



# CANISIUS COLLEGE

## WESTERN NEW YORK

## PROSPERITY FELLOWS

2015 - 2016



## Lauren Courtade '16

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Born in Buffalo, Lauren is a proud member of the Western New York community. Due to her passion for children, education, and her community, Lauren is a dual childhood and special education major, with an early childhood and middle school extension and a concentration in mathematics. Lauren has become a Canisius math tutor, where she tutors students from a Buffalo public school and charter school on a weekly basis. She also has become involved with the Teacher Education Club, and was inducted into the Education Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi. Outside of Canisius, Lauren maintains several different jobs which include being a cashier, babysitting, tutoring multiple gifted and struggling students, as well as running her own custom dessert business. Next year, Lauren will act as the Canisius Earning Excellence Program research assistant for the JUSTICE Project, which works to provide professional

development opportunities and resources for teachers in the Buffalo School District. Additionally, Lauren volunteers her time at Vive La Casa, a refugee shelter in Buffalo, and has been an active member of Blankets of Love since 2008, which creates blankets for cancer patients at Roswell Park. Lauren plans on graduating in 2017 and then pursuing her Master's Degree. With her education, Lauren hopes to become a special education teacher and help transform the Buffalo School System by providing all students with quality, research-based instruction and support.

## Kyle Dolcemascolo '15, MBA '16

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Kyle was born in the quaint town of Fishkill, New York. Throughout his undergraduate career at Canisius College, he majored in psychology with a triple minor in adult clinical psychology, adolescent & child psychology, and neuropsychology. As an undergraduate, he was deeply involved in psychological research focusing on behavioral neuroscience. As a result, Kyle was a Canisius Earning Excellence Program Grant Recipient for the 2014 - 2015 academic year. Furthermore, he was inducted into the National Honor Society in Psychology (Psi Chi) in 2015. Having graduated from Canisius College in May of 2015, he will be attending Canisius for his Masters of Business Administration in August of 2015. Although he majored in Psychology and was highly involved in the social sciences, Kyle believes that earning an MBA will provide him with invaluable skills that can be applied to a plethora of careers. He has

varying entrepreneurial interests that he hopes to take from mere ideas and turn them into successful businesses. Furthermore, Kyle is considering applying to graduate school in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Neuropsychology after earning his MBA. However, Marketing and Business are intriguing, and he feels that the field of business could pique his interest and ultimately determine his career path.



## Christina Estimé '17

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Christina Estimé, a rising junior at Canisius College, class of 2017, was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and immigrated to the Bronx with her family when she was nine years old. She is double majoring in philosophy and English and double minoring in women & gender studies and justice. She has been an active member of the e-board of Project Conservation, the eco-friendly club at Canisius College, since her freshman year and she is currently serving as co-president for the 2015-2016 school year. She will be an intern for the 2015 National Jesuit Student Leadership Conference that is being hosted by Canisius this summer. She is actively involved with the club field hockey team on campus and hopes to make the Canisius College Rowing team this coming fall. She is also part of the Women and Gender Studies board on campus, due to her active involvement in the discussion of gender equality on campus. She is currently searching for increased work

experience within the legal field, which the WNY Prosperity fellowship has allowed her to do. In addition to the WNY Prosperity Scholarship, she is also one of the recipients of Canisius' Benefactor Scholarship as well as the John L. and Luke J. Strauss scholarship. She has actively participated in Campus Ministry's weekend programs including sandwich ministry and the burrito project, both of which strive to alleviate the need for food, which greatly impacts much of the Buffalo population. One of the greatest qualities that she has come to appreciate about Canisius College is the focus on Jesuit values such as *Cura Personalis*, or *care for the whole person*. The core curriculum at Canisius greatly reflects *Cura Personalis*, which was how she was introduced to what has now become the driving passion in her life: Justice. She has realized that gaining a college education is not so much about what she can get out of the world as she previously believed, but about how she can use what she has gained through her studies and experiences to give back to the world and create change. After graduating, she hopes to attend Columbia Law School and go on to practice as a Human Rights Lawyer. As a justice minor, she would like to give back by using what she has learned at Canisius College and advocating for equality and fairness for all living beings on our planet.

