



Western
New York
Prosperity
Scholars

2013-2014
Directory



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

Natasha Allard

Pursuing MBA with
Concentration in
Marketing
Class of 2014



Natasha Allard graduated first in her business class at the State University of New York at Geneseo where she received the Wall Street Journal Outstanding Senior Award. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in marketing at the University at Buffalo. Natasha is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society and Golden Key International Honor Society. She is an avid volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Western New York, helping to grant wishes of local children with life-threatening medical conditions. A Western New York Native, Natasha is dedicated to improving the local economy and growing regional businesses and organizations. She plans to use her degree to achieve entrepreneurial success and create jobs in the region.

Eric Bartkowiak

BS in Electrical Engineering
Pursuing MS in Electrical Engineering
Class of 2014



Buffalo native Eric Bartkowiak graduated with a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University at Buffalo. Eric plans on specializing in power and energy systems for his MS in electrical engineering at the University at Buffalo starting in fall 2013. Eric is a member of IEEE, Tau Sigma and the National Society of Leadership and Success. In fall 2012, Eric was a recipient of the IEEE Power and Energy Society Scholarship for his interest in power systems as an undergraduate. He plans to complete an internship at Niagara Transformer where he will gain real life experience in transformer design and testing. Eric plans on working in the renewable energy field when he graduates in 2014.

Richard Bottom II

BS in Mechanical Engineering
Pursuing PhD in Mechanical Engineering
Class of 2015



Rick Bottom of Newfane, NY is a graduate student pursuing his PhD in Mechanical Engineering. His research focuses on practical applications of Computational Fluid Dynamics. Once finishing his degree Rick plans to start his own engineering consulting firm. Rick's motivation originates from the hard working attitude and good nature of his family.

Brian Bowman
Pursuing PharmD/MBA
Dual Degree
Class of 2016



Brian Bowman is pursuing a PharmD/MBA dual degree at The University at Buffalo. He is concentrating in healthcare administration and marketing in his School of Management studies. His research interests include mental health, clinical pharmacy, global medical missions, and leadership development. Brian is affiliated with the following professional chapters through the University at Buffalo: National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA), Western New York Society of Health-system Pharmacists (WNYSHSP), Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International (CPFII), and Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity. He has been inducted into Phi Lambda Sigma, the pharmacy leadership honor society, received first place in the 2013 Career Advantage Team Competition at the University at Buffalo School of Management, and is a recipient of a University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy Academic Scholarship. In the future, Brian plans to pursue independent pharmacy ownership and healthcare administration.

Thomas Brown
Pursuing BS in Civil Engineering
Class of 2014



Born in Detroit, Michigan, Thomas moved to Cleveland, Ohio and then eventually to Buffalo in 1999, where he grew up. Currently he is in his fourth and final year of Civil Engineering at the University at Buffalo. After finishing his undergraduate degree, Thomas plans to attend Graduate School at UB pursue an MS in Structural Engineering. During his time at UB, Thomas has been very involved with a Christian club on campus, UB for Christ, serving on the planning board for the last three years.

Ryan Carr
Pursuing MBA with a concentration
In Marketing
Class of 2014



Western New York native Ryan Carr completed his undergraduate degree in business at the University at Buffalo in 2012, and has continued on to pursue an MBA with a concentration in Marketing. Ryan is currently working at Fisher-Price as an intern in the Digital Marketing department of the Global Brands division, in East Aurora, New York. After completing his MBA, Ryan plans to stay in Western New York and open his own personal training business.

Raven Casselano
Pursuing BS in Medical
Technology
Class of 2014



Raven Casselano looks forward to working in laboratory research upon graduating from UB's School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in Spring of 2014. Before moving to Buffalo, Raven established a career at a high-end NYC design company. She began as a CAD draftsman and was rapidly promoted to a position which afforded her years of intensive business experience, through which she developed invaluable relationships and skills. When the company closed in 2010, she was emboldened to return to school, whereby she fell in love with Buffalo. Raven is involved in several community organizations, including the Westside Business and Taxpayers Association and Vision Niagara, which are directed towards the preservation and improvement of Buffalo's Westside and Upper Rock. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, gardening, fashion, travel, design, film, bicycling, and partaking in the plethora of local events Buffalo has to offer.

