

December 2016

UB Educational Opportunity Center

The **AFFILIATE**



The University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center celebrated its first annual Alumni Awards and Dinner Reception on May 13, 2016.

Over 30 Alumni, representing UBEOC graduates from 1971 to 2015 were recognized for their academic and career achievements and service to the community.

“I am proud to say that our students, past and present, understand the importance of giving back, reconnecting and providing role models for those who will come after them,” said Dr. Julius Gregg Adams, UBEOC Executive Director.

Alumni enjoyed tours of the new Educational Opportunity Center building, a social networking hour, awards ceremony, music and a catered dinner.

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

BEST WISHES



**AT THIS TIME OF
YEAR,
THE
ADMINISTRATION,
FACULTY AND STAFF
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
AT
BUFFALO
EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY
CENTER
WISHES
YOU AND YOURS
THE BEST
OF THE
HOLIDAY SEASON!**

2016 UBEOC AWARDS of DISTINCTION



Top:

Vilma Quinones, '94, '06 Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to an Alumna/Alumnus who represents the EOC mission of lifelong learning.

Bottom:

Carrie Penna '00 Arthur O. Eve Education and Community Service

The Arthur O. Eve Education and Community Service Award honors the legacy of Mr. Eve, former NY State Assembly Deputy Speaker and champion of the EOC's and EOP's statewide.

Distinguished Alumni Awardee

Ms. Vilma Quinones was born in Puerto Rico, and moved to Buffalo in 1989 with her husband, daughter and son. She initially worked as a part time housekeeper while her husband worked on the farms. Vilma enrolled and graduated from the UBEOC College Preparation Program in 1994 and then enrolled at Erie Community College in Office Technology. Upon graduation she worked Customer Service at M&T Bank and then after two years, went to Marine Midland Bank in Adjustments where she was recognized by bank officials for saving a million dollar account. Vilma stepped out from work for a while to attend to the special needs of her children, learning sign language and ADHD behavior. In 2005, she enrolled in the Registered Medical Assistant program and was immediately hired by Buffalo Medical Group upon graduation. Her career path indicates her hire at UBMD training doctors in Emergency Medical Records, Zenith Medical performing clinical and clerical duties and at Neighborhood Health Center assisting in internal medicine, pediatrics and OB-GYN. Vilma presently works at Academic Buffalonias in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Associates assisting in muscular and skeletal pain management and brain/spinal cord rehabilitation.

Arthur O. Eve Education and Community Service Awardee

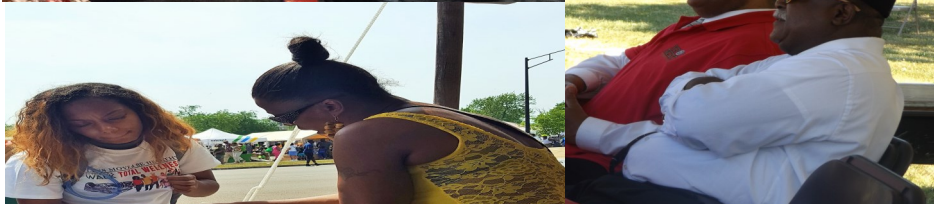
Ms. Carrie Penna found herself living pretty much on her own as a teenager and at an early age, married a businessman, had children and lived a lavish lifestyle. She says, "I had it all, big suburban home, in-ground pool, the works." Due to circumstances totally outside of her control however, all was lost... "I lost everything. I had no family support on either side. I had an infant and a toddler and I was basically once again, living on my own." Carrie reflects that giving birth on New Year's Day and divorcing six months later, was a turning point. So was the day she sought out assistance from Catholic Charities. It was there that she saw the flyer for the UBEOC Dental Assistant program and having two young children and qualifying for public services she decided to enroll. Carrie was an "A" student and earned a top clinical internship slot. She was hired one week after graduation at Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Associates of Western New York where she worked as a licensed Dental and Anesthesia Assistant for sixteen years. Happily remarried and now having three children, Carrie shows her gratitude for the education and support services she received by volunteering at the *Catholic Charities* women's shelter, *Cookies for Cancer* and *One Warm Coat* where her combined service adds up to fourteen years.

