



2026

UB University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

TWENTY FOURTH ANNUAL



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS
COMMENCEMENT

Thursday

May 14, 2026

5:00 p.m.

Broadview Arena

North Campus

Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD

Dean and SUNY Distinguished Professor

Associate Deans

R. Lorraine Collins, PhD

Jo L. Freudenheim, PhD

Ekaterina (Katia) Noyes, PhD, MPH

Heather Orom, PhD

Michael C. Redfern, MBA, EdM

Jennifer Temple, PhD

Assistant Deans

Keith Conroy, BS

Kimberly Krytus, PhD

Lisa Neff, BA

Sarahmona Przybyla, PhD

Jillian Reading, PhD

Mark Rotella, MBA

Letter to the Class of 2026 from President Tripathi



Dear Graduates,

Congratulations! You have reached an important milestone—one that marks both the completion of your degree and your arrival at a threshold of new opportunities and responsibilities. For that reason, today we celebrate not only what you have accomplished, but who you have become.

Your time here has been defined by intellectual growth, perseverance and discovery. You arrived with promise; you leave with purpose, ready to make an impact in a changing landscape that needs your talents and will test your resolve.

As graduates of the University at Buffalo, you uphold a mission dedicated to advancing knowledge and serving society. Your education has endowed you with greater clarity: to understand complexity and question assumptions. If we have done our job well, you have also come to appreciate the resilience of our collective humanity while recognizing where it is fraying.

You will encounter trials in the years ahead. When confronted with division or adversity, I urge you not to turn away, but to engage. Draw on what you have learned here to mend and renew the fabric of our communities. Whatever your discipline, you possess both the capacity and the duty to champion the public good through your work, commitment and leadership.

As Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us, “We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.” The challenges you encounter will not be yours alone, nor will their solutions be found in isolation. Beyond your knowledge, you carry a shared obligation—to fortify those bonds, enrich those connections and cultivate fairness and compassion in all that you do.

It has been one of the great privileges of my life to celebrate our UB graduates and to witness your growth. As I conclude my presidency this summer, my faith in the contributions you are poised to make remains unwavering.

To the Class of 2026, please accept my heartfelt best wishes. May your efforts advance integrity and harmony across society, and may you inspire others to follow your example.

Sincerely,

Satish K. Tripathi
President

Program

Processional

Selections from "Pomp and Circumstance"
by Edward Elgar

Opening Declaration

Kelly Baker, PhD
Associate Professor, Epidemiology and Environmental Health
Director, Center for Climate Change and Health Equity

National Anthem

Kristen Braunscheidel, EdM
Assistant Director of Graduate Studies,
Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

Sarah Krzyzanowicz, MSED
Clinical Director, Athletic Training Program
Clinical Instructor, Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

Jennifer L. Temple, PhD
Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs
Director, Nutrition and Health Research Laboratory
Professor, Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

Greetings

Satish K. Tripathi, PhD
University President

Dean's Remarks

Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD
Dean of the School of Public Health and Health Professions
SUNY Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology and
Environmental Health

SUNY Honorary Degree

Graham A. Colditz, MD, DrPH
Niess-Gain Professor of Surgery, Washington University
School of Medicine

Eunice A. Lewin, EdM, MA
Member of the SUNY Board of Trustees

President Tripathi

Commencement Address

James V. McDonald, MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health, New York State

Student Speaker

Cameron Kiner
BS/MPH, Epidemiology & Environmental Health
SUNY Chancellor's Award Winner

Conferring of Degrees

President Tripathi

Alumni Welcome

Rashmi Bismark, MD, MPH
Preventive Medicine Physician, Meditation Teacher, and
Children's Book Author

Alma Mater

Abby Tyler
BFA, Music Theatre '26

Closing Declaration

Professor Baker

Recessional

"Triumphal March" from Aida
by Giuseppe Verdi

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 was appointed to the SUNY Board of Trustees in February 2010. During her tenure, she has been instrumental in

reinstating the Student Life Committee and in spearheading the committee's food insecurity and mental health task forces.

