



# CANISIUS COLLEGE WESTERN NEW YORK PROSPERITY FELLOWS

2018-2019



## Sydney Adams '19

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Sydney is a psychology major, with a focus in neuropsychology, and a minor in music. Throughout her time at Canisius, Sydney has participated in the Pep Band as a flutist. Sydney plans to graduate in 2019.

Because of her interest in music and psychology, Sydney has conducted research on the psychological and neurological effects of music. Specifically, to test the effects of music on people with mental health issues, developmental disorders, as well as neurodegenerative diseases.

Off campus, Sydney has been very involved in the community. She participated in “This Week in Black History” as the featured artist playing piano and has appeared on AM Buffalo to promote the Black History celebration. Sydney also participated in the Young Miss Buffalo Pageant where she was awarded the Most Talented award. She has trained with Joseph Brancato (piano) and Joseph Mahfoud (guitar). On Sundays, Sydney volunteered at Temple of Christ church as the church/choir pianist.

Music plays a large part in Sydney’s life and she hopes to raise awareness of the benefits music has on cognitive functioning and development and promote the use of Music therapy as a form of treatment. Overall, she aims to use music therapy as a way to reduce the availability of abusive medication and aid the drug problem throughout WNY. After completing her undergraduate studies, she plans to earn a juris doctor degree in neuropsychology and plans to always continue making music.

## Charles Bell '19

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Charles Bell is a Buffalo native pursuing a degree in psychology with minors in sports psychology and clinical psychology. He is on track to graduate in 2019.

Charles was a 2016 and 2017 recipient of the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo scholarship and was one of the original 11 students to be chosen by General Motors through the Community Foundation's *Success Looks Like Me* program to go to Detroit and meet GM's corporate leadership.

Charles has been extremely active on and off of campus. He has served on the board of the Afro-American Society for the past two years – currently as vice president of programming and assume the role of president in the 2018-2019 academic year. Last year, Charles participated in the Immersion: East Side course where he and his classmates coordinated a panel discussion about the problems that residents of the East Side of Buffalo experience every day.

Charles currently works as a shift leader at Rite Aid and as a lead teacher at Charter School of Inquiry working for Just for Kids. Prior to his current work in education, he spent several years working with children at the YMCA and Matt Urban Center, as well as volunteering at BPS 17 and the Massachusetts Avenue Boys and Girls Club.

Following graduation, Charles plans continue his education by enrolling in a master's in sports psychology and eventually earn a doctorate in psychology which will enable him to open his own practice. He would also like to open a non-profit center for at-risk youth and young adults to mentor them and provide them a refuge from a life on the streets.



## Patrick Collins '20

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Patrick, a native of Orchard Park, is a sophomore finance major in the Richard J. Wehle School of Business. Prior to attending Canisius College, he graduated from Canisius High School, where he was selected as an AP Scholar and National Honor Society member. In addition, Patrick was named the Midshipman I/C Jeffrey R. Korn Memorial award winner and was a finalist for the famed Mr. Canisius distinction.

During his college career, Patrick immerses himself in activities both on and off campus. He is a member of the All-College Honors Program and has earned a place on the Dean's List in every semester. For the 2017-2018 academic year, Patrick was selected as a resident assistant in Bosch Hall on the Honors living-learning community floor. He has served as a class representative of the Honors Student Association since his freshman year, and was recently elected as president of the club's Executive Board. As a Martin Luther King Scholarship award recipient for community service, he frequently volunteers at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy in Buffalo.

Outside of campus, Patrick currently holds a part-time communications and operations coordinator position at The Martin Group, a Buffalo integrated communications firm. He previously worked as an intern at Goldberg Segalla, a Buffalo-based law firm where he assisted in the day-to-day operations of Bunkers in Baghdad, a not-for-profit organization. Patrick also spends his time as an assistant swimming coach at Canisius High School, a lifeguard at Hickory Hill Swim & Tennis Club, and an umpire for the Orchard Park Little League.

Unsure of his career aspirations, Patrick hopes that he can someday benefit the greater Buffalo region upon graduation.



