



2026

**UB** University at Buffalo  
The State University of New York



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
**COMMENCEMENT**

Saturday

May 16, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Center for the Arts

North Campus

Keith A. Alford  
*Dean and Professor*

*We would like to acknowledge that the University at Buffalo operates on the traditional territory of the Seneca Nation, a Haudenosaunee/Six Nations Confederacy.*

# 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

## **Prelude**

*Music performed by the Buffalo Niagara  
Brass Quintet*

## **Processional\***

Selections from *Pomp and Circumstance*  
By *Edward Elgar*

## **Opening Declaration**

Denise Krause  
*Clinical Professor*  
*Associate Dean for Community Engagement  
and Alumni Relations*

## **National Anthem**

Lauren McGowan  
*Assistant Dean for Admissions  
and Enrollment*

## **Welcome**

Keith A. Alford  
*Dean and Professor*

## **Greetings**

Satish K. Tripathi  
*University President*

## **Remarks**

Dean Alford

## **Commencement Address**

Jillian Hanesworth  
*Poet Laureate Emeritus*

## **SSW GSA Student Address**

Emily Sutton  
*President of the SSW Graduate Student  
Association*

## **Announcement of Student Awards**

Associate Dean Krause

## **SSW GSA Announcement of the GSA Faculty, Staff, and Adjunct Faculty Awards**

Emily Sutton – President  
Brendan Quigley – Vice President  
Jennifer McCarthy – Treasurer  
Jacob Thompson – Secretary

## **Recommending Candidates for Degrees**

Dean Alford

## **Conferring of Degrees**

President Tripathi

## **MSW Hooding Ceremony**

### **Announcing MSW Candidates for Hooding**

Kathryn McClain-Meeder  
*Clinical Associate Professor*  
*MSW Program Director*

Patricia Logan-Greene  
*Associate Professor*  
*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

## **MSW Hooders**

Peter Sobota  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

JoAnn S. Lee  
*Associate Professor*

## **DSW Hooding Ceremony**

### **Announcing DSW Candidates for Hooding**

Louanne Bakk  
*Clinical Associate Professor*  
*DSW Program Director*

## **DSW Hooders**

Annahita Ball  
*Associate Professor*

Elizabeth Bowen  
*Associate Professor*

Isok Kim  
*Associate Professor*

## **PhD Hooding Ceremony**

### **Announcing PhD Candidates for Hooding**

Mickey Sperlich  
*Associate Professor*  
*Interim PhD Program Director*

## **PhD Hooders**

Wooksoo Kim  
*Professor*

Noelle St. Vil  
*Associate Professor*

## **Musical Interlude**

*Music performed by the Buffalo Niagara  
Brass Quintet*

## **Alumni Welcome**

Jennifer Carlson  
*Alumni Advisor*

## **UB Alma Mater**

Assistant Dean McGowan

## **Closing Declaration**

Associate Dean Krause

## **Recessional\***

Selections from *Pomp and Circumstance*  
By *Edward Elgar*  
*Music performed by the Buffalo Niagara  
Brass Quintet*

*\* Audience will remain seated during the Processional 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 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.

# Commencement Speaker

## 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.

## Keith A. Alford

*Dean and Professor*



Since being named dean of the University at Buffalo School of Social Work in 2021, Keith A. Alford has steered the school through a period of growth and stability. Under Alford's leadership, the school has launched a

five-year strategic plan to expand our impact on the diverse populations we serve. He also is steering the integration of racial trauma into the school's established trauma-informed and human rights framework.

Alford joined UB from Syracuse University, where he served as professor and director of the School of Social Work and as the university's first chief diversity and inclusion officer. A former child protective services worker and therapeutic foster care supervisor, Alford has devoted his professional life to serving and researching the needs of children and families.

Alford's research has appeared in numerous social work journals and has been funded by grants from the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, National Science Foundation and New York State Office of Mental Health. He also has authored book chapters and contributed columns on issues associated with diversity and human services. His professional memberships include the Academy of Certified Social Workers, Council on Social Work Education, National Association of Social Workers, National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work, Society for Social Work and Research, and Child Welfare League of America.

Alford earned his PhD and MSW from The Ohio State University College of Social Work and his BA from Coker University.

