



2025

UB University at Buffalo®
The State University of New York

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
COMMENCEMENT

Friday

May 16, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Center for the Arts Mainstage Theatre

North Campus

Julia E. Czerniak
Dean and Professor

Associate Deans

Bruce Majkowski
Erkin Özay
Nicholas Rajkovich

Assistant Deans

Matthew Roland
Eric Streeter



A School and Its City: Since its founding in 1969, the University at Buffalo's School of Architecture and Planning has engaged the people and places of Buffalo and our surrounding region as sources of inspiration, sites of investigation and partners in design and planning innovation. The work has not only fostered Buffalo's renaissance but informed city-making around the globe, elevating the possibilities for community-engaged teaching and research across the built environment professions.

Photo: The sun rises on our historic home in Hayes and Crosby Halls on UB's South Campus, (c) University at Buffalo, photo by Douglas Levere

Program

Prelude

TNT Brass Quintet

Processional*

Pomp and Circumstance by Edward Elgar
TNT Brass Quintet

Opening Declaration

Mark Shepard
Professor, Department of Architecture

Welcome

Julia E. Czerniak
*Dean,
School of Architecture and Planning*

National Anthem*

Emelia Bottoms, *Vocalist*,
MusB '25

Introduction of Guests

Dean Czerniak

Greetings

A. Scott Weber
University Provost

Dean's Remarks and Awarding of Dean's Medal

Dean Czerniak

Introduction of Commencement Speakers

Dean Czerniak

Commencement Address

Stephen Kieran, FAIA
James Timberlake, FAIA
Partners, KieranTimberlake

Presentation of Student Awards

Erkin Özay
*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
School of Architecture and Planning*

Student Speaker

Nayarit Tineo
*MArch '25, School of Architecture
and Planning*

Musical Interlude

Arabesque No. 1 by Claude Debussy
Sarah Elizabeth Higgins-Benz, *Harpist*,
M.M '26

Conferring of Degrees

Provost Weber

Presentation of Bachelor Degree Candidates

Korydon Smith
Chair, Department of Architecture

Presentation of Master Degree Candidates

Lucie A. Laurian
*Chair, Department of Urban and
Regional Planning*

Presentation of Doctorate of Philosophy Candidates

Jordana Maisel
*Associate Professor, Department of Urban
and Regional Planning*

Closing Remarks

Dean Czerniak

Singing of the Alma Mater – Lyrics on page 13

Emelia Bottoms

Closing Declaration

Mark Shepard

Recessional*

Procession of the Nobles
by Rimsky Korsakov
TNT Brass Quintet

Certificate Readers

Gregory Delaney
Kenneth MacKay
Camden Miller
Samina Raja

Faculty Medal Hangers

Stephanie Cramer
Lauren Fischer
Joyce Hwang
Matthew Roland
Mark Shepard
Jin Young Song
Kerry Traynor
Li Yin

Reception

The members of the Class of 2025, with their families and friends, are invited to a reception immediately following the commencement exercises in the Center for the Arts Atrium.

Today's ceremony is being livestreamed and a recording will be available for online viewing at buffalo.edu/commencement.

**Audience to stand, if able, during the Processional, National Anthem, and Recessional.*

SUNY Trustee and UB Officials

Eunice Ashman Lewin

Member of the State University of New York Board of Trustees



President and co-founder of Impacto Consulting Associates, Eunice Ashman Lewin joined the SUNY Board of Trustees in February 2010. She serves on the board's Executive Committee and co-chairs

the Student Life Committee. She also serves on the committees for academic affairs, communications and external affairs, community colleges, and academic medical centers and hospitals.

A former commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Lewin was a founding member of the Roswell Park Alliance and a board member of the Buffalo Urban League and Hispanics United of Buffalo. She is a member of the Hispanic Women's League and the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable.

In 2024, Lewin was named chair of the Buffalo Urban League Board of Directors, dedicating herself to its mission of ensuring African Americans and others in underserved communities achieve their highest true social parity, economic self-reliance, power and civil rights.

A retired bilingual social worker for the Buffalo Board of Education, she is a champion for STEM education.

