

ISSUE 10 | SPRING 2024

# IGPE

## Spring Bulletin

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#### **25TH ANNIVERSARY**

A statement from our director, Brandon, Kawa.

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#### **SPECIAL GLOBAL**

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Hear about the special Global Book Hour that took place at our very own Anne Frank Project Global Learning Lab.

Newsletter of the  
International  
Graduate  
Programs for  
Educators

# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE STUDIES & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS

**BRANDON KAWA**

**IGPE DIRECTOR**

I am thrilled to share a momentous milestone with you: this year marks the 25th anniversary of the International Graduate Programs for Educators (IGPE) at SUNY Buffalo State University. For a quarter of a century, IGPE has been dedicated to providing on-site and on-line, accredited, and high-quality graduate coursework and professional development to teachers and administrators in international schools.

Since our inception, our mission has been clear: to make a positive impact on the teaching and learning processes within diverse educational environments. Through our comprehensive coursework, innovative workshops, and exciting collaborations we strive to empower educators with the tools and knowledge they need to inspire and educate the next generation. Our commitment to excellence in education is driven by the belief that through our collective efforts, we can make the world a better place.

Over the past year alone, we have proudly graduated nearly 200 educators from our program. This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our participants, our faculty, our IGPE office staff, and all the support we receive from the folks connected to our program at Buffalo State. Furthermore, over the past 25 years, we have celebrated the success of over 3,200 graduates around the globe. Each one of these graduates becomes a lifelong Bengal and carries forward our mission, contributing to the enhancement of education worldwide.

As we celebrate this significant anniversary, we reflect on all the wonderful educators who have been part of our journey. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to education have been the cornerstone of our success. We look forward to continuing this voyage together, advancing professional development and fostering a global community of educators.

Thank you for being a part of the IGPE family. Here's to many more years of shared learning and growth!

JEAN CLAUDE

EL CHALOUHI'S

STORY

# Alumni Spotlight

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Since completing my master's degree at Buffalo State in 2011, my career path has taken a truly rewarding turn. The program equipped me with invaluable knowledge and leadership skills that I have been able to leverage in leading the expansion of English Modern School. Currently, I serve as the Superintendent of English Modern School, overseeing a network of five campuses across Qatar,

educating over 5,000 students and boasting an impressive annual graduation rate with students attending universities worldwide.

These campuses include:

Doha City (2200 students)


Wakra City (750 students)

Al Khor City (780 students)

Additionally, I founded Vision International School in Wakea, offering an American curriculum with AP programs and accommodating 1200 students. My achievements extend beyond leading these schools. I'm incredibly proud of being recognized three times as Teacher of the Year during my teaching career.

Furthermore, in 2020, I received the prestigious Richard J. Bradley Award from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), a testament to my dedication to educational excellence. Building on this recognition, I was appointed as a NEASC Commissioner in 2021. This role allows me to contribute significantly to global educational quality by participating in quarterly meetings and collaborating on revising accreditation standards.



A field of orange tulips stretches towards a sunset on the horizon. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, with the sun low on the horizon. The tulips are in the foreground, filling the lower half of the image.

In addition, I hold appointments on various committees with the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and the Qatari Ministry of Education. These roles allow me to actively participate in discussions and contribute to the drafting of rules, regulations, and laws related to education reform in Qatar. My passion for education extends to the university level as well. I have the privilege of serving as an Adjunct Professor at Buffalo State University, where I teach five core courses within their master's degree program. These courses include:

EDU 604 - Instructional Strategies for More Effective Teaching

EDU 534 - Holistic Curriculum: Teaching to Both Sides of the Brain

EDU 577 - Teaching Students with Exceptionalities in the Regular Classroom

EDU 501 - Seminar for the Reflective Teacher

EDL 606 - School and Community Relations

SPF 611 - Evaluation in Education

Sharing my knowledge and fostering dialogue with educators and leaders globally brings me immense satisfaction.