## Jillian Hanesworth

*Poet Laureate Emeritus*



Jillian Hanesworth is Buffalo's former and founding poet laureate. Born on the East side, she began writing at age 7, composing songs for her mother's church performances. Through her art, she challenges,

validates, and educates her community. Jillian founded Buffalo Books, a nationally recognized literacy access program that has allowed for the placement of 30+ library boxes on the East Side of Buffalo and provided over 1,000 free, and brand new culturally relevant books to residents of Buffalo. In 2024 Jillian was the recipient of a national Sports Emmy in the Dick Schaap Outstanding Writing category for her "Still Here" collaboration with the NFL Network, poetically documenting the pain, trauma and resilience of the City of Buffalo. Currently, she sits on the board of directors for Compass House and IIUTU Media in addition to traveling nationwide writing, performing, teaching, and speaking truth to power, all in the name of love for her people.

## Greetings from the Dean

On behalf of the University at Buffalo School of Social Work's faculty and staff, I congratulate the Class of 2026! You are now counted among the thousands of alumni who make a positive difference in the world every day. We are confident that the values and skills you gained through your coursework, practicum experiences and research will serve you well in your career.

Social work is vital — and more than ever, the world needs social workers like you to address the sweeping issues facing society, including oppression, racial and social injustice, poverty and homelessness, and unequal access to critical services. To confront such challenges, lean on the strengths-based approach and trauma-informed and human rights perspectives you developed here at UB.

Throughout your professional journey, you will impact countless lives, with a ripple effect more powerful than you realize. Be mindful of the noble responsibility you hold, lead by example and live your social work values, advocating on behalf of vulnerable populations and advancing the dignity and worth of humankind.

As UB graduates, you will be change agents, direct service and mental health providers, policy analysts, advocates, brokers and conveners, who uplift communities by establishing meaningful relationships and helping individuals and families to reclaim wellness. We are grateful that you placed your trust in us on your educational journey — and we now put our trust in you to pay it forward. I have every confidence that you will succeed.

Today, you join the thousands of social workers who represent UB in Buffalo and around the world. We are part of your ever-widening network, and your future is important to us. Please remember your alma mater — and keep in touch! Our alumni serve as mentors, practicum educators and donors who generously build our scholarship funds. We look forward to staying connected with you through your alumni association, events and workshops, Mosaics magazine, social media and beyond.

Again, on behalf of our faculty and staff, I applaud you today. Continue to empower one another and maintain wellness and safety. The social work profession heartily welcomes you!

Sincerely,

Keith A. Alford, PhD, ACSW  
Dean and Professor

# Awards

## **Andrew J. Laughlin Memorial Award – Nicholas Ferranti**

This award is presented to a graduating MSW student who demonstrates exemplary character, gives back to the community, is recognized for their sense of humor, strength, compassion and honesty, and models the values of the social work profession. This award was established to honor Andrew J. Laughlin, an outstanding young man who made significant contributions in the community through his volunteer work and as a model of social work values.

## **Angel McKnight-Miller Memorial Award – Danielle Henry**

This award was established to support an MSW student who embodies the qualities and promise of the late Angel McKnight-Miller, who died suddenly in 2017 while in her foundation year at the School of Social Work. The award acknowledges a student who demonstrates a strong commitment to social justice issues and the need to structure social institutions to promote human rights and opportunities for meaningful social participation; takes action to create a path to social change and to strengthen actions, policies, practices and attitudes that promote equitable power, opportunities, access and outcomes for all people; and possesses the qualities of hope, courage and strength.

## **Bertha S. Laury Thorn and Rose Award – Christine St. Claire**

This award is presented to an MSW student who demonstrates academic progress and transformation into a positive role model. This award was established by faculty, alumni and community leaders in honor of Bertha S. Laury, emeritus associate dean for community affairs.

## **Deborah Zimmerman, MSW '89 Award – Cynthia Harrison-Obi**

This award is presented to an outstanding MSW student who demonstrates passion and commitment to social work practice with older adults and who embodies the qualities of the late Deborah Zimmerman. This award honors her memory as an outstanding teacher and social worker who made significant contributions in the community through her work with the elderly.

## **Haseltine T. Clements Memorial Award – Donna Kim**

This award is presented to a graduating MSW student who has demonstrated concern for human dignity and continued efforts towards cultural competency in practicum. This award was established and sponsored by the Haseltine T. Clements Society.

## **Jane Emmet Epstein, LCSW-R Honorary Award – Charmy Rani**

This award is presented to a second-year MSW student who has demonstrated interest in mental health and specifically community mental health, demonstrates a commitment to volunteerism, and embodies the qualities that Ms. Epstein exemplifies: empathy, an ability to instill hope in others, sincerity and professionalism.

## **Jody Latvis Award in Social Work – Irina Nikitkova**

The Jody Latvis Award in Social Work is presented to an MSW student who excels academically and has financial need. Preference for this award will be given to female students and students who are parents.

