

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
COMMENCEMENT

Friday

May 15, 2026

5:00 p.m.

Center for the Arts

North Campus

Julia E. Czerniak
Dean and Professor

Associate Deans

Jordana Maisel
Bruce Majkowski
JiYoung Park

Assistant Deans

Camden Miller
Eric Streeter

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*

"Pomp and Circumstance"
by Edward Elgar

Opening Declaration

Samina Raja,
SUNY Distinguished Professor, Department
of Urban and Regional Planning

Welcome

Erkin Özay
Chair, Department of Architecture

National Anthem*

Emelia Bottoms, Vocalist,
MS '27

Introduction of Platform

Erkin Özay

Greetings

Satish K. Tripathi
University President

Remarks and Awarding of Dean's Medal

Emmanuel Frimpong Boamah
Chair, Department of Urban and
Regional Planning

Commencement Address

Ann Forsyth
Professor of Urban Planning, Harvard
University

Presentation of Student Awards

Jordana Maisel
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Student Speaker

Tendaji Ya'Ukuu
BA END '26

Musical Interlude

Sarabande from Partita in A Minor
by J.S. Bach
Siana Jacobs, Flautist, MD '26

Conferring of Degrees

President Tripathi

Presentation of Bachelor Degree Candidates

Erkin Özay

Presentation of Master Degree Candidates

Emmanuel Frimpong Boamah

Presentation of Doctorate of Philosophy Candidates

Emmanuel Frimpong Boamah

Closing Remarks

Erkin Özay

Singing of the Alma Mater – Lyrics on page 13

Emelia Bottoms

Closing Declaration

Samina Raja

Recessional*

"Triumphal March" from Aida
by Giuseppe Verdi

Certificate Readers

Gregory Delaney
Kenneth MacKay
Camden Miller
Samina Raja

Faculty Medal Hangers

Stephanie Cramer
Lauren Fischer
Daniel Hess
Joyce Hwang
Alexandra Judelsohn
Matthew Roland
Jin Young Song
Jason Sowell

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

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

SUNY Trustee and UB Officials

Eunice Ashman Lewin

Member of the State University of New York Board of Trustees



President and co-founder of Impacto Consulting Associates, Eunice Ashman Lewin 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.

Julia Czerniak

*Dean, School of School of Architecture
and Planning*



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

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

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

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

Commencement Speakers

Ann Forsyth

*Professor of Urban Planning,
Harvard Graduate School of Design*



Trained in planning and architecture, Ann Forsyth is an award-winning professor of urban planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design whose research focuses on sustainable and healthy cities. She has assessed attempts to build more healthy and sustainable cities, empirically examined the connections between health and the built environment, and developed tools to assess built environments in terms of

health. Forsyth seeks to develop healthier places in a suburbanizing world while focusing on planning and design for aging populations and evidence-based practice.

Forsyth was previously the editor of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, the review editor of the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, and a co-editor of *Planning Theory* journal and *Progressive Planning* magazine — in addition to authoring five books and over 230 articles. Forsyth has earned over sixty awards, citations, named lectureships, and fellowships for her work including National awards from the American Planning Association (APA), American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA), Planning Institute of Australia (PIA); and state level awards from APA, ASLA, and PIA.

At Harvard, Forsyth was the director of the Master's in Urban Planning program (2012-2025) and chair of the Department of Urban Planning and Design (2023-2025). She currently co-directs the Healthy Places Design Lab and the New Towns Initiative. Forsyth has held professorships at Cornell, the University of Minnesota, Harvard, and the University of Massachusetts, where she was co-director of The Urban Places Project — a small community design center. She has held short-term positions at Columbia, Macquarie, and Sydney Universities. Forsyth earned a B.Sc. in architecture from the University of Sydney, M.A. in urban planning from UCLA, and Ph.D. in city and regional planning from Cornell.

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

This award honors State University of New York students who have best demonstrated and been recognized for their integration of academic excellence with other aspects of their lives, which may include leadership, campus involvement, athletics, career achievements, community service, or the creative and performing arts.