Carson Ciggia
Pursuing BS in Business
Administration with
Concentration in Entrepreneurship
Class of 2014



A native of Western New York, Carson Ciggia will graduate from The University at Buffalo with a B.S. in Business Administration in 2014. Being voted most likely to succeed from his High School Senior Class of 365 students and a School of Management Scholar, Carson has spent his three years at U.B. Founding the Undergraduate Business Association, Serving as the Academic Coordinator & Senator for Student Clubs and running for President of his class. In addition to this, he has been very involved in the community; he completed the U.B. Police Nine-Week Citizen's Academy, and has spoken multiple times, at his High School to incoming and current students. Upon graduation, he will be looking for employment with a local or national company. Carson's ultimate goal is to be C.E.O. of a publically traded company.

Christopher Courtney
Pursuing PhD with focus on
Entrepreneurship & Health
Care Management
Class of 2015



A native Buffalonian, Christopher Courtney is pursuing his PhD at the University at Buffalo with an interest in entrepreneurship. Before returning to school he ran his own business for over eight years that provided reverse logistic and remanufacturing solutions and to larger retailers. He is currently an Adjunct Instructor in the Computer Science department at Niagara County Community College (NCCC). He previously served on the Board of Directors for the Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce. He his wife and son currently serve as the Ambassador family for the March of Dimes and on the Family Advisory Council at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo. Chris was the recipient the Arun Jain Fellowship while working on his MBA. His team won 3rd place in the 2012 NYS Business Plan Competition. Chris has worked at the Erie County Industrial Development Agency in the International Program helping small businesses expand internationally. He successfully completed a two year professional development program and is now LeaderCORE certified at the Role Model level. He plans to pursue opportunities to start a business venture while researching and teaching entrepreneurship.

Maya El Hawa

Pursuing BS in Business Administration with concentration in International Business & Marketing

Class of 2014



Maya El Hawa is pursuing a bachelor's degree in International Business and Marketing from the University at Buffalo. Maya is a Provost scholarship recipient as well as a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. She plans to further her education by completing her MBA at UB while building her professional career locally. She is currently interning at Target as an Executive Team Leader managing a team of 20 employees by engaging and motivating them to ensure greater efficiency and productivity in the workplace. Maya has an extensive background in languages having lived in Lebanon for most of her childhood; she speaks fluent Arabic and French, and conversational Spanish. Maya has a strong interest in researching various cultures and their marketing needs; therefore, she spent a summer in Spain and France studying abroad, which made for a noteworthy addition to her cross-cultural background portfolio. As a WNY Prosperity Scholar, Maya's long term plans consist of remaining local and giving back to the community that helped her grow and develop. Her goal is to gain enough marketing research experience in order to establish a business that will aid local companies to expand globally.

Carthryn Hilliard

Pursuing MBA with concentration in Marketing

Class of 2014



Cathryn Hilliard, a Buffalo native, graduated *magna cum laude* from the University at Buffalo in 2012 with a dual major in psychology and political science. During her undergraduate studies at UB, Cathryn was a member of the University at Buffalo Division 1 Women's Soccer Team and earned the Mid-American Conference Presidential award, as well as the Mid-American Conference Presidential Award for her academic achievement as a student athlete. After graduation, Cathryn returned to UB in the fall of 2012 to obtain her MBA. Currently, Cathryn is serving as the HR Recruiter for the Buffalo MBA Consulting Group, which is a student pro bono consulting group dedicated to helping Buffalo companies grow and reach their full potential. She has also volunteered for several different non-profit organizations and events in Buffalo that are designed to help children gain self-confidence and realize the importance of teamwork through sports. Cathryn plans to pursue a marketing career in sports and hopes to use her influence to create a non-profit organization which would bring athletic equipment and guidance to underprivileged children throughout the Buffalo area.

