



2025

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

TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
**COMMENCEMENT**

Thursday

May 15, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Alumni Arena

North Campus

Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD

*Dean and SUNY Distinguished Professor*

**Associate Deans**

R. Lorraine Collins, PhD  
Gaspar A. Farkas, PhD  
Jo L. Freudenheim, PhD  
Ekaterina (Katia) Noyes, PhD  
Heather Orom, PhD  
Michael C. Redfern, MBA, EdM

**Assistant Deans**

Keith Conroy, BS  
Kimberly Krytus, PhD  
Lisa Neff, BA  
Sarahmona Przybyla, PhD  
Jillian Reading, PhD  
Mark Rotella, MBA

**Chairs**

Gregory G. Homish, PhD  
David P. Hostler, III, PhD  
Douglas Landsittel, PhD  
Pauline Mendola, PhD  
Sue Ann Sisto, PhD



# Program

## Processional

Selections from  
Pomp and Circumstance  
By Edward Elgar

## Opening Declaration

Douglas Landsittel, PhD  
*Chair, Biostatistics*

## 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*

Kirkwood Personius, PhD  
*Director, Doctor of Physical Therapy  
Program  
Clinical Associate Professor,  
Rehabilitation Science*

Jennifer L. Temple, PhD  
*Director, Nutrition and Health  
Research Laboratory  
Director, Graduate Programs  
Exercise and Nutrition Sciences  
Professor, Exercise and Nutrition Sciences*

## Greetings

Satish K. Tripathi, PhD  
*University President*

## Dean's Address

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

## Commencement Address

Frank Cerny, PhD, MDiv  
*Executive Director, Rural Outreach Center*

## Student Speaker

Elizabeth Lavoie  
*PhD, Exercise Science '25*

## Conferring of Degrees

Satish K. Tripathi, PhD  
*University President*

## Alumni Welcome

Rebecca Korosi, DPT  
*Vice President of Rehabilitative Services  
People Inc.*

## Alma Mater

Julia Pitarresi  
*BFA, Music Theatre '25*

## Closing Declaration

Professor Landsittel

## 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 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.

## Allison Brashear

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



Allison Brashear, MD, MBA, a world-renowned neurologist, is reshaping academic medicine at UB. As vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, she

promotes partnerships and integration across health sciences disciplines, driving health care innovation both locally and nationally. Additionally, she leads UBMD Physicians' Group as president and CEO.

Her impactful research has led to the approval of three botulinum toxin treatments for conditions like post-stroke spasticity. Continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2008, she is a leading expert in ATP1A3-related diseases, a spectrum of rare neurologic disorders.

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

Brashear earned her medical degree and completed her neurology residency at Indiana University School of Medicine. She earned her MBA, focused on health-sector management, at Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

In 2022, Brashear was elected to the Association of American Colleges Council of Deans Administrative Board; she became chair-elect in 2024. The same year, she was appointed to the AAMC's board of directors and joined the NIH Scientific Management Review Board. Brashear is also a trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation and 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 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, Dr. 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.

Dr. 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."

## Guest Speaker

### **Frank Cerny, PhD, MDiv**

*Executive Director, Rural Outreach Center*



Dr. Cerny completed undergraduate work at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. He finished his PhD in physiology, with a specialization in exercise physiology, at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. After two years post-doctoral work at the Sports Medicine Clinic in Freiburg, Germany, he returned to North America to teach for several years at the University of Windsor, Ontario. In 1976 he moved to Children’s Hospital of Buffalo to help establish the Children’s Lung Center where his research focused on the interactions between exercise and cystic fibrosis. Eventually this work led to the acceptance of activity as part of the standard of care for the disease.

In 1985 Dr. Cerny moved to the Department of Physical Therapy and Exercise Science at the University at Buffalo and eventually became chair. He is an award-winning teacher whose research interests expanded into the role of exercise in the treatment of diseases, including cystic fibrosis, asthma and diabetes.

Dr. Cerny is a fellow in the American College of Sports Medicine and served on the editorial boards for several journals and a reviewer for many more. He continues to provide input on the development of guidelines for activity for the pediatric population, both healthy and with dysfunction.

