club: "Though it is enough! It is time to end police brutality, white supremacy and systematic racism. No justice, no peace."
Social distancing is required — please wear a mask.
Prayer will be offered by Chaplain Howard Henry. The Welcome will be given by President Lorenzo Guzman.
The march will begin at 12:15 p.m. (After the march: return to church). If you are unable to walk, please join the group after on the church lawn to share brief statements. There will be an Open Mic (3 minute statements). Closing remarks by Shawn Tagan, and silence for 8 minutes.
For further information contact: safagan@yahoo.com

Two Grads Latest Examples of UBEOC Success Stories
By Charles Anzalone
Mariyca Godoy dropped out of college to raise her daughter as a single mother while receiving public assistance and working at a local restaurant.
Then she saw a flyer highlighting tuition-free programs at UB's Educational Opportunity Center.
The year she credits the UBEOC — for a "new beginning" that has led to her present career as an assistant professor/clinical instructor in the dental hygiene program at SUNY Erie, as well as the role of president of the Buffalo Chapter of the American Dental Hygienists Association.
Ahmed Saleh escaped Eritrea in Eastern Africa in 1993 when he was 18. After working as a corner store cashier, he enrolled in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program at the UBEOC.
Now, Saleh owns two Mandela Markets, helping to alleviate food insecurity on Buffalo's East Side.
UBEOC Grads — See P. 5

Special Prosecutor Appointed to Investigate Actions Of Buffalo Police Officers During Arrest of Quentin Suttles
Due to a conflict of interest, the Erie County District Attorney's Office requested that the Court appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the actions of Buffalo Police Officers Ronald Ammerman and Michael Schu during the arrest of Osomson C. Suttles on May 10, 2020. The Erie

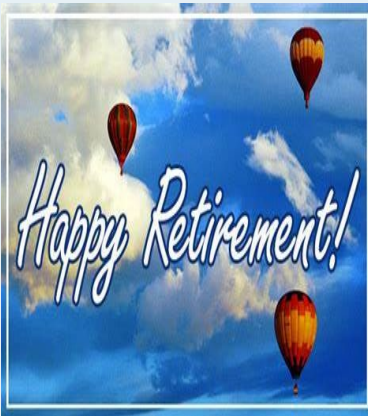
We knew you then. We'd like to know you NOW.
Buffalo EOC Alumni Affairs

CENTER UPDATES

RETIREMENTS

*Thank you to the following
BEOC faculty and staff
for their years of dedicated
service!*

**CONGRATULATIONS
and
BEST WISHES!**



Ms. Susan Camizzi

Associate Professor
Dental Assistant Program

Mr. Gerald Edwards

Assistant Professor
Information Technology

Ms. Terry Patterson

Career Advisor

Dr. Shaf Rahman

Senior Programmer/Analyst
Administrative Services Office

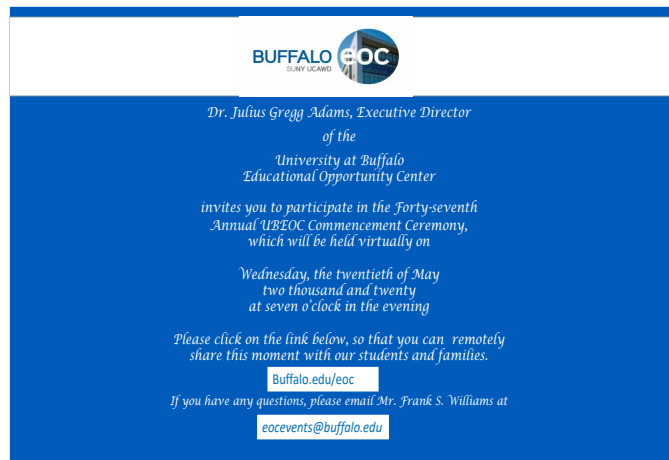
Ms. Dorothy Taylor

4 Associate Professor
English as a Second Language

4

Class of 2020 Make Virtual History

Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center Forty-Seventh Annual Commencement



On May 20, 2020, the University Center for Academic and Workforce Development, Buffalo EOC administrators, faculty and staff as well as Dr. John King, former US Secretary of Education, congratulated the Class of 2020 to its forty-seventh annual commencement ceremony. This class became the first in EOC's 40+ year history to be bestowed this recognition "virtually". Graduates were recognized for their achievements and their perseverance to succeed in extraordinary times.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!



