

# THE IGPE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATORS

## IGPE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENT

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR- BRANDON KAWA

Dear Partners and Students,

I am humbled to serve as the Director of IGPE starting Spring 2022. My journey with IGPE started as a graduate assistant in 2010 and I am honored a little over a decade later to lead to the program as the director. I am always astonished by the work of our international education community, and I am so fortunate to be able to take on this new role to continue working with our wonderful partners in every corner of the globe. I recognize that, worldwide, we have all had a very trying couple of years. Our goal as an office during this time has been to meet the moment and create innovative ways to continue offering cutting edge and robust professional development opportunities.

I hope that all of our partners feel that we have achieved this goal and we can continue to serve their ever evolving educational needs. I am grateful for the creativity and adaptability of our IGPE team throughout the past two years. Their hard work and optimism are a testament to the resiliency that everyone in our international community has shown. My wish is that the situation caused by the pandemic is beginning to look at least slightly more optimistic wherever you are and someday in the near future we are able to meet again face-to-face.

Soon, we will be celebrating our graduates at commencement. If you are graduating and travel is a possibility, we extend a warm and welcoming invitation for you to join us here in Buffalo for the on-campus ceremony. We would be honored by your presence and thrilled to host you.

I wish you all the best for a wonderful summer, whether that sees you traveling, taking time to relax or working on new endeavors. I can't wait to begin the 2022-23 academic year and I look forward to connecting with all of you, be it virtual or in-person, as the director of our exceptional program. On behalf of everyone in the IGPE office, I thank you for working with us and letting us be a part of your professional development.

Cheers to the successful conclusion to the 2021-22 academic year!

*Brandon Kawa*



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# IGPE SUMMER INDEPENDENT COURSES

NICOLE CALAMUNCI, CALAMUND@BUFFALOSTATE.EDU

Summer 2022 online, independent course enrollment will begin May 1, 2022. Students can complete courses independently, online through SUNY Buffalo State. The cost to complete a course online independently is \$900. \$600 of which is paid to the IGPE office at SUNY Buffalo State and the other \$300 paid directly to the professor of the course.

If you have questions about course planning, please contact your academic advisor, Nicole Calamunci [calamund@buffalostate.edu](mailto:calamund@buffalostate.edu). Students are also encouraged to track their progress in the program through DegreeWorks.

## Independent Course Process:

<https://igpe.buffalostate.edu/independent-online-courses>

## Independent Course Offerings:

<https://igpe.buffalostate.edu/sites/igpe.buffalostate.edu/files/uploads/Documents/Independent%20Courses%202021-22.pdf>

# PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

## A NOTE FROM JUDI HARRIS

Currently a lecturer at Buffalo State College in the school of education, special education, and childhood education department. I am passionate about teaching and have worked with IGPE schools in Colombia, Brazil, Mexico and QSI School with teachers in 29 countries such as China, Iran, Czech Republic, Dushanbe & Sarajevo.

As a special education teacher, in the city of Buffalo for over 40 years, grades K- 12 and higher education the examination of social justice for individuals with disabilities in an urban environment, is inherent in my practice. My relationships with teachers and administrators throughout the BPS over the years affords me the opportunity to work with the college PDS consortium. This is a rich opportunity for the college students. We work and learn together.

Teaching in the "Transforming Lives through Teaching Learning Community, at Buffalo State College I focus on four principles of social justice—equity, access, participation, and rights. These principles are evident in both every class I teach and the student's coursework. These "principles" align with the IGPE program. In the fall of 2021, our Learning Community partnered with a 4th grade class from Brazil's School of the Nations and read "How Alma Got Her Name" during the Global Read Aloud.

As a member of and professor to the Urban Teacher Academy, this college preparatory program, in partnership with the Buffalo Public Schools Career and Technical Education program, develops a diverse generation of future educators for the Buffalo Public Schools through the practice of culturally responsive teaching. As an IGPE instructor knowledge and expertise in CRT benefits the population we serve.