Dr. Cerny has been involved in his local community, including church youth groups, a Scoutmaster for 12 years and as the founder of the East Aurora and other local farmers markets.

He completed his Master of Divinity degree in 2003 and retired from UB in 2005 to become a full-time pastor. He currently serves as pastor of Pathways Christian Fellowship and Executive Director of the Rural Outreach Center or “The ROC.”

Located south of East Aurora, The ROC serves the rural poor in southern Western New York with an innovative empowerment model that has proven to move people out of poverty toward self-sufficiency. This model also dramatically addresses the health-related social needs of participants, leading to health improvements. He and his team at the ROC are now advocating for similar models to be established in other rural areas of New York State. Recognizing the critical need to create thriving rural communities. The ROC Rural Development Hub brings together community resources and partners with communities to develop affordable housing, a comprehensive transportation system, a health care network, and a work force development program

# 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 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.

## 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.

## HRSA Trainees

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

## Pi Theta Epsilon

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

## 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 2025 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 Stole

This stole 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

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.

## Doctorate Degrees—PhD, DPT, BS/DPT

### Department of Biostatistics

#### Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics

##### August 2024

Anran Liu

*“Contributions to Methods for Adverse Event Identification”*

Nan Nan

*“Recent Statistical Developments in Biomarker Evaluation and Classification with Application in Alzheimer’s Disease”*

##### February 2025

Shuangcheng Hua

*“Novel Statistical Methods in Biomedical Research: Assessing Cross-Stratum Consistency of Treatment Effect in Clinical Trials and Inferring Mutational Patterns in Genomics Studies”*

Tiange Shi

*“Network Integration and Optimization For Biological System Control”*

Xueqing Zhang

*“Statistical Inference of Association Parameters for Stratified Bilateral-Unilateral Correlated Data Under Donner’s Model”*

Jingtao Zhu

*“Devices Exact Tests and Designs in Drug Development and Evaluation of Medical Devices”*

##### June 2025

Joseph D. Boccardo

*“Omics Module Detection via Sparse Matrix Decomposition”*

Xinyu Gao

*“Efficient Data Designs and Decision-Making Procedures Used for Biomarker Evaluations”*

Shuyi Liang  $\Delta$

*“Selected Statistical Methods for Analyzing Bilateral and Unilateral Correlated Data”*

Wanqing Tian

*“Likelihood-Based Inferential Methods for Homogeneity Testing and Confidence Interval Estimation in Stratified Bilateral Correlated Data”*

### Department of Community Health and Health Behavior

#### Doctor of Philosophy in Community Health and Health Behavior

##### August 2024

Mehreen Arif

*“The Role of Risk-Related Behaviors and Mental Health on Alcohol Outcomes among United States Army Reserve and National Guard (USAR/NG) Soldiers”*

### Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

#### Doctor of Philosophy in Epidemiology

##### June 2025

Kaelyn Flanagan Burns  $\Delta$

*“Application of the TMAO-Dietary Pattern to Examine Associations With Metabolomic Profiles, the Gut Microbiome, and Vascular Health”*

John Lewis Etter  $\Delta$

*“Investigating Novel Clinical and Molecular Markers of X-Linked Ovarian Cancer”*

Sarah M. Lima

*“Historical Redlining, Neighborhood Dynamics, and Breast Cancer Survival”*

Ahmed Soliman

*“Proton Pump Inhibitors Use and Measures of Cardiovascular Health in Postmenopausal Women”*

**Department of Exercise  
and Nutrition Sciences**

**Doctor of Philosophy in  
Exercise Science**

**August 2024**

Paul Raymond Rosbrook

*"The Crossroads of Heat Stress, Metabolism,  
Nutrition, and Human Performance"*

**June 2025**

Elizabeth M. Lavoie

*"Sex Differences in the Physical and  
Physiological Responses to Military-Style  
Backpacking"*

Daniel Kellogg Sweet

*"Shipboard Firefighting: Acute  
Cardiovascular Risk & Predictors of  
Performance"*

**Doctor of Philosophy in  
Nutrition Science**

**August 2024**

Nicole Presti

*"Nutrition Interventions for Exercise Induced  
Muscle Damage"*

**February 2025**

Divya Choudhary

*"Dietary Pulse Consumption as a Nutritional  
Strategy to Protect Against Childhood  
Obesity"*

