

# Sem Snippets

November 2009

## CELEBRATING SEM!

On Friday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Buffalo Seminary prepared to "CELEBRATE SEM" with the unveiling of the new Squash and Athletic Center. With a special donor recognition and ribbon-cutting event, Sem formally opened the school's beautiful two-court squash facility and Athletic Center, providing tours, demonstrations and a champagne reception.

As Dean of Students Helen Marlette explained in an interview with *The Buffalo News* reporter Charlie Garfinkel, "Two and a half years ago we realized that our old gym needed to be upgraded. Our Board of Trustees spent many hours trying to decide how we could best utilize the space. We arrived at a decision that we wanted to provide a sport that our students could enjoy and utilize as a lifelong sport. We also wanted a sport that could serve both Buffalo Seminary and the community. After considerable research and investigation it was decided that squash would be the best choice for our present and long-range plans."

Squash, indeed an ideal sport for Sem's small footprint space, provides an invigorating workout, requires great sportsmanship, friendly competition, and just plain fun. "The game of squash has really taken off throughout the country, especially at the high school and collegiate level," Mrs. Marlette explained.

Offering a lead gift, instrumental to the start of the BSS&A Center, was **Katherine Crandell Bassett '50** together with her family, Kingman and Lori Bassett, **Katie Bassett '75** and **Mary Bassett Wilson '84**. Convinced that squash was an excellent choice for the school, contributions from Seminary supporters around the country soon followed, resulting in a very successful and fully-funded initiative. Buffalo's own Gordon Anderson, known world-wide as one of the leading builders of squash courts and one of the best senior players in the world, lent his time and expertise in building the Seminary facility complete with viewing area.

Aware that this first-class athletic facility should provide space and opportunities for all students eager for lifelong health and fitness, the BSS&A Center was designed with a regulation badminton court which will be used for volleyball, shooting baskets, Pilates, yoga and dance, as well. This part of the project was made possible in large part by the Halim\* and Amy Habib Family in honor of their two Seminary graduates, **Amy Habib Rittling '86** and **Kara Habib Boyle '87**.



*Toasting the successful completion of the Buffalo Seminary Squash & Athletic Center, former Board Chair Amy Habib Rittling '86 and present Chair Kevin O'Leary*

Two fitness rooms completed the renovation project to make better use of additional athletic areas. One room houses treadmills, an elliptical machine, a recumbent bicycle, and a weight training area. The second area boasts more than 15 rowing machines for crew, bringing those practices, which had occurred at an offsite location, back to school. A contribution from Herbert and Dolly Ladds and their family helped the school realize this goal.

## A COLLEGE SPORTS LEGEND HELPS SEM CELEBRATE SQUASH



*Paul Assaiante*

In 1972 he was an alternate for the U.S. Men's Olympic Gymnastics Team, but today Paul Assaiante is known throughout the world for his tireless devotion to the game of squash. Assaiante is the head coach of the Trinity College men's squash team, which hasn't lost a game in 11 years and boasts a current winning streak of 202 matches.

On Friday, Oct. 2, Coach Assaiante was our honored guest for a daylong, school-wide celebration to unveil the new Buffalo Seminary Squash & Athletic Center. During an afternoon assembly, he gave a stirring speech to the entire school. For more than 30 minutes, he inspired students and faculty alike with remarks that were both serious and tongue-in-cheek. Even as he communicated his passion for athletics, the two-time Olympic Coach of

the Year offered advice that applies not only to the world of sports, but also to the game of life. "Live like your hair's on fire," he told the girls. "Don't let anyone ever tell you what you can and can't accomplish." As a vivid example, he explained how he had once been cut from his school gymnastics team, only to serve as an alternate at the Munich Olympics decades later.

We thank Paul Assaiante for taking time out of his busy schedule to be with us for the special day. We also thank Anderson Courts & Sports Surfaces for designing and building our new facility. Finally, we are profoundly grateful to all our donors and supporters, who have given Sem an outstanding facility. We look forward to sharing this new center with our community.

