



The **AFFILIATE**

UBEOC Alumni Newsletter

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

New Logo Revealed at Annual Community Partners Breakfast

The University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center (UBEOC) introduced its new logo, showcased above, at its Community Partners Breakfast on November 1, 2019. The logo reflects the Buffalo EOC’s long-standing association with the State University of New York University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (SUNY UCAWD) as one of twelve EOC centers throughout New York State creating access to opportunity by eliminating barriers to education. Remarks were presented by Julius Gregg Adams, Ph.D. UBEOC Executive Director; A. Scott Weber, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University at Buffalo; The Honorable Crystal B. Peoples-Stokes, New York State Assembly–141st District Majority Leader; Ellen Grant, Ph.D. Deputy Mayor City of Buffalo; Lisa McKay, Associate Provost and Director SUNY UCAWD; Christopher Ellis, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives & Innovation, SUNY; current UBEOC Central Sterilization Technician student, Obiamaka Alaku and alumna Paula Oliver’ 04.

Inside this Issue

- Logo and Community BreakfastCover
- UBEOC 2019 Alumni Honorees...2
- 4th Annual Alumni Reception.....3
- Alumni Class Notes.....3
- Center Updates.....4
- 2019 Commencement4
- Alumni Class Notes cont.5
- Alumni Give Back as Volunteers5
- Professional Development for Alumni6
- Center Activities.....6
- Movie Night7
- Alumni Class Notes cont.7
- Message from UBEOC Executive Director.....8
- Alumni Lifelong Services8

Ms. Paula Oliver ‘04 Represents Alumni at Community Breakfast



Attendees heard first hand of the struggles and success that UBEOC students respectively face and celebrate from alumna Paula Oliver ‘04. Ms. Oliver personally spoke of her life transition as a single parent of four and survivor of a former abusive relationship, to a UBEOC Registered Medical Assistant graduate and current Clinical Associate in the Bone Marrow Unit at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and enrolled Masters degree student at Buffalo State College.



Pictured Left: Lisa L. McKay, Associate Provost and Director, University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD)
Pictured Right: Paula Oliver ‘04

UBEOC 2019 Alumni Honorees



MR. DONALD PAULK '74

Distinguished Alumni Recipient

Donald Paulk was 11 years old when his father passed. As one of 11 children he dealt with hardships growing up in the Buffalo projects. As a child he sang in the *Energetics* group; as a teenager he was a street gang member.

After graduating East High School, Mr. Paulk joined the United States Marine Corps. He served in the Infantry as a Lance Corporal and was deployed on the *USS Austin*. After the military, Mr. Paulk enrolled in the UBEOC College Preparation Program. He stated that the military taught him to do what he was 'told' to do but that "EOC inspired me to think about what I 'could' do." As the second oldest male in his family, Mr. Paulk says he felt a responsibility to be a role model by creating his new beginning at EOC.

Mr. Paulk enrolled at Erie Community College (SUNY Erie) and earned an Associate Degree in Social Science. As the first member of his family to earn a college degree, he later earned Bachelor and Master Degrees in the community services field from Buffalo State College. During this time, he served in the Army and National Guard Reserves.

Mr. Paulk worked with mentally and physically challenged youth and substance abusers in the juvenile justice systems in Florida and California. Locally, he was a Resident Service Coordinator at the WNY Veterans Housing Coalition, a Mental Health Coordinator at the Community Action Organization, a Mental Health Specialist at Baker Hall School and a Case Manager at St. Augustine's Center.

Currently, Mr. Paulk assists Veterans in the Buffalo Drug and Family Treatment Courts. He is a DJ at *A Gathering Place*, a Catholic Charities program for adults needing activities of daily living assistance. As the 3rd Vice Commander at the American Legion Jesse Clipper Post No. 430, he was honored as the recipient of the 2018 Legionnaire of the Year award. In 2019, he was awarded the Mary B. Talbert *Community Change Maker Award*.



MS. PAULA OLIVER '04

Arthur O. Eve Education and Community Service Award Recipient

Paula Oliver was born in Jamaica where her grandmother raised her. She arrived in the U.S. at the age of 17 and lived in NYC for a while. Ms. Oliver enrolled at Alfred State College and later moved to Buffalo as a single parent with a six-month-old child. To make ends meet she worked at Wegmans and at IDRC/SmartLine as a telemarketer. She recalls she couldn't afford an apartment and that she and her child lived with the woman who provided her with child day care services. Ms. Oliver ultimately married, bought a house and worked in Customer Service at HSBC Bank for ten years before being laid off. At this point, Ms. Oliver had four children, was in a strained marriage and decided to enroll in the UBEOC Registered Medical Assistant program. As part of her program, Ms. Oliver participated in clinical internships at Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital and Roswell Park Cancer Institute (now known as Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center). Her commitment to excellence precipitated in her being the Student Commencement Speaker.

