



NOW AND AGAIN NEWS

November 2023



GMP Computer Science Club

This year, during Friday Open Lab time, our Computer Science Club is picking up steam with one ongoing project around cyber security and another in computational mathematics. President Soumyadeep Bhattacharjee is helping our project leaders and teams to complete their respective goals. Pictured is a demonstration on a neural network simulating how a self-driving car learns to avoid accidents. Meanwhile, a group of students from across various grade levels is starting a space opera themed role-playing game. Students are welcome to join existing projects or start their own at future meetings! Computer Science club is part of the GMP Open Lab. If you would like to get involved in Open Lab time to study math, computer science, or just to have fun and socialize with your peers, join us on Fridays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.





Welcome to Our New Staff

INSTRUCTORS

Nicole Donogher, GMP 1

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS

Andrew Glick, GMP 1

Daren Liu, GMP 4

Yuktha Reddy, GMP 2

Harshani Subbiah, GMP 6

Melanie Valladares, GMP 1

Thinking & Fun with Bridge

The Buffalo Bridge Center at Boulevard Mall is looking for new members at their youth "School Bridge" program which meets on Sundays from noon to 2:30 pm. This is a free program that teaches students the game of bridge. Bridge is a very difficult card game that requires problem solving skills, mathematics, and quick thinking. Dedicated teacher, Jim Gullo, has taught many young players who have become highly proficient at the game including some of our GMP students. Participant Ethan Xie, a GMP graduate, is currently on the USA Youth World Representative Team. GMP students Tiger Li and Darwin Skalski won the American Contract Bridge League Educational Foundation & BridgeWhiz National Youth Swiss Teams Competition in 2023, which makes them the best youth team in the USA. The Sunday program is a fun and unique opportunity for GMP students to challenge themselves and expand their logical thinking.

GMP Admissions 2024

If you know of a student who is in 6th or 8th grade and may want to participate in GMP, nomination information can be found under [Admissions Process](#) on our website this December. Nominations can come from parents or from school personnel. Contact our office if you have questions.





College Credit Pros and Cons

It's that time again when you can choose whether to have your student's work this school year count as college credit. College credit means that we register students for a UB class which then shows up with a letter grade on a UB transcript. There is a fee per credit hour if you choose this. [Registration for college credit](#) is due by December 8th.

Why choose college credit? These credits can be applied to the college degree at many, but not all, colleges and universities. Your future college will require a set number of credit hours to graduate. At the end of GMP you will have as many as 22 of those completed already. Some of our graduates have completed degree programs in 3 or 3.5 years because of the credit that they had prior to college. Other reasons to choose college credit are to highlight your achievement when applying to college, and to possibly be placed in higher level classes.

Are there reasons not to choose college credit? Some schools do not accept transfer credit, especially top universities in the country. They may still consider the credits for admissions and placement purposes. Other schools have a limit on how many credits that they will accept. To find out more see our [FAQ's about college credit](#).

Weather Notes

We have seen a few snowflakes in Amherst already this fall! As of last year, we began taking advantage of our ability to go remote when the bad weather comes. In order to prepare, we will be holding **a day of online instruction on Wednesday, November 29th**. If we have several snow days this year, we will use remote instruction after the first of them. The first snow day, if any, will be a traditional cancellation.

In the event of inclement weather, information about GMP closures will be announced on [WBEN](#) Radio 930 AM, [WGRZ](#), and [WKBW](#). We are always closed to in-person learning when the University is closed and sometimes when the University is not closed. We will also continue using the notification feature through Remind.com. Remind is an application that will allow you to receive a text message on your phone whenever GMP classes will be cancelled due to weather-related issues. Follow [these instructions](#) to subscribe to GMP's Remind feed.

Our students come from schools all over Western New York. If the weather is causing problems where you live, please use your judgement when determining if the trip to UB will be a sensible one. We would rather have you miss class than put lives and property in jeopardy. Students will be excused from class when parents decide not to drive due to weather.





Distinguished Accomplishments

Keira Anger (GMP III) passed the US Figure Skating Bronze Skating Skills test. She also scored 100 on the Algebra Regents Exam in June.

Ved Balkundi (GMP II) was nominated to the New York State Band Directors' Association Middle School Honor Band.

Addison Barth (GMP VI) earned WNY All Catholic Honors in both tennis and golf after finishing in 1st place in the All Catholic Golf Tournament and qualifying to move on to the state tournament; she finished in 3rd place for singles in the All Catholic Tennis Tournament. She was also recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar this fall.

Soumyadeep Bhattacharjee (GMP VI) has presented his latest work on PPG based health condition monitoring using AI-powered models in the [IEEE/ACM CHASE conference](#) in Orlando. He received the travel grant award for this [full paper](#). This summer, he interned at the Human-Computer Interaction Institute (HCII) in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. Soumyadeep is a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.

Cyrus Clabeaux (GMP VI) is a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. He was selected for the 2023 New York State School Music Association Conference All-State Orchestra.

Augustus Falvo (GMP V) was selected by Rotary South Amherst to attend a youth leadership conference in Canada. He was also the student selected by the faculty at Canisius High School to represent the school at the HOBY Youth Leadership Conference last spring. Augustus was selected to serve as a CIT for the Boys and Girls Club at the Chautauqua Institution all summer.

Carol Li (GMP III) and **Melanie Skalski** (GMP III) won first place in one of the Cardrook East/West pairing games in Chicago this summer.

Marta Macur (GMP I) was invited to participate in the Buffalo State College Wind Ensemble as a percussionist.

Abigail Millich (GMP II) was elected Co-President of Student Council at St. Mary School Swormville.





Adarsh Narayanan (GMP V) will be performing on the violin at the New York All-State Symphonic Orchestra in Rochester.

Anisha Singh (GMP III) was elected President of her school Builders Club. She was selected for Junior High Area All State for Chorus and Orchestra and will be playing 1st violin in the Junior High Area All-State Symphony Orchestra in Akron.

Darwin Skalski (GMP VI) was selected to play trumpet in both the Area All-State Senior High Band and Conference All-State Symphonic Band.

Melanie Skalski (GMP III) was selected to play violin in the Area All-State Junior High Orchestra.

Michael Wang (GMP V) performed his Piano Guild programs for the National Piano Playing Auditions and was awarded a national winner. He has been inducted into the National Fraternity of Student Musicians by the American College of Musicians in Austin, Texas.

Calendar Mentions

- No class will be held on Wednesday, November 22nd as part of the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- Winter break begins on December 18th. Students return on January 3rd.

We in GMP wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season!