A retired bilingual social worker for the Buffalo Board of Education, Lewin is deeply dedicated to her community. She served on the Western New York Health Equity Task Force, was named co-chair of the 5/14 Remembrance Committee and is a founding member of the Roswell Park Alliance and the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable. Lewin is also a member of the Hispanic Women's League and Hispanics United of Buffalo and previously served as a commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. In 2024, she was named chair of the Buffalo Urban League, where she continues to advance its mission of social parity, economic self-reliance and civil rights for underserved communities.

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 and master's degrees in American and Puerto Rican studies and in educational administration 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. He was appointed UB Council chairman by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul in December 2024. His additional 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 the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the International Academy of Artificial Intelligence Sciences, 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 serves on the College Football Playoff Board of Managers and the board of University Innovation Alliance. 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 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 & Erie County.

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

Allison Brashear

*Vice President for Health Sciences
Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine
and Biomedical Sciences*



Allison Brashear, MD, MBA, is a world-renowned neurologist and a transformative leader reshaping academic medicine at the University at Buffalo. As vice president for health sciences and

dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, she oversees a comprehensive educational continuum—spanning undergraduate biomedical programs, graduate research and professional medical and postgraduate training. She drives health care innovation locally and nationally, advancing strategic partnerships and serving as president and CEO of UBMD Physicians' Group.

A leading authority on ATP1A3-related diseases, she has received continuous National Institutes of Health funding since 2008. Her groundbreaking research helped secure approval for three botulinum toxin therapies used to treat post-stroke spasticity and other neurologic conditions.

Prior to UB, Brashear was dean of the University of California, Davis School of Medicine, and a professor and the Walter C. Teagle Endowed Chair of Neurology at Wake Forest School of Medicine.

She earned her medical degree and completed her neurology residency at Indiana University School of Medicine and her MBA at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

In 2025, Brashear was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. She holds national leadership roles, including serving on the Association of American Medical Colleges' Council of Deans Administrative Board, where she became chair-elect in 2024, on the AAMC board of directors and as a trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation. In Buffalo, she serves as a board member of the WNY Women's Foundation.

Jean Wactawski-Wende

*Dean, School of Public Health and Health Professions
SUNY Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology and
Environmental Health*



Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD, is dean of the School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP). She leads the school's strategic initiatives, oversees its academic offerings, resources and people, serves as an active member of the university's senior leadership team, and represents

the school in the community and the profession. Under Jean's leadership, the school has increased its enrollment and programs, becoming one of the fastest-growing schools of the university.

Before becoming SPHHP dean, Wactawski-Wende served as UB's vice provost for strategic initiatives and research advancement. In that role, she oversaw the University at Buffalo Strategic Strengths, the platform for interdisciplinary and collaborative research representing the breadth and depth of research at UB. She also formerly oversaw the UB Office for Research Advancement, which provides support to faculty pursuing large-scale, multi-investigator, cross-disciplinary research grants of institutional priority.

An internationally recognized epidemiologist who focuses on understanding factors that influence women's health, she has spent over 30 years conducting research on, among others, risk factors and prevention of cancer, osteoporosis and periodontal disease in postmenopausal women. She is principal investigator of UB's Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Center and leads the WHI Northeast Regional Center. WHI is a National Institute of Health-funded, multi-center study involving randomized clinical trials and an observational longitudinal study examining the major factors influencing morbidity and mortality in older women. WHI was first founded in 1993.

Wactawski-Wende was promoted to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor in 2015, recognizing her achievement of international prominence and prominence within her field. In 2020, she received the UB President's Medal, which recognizes "outstanding scholarly or artistic achievements, humanitarian acts, contributions of time or treasure, exemplary leadership or any other major contribution to the development of the University at Buffalo and the quality of life in the UB community."

SUNY Honorary Degree

Graham A. Colditz, MD, DrPH

Niess-Gain Professor of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine



Graham A. Colditz, MD, DrPH, is the Niess-Gain Professor of Surgery and chief of the Division of Public Health Sciences at Washington University School of Medicine. An elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, he is a renowned public health expert on the causes and prevention of chronic diseases. He also serves as the associate director of prevention and control at the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center.

Prior to joining Washington University in 2006, Colditz spent 25 years at Harvard University. Among other roles, he was the principal investigator on the longitudinal Nurses' Health Study, established in 1976 to investigate risk factors for major chronic diseases in women. He also established and was the founding PI on a study relating the diet and lifestyle of nearly 17,000 adolescents to growth and health outcomes. One of his field's most highly cited researchers, he is an expert on tobacco and obesity in relation to cancer, and he has developed statistical models to more accurately classify levels of risk for several cancers. Moreover, he has been dedicated to applying scientific advances in cancer prevention to broader population programs.