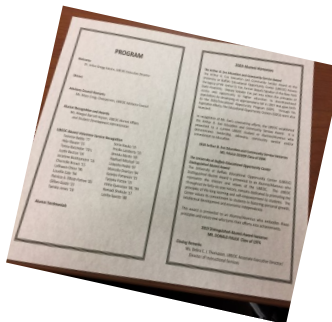
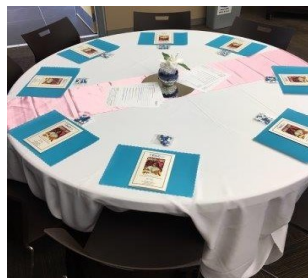
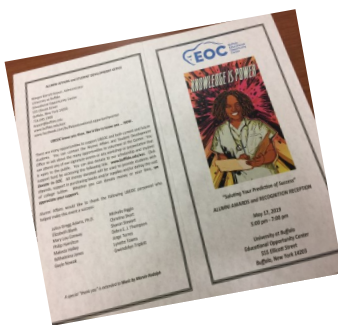
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center hired Ms. Oliver upon graduation where she continues to work as a Clinical Support Assistant in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. In addition, Ms. Oliver serves as Roswell's CSEA Union 1st Vice President, is a diversity advocate on the Labor Relations Board and a member of the African American Roswell Network. As a Union Steward, Ms. Oliver assists with lobbying efforts and travels out of the region, from Buffalo, to New York City and to Florida.

Ms. Oliver earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work from Buffalo State College while working full-time. She has volunteered at Crisis Services answering hotline calls and assisting rape victims and is an active member of the Old Landmark New Covenant Church of God in Christ where she formed a young adult support group named "Things Pertaining to Life." Presently she is enrolled at Buffalo State College in the Masters Degree Student Personnel program.

“Saluting Your Prediction of Success”

4th Annual Alumni Honors and Awards Reception

Alumni camaraderie was in full force on May 17, 2019 as UBEOC Alumni from the 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and 2000’s celebrated their personal and professional success. Stories shared included earning Associate, Bachelor and Master degrees; achieving job promotions; passing industry certifications; readying for retirement and becoming grandparents!



ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Dawn Aldrich '10

“It was hard starting a new career at 50 years of age, but no matter how scary starting over can be, it is never too late to try.”

Works at Buffalo Medical Group as a Medical Assistant and will celebrate 10 years of employment there in May 2020.

Pamela Blyden '14

Currently employed in Customer Service with Capital Management Systems.

Marlyce Godoy '11

Earned a Master of Education degree in Career and Technical Education from Buffalo State College in May 2019. Will begin teaching in Spring 2020 as an Adjunct Clinical Instructor in the SUNY Erie (formerly Erie Community College) Dental Hygiene Program.

Carol Heavern '14, '15

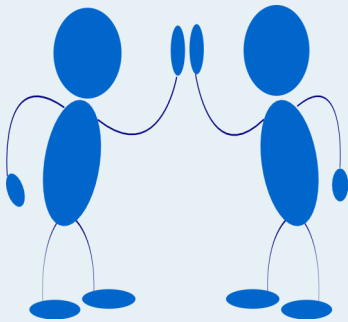
Employed as an IT Tutor/Workshop Facilitator with Bryant & Stratton College Buffalo Campus. Specialized computer projects include WIN10 Video recording, Voice Narration on PPT and Microsoft Visio. Is a Microsoft Certified Educator: Technology Literacy for Educators 21st Century Learning Design. Became a Certified Advanced Level Professional Tutor with the National Tutoring Association.

CENTER UPDATES

RETIREMENTS

*Thank you to the following
UBEOC professional staff
members for their years of
dedicated UBEOC service!*

**CONGRATULATIONS
and
BEST WISHES!**



Mr. Hans Mueller

Lead Programmer/Analyst

Ms. Gayle Nowak

Career Advisor

NEW HIRES

WELCOME TO UBEOC!

