

Russel W. Bassarath, M.Ed.

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Fulbright alumnus and one of twenty individuals selected to be part of the 2025 Fulbright alumni ambassador cohort. Recently named a 2026 TILN fellow by the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Published researcher with noteworthy experience in teaching, leadership and curriculum design.

EDUCATION

M.Ed., University of Buffalo, The State University of New York

- Thesis: Teaching with purpose: Engaging in self-reflection as a 21st-century educator
- Advisor: Dr. Timothy Monreal

B.A., University of Buffalo, The State University of New York

Major: History

- Summa cum laude
- Honors thesis: “Our leaders is just we ourself”: The Women’s Political Council and the Civil Rights Movement in Montgomery, Alabama
- Advisor(s): Dr. Cari Casteel, Dr. Andreas Daum
- Completion of the University at Buffalo’s History Honors Program, 2021-2022
- Dean’s List, 2019-2023

CERTIFICATIONS

- New York State Initial Certification [pending]
- Social Studies Adolescence Education (Grades 5-12) [pending]
- Fundamentals of TESOL (Self-Study) IIE, TESOL International Association, September 2023

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

- TILN fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States, 2026
- Graduate Forum Travel Award, National Council for the Social Studies, 2024
- Graduate School Association Conference Funding Grant, University at Buffalo, 2024
- LAI-GSA Conference Funding Grant, University at Buffalo’s Graduate School of Education, 2024
- Fulbright Award Recipient, The Fulbright Program, 2023
- Best of Conference Undergraduate Paper Winner, Phi Alpha Theta New York State Regional Conference, 2023
- College of Arts and Sciences’ Outstanding Senior Award, University at Buffalo’s Department of History, 2023
- Best Undergraduate Thesis Prize Winner, University at Buffalo’s Department of History, 2022

- UB Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity Award, University at Buffalo, 2022
- Joyce J. and John D. Milligan and Family Scholarship, University at Buffalo's Department of History, 2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Professional Development Facilitator, Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology, September 2025-Present
- Substitute Teacher, Buffalo Public School District, October 2024-Present
- Student Teacher Resident, Hutchinson Central Technical High School, September 2024-May 2025
- Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, the Fulbright Program, September 2023-June 2024
- Lead Teacher, Say Yes Buffalo, June 2023-July 2023
- Substitute Teacher, Amherst Central School District, June 2022-June 2023
- History Tutor, Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology, September 2021-July 2022
- Assistant Camp Counselor, Buffalo Museum of Science, June 2021-August 2021

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Fulbright Alumni Ambassador [volunteer], Institute of International Education, January 2025-Present

- Promotes the Fulbright program and its mission through sharing personal experiences and insights with applicants, current grant recipients, and the general public.

Graduate Assistant, University at Buffalo, October 2024-May 2025

- Worked alongside Dr. LaGarrett King, Associate Professor of Social Studies Education, in supporting events and research initiatives happening at the University at Buffalo's Center for K-12 Black History and Racial Literacy Education.

Graduate Research Assistant, University at Buffalo, November 2024-May 2025

- Involved in a CSE collaborative research project with Dr. Kenneth Joseph, Associate Professor of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University at Buffalo.

Student Ambassador for the University at Buffalo's UBTeach Program and Social Studies Education, July 2024-May 2025

- Responsibilities ranged from writing blog posts to participating in virtual and in-person events on behalf of the University at Buffalo's Graduate School of Education.

Graduate Research Assistant, University at Buffalo, July 2024-May 2025

- Conducted extensive data analysis and reviewing of literature for Dr. Dalia Muller, Associate Professor of Latin America and Caribbean History at the University at Buffalo.

Student Research Assistant, University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education, May 2023-July 2023

- Researched alongside Dr. Timothy Monreal, Assistant Professor of Learning and Instruction with the University at Buffalo's Graduate School of Education.

Senior Page, Clarence Public Library, June 2020-June 2021

- Assisted patrons with library related questions, while also helping with youth-centered programs, such as the annual Battle of the Books competition.

Page, Clarence Public Library, January 2017-2019

- Managed the organization of library materials and assisted patrons with on the library floor questions.

PUBLICATIONS

Nower, F., Ceesay, S., Foster, A., **Bassarath, R.**, Margarucci, C., Sridhar, S.N., Boulden, K., Muller, D., Rudra, A., & Joseph, K. (2025). Characterizing First-year Students' Understanding of and Commitment to Social Justice. In 26th Annual ACM Conference on Cybersecurity and Information Technology Education (ACM SIGCITE 2025). <https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3769694.3771105>.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

LaGarrett, K., Henry, A., **Bassarath, R.**, & James, D. (2025, December). *Black Scare, Critical Hope, and Protecting Black History: Black History Interventions during times of political and divisive rhetoric*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the College and University Faculty Assembly, Washington, D.C.

Nower, F., Ceesay, S., Foster, A., **Bassarath, R.**, Margarucci, C., Sridhar, S.N., Boulden, K., Muller, D., Rudra, A., & Joseph, K. (2025, November). *Characterizing First-year Students' Understanding of and Commitment to Social Justice*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the ACM Conference on Cybersecurity and Information Technology Education, Sacramento, CA.