David Huoh

Pursuing PharmD/MBA Dual Degree

Class of 2016



Born and raised in Buffalo, David Huoh is enrolled in a dual degree Pharm D/MBA program at the University at Buffalo. During his undergraduate studies, he was a proud member of UB's Honors College. Actively involved in over five different campus organizations, he was most recently the secretary of the School of Management Minority Alliance (SOMMA). He is currently an Innovation Assistant at UB Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach (STOR) and is also a Teaching Assistant for managerial accounting at the MBA level. Upon graduation, David plans to work in the field of healthcare administration with the hopes of eventually opening his own pharmacy.

Muhammad Khan

Pursuing a Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Degree

Class of 2016



Muhammad Khan will graduate from The University at Buffalo with a BS in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering in 2016. Born and raised in Queens, NY, Muhammad's passion for aerospace began as he watched jets landing at JFK over his house; and that ambition grew immensely when he took his first flight lessons when he was 13. Following his aspirations, Muhammad has taken up many challenging projects around campus. He is an active member of The Students for the Exploration and Discovery of Space (SEDS) where he has constructed high powered rockets, designed and assembled a launch pad, and built battle bots for the famous Bot Wars taking place during Engineers Week. Muhammad has also been involved with the UB AirForce Nano Satellite Project and has participated in research in the Automation, Robotics and Mechatronics (ARM) Lab on Simulation-Based Design of Exoskeletons. His future goal is to help develop the current technology so that it can help humanity one day travel through the immensity of deep space. He also plans to eradicate the barriers preventing engineers from constructing the arc reactor so that he can build his personal Iron Man suit.

Michael Kozlowski
Pursuing MBA/ Law
Dual Degree
Class of 2014



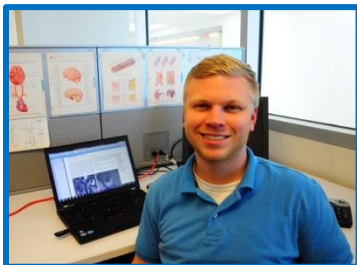
Michael J. Kozlowski Jr., of Lancaster, NY, will graduate in 2014 from the University at Buffalo School of Management with his Master of Business Administration and from the SUNY Buffalo Law School with his Juris Doctor. Michael received his Bachelor of Science in International Business from Canisius College in 2010. While at Canisius, Michael was selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Education Atlantis Program. This allowed Michael to study at and graduate from the University of Antwerp in Antwerp, Belgium, with a Bachelor of Applied Economic Sciences: Business Administration, also in 2010. Michael's time abroad involved spending an additional semester studying in Strasbourg, France, and allowed Michael to achieve varying levels of fluency in French, Spanish, and Dutch. Since returning to Western New York, Michael has been actively involved in student organizations in both of his graduate schools. Michael has also spent the past four years serving as a volunteer assistant coach for the track and field teams at Lancaster High School. Upon graduation, Michael plans to use his experiences and education to help with the economic development efforts in the Western New York region.

Michelle Lund
BS in Business Administration with
concentration in Marketing & Fashion
Merchandizing
Pursuing MBA
Class of 2015



Buffalo native, Michelle Lund will graduate from the University at Buffalo with her MBA in 2015. In 2011, she graduated with her BSBA in Marketing from The Ohio State University. Upon graduation she returned to Buffalo as a Marketing Specialist for Novum Medical where she gained valuable work experience and business knowledge. Her love for Buffalo is the focus of her career, and she hopes her MBA will allow her to use her passion for marketing and the Buffalo community to work with local companies to improve the region, create jobs and increase pride. In her free time, she loves to take advantage of all that Western New York has to offer especially the many festivals, concerts and other activities during the warm weather months.

