



Dr. Robert Blaine, III
President, University of The Bahamas
University of The Bahamas Spring 2026 Commencement
Ceremony
Nassau Cruise Port, Amphitheatre, Downtown Nassau
28 May 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Welcome Remarks

- The Honourable Chester Cooper, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Science and Technology;
- Other Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Members of Senate of The Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas
- Leader of The Opposition, the Hon. Michael Pintard;
- Justices of the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and other members of The Judiciary
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas
- Leaders
- Mrs. Joy Jibrilu, Executive Director of Nassau Paradise Island Promotion Board, our Commencement Speaker;
- Mrs. Allyson Maynard Gibson, KC, Chair of the Board of Trustees
- Mr. Gadville McDonald, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees and the members of the Board;
- Dr. Nicolette Bethel, Chair, Academic Senate and members of the Senate;
- Members of the Executive Leadership Team;
- Former Presidents of University of The Bahamas
- Members of the Alumni Hall of Fame and other Alumni Honorees;
- Distinguished guests, donors, alumni, parents, family and friends, faculty, staff and graduates;

Good Evening.

And Good Evening UB Class of 2026!

I am elated to be here this evening. Elated and exuberant. This is truly the best week on the academic calendar, when our purpose for being is marked and celebrated. This week and next, we will confer certificates, diplomas and degrees to approximately 600 graduands, and celebrate the people and the dedication it took to get here.

We live in a time when the value of deep knowledge and rigorous thinking has never been more consequential. The Bahamas needs UB's Class of 2026. The nation needs graduates who can think clearly, lead honestly, and solve problems that have not yet been named. The young people we will see on stage tonight, are the ones who will be forging that future.

And to all the family support here tonight — the parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, goddies, siblings, and friends who drove up and down, covered the extra costs, and offered those crucial words of encouragement, this evening belongs to you as well. Excellence is never grown in isolation.

We rejoice with you and will forever relish in following the future successes of your loved one who is graduating tonight.

There are many more thanks to give.

From faculty and staff and leaders of UB, to our Board of Trustees, to our Alumni community and to the government and people of The Bahamas — Every group provides degrees of essential support that our national university needs to flourish.

Today is possible not because of a few, but because of many. I am so honored to have joined this important and expansive collective effort. And now, Class of 2026, as UB Alumni so have you.

Welcome! and Congratulations.

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