Born in Guantanamo, Cuba, Lewin immigrated to the United States with her family in 1967. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Marymount Manhattan College, a master's degree in American and Puerto Rican studies, and an EdM in educational administration, both from UB.

Jerry Jacobs Jr.

Chairman of the University at Buffalo Council



Jeremy "Jerry" M. Jacobs Jr. is the chief executive officer of Delaware North, a role he shares with his brothers, Lou and Charlie. He also serves as an alternate governor to the Boston Bruins.

As CEO, Jacobs oversees the company and its operating subsidiaries, focusing on strategic growth, corporate governance and financial management. He joined Delaware North in 1986 and held progressive leadership roles before becoming CEO in 2015.

Jacobs is actively involved in numerous philanthropic, civic and business organizations in Buffalo and across the country. His current board positions include The Corps Network, Mimivax and the Jacobs Institute. He is also a member of the U.S. Travel Association's CEO Roundtable and the Partnership for New York City.

Jacobs was a founding board member of Say Yes Buffalo, and he has dedicated more than two decades of service to the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, including past chairmanships of the board of directors and the annual fundraising campaign. He is a past member of the Board of Regents at Georgetown University and past chair of the Nichols School's Board of Trustees. He also served three terms on the University at Buffalo Foundation board.

Jacobs holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Georgetown University.

Satish K. Tripathi

University President



An internationally distinguished researcher and higher education leader, Satish K. Tripathi, PhD, is the University at Buffalo's 15th president.

Tripathi, who served as UB's provost from 2004-

2011, was dean of the Bourns College of Engineering at the University of California, Riverside, from 1997-2004. Previously, he spent 19 years as a professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, including seven as department chair.

In 2024, Tripathi was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A fellow of IEEE and AAAS, he has published more than 200 scholarly papers, supervised more than 30 doctoral and postdoctoral students and served on program committees of numerous international conferences.

Tripathi graduated at the top of his class from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). He holds a master's degree and doctorate in computer science from the University of Toronto, as well as master's degrees in statistics from the University of Alberta and BHU. He has received honorary doctorates from Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, and Brock University.

Tripathi co-chairs the Association of American Universities (AAU) Task Force on Expanding U.S.-India University Partnerships, serves on the College Football Playoff Board of Managers and the boards of University Innovation Alliance and Internet2. Previously, he chaired the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents and Internet2 and served on the boards of the AAU, NCAA Division I, NCAA Board of Governors, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

A. Scott Weber

*Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs*



As provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, A. Scott Weber, PhD, serves as the university's chief academic officer, providing leadership across the academic enterprise including research, scholarship and

creative activities; undergraduate, graduate, professional and international education; faculty development; inclusive excellence initiatives; and university libraries. Weber is leading the implementation of the university's vision to be recognized among the top 25 public research universities in the nation, focused on building on UB's strengths to achieve new levels of excellence in research, scholarship, education, clinical care and engagement.

A UB faculty member since 1983, Weber is an innovative scholar, teacher and former chair of UB's Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. Prior to his appointment as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, Weber held several other senior administrative roles at UB, including senior vice provost for academic affairs, where he was instrumental in the creation of the UB Curriculum and nationally recognized Finish in 4 program; and vice president for student life, where he focused on enhancing the student experience and promoting overall student wellness.

Weber serves on New York's Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Board for Chemical Waste Management. He is a former board member and current advisory committee member of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

Weber earned bachelor's and master's of science degrees in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnical Institute and a PhD in civil engineering from the University of California, Davis.

Julia Czerniak

*Dean, School of School of Architecture
and Planning*



Julia Czerniak, AIA Assoc., ASLA, RLA, is Dean and Professor of the School of Architecture and Planning at the University at Buffalo. Educated as both an architect (Princeton, Master of Architecture

1992) and landscape architect (Penn State, Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture) her research and practice draw on the intersection of these disciplines.

Czerniak's research and creative work as a designer and writer advance new ways of seeing, imagining, valuing and acting within our challenged anthropocentric environment. She has been invited to over 50 institutions as a public speaker and served as a guest juror at over 40 schools in North America, South America, Australia, Europe and Asia. She has authored and edited over 30 publications, including 3 edited volumes, 25 essays and reviews, and has participated in over 50 conferences, panels and events globally—many as keynote. Her scholarship has earned her international accolades that most recently include a summer residency at the American Academy in Rome and a seat as academic advisor for the prestigious Sustainability Workshop at the Norman Foster Foundation in Madrid.