Lillian Radel



Lillian Radel (she/her) of Buffalo, New York, graduates with a double degree in environmental design and environmental studies. As a fourth generation University at Buffalo student, she looks to the past often to guide her studies and purpose. She is a University Honors College Scholar, a two-time Western New York Prosperity Fellow, Tau Sigma Delta Inductee, and a Be the Impact Challenger. Radel was a biology teaching

assistant and worked as an ambassador for Student Engagement and the Honors College. Following her undergraduate degrees, she plans to pursue a master's in landscape architecture and work in restoration ecology to create a greener future for all.

Student Awards

Department of Architecture

AIA Medal for Academic Excellence

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

Alpha Rho Chi Medal

In recognition of professionalism in leadership, service and merit.

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

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

Department of Urban Planning

AICP Planning Excellence Award

In recognition of high standard of professional and school citizenship.

Best Thesis Award in Urban Planning

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

Master of Urban Planning Best Final Project Award

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

Candidates for Degrees

Subject to the completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon those individuals listed herein who were identified by April 2, 2026, and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. This listing includes candidates for the following degree conferral dates: 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.

Academic Recognition Items

The Gold Cord

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

The Grey and Red Stole

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

The SUNY Chancellor's Medallion

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

The UB Flame of Wisdom Pin

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

The WNY Prosperity Fellowship Medallion

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

Tau Sigma Delta

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

Non-Academic, University-Wide Recognition Items

The Kente Stole

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

The Rainbow Tassel

This tassel was 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.

Baccalaureate Degrees

Bachelor of Science in Architecture

August 2025

Jasper Ma**

February 2026

Mikah Elizabeth Albro*
Celeste Sarahi Alcazar*
Brendon Scott Artzt*
Max Avrutsky
Ofir Moshe Ben-Shimon*
Artem Iakov Bosovets*
Sarah Rose Bossong*
Tyler Nathan Brown**
Gracey Bobby Burnham*
Daniel Cannon
Lianne Carlota
Owen Thomas Caserta***#
Kaya Elise Deturk**
John Robert Dullaghan
Lian Delphine Genese*
Joseph Michael Giessert*
Rivaldo Griffiths
Ayleen Linnet Gutierrez*
Alexandra Marie Hatch**
Josmarie Hernandez*
Hannah Fogel Ikawa**
Ashley Taylor Johnson***#
Opshora Kabir*
Issac Lim
Kaylie Lynch***#
Aya Marwan Mahmoud
Aidan Thomas Mahoney
Isabel Sofia Makie**
Christopher John Mehlek**
Ryan Joseph Mellen***#
Mason Montgomery***#
Addison Gail Moore***#
Thomas Nock
Canberg Oezgen***#
Daniel Mark Palumbo
Grace Elsie Perritt*
Alec Richard Pitillo***#
Dominick Joseph Racht***#
Ester Rafailova*
Ionut Reynolds*

Justin Roberts*
Cecilia Romero
Gennaro Rovello
Daniel Rulov
Riddhi Abhijeet Sapre
Jesus N. Solis
Benjamin Chase Stiller
William Walter Sundell**
Justin Thomas Switzer***#
Daniel Fredrick Syperski***#
Ken Washington II
Justus Williams
Himeka Yokoyama

June 2026

Aaron Jeremy Abbata
Alexander Anthony Anderson*
Stanley John Blaisdell Jr*
Emily Rebecca Brodsky
Shenelle Breyanna Brown
Ryan Chami
Casey Claire Chang-Alloy
Paul Dictor
Myah DiOrio
Erica Lynda Fredes***#
Jacqueline Maritza Gallego Criollo
Joy Gao
Daniel Giordano
Aiden Avery Hodge
Abdullah Fadi Kamil*
Simarjit Kaur*
Ebrahima Koma
Despy A. Lawver
Ha Lei***#
Fatima Kifah Mahdi
Suad Waled Mohammed
John Robert Panepento***#
Christian James Rafferty*
Ellason Grace Raines**#
Adriana Aileen Robles Gamarra
Raj Samir Shah
Brendan Joseph Tyrrell
Esdras Velasquez*
Jason Williams
Mengyao Wu
Hongbin Yang*