**Department of  
Rehabilitation Science**

**Doctor of Physical Therapy**

**June 2025**

Jon Carroll

Brianna DeMarco

Jack Edwards

Mallory M. Greenberg

Nicole Gruber †

Hailey Hoffman

Kali Iacucci †

Sophia Kesidis

Brandon Lynch

Victor McCutcheon

Aidan S. O'Shea

David Panfil

Courtney Sherwood

Jaehyeok Sim

Kyerra Loneta Smith

Elena Grace Spinuzzi

Andrew Wong

Tian Hang Xiang

Adham Zidan

**Department of Exercise Science  
& Department of  
Rehabilitation Science**

**Bachelor of Science in Exercise  
Science/Doctor of Physical Therapy**

**June 2025**

Charlotte Alvord

Katelyn Atzl \*\*

Samee Buccellato \*

Cassidy Burgner † \*\*\*

Emma Coster \*\*

Gregory Czolgosz \*\*\*

Nathan Dolan \*\*\*

Ryan Fong \*\*

Dean Gregory \*

Alexander Hislop \*\*

Margaret Kalba † \*\*

Patrick Liam Kyle \*\*\*

Jennifer Limer † \*\*\*

Alexander Martin \*\*

Mohsen Mohsen \*\*

Samantha Morris † \*\*\*

Olivia Ranalli \*\*

Andrew Raymond \*\*\*

Serena Roopnarine \*\*

Madison Schneeberger \*\*

Jared Simpson \*

Jenna Sonnenberg † \*\*\*

Angelino Luis Torres † \*\*\*

Kevin Yeung \*\*

Piere Yu \*\*\*

## Master's Degrees—MA, MS, BS/MS

### Department of Biostatistics

#### Master of Arts in Biostatistics

##### August 2024

Alina Sue Lomozik

##### February 2025

Shujuan Wang

##### June 2025

Andrew Schuck  
Nikolay A. Simakov  
William Howard Tanberg  
Zehao Wu  
Jia Zhou

#### Master of Science in Bioinformatics and Biostatistics

##### February 2025

Tara Brennan

##### June 2025

Joseph DiBiase  
Edy Munoz  
Mary Elena Visca

### Department of Community Health and Health Behavior

#### Master of Science in Community Health and Health Behavior

##### June 2025

Shane McCarty

### Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

#### Master of Science in Epidemiology

##### February 2025

Kayla E. Brown  
Danelly Rodriguez

#### Bachelor of Science in Public Health/ Master of Science in Epidemiology

##### June 2025

Parker Polston Δ \*\*\*

### Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

#### Master of Science in Athletic Training

##### June 2025

Zanyah Agard  
Ryan Jacob Boyette †  
Danielle Alana Christensen †  
Anna Elizabeth Davidson  
Micaela Fibleuil  
Emma Kyes  
Casey Trombley  
Amelia Waddell

#### Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition

##### August 2024

Meredith Anne Roberts

##### June 2025

Brando Chacon  
Samantha L. Chamberlain †  
Emmanuella Agyeman Duah  
Jacqueline Elise Frederick †  
Katherine Kraft  
Katy Worden

#### Master of Science in Exercise Science

##### August 2024

Richa Kamlesh Thakkar  
Jalak Rishikesh Upadhyay

##### February 2025

Mihir Mohan Bagde  
Aditya Manojkumar Baheti  
Komal Borkar  
Sandeepsinh Narendrasinh  
Dabhi  
Pooja Kamleshbhai Desai  
Sahil Rajmohan Dixit  
Victoria M. Franz  
Anjani Nikhilkumar Gandhi  
Urshita R. Jivani  
Harshita Ashokbhai Koladiya  
Lekha Madhuri Kosaraju  
Niyati Kalpeshkumar Mehta  
Tiithi Tushar Mehta  
Kavya Mohandas  
Jeel Parthivkumar Pandya  
Abhishek Patel  
Jil Bipinkumar Patel  
Maitraiye Pawagi  
Alexander Rawlings  
Rushvi Shah  
Megha Gururaj Sherigar  
Krinaben Mahendrasinh Solanki  
Raisa Togani  
Anusha Wagh