As an educator and design thinker since 1995, Czerniak is deeply committed to the belief that a design education gives one the tools to think critically and act valuably in the world. She has extensive experience with the range of pedagogies, values, programs, and aspirations embraced in design education and remains dedicated to the liberal arts education offered by design degrees.

Commencement Speakers

Stephen Kieran, FAIA

James Timberlake, FAIA

Partners, KieranTimberlake



Contrary to the popular image of the architect dictating a design from the top down, Stephen Kieran and James Timberlake find inspiration in the fundamental inequities that exist socially, environmentally, and economically across all project types. By collaborating with clients, community organizations, and subject matter experts, they distill questions that are simultaneously empathetic and provocative.

Since the inception of their firm, KieranTimberlake, the pair have sought elemental beauty and usefulness through an environmental ethic informed by proactive research and technology. They seek to improve the process of design and construction while pressing forward on the ever-growing challenges of climate change and affordability for all. KieranTimberlake has earned over 300 design citations, including the AIA Firm Award in 2008 and the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award in 2010. As the inaugural recipients of the Benjamin Latrobe Fellowship for architectural design research from the AIA College of Fellows in 2001, they are among the first practitioners to holistically incorporate inquiry into their search for compelling architecture. In addition to their architectural practice, Steven and James have held visiting professorships at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, the University of Washington, Yale University, and the University of Michigan, among others.

Student Awards

Department of Architecture

AIA Medal for Academic Excellence

Awarded to the highest-ranking graduating Master of Architecture student in recognition of excellence in architecture, leadership and high professional standards

Alpha Rho Chi Medal

In recognition of professionalism in leadership, service and merit

ARCC / King Student Medal for Excellence in Architectural + Environmental Research

This award is given to one graduate student for an outstanding master's thesis and acknowledges innovation, integrity, and scholarship in architecture and/or environmental design research

Department of Urban Planning

AICP Planning Excellence Award

In recognition of high standard of professional and school citizenship.

Best Thesis Award in Urban Planning

In recognition of the highest-quality master's thesis in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Master of Urban Planning Best Final Project Award

In recognition of the highest quality final project in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Candidates for Degrees

Subject to the completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon those individuals listed herein who were identified by April 3, 2025, and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. Candidates are listed according to actual date of degree conferral (August 2024, February 2025 and June 2025).

Latin Honors

Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of the following minimum criteria, Latin honors may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. To qualify for Latin honors, students must present a minimum of 60 credit hours of UB undergraduate coursework, at least 54 of which must be graded credits (i.e., not satisfactory or unsatisfactory [grades of 'S' or 'U']). The UB GPA must be a minimum of 3.2 (to 3.499) for cum laude, 3.5 (to 3.749) for magna cum laude and 3.75 (to 4.0) for summa cum laude.

To receive the Latin honors designation in the printed 2025 commencement programs, candidates for the June 2025 degree conferral date must qualify based upon their UB cumulative GPA through the Winter 2025 session and total number of UB credit hours projected through the Spring 2025 semester. Standings for Latin honors MAY change once final grades are posted or degrees conferred.

Academic Recognition Items

The Gold Cord

This cord is awarded to students who are graduating with Latin honors.

The Grey and Red Stole

This stole was received by students who are University Honors College graduates.

The SUNY Chancellor’s Medallion

This medallion was presented to recipients of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence. They were selected for this award based on their academic excellence and extracurricular involvement.

The UB Flame of Wisdom Pin

This pin, depicting the flame of wisdom from the university’s seal, was received by students who were honored at the UB Celebration of Student Academic Excellence for earning select national, SUNY and UB awards and citations.

The WNY Prosperity Fellowship Medallion

This medallion was received by graduating WNY Prosperity Fellows. They were selected for this fellowship based on their commitment and demonstrated potential to positively impact WNY’s economic development and sustainability.

Tau Sigma Delta

Tau Sigma Delta is the national academic honor society for architecture and allied arts representing the top 20% highest achieving undergraduate students. Graduating members wear a white satin stole embroidered with gold letters.