## Moyla Halimy '16

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Moyla has been living in Buffalo for past seven years. She was born in Afghanistan and grew up in Turkmenistan. Moyla is majoring in environmental studies and minoring in international relations. Throughout her time at Canisius, she has been very involved on and off campus. Recently, she was re-elected as a senior senator was also elected as the President of Global Horizons. During her time as a junior senator, she started initiatives to spread awareness of Sexual Assault on college campuses. Moyla is the Chair of Sexual Assault Awareness Committee and the Sexual Assault Committee of Canisius College. In addition, she was the event coordinator for the biggest club on campus, Society of Pre-Health Professionals. At the same time, Moyla was taking 6 classes (18 credits) during both fall and spring semesters.

Moyla is not only involved on campus, she is involved off campus as well. She volunteers her time at a soup kitchen for homeless and assists immigrants with their resettlement and helps them learn English at Catholic Charities. In addition, she is a workstudy student in the Advancement Research office on campus in order to support herself financially. On the weekends Moyla works for Pomegranate Restaurant, which is her parents' restaurant. She hopes that Pomegranate Restaurant will do well and her parents will be able to hire more workers, so she can focus in her studies more. Moyla is hoping to work for the federal government as a policy maker. She is planning to take a Kaplan class over the summer which will prepare her to take the LSAT for law school. In law school she is planning to either study immigration law or international law.

## Shekinah Johnson '16

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Shekinah, a Buffalo native, is a major in international relations with minors in philosophy and Spanish. Throughout her time at Canisius College, she has developed a passion for global awareness, which has sparked her involvement in Model UN, Latin American Association and Friends, and Global Horizons. Shekinah is an active participant and performer of African dance at the yearly Global Fest, which promotes diversity and cultural awareness by showcasing different cultural performances and food. In addition to being a WNY Prosperity Scholar, Shekinah is also a Andrew Fellows Scholar, which was given for participation in the study abroad Tanzania program in summer 2015, focusing on faith, culture and education in Kilimanjaro. Away from Canisius, Shekinah is an active volunteer in the community. She is a committed volunteer at Vive La Casa, a non-profit refugee agency in Buffalo, NY as well as a recent volunteer at

Journey's End, which is also where she will be doing her internship. Shekinah has been working since the age of 15, receiving her first job as a peer educator in Teen Reality Theatre at Planned Parenthood of WNY. After Canisius College, she plans to pursue her master's in Public administration for non-profit management as well as pursuing French and Spanish as second languages. Ultimately Shekinah would like to continue on to a PhD, in order to travel and work internationally for NGO's.

## Kenneth Kamholz '17

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Kenneth Kamholz was born and raised in WNY. Currently, he majors in finance at Canisius College. Prior to transferring to Canisius College, he earned his Associate of Business Administration degree from Erie Community College. After becoming a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, he earned a great distinction for the society by being named a member of the All-New York Academic Team. Throughout his studies, Ken has also actively engaged with the community. He has participated in hands-on community-based learning opportunities. His first experience was at Erie Community College, where he and his brother designed a relational database program for Compass House to use in their daily operations. Upon attending Canisius College, he continued to be a positive force in the community by getting involved in ENACTUS, participating in both the Youth Entrepreneurial Showcase and the Sew REDI programs.

Through those programs, he helped develop education and economic programs for the children and refugees he served at each site. Aside from his regular studies, he has taken active steps to explore different areas of finance, so that he can confidently choose a career within the field that allows him to remain an active and positive force in the community. He hopes to use his education to work for a company that has an organizational culture and professional structure built to better the community at large. Once he earns his finance degree in May 2016, he plans to earn a position to start his career, while continuing his studies to also earn an MBA.