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**“DON’T LIMIT A CHILD TO YOUR OWN LEARNING,  
FOR HE WAS BORN IN ANOTHER TIME.” -  
RAAINDRANATH TAGORE**

# Keith Ray


**PROFESSOR**

**SPOTLIGHT**

Keith Ray is an accomplished educational leader with a rich international background, having worked across the United States, Brazil, Vietnam, and Hong Kong. He completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics at Ohio University, followed by a Master of Science in Multidisciplinary Studies focusing on International Education from SUNY Buffalo State. Additionally, he holds a Post-Master's Principal Certificate in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Cincinnati and a Professional Principal License for Grades PK-12 from Ohio.

In his current role as the Chief Teaching and Learning Officer at School of the Nations, Keith oversees the development and alignment of curriculum that incorporates interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multicultural perspectives. His expertise spans curriculum development, teacher training, technology integration, data analysis, and multilingual education. These skills have enabled him to implement innovative educational strategies and foster inclusive, linguistically diverse, and globally-minded learning environments.



A photograph of a vast field of orange tulips stretching towards a horizon under a warm, orange sunset sky. A dirt path runs down the center of the field, leading the eye towards the sun. The overall color palette is dominated by warm oranges and yellows, creating a serene and hopeful atmosphere.

Keith's research interests center on translanguaging as a pedagogy, exploring its potential to enhance communication and learning in multilingual settings by leveraging students' diverse linguistic resources. This focus is part of his broader commitment to applying cutting-edge educational theories and practices to improve student engagement and academic outcomes.

Beyond his administrative and leadership roles, Keith is passionate about the design of educational technologies and AI-driven learning experiences, aiming to enhance the learning journey for both students and educators. His commitment to education is underscored by his dedication to creating dynamic and engaging learning environments that leverage technology to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving educational landscape.

**GLOBAL BOOK**

**HOUR**



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On April 29, 2024, children's author Amy Ludwig VanDerwater visited the Anne Frank Project Global Learning Lab at Buffalo State University. During this special Global Book Hour session, Amy read several poems from her book *Forest Has a Song*. The event connected third graders from South Buffalo Charter School with their peers from The School of the Nations in Brasília. This wonderful connection was facilitated, in part, through a partnership between The School of the Nations and the International Graduate Programs for Educators office at SUNY Buffalo State University, utilizing the advanced technology graciously provided by the Anne Frank Project.

In addition to the read-aloud, Amy shared valuable insights into her writing process, offering the young students a glimpse into the world of poetry creation. The session concluded with a lively Q&A session where the children had the opportunity to ask Amy questions and share their own poetry, fostering a deeper appreciation for literature and creative expression across continents.

For a full video of this wonderful event, please follow this link!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VV1-N0hA\\_Ck&t=3025s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VV1-N0hA_Ck&t=3025s)

# Additional News

Our director Brandon Kawa and Tamara Horstman-Riphahn, along with IPDS alum Bailey Buckley presented at the National Association of School-University Partnerships in Anaheim, California in March during a session entitled “Evaluating the Transformative Influence of a Teach-and-Study Away Program on Alumni: Cultivating Skillful, Empathetic and Broad-Minded Educators and Citizens Through a Globalized Exchange of Thoughts and Ideas” which presented research examining the transformative impact of SUNY Buffalo State University’s School of Education’s International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) consortium. The study assessed the lasting influence of this faculty-led teach and study away experience on participants, exploring personal, professional, and pedagogical changes. Using mixed methods, we analyzed pre- and post-travel reflections and evaluations, along with an alumni survey. Preliminary findings suggest alumni experience personal growth, increased cultural sensitivity, and enhanced teaching practices. This research highlights the value of international professional development in shaping educators' lives, fostering a global perspective, and better preparing them for diverse student populations.

## May 2024 Graduation





# Check This Out!

International Graduate Programs  
Admissions Instructions  
Pre-Major Admissions  
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Graduation Process  
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Independent Online Courses  
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Registration

## OUR HELPFUL LINKS

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