Ms. Ciara Johnson

Supervisor,
Enrollment Management

Ms. Eduvijez Sanchez

Admissions Assistant

Welcome Class of 2019 “Alumni” !

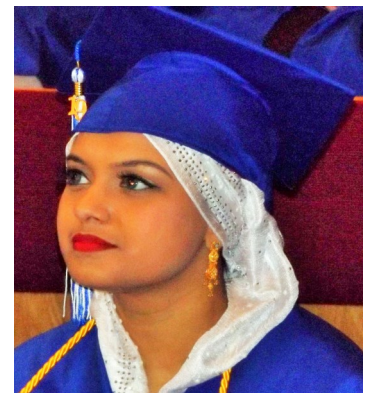
UBEOC Forty-Sixth Commencement
University at Buffalo, Slee Hall

*“You can’t go back and change the beginning but
you can start where you are and change the ending.”*

C.S. Lewis



2019 graduates attending commencement exercises at Slee Hall on the University at Buffalo North Campus, May 22, 2019



Alumni Give Back as Volunteers

Juneteenth

On June 15, 2019, the Buffalo EOC participated in *Juneteenth*, the annual festival at Martin Luther King Jr. Park that commemorates the abolition of slavery in the United States. Materials informing of the academic, allied health and vocational programs offered by the Center and services of the Counseling, College Connections and Career offices were distributed to the public. Administrators, faculty, staff and alumni were present and answered questions pertinent to programming, industry certifications, the high school equivalency exam and the admissions process.

Alumni are great “EOC Ambassadors” !



Raphael Mitchell '15
hands out EOC Swag Bags

Strengthening Families Celebration



Alumni Volunteers Left to Right: Ferdows Salek '17, Tamika Jones '18, LouElla Cole '94

Donald Paulk '74 (pictured right) proves that “kids of all ages” had fun at the annual *Strengthening Families* event held on Saturday October 19, 2019. Some of the activities children and adults participated in included carnival games, face painting, a balloon artist, photo booth, Explore and More Museum, Teddy Bear Health Clinic, Buffalo Zoo Mobile, firetruck tours, science experiments, bicycle raffles and workshops for adults.

The theme (if you couldn't guess) was “Be Your Own Super Hero”!



ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Sharon Meadows '17

Presently works as the Site Coordinator at the JFK Community Center for the Community Action Organization.

Marcella Overton '94

Continuing employment as the Executive Administrative Assistant King Center Charter School for the past six years. Previous employment included: Social Work Secretary Kaleida Health, Sales Assistant WGRZ-TV Channel 2 for fifteen years, Administrative Assistants at the University at Buffalo Cora P. Maloney College and STEP Program and the Buffalo Community Partnership at Buffalo State College.

Carmen Pabon '15

Currently up for promotion as a Principal Clerk Buffalo Public Schools Office of Student Services, City Hall. Previously worked as a Dental Assistant at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Care Center for 3 years.

Shelia Robinson '19

“Because of EOC, I am all I can be.”

Earned American Medical Technologist Credential. Works as a Registered Medical Assistant at HealthWorks WNY.

Professional Development for UBEOC Alumni

One of the objectives of the Alumni Affairs Office is to provide professional development opportunities for Alumni. Based on responses to the Professional Development Survey, Alumni attended sessions pertinent to employment, financial literacy and wellness.



2020 CENSUS APPLICATION SESSIONS: March 25, 2019 session
12 Alumni attended Census employment sessions and submitted their online applications for Enumerator and Supervisor positions



FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP: April 23, 2019
Pictured Left: State Employee Federal Credit Union (SEFCU) Presenter
Pictured Right: Joel Tuck '00 (red sweater) participates in a workshop activity



KIDS ESCAPING DRUGS: October 1, 2019
John Bennett, Director Kids Escaping Drugs Face to Face in the Workplace program, (pictured left) presented on the national opioid crisis, challenges facing families and youth in Western New York and the social and economic impacts of substance abuse in our region. A youth presently in recovery also discussed his personal battle overcoming addiction and the services of Renaissance Campus, the organization's residential treatment center.

CENTER ACTIVITIES

Movie Night

ALADDIN (2019 PG) will show on the EOC BIG SCREEN, January 29, 2020 @ 5:30pm. Call 645-1864 to register. Bring your family! Free.

VITA Tax

Free filing for those qualifying. January 27-April 11, 2020. Mondays & Thursdays 5:00pm-8:00pm; Saturdays 10:00am-1:00pm (excluding February 22, 29; March 21) Call 645-1865 for information.