At UB, Colditz served as an external advisor to the National Cancer Institute-funded Cancer Epidemiology training program. From 2007 to 2023, he mentored doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows, provided curriculum feedback and supported grant writing efforts.

Colditz is a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and he has served on the National Institutes of Health Council of Councils. He has been awarded his field's most prestigious honors from, among others, the American Cancer Society, the American Association for Cancer Research and AAAS.

SUNY Honorary Doctoral Degree Recipients—University at Buffalo

1981	David Harker	1997	William Christie	2011	Ronald I. Dozoretz
1983	Alan E. Gottlieb		James Holland		Arthur E. Levine
1984	William C. Baird		Franklyn G. Knox	2012	Paula Allen-Meares
	Jacques Genest		Thomas Tomasi		Ronald H. Coase
	Wilson Greatbatch	1998	James W. McLernon	2013	Calyampudi R. Rao
	Seymour H. Knox Jr.	1999	Wolf Blitzer		Charles Wuorinen
1985	Erich Bloch		Lucille Clifton	2014	Ira Flatow
	Pierre Dejours		Clifton A. Poodry		Jack N. Lightstone
	Edwin F. Jaeckle	2000	Thomas Buergenthal		Norman R. McCombs
1986	Willard A. Genrich	2001	Alison Des Forges	2015	Christopher J. Scolese
	Gregory B. Jarvis*		Jane Goodall		David L. Shire
	Brian MacMahon		H. William Lichtenberger	2016	Leslie G. Ford
	John B. Slaughter		William H. Siemering		Helene D. Gayle
1987	George Hatem		Hatim A. Tyabji	2017	Marc A. Edwards
	Robert E. Rich Sr.	2002	Ellen Shulman Baker		Seong-Kon Kim
	Amos Tversky		Erma Hallett Jaeckle		Margaret Hempling McGlynn
1988	Louis J. Gerstman		Tom Toles		Bernard Rands
	Claude Lenfant	2003	Joseph P. Allen	2018	Gordon L. Amidon
1989	John M. Coetzee		Arthur O. Eve		Robert Peter Gale
	Philip Glass		Brad Grey		Abbe Raven
1990	Alonzo Church		Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted Ross		Margaret W. Wong
	Ira Michael Heyman	2004	John Walsh	2019	Julio Fuentes
	Wynton Marsalis		Robert G. Wilmers		Rebecca J. McCormick-Boyle
1991	James P. Comer	2005	Jack Dangermond		Donald Pinkel
	John W. Gardner		Henry A. Panasci Jr.*		Ashutosh Sharma
	Theodoor C. van Boven	2006	His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama	2020	Ruth Bader Ginsburg
1992	Marisol Escobar		Steven B. Sample		Donnica L. Moore
1994	Burt P. Flickinger Jr.	2007	Warren Bennis		Richard A. Schatz
	Robert V. Pound		Terry Gross	2021	C.K. "David" Chu
	Milton Rogovin	2008	Michael Batty		William R. Kinkel
1995	Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot		Maxine Hayes	2022	David Frank Adjaye
	Ishmael Scott Reed		Jean Malaurie		Ravinder K. Bansal
	George Widmer Thorn	2009	J. Mason Davis Jr.		Francesco Calogero
1996	Max B.E. Clarkson		Herbert A. Hauptman	2023	Agnes F. Williams
	Saxon Graham		Irene Zubaida Khan	2024	James S. Marks
	Jeremy M. Jacobs		Alan M. Zweibel		
	Florence S. Jacobson	2010	Mata Amritanandamayi Devi		<i>* Awarded posthumously</i>
	Gaynor I. Jacobson		Barry Glick		
	Northrup R. Knox		Steve Reich		
	Seymour H. Knox III*		Robert Vince		
	Helen M. Ranney				

Guest Speaker

James McDonald, MD, MPH

Commissioner, New York State Department of Health



James V. McDonald MD, MPH, was appointed Acting Commissioner of Health January 1, 2023 and confirmed by the Senate June 9, 2023. Prior to joining the New York State Department of Health in July of 2022, McDonald served at the Rhode Island Department of Health since 2012.