Non-Academic, University-Wide Recognition Items

The Kente Stole

This stole was received by students who participated in UB’s ALANA Celebration of Achievement which historically has honored graduating African, Latino/a, Asian and Native American students.

The Rainbow Tassel

This tassel was received by students who participated in the Lavender Ceremony, celebrating achievements of graduating students who identify with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community at UB.

The Red, White and Blue Cord

This cord is being worn by graduating UB students who are reservists, members of the National Guard, newly commissioned officers or veterans of the United States armed forces.

Baccalaureate Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Architecture

February 2025

Siena Allen
Ryan Allgaier*
Alexis Anderson***#
Ryan Bingham**
Emily Bombardier**
Jordan Brisman**
Arianna Cinotti***#
Tom Cuff**
Bikram Das***#
Regan Dauenhauer**
Gargie N. Deore
Olivia Fratto*
Mathew Guevara
Shane Thomas Hausauer***#
Ben Jellinick**
Kaya Utheim Jost*
Aaron Philip Keyes*
Shruti Jagdish Kunadia*
Elena LaBuz*
Juliet Mary Luers***#
Angana Mallick**
Paige Mitchell**
Dom Peracciny**
Alli Presutti***#
Tim Ransbury**#
Jessica Taylor Renn***#
Gianni Petrella Rinaudo*
Daniel Bartholomew Schiavo*
Zekai Song*
Maddie Stafford**
Madison Taylor Templeton***#
Chenyang Tong*
Maxwell Alan Wildt
Julia Wisinski*
Shiya Zhou

June 2025

Sara A. Abdalla
Shobnom Bashar
Olivia Maria Borrelli**
Emma Chase
Lydia Diboun***#

Connor Hamel
Terence Huang**
Ethan Ikegami*
Aaliyah Lightfoot
Leif Lin
Jasper Ma**
Hyunsung Moon
Sean Patrick Murphy*
Janice Ng*
Jeremias Rivera
Karl Russo
Khaled Salem
Edwin Sanchez Rodriguez***#
Fiona L. Urfer
Ying Wang***#
Jia Wu*
Eddie Zhao
Jason Zheng
Yiyi Zhou

Minor in Architecture

February 2025

Nidaa Arab*
Paul Alejandro Grogan*
Zoe Guo***#
Nini Pandit*
Vicky Robinson
Joshua A. Thomas
Luke West***#
Emily Zak

June 2025

Brody Michael Kennedy**
Wema Kiboino***#
Lucas Michael Margiotta*
Quinne Jasmine McIver
Katelyn Jean Montemorra
Michee Bagula Muhigirwa
Diana L. Pugliese*
Yi Lin Qiu
Mymona Rahman
Brandon Scott
Tori Strassburg***#

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design

February 2025

Nidaa Arab*
Amber Lynn Brokl***#
Daniella Gasparic
Nathan Thomas Godici
Paul Alejandro Grogan*
Zoe Guo***#
Alyssa Rose Iacovitti**
Sean Kahabka
Chris Larson
Nini Pandit*
Christian Powell***#
Mason Pugh*
Vicky Robinson
Jack Shivinsky***#
Joshua A. Thomas
Luke West***#
Emily Zak

June 2025

Dyllan Amato**
Maria Botrous
Joshua Matthew Brickler
Joe Brown
Hugh Choi
Megan Davison***#
Nikki DeTassegalles
Cece Ebersold**#
Austin Epp
Cam Eure
Ken Glover
James Thomas Hurley*
Brody Michael Kennedy**
Wema Kiboino***#
Ken Lindo-Cruz*
Camden Lindsley*
Timothy Kevin Lynch
Lucas Michael Margiotta*
Katelyn Jean Montemorra
Phuong Nguyen***#
Ethan Paley**
Diana L. Pugliese*
Yi Lin Qiu

Dylan Joseph Scotch
Brandon Scott
Kirk Smuda
Tori Strassburg***#
Liliana Visca***#
Luke Thomas Vitale
Brandon Warren***
Jonathan Wong