View the virtual commencement ceremony here:

[2020 University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center Commencement Ceremony - YouTube](#)

Alumnus is Moderator at Community Forum

Socioeconomic Challenges and Opportunities in a Climate of Civil Discord
Sept. 17 • 2 p.m. • Free

Presented by Niagara University's College of Business Administration

Moderator
Dale Martin, Entrepreneur, Educator, Radio & TV Host, Business Consultant

Panelists
LaVonne E. Ansari, Ph.D., CEO, Community Health Center Inc.
Bishop Michael A. Badger, Senior Pastor, Bethesda World Harvest International Church
Hon. Byron W. Brown, Mayor, City of Buffalo
Hon. Lenora B. Foote-Beavers, Buffalo City Court Judge

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

Register at www.niagara.edu/businesspanel

Pictured Above: Dale Martin '90's , left)

Dale Martin, host of WNY @ Work (ESPN 1520AM), moderated an hour long virtual forum discussing the impact of local and national issues on socioeconomic disparities in our region and the country. The forum was hosted by Niagara University's College of Business Administration.

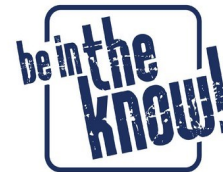
Community panelists included the Hon. Byron Brown, Mayor of Buffalo; Hon. Lenora Foote-Beavers, Buffalo City Court Judge; Dr. Lavonne Ansari, CEO of the Community Health Center of Buffalo and Bishop Michael Badger, Senior Pastor of Bethesda World Harvest International Church. Topics of discussion centered around the impact that economic inequality, systemic racism and Covid-19 has had on educational and employment opportunities, poverty and homelessness, and affirmative action for marginalized populations. Also discussed were city, state and federal resources needed to reconstruct society.

Excerpts from Niagara University News, September 17, 2020, Lisa McMahon

[Panel Discusses "Socioeconomic Challenges and Opportunities in a Climate of Civil Discord" | NU News \(niagara.edu\)](#)

BE IN THE KNOW

ABOUT BUFFALO!



Buffalo, NY is known as the "City of Good Neighbors." Stay informed as a citizen and help strengthen our community. The sites below will keep you updated on area news and local events!

Buffalo News

Sign up to receive their newsletters to your email:

Good Morning Buffalo

News Alerts

Business...and more

[Newsletters | buffalo.news.com](#)

EvenBright

[Free Buffalo, NY Events | Eventbrite](#)

Step Out Buffalo

Sign up to receive their free newsletter to your email

[Ultimate Guides to WNY - Step Out Buffalo](#)



Movie Magic!



On January 29, 2020, Buffalo EOC hosted its 2nd Movie Night for Buffalo EOC Students, Alumni and their families. ALADDIN was the feature show and there was definitely some magic in the air (along with the smells of popcorn and pizza!)



Movie Night! BUFFALO **EOC**
SUNY UBAND

Aladdin
2019 PG

Pop, Popcorn and Pizza

January 29 - 5:00pm -
movie starts at 5:30
UBEOC Conference Center

Free for EOC Students,
Alumni & their families
Call 645.1864 to reserve
your seat!

SPONSORED BY:
The UBEOC
Student Retention Office & The
Office of Alumni Affairs



Pictured Above: Tonna Batchelor '70's (Right) and Family

Alumni and their families
pose in front of the
Aladdin Selfie Wall!



Pictured Above: Yvette McCarter '01 and Family

EMPLOYMENT SITES

Call to Action:

Buffalo EOC

Alumni Ambassadors

If your company or organization is hiring, please email that information to Alumni Affairs at keysor@buffalo.edu.

Jobs will be shared with Alumni on the Alumni ListServ and with Buffalo EOC students.

AARP for Seniors

<https://aarp--for-seniors.itsmycareer.com>

[Aarp For Seniors Jobs \(Hiring\) - ItsMyCareer](#)

Indeed

[Job Search | Indeed](#)

NYS Department of Labor

<https://dol.ny.gov/find-job-O>

[Find a Job | Department of Labor \(ny.gov\)](#)

WNY Jobs

www.wnyjobs.com

[WNY Jobs - Local jobs for Buffalo](#)

Zip Recruiter

www.ziprecruiter.com

[Job Search - Millions of Jobs Hiring](#)

Buffalo EOC Alumni Speak for Themselves



"I want to send a special thank you to Mrs. Honrado and the faculty at the Buffalo EOC for helping me earn my High School Equivalency Diploma. Not even a pandemic could stop me."

UNIQUE COLEMAN
Class of 2020



CONGRATULATIONS Unique!

IT'S NOT HOW YOU START... IT'S WHERE YOU FINISH.
THE BUFFALO EOC IS WAITING FOR YOU!

