

# TOP FIVE GRADUATING SENIORS

**Edwin Delvalle** is a senior majoring in Criminal Justice with an impressive grade point average of 3.90. In his first semester he was able to achieve a perfect 4.0 grade point average and made the dean's list every semester. By prioritizing his goals and focusing on academics as well as his personal life, Edwin's achievements included becoming a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society Beta Chapter as well as the Criminal Justice Honor Society. Aside from academics, Edwin has served the EOP and Buffalo State communities, working as an Academic Mentor for the Center for Academic Excellence while also volunteering his time for the college's Day of Caring, Reaching for the Stars, and the Anne Frank Project.

**Aariane Estrella**, a native New Yorker, has always been inspired by law enforcement and giving back to her community. She chose to come to Buffalo State because of its welcoming campus community and diversity. During her time at Buffalo State College, she worked as an EOP first-year mentor, University Police Student Assistant, Office Assistant, and RHJB member. She was recognized as an honor student throughout her college career and was inducted into both Alpha Lambda Delta and Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Societies while studying sociology. In the future, Aariane plans on pursuing a Master's degree in criminal justice and joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

**Schella Exil** is a Criminal Justice major who has excelled at SUNY Buffalo State since her arrival for the EOP summer program during the summer of 2013. Having achieved Dean's List recognition 6 times and EOP honors every semester, Schella is set to graduate with honors. In addition to Schella's academic success, she has continually attended campus events geared towards teaching students how to excel personally and professionally; skills that she then passed on to others. Given her dedication to her studies and mentoring others, we have no doubt Schella will thrive in all she does in the future.

**Alexia Matos-Mateo** is a Senior majoring in Criminal Justice and has two minors in Deviance and African American Studies. As an active member of the Buffalo State Community, she has served as an EOP Freshman Mentor, Campus Orientation Leader, EOP Summer Program Student Assistant, and a member of the Golden Griffin Battalion ROTC MSIV Cadet, a member of the Sisters Supporting Sisters EOP Women's Support Group, and Resident Director for the EOP Summer program. Alexia's commitment to her education has been recognized by being the recipient of the following awards: Who's Who Among Universities & College 2016-2017, 2016 First Year Mentor of the year, Key Bank Scholarship 2016, Emil Hoch International Education Scholarship 2016, Educational Opportunity Program Director's Award 2016, Dougherty-Witten Buffalo for Borne, Haiti EOP Scholarship 2016, 2017 Mildred Campbell Leadership Award, and the 2017 SUNY Chancellors for Award for Student Excellence. Alexia is an outstanding student leader and we have been very fortunate to have her as part of our EOP family. Alexia exemplifies exactly what we want for our EOP students. She has a strong commitment to her education and helping others. She is smart, articulate, and a mature student who not only sees the need for education, but also enjoys the process of learning. Not only is she committed to her education, but she has a strong commitment to serving our country.

**Brittany Syrell** is a nontraditional, first generation senior majoring in Social Work. In addition to achieving Dean's List, she has obtained a 4.0 GPA every semester except one. She is an active member of Phi Alpha, Tau Sigma, Chi Alpha Epsilon, and Phi Theta Kappa honor societies. As an intern at the Lancaster Youth Bureau, Brittany is a mentor for at-risk youth, assists in hosting Junior Scrabble Club for first and second graders, and has had the opportunity to volunteer and give back through community events. She has been an active volunteer for Meals on Wheels for over a year and a half. Brittany has shown resiliency in overcoming barriers of addiction and her accomplishments are a commendable example of potential, hope, and perseverance. Her future ambitions include obtaining a Ph.D. in Social Welfare, and working in the field of forensic social work. Brittany is set to begin graduate study in May 2017 at the University at Buffalo, in the Master of Social Work Advanced Standing program. She is also receiving the Alumni award for Top graduating senior.