## Caylee Curtin '20

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Caylee is a Buffalo native and a psychology major with minors in child, family, and community studies and criminal justice. She began her college career at John Carroll University, but decided to transfer to Canisius College after missing Buffalo and her family.

Throughout her short time at Canisius College, Caylee has been very involved with the campus community. She is a member Phi Sigma Sigma, the only sorority on campus. In the sorority, she is a member of the sunshine committee, philanthropy committee, and risk management committee. Caylee is also a member of Women and Gender Studies Club and will be studying abroad this summer

in Galway, Ireland.

Off campus, Caylee has been working at Wegmans for three years. She is currently working on the bread production side of the bakery. Caylee is also a volunteer dance teacher aid at the dance studio Danceability. She volunteers with a class that has two severely autistic students.

After her graduation in 2020, Caylee plans to get her master's degree in social work. She hopes to someday open her own non-profit service.

## Joey Hamilton '20

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Joey Hamilton is a Western New York native and junior at Canisius College majoring in entrepreneurship. He has distinguished himself academically by achieving placement on the Dean's List during the past four semesters.

Joey is working closely with the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization where he is helping to relaunch Canisius Innovation Lab. This relaunch will guide students on their entrepreneurial endeavors.

Joey attended St. Mary's High School in Lancaster, and as a student he co-founded Charlie and Checkers, a children's entertainment company serving western and central New York as well as northern Pennsylvania. This company has been profitable each of the past 6 years and even performed at the annual White House Easter Egg Roll for three consecutive years. As a result of his entrepreneurial ambitions, Joey was recognized in a nation-wide scholarship event hosted by the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) Youth Foundation. He was one of five national recipients of this prestigious award.

Joey hopes to better the lives of children in Western New York, while providing employment to hardworking young people in the area. Outside of School and Business, Joey enjoys living in Lancaster, NY where he is active in community events. He is currently volunteering his talents to Oishei Children's hospital, where he entertains sick children.

## Janelle Harb '18, MBA '19

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Janelle, a Buffalo native, is enrolled in the One Year MBA program at Canisius College and is expected to graduate in May 2019. In May 2018, she graduated from the All-College Honors program at Canisius with a bachelor's degrees in digital media arts and computer science, and a minor in music. She was awarded the Trustee's Academic Scholarship to attend Canisius College as an undergraduate.

During her undergraduate career, she was heavily involved with the college's student newspaper, The Griffin. She quickly rose through the ranks, and became a section editor as a sophomore, and resided as Editor-in-Chief for both her junior and senior years. She also served as president of the Digital Media Arts Club for two years.

Throughout her senior year, she worked closely with her professor Dr. Przemyslaw Moskal as part of the Canisius Earning Excellence Program (CEEP), creating a virtual reality visualization of Fort Niagara. In addition to this, she lent her artistic skills to designing the sixty-sixth edition of Canisius' annual literary and visual arts magazine, the Quadrangle.

Janelle was also a soprano in the Canisius College Chorale for three years under the direction of Frank Scinta, and has been seen in several Canisius College Little Theatre productions. During the summer of 2017, she was a student leader for Canisius' Be The Light Youth Theology Institute for high school students.

Off campus, she has had internships at several marketing agencies and production companies, including Crosswater Digital Media and Mr. Smith. She has also worked closely with Canisius' own marketing department working to improve its website and social media presence.

Upon graduation Janelle looks forward to staying in Buffalo and contributing to its economic growth. She hopes to provide opportunities and encouragement for young women to get involved in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) fields and work to make technology, art, and music more accessible.



## Sheena Jarmon '17, MBA'19

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Sheena Jarmon is a Buffalo native and 2017 Canisius College graduate with majors in finance and international business. She is currently pursuing an MBA in professional accounting.

Sheena is a returning Fellow and a very involved student. She is an alumnus of Canisius' Urban Leadership Learning Community and has worked as a graduate assistant at the Women's Business Center. She is also a member of the Accounting Society and the DiGamma Honor Society.

Outside of Canisius, Sheena volunteers at a local tax firm and is in the process of creating a nonprofit organization that will concentrate on increasing financial literacy.

Upon graduation in 2019, Sheena plans to obtain her CPA and work full time in her family's business, Fat Lady Cakes and Pies, controlling the assets and financial operations as President and CFO. She plans to expand the business in order to create jobs and be a source of hope and inspiration for the community.