Christopher Martensen
Pursuing Biomedical Engineering Degree
Class of 2014



Highland, NY native Christopher Martensen graduated from the University at Buffalo majoring in Biomedical Engineering. He is currently a Master's candidate at UB concentrating on hemodynamics and vascular biology. This summer, Christopher will intern at the Toshiba Stroke and Vascular Research Center under Dr. Hui Meng. In collaborating with neurosurgeons from Gates Vascular Institute, he hopes to do clinical and translational research to advance treatment of cardiovascular diseases like cerebral aneurysms and atherosclerosis. Outside of academia, Christopher enjoys spending time with his family and friends, as well as playing guitar, soccer, golf, and snowboarding.

Christopher Maugans
BS in Business Administration
Pursuing MBA & Law
Class of 2014



Chris Maugans is completing his MBA concurrently with a law degree, specializing in labor and employment law and workforce management. Chris has engaged in internships at Employer Services Corporation, VWR Education, SoPark Corporation, Erie Community College, Rich Products Corporation, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He has worked in various roles at the Career Resource Center at the University at Buffalo including Interim Head of Recruitment, Graduate Assistant, Practice Interview Program Coordinator, and Teaching Assistant. Chris has also served as the Teaching Assistant for the UB MBA program's Organizational Behavior course for two semesters. Chris is a five-year member of UB's Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) chapter and two-year Treasurer of UB's Labor and Employment Relations Society. He is also a two semester participant in the Affordable Housing Clinic where he collaborates with faculty and other students to represent non-profit developers of affordable housing and to assist in financing the creation of low-income and special-needs housing. Chris is currently a Senior Consultant with the Buffalo MBA Consulting Group, Western New York's first pro bono MBA student-run consulting firm, dedicated to contributing to local business needs.

Daniel Muffoletto
Ph.D. Candidate in
Electrical Engineering
Class of 2014



A native of Alden, NY, Dan graduated with B.S. and B.A. degrees in electrical engineering and physics, respectively, from the University at Buffalo Honors College in 2009, where he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. He is a recipient of the 2009 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, earned honorable mentions for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program in 2010 and 2011, and is a returning WNY Prosperity Scholar. As an undergraduate, he served as President for the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society and the UB Robotics club. When away from his academic work, Dan enjoys cycling, playing the trumpet, and hobby electronics and woodworking projects. His research interests include dielectrics and capacitive energy storage, and in particular in the study of soft field-driven actuators and their breakdown at high voltage.

Emily Nuding

BS in Environmental Engineering
Pursuing MS in Civil Engineering
Class of 2014



Emily Nuding of Hamburg, New York, graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Engineering in 2012. She is currently going into her second year of her Masters of Science in Civil Engineering, with a concentration in Environmental and Water Resource Engineering. Growing up near Lake Erie has undeniably influenced her interest in fresh water resources and sees the value in protecting our regional watersheds and Great Lakes. Outside of school, she enjoys volunteering, playing tennis, hiking, and canoeing with friends.

Alanna Olear

Pursuing BS in Environmental Engineering
Mathematics Minor
Class of 2014



Buffalo native Alanna Olear is a junior undergraduate student in the Environmental Engineering program. She is a recipient of the School of Management Alumni Association Education Grant as. Olear was involved with the Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) club as grant writer and leader of a life cycle analysis (LCA) project. She worked with UB Facilities, faculty advisor Professor Jensen, and ESW members to complete the LCA on hand drying systems at the university. Results were presented at the Celebration for Academic Excellence and the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute Student Competition. Alanna plans to further the research this academic year. Currently, she is an intern for the Solar Decathlon Team under supervision of Professor Martha Bohm, and is working on initiating a research project concerning renewable energy. She plans to intern for a renewable energy company in the Buffalo area in the summer of 2014. In her free time Olear enjoys yoga, running, and baking.