## **Julian Sodja Memorial Award – Brittany Campanella**

This award is presented to a graduating MSW student who has demonstrated an extraordinary contribution to addictions practice, trauma survivors with addiction, or people with co-existing psychiatric disorders. This award was established by the School of Social Work Alumni Association.

## **Kristopher L. Braselton Memorial Award – Judy Panfil**

This award is presented to a graduating MSW student who has demonstrated academic persistence and determination, has overcome a personal difficulty or challenge, and intends to pursue a career in the health or mental health and disabilities field. This award was established by the Braselton family to honor the memory of their son Kristopher L. Braselton.

## **Louisa Cielen Scholarship Award – Elisabeth Garofalo**

This award is presented to a graduating MSW student who has demonstrated academic excellence, with a preference given to students committing to the field of health. This award was established in 1988 by Emil. J. Cielen.

## **Mary O'Donnell Memorial Scholarship Award – Irina Nikitkova**

This award is presented to a School of Social Work student who has demonstrated a) a commitment to social work practice with older adults living with dementia b) academic excellence, c) leadership, and d) practicum and/or community service. This award was established by Mary Kaplan, in honor of her mother.

# Awards

## **NASW Award – WNY Division – Aidan Fish**

This award was established by the National Association of Social Workers, Western New York Division, for presentation to a graduate student who has demonstrated academic excellence and personified values that are enunciated by the NASW.

## **Niles Carpenter Award – Rob Healy**

This award is presented to an MSW student within the foundation curriculum who has demonstrated financial need, an outstanding grade point average and strong practicum performance, and shows potential for professional achievement. This scholarship is named after the first dean of the School of Social Work.

## **Rose Weinstein Scholar Award – Elisabeth Garofalo**

This award is presented to a graduating MSW student who successfully completed the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education and who has demonstrated academic excellence, a commitment to social work practice with older adults, leadership and community service. This award was established by the UB Emeritus Center in honor of Rose Weinstein's legacy.

## **School of Social Work Alumni Association Award – Rebecca Lovenheim**

This award is presented to a foundation year MSW student who has completed the foundation curriculum and who has demonstrated practice skills, relationship building with clients and a commitment to the social work profession in the practicum education experience. This award was established by the School of Social Work Alumni Association.

## **School of Social Work Outstanding Student Award – Kasey Gustavson**

This award is presented to a graduating MSW student who has demonstrated academic excellence, leadership abilities within the school, community or university, and a commitment to the social work profession through their role as a student, colleague or member of a community.

## **Susan Nochajski and Jacqueline McGinley Excellence in Disability Practice Award – Michaela Gorenflo**

This award is presented to an MSW student who has demonstrated academic excellence and intends to pursue a career in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. This award was established by Dr. Jacqueline McGinley, in honor of those she supported in practice, and Dr. Thomas Nochajski, in honor of his wife, the late Dr. Susan Nochajski, a clinical associate professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and director of the Occupational Therapy Program.

## **Terese M. Eusanio Memorial Scholarship – Virginia Walczak**

This award is presented to an MSW student who embodies the qualities the late Terese Eusanio exemplified. The student must identify as a feminist and demonstrate an interest in women's health. The student must also maintain high academic standards and social work ethics, demonstrate respect for the dignity of all and the ability to work in a team, possess an interest and aptitude for community action, and work towards social and political change.

## **Wexler Family Award for Part-Time Students – Gabriela Bonura**

This award is presented to a high-achieving part-time MSW student in their second or third year who has demonstrated an interest in community practice with children and families. Preference is given to students with financial need from Western New York.

## **School of Social Work GSA Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award**

This award recognizes a faculty member for embodying the four key qualities of commitment to student learning; their dedication as a social worker, teacher, citizen of the community and role model; contributing to the furthering and betterment of the social work profession; and their overall excellence in teaching. The individual has been selected by the students and GSA officers of the School of Social Work.

## **School of Social Work GSA Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding adjunct faculty member dedicated to student learning. The individual has been selected by the students and GSA officers of the School of Social Work.

## **School of Social Work GSA Outstanding Staff Award**

This award recognizes the important contributions of staff members in supporting School of Social Work students. The recipient has demonstrated excellence in their position and service to students. The individual has been selected by the students and GSA officers of the School of Social Work.

# 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 1, 2026, and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. Candidates are listed according to actual date of degree conferral (February 2026, June 2026 and August 2026).