## Marissa Komanski '16

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Marissa, also known by her nickname Mars, is a biology major on the pre-medical track. Expected to graduate from Canisius in May of 2016, Marissa has been involved with many clubs and organizations on campus. She is an active member of the Society of Pre-Health Professionals, an organization which aims to build a network of students interested in joining health professions after graduation. Additionally, she is a member of the Pre-Student Osteopathic Association (Pre-SOMA), Donate Life Club, and Cooking Club. Off campus, Marissa works as a wedding consultant at David's Bridal, and volunteers regularly at events which are sponsored by the on-campus organizations which she is a part of. Marissa hopes to spend a year volunteering in the medical field through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps between the culmination of her undergraduate studies and medical school. She hopes to attend an osteopathic medical school

with goals of one day becoming a radiation oncologist and creating programs to focus on cancer prevention and naturopathic wellness management.



## Joseph Kwiatkowski '17

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Joseph Kwiatkowski is a South Buffalo resident who was originally born in Seoul, Korea. He was adopted and came to Buffalo when he was 6 months old and has lived here ever since. Joseph is going into his third year and studying neuropsychology on a pre-med track. When he graduates, he plans on going to medical school to be an oncologist and/or a neurosurgeon. In his first two years at Canisius, he has been involved with many different clubs and organizations. He is currently the President of Sigma Phi Epsilon and works for Campus Ministry as a Sacristan and Community Service Intern. He also just finished his term as a Sophomore Senator in the Undergraduate Student Association. Going into this academic year, he will also be a part of the Student Programming Board, Society of Pre-Health Professions, and Rifle Club. Along with being involved on-campus, he is also very involved off campus within the

community. He has done many community service projects through his Boy Scout Troop 335 in South Buffalo. Some of these projects include: building bat houses, birdhouses, and making hiking trails. For his Eagle Scout project, he led the troop and raised 115 headstones at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna. He currently volunteers as the Assistant Scout Master of the Troop. He also periodically helps out at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. As a 2015-2016 WNY Prosperity Fellow, Joseph will be spending his time at Women's and Children's Hospital, working in the administration office. Along with this, he is still working as a detailer at Basil Resale South in South Buffalo. After he is finished with all of his schooling, he plans on putting his skills to the test to make a difference in peoples' lives. His goal in life is to be able to help people in whatever way he can. When he becomes a doctor, Joseph plans on opening his own private practice in the Western New York area.

## Juston Lee Locklear '17

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Juston Lee Locklear, a North Carolina native, is a double major in marketing and psychology with a minor in international management and industrial organization psychology. Throughout his years at Canisius College, he has been extremely involved on campus. He was recently elected as the Vice President of Professional Development for the American Marketing Association, for the 2015-2016 academic year. He also serves as the Dugan Hall Resident Assistant, Tour Guide for the Office of Undergraduate Admission, and co-Griff Flixs Coordinator for the Student Programming Board. As a witness to the economic changes in Buffalo, he is inspired to develop smart, effective changes to the image of Buffalo and develop opportunities for potential businesses and residents to settle in this great city. After his undergraduate studies, Juston plans to get Masters from within his two current majors.

## Katrina Mackiewicz '15, MBA '16

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Katrina, a Buffalo native, is pursuing a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in international business. Katrina recently graduated from Canisius College with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. During her undergraduate studies, Katrina was a Wegmans Scholarship Recipient, an Evans Bank Scholarship Recipient, and a member of the Accounting Society. Off campus, Katrina is a Front End Coordinator and Community Giving Manager at Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. She also works as an Administrative Assistant at her family's restaurant equipment service and sales company, D&M Refrigeration, Inc. Additionally, Katrina is involved with Computers for Children, a not-for-profit organization striving to enhance educational opportunities for children through technology. After her graduate studies, Katrina plans to work as a Financial Officer at her family's company.