At the Rhode Island Department of Health, he served in multiple roles including, Interim Director of Health, Chief Administrative Officer of the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, Medical Director for the COVID unit, as well as the Medical Director for Division of Health Care Quality and Safety and the Drug Overdose prevention program.

He was also a member of the Governor's task force on Preventing Overdose Deaths. McDonald has a faculty appointment at the UAAlbany School of Public Health as well as Brown School of Public Health.

McDonald earned his MD from Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago, his pediatric residency in the US Navy, and his preventive medicine residency from the State University of New York at Albany. He earned his MPH from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He earned his B.S. in biology from Siena College. McDonald is board certified in pediatrics as well as preventive medicine.

His diverse career includes officership in the U.S. Navy, as well as private practice in rural areas where health care shortages existed. McDonald also served in the Indian Health Service in the Navajo Nation, serving as Medical Director of Outpatient Medicine in Chinle, Ariz.

McDonald was awarded the degree Doctor of Humane Letters from Siena College in May of 2024 for exemplary achievement, leadership and commitment to humanitarian ideals.

Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

This award acknowledges students for outstanding achievements that have demonstrated the integration of SUNY excellence within many aspects of their lives in areas such as academics; research; leadership; campus involvement; community service; diversity, equity, inclusion and justice; or the arts.

Cameron Kiner



Cameron Kiner of Barker, NY, graduates with a Bachelor's and Master's of Public Health. An Honors College scholar and inductee of Phi Beta Kappa and Delta Omega, he has also demonstrated leadership in campus governance. He is a Leadership House graduate, served as a Student Association Senator, and was President of the Residence Hall Association. He serves on the board of Lock City Sound, a local choir group, and has performed in the North American premiere of an internationally recognized show. He also works full-time at the U.S. House of Representatives, providing constituent services with a focus in healthcare.

School of Public Health and Health Professions

Subject to the completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon those individuals listed herein who were identified by April 2, 2026, and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. Candidates are listed according to actual date of degree conferral (August 2025, February 2026, and June 2026).

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 2026 commencement programs, candidates for the June 2026 degree conferral date must qualify based upon their UB cumulative GPA through the Winter 2026 session and total number of UB credit hours projected through the Spring 2026 semester. Standings for Latin honors MAY change once final grades are posted or degrees conferred.

Alpha Eta

Alpha Eta is a national honor society that recognizes superior academic achievement in the allied health professions.

Dean's Scholars

The Dean's Scholars program recognizes superior undergraduate students within the School of Public Health and Health Professions for their potential to succeed in graduate study.

Delta Omega

Delta Omega is a national honor society that recognizes public health excellence and leadership. Gamma Lambda is the University at Buffalo's chapter.

Pi Theta Epsilon

Pi Theta Epsilon is a national honor society that recognizes superior academic achievement in occupational therapy.

HRSA Trainees

HRSA trainees are students who completed their program as a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Public Health Trainee grant recipient.

Legend

Cum laude is denoted by an asterisk (*)

Magna cum laude is denoted by two asterisks (**)

Summa cum laude is denoted by three asterisks (***)

Alpha Eta is denoted by a dagger (†)

Dean's Scholars are denoted by a lambda (Λ)

Delta Omega inductees are denoted by a delta (Δ)

HRSA Trainees are denoted by a theta (θ)

Pi Theta Epsilon are denoted by infinity (∞)

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 Salmon Cord

This cord was awarded to graduating students inducted into the Delta Omega Honorary Society.

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.

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 and Lavender Stole

These items were received by students who participated in the Lavender Celebration, recognizing achievements of graduating students who identify as LGBTQ+ or allies.

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.