"Buffalo EOC Alumni are our greatest legacy."

Dr. Julius Gregg Adams
Buffalo EOC
Executive Director



"The Buffalo EOC faculty and staff motivated me to continue a career path in Allied Health. I'm a Nurse today because of their support and guidance."

NICOLE NELSON-MARVIN
Alumni 2001, Medical Assistant Program
RN Manager COVID Screening & Testing
United States Department of Veteran Affairs
VA Western New York Healthcare System



CONGRATULATIONS Nicole!

IT'S NOT HOW YOU START... IT'S WHERE YOU FINISH.
THE BUFFALO EOC IS WAITING FOR YOU!



"My story as a refugee did not have a happy beginning, but the academic and student support I received from the Buffalo EOC changed my life."

HAMADI SHEBULE
Alumni 2017, High School Equivalency Diploma
May 2020, Associates Degree in Business,
SUNY Erie



CONGRATULATIONS Hamadi!

IT'S NOT HOW YOU START... IT'S WHERE YOU FINISH.
THE BUFFALO EOC IS WAITING FOR YOU!



"Earning my certificate in Medical Billing & Coding has helped me to advance in my career. I am very grateful to the Buffalo EOC."

NOEL VELEZ
Class of 2020



CONGRATULATIONS Noel!

IT'S NOT HOW YOU START... IT'S WHERE YOU FINISH.
THE BUFFALO EOC IS WAITING FOR YOU!

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Steffanie Gugino '20

Currently enrolled at SUNY Erie in the Criminal Justice Law Enforcement program. Employed at M&T Bank as a Lieutenant in security.

Ashia Martin '06

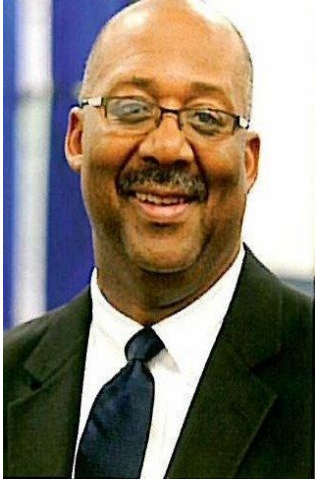
Graduated from SUNY Erie in 2020. Currently pursuing Bachelors in Social Science with concentration in Mental Health at University at Buffalo. Works at Buffalo Veteran's Hospital as a Program Support Assistant for the Caregiver Support Program.

YOU...

Share what you have been up to! Are you a volunteer? Have you received any awards? Have you been promoted at work? Are you in college? All good news welcomed!



Message from the Buffalo EOC Executive Director



Julius Gregg Adams, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Dear Buffalo EOC Alumni,

In 2020 we were challenged by a pandemic, spiraling unemployment for many people who have worked their entire lives, and an awareness of a racial divide that has been in place for hundreds of years. Although these challenges caused us to question many things, I believe we realized that to move forward as a country, we need to acknowledge our past, understand our differences and prepare for our collective future.

As 2021 began we were all afraid, yet optimistic and excited about possibilities. Will new leadership be able to pull the country together? Will a new vaccine allow us to return to some semblance of normal? Will we begin to feel hopeful and safe?

In light of what recently occurred in Washington, DC, I can only imagine what you must be going through right now as this country experiences its first violent transfer of power. I write to reassure you that leadership at the national, state and local levels will be able to pull us together, as long as we become involved in the process. Like all vaccines developed to battle pandemics before this one (e.g., polio, rubella, measles, etc.), once we inoculate a critical mass, we will have a new normal that we will be happy to engage in. Despite the chaos in DC, we will begin to feel safe and hopeful because we will not allow others to control our destiny; we will support each other and we will vocally reject harmful speech and actions.

Have faith and know that “...*the success of any school can be measured by the contribution the alumni make to our national life*”. (John F. Kennedy) The mission of the BEOC is to produce lifelong learners who are self-directed, empowered, and committed to excellence. Continue to be strong, continue to work hard and remember that the BEOC is here for you, when times are good or bad, when the challenges of life seem unbearable, when you just need hope.

I wish you and yours a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Lifelong Services Available to Alumni

Mission of Buffalo EOC

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

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

716.645.1939

BUFFALO
SUNY UCAWD



Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center

555 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, NY 14203

716.645.9555

<http://www.buffalo.edu/eoc.html>

www.facebook.com/buffaloeducational.opportunitycenter

Instagram @buffalo_eoc Twitter@UBEOC

Margot Barrett Keysor

Administrator Alumni Affairs and Student Development Office

716.645.1908 keysor@buffalo.edu