## Katherine McCarley '17

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Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, the third child of five, Katherine McCarley attends Canisius College and is dual majoring in English and psychology. While at Canisius, Katherine joined diversity clubs such as UNITY, ALANA, and Afro-American Society. She has excelled academically, managing to maintain a 3.53 GPA while working two part-time jobs. Katherine was awarded the James H. Munhall Scholarship her freshman year and the W.C. 68' & P.A. 88' Moore Scholarship her sophomore year. When not at school or work, Katherine commits most of her free time to the Buffalo Prep organization. This is a commitment Katherine has held since graduating from the 8th grade. While working alongside the management of the High School Prep program of the Buffalo Prep organization, Katherine is able to give back to the community that once gave help to her. By helping to educate and mentor financially

disadvantaged minority students, Katherine feels she is able to positively affect children like her. After she graduates Canisius with her bachelor's degree, Katherine plans to attend law school with the hopes that her career path will inspire young minority students to become interested in the field of law.

## James Moscato '17

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James, a Buffalo Native, is an undergraduate double major in accounting and accounting information systems, expected to graduate in May of 2016. Throughout his entire time at Canisius, James has been a member of the Accounting Society. James regularly attends Accounting Society events such as “Meet the Accountants Night,” various networking events and the end of the year “Accounting Banquet.” Off campus, James is active in several service activities. James has volunteered at Vive La Casa, assisting refugees from around the world. Through the NYSSCPA, James reconciled cash and ticket drawers for the city’s largest food event, The Taste of Buffalo. James is also a junior mentor for the Canisius Freshman Mentoring Program. This program aims to assist freshman with their questions and concerns during their first year in college. James is very active in the sports realm as well. James has interned for the Buffalo State

College Athletics Department under the athletic budget director. During the summer of 2014, James interned for the Buffalo Niagara Sports Commission and is still is a volunteer for them. Some of the events James has participated in are: USA Hockey Tournaments, NCAA March Madness and the local “50 Yard Finish” event, held annually at Ralph Wilson Stadium. During the 2015 tax season, James interned at The Bonadio Group in the tax department. James assisted with individual, foreign, corporate and trust tax returns. During the summer of 2015, James will be interning in the accounting and finance department for the Buffalo Bills. After his undergraduate studies, James plans to complete his master’s degree in accounting while sitting for and excelling in all four parts of the CPA examination.

## Elizabeth Nolan '17

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Elizabeth, originally from Manlius, NY, is a double major in entrepreneurship and marketing and expects to graduate in the spring of 2017. During her time at Canisius, Elizabeth has become increasingly involved with various clubs and activities on campus. Elizabeth is a part of the MyLinkFace management team (which helps foreign students on campus become more fluent and comfortable with the English language) and serves in this student-run organization as the Co-Director of Marketing. She is also a member of the Canisius Entrepreneurship Organization and will be serving as the VP of Communications on the e-board of CEO in the upcoming semester. Elizabeth has been an active member of Women in Business, attending various panels and meetings as well as participating in community day with the club at Habitat for Humanity. Elizabeth is also a member of the Canisius Music Scholars and participates by

playing French horn in the concert band on campus. Off campus, Elizabeth works at a small pottery studio in her hometown over school breaks, and is currently working as a marketing intern at Hylan Asset Management for the summer. Other scholarships that Elizabeth has received during her time at Canisius include: the Edward Burke Carey '69 Entrepreneurial Scholarship, the Canisius Music Scholarship, and the Canisius Trustee’s Academic Scholarship. In her future careers and endeavors, Elizabeth hopes to work in the marketing field for a lengthy period of time before someday starting her own business.



## Tyler O'Connor '16

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Tyler is a Buffalo native, born and raised. He is a double major in finance and economics and is expecting to graduate in May 2016. At Canisius he is the Director of Operations at MyLinkFace, a student run organization that tutors students in English, and the VP of Social Entrepreneurship in CEO, an organization devoted to promoting entrepreneurship and improving the leadership skills of its members and the student body. He has been involved with these organizations since he was a freshman at Canisius. He was recently accepted into Canisius' Golden Griffin Fund, which won the CFA global competition this year. He has been on the Club Ultimate Frisbee team in his freshman year and the Men's Rowing Team during his fall 2014 semester until he studied abroad in Galway, Ireland for the spring 2015 semester. He has previously been employed as a landscaper by Menne Nursery for the summer of 2012, a busser and

banquet server at Park Country Club from May 2014 to the present, a Credit/Finance intern-turned-associate at Ingram Micro from the summer of 2014 until November, and is currently employed by Priam Enterprises as an intern. He hopes to use his knowledge gained at Priam to help him create his own real estate investing company with a focus on rental properties. He also has interests in starting his own business, either in the entertainment industry, aerospace industry, or environmental technology industry, and his priority is setting up shop in Buffalo. This is in addition to his career interests, which include working as a financial analyst or an urban planner. His aim is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Buffalo via better housing, better city living, or better employment opportunities.