# Ribbon Cutting

for the

- Bassett Squash Courts •
- Habib Gym •
- Ladds Fitness Center •



Top: (left) Mary Bassett Wilson '84 with son, Trustee Lori Bassett, Katie Bassett '75, Elizabeth Bassett '11 and Kingman Bassett; (right) Dean of Students Helen Ladds Marlette, Julia Ladds Claus '75, Amy J. Habib, and Amy Habib Rittling '86, Head of School Jody Douglass and Board of Trustees Chair Kevin O'Leary (hidden from view on the podium Kara Habib Boyle '87); Middle: (left) Melinda Rath Sanderson '80, Sara Sanderson '13, Emily Glick '13 and Patty Glick; (right) Sally Jeacock Munschauer '43, Trustee Phil Niswander and Dick Munschauer; Bottom: (left) Jennifer Markus '83, Elizabeth Markus '85 and Madeline Ambrus Lillie '68 (right) Gordon Anderson and Paul Assaiante with members of the Squash team

## THE RED KEY SOCIETY

### UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF LOYAL AMBASSADORS

This fall we unveiled the Red Key Society, a selective organization made up of student ambassadors for Buffalo Seminary. Membership is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have been nominated by their peers and teachers. Self-nominations are also accepted. Nominees are then interviewed by the Admissions team. Those girls who made the final cut in early October were welcomed as the founding members of the Red Key Society.

Red Key Society members exemplify students who not only follow, but can articulate, Sem's mission. While every student has admirable school spirit, the responsibilities given to a Red Key girl require her to speak confidently, often to strangers, in a formal setting. The ability to communicate passion, dedication, and knowledge of the school to an outside audience is critical. We're happy to say that this ability was clearly demonstrated at our October 18<sup>th</sup> Open House. Our Red Key girls were the designated tour guides, leading prospective families through the school and offering informative commentary about classes, clubs, and activities.

The Red Key Society is a wonderful way to give Sem girls the leadership skills they need not only for college, but for life. We're proud of our first group of ambassadors and look forward to showcasing their school spirit throughout the coming year.



## WELCOMING OUR NEWEST TRUSTEES

A nonprofit organization is only as strong and vibrant as the people who safeguard its mission. At Buffalo Seminary, we are fortunate to have the support and counsel of a talented and committed board of trustees. In this fall issue, we are honored to introduce you to the newest members.



*Lori A. Bassett*

A native of Massachusetts, **Lori A. Bassett** is a graduate of Cathedral High School and Assumption College, where she earned her bachelor of arts degree in business management. Before moving to Buffalo in the 1990s, she worked in sales to promote brand-name children's apparel at the wholesale level to specialty and department stores throughout the country. Her career took her from the company showrooms in San Francisco to high-end clients such as Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Bloomingdale's in New York City. She also managed sales offices and personnel in the Southeast, including Atlanta, GA, and Charlotte, NC. Active in the Western New York community,

Lori serves on the board for the Maria Love Convalescent Fund, and is co-chairing this year's 106<sup>th</sup> Charity Ball. She is a past President of the Elmwood Franklin School Parent Council. Lori and her husband, Kingman Bassett, Jr., are the proud parents of four children: Sarah, a 2009 graduate of Nichols School and now a freshman at Colgate University; **Elizabeth**, a junior at Sem; John, an eighth grader at Elmwood Franklin; and Kingman III, a sixth grader at Elmwood Franklin.



*Jane Hopkins Carey '75*

A resident of Wilmington, DE, **Jane Hopkins Carey '75** earned her bachelor of arts degree in government from Georgetown University and her certificate as a publications specialist from George Washington University. She has spent much of her career working on behalf of her undergraduate alma mater, Georgetown, where her numerous high-profile positions have included Associate Vice President for Alumni and University Relations, Executive Director of the MBNA Career Education Center, and most recently, Leadership

Engagement Consultant for the Office of Advancement. Early in her career, Jane worked as a Senior Research Analyst for The National Geographic Society. A strong advocate for quality education, Jane has focused her volunteer efforts to benefit Georgetown and Tower Hill School, a co-educational independent school for children in preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She and her husband, John, have three sons: William, 20; Timothy, 18; and John, 15.