Minor in Environmental Design

February 2025

Siena Allen
Emily Bombardier**
Gavin Westley Ellowitz
Olivia Fratto*
Shane Thomas Hausauer***#
Kaya Utheim Jost*
Elena LaBuz*
Daniel Bartholomew Schiavo*

June 2025

Jason Thomas Blodgett
Anika Adair Byrnes
Emma Chase
Sharon Chen
Lydia Diboun***#
Olivia J. Grieco
Connor Hamel
Aaliyah Lightfoot
Jasper Ma**
Trey McCarville
Quinne Jasmine McIver
Edwin Sanchez Rodriguez***#
Jia Wu*

Legend

* Cum laude
** Magna cum laude
*** Summa cum laude
Tau Sigma Delta

Master's Degrees

Master of Architecture

August 2024

Keith David Benes#
Haitian Zhang

February 2025

Chase Carpenter
Peter Fillion#
Michael Giaquinto
Bailee Legnetto
JP Mata-Collantes#
Katie Nelson#
Ana Ines Pereira#
Emily Lynn Powers
Carol Tatiana Recinos
Luna
mayank Sharma#
Madeleine Sophie Sutton#
Vanessa Ann VanTongeren
Natalie Zhao

June 2025

Anushka Ahire
Gabrielle Ahl
Joey Amirato
Shubham Amrale
Dami Bankole#
Troy Jason Behar
Ruth Bonnette
Gavin Joseph Carroll#
Alexa Cutruzzula
Yash Dilipkumar Dave
Ian DeWald#
Joshua Janos Diamond#
Christina Julia Donabella#
Julia Ferone
Jasmin Ferreiras
Natalie Freund
Cassidy Lyn Frisch#
Nishitkumar Nitinkumar
Gandhi
Alice Gao
Kimia Ghaderian#
Mikey Alexander
Hernandez
Aditya Mangesh Honrao
Alex M. Hoover#
Kelly Huang#

Nick Janzen
Pradeep Kondayapalepu#
Kathryn Abigail
Korenblyum
Ariana Lowery
Ella Madrid
Prafull Manolkar
Anthony Meli
James Metzger#
Joseph Mochol
Fabio Andres Monroy
Silvera
Mason Murtha
Ezra Oshman
Pouya Pakkhesal#
Sanjay Samirbhai Patel
Utsav Kaushikkumar Patel
Dariel Paulino
Safayath Rafat
Sriya Radhakrishnan
Mushfiq Riham
Manaswitha Sambareddy
Aarzoo Sood
Amanda Spidaleri
Josh Stolber
Nayarit Tineo
Odin Traver-Muller
Vaidehi Vagal
Faith Ashley Vale
Cassidy Van Ness#
Sowmya Vangari
Katarina Isabella Voss#
Melanie Wu
Tanmayee Ashok Yadav
Sandra Zarub
Bobby Zhao

Master of Urban Planning

February 2025

Jaden Keech
Madhumitha Kodimiyala
Matthew Davin Verrelli#
Frankie Zhou

June 2025

Ale Andrzejewski
Ian Benjamin

Rishabh Chopra
Kielee Catherine Clement#
JP Dillon
Satya Swaroopini
Gangupati
Elliot G. Lear
Francisca Ortiz Munoz
Alex Nicolas Patino
Leah Smolen#
Sakshi Surawar
Omar Suri
Adam Khaled Zineddin

Master of Architecture / Master of Urban Planning

June 2025

Ehler Htoo#

Master of Urban Planning / Jurisdoctor

February 2025

Kyli Tripoli

Master of Science in Architecture

February 2025

Andrew Roy Boyles
Sara Koushan#
Maria Clara Pellegrini#

June 2025

Melih Gürcan Kutsal

Master of Science in Real Estate Development

February 2025

Ayesha Arooj Asef
Angela LaDine Beal
Gavin Burke
Jordan Chafitz
Madeline LoFaso
Jake Madia

Teasha McKoy
Jered Overton
Adam Pearsall
Andrew M. Pietrantonio
Vignesh Ramaiah Surendra
Stoyan Ruh
Mahsa Saharkhiz#
Meera Soni
Will Vaccaro
Stephen Yates#