Men's Conference

Saturday, February 29, 2020
10:00am-1:30pm

"Men Leading By Example"

This conference will assist men in developing and evaluating their vision and plan for life. Open to the public. Register on the EOC website. Free.

Women's Conference

Saturday, March 21, 2020
9:00am—3:00pm

"Finding the Balance and Investing In Yourself"

The 6th annual conference promises to empower women by offering panel discussions, workshops and guest speakers. Open to the public. Register on the EOC website. Free.

Student/Alumni Reception

NEW FOCUS! May 2020

The Fifth Annual Recognition Dinner will now honor outstanding graduating students and Alumni. Details to follow.

Forty-Seventh Annual Commencement

May 20, 2020
UB Slee Hall 7:00pm

Movie Night... A 'Roaring' Good Time!



THE LION KING (2019 PG)

Over 50 Alumni, students and their families attended the inaugural Movie Night at EOC on October 29, 2019. The three P's were served as refreshments (because what would a movie be without pop, popcorn and pizza?). Many movie goers came in costume in keeping with Halloween festivities!



Raynah Barron '18 and Son



Pictured Above: Yvette McCarter '01 and Family

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Janet Shimburski '17

Volunteers as an Usher at Shea's Buffalo, Irish Classical, 710 Main and Smith Theatres.

Angelea Smeal '17

Earned Associate Degree in Nursing from Trocaire College. Accepted RN position at General Physicians P.C. in Great Lakes Cardiology at Buffalo General Hospital.

LaVita Spentz '88

Enrolled in the Business Administration program at SUNY Erie (formerly Erie Community College) North Campus. Earned a 3.89 GPA Fall 2019.

Donna Tigg - Tatum '74

Retired May 30, 2019 as a Dental Assistant from the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine after 21 years of professional service. Career history working as a Dental Assistant spanned 45 years.

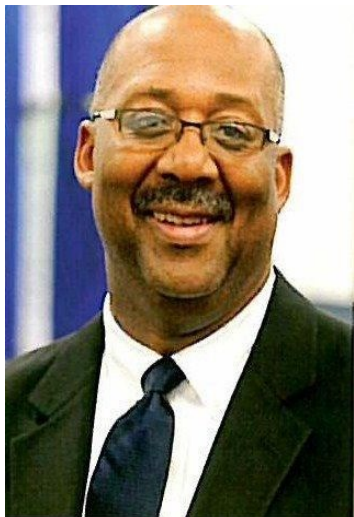
YOU!

Share your update with Alumni Affairs!

Today you are **YOU**,
that is **TRUER** than true.
There is **NO ONE** alive
who is **YOUER** than **YOU!**
~Dr. Seuss

Message from the Buffalo EOC Executive Director

"I think the success of any school can be measured by the contribution the alumni make to our national life." John F. Kennedy



Julius Gregg Adams, Ph.D.
UBEOC Executive Director

Dear UBEOC Alumni,

Welcome to the start of a new academic semester and a new decade. The Buffalo EOC continues to experience new beginnings that include hiring new full-time staff and offering new programming. Ms. Ciara Johnson joined us in September 2019 as the new Supervisor of our Enrollment Management Unit. If you are interested in returning to enroll in one of our vocational or academic programs, or our college prep program, please contact the Admissions Office. They will gladly offer you advice.

On February 12th, 18th and 20th the UBEOC will be hosting Information Sessions regarding a new pre-advanced manufacturing program that we will be offering in the Fall. This program is designed to introduce students to the world of advanced manufacturing and establish a foundation on which further studies might rest. Please contact our Admissions Office or access our website to learn more.

In addition, we will be hosting our second Men's Conference on Saturday, February 29th and our sixth annual Women's Conference on Saturday, March 21st. The theme of the Men's Conference is *Men Leading by Example*. The theme for the Women's Conference is *Finding the Balance and Investing in Yourself*. Although both events are free and open to the public, we strongly encourage those interested in attending to register on the EOC website <http://www.buffalo.edu/eoc.html>. I hope to see you there!

As lifelong learners, I hope that you embrace the UBEOC's mission to provide individuals with tuition-free college preparation as well as education and training they require to secure post-secondary credentials and/or enter employment.

I wish you and yours a wonderful and prosperous New Year.

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
716.645.1939

BUFFALO
SUNY UCAWD



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