**Michael T. Gacioch** is the President and CFO of National Property Management Associates, Inc. With corporate headquarters in Orchard Park, the family-owned and operated company manages apartment communities nationwide. Michael earned his bachelor's of business administration in economics and finance



*Michael T. Gacioch*

from St. Lawrence University. He is a member of the board of directors for the Boys & Girls Club of Orchard Park, as well as a board member for Hilbert College. An alumnus of St. Francis High School, Michael is a member of the school's capital campaign committee and a recipient of the St. Francis Alumni Recognition Award. In his role on the advisory board for Evans National Bank, he uses his fiscal planning expertise to support the bank's executive leadership team. He enjoys skiing, golfing, and traveling, and is an avid car collector. Michael and his wife, Michelle, are the proud parents of four daughters: **Michela '10**, **Milan**, **Madison '13**, and **Mirann**.



*Alice Jacobs*

**Alice Jacobs** earned her bachelor of arts degree from Colgate University and her juris doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. For eight years, she practiced corporate and immigration law at Hodgson Russ LLP. Alice has served on the board of trustees at Elmwood Franklin School for the last nine years, three of which have been spent as chair. She is also a founder and former trustee of the Western New York Women's Fund. Alice served on the Alliance Foundation of Roswell Park Cancer Institute for many years before stepping down this year.

An active board member for the Maria Love Convalescent Fund, she chaired last year's spring luncheon. She also serves on both the Fall In Fashion event committee and the grants committee for the Western NY Women's Fund. Alice and her husband, Jerry, have two children. Daughter **Melissa** is a sophomore at Sem, and son Justin is a seventh grader at Elmwood Franklin.

**Luella "Ellie" Harder Johnson '57**, our newly elected alumna trustee, is an experienced teacher of both high-school and college-level mathematics. Ellie earned her bachelor's degree in economics from Cornell University, her master of arts from the University of Oregon, and her doctorate in mathematics education from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She began her career at Buffalo Seminary in 1962. In 1966, she left Sem to teach in community colleges, including San Jose City College, but returned to her alma mater in 1973. In the early 1980s, she was one of many faculty members who encouraged the school to buy its first four Apple computers, a move that helped Sem enter the computer age. Ellie then managed the computer room and a fledgling computer literacy program in addition to her math department duties. At Buffalo State College, she and her colleagues led workshops for math teachers who wanted to use computers and graphing calculators with their middle-school and high-school students.



*Luella "Ellie" Harder Johnson '57*

## MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR BUFFALO SEMINARY TEAM



*Melissa Kreppel and Amber Zepper (not pictured: Sophie Michaud and Liz-M Zerouki)*

### FRESH FACES IN THE FACULTY ROOM

**M**elissa Kreppel teaches math at Sem, and also coordinates the social activities for the residential program for our international students. She graduated with a bachelor of science in mathematics with secondary-education certification from Marywood University. At Marywood, she ran cross-country and track. She was salutatorian of her graduating class and won a medal for excellence in math. Melissa is currently completing her master's at Buffalo State College. She enjoys teaching at Sem because of the small class sizes, which allow her to focus her attention on individual students.

**S**ophie Michaud, an instructor of French, chairs Sem's foreign language department. Not only is she fluent in both French and English, but she also speaks graduate-level German. She completed her doctorate in French and Francophone literature in August 2009 at the University at Buffalo. She is originally from France, but has lived in Western New York for seven years. She received her bachelor's degree from the Université Catholique de Lille with an advanced certificate of English conferred by Cambridge University. She has taught French at Canisius College, and served as the Vice President of Education at the Alliance Française de Buffalo. Sophie uses a variety of dynamic methods to show her students a more contemporary picture of France, its culture, and the French language. "When students make progress in my class, it makes my day, and I realize how much they grow not only as students, but as people."

**A**mber Zepper teaches Spanish and AP Spanish courses. Amber graduated with her bachelor of arts in Spanish and secondary education from Concordia College in Minnesota. She also received her diploma in Spanish as a Second Language from Instituto Cervantes, Spain, and her diploma of Hispanic Studies from University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain. Before joining the Sem faculty, Amber taught Spanish at Centennial Pines High School and Albert Lea High School in Minnesota. She moved to Buffalo in the summer of 2008.

**L**iz-M Zerouki teaches a senior elective in the Arabic language at Sem. A native of Algeria, she received her education from University of Algiers and taught high school there for several years before moving to the United States. She has taught and tutored French at Erie II BOCES, Canisius College, and Buffalo State College. She has also taught in the language department at Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School. Liz is fluent in English, French, Arabic, and Berber, and has an excellent knowledge of diverse cultures. In her spare time, she is a voracious reader. She also enjoys writing about her experiences as an immigrant and the time she has spent working with refugees and other immigrants.