## **Special Recognition:**

### **Gold Cords:**

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

### **The Kente Stole:**

This stole was received by students who participated in UB's ALANA Celebration of Achievement which is open to all students and has historically 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 active duty servicemembers, reservists, members of the National Guard, newly commissioned officers or veterans of the United States armed forces.

*The first seat in the front row has been reserved and marked by a white ribbon in honor and memory of those students who have passed and cannot join us in the celebration of our graduates today.*

*\* Denotes induction into the University at Buffalo School of Social Work's Rho Kappa Chapter of the Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society.*



# Candidates for Degrees

## PHD

### June

Megan Darlene Bailey\*

### August

Jennifer DeJon Elliott  
Meschelle Linjean

## DSW

### June

Sade Ali  
Danielle Bernas  
Brandon Timothy DuFrane  
Melissa Elliott-Brogan  
Melissa Enns\*  
Ericka Garcia-Allison  
Justin Joseph Giambruno  
David Kurtz  
Barbara Maronski  
Roxanne Joann Munroe\*  
Eric Ruiz  
Parisa Saghati  
Madison Thie  
Tammie Williams-Pittman

## MSW

### February

Rodney T Austin  
Kayliee Bertrand-Henretta  
Nikki Burst\*  
Kendra Galligan  
Andrew Levine  
Jess Lindsay  
Jessica MacNamara

### June

Fardowsa Hussein Aden\*  
Zahraa Al-sharifi  
Linda Alzarif  
Cali Andriette  
Jaelynn Aponte  
Shelby Arena  
Sophie Beckman  
Cassandra Bell  
Bridget-Avia Agyemang Bonsu  
Gabriela Bonura  
Claire Elizabeth Bressette\*  
Toria Brock  
Shameela Brown  
Brigid Ann Burke  
Carly Caligiuri  
Brittany Campanella  
Brendan Patrick Charette  
Hannah Cole  
Amara Grace Condidorio  
Antonia DeBenedittis  
Miranda DeMarzio  
Gloria Evans  
Nicholas X. Ferranti\*  
Rheya Jewelle Fisher  
Margaret Fitzgerald  
Rylee Francis

Ben Furer  
Danielle Janice Garratt  
Mimosa Gordon  
Kasey Gustaveson  
Kiearah Nataliyah Henry-Lucas  
Brianna Hirschman  
Abid Hossain  
Linnea May Jimerson\*  
Bailey Isabelle Kaye  
Maddie Kelly  
Julie Kelton\*  
Donna Kim  
Gabby Kirsh  
Alena Kopec  
Bess Lehman  
Olivia Lindquist  
Natalie Marino  
Alyssa Marrano  
Abagail Mattison\*  
Jen Mauer  
Gray C McCaffrey-Green  
Emma Elizabeth McCarthy\*  
Jennifer McCarthy  
Kelsey Melnyk  
Carly Meyer\*  
Riley Mikolajczyk  
Tara Monaco  
Lea Morgan  
Kaitlyn Mary Morris\*  
Tommy Muecke  
Sean Michael Murray  
Kassandra Nedeska  
Nick Nocek  
Judy Evangeline Panfil\*  
Micah Pravda  
Alexandra Quillen  
Charmy Rani  
Cameron Rambaran

Fadwa Ratoub  
Aileen Rebecca Richardson  
Jory Leana Robins  
AJ Rockey  
Melissa Rodino  
Rishita Rudraraju  
Melina Sanchez  
Adam Wiley Selon  
Annie Scaglione  
Cynthia Schoberg  
Michael Schulz  
Emily Shannon  
Joanna Shaw  
Hilary Simonick  
Marly Claire Sobiecki\*  
Megan Stoimenova  
Emily Sutton  
Sulay Tapia  
Sarah Tasseff\*  
RJ Tebor  
Erin Tesluk  
Michaela Thorley  
Hannah Tingley  
Ryan Tropf  
Taylor VanDine  
Susanna Vaupen  
Junelis Villar\*  
Gabrielle Wagner\*  
Virginia Sophie Walczak\*  
Sarah Elizabeth Warren  
Briannah M Weeks  
Bridget Whelan  
Crystal Dawn Williams  
Alia Williams  
Alexis Lynn Wright\*  
Abigail Helen Young