Christopher O'Neill

Pursuing BS in Business Administration with
Concentration in Management
Information Systems
Class of 2014



Christopher O'Neill, a Buffalo New York native, is a senior in the University at Buffalo's School of Management. Chris looks forward to focusing on a Marketing concentration for his business degree. Outside of school, Chris is employed at Ingram Micro in Williamsville as an Integration Specialist. Chris is a former small business owner, and recognizes the need to bring new jobs to the Western New York region. Chris enjoys several outdoor activities including golf, skiing and boating.

Daniel Ovadia
Pursuing BS in Business
Administration with Concentration
in Financial Analysis
Class of 2014



Daniel Ovadia of East Meadow, New York, will graduate from the University at Buffalo in May 2014 with a BS in Business Administration with Concentrations in Financial Analysis, Human Resources & Marketing. The oldest of eight children, Daniel began his UB career as a member of the Undergraduate Academies - Civic Engagement Academy. In the time since, he has served as a resident advisor, an orientation leader, the Undergraduate Student Association (SA) Community Service Coordinator, a team leader for Alternative Spring Break Buffalo and SA Senator. For the 2013-2014 academic year, Daniel was elected to a second term as the Student Representative to the UB Council. At the same time, Daniel will be serving as the Chief Public Relations Officer for the Terese Kelly Investment Group, a \$150,000 student investment fund. Upon graduation, Daniel plans to continue his education in pursuit of a combined JD/MBA Degree.

Marita Paredez
Pursuing MBA with concentration
in Marketing Management &
Iteration Business
Class of 2014



Marita Paredez graduated with honors from the University at Buffalo in 2008 with a BA in both Psychology and Sociology. Throughout her undergraduate career she focused on conducting psychological research in the areas of drug/alcohol addiction and adolescent relationships. Marita also enjoyed a semester abroad in South Africa. As a WNY Prosperity scholar Marita plans to intern with Summit Educational Resources in Getzville, NY and help solidify their Canadian exporting and marketing efforts; this internship is through the EDICA Exports to Canada program. She plans to graduate from the University at Buffalo in 2014 with an MBA in marketing and international management. With this degree, Marita hopes to help grow the WNY economy.

Abigail Prior
Pursuing BS in Environmental Engineering
Class of 2014



Abigail Prior, raised in Hanover, PA attended The Pennsylvania Institute of the Culinary Arts following high school. Her culinary career eventually led her to Western New York, where she is currently pursuing a BS in Environmental Engineering. Abigail has been an intern with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation since May of 2012, focusing on remediation.

Ellie Sanna
Dane & Business Administration
Double Major
Class of 2014



Ellie Sanna of Pittsford, NY, will graduate from the University at Buffalo in May 2014, receiving her BS in Business Administration with a Concentration in Marketing and a BA in Dance. Upon entering college, Ellie has continued to incorporate her passion for dance in not only in her studies, but also being a 2-year member of UB's Zodiac Dance Company, and through Choreography, winning various Choreography and First Place awards at competitions. Achieving Dean's List each semester since attending UB, Ellie has further pushed herself professionally by joining the International Business Fraternity of Delta Sigma Pi and held multiple positions some including Fundraising Committee, Historian, and Ritual Chair. Ellie is completing her internship at Art Services Initiative in Buffalo, NY doing Grant Writing, Finances and Community Outreach to further gain experience in what independent art companies in this Western New York region need to grow. After graduation, she wants to create a larger presence in the Art Community in Buffalo and the surrounding areas, using the arts to bring more culture to the area to create a more attractive environment that will draw people in allowing the entire economy to flourish.

Cindy Trometer
BS in Communications
Pursuing Electrical Engineering Degree
Class of 2014



Cindy Trometer is an Electrical Engineering major at UB and will be graduating in May of 2014. She has a degree in Communication Studies from New York University and worked in Los Angeles in marketing and as a freelance writer before returning to her hometown outside Buffalo in 2010. After graduation, she plans to produce a feature film shot entirely in Western New York and hopes to combine her two degrees to become a dynamic professional in the region. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers and IEEE.