

“first”

A TRIPLE-DEGREE



David Brooks,

MD '08, MPH, MBA

David Brooks, pictured here at commencement with his parents, David and Jeri, is the first student at the University at Buffalo to graduate with a medical degree, a master's degree in public health, and a master's degree in business administration.

A native of Lakeview, New York, Brooks attended Cornell University, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in applied economics and business administration, magna cum laude, while also finding time to launch several successful business ventures.

Before he achieved his triple-degree first at UB, Brooks set another precedent at the university, when he became the first medical student elected to the student representative's seat on the UB Council.

The 10-member council serves as the primary oversight and advisory board to the university and its president and senior officers.

In 2005, when Brooks was interviewed by *Buffalo Physician* about his post on the council, he said, "I only do things when I think I can make a positive impact. I chose medicine over business for that reason."

This summer, Brooks began residency training in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Pennsylvania.

When asked what his goals are for the future, he says, "I have found the best physicians bring diverse views to the table when treating patients. Ultimately, the better I can understand the concerns of the doctors, public health professionals and business people, the better health care I can provide. I hope to make a difference in the way medicine is practiced using my degrees and experiences. While I am excited about my accomplishments at UB, I look forward to my graduate medical training and continued service. After completing my residency, I plan to return to Buffalo."

At commencement, UB president John B. Simpson awarded Brooks a Presidential Student Citizenship Award (see photo of the presentation on page 18). The award recognizes exceptional leadership, volunteerism and citizenship within the UB community and throughout the Buffalo Niagara Region. **BP**

—S. A. UNGER