## John Overfield '17

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John, a native of Orchard Park, is a major in chemistry at Canisius College. He expects to graduate in May of 2017 with a bachelor of science degree. He is involved in many on campus clubs and organizations, which challenge him to stay ahead of the curve in many areas of life. He is the president and founder of the Spanish Club on campus, and has successfully organized several events that bring about learning in a fun environment. This was the first year he was a Resident Assistant, where he learned about himself and about life for freshmen students in a dormitory setting. Along with several other clubs, he also is a tour guide for the school and provides information and help to prospective students and their families. This allows him to gain interactive skills and hone in on his ability to speak in public. His off campus experience is just as vast and challenging as the involvement on campus. He works part time

throughout the semester at Chipotle, where he has been for two years, in a challenging but prosperous environment. Along with this, he is a football referee in the fall for local little league associations and high schools. He also finds time to volunteer at his local youth group, where he is able to interact and guide young adults. With all this, John has come to a cross roads with his decision in Chemistry. He wants to fulfill his lifetime goal of being a doctor and helping children get back to their families after their stay in the hospital, but at the same time, his internship at Isle Chem on Grand Island is exposing him to other ways of using his Chemistry degree. John is keeping an open mind in regards to his path after completing his undergraduate studies.

## Sarah Owen '17

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Sarah, a member of the Class of 2017, is a double major in international business and political science with minors in economics and German. Throughout her time at Canisius, Sarah has been actively involved both on and off campus. On campus, Sarah serves as Vice President of both Women in Business and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship clubs, in addition to being an active member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International. During the school year, Sarah works at the circulation desk in the Andrew L. Bouwhuis Library and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity. Sarah plans to study abroad in Germany during the spring 2016 semester at the Berlin School of Economics and Law. In her hometown of Springville, New York, Sarah has served as a deacon at Springville First Presbyterian Church, held employment with the Springville Country Club, worked as a manager at Cindy Lou's Frozen Yogurt,

and is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Through this fellowship, Sarah is an intern in the Business Development office at Excelsior Orthopaedics. With a particular interest in international trade law, after completing her undergraduate studies, Sarah hopes to earn a juris doctor degree.

## Tyler Owen '15, MBA '16

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Tyler, from Springville, New York, graduated from Canisius College in May with a dual degree in accounting and finance. Throughout his time at Canisius, Tyler has been active both on and off campus. On campus, he was involved with the Canisius College Accounting Society and served as a Council of Accountancy freshman mentor. For the Economics and Finance Club, he has held the positions of Vice President and Parliamentarian on the club executive board. His volunteer experience consists of assisting Habitat for Humanity and Relay for Life. During his four years at Canisius, Tyler worked for the Koessler Athletic Center Event Staff and the Canisius College Tutoring Center, where he assisted students in undergraduate business courses. Off campus Tyler has worked for Fairview Cemetery Corporation and now serves as a trustee on the Board. More recently, Tyler interned for the New York State Department of Taxation and

Finance in the Transaction Field Audit Bureau. This summer, Tyler is interning for Dopkins & Company, LLP in their general services. Tyler recently received the NYSSCPA Excellence in Accounting Scholarship and in the fall will be returning to Canisius to complete his MBA in Accounting and begin studying for the CPA.