Minor in Architecture

February 2026

Yang Du
Gu Gu***#
Haofeng Li
Kyle Stewart Pedrick Renda*
Sheldon Louis Stetz
Mathew Javier Vera
Grace Katherine Wiseman***#
Tao Zhong*

June 2026

Ashlee S. Brinthaupt
Uriel Cortes-Hidalgo
Logan Thomas Hall
Nadir Hassan
Alishba Khan
Byron Li*
Sophia Rose Luczak**
Fernando Martin Sanchez

Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design

August 2025

Joe Brown

February 2026

Joshua Bellegarde
Yang Du
Donte Georges
Gu Gu***#
Maxwell Robert Hoffman***#
Haofeng Li
Ken Lindo-Cruz
Adacelis Mendez
Rony Elian Mino Colex
Kelechi Rose-Ann Ogbonnaya
Kyle Stewart Pedrick Renda*
Robert Nathaniel Sessing Jr
Sheldon Louis Stetz
Mathew Javier Vera
Grace Katherine Wiseman***#
Tendaji Ya'Ukuu***
Tao Zhong*

June 2026

Noelle Ceranski**
Uriel Cortes-Hidalgo
Josh Gramitt
Logan Thomas Hall
Dianna Marie Harris*
Nadir Hassan
Byron Li*
Leon Lin
Sophia Rose Luczak**
Jason Myrick*
Lilly Radel***#
Francis Michael Sagnia
Fernando Martin Sanchez
Nathan Upright***#
Junyan Xiao*

Minor in Environmental Design

August 2025

Jasper Ma**

February 2026

Max Avrutsky
Sarah Rose Bossong*
Owen Thomas Caserta***#
Kaya Elise Deturk**
Lian Delphine Genese*
Ashley Taylor Johnson***#
Kaylie Lynch***#
Christopher John Mehlek**
Ryan Joseph Mellen***#
Addison Gail Moore***#
Thomas Nock
M. André Primus
Ionut Reynolds*

June 2026

Ethan W. Hala
Simarjit Kaur*
Joseph Patrick LaMacchia
Ha Lei***#
Brendan Joseph Tyrrell

Legend

* Cum laude

** Magna cum laude

*** Summa cum laude

Tau Sigma Delta

Master's Degrees

Master of Architecture

August 2025

Joey Amirato
Dami Bankole#
Troy Jason Behar
Julia Ferone
Jasmin Ferreiras
Natalie Freund
Mikey Alexander
Hernandez
Alex M. Hoover#
Kelly Huang#
Nick Janzen
Anthony Meli
Pouya Pakkhesal#
Safayath Rafat
Amanda Spidalieri
Cassidy Van Ness#
Katarina Isabella Voss#
Bobby Zhao

February 2026

Bryana Andreu
Aditya Datta
Brian Eng
Nicholas Michael
Frantzeskos II
Andrew Hu
Zach Izzo
Samantha Rose Levreault
Alec Lewis
Fabio Andres Monroy
Silvera
Sofia Rose Pasquarella
Nathan Cooper Ruffalo#
Yerlene Torres
Faith Ashley Vale
Jolanta Volkova
Jeffrey Hudson Walker

June 2026

Jessica Chan
Thomas Cuff
Regan Dauenhauer
Danny Escandon
Olivia Fratto
Elizabeth Geiser#
Joseph Anthony Glatz

Michael Patrick
Goodlander
Mathew Ernesto Guevara
Yosi Hoffman#
Jamie Jiang#
Shweta Kakade
Sudha Kattel
Maya Klatte-McAfee#
Shruti Jagdish Kunadia
Elena LaBuz
Erin Lalley
Allison Marie Lavis
Rebecca Liu
Juliet Mary Luers#
Kaviya Murugavelu
Roya Novruzova
Ryan Jacob Osborne
Ursula Ramos Estrada
Siddharth Rastogi
Sherin Abigail
Rathnakumar
Nusrat Reza
Ada Rodriguez Alvarez#
Austin Ruddle#
Chetan Tushar Sampat
Berkan Sari
Sukriti Sharma
Saurav Shetty
Ian Simmons#
Aryan Rabindra Sinai
Cacodcar
Madison Rose Stafford
Md Ahsan Ullah#
Weijie Weng

