



Our Mission...

We at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine embrace diversity and strive to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment, where our students, faculty and staff of all backgrounds feel empowered to achieve their greatest potential. It is part of our mission to enhance recruitment and retention of historically underrepresented minority students, faculty and staff, to address disparities in health and healthcare, and to train culturally-competent clinicians who are equipped to meet healthcare needs of our increasingly diverse communities.



Mary Njie, '20



Spotlight: Student National Dental Association

Meet Mary Njie- Class of 2021

What's your hometown and your background?

I'm from Croton-on-Hudson, which is a village in Westchester County, North of New York City. I'm a first generation African-American. My parents immigrated from Cameroon, West Africa, back in the 80s.

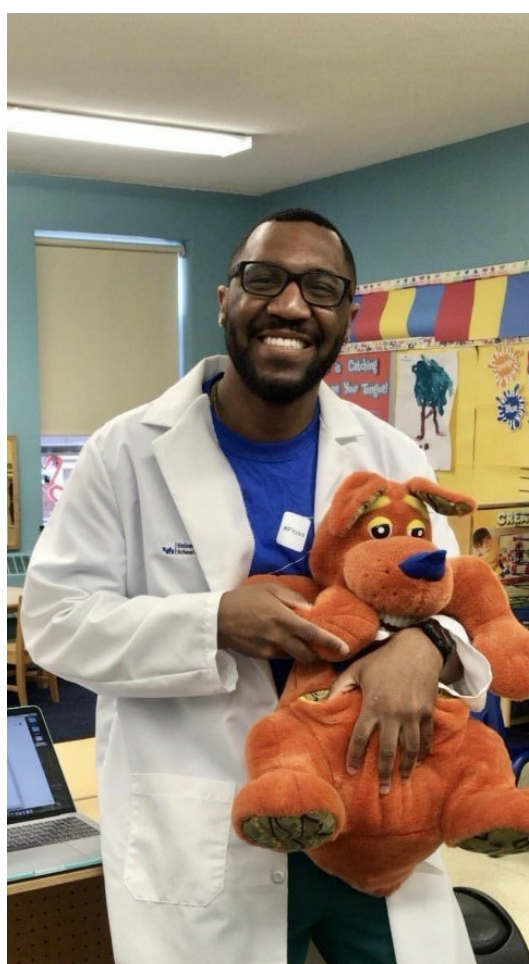
Tell us about SNDA and your role as the President of SNDA.

Student National Dental Association, SNDA, was formed in 1972 as a way for African-American dental students to have their voices heard in their institutions. Our local chapter is dedicated to serving the Buffalo community at large, as well as aiding in the advancement of underrepresented minority students in the field of dentistry. SNDA's mission is to: Educate members about the social, moral, and ethical obligations of the dental profession, provide dental care and education with an emphasis on addressing access to care issues and health disparities, serve as a forum and network for dental students and provide mentorship to pre-dental students. As chapter president my role is to keep my members motivated with our goals in mind, serve as leader as well as a mentor and bridge our Buffalo chapter with SNDA on a national level. As an African-American female being the president of SNDA has been a huge honor for me from a personal as well as a historical standpoint.

What's one thing you love about UBSDM?

My favorite thing about UB is that it is a supportive environment - from students to administration. I have felt the same way since interview day. I feel like there is always someone to talk to, always someone who cares and always someone there to have your back.

Meet Tyler Laurel, '22, SNDA President-Elect



Tyler Laurel, '22



Tell us about your background!

I'm from Niagara Falls, NY, I am Black/African American, I have a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Biological Sciences from University at Buffalo and I am both a first-generation college graduate and soon-to-be dentist.

As the Vice President of SNDA, tell us what this position means to you?