##### June 2025

Zachary Berzon  
Hasti Sanjay Kadiwala  
Masoom Hitesh Kotecha  
Nirva Manishkumar Patel  
Shreya Raghu Poojary  
Nidhi Ashvinbhai Raiyani  
Monali Shah  
Faheemunnisa Syeda

#### Master of Science in Nutrition

##### August 2024

Pitamber S. Dhaliwal

##### June 2025

Pleasure Amaechi  
Kuheli Bandyopadhyay

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

##### June 2025

Lydia Evalyn Kukui'okalani Akaka \*\*\*  
Nathanial Burrows \*  
Dana Keogler \*

### Department of Rehabilitation Science

#### Bachelor of Science/ Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

##### June 2025

Hope Ciganek ∞ † \*\*\*  
Tori L. Clyde  
Mia Connolly \*  
Lauren A. Darling \*

# Master's Degrees—MPH, BS/MPH

Danielle N. DiBenedetto ∞ \*\*  
Andrea Efthemis ∞ † \*\*  
Lydia Emmanuel \*\*  
Patricia Pinto Freitas ∞ † \*\*  
Sarah Fritschi ∞ † \*\*\*  
Riley Laurette Guy \*  
Rachel Hauth  
Alyssa Herbeck \*\*  
Jenelle Kuntz \*  
Justine Kurowski ∞ † \*\*  
Erica B. Lin  
Caroline Louie \*  
Samantha Kathryn Maloney ∞ † \*\*\*  
Chloe Andrea Mangila  
Brandon Michael  
Abigail Obrist ∞ † \*\*\*  
Brooke Osborne  
Kailey Elizabeth Peets \*\*  
Gretchen G. Pohle ∞ \*\*  
Nasha Rosario \*  
Elizabeth Saturnino ∞ † \*\*\*  
Kevin Schwalbach  
Gabriella M. Sciortino \*  
Leah Stavrides \*\*  
Jessica Thoen ∞ \*  
Jared Thomas  
Skyler Thorpe \*  
Amy Travers  
Emily Rose Triquet \*  
Ryan Umano \*  
Elizabeth Walklet \*  
Leah Weis \*  
ShaNiya Whitfield \*  
Samantha Willard \*  
Isabelle Wroblewski \*  
Anna Zack \*

## Master of Public Health

### Department of Biostatistics

#### June 2025

Karrar Aljanahi Δ θ  
Trent David Meyer  
Kathryn Tilyou

### Department of Community Health and Health Behavior

#### August 2024

Omar Naser Obeidat

#### February 2025

Kristin Bender Adair  
Cierra Ashley Balfour θ  
Briyanna Kenyon Baron  
Marjorie Isadora Carlito  
Ryan Brandon Fuenmayor  
Kelsey LaMarco  
Mikayla Logan  
Gunnar Robert Madison  
Lauren Pukay  
Sadia Mahmud Rifah  
Taylor Romanyk-O'Brien θ  
Tatyana Sarmiento  
Diana M. Sieracki  
Caroline Elizabeth Smith  
Tasnim Tarannum θ  
Kennedy Walcott-George θ  
Lindsey J. Williams  
Khadija G. Wilson θ

#### June 2025

Sundus Alchaar θ  
Carthlande Bydjinie Almonor  
Shohely Shaba Anonna θ  
Omar Arman  
Kelsey Auman Δ  
Adeshina Oyedele Bello  
John Benिकासco θ  
Adalia M. Bilotta  
Nancy Elaine Brunt-Walawender

Sophia Charles θ  
Alice Connelly Δ  
Andrea Daniel-Sanders  
Zerlinda Caridad Diaz-Gerloven θ  
Joseph Farhangian  
Jacqueline E. Flores θ  
Katherine Foote  
Emily Frisa  
Jessica Gonda  
Mariangelis Gonzalez θ  
Kaitlyn Ha θ  
Rafid Habib  
Taylor E. Hansen  
Samantha Hicks  
Taseen I. Imran θ  
Erin Jenkins  
Melissa Kennedy  
Justin Kleppel  
Roxanne Sidney Kouadio θ  
Srikrithi Krishnan  
Lauren Elizabeth Lennett  
Caitlin T. Maloney  
Khadija Nadeem  
Monica Narciso  
Alvine Joy Ntiranyibagira  
Hector Ivan Ortiz  
Tara-Ann Perreault  
Simon Peter Pratt  
Adriana Pamela Raass  
Kristina Marilyn Smith θ

### Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

#### February 2025

Lucas Abbatiello  
Lutfia Tasnim Chowdhury θ  
Sarah Moreno θ  
Amanda Mourad

#### June 2025

Ally Acquilano  
John Alexander  
Rayan Alsuwailam  
Paige Mckenzie Bartosz

Jillian Diane Beard  
Farida Begum θ  
Marissa L. Camacho Δ θ  
William Cohen  
Vennela Damarla  
Loughan Driscoll  
Rana A. Elhusseini  
Jeila Marie Fuentebella  
Carmyn Gonzalez  
Lori-Ann Janeel Johnson  
Jasmine Kwok  
Ian Lechevet  
Inthava Joy Muneath  
Courtney Obregon  
Kayla O'Connor  
Joshua Omata  
Maya A. Owens θ  
Sarah Elizabeth Pillittieri  
Mubbashira Siddiqui  
Calista Van Wart  
Subashini Vijayabhaskar  
Brianna Marie Weigen  
Daisy Zhou

### Bachelor of Science in Public Health/ Master of Public Health

### Department of Community Health and Health Behavior

#### June 2025

Puspa Sunzida Sabu θ \*\*\*

### Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

#### February 2025

Victoria Balazs \*\*\*

#### June 2025

Angelica Maria Bustillos Vasquez θ \*  
Annice J. Chen \*\*\*  
Hassan Usman Saif \*\*\*  
Ian Wong \*\*\*

# Baccalaureate Degrees

## Department of Biostatistics

### Bachelor of Arts in Statistics

#### February 2025

Roy William Brandau IV \*\*\*  
Gordon B. Robillard

#### June 2025

Anna M. Andrews \*\*  
Matthew Joseph Boyce \*\*\*  
Anthony Chieppa \*  
Chance Galen Hansen  
Bailey Hardick \*\*\*  
Colin Henn  
Lucy Hu \*\*  
Brady S. Jones \*  
Maya Labuhn \*\*\*  
Shelly Lin  
Liam Meyers \*\*\*  
Caramia Michno \*\*\*  
John Motta  
Julianna Pereira  
Spencer Christian Price \*  
Tyler Jeremy Quinn \*\*\*  
Nicholas Travers \*\*\*  
Ivan Wang  
Weizhi Yuan

## Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

### Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science

#### August 2024

Lauren Auyoung  
Katharine Elizabeth Balog  
Dominick Anthony Bonarrigo  
William A. Grillo  
Aidan J. Murphy  
Jotam Mwakalinga  
Logan Alexys Overton \*\*  
Megan Elizabeth Persico  
Autumn Elise Phillips Pease \*  
Alexia V. Ruiz  
Dominic Matthew Schmidt \*  
Alexander John Pleskow Schop \*  
Brendan Patrick Travis \*  
Mohammed A. Ullah  
Kelly Wu

#### February 2025

Jean Desir  
Gordon Fang  
Tatyana Aaliyah Kingston  
Abigail Leigh  
Eileen Paola Montalvo

#### June 2025

Kaitlyn Bagley \*\*\*  
Andgeo Baidoos \*  
McKenna Beddig  
Sean Connors  
Anthony Conti \*\*\*  
Shane T. Coster \*  
Katharine Cowen \*  
Shane Crandall  
Teagan Dodson \*\*  
Caitlin Donohue