June 2025

Mirna Cadet
Steven Le
Sriram Reddy Mereddy

Master of Science in International Development & Global Health

August 2024

Kate Caisley
Claire Hurteau
Raisa Mahmood
Annika Smith
Sariah Taylor
Lillian Carol Wozniak

February 2025

Amel Hashim Salim

Advanced Certificate in Affordable Housing

February 2025

Ayesha Arooj Asef
Angela LaDine Beal
Gavin Burke
Jordan Chafitz
Madhumitha Kodimiyala
Teasha McKoy
Adam Pearsall
Vignesh Ramaiah Surendra
Mahsa Saharkhiz#

June 2025

Mirna Cadet

Advanced Certificate in Historic Preservation

February 2025

Madeline LoFaso
Matthew Davin Verrelli#

June 2025

Mirna Cadet

Doctoral Degrees

Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Planning

August 2024

Fuzhen Yin

June 2025

Kahad Adamu
Micaela Florence Lipman
Carol Ramos

Highlights of our Year

1. “Pollinator Lounge,” a multi-species design installation, invited us to sit among the unsung heroes of urban biodiversity at work in our own backyard, led by Joyce Hwang, professor in the Department of Architecture. Photo: Liz Ligon, courtesy of Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

2. UB partnered with PUSH Buffalo to enhance community resilience and workforce development, led by UB Resilient Building Lab researchers Nick Rajkovich, associate professor in the Department of Architecture, and Laura Lubniewski, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Architecture. Photo: Douglas Levere.

3. For the first time in our school's more than 50-year history, ARC 101, which serves as the entry point for the architecture program, has more females than males, helping UB reinforce a trend that's been happening in architecture schools across the U.S. Photo: Douglas Levere.

4. We hosted a distinguished panel of architects, landscape architects, urban planners, and environmental designers who joined Dean Julia Czerniak for “FAUNA: Designing for More Than Human Worlds.” Photo: Douglas Levere.

5. Featuring the work of over 45 faculty members, researchers, and their collaborators, the Spring 2025 exhibition titled FRAME/WORKS was on view in the lobby of Crosby Hall. Photo: Douglas Levere.

6. The Rudy Bruner Center for Urban Excellence, housed within the School, held the inaugural Rudy Bruner Debates on Urban Excellence. Photo: Jessica Muehlbauer.



Highlights of our Year

7. An installation featuring letters from high-profile architects and designers, including those from Louis Vitton, Gensler, SOM and the government of India, among others, provided words of inspiration to graduates of the School of Architecture and Planning. Photo: Douglas Levere.

8. "Fragments: Then and Now," an atmospheric collection of historic and newly built architectural elements on display at The Assembly House. Created under the guidance of Dennis Maher, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Architecture, in collaboration with students, the exhibition explored the dialogue between past and present through wood and plaster fragments. Photo: Douglas Levere.

9. Celebrating achievements and legacy while embarking upon a transition in leadership, Edward Steinfeld, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Architecture stepped down as director of the IDEA Center — and Jordana Maisel, associate professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, began her tenure as director. Photo: Douglas Levere.

10. In celebration of Black History Month, we hosted Reimagining Black Futures, a pair of panel discussions held on two consecutive Wednesdays in February as a part of our Public Programs series. Photo: Darra Kubera.

11. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Beaux-Arts Ball at UB! Students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered for a night of dancing and creative costumes under the theme LUMINATE. Photo: Lukas Iverson.

12. Alex Schwartz was selected as this year's Clarkson Chair to lend his expertise to a variety of discussions on the important and increasingly problematic subject of affordable housing. Photo: Lukas Iverson.



Dean's Message



Congratulations to the Class of 2025! On behalf of the School of Architecture and Planning community and the University at Buffalo, we are honored to join you in celebration of this milestone occasion.

Today we recognize the care, rigor, and dedication you brought to the pursuit of your degree, and the aspirations you offer to building a better world. You have completed your studies from one of the nation's leading public research universities

in disciplines that are, at once, bold intellectual projects, social and material practices, and powerful agents of change across the built environment.

Over the course of your studies, you have navigated life-shaping challenges, emerging as skilled makers and doers, agile collaborators, and innovative practitioners. You have mastered the knowledge, skills, and competencies of architecture and planning. You are ready to deploy these tools in service of the pressing issues of our time — from climate crises to inequities of all kinds. Inspired by our School's renegade origins, you are experimental thinkers who will take our fields into new intellectual territory and our world into new ways of living.