### A RISING STAR IN OUR FRONT OFFICE

**M**oira Giammaresi '05 serves as administrative assistant to Head of School Jody Douglass and is also our internal communications coordinator. In 2009, Moira graduated from Canisius College with a bachelor of arts in communications with concentrations in public relations and advertising, interpersonal and organizational communications, and integrated marketing. She also pursued a minor in women's studies. Committed to our mission of empowering girls, Moira is thrilled to be part of the Sem team.



*Moira Giammaresi '05, Gwen Baggs Ito '81 and Erin Ross Moses (not pictured: James Cody)*

### HELPING US SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT SEM

**G**wen Baggs Ito '81 is our new Marketing Coordinator. She works with all departments to coordinate the school's marketing and public relations initiatives. She also tutors a few of our international students who require extra support in English as a Second Language (ESL). Gwen earned her bachelor of arts from Yale College in 1985 and her master's in education from the University at Buffalo in 1989. She taught ESL at the University of Illinois in Chicago before living abroad for a few years. After returning home to Buffalo in 1997, she began her career in advertising. She has worked as a copywriter and editor at several local ad agencies, and for many years was a contributing writer for *Buffalo Spree*. Her radio commentaries have also been featured on WBFO. Gwen credits Sem for playing a pivotal role in her life. The proud parent of **Hanna '13**, she is thrilled to help the school promote its mission to a wider audience.

**E**rin Ross Moses is Associate Director of Admissions. In this role, she supports our school-wide enrollment goals, with a special focus on international recruitment. Her previous experience includes advising international students at Columbia University, working as a human rights educational consultant, and doing development work at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She has also served as a staff assistant to U.S. Congressman James A. Leach. In addition to her admissions work at Sem, Erin is a freshman advisor and teaches a sophomore health seminar on international human rights and wellness. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in political science from Villanova University and her master of arts degree in international educational development from Teachers College, Columbia University. Erin has lived and studied in Italy and Belgium. A native of Buffalo, she is happy to be back home with her family and is eager to advance Sem's reputation worldwide.

### KEEPING WATCH OVER OUR BELOVED FACILITY

**J**ames J. Cody is Sem's maintenance supervisor. He oversees all maintenance issues on our properties. His extensive background in maintenance and construction includes working as a construction field engineer in Niagara Falls, facilities designer in Orchard Park, and senior mechanical designer at DuPont in Niagara Falls.

**A SITE TO BE SEEN!**

**Learn About Or Apply For Our**

- Growing Residential Program
  - U.S. Residents
  - International Students

**Stay In-The-Know With Our**

- Expanded Calendar

**Read About Our Students**

- Currently Profiling
  - Casey Perley '04
  - Soo Yeon Moon '09

**View Our Media Gallery**

- BSS&A Center Ribbon Cutting
- Alumnae Fall Luncheon
- Sem Stories: Recalling Fond Memories

**Sign In To Our Alumnae Portal**

- Read Class Notes
- Customize Your Portal Page

**Make Your Annual Fund Gift**

- Any Time, Anywhere

FOLLOW US AT [WWW.TWITTER.COM/BUFFALOSEMINARY](http://WWW.TWITTER.COM/BUFFALOSEMINARY)



*The old and the new: JV Field Hockey players, family and friends gathered for a 'photo op' atop the 100-year-old limestone wall of Larkin Field in front of the beautiful new fence that replaces the overgrown shrubbery which hid field activity*

**ANNUAL FUND DRIVE UNDER WAY**

Your support of last year's Annual Fund was deeply appreciated! Gifts to this fund provide the school with the flexible resources to address immediate and ongoing needs through the fiscal year. This includes faculty salaries and enrichment, financial aid, technology resources, sports equipment and library supplies: operating expenses that tuition fails to cover.

We are grateful for the commitment and ongoing support of our community. Our consistent fundraising success ensures a secure future for Buffalo Seminary, full of growth and opportunity for the young women in our keep.

Please remember Seminary's 2009-2010 Annual Fund. Gifts may be made online: [www.buffaloseminary.org](http://www.buffaloseminary.org); or call the Development Office: 716-885-6780.