## Hetal Patel '15, MBA '16

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Hetal, originally from Hamilton, Ontario, now lives in the Town of Niagara. As an undergraduate student, Hetal majored in finance with a minor in economics. She will now be continuing her education at Canisius for her MBA. Throughout her years at Canisius, Hetal has been very involved on campus. Hetal has been a member of the American Marketing Association (AMA) since her sophomore year. In her junior year, she held the position of VP of Finance and was elected President her senior year. During her two years on the executive board, AMA has won Best Overall Exhibit at the annual International Collegiate Conference in New Orleans for both years. Aside from AMA, Hetal is very involved with Campus Ministry. She started volunteering her junior year, became a Campus Ministry Service Intern her senior year and will be keeping her position throughout graduate school. As a service intern, Hetal has lead

projects that aid the homeless community of Buffalo and has served at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. Hetal is not only involved on campus but off campus as well. Coming from a Hindu family, Hetal volunteers her time with the Gujarati Samaj of WNY at the Hindu Cultural Center in Getzville. Hetal also currently holds two jobs. She works at Metcare Pharmacy at the Erie County Medical Center, where she helps in making sure less fortunate patients can obtain their medications. The second job is being a part of her family's business. Hetal aids her father, an entrepreneur, with his business ventures. After receiving her MBA, Hetal wants to work in management consulting. In the long run, Hetal wants to be able to help local businesses achieve their maximum potential while building a business of her own.



## Julian Patterson '16

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Julian Patterson is a native to the Western New York region. Julian is a dual major in communication studies and criminal justice. He also has a minor in child, family and community studies. Julian will be graduating in May of 2016. During his matriculation at Canisius College, Julian has been active on and off campus. Some of Julian's on campus involvement include: Orientation Leader for new student orientation, President of Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society, Member of Phi Alpha Delta International Pre-Law Fraternity and an active member of the Afro American Society. Julian is a recipient of the Michael F. Dillon Pre-law scholarship along with the Canisius College Raichle Pre-Law center scholarship for the 2015-2016 year. Off campus Julian is a full-time Direct Support Professional at Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled (CSDD). At CSDD Julian oversees the after school enrichment program for the youth that CSDD provides services to. Julian also volunteers at several water stops for some of Buffalo's largest races, such as the Corporate Challenge 5k and the Fleet Feet 15k. Julian aspires to be an attorney and advocate for juveniles that are in the justice system. He hopes to decrease the high rates of incarceration and develop a healthy alternative to incarceration for youth. After graduation Julian plans on attending law school to obtain a juris doctor degree to fulfill his aspiration.

## Jeff Spencer '17

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Jeff Spencer is an economics and finance major at Canisius College, expecting to graduate in the spring of 2017. Jeff is deeply invested in the Canisius community, serving as a class of 2017 Senator for the Undergraduate Student Association. His other involvement includes work as the President of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, work as an Orientation Leader and work as a research assistant in the Canisius Earning Excellence Program (CEEP). This past year, Jeff received the Judge Charles S. Desmond and Frank G. Reichle Pre Law Scholarships. Off campus, Jeff is an enlisted member of the United States Air Force Reserve, where he works as a command post controller at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. He also works at Citi Group as a compliance associate. Jeff plans on pursuing a juris doctor after his undergraduate studies.

## MacKenzie Tierney '16

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MacKenzie, from Boston, New York, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing and is expecting to graduate in May 2016. She is involved in the American Marketing Association on campus and was elected as the club's Vice President of Professional Development. She also participates in MyLinkFace, a club helping international students work towards understanding the English language and American culture. She has volunteered at Journey's End, aiding refugees in understanding English as a second language and setting them up for success in the work industry. She has danced for 16 years, making it on the Buffalo Jills in 2014 and currently interning at Darlene Ceglia's Dance Project. She is also involved in the fashion and makeup industry, being an assistant to a professional makeup artist in the Buffalo area and assisting on commercial shoots, weddings, and other projects. MacKenzie has been involved with the arts since a

young age and hopes to make fashion and the arts more prominent in the Buffalo area in the future.