**August**

Sarah Alabi\*  
 Jessica Paulina Alonso  
 Annette Joy Ballentine  
 Janelle Bausman  
 Hillary Ann Belin  
 Belise Bideri  
 Rebecca Marie Breymeier\*  
 Sarah Kathleen Boothe  
 Nikki Christine Brown  
 Arron Anthony Burnett  
 Cass Calhoun Sargeant  
 Cory Cantales\*  
 Joseph Carr  
 Rhianna Paige Chapin\*  
 Juliana Chris  
 Larissa Anne Correia  
 Steph Cowling-Rich  
 Aidan Coyle\*  
 Zhaleya Dewdney  
 Alaysia Dickens  
 Ola Dipeolu\*  
 Brenna Fitzgerald  
 Vinnette Folkes  
 Maya Gadley  
 Elisabeth Church Garofalo\*  
 Avery Moriah Georgakis  
 Mariel Godard\*  
 Cody Green

Jacquelyn Ann Gulla  
 Ryan Hartman  
 Cassia A Hill  
 Mu Htoo  
 Noba Htoo  
 Heather HoganDanielle T. Ifill  
 Billie Johnson  
 Susan Johnson  
 Liam Joynt\*  
 Madison Kahler\*  
 Jennifer Alice-Carroll King  
 Vera Ashley Kovack\*  
 Heather Luttmr  
 Scott Mackey II  
 Kaela Marciniak  
 Ian Miller  
 Odalys Morales  
 Kayla Victoria Mustipher  
 Miranda Rose Nichols  
 Danielle Northrup\*  
 Kyra Nowak  
 Hallie Orfano  
 Yarielix Owens\*  
 Claire LuYuTing Parsons  
 Janet Nilsena Revan  
 Kara Riemer\*  
 Margie Rivera  
 Giannylee Santiago  
 Natalie Jade Self

Katrina Elena Siladi\*  
 Miranda Smith  
 Hillary Marie Soto  
 Christine St. Claire  
 Sally Streets\*  
 Taylor Swartz  
 Abby Tartaro\*  
 Shannon Toomey  
 Leah Elizabeth Waldman\*  
 Kayleigh Walker  
 Shavonne Marie Walton  
 Meghan Ward  
 Kerri Wehling  
 Faith Frances Westgate  
 Shaquita Wimes  
 Erica Marie Wynn\*  
 Sherece Wynter  
 Lawrencine Yarborough

**BA/MSW****June**

Renee Trenyce Branche  
 Autumn Christina Craig  
 Rebecca Marie Keller  
 Jade Liao\*  
 Phoebe Alexandra Miller  
 Allison Newton  
 Brendan Eamonn Quigley  
 Ariel C. Siegfeld  
 Julia Slezak  
 Marianna Grace Spence\*  
 Tara Wojtkowski\*

**MBA/MSW****June**

William Garrett Brady  
 Lauren Regina Daniele  
 Janelle Valentine\*

**MPH/MSW****June**

Kristina Duong  
 Jaliyah Geddes  
 Sabrina Marie Petrie\*

**August**

Afia Owusu-Ansah

# Faculty

Keith A. Alford  
*Dean*  
BA, Coker University  
MSW, PhD, The Ohio State University

D. Michael Applegarth  
*Assistant Professor*  
BSW, Brigham Young University - Idaho  
MSW, Brigham Young University  
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

Amanda Aykanian  
*Assistant Professor*  
BA, Framingham State University  
MA, University of Massachusetts Boston  
PhD, University at Albany, State University of New York

Enoch Azasu  
*Assistant Professor*  
BA, MBA, University of Ghana  
MSW, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis

Louanne Bakk  
*Clinical Associate Professor*  
DSW Program Director  
BSW, Arizona State University  
MSW, University of Michigan  
PhD, Michigan State University

Annahita Ball  
*Associate Professor*  
BA, BA, MSW, PhD, The Ohio State University

Elizabeth Bowen  
*Associate Professor*  
BA, BPhil, University of Pittsburgh  
AM, University of Chicago  
PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago

Clara M. Bradizza  
*Professor*  
BSc, University of Toronto  
MA, PhD, Binghamton University

Lisa Butler  
*Associate Professor*  
BSc, University of Toronto  
PhD, Stanford University

Filomena M. Critelli  
*Associate Professor*  
Director of Undergraduate Studies  
Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
BA, SUNY Buffalo State University  
MSW, University at Buffalo, State University of New York  
PhD, University at Albany, State University of New York

Catherine N. Dulmus  
*Professor*  
Associate Dean for Research  
Director of the Buffalo Center for Social Research  
BSW, SUNY Buffalo State University  
MSW, PhD, University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Susan A. Green  
*Clinical Professor*  
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## Alumni Welcome

### **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](http://buffalo.edu/alumni).

# 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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**ON THE COVER:**

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.