## Brannon Jones '17, MBA '20

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Brannon is a Buffalo native and 2017 Canisius College graduate with a double major in psychology and human services and a minor in communication studies. He is now pursuing his MBA and plans to graduate in 2020.

Brannon is passionate about education and service to humankind, which he has demonstrated as a dedicated volunteer at Canisius and in his community. He served as president of the Teacher Education Club and spent two years working at a local after-school program assisting K-8th grade students. Brannon also interned with Campus Ministry providing coordination of service events. Through Campus Ministry, Brannon participated in Canisius service trips to New Orleans and New York City to aid in hurricane disaster relief efforts, initiated a local partnership to connect Canisius students with refugee children, organized the campus-wide day of service Community Day, and led a team of students to Chennai, India to learn about the caste system and related social injustices.

As a senior, Brannon became a member of the WNY Prosperity Fellowship. Through the Fellowship, he became a communications intern for the Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI), a nonprofit in Buffalo's West Side. He also held an internship at Rich Products, working as a communications intern. For the past year, Brannon has been working as a human resources assistant at Child & Family Services in Buffalo. Brannon feels strongly connected to the fields of human resources, organizational development, change management, and employee engagement. His overarching goal is to transform how people experience work and how organizations empower their people.

## Austin Klink '19

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Austin was born and raised in Buffalo and is pursuing a double major in marketing and entrepreneurship with plans to graduate in May of 2019.

He is currently involved on campus with the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization club and is revitalizing their Innovation Lab in the 2018-2019 school year. He is part of a core group of students who will strive to bring their entrepreneurial ideas to fruition in just one semester. In addition, he also is a member of Happiness in Progress, a club looking to promote a better attitude and tone on campus.

Austin currently works two jobs, one at his family's business, Chrusciki Bakery, and the other in a local downtown restaurant, Osteria 166. At Chrusciki, Austin works in a multitude of roles such as retail worker, baker, delivery personnel & social media manager. In the past, Austin volunteered his time working with Habitat for Humanity and the Teacher's Desk in Buffalo.

Austin's plans for the future include continuing to learn Spanish as a second language, opening his own businesses, and pursuing his passion for traveling the world. Austin hopes that his future business ventures will help creatives people, artists and others in their attempts to keep up with this ever-evolving technological world. He also plans to give back to the community that gave his grandparents and mother a chance when they immigrated to Buffalo from Poland just 31 years ago.



## Juston “Lee” Locklear ’17, MBA ’19

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Lee Locklear is a North Carolina native but considers himself an adopted Buffalonian. He graduated from Canisius in May 2017 with majors in marketing and psychology and a minor in international management. Lee is currently a student in the MBA program.

Throughout his time at Canisius, Lee has enjoyed being involved on campus. He was president of the American Marketing Association Chapter, served as the treasurer of the Public Relations Student Society of America and held leadership roles with the Student Programming Board.

As an undergraduate student, Lee was a Prosperity Fellow and performed his internship as a marketing and communications intern with 43North. As a result, he was able to attain full-time employment with 43North as an events coordinator.

Currently, Lee is enrolled at Canisius in the Evening MBA Program. After graduation, he hopes to continue his career working in the entrepreneurial startup realm of Buffalo, where he will be able to help small and under recognized companies reach their full potential.

## Elise Miller '19

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Elise Miller is a member of the class of 2019 and hails from Orchard Park, New York. Her studies spans areas of business and the arts with a major in Digital Media Arts - Graphic Design concentration and minors in studio arts and interdisciplinary entrepreneurship.

During her time at Canisius College, Elise has been heavily involved with her major, including the Digital Media Arts club and various freelance and volunteer projects. After becoming an entrepreneurship minor, she joined the Canisius Entrepreneurs Organization and served as executive vice president for the 2017-2018 academic year. Elise will spend the 2018 fall semester abroad at

Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea.

Elise worked in the marketing and communications department at Canisius during her freshman year. She currently works as the communications assistant at Christ the King Seminary, creating marketing materials for events and prospective students. She also served as the graphic designer for The Canisius College Video Institute from 2017-2018.