Master of Urban Planning

August 2025

Leah Smolen#

February 2026

Anushka Chipade
William Guagliardo
Ian McCully#
Steven Anthony Pawlowski
Maurisha La'Trice Williams

June 2026

David Bowers
Mountain Carroll
Obsidian Onyx Clarke
Gregory Matthew Dionne#
Takuto Enomoto
Madeleine Hall McGrady
Eldon Montague#
Hannah Leigh Nemerever
Malaquia Rodrigo Nieves
Luley Mohamed Osman
Alaina Oughterson#
Prakritee Ranjit
Carolina Rios-Bonilla
Sarjoj Man Shrestha

Master of Architecture / Master of Urban Planning

June 2026

Petreen Thomas

Master of Science in Real Estate Development

February 2026

Madeline Mariantonina
Cala
Marianna Julia Carbone
Brandon Scott Cole
DaMante' Divine Curry
Quinten Koch
Prem Malhotra
Narciso Martinez
Tona Mele
Michael Tomasso

June 2026

Kaitlin Lafferty
Tanou Sow

Doctoral Degrees

Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Planning

June 2026

Wiesye Violent Pelupessy

Master of Science in International Development & Global Health

August 2025

Olumayowa Wole
Ajetunmobi#
Maha Aljabouri
Morrikebba M. Faderah#
Sarah Grace Hadley#
Rida Khan
Robert Pitts
Cassie Prinsen
Vinnie Zhu

Advanced Certificate in Affordable Housing

August 2025

Tito Ruiz

February 2026

Marianna Julia Carbone
DaMante' Divine Curry
Quinten Koch
Prem Malhotra
Narciso Martinez
Tona Mele
Maurisha La'Trice Williams

June 2026

Max Medwin
Eldon Montague#
Ken Olen Ngoopos
Malaquia Rodrigo Nieves
Prakritee Ranjit
Carolina Rios-Bonilla
Tanou Sow

Advanced Certificate in Historic Preservation

August 2025

JP Dillon

February 2026

Margaret Lapp

June 2026

Maya Klatte-McAfee#

Highlights of our Year

1. We launched “The Resilient Campus,” an international design competition that challenged architects, landscape architects and those in related fields to rethink the way buildings and landscapes are designed to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Photo: Douglas Levere.

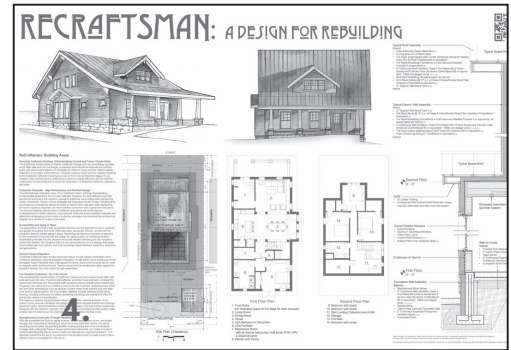
2. The IDEA Center received a \$5 million grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research to study Universal Design applications.

3. Our graduate degree programs grew, with the addition of the Design for Manufacturing and Construction concentration for our MS Architecture students and a 100% online Affordable Housing certificate program. Photo: Douglas Levere.

4. A team of architects representing UB, RIT, and Wendel won a national competition working to develop a groundbreaking catalog of high-performance homes to inspire and inform rebuilding efforts in California communities. Photo: Laura Lubniewski.

5. UB architecture students and faculty explored material reuse and narratives in architecture — through the creation of unique pieces for the Medina Triennial Hub (using upcycled canal lock lumber) and through the work of our current Banham Fellow, Celia Chaussabel. Photo: Douglas Levere.

6. An MArch student, Maddie Stafford, organized an event, in partnership with Craftsman, to raise awareness of representation in traditionally male-dominated fields like architecture and construction. Photo: Douglas Levere.



Highlights of our Year

7. The Food Lab was awarded an \$800,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant, to build guidelines for promoting data equity for food equity. Photo: Douglas Levere.

8. We partnered with the SOM Foundation to launch a new scholarship program supporting Lafayette High School students interested in architecture. Photo: Douglas Levere.

