



COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

BUFFALO STATE • The State University of New York

The 8th Annual Student Research and Creativity Fall Forum

November 14, 2025

2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Welcome to the 2025 Communication Department Student Research and Creativity Fall Forum! Today, we recognize and celebrate your scholarly, creative, and professional achievements. You have worked hard to bring together your research and ideas to this forum, and we are delighted with the opportunity to have you here. This forum offers us a platform to discuss what shapes the field of communication, what inspires us, what elevates us, and what concerns us. Communication as a field is ever-changing, and you are at the forefront of this transformation by engaging in research, creative, and professional activities to not only showcase what you have learned in your class but also bring to light how communication is evolving in our society. Your participation in today's forum demonstrates your dedication to the field, your inspiration for new knowledge, and your commitment to learning. We congratulate you and your faculty mentor. Enjoy the forum!

Communication Department
Buffalo State University

2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

BUCKHAM B141

What Sports Say About Us

Kevin McDermott

Media Production

Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

Restrepo & Direct Cinema

Derek Dandrea

Media Production

Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

Surveillance and Resistance: Government Fear of Black Empowerment in MLK/FBI (2020) and Black Panthers: Vanguard of Revolution (2015)

Nailah Abdul-Furqan

Media Production

Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

The Contexts of Motorcycling

Salvatore Kilonsky

Media Production

Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

The Unnatural Disaster of Hurricane Katrina

Jenyelyn McClary

Media Production

Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

BUCKHAM B142

Putting on the Detective Hat

Matthew Barton

Journalism

Faculty Mentor: Annemarie Franczyk

Fanning the Flames: Building a Community Around Red Dragon

Isabella Shenandoah-Kurtz

Communication Studies

Faculty Mentor: Ann Liao

Fate, Faith, and Formula One: The Spiritual Narrative of Senna

Pius Kitengie

Media Production

Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

Herzog and Coppola's Shared Descent into Madness
Magnus Lundquist
Media Production
Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

"Icarus" and the Geopolitics of Documentary Film
Timothy O'Rourke
Communication Studies
Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

BUCKHAM B141

Center Stage or Stereotypes? Black Women's Roles in Contemporary TV and Film
Neshiah Alston
Communication Studies
Faculty Mentor: Ann Liao

Players to Punters
Cesar Taveras
Media Production
Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

Social Media and Mental Health in Film
Ayla Oakley
Media Production
Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

'Blackfish' Documentary Analysis - Exploiting Animals in Captivity & Why It's Wrong
Emma Hoang
Media Production
Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

Voices That Were Always There: Indigenous Women's Activism
Paige Smith
Communication Studies & English
Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

Technology and Its Consequences
Matthew Miles
Media Production
Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

My Winnipeg and the Avant-Garde
Ayden Lindsay
Media Production
Faculty Mentor: Meg Knowles

Congratulations, Presenters!

**Fall Forum Organizer:
Ann Liao, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Communication Studies**

**Fall Forum Moderators:
Dorothea Braemer, MFA
Associate Professor
Media Production**

**Annemarie Franczyk, Ed.D.
Associate Professor
Journalism**