Presley Dorsett \*  
Jason Farias \*\*\*  
Owen Edward Fisher \*  
Zechariah Michael Omega  
Franklin \*\*  
Olivia Mae Furgele \*  
Maria Beverly Futey \*\*\*  
Dania Gillins  
John T. Gugliotta Jr \*  
Ryan Hermann \*  
Timothy Herter \*\*  
Victoria Maxine Z. Igual  
Anna Jacob  
Isabel Joa \*  
Elliot Jozef Jones  
Malik Jump  
Julia Kachianos \*\*  
Kimberly R. Keller  
Catherine Kilmer \*  
Olivia Yaesle Kim  
Tae Kyu Kim \*\*  
Kylie King \*  
Trevor Lagoda  
Daviyon Karimi Lawrence  
Dong Lee  
Alec Levine  
Weiqi Liang \*  
Jing Ying Lin \*  
Joy Lin \*  
Tyler Ling  
Noah LoChiatto \*\*  
Rebecca Christine Mainviel  
Ashton Mallach  
Maria Maloney \*  
Michael Marciano  
John Mason \*  
Miranda Mateczun \*\*\*  
Makayla Mackenzie McGinty \*\*  
Kayla Marie McNall  
Eric Meilunas

Xander Namingha \*  
Kieran Neville  
Raquel Perez  
Ignacio Pimentel-Mendez  
Mericlare Volante Refazo  
Crystal Richardson  
Max Rockett  
Hannah Rozanski \*  
Tristen Russell  
Anaya Marie Salgado \*\*  
Jacob A. Skinner  
Charles Dominic Snyder \*\*  
Carla Stoloski \*\*  
Matthew Taylor \*  
Luke Tubbs  
Abigail Tweedale \*\*\*  
Alexander Ulrich \*  
Gabriela Vargas \*\*  
Lauren Walling \*  
Alvin Wen \*  
Enmanuel Willins  
Emma Winden \*\*  
Lindsay Wise \*\*  
Andrew Ryan Wong  
Alicia Wood \*\*\*

### Bachelor of Science in Nutrition

#### February 2025

Sharon Gao  
Cara M. Glazier  
Lily Anne Murphy \*

#### June 2025

Brooke Cantie \*  
Caroline Chudnick \*\*\*  
Abby C. Kress \*  
Paige Lammers \*\*\*  
Desirae Ostrowski \*

**Bachelor of Science  
in Public Health**

**August 2024**

Maha Armayeth Aljabouri  
Ali Naser Alsayedi  
Jocelyn Alvarez \*  
Winnifred Ohenewah Atakora  
Najeeb A. Awad  
Hilda Awuor  
Alex Kofi Bonsu  
Gabriella M. Calleo  
Serenity Maria Capella \*\*\*  
Christian J. Clarcq  
Tatum R. Clarke  
Melanie A. Demera \*\*  
Caroline Noreen Farrell  
Luzkarie Galvan  
Sarah Goodenough \*\*  
Alyssa Juliano \*\*  
Anamica Kaucher  
Valentin Theo Kulka \*  
Lauren Kate Lee  
Alison McKenzie Lovelace  
Dana Lynch  
Jaylee Marsh \*  
Zachary A. Martin \*\*  
Brandon C. Meyer  
Mahmeema Ahmed Mohiuddin  
Emily Perez  
Danielle A. Thomas  
Isabelle Kelly Thomas  
Megan N. Williams  
Kelly Zheng  
Vinnie Zhu

**February 2025**

Amarachi Akabogu  
Flynn A. Biaglow \*  
Derek Bowen \*  
Caroline Breen \*

Andrew Y. Chan  
Lauren Day  
Sharon Gao  
Amie Han \*\*  
Leasha Martin \*\*\*  
Chase Russell Merrill  
Anbar Nawar  
Michelle K. Quispe  
Tusiime Stambuli \*

**June 2025**

Ashley Allegretti  
Evelyn A. Ampadu  
Christopher M. Anderer \*\*  
Juliana Asante \*  
Zachery Balduzzi  
Sydney Kristine Baldwin \*  
Sarah Ryan Benkovic \*  
Jaiden Michael Beyer  
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Brooklyn Brown \*\*  
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Elle Burich Δ \*\*  
Jillian Byers \*  
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Krystal Iona Cargill Δ \*\*\*  
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Kadjah Hussein \*  
Cherstian Johnson  
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Jessica Lin  
Fatima Bello Makama Δ \*\*\*  
Molly McDonnell  
Ashley Cynthia Michel  
Andrew Mock  
Noor Mohammed  
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Osika PlayGurung  
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Kaya Schultz \*\*\*  
Phurdoma Sherpa  
Ariana Crishon Small Δ \*\*  
Shadine Stoney \*  
Siddharth Suresh \*\*\*