9. In honor of Black History Month, we hosted two forums, "Reimagine Black Futures During the Age of Authoritarianism: 100 Years of Celebrating Black History." The forums were paired with the opening of "Net-Works: Dark Matter and the Periphery," an exhibition that brought Buffalo's overlooked communities and histories into focus. Photo: Douglas Levere.

10. Maia Peck, clinical assistant professor of architecture and director of exhibitions, and Gregory Serweta (BS '06), adjunct instructor of architecture, developed an app called "Buffalo Architecture: An Alternative Guide," to highlight overlooked spaces around the city of Buffalo and elsewhere in Western New York. The pilot phase of the project focuses on themes of Black architecture, architects, and other spatial and artistic practices in Buffalo. Photo: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

11. Graduate students in the Material Culture Research Studio took on a unique challenge: designing user-friendly storage systems for The Tool Library, a local nonprofit that supports the community through affordable access to an extensive collection of tools.

12. The annual Beaux-Arts Ball's costume contest theme was FLORA + FAUNA.



The University Mace

Designed to tell the story of the university and the Niagara Frontier, the mace was fashioned by California silversmith Hudson Roysler. It was used for the first time in the 1962 general commencement.

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

A band encircling the head of the mace bears the founding dates of the 13 divisions that composed the university in 1962.

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

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

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

With roots dating back to medieval times, the mace has evolved to be a symbol of enlightened authority. The mace bearer is traditionally the chair of the university's Faculty Senate.



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eileen Marutiak".

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

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

Dean's Message



Congratulations to the Class of 2026.

On behalf of the School of Architecture and Planning community and the University at Buffalo, I am proud to recognize this important milestone. Although I am unable to join you in person because I will be attending my own daughter's college graduation, please know that this occasion is deeply meaningful to me, as I know it is to you and to

those who have supported you along the way.

You graduate into a world shaped by profound environmental, social, technological, and political change. These conditions will not sit outside your work; they will define it. They will shape the questions you ask, the problems you take on, and the kinds of futures you are called to imagine.

What your education has given you is more than a degree or a set of competencies. It has given you a way of seeing, thinking, and acting. You have learned to move between idea and form, analysis, and proposition, observation, and action. You have learned to work across scales, to understand relationships rather than isolated objects, and to recognize that design is never neutral: it frames how people live, how communities gather, and how futures become possible.

This matters now more than ever. The world does not need passive expertise. It needs people who can engage complexity with rigor, imagination, and conviction. It needs people who can respond to uncertainty. And it needs resilient designers and planners who understand that their work is not only to solve problems but to expand possibilities.

I hope you leave here with confidence in your capacity to engage the world as it is and to help shape what it might become. Your education has prepared you for that work. You are ready to bring intelligence, creativity, and purpose to the challenges ahead.

It has been a privilege to witness your growth and accomplishments. Congratulations, Class of 2026, and my very best wishes for all that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

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

UB Alma Mater

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

Verse 1:

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

Refrain:

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

Verse 2:

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

Verse 3:

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

In Memoriam

Donald (Don) Glickman

Faculty Emeriti, worked as a designer, architectural planner and program head before going on to teach at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning, where he was chair of the Design Studies Department. He was known for being irreverent and devoted to students. As his health declined, he designed a post card that his daughter sent following his death to more than one hundred of his favorite people, including former students, with the message, "If you're reading this, I'm dead, and I really liked you." This went viral and was featured in People magazine, The Washington Post, the CBC, and MSN!

Annette LeCuyer

Professor in the Department of Architecture, graduated from the University of Colorado with a BFA, studied weaving in Finland and subsequently worked as a journalist in Europe before moving to London, where she received professional and graduate diplomas from the Architectural Association. She joined Foster Associates, worked on the design of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and went on to become an associate at Allies & Morrison Architects, where she led design teams for award-winning projects in London and at Cambridge University. In 2016, she received the UB Meyerson Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring in recognition of her outstanding commitment to and participation in the undergraduate creative experience. She exemplified our highest values through her outstanding teaching and research, as well as her leadership, mentorship, and generosity.

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