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ON THE COVER:
Sightings at the 42nd Annual Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting held in October at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center.

IN THIS ISSUE

9
FLYING TO WHERE HELP IS NEEDED
D’Angelos make providing free dental care in rural communities a family affair

12
A CLUE TO HER SUCCESS
Dental professor finding literary success with a dentist heroine

14
HISTORY CORNER
How the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences came to be

DEAN'S MESSAGE
NEWS BRIEFS
FACULTY PROFILE
HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
CE COURSE CALENDAR
ALUMNI NEWS
CLASS NOTES / IN MEMORIAM
Q&A

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Publication of UB Dentist is made possible by the generous support of the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association.
UB Dental graduates have many reasons to be proud of their school but especially for the many contributions made by fellow alumni. Whether it be dental missions to treat people who have difficulty accessing dental care or leadership in the profession or creative activities, UB Dental graduates make major contributions to our dental profession and to our communities.

Providing care to people who either don’t have the resources or don’t have access to dental care has been something at which our School has excelled. Each year our alumni, students and faculty participate in numerous dental missions throughout the U