Following her graduation, Elise intends to continue her career in Buffalo before furthering her studies with an MFA in Studio Art. Through this fellowship, Elise hopes to improve economic and social conditions in Western New York through education and innovative creative solutions.

## Msaada Nankumba '19

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Msaada is a resident of Buffalo; however, he grew up in a refugee camp in Kenya after his family fled war and violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. His family was relocated to Buffalo in late 2014, and he has worked tirelessly to catch up with English speaking peers ever since.

Msaada majors in biology on the premedical track, is in the All College Honors Program, and expects to graduate in May 2019. He has already been accepted as a student at the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical science.

Msaada is an active member of the Canisius campus community serving with several associations and clubs. He serves as treasurer for the Society of Pre-health professionals and was recently elected as the Honor Students Association Senior Class Representative.

Msaada worked with Dr. James Mohler, chair of the Roswell Park Urology Department, researching prostate cancer recurrence after failure of androgen deprivation therapy in men. He has presented this work at three different institutions. Msaada also participated in the Roswell Park Junior Robotics Surgery Challenge Competition where he obtained hands-on experience in robotic surgery.

Msaada enjoys running, playing soccer, dancing, and reading history. In addition to his mother tongue Mashi, he speaks Swahili, Lingala, French and English. He interprets for refugee families in Buffalo and is an ESL consultant for Erie 1 BOCES. Msaada serves as a minister and an interpreter at the Revival church of Buffalo, as well as volunteering with Catholic Charities Refugees Resettlement Agency, Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Peace Prints Prison Ministries.

After graduation, Msaada plans to earn his MD and MBA degrees. His goal is to start a clinic serving underrepresented minorities and refugees in a multilingual environment. The clinic would include a rehabilitation center to help fight opioid and other addiction diseases. He also hopes to start a charity foundation to help economically disadvantaged individuals. This foundation will provide ESL classes, guidance with technical skills, and counselling.



## Nicholas Spinosa '20

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Nick hails from Rochester, New York, and is pursuing his undergraduate degree at Canisius College with majors in economics and mathematics and intends to graduate in 2020.

Nick is heavily involved in campus affairs as a representative of his cross country and track teams on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee; a group geared toward expanding the voice of student-athletes on college campuses. Nick has also displayed his leadership abilities as a representative of all Canisius student-athletes on the Sexual Violence Prevention Team. He recently traveled on behalf of the college to Albany for a MAAC conference where NCAA policy and mental health initiatives were discussed. Additionally, Nick is the secretary of the Economics and Finance Club as he handles administrative affairs and general body member communication.

Nick spent last summer immersed in customer service while he interned for Paychex in a call center to assist their 401k clients. He was also fortunate enough to be the recipient of the Paychex Scholarship. Nick will be studying abroad this fall in Galway, Ireland, and has a wide variety of career interests including data science, investment management, and law.

After his undergraduate studies are completed, he plans to attend graduate school and someday own his own business.

## Adelle Tucker '20

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Adelle is an entrepreneurship and marketing major at Canisius College and is on track to graduate in 2020. She was born in Cheltenham, England and moved to Buffalo, New York in 2008.

Adelle is very involved on campus, recently being elected as the president of the Canisius Entrepreneurs' Organization. She is also a member of the All-College Honors Program. Last summer, Adelle worked at Moog, where she completed a human resources internship, assisting with interviews of potential employees,

scheduling meetings and interviews and other important tasks.

Adelle is a very entrepreneurial-minded student and has been running a photography business since the age of 15. She plans to continue to develop her business while balancing the demands of college, extracurricular activities and contributing to her local community through volunteering.

Since a young age, Adelle has been extremely involved in her community, contributing over 300 hours of service through various clubs and organizations. She thoroughly enjoyed working with Meals on Wheels, a wonderful program that delivers meals to the elderly or to individuals who are unable to prepare their own meals. She also worked closely with the Matthew Foster Foundation, which assists families of children with cancer.

Adelle is extremely passionate about entrepreneurship. Following her graduation in 2020, her goal is to either expand her business beyond photography and videography services or hold a creative position in the corporate world.