During my tenure with the BPS, I worked with the SETRC network, administered by VESID. As training specialists, we designed and delivered programs based on local needs and statewide goals. For an IGPE instructor this skillset supports one of the richest opportunities in the program. The "re-creation" of a semester long course to be delivered within a five-day period challenges my creativity. It requires crafting the course while considering each school's identity. Creating assignments that allow for student voice to meet the needs of a range of teachers from PreK-12, including clerical staff and teacher assistants using equitable teaching and learning frameworks. Amanda Gorman wrote "There is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it." My goal is to bring the light to every class, serve the students and remain humble by the gifts my profession has given me over 44 years.

# GRADUATION UPDATES

CATHY BEECROFT, [MOLDENCA@BUFFALOSTATE.EDU](mailto:MOLDENCA@BUFFALOSTATE.EDU)

After two years of virtual commencement ceremonies, we are excited to extend the invitation to all IGPE graduates from August 2021, December 2021 and May 2022 to join us in person at the 150th Buffalo State College commencement ceremony being held on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Please contact our Graduation Coordinator, Cathy Beecroft, for information regarding the ceremony and assistance with obtaining travel documents, regalia and lodging information. We are excited at the opportunity to once again host graduates from our program and share in this momentous event.

Plans are underway for commencement weekend, and we are working on making this a memorable weekend for IGPE graduates and their family and friends.

Please contact Cathy at [molendca@buffalostate.edu](mailto:molendca@buffalostate.edu) for more information.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

A NOTE FROM LILIT KHIAT

I grew up as an ambitious child in a close-knit Armenian family in Aleppo, Syria, this led me to travel, learn languages, and complete my undergraduate degree in my twenties. Unfortunately, the conflict in Syria derailed my plans to become an international teacher. I left home for a short holiday, but I did not know that I would never be able to return. Although I never forgot my dreams, I never expected them to become a reality considering the challenging circumstances. Years after not giving up and working hard on pursuing my plans, I did not only gain my International Teaching Certificate, but I enrolled at SUNY Buffalo New York State College's IGPE program and obtained my Masters in Multidisciplinary Studies in 2019.

"Every course gave me unique opportunities to benefit myself and my students directly. I implemented the ideas from my courses into the classes I was teaching during my studies."

I studied under a diverse team of highly educated instructors and worked with a wide variety of fellow students in the IGPE Program. I enjoyed interacting with my cohort. My students worked on Project Based Learning units, inquiry lessons, and technology based lessons. My action research in using metacognitive strategies to improve the reading fluency and comprehension of the students was a great success in class.



Today I continue to utilize the ideas I learned during my studies in the IGPE Program in my classroom. I have my own classroom as a full time teacher at an international school. I share ideas with my co-workers and have offered professional development to my colleagues. Due to the success I saw with my action research, I am further studying metacognition. My participation in the IGPE Program has given me the background to step into new ideas and pursuits. The IGPE Program showed me the path that I know will lead me deeper into my passions and career. I am committed to being a life-long learner and I am grateful for all of the people who made a difference to me by supporting me to earn my degree.

PDS



PARTNERS

# ALL HANDS ON DECK

COMBINING RESOURCES & EXPERTISE TO MEET THE  
NEEDS OF OUR EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES

**Free, online professional development opportunities available now:**  
<https://pds.buffalostate.edu/professional-development-pds-partners>

## Helpful Links

International Graduate Programs  
Admissions Instructions  
Pre-Major Admission  
Supplemental Requirements  
Graduation Application  
Transcript Request  
Independent, Online Courses  
Degree Works  
Transfer Credits  
Registration

## Directory

Brandon Kawa, Director  
[kawabf@buffalostate.edu](mailto:kawabf@buffalostate.edu)

Cathy Beecroft, Registration and Graduation Coordinator  
[molendca@buffalostate.edu](mailto:molendca@buffalostate.edu)

Nicole Calamunci, Admissions and Advisement Coordinator  
[calamund@buffalostate.edu](mailto:calamund@buffalostate.edu)