Zoya Careena Surujbhan  
Tamaji Tigenoah  
Eva Trask \*  
Jasmine Turner Δ \*\*  
Eliana Mercedes Williams  
Adam Justin Wood  
Kiana van Keken

# Awards

## **Alfred T. Caffiero Scholarship Award**

Kali Iacucci  
Mohsen Mohamed Mohsen  
Madison Mae Schneeberger  
Jenna R. Sonnenberg

## **American Heart Association Pre-Doctoral Fellowship**

Ahmed Soliman

## **Annette Rachman Scholarship**

Pleasure Amaechi  
Kuheli Bandyopadhyay  
Brando Chacon  
Samantha L. Chamberlain  
Emmanuella Agyeman Duah  
Jacqueline Elise Frederick  
Katherine Kraft  
Maria Maloney  
Desirae Ostrowski  
Katy Worden

## **Art Goshin Global Health Field Work Award**

Danelly Rodriguez

## **Arthur A. Schomburg Fellowship**

Danelly Rodriguez

## **Best of American Society of Preventive Oncology, 2025 Annual Meeting--Place, Policy, and Cancer Disparities**

Sarah M. Lima

## **Community Health and Health Behavior Outstanding Doctoral Achievement Award**

Malaiikha McCormick-Cisse

## **Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Outstanding Senior Award**

Tae Kyu Kim

## **Francis V. Hanavan Memorial Fund**

Jacqueline Flores

## **J. Warren Perry Scholarship**

Samantha L. Chamberlain  
Jacqueline Elise Frederick  
Kali Iacucci  
Elizabeth Saturnino  
Adham Ashraf Zidan

## **Mark Diamond Research Fund**

Ahmed Soliman

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

Emma Kyes

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

Danielle Alana Christensen

## **NIH F31 Fellowship**

Kaelyn Flanagan Burns  
Danelly Rodriguez

## **Outstanding Undergraduate Public Health Senior Award**

Fatima Makama

## **Paul T. Wietig Community Service Award**

Srikrithi Krishnan

## **Professional Football Athletic Trainers' Society (PFATS) Ethnic Minority Scholarship Program (Buffalo Bills)**

Micaela Fibleuil

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

Emma Kyes

## **Robert O'Shea Student Travel Award**

Kaelyn Flanagan Burns  
Sarah M. Lima  
Parker Polston  
Danelly Rodriguez  
Ahmed Soliman

## **Saxon Graham Dissertation Award**

Yihua Yue

## **Saxon Graham Research Award**

Kaelyn Flanagan Burns  
John Lewis Etter  
Sarah M. Lima  
Ahmed Soliman

## **Stonegraber Scholarship**

Katelyn Atzl  
Brianna DeMarco  
Kali Iacucci  
Jenelle Kuntz  
Brandon Lynch  
Mohsen Mohsen  
Samantha Morris  
Elizabeth Saturnino  
Madison Schneeberger  
Jenna Sonnenberg  
Samantha Willard  
Adham Ashraf Zidan

**SUNY Graduate Research  
Empowering and  
Accelerating  
Talent (GREAT) Award**

Kaelyn Flanagan Burns

**UB Excellence in Research,  
Scholarship, & Creativity  
Award**

Parker Polston

**UB Presidential Fellowship**

Kaelyn Flanagan Burns

**Wactawski and Wende  
Family Endowment  
Award**

Kaelyn Flanagan Burns

**WHI Junior Investigator  
Travel Award**

Sarah M. Lima  
Ahmed Soliman

## 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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Professor

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Observatory  
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Director, Office of Global Health  
Initiatives

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Services Policy and Practice  
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vMelissa A. Genovese, MS  
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Director, Athletic Training Program  
Clinical Associate Professor

Sarah Krzyzanowicz, MSED  
Clinical Director, Athletic Training  
Program  
Clinical Instructor

Lee Krol, DPT  
Clinical Instructor

Ann Kuhn, PhD  
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Tegan Mansouri, PhD  
Director, Undergraduate Nutrition  
Science Program  
Clinical Instructor

