



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.

The Holidays Around the World



HOLIDAYS

Cultural Celebrations

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

November 14: Diwali,^[DQ1] the Hindu, Jain and Sikh 5 Day Festival of Lights, celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and lightness over darkness.

November 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance, established in 1998 to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and to raise awareness of the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

November 22: Feast of Christ the King, a Catholic holiday established in thanking God for the gift of time and a rededication to the Christian faith.

November 25-January 6: Nativity Fast, a period of abstinence and penance practiced by the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus.

November 26: Thanksgiving in the United States. It began as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year.

November 27: Native American Heritage Day, held annually the Friday after Thanksgiving, encourages Americans of all backgrounds to observe and honor Native Americans through appropriate ceremonies and activities. The day was signed into law by George W. Bush in 2008.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Market-based Predatory Development: Race, Class & the Underdevelopment of Black Neighborhoods
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

[Click Here](#)

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Helping STEM Students Thrive Series
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

[Click Here](#)

Friday, November 20, 2020

Transgender Day of Remembrance
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

[Click Here](#)

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Center for Diversity Innovation and Gender Institute Lecture: Mishuana Goeman
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

[Click Here](#)

Thursday, December 3, 2020

LGBTQ FSA Pride Trivia
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

[Click Here](#)

Monday, December 7, 2020

Global to Local Racial Justice Series

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

[Click Here](#)

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Co-Production of Knowledge for Global Health Equity

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

[Click Here](#)

Please note this special event presented by University at Buffalo
IS BEING AN ALLY ENOUGH? Thursday, November 19 12:00-1:00pm

The importance of being or identifying as a social justice ally has been a frequent topic of conversation for years, with many wanting to do more to combat bias, discrimination, and oppression. But what is an ally? What does it mean, what does it require, and is it enough? UB Professor Amy Reynolds and UB alumna Gail Wells—longtime friends and colleagues from different backgrounds and experiences—will discuss what is needed to combat racial inequities and other forms of discrimination and oppression, and how we can truly work together to create meaningful and lasting change.

[Click Here](#)

Save the Date! Helping UB Students in Need



Blue Table 2nd Annual Community Food Drive

Through a partnership between Student Life and the Student Association, UB offers Blue Table, a virtual food pantry service for UB students. Blue Table helps students who face unanticipated hardships, gain access to groceries.

DATES:

November 9-18, 2020

CONTACT:

Danielle Coats
(716) 645-2055

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

- 235 Student Union
- 1Capen
- Harriman Hall
- The Elli - Ellicott Complex
- 120 Beane Center
- 520 Capen
- Jacobs School of Medicine - 1st floor

**FREQUENTLY
REQUESTED ITEMS:**

- Rice
- Pasta
- Crackers
- Rice Noodles
- Beans
- Canned Tuna/Chicken



For more information or to support us with a monetary donation visit:
buffalo.edu/studentlife/help/emergency/food-support



Did You Know? Learn About UB's Black Leadership Committee

**IDEAS
+ ACTION
= CHANGE**

The Black Leadership Committee at UB

Mission Statement

The Black Leadership Committee is an organization created to enhance the education and social experience of Black physicians in Buffalo. The committee seeks to promote the advancement of Black and other underrepresented physicians through the building of community, outreach in surrounding neighborhoods, cultural diversity, education, mentorship, professional networking and ultimately recruitment with retention of Black residents, fellows, faculty throughout the University at Buffalo and neighboring health systems.

Goals

Creating a community for Black residents and fellows:

- Provide a social and professional support network for Black professionals within the university and neighboring health systems.
- Foster an environment in which Black residents, fellows and faculty feel safe to share their experiences of adversity and success.

Recruitment

- Improve diversity throughout the university by actively seeking to recruit outstanding Black students, residents, fellows and faculty
- Advocate for the educational and career development of residents, fellows and faculty

Mentoring

- Emphasis on early exposure to career pathways in healthcare business opportunities
- Create an environment that encourages continued success in the workplace through networking and career development

Outreach

- To be a resource for the Buffalo community through health screenings, educational programming and outreach events
- Improve the health conditions of the Black community at large by the dismantling of health disparities in training and practice

Deans Board

Chair: Keturah Lowe DDS, UB Pediatric Dental Resident

Co-Chair: Ashley Jeanlus MD, UB OB/GYN Resident

Records Coordinator (Treasury): Tonya Lemonious MD, UB Pediatric Resident

Dean of Education and Mentoring: Ronald Desrouilleres DO, UB Family Medicine Resident

Demetra McILwain MD, UB Family Medicine Resident

Dean of Community Relations: Tonya Lemonious MD, UB Pediatric Resident

Dean of Public Relations: TBD

Dental Student Liaison: Brittany Reid UB SDM Class 2022

Medical Student Liaison: TBD

Faculty Advisors

Dental Faculty Advisor: M. Dian Chin Kit-Wells DDS, UB Pediatric Dentistry

Medical Faculty Advisor: Tity Kpandeyenge MD, Jericho Road Family Medicine

Medical Faculty Advisor: J'Leise Sosa MD MPH, UB Obstetrics and Gynecology

Kudos - Dr. Dian Chinkit-Wells Making a Difference-Globally!



In addition to sharpening digital skills, and effective time management, one of the benefits of virtual teaching is the expanded world view.