Doctorate Degrees—PhD

Department of Biostatistics

Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics

August 2025

Joseph Boccardo

“Omics Module Detection via Sparse Matrix Decomposition”

June 2026

HyunAh Lee

“Adaptive Identification of Key-Regions for Interpretable and Efficient Neuroimaging Analysis”

Department of Community Health and Health Behavior

Doctor of Philosophy in Community Health and Health Behavior

August 2025

Cassy Dauphin

“Black Mothers’ Breastfeeding and Childbirth Experience: An Examination of Multilevel Factors’ Influence on Breastfeeding Behavior”

Angelica D. Tutasi Lozada Δ

“Adapting the Veggie Van Mobile Market Intervention to Address Disparities in Nutrition Security Among College Students”

February 2026

Natasha Claire Allard

“Identifying Opportunities to Promote Young Adult Healthcare Seeking and Improve the Timeliness and Severity of Cancer Diagnoses: An Examination of Symptom Appraisal, Help-Seeking Decisions, and Psychosocial and Behavioral Barriers to Healthcare Engagement”

Michelle Goulette

“Modes of Cannabis Administration and Regulatory Implications for Adolescents and Young Adults Living in the United States”

June 2026

Malaiikha Noel McCormick-Cisse

“Social, Environmental, and Gender-Based Differences in Alcohol Use Outcomes Among Drug Treatment Court Participants”

Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

Doctor of Philosophy in Epidemiology

June 2026

Samantha Smith

“Reduction or Cessation of Alcohol Consumption and Breast Cancer Risk and Survival: The American Cancer Society Cancer Prevention Study (CPS-II)”

Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy in Exercise Science

June 2026

Joshua T. Murphey

“Integrated Physiological Responses to Cold and Hypoxic Stress in Alpine Environments”

Doctor of Philosophy in Nutrition Science

June 2026

Katherine Kern

“Effects of Pramlintide on Feeding Behavior in Rats”

Department of Rehabilitation Science

Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Science

August 2025

Wenjie Ji

“Exercise Effects on Cardiovascular Autonomic, Cerebrovascular, and Cognitive Dysfunction in Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury”

June 2026

Ignacio Novoa Cornejo †

“Expanding the Vestibular Motor Network: From Spinal Reflexes to Muscle Activation Patterns in the Neck and Upper Limb Control”

Doctorate Degrees-DPT, BS/DPT

Department of Rehabilitation Science

Doctor of Physical Therapy

June 2026

Meghana Caron
Milan Chacko
Nathanael Cho
Heather Gotro †
Brett Heininger
Dalton Robert Jerzak
William Kim
Michael LoPresti
Julia Mallow
Joshua Manning
Mykaela Martin
Kyle Melito
Henry Hoch Palermo
Gregson Pigott
James A. Plunkett
James Schneider
Jenna E. Sniatecki †
Christina Wende

Department of Exercise Science & Department of Rehabilitation Science

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science/Doctor of Physical Therapy

June 2026

Brennaugh Noel Chapman **
Tyler Cook *
Miles Couch *
Daniel Dlugosz **
Alexandra Judge *
MeiHannah Kolb **
Audrey Mack ***
Elizabeth Dorothy McKeon *
Jaxen Roth *
Christopher Ruiz *
Dania Sallam **
Noah Satter † **
Emily Sirface † ***
Nicholas Smith
Carlene Swanson † ***
Katelyn Elizabeth Vara *

Master's Degrees—MA, MS, BS/MS

Department of Biostatistics

Master of Arts in Biostatistics

August 2025

Jingqi Linch
Yen Ling Liu

February 2026

Austin Richard Reszel

June 2026

Gogoate Ledum Lemea
Nikolay Simakov
Rahul Singh
Jiali Yuan

Master of Science in Bioinformatics and Biostatistics

August 2025

Yagnavalkya Devarakonda

February 2026

Shaoying Yao

June 2026

Sanvidhi Singh

Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

Master of Science in Epidemiology

August 2025

Peterson Pierre
Monica Sarker

June 2026

Alexa Dorobiala
John Eggleston
Abigail Elizabeth Shafer
Michaela Stockwell
Rebecca Stutz

Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

Master of Science in Athletic Training

June 2026

Brianna Bruni
Molly Paige Dineen
Natalie Fraser
Kevin Gabalski
Lillee Gould
Corinne Halley
Michael Lodestro
Emma Kristina Lombardi
Truc Ly
Darci Camryn Richmond
Kathryn Watson
Connor J. Weiss
Jodie Willemse †

Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition

August 2025

Kim Truc Thi Le

June 2026

Emma M. Bartholomay
Ana Bausch
Emily Bouchard
Natalie Antonina Cassalia
Jessica Dmitrova
Laurel Nicolette Ehrlich
Teri-Ann Graham
Alexa Hurley †
Yunji Kim
Hannah Mackenzie Latour †
Yuxin Li
Jack McGowan †
Autumn Phillips
Daniel Andre Ruano
Sofia Ruffo
Jennilyn Stark †
Mya Sugg
Omar Velasquez
Amanda Wada Milford

Master of Science in Exercise Science

February 2026

Joseph Xavier McDonald
Vaishnavi Vilas Pokharkar
Kruti Ashok Vyas

June 2026

Schweta Sanjeev Acharya
Arashi FNU
Tanvi Mandar Bapat
Urmi Abhay Bhatt
Chandni Tarang Chokshi
Tanisha Hiwalkar
Anusha Anil Kapileshwar
Shayna Prasad Karmarkar
Saloni Sachin More
Bansari Ashwin Panchal
Antara Pradip Parkar
Vrutika Navinbhai Patel
Shravani Sanjay Patil
Harleen Kaur Saini
Fenalee Tandel
Sayali V. Tawte

Master of Science in Nutrition

August 2025

Kuheli Bandyopadhyay

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science/ Master of Science in Athletic Training

June 2026

Paul Colosimo
Darion Frederick † *
Haleigh Smith †
Brianna Vezzose †

Department of Rehabilitation Science

Bachelor of Science/ Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

June 2026

Nailah Alam **
Luke Arocho **
Michael Borgese ∞ † ***
Shelby Bulbulian *
Nazifa Choudhury **
Samantha Czora *
Marissa Gifford ∞ † ***
Kaylee Hassen ∞ † ***
Jake J. Jackson
Yelisse Jaramillo Sanchez **
Natalie Koepf ∞ † ***
Janiyah Lee *
Emily Lewandowski ∞ ***
Olivia Marko **
Emily McEwen *
Claire Mihalyov ∞ ***
Yosra Mohamed *
Jacqueline Ning *
Jenna Novella † **
Esther Oh *
Isabella Viola Peralta **
Vincenza Anna Puma **
Hannah Ramsey *
Hailey Randazzo *
Cassidy Regan **
Julianna Rucci ∞ †
Alexis E. Shattuck ∞ ***
Kamora Lyneece Stanley
Brenna Stefanides *
Dawsun Weil ∞ ***
Daniella Wong ∞ **

Master's Degrees—MPH, BS/MPH

Master of Public Health

Department of Biostatistics

June 2026

Lea Kyle
Mahmuda Al Neyma

Department of Community Health and Health Behavior

February 2026

Jessica Rose Abriss
Joanne Camille
Timothy Chipp
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Julia Cosner θ
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Anne Garno θ
Tahreem Kamal
Andrew Levine
Shakira Louise Maki
Elizabeth Anne Marshall Metcalfe
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Sean Edward Owen
Marsha Alethea Spence Gayles θ
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June 2026

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August 2025

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February 2026

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Frances Wallace

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Rouge Rodriguez
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Bachelor of Science in Public Health/ Master of Public Health

Department of Community Health and Health Behavior

June 2026

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Francesca Scanlon * θ

Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

June 2026

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Jaylen Johnson *** θ
Cameron Kiner *** θ
Khareem Majid * θ
Charis Marvel *

Baccalaureate Degrees

Department of Biostatistics

Bachelor of Arts in Statistics

August 2025

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February 2026

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Weizhi Yuan

Alex Zhu ***

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Bachelor of Science in Nutrition

February 2026

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Department of Rehabilitation Science

Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy

June 2026

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Amanda Wada Milford
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Cancer Epidemiology Training T32

Samantha Smith

Carlton R. Meyers Award

Darion Frederick

Cathy Davius Award

Alexa Hurley

Community Health and Health Behavior Outstanding Doctoral Achievement Award

Ana Leticia Pereira Andrade

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Rouge Rodriguez

Epidemiology and Environmental Health Chair's Award for Dissertation Excellence

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Julie Baker Award

Monica Sarker

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Marissa Gifford
Isabella Peralta

Matthew J. Morris Memorial Award

Jack McGowan
Omar Velasquez

National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Chuck Kimmel First-Time Attendee Award