I decided to pursue the position of president-elect/vice president because I believed in SNDA's mission to promote, aid and support the academic and social environment of minority students. As the US population continues to diversify at an increasing rate and patients are thankfully becoming more empowered to take an active role in meeting their healthcare needs; I believe it to be important for dental students to be equipped with the best tools to meet the healthcare goals of their patients while also being able to masterfully navigate the culture, values and mores of a diverse patient population. I believe Buffalo's SNDA chapter has the potential to make substantial changes in order to meet these aforementioned goals while simultaneously doing the work to ensure that representation within dental medicine as a profession does its best to reflect the patient population that we serve. I felt it important that I be a part of the student coalition being built here at UB to meet these challenges.

What's one thing you love about UBSDM?

My favorite thing about UB dental is the school's commitment to fostering the ambitions of its students. Faculty and administration alike in my opinion, have always made an honest effort to meet students where we are and aid us in exploring our intellectual, social, professional and cultural curiosities.

Save the Date! Supporting Our LGBTQIA+ Community

SDM Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Presents:



Out and Safe; Supporting our LGBTQIA+ Community.

Thursday February 4th at 12:00 pm

This webinar will introduce us to health disparities in the LGBTQ community and highlight best practices for an inclusive dental school community.

Upon completion, participants are expected to understand:

- The importance of supporting LGBTQ students, faculty, staff and patients.
- Terminology accepted by members of the LGBTQ community.
- Student life challenges and barriers faced by members of the LGBTQ community.
- Best practices to improve cultural competence and support LGBTQ students.

Register in Advance*

https://buffalo.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYkcO6griMjE9MaiX_cD3M86rW7LE2SiNi3

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**CE credit offered for eligible faculty and staff*

[Click Here to Register](#)



HOLIDAYS

Cultural Celebrations

Join us as we celebrate all the different cultural and religious holidays that happen during the calendar year!

1/1 New Year's Day, the first day of the year on the modern Gregorian calendar as well as the Julian calendar

1/7 Feast of the Nativity, marks the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary within the Orthodox Christian tradition

1/14 Makar Sankranti/Pongal/Lohri is a Hindu festival celebrated across India with different names, and signifies the transition of the Sun Lord from the southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere.

1/18 Martin Luther King Day is the 26th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy.

"Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

1/28 Mahayana: Buddhist New Year is celebrated by Mahayana Buddhists on the first full moon day in January.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Creating an Inclusive Curriculum

Date & Time: Thursday, February 18, 12:00-1:00pm

Intended Audience: UB Faculty and Instructors

How do you design courses that are more inclusive? This presentation will provide insights based on current research and theoretical perspectives, in addition to a few strategies, resources and supports that can help instructors create more inclusive curriculum and syllabi.

Presented by the Office of Inclusive Excellence

[Click Here](#)

How Can Art and Museums Model the Future of Diverse Cultural Landscapes?

Date & Time: Wednesday, March 10, 5:30-6:30pm

Intended Audience: Open Event

What role does art play in times of need? In this moment of upheaval, reckoning, and change, what responsibilities do museums have in representing cultures, past and present, as well as modeling the future of diverse cultural landscapes?

UB Art Galleries Curator Liz Park moderates a roundtable discussion with Candice Hopkins and Yesomi Umolu, two leading thinkers and curators in the field of contemporary art. They will share frank reflections on the limits of museums as sites of knowledge and explore the potentials of creating a just and open space in which art can amplify voices and broaden views.

Presented by the Office of Inclusive Excellence and UB Art Galleries

[Click Here](#)

Did You Know...UB Offers A Number of Support Groups



Did you know that UB's Office of Counseling offers several support groups - here are just a few!

Students of Color Support Group

Date & Time: Tuesdays 2:30-4:00pm (Online)

Intended Audience: UB Students

This semi-structured support group is committed to providing an affirming space for Students of Color to reflect on their experiences at a Predominately White Institution. In this group we recognize the unique challenges of Students of Color and aim to foster a community for students to give voice to their experiences, gain support, and develop healthy coping strategies. Topics explored in this group include but are not limited to: navigating microaggressions, feelings of isolation, imposter syndrome, family/social relationships, and maintaining healthy self-care in the current socio-political climate. Please contact UB Counseling Services at 716-645-2720 and ask to speak to a counselor about joining the group.