Monreal, T., Silva, C., James, D., & **Bassarath, R.** (2025, November). *How New York State Social Studies Standards Recreate Mutually Exclusive Representations of Latinidad and Blackness*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Studies Association, Denver, CO.

Bassarath, R. (2025, October). *Reflecting on my Fulbright experience: How letter writing transforms student learning*. Selected as alternate presenter, pending space at the annual meeting of the Fulbright Association, Miami, FL.

Bassarath, R. (November, 2024). *Centering peace, hope and possibility in lessons on war and conflict for secondary education classrooms*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the College and University Faculty Assembly, Boston, MA.

Bassarath, R. (July, 2024). *Teaching the 1955-1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott through an Intersectional Conceptual Framework*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Teaching Black History, Buffalo, NY.

Monreal, T., James, D., & **Bassarath, R.** (2024, April). *Where Might Arturo Schomburg Fall in This Standard?: Translating Blackness in New York State Social Studies Standards*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the New York State Foundations of Education, Rochester, NY.

Bassarath, R., James, D., & Monreal, T. (2023, November). *Where Might Arturo Schomburg Fall in This Standard?: Examining Afro-Latinxs in New York State Social Studies Standards*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the College and University Faculty Assembly, Nashville, TN.

Bassarath, R. (2023, April). *'Our leaders is just we ourself': The Women's Political Council and the Civil Rights Movement in Montgomery, Alabama*. Paper presented at annual meeting of Phi Alpha Theta, Syracuse, NY.

Bassarath, R. (2022, April). *'Our leaders is just we ourself': The Women's Political Council and the Civil Rights Movement in Montgomery, Alabama*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Celebration of Student Academic Excellence, Buffalo, NY.

Bassarath, R. (2021, April). *The American Flag: Unifying Symbol or Symbol of False Hope*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of Phi Alpha Theta, Buffalo, NY.

PRESENTATIONS/INVITED TALKS

Bassarath, R. (2025, November). *International Award Alumni Panel*. Panelist speaker for the University at Buffalo's International Education Week Panel.

Bassarath, R. (2025, October). *Fulbright Experience*. Invited panelist speaker at the University at Buffalo's Spark Fellowship Panel.

Bassarath, R. (2025, March). *Inside the Student Experience: A Conversation with UB Student Ambassadors*. Panelist speaker at University at Buffalo's 2025 Communicators Conference.

Bassarath, R. (2024, November). *Teaching for Peace*. Invited Lecture presented at the University at Buffalo.

Bassarath, R. (June 2024). *Undergraduate History Journal and Fulbright Experience*. Guest speaker for the University at Buffalo's History Undergraduate Association.

Bassarath, R. (June 2024). *Professional development website*. Guest speaker at the University of Nicosia.

Bassarath, R. (May 2024). *The University Experience in the United States*. Guest speaker at the NEU American Corner.

Bassarath, R. (April 2023). *Experiences, Accomplishments, and Post-Graduation Plans*. Presenter at Dean Robin Schulze's Advisory council session.

Bassarath, R. (April 2023). *My University at Buffalo Experience*. Panelist speaker at the University at Buffalo's College of Arts and Sciences Accepted Students Day.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Planning Committee, University at Buffalo's Graduate School of Education Research Symposium, 2024-2025.
- EducationUSA Cyprus volunteer, April 2024-June 2024.
- University at Buffalo, Undergraduate Academic Grievance Pool Representative, October 2022-May 2023.
- University at Buffalo, Phi Alpha Theta Leadership Team, May 2022-May 2023.

- Ambassador for the University at Buffalo’s College of Arts and Sciences, March 2021-May 2023.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- “Bulletin Board: Alumni Awards,” *Learn Magazine*, Fall 2025 Issue. [Bulletin Board - Learn Magazine - University at Buffalo](#)
- “GSE student named Fulbright alumni ambassador,” *The Graduate School*, April 30, 2025. [GSE student named Fulbright alumni ambassador - The Graduate School - University at Buffalo](#).
- “Teaching and researching beyond borders: UB Teach student wins Fulbright Scholar Award,” *University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education*, October 24, 2023. [Teaching and researching beyond borders: UB Teach student wins Fulbright Scholar Award - Graduate School of Education](#).
- “2023 Outstanding Seniors awarded,” *College of Arts and Sciences*, Spring 2023, [2023 Outstanding Seniors awarded - College of Arts and Sciences - University at Buffalo](#).
- “Bulletin Board: Student Awards and Honors,” *Learn Magazine*, Fall 2023 Issue. <https://ed.buffalo.edu/content/dam/ed/magazine/2023/fall/gse-magazine-fall-2023.pdf>.
- “UB Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity Award,” *Celebration of Academic Excellence Program Book*, 2022. [UB Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity Award](#)
- “Going Digital: Future History Teachers,” *History Matters Newsletters*, Fall 2022, [Fall 2022 - Department of History - University at Buffalo](#).
- “Phi Alpha Theta: PAT Update,” *History Matters Newsletters*, Fall 2021. [Phi Alpha Theta - Department of History - University at Buffalo](#).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Transdisciplinary teaching and learning
- Social Studies Education
- Peace Education
- Artificial Intelligence

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Exchange Alumni, United States Department of State
- EU-US Young Leaders Seminar Alumni
- Phi Alpha Theta, University at Buffalo