UBEOC ALUMNI IN ACTION!

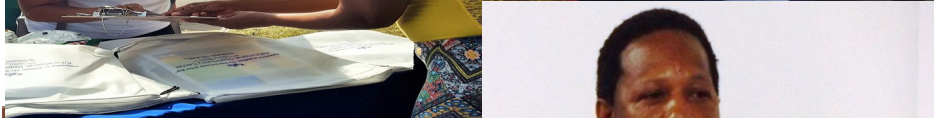
Pictures
Top Left to Right



Participating at Power to Emerge Conference (2 pictures) April 2016
Pic 1: Vilma Quinones '06
bottom left corner
Pic 2:
LaVita Spentz '88,
Tonnalee Batchelor '70's



Recruiting at Juneteenth June 2016 (2 pictures)
Kim Dixon '15, Tommie Babbs '77 wearing hat



Volunteering at UBEOC Open House August 2016
Carol Heavern '14, '15,
Patricia Elliott-Patton '04,
Cynthia Truesdell '93, '08,
Maikel McKenzie '16



Speaking at UBEOC Community Partners Day (2 pictures) August 2016
James Simmons '82,'13,
Patricia Elliott-Patton '04



Volunteering at Strengthening Families Event October 2016
Back Row:
Vilma Quinones '06,
Marcella Overton '94,
Linda Bonds '84,'85,
Kim Dixon '15,
Front Row:
Hamadi Shebule '15

ALUMNI SOCIETY

CLASS NOTES

**What UBEOC Alumni
"are up to!"**

LaShawn Chinn '90's

-Enrolled in Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program at Hilbert College
-Employed at Erie County Department of Social Services

Brenda Campbell Dunbar '06, '08

-Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Teacher
-Vice President Church Nurse Guild

Carol Heavern '14 '15

-Earned Microsoft Office Specialist Master Certification: Word Expert, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Outlook
-IT Tutor, Bryant & Stratton Buffalo Campus
-Exam Proctor, NYS Department of State, Buffalo Office

Marcella Overton '94

Executive Administrative Assistant, King Center Charter School

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ALUMNI AFFAIRS AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (AASD)

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Our first meeting was held on Nov. 10, 2016! Thank you to

Patricia Elliott-Patton '05,

Janet Shimburski '11,

LaVita Spentz '88 and

Vilma Quinones '06 for their

brainstorming ideas regarding:

- ◆ Goals of the Alumni Society
- ◆ EOC activity ideas aligned with UBEOC mission
- ◆ Collaborations with UB and the WNY community

- ◆ Social activities for Alumni and their families

...And "thank you" to the numerous other Alums who couldn't attend but emailed/phoned in their ideas!

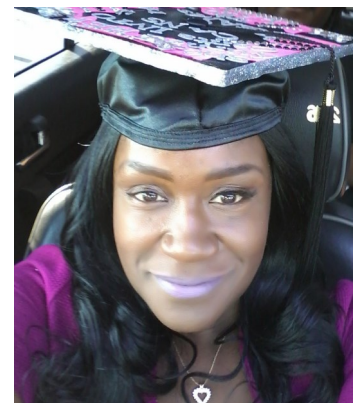
The Alumni Society promises to be a forum where your VOICES ARE HEARD and your ACTIONS ARE SEEN! ...*Stay tuned for updates via the Alumni List-Serv!*

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO ...!



Joleen Napierala '16

2016 Norman McConney Awardee
Lenovo ThinkPad Laptop Recipient
Recognizing student integrity, work ethic and community stewardship



Donna Lloyd '13

Erie Community College
Graduate
May 2016

Stay Connected!

EOC Website

www.eoc.buffalo.edu

Instagram @buffalo_eoc

Twitter @UBEOC

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
buffaloeducation-
al.opportunitycenter](http://www.facebook.com/buffaloeducation-al.opportunitycenter)

UBEOC Alumni Listserv:

**Over 700
Alumni Strong!**

Inform the Alumni Affairs Office of your email and receive newsletters and regular EOC updates directly to your own account. Tell your fellow Alumni friends to sign up by calling the Office!