Brianna Vezzose

New York State Athletic Trainers' Association (NYSATA) District 2 Scholarship

Brianna Vezzose
Jodie Willemse
Darion Frederick

Outstanding Undergraduate Public Health Senior Award

Aubrey Grace French

Paul T. Wietig Community Service Award

Malaiikha Noel McCormick-Cisse

Professional Football Athletic Trainers' Society (PFATS) Female Scholarship Program (Buffalo Bills)

Darion Frederick

Awards

Robert O'Shea Student Travel Award

Samantha Smith
Michaela Stockwell

Sue E. Bennett Memorial Scholarship

Noah Satter
Katelyn Vara

Dr. Saxon Graham Dissertation Award

Sarah Lima

World Cancer Research Fund Fellow

Samantha Smith

Dr. Saxon Graham Research Award

Samantha Smith

Sidney Addelman Outstanding Master's Student Award

Jiali Yuan

Society for Epidemiologic Research Student and Postdoctoral Committee Travel Scholarship

Samantha Smith

Society for Epidemiologic Research Student Dissertation Workshop Fellow

Samantha Smith

David P. & Laura C. Stonegraber Scholarship

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Janiyah Lee
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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)

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A Message from the Dean Jean Wactawski-Wende

Dear Graduates:

It is my great pleasure to celebrate with you today as all the talented graduates of the School of Public Health and Health Professions cross the stage to mark your academic achievements and the milestone of commencement.

Those gathered here to support you—families, friends, partners, faculty and fellow students—share in the pride of this moment. Your accomplishments reflect not only your dedication and perseverance, but also the encouragement, guidance and belief of the people who stood beside you throughout your journey.

Today also marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter. As graduates of our school, you will carry forward the knowledge, skills and values you developed here as you work to improve health and well-being in communities near and far. Your commitment to addressing complex health challenges and reducing health inequities will play an important role in building healthier, stronger communities.

Please know that the entire University at Buffalo community and the School of Public Health and Health Professions are proud of your achievements and look forward to all that you will accomplish in the years ahead. Congratulations, and best wishes for success in your future endeavors.

Warm regards,



Jean Wactawski-Wende
Dean and SUNY Distinguished Professor

UB Alumni Association Letter

Dear Member of the Class of 2026,

Congratulations and welcome! On behalf of the University at Buffalo Alumni Association, I am so proud to welcome you to a global community of more than 313,000 UB alumni. You earned this moment, and you will always have a home here.

Graduation is not the end of your UB story. It is the beginning of a new chapter. The friendships you formed, the university that shaped you and the experiences that helped you grow don't disappear when you cross that stage. They stay with you, wherever life takes you next.

To me, being a UB grad is about far more than staying connected through platforms and newsletters. It means being part of a community that reaches beyond Buffalo and continues to provide opportunities long after graduation. It means doors opened by fellow UB alumni, and the opportunity to open doors for others in return. It means the chance to continue learning and connecting, whether that happens through tools like Connect-a-Bull and Career North, or through UB Regional Alumni Networks that help you build friendships and professional connections at home or wherever life takes you. These networks link alumni locally, nationally and globally so you can find a UB community almost anywhere you land. Being a UB grad means being welcomed back, being plugged in and being part of a lifelong community that supports each other in work, in life and in growth.

I want to acknowledge the graduates wearing green philanthropy cords, a visible sign of their commitment to giving back. Their generosity—along with volunteerism and leadership—reminds us that collective support, in many forms, is what sustains and strengthens our alma mater.

This is not a goodbye. It's welcome. Welcome back for homecoming. Welcome to learning, leading, giving back and staying connected. Welcome to a lifelong relationship with UB. Wherever you go, you'll always be True Blue.

Go Bulls!

Sincerely,



Eileen Marutiak, BA '06
President, UB Alumni Association Board of Directors

P.S. To see what's waiting for you, visit buffalo.edu/alumni.



Ceremonial Mace

The ceremonial mace is traditionally carried during the procession by a senior distinguished faculty member as a symbol of authority. The staff is made of dark, polished walnut, topped by three intersecting silver rectangles simulating the emblem of the State University of New York at Buffalo. When not in use for ceremonial purposes, the mace is displayed to visitors in the office of the dean. The mace was designed and constructed by Irwin Franco, jeweler, woodcrafter, and former assistant professor, Department of Occupational Therapy.

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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.