Sponsored by UB Counseling Services

LGBTQ Support Group

Date & Time: Thursdays 3:00-4:30pm (Online)

Intended Audience: UB Students

This is a group for students who are questioning or exploring their gender identity and/or their sexual identity. It is also for students who identify as gender variant, transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or queer. The goal of the group is to provide a safe, supportive and confidential forum to talk about multiple identities, coming out, relationships with family and friends, dating, academics, transitioning, homophobia, transphobia, the "isms", and other issues of interest to members. Please contact UB Counseling Services at 716-645-2720 and ask to speak to a counselor about joining the group.

Sponsored by UB Counseling Services

International Student Support Group

Date & Time: Wednesdays 3:00-4:30pm (Online)

Intended Audience: UB Students

This group will provide a safe, supportive, and comfortable place for international students to discuss adjustment stressors and cross-cultural experiences in the U.S. The group will also provide a safe and confidential environment for group members to share information and support each other. Please contact UB Counseling Services at 716-645-2720 and ask to speak to a counselor about joining the group.

Sponsored by UB Counseling Services

Unlearning Racism Group

Date & Time: Mondays 2:30-4:00pm (Online)

Intended Audience: UB Students

This group provides a supportive environment in which people who hold white privilege can explore and question their roles in the perpetuation of racism. Among other things, group members examine various aspects of white privilege and gain understanding about how they can become allies to People of Color. Please contact UB Counseling Services at 716-645-2720 and ask to speak to a counselor about joining the group.

Sponsored by UB Counseling Services

[Click Here to Find Out More](#)



PARTICIPATE

Share Your Story - Inspire Others!

We are collecting anonymous stories of personal experiences with racism, microaggression, or implicit bias, to create a video to be used in a creative learning program targeted for dental/medical professionals.

These stories can be from experiences at school or outside of school.

Once we collect the anonymous stories, we will recruit people to read them and share their thoughts on the story.

The purpose of this program is not to have stories interpreted by someone other than the owners, but rather to share an experience with those who may never have had a similar experience.

Your input is greatly appreciated and necessary to invoke positive change in our cultural environment.

[Click Here](#)



FOCUS

Information for All Faculty and Staff

The **Comprehensive Cultural Competence program** is available for all faculty and staff. The program satisfies the Sexual Harassment Training requirement.

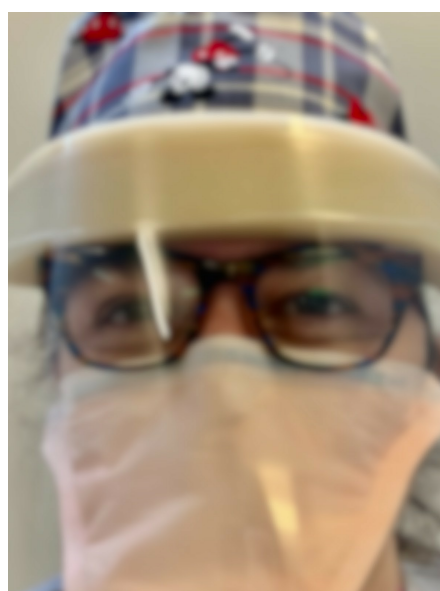
[Click here](#)

Suggested Reading



Addressing Racial Inequalities in a Pandemic: data limitations and a call for critical analyses

[Click here to access the article](#)



Can you guess who's behind the PPE?

[Click here to respond](#)

BE ENTERED TO WIN A GIFT CARD!

EDI Committee Members

Dr. Thikriat Al-Jewair, Anusha Atique (D1), Bushra Azhar (D2), Dr. Dian Chin Kit-Wells, Brian Cruz (D3), Katrina Delaney, Dr. Alfonso Gambacorta, Dr. Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker, Dr. Richard Hall, Arian Johnson (D4), Dr. Dana Keblawi, Denise Kennedy, Dr. Elaine Hennie-Megna, Dr. Stefan Ruhl, Dr. Joseph Rumfola, Dr. Othman Shibly, Anisa Tocilla (ASDA Liaison)



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