## Bradley Wier '17

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Brad was born in Buffalo and grew up in the small local town of East Aurora. Brad is currently studying Finance in the Wehle School of Business at Canisius College and is very eager to begin working more in his field of study. From the time Brad set foot on campus, he did his best to get involved and partake in as many on-campus events and organizations as he could. For example, during his freshman year, Brad joined CEO, or "Canisius Entrepreneurs Organization." Since then, he has been elected the Vice President and been given a position on the CEO board. Additionally, Brad is a member of the Men's Rugby Club and frequently attends school functions to support his fellow classmates and teammates. Some noteworthy scholarships that Brad has been so fortunate to receive over the years include: Dean's Academic Scholarship, Dr. John Demerly Scholarship, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, and the WNY Prosperity

Scholarship. Off campus, Brad has done volunteer work at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy and Hawk Creek Wildlife Animal Shelter. In the summer of 2015, Brad began interning downtown at Franchise Development Group to help bring more business to the Buffalo area. After graduation, Brad plans on returning to Canisius to complete his MBA in Finance and secure a position in Buffalo or one of the nearby towns.

## Christopher Wier '15, MBA '16

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Christopher has lived in the Buffalo area all of his life, growing up in the quaint town of East Aurora. His educational focus at Canisius was in Entrepreneurship and Management, where he plans to impact the downtown Buffalo economy through community/workforce development. He completed his BS in May of 2015 from Canisius College and is currently pursuing an MBA at Canisius College. He was the Executive Vice President of the Canisius Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO) and also the Vice President of the Membership division during his time at Canisius. CEO allowed Chris to explore his entrepreneurial passion, while surrounded by likeminded people who aim to impact the Buffalo economy. He was also a co-captain of the Canisius Rugby team. On the side, he also volunteered at Hawk Creek Wildlife Organization, The Boys and Girls Club, and Catholic Charities. His began his professional experience was with Vector

Marketing Corporation as a sales representative, was promoted to assistant manager, and then to branch manager. The following summer he completed an internship with the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, where he found his passion for the downtown Buffalo community and its revitalization. He went on to work for Systems Personnel as an IT/Accounting/Finance recruiter to help high profile professionals more easily locate and transition into new opportunities. He currently works as a New Home consultant intern at Forbes Capretto. He is also doing an internship this summer with the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, where he is a Workforce Development Associate with a focus on growing the Campus' impact and outreach into the community. His future goal is to assist in building the Buffalo region's economy as a downtown developer, with a focus on New Urbanism.

## David Williams '16

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David, a Buffalo native, is a dual economics and finance major at Canisius College. He serves as an officer in the Economics and Finance Club as well as a vice president in the Canisius Entrepreneurship Organization. Outside of Canisius, David is in the process of creating an alumni volunteer organization at his alma mater, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute. He currently works as an intern at a local start-up specializing in mergers and acquisitions as well as a business valuation firm. Upon his graduation in 2016, David hopes to enter investment research with an emphasis in how macroeconomic factors influence debt and equity.



## Chen Zhang '17

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Chen is from China and immigrated to Buffalo in 2004. He is a dual major in accounting and accounting information systems. Chen has been on the Dean's List for six consecutive semesters. Recently, he was awarded John T. Kennedy Memorial Award for attaining the highest GPA in his junior class. Throughout his time at Canisius College, Chen has been involved on and off campus. He was recently inducted as a member of Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, a premier honor society for business students. He is a Junior Mentor for the Freshmen Mentoring Program at Canisius, where he helps freshman accounting students develop time management and study skills for academic success. Lastly, he has been a member of the Accounting Society since 2012. Off campus, Chen has been actively involved in the community. Chen has been volunteering at Catholic Charities of Buffalo since 2012, where he developed leadership and teamwork experience through volunteering at the site. Additionally, he volunteered at the Buffalo Animal Shelter as a part of a service learning project in spring 2014. Chen is currently interning at Rich Products Corporation in the international finance department. Chen conducted training sessions for building financial reports in Oracle Hyperion Planning. He also built financial reports using Hyperion Planning system for effective decision-making as a part of his task. After his undergraduate studies, he plans to earn his MBA in accounting at Canisius College, as well as pass the CPA exam before working at a public accounting firm.