Elizabeth G. Miettlicki-Baase, PhD  
Associate Professor

J. Luke Pryor, PhD  
Clinical Associate Professor

Riana R. Pryor, PhD  
Director, Hydration, Exercise and  
Thermoregulation Laboratory  
Associate Professor

Todd C. Rideout, PhD  
Associate Professor

Tiffany Rutecki, MS  
Clinical Director,  
Clinical Nutrition Program  
Clinical Instructor

Jennifer L. Temple, PhD  
Director, Graduate Programs  
Professor

Lesley Vandermark, PhD  
Clinical Assistant Professor

**Rehabilitation Science**  
Sue Ann Sisto, PhD  
Chair  
Professor

Michael R. Brown, PhD, DPT  
Associate Director, Doctor of  
Physical Therapy Program  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Robert F. Burkard, PhD  
Professor

Cristian Cuadra, PhD  
Co-Director, Rehabilitation Science  
PhD Program  
Assistant Professor

Turquessa P. Francis, EdD  
Academic Fieldwork Coordinator,  
Occupational Therapy  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Deanna Colburn Hostler, PhD, DPT  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Hang Jin Jo, PT, PhD  
Co-Director, Rehabilitation Science  
PhD Program  
Assistant Professor

James A. Lenker, PhD  
Director, Advanced Graduate Certificate  
in Assistive and Rehabilitation  
Technology Program  
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Christine Linkie, PhD  
Clinical Assistant Professor

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Jill E. Mayer, DPT  
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Education  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Jacob I. McPherson, PhD, DPT  
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Melanie M. Merrill, OTD  
Clinical Assistant Professor

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PhD, PT  
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Michael Policella, DPT  
Director, DPT Clinical Education  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Ghazala Saleem, EdD  
Assistant Professor

Michael Seils, EdD, DPT  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Christopher Stavisky, PhD  
Director, Rehabilitation Science MS  
Program  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Janice Tona, PhD  
Director,  
Occupational Therapy Program  
Clinical Associate Professor

## A Message from the Dean Jean Wactawski-Wende

**Dear Graduates:**

Congratulations! I am very pleased today to applaud all the graduates of the School of Public Health and Health Professions. We are here to recognize your academic achievements and celebrate this important milestone. This day is the start of what will be a remarkable journey for each of you as you begin your careers with a goal to improve health for all people. I believe your efforts to address and overcome health inequities is central to making our communities healthier and stronger.

The people gathered here to support you—families, friends, partners and fellow students—feel equally proud of your accomplishment. The person you have become is a result of your hard work and the support and belief of these people in your abilities. Thanks to all of those who supported our students in this journey!

Please know that everyone in the University at Buffalo and the School of Public Health and Health Professions wishes the best for you as you embark on your future work. Congratulations, and I wish each of you great success!

Warm regards,



Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD

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

## UB Alumni Association Letter

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

If you have questions about how to stay involved, contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at [ub-alumni@buffalo.edu](mailto: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  
*President, UB Alumni Association Board of Directors*

# SPHHP Alumni Letter

## Welcome to the SPHHP Alumni Family,

Congratulations! Today marks a tremendous milestone in your journey, and we are incredibly proud to celebrate your achievement. Earning your degree from the School of Public Health and Health Professions is no small feat—it reflects your dedication, perseverance, and a deep commitment to improving the health and well-being of communities near and far.

As you take this next step, know that you are now and always will be a valued member of the SPHHP family. Our alumni are leaders, innovators, and changemakers, and we are honored to count you among them.

We encourage you to stay connected with us—as mentors, collaborators, and lifelong learners. Whether through alumni networking opportunities or by returning to SPHHP to pursue further education, your continued involvement helps strengthen our community and support the next generation of public health and health professionals. **All graduates will receive SPHHP gift bags that include a “Stay In Touch” guide . Use it to join our LinkedIn, share your SPHHP photos, and to learn more about other degree programs we offer.**

Your future is full of promise, and we can’t wait to see the impact you will make.

Once again, congratulations, and welcome to the SPHHP alumni family!

# 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.

