



Katz
Katz School
of Science and Health

SPRING 2024 • ONLINE NEWSLETTER

DEAN'S MESSAGE



This spring, the Katz School will graduate 273 students from master's and doctoral programs in STEM and health sciences. We celebrate 100% licensure pass rates for graduates of the Physician Assistant master's and Occupational Therapy Doctorate. And we are solidifying our work in computational science, with a new Graduate Department of Computer Science and Engineering and the launch of a master's in computer science.

Our faculty and students continue to tackle the toughest problems in science, tech and health—from building data pipelines that provide hyperlocal weather forecasts to Tanzanian farmers to improving autonomous vehicle navigation and helping aging populations overcome social isolation.

Much of this good work will be on display at the Katz School's third annual Symposium on Science, Technology and Health on Thursday, May 9, at the YU Museum in New York City. I hope you'll join us. [Learn more and RSVP here.](#)

It is such an exciting time to be at the Katz School. Read on to learn more, and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

Sincerely,



Paul Russo, Ph.D.
Dean, Katz School of Science and Health

FEATURE STORIES



Katz School Launches Master's in Computer Science

The research-intensive program opens doors to in-demand specializations like AI, cybersecurity and software engineering, R&D jobs and selective Ph.Ds.

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\$600K NIH Grant to Examine Dietary Patterns

Computer Science Chair Honggang Wang is developing a machine-learning algorithm that analyzes dietary patterns to better identify unwanted health outcomes.

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100% of PA Graduates Pass PANCE Certifying Exam

All 22 students in the M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies first graduating class passed the national board certification exam on the first attempt.

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Using Deep Learning for Safer Autonomous Navigation

Professor Youshan Zhang and AI student Lakshmikar Polamreddy developed an award-winning convolutional neural network model for self-driving cars.

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AI Students Take First Prize in UC Berkeley Hackathon

In their winning submission, Niranjan Kishore and Tharun Prabhakar built an end-to-end generative AI application implemented in a secure Google Cloud.

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Students Use AI to Forecast Climate Change's Impact

AI and data analytics students are creating super-resolution climate forecasts to improve research, policy planning and risk assessment for S&P Global.

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PROFILES



Math Ph.D. Student One of 30 Researchers Invited to Prestigious Forum

At the Heidelberg Laureate Forum, Samuel Akingbade discussed the possibility of continuously capturing energy derived from small amounts of vibration in human and natural activity.

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For This PA Student, the Morning Rush Includes Emergency Care

After completing a clinical rotation in the emergency department at St. John's Episcopal Hospital, Physician Assistant Studies student Carin Gannon says her heart is in critical care and assisting trauma patients.

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Digital Media Student Addresses UN Commission on Status of Women

Loretta Ching'andu participated in a panel discussion on "Financing Female-led Innovation and Entrepreneurship," hosted by the Justina Mutale Foundation for the 68th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

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Marsha Pinto Argues for the Power of Introverts in a Talkative World

As a speech-language pathologist and clinical supervisor in the San Jose Unified School District, Pinto '19 helps introverted students demonstrate their intelligence and creativity with confidence.

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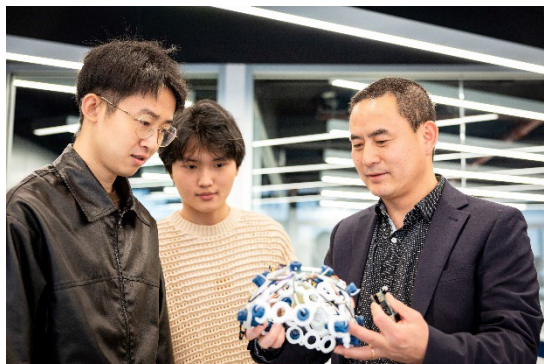
BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS



OT Guide Assesses Children's Playfulness

Co-authored by Amiya Waldman-Levi, the guide helps clinicians develop family-centered interventions that promote healthy relationships and encourage playfulness.

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AI-Powered Wearable Would Monitor Drug Relapse

Honggang Wang is developing an algorithm that can identify when someone is using drugs in real-time by analyzing data from a wearable device.

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Physics Research Probes Atomic Origin of Bending Light

Professor Fredy Zypman considers the atomic origin of refraction and proposes a mathematical model to gain insight on the related phenomenon of permittivity.

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Mathematical Model Anticipates Bitcoin Crashes

Professor Marian Gidea's model identifies patterns not apparent through traditional statistical methods to detect early-warning signs of financial bubbles.

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Study Finds Less Sodium Key for Kidney Disease Patients

Managing a balance between sodium intake, blood pressure and bodily fluid is key to minimizing risk of further harm to individuals with end-stage kidney disease.

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OT Doctoral Research Addresses Societal Needs

Projects included improving fall prevention education for senior citizens and studying the impact of manual dexterity on cognition in individuals with MS.

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IN THE MEDIA



Sivan Tehila, director of the M.S. in Cybersecurity, was quoted in a [CNBC story on AI's role in cybersecurity](#) and was listed among the [top women in business by Globee Awards](#).



Marissa Barrera, assistant dean of health sciences and director of the M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology, discussed cognition in patients with Multiple Sclerosis on [The MSing Link](#) podcast.



Christina Brennan, industry professor of biotechnology entrepreneurship, received [Clinical Trial Europe's Clinical Trials Lifetime Achievement Award](#).



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