-Walden University, 2020

This month Dr. Dian Chinkit-Wells, assistant professor, Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry, had

the pleasure of presenting oral health care during COVID-19 for the population with disabilities to the Special Care Dental Association of Nigeria.

The presentation included existing programs that our students and residents participate in, the impact of COVID-19 on the population and the challenges and accommodations for continued oral health care. As board secretary of the American Academy for Developmental Medicine and Dentistry, Dr. Dian was invited to speak to the group of dentists in Nigeria and other neighboring countries via Zoom. W

We join her in the message of safety of our patients as an utmost priority, dentistry as an essential service and equity of care inclusive of the population with disabilities.



Spotlight - SDM's Dr. Stefan Ruhl Receives Prestigious Award

Dr. Stefan Ruhl, professor in the Department of Oral Biology was selected as one of UB's exceptional teachers and researchers to have been named a recipient of the university's 2020 Exceptional Scholar and Teaching Innovation Awards.

Each year, the University at Buffalo honors exceptional scholars and innovative teachers. Stefan Ruhl, professor in the Department of Oral Biology was selected as one of UB's best and brightest teachers and researchers to have been named a recipient of the university's 2020 Exceptional Scholar and Teaching Innovation Awards.

The Exceptional Scholars Award honors faculty members for their outstanding research performance at different stages of their careers. There are two awards: Sustained Achievement Awards for senior scholars and Young Investigator Awards for untenured scholars who received their terminal degree within the past eight years. Both awards recognize work that has "garnered public and/or professional accolades beyond the norm."

Dr. Ruhl received the Sustained Achievement Award. The Sustained Achievement awardees are selected based on their body of work over a number of years. The award is a recognition for outstanding performance in a recent segment of a scholar's career.

As an internationally renowned expert on saliva, oral bacteria and the oral microbiome, Dr. Ruhl's research attempts to unravel the roles that saliva and microorganisms play in health. This includes adherence to the teeth and surfaces of the mouth, defense against pathogens and colonization of the oral cavity.

Please join us to congratulate Dr. Stefan Ruhl.

Getting to Know Your SDM Family - Meet Mayur Geeta K. Dudhat





Tell us about your background!

I am an international dentist program student from India, currently a D4. My name is Mayur Geeta K. Dudhat. (MGK- Not Machine Gun Kelly But the Dude with the Hat So-Dude-Hat.)

Before joining UB School of Dental Medicine, I practiced as a general dentist in a city named Surat. Surat is situated in western India in the state of Gujarat. Surat is famous as the Diamond City, because 90% of world's diamonds are finished and polished in Surat.

Also, known as the Silk city, is the largest manufacturer of silk clothes in India. Every year there is a production of 9 million meters of fabric.

People of Surat are called "Surati." Suratis are known for their generosity. One of the example is Mr Savjibhai Dholakia, a diamond businessman, who gifted 600 cars to his employees during the festival of Diwali in 2018. See photo one below.

Surati food is also very delicious. To name few dishes are Khaman, Dhokla, Undhiyu, Ghari(Sweet) and LOCHO- it is only found in Surat. See photo two below.

What Diwali means to you and how do you celebrate it?

This year on November 14th, a 5 day festival, Diwali or "The Festival of Light" will be held. One of the most popular festivals of Hinduism, Diwali symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance".

The festival is widely associated with Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity. Usually it will be a break in school. During Diwali time all family members, cousins visit each other's house to greet "Happy Diwali". All of the community will share gifts, sweets and wear traditional dresses.

There is a special floor painting in front of the door- called "Rangoli". "painted" using colored rice, lentils, flower petals or powder which add on the decoration to the house. See photo three.

People go to temple to see the spectacular arrangement of different sweets and fruits offers to Lord. It is called "Annkoot" After Diwali all sweets are distributed amongst devotees.

I am very happy to share this information with my UB Family. We are a very diverse family here at UB. So many things to learn and know from different cultures. I am so proud to be selected as a student here at UB. I wish I could contribute my knowledge about meditation to everyone which helped me in every stage of life to stay calm and stable.



Photo One



Photo Two



Photo Three



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

Black Lives Matter May Be the Largest Movement in U.S. History

By Larry Buchanan, Quoctrung Bui and Jugal K. Patel July 3, 2020

[Click here to access the article](#)

UB SNDA Presents Project Birthday Boxes



The graphic features the Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc. logo on the left and the SNDA (Student National Dental Association) logo on the right. Below the logos, it says "Presents 'PROJECT BIRTHDAY BOXES'". In the center, two young children are shown brushing their teeth. Below the children, there are two text boxes: one on the left listing donation items like birthday cake mix, frosting, plates, balloons, streamers, and toys; one on the right stating the donation box is available in Squire Hall lounge until Nov. 15th, 2020, and providing the email marynje@buffalo.edu for questions.

Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc.

SNDA
STUDENT NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Presents
"PROJECT BIRTHDAY BOXES"

Donate items such as
birthday cake mix, frosting,
birthday themed plates,
balloons and streamers,
a small toy or book for a
child under 5 years of age.

Donation box available
in Squire Hall lounge
till Nov. 15th, 2020.
Questions or any other forms of
donations can be forwarded to
marynje@buffalo.edu



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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