**WITH OUR APOLOGIES - ANNUAL REPORT OMISSIONS**

**Gifts in Memory**

**Susan A. Harvey '74**

Barbara Fischer McQueeney '74

**Marion Osborn '40**

Alison Coatsworth Johansson '44

**Margaret B. Herron '73**

Barbara Fischer McQueeney '74

**Kathy Seiler '74**

Barbara Fischer McQueeney '74

**Judith E. McDade '79**

Catherine Forbush '79

**Juliet A. Zietlow '60**

Martha Zietlow '65

**Callie Montesano '74**

Barbara Fischer McQueeney '74

**Photographers:**

Michele Goldfarb  
Jordan Joseph '10  
K. C. Kratt

**Printer:**

Petit Printing

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

*Fall Play: Gaieties - Wed., Nov. 11 - Sat., Nov. 14*

*Grandparent Coffee & Morning Meeting - Tues., Nov. 24*

*Entrance Exam - Sun., Dec. 6*

*Holiday Bazaar - Sat., Dec. 12*

*Winter Revel - Thu., Dec. 17*

*Young Alum Luncheon - Mon., Jan. 4*

*Prince Lecture Series, Allison Prince '75 - TBA, Jan.*

*Father-Daughter Rose Dance - TBA, Feb.*

*Open House - Sun., Feb. 28*

*Soiree - Sat., Mar. 6*

*Dillon Drama Series - Thu., Mar. 11 - Sat., Mar. 13*

*Wilkinson Poet, Ansie Silverman Baird '55 - Fri., Mar. 19*

*Spring Colby-Oishei Artist, Mara Hoffman '95 - TBA*

*Joan Kostick Andrews '48 Annual Spring Concert - Wed., April 28*

*Art Show/Spring Cafe - Thu., May 20*

*Reunion 2010 - Fri. June 4 - Sat., June 5*

*Graduation - Tues., June 8*

For more information, visit our web site:  
[www.buffaloseminary.org](http://www.buffaloseminary.org)

## SPORTS SHORTS

FROM THE STUDENT PRODUCED NEWSLETTER *Meant to be RED*, OCTOBER 2, 2009

### GOLF

by Alyssa Moffat '10

The golf team has started off the season strong. We've had two tri-matches so far. Our first match was home against Williamsville North and Holy Angels. The second match we played was away at Bob-O-Link against Mount Mercy and Immaculata.

So far, the golf team is 3-1! This is the best that the team has done in the past three years! Keep up the great work, girls!

### SWIMMING

by Julia Schreck '11

Buffalo Seminary's Swim Team started off with a splash this year, winning the first meet against Mount Mercy! Although our team is small, we pulled together for an outstanding win. However, the next two meets against Nardin and Holy Angels didn't go too swimmingly. No worries though, Sem girls know how to rock a red and black one-piece swimsuit better than any other school!

Our two seniors, Kelsey Shea and Sarah Stoklosa, have proved themselves to be awesome captains, while this year's juniors, Jen Cotto-Ecklund, Olivia Knauss, and Julia Schreck, have each made impressive times this year. The sophomores of the team, Alex Holland and Maya Radocchia-Feuerstein stand strong and powerful alongside the lone freshman, Francesca Schreck. The team's new coaches this year, Christina Jasek, a junior at Buff State, and Laura Pino, a graduate from Buff State, encourage and work us hard daily, in order to get us ready for our meets.

**GO RED-TAILED HAWKS!**

### FIELD HOCKEY

by Grace Clauss '12

Field Hockey has been busy this season! Although our team has yet to officially win a game, all of the members on both JV and Varsity have played really well and kept their spirits up. We practice Monday-Friday unless a game is scheduled then. Come to our next home game and cheer us on!

SPORTS SCORES AND SCHEDULES CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEB SITE:  
[WWW.BUFFALOSEMINARY.ORG](http://WWW.BUFFALOSEMINARY.ORG)



*Squash game in the newly opened Squash and Athletic Center*



*Field Hockey on freshly resodded and leveled Larkin Field which also sports a brand new scoreboard*

## HAVING AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY



**A**t Buffalo Seminary, giving back to the community is important. Students are encouraged to serve at soup kitchens, tutor grade-school children, clean parks and city streets, and more.