As you look ahead to today's uncertain futures, we hope you embrace the possibilities our professions offer. Wherever you choose to position your careers within our disciplinary maps — from the technical to the theoretical — you are ready to build a more just, resilient world. I am thankful for the privilege and honor of watching you grow. Class of 2025, here's to all that you have achieved and all that's to come! Congratulations!

Sincerely,



Julia E. Czerniak, AIA Assoc., ASLA, RLA
Dean and Professor
School of Architecture and Planning

UB Alma Mater

*Music by Walter S. Goodale, MD, 1903.
Lyrics adapted by UB students in 2006 for contemporary use.*

Verse 1:

The pride of our spirit and tradition,
Our alma mater's truth and name declare.
Celebrate our history and wisdom,
O let us all prepare to sing her glory.

Refrain:

To Buffalo all hail to thee,
Noble and strong it's our university!
To blue and white pledge loyalty,
Singing, I will always remember thee!

Verse 2:

We'll ever keep our standards high,
And sing UB's praises to the sky.
Receiving the finest education,
Our knowledge we impart unto the nations.
(Repeat refrain)

Verse 3:

Our friends we've made with ties that bind,
A union of our spirit, heart and mind.
Together we'll continue life's journey,
O may dear Buffalo forever be.
(Repeat refrain)

The Mace

Designed to tell the story of the university and the Niagara Frontier, the University at Buffalo mace was fashioned by silversmith Hudson Roysner of Arcadia, CA. It was used for the first time in the 1962 general commencement.

The mace is silver with accents of lapis and howlite to represent the university's colors. It is topped by a miniature-walled structure representing the City of Buffalo. Engraved atop the city are three arrows bound together, symbolizing the unity of UB and the city.

A band of alternating jewels of lapis and howlite encircles the head of the mace and bears the founding dates of the 13 divisions that composed the university in 1962.

The UB arms appear on the front of the head. On the back are the arms of the United States. The discovery of Lake Erie in 1669 by Louis Joliet and early explorations by Robert de LaSalle are symbolized on the left side of the head. A crest on the right side symbolizes the university's role as a dynamic center of human growth and welfare.

The wild rose, the state flower, is depicted in a floral motif at the top and bottom of the mace's head. Encircling the ends of the shaft are three wavy lines representing intellect and water, the latter a reference to the Niagara River and Great Lakes.

The motto "University and City: Community" is lettered in Latin around the knob of the shaft.

Traditionally used in university ceremonies, the mace is a symbol of enlightened authority. The macebearer is the chair of the university's Faculty Senate.



Alumni Welcome

Dear Member of the Class of 2025,

Congratulations! On behalf of the UB Alumni Association, I'm delighted to welcome you to your global network of more than 308,000 alumni. We're proud of all you have accomplished.

As you begin your next chapter, please stay in touch! Your alumni status opens so many opportunities to stay connected to your alma mater and fellow alumni.

What does this mean for you in practical terms? It means that you have access to career help through our virtual Connect-a-Bull platform, that you can volunteer to recruit new students or help a current student, that you can prepare for the next stage in your professional and personal journey through free webinars and our Career North professional development portal, and that you can participate in a variety of social and sporting events. To learn more about what's available with your new alumni status, visit buffalo.edu/alumni.

If you have questions about how to stay involved, contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at ub-alumni@buffalo.edu.

Remember, this isn't goodbye—it's WELCOME to the UB alumni family. We know you'll always be True Blue and proudly keep your Horns Up, wherever you go and whatever you do.

Go Bulls!

Joseph Stefko, BA '97, MA '99, PhD '03
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P.S. Keep your @buffalo email for life simply by logging in through a browser every 90 days.

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The modern seal for the University at Buffalo harks back to a design adopted in 1923 to reflect the evolution of the university from separate schools into a more close-knit organization. Though the seal has been revised several times over the decades, the foundational elements remain: a proud bison signifying the City of Buffalo atop a shield supported by the palm leaves of victory and emblazoned with the flames of wisdom.