So, it was no surprise that, when planning for the new squash courts, plans were also initiated for a Youth Squash Program. With a goal to provide city youth a chance to play a sport they otherwise might never have played, Seminary squash coaches and team members are currently ironing out the details to bring students from Buffalo's Tapestry Charter School and St. Monica's Scholars to the Sem courts. A future goal is to expand the program to other schools in the Western New York community.

*As part of the opening of the new Squash and Athletic Center, Paul Assaiante conducted a squash clinic for Tapestry Charter School students*

## FALL COLBY-OISHEI ARTIST

### SEMINARY'S OWN: TAMMY WETZEL



Botanical Gardens  
Buffalo, NY

After the Storm  
Tybee Island, GA

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then this year's Colby-Oishei Artist, Tammy Wetzel, gave Buffalo Seminary a wealth of creative inspiration. Tammy is a multimedia artist whose work encompasses digital and traditional media as well as assemblage and installation. A faculty member in Sem's Visual Arts Department, "Wetzel", as she is known by her students, has been teaching

photography, graphic design, and digital media since 2003. An accomplished professional artist, she has exhibited her work in Los Angeles, New Orleans, and several Buffalo galleries, including the Albright-Knox. She also teaches at Squeaky Wheel and is a regular exhibitor at the annual Music is Art festival, Buffalo's most extensive exhibition of local music, dance, and art.



## HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

### SEMINARY STUDENTS ON THE MOVE WITH CLASS TRIPS

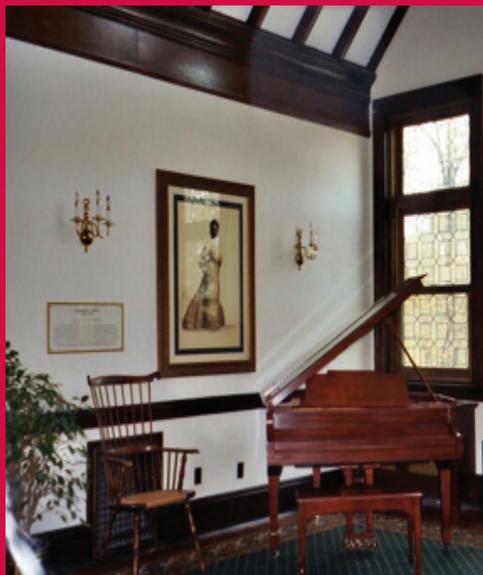
Seminary students are here, there, and everywhere! Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> they could be found cleaning Buffalo's Delaware Park, canoeing down the Buffalo River, camping at Whispering Pines in Franklinville, NY, and trekking the streets of Washington, DC.





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## CALLING ALL ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS

Your daughter or the daughter of a friend can now attend Sem, even if she does not live in Western New York!

Our residential program opened successfully this fall, when five new students moved into a beautiful home on Bidwell Parkway. More students will arrive at mid-year with the opening of our second house. Director of Admissions **Carrie Lyons Auwarter '96** and her husband, Kevin, are house directors in one home; and Kate Simonds, a faculty member in our Fine Arts Department, resides in the other house.

Sem's program provides a warm, family-like atmosphere in the dynamic Elmwood Village section of Buffalo, with Starbucks and Talking Leaves Bookstore just across the street. Weekend activities include trips to Toronto, music concerts and cultural events in Buffalo. We also enjoy dinner and movie invitations to The Gow School in South Wales, NY.

We hope that you will encourage the young women you know to consider Buffalo Seminary. With an outstanding academic program, incredible leadership opportunities for girls, and the personal attention of dynamic teachers, Sem is a great choice for any college-bound student.

If you'd like to learn more, our web site is the best place to begin: [www.buffaloseminary.org](http://www.buffaloseminary.org).

Please come for a visit and a tour. We look forward to seeing you soon!



(Above: top to bottom, left to right)  
Fangyuan Zheng '11, Alyssa Moffat '10,  
Jordan Joseph '10 and Paige Gress '11  
(Left) Fangyuan, Alyssa, and Paige

“I like Buffalo Seminary because everyone is so nice, and there are so many activities planned—like the Washington DC and the canoe trips, and every weekend there is something planned for the students. It's fun!”  
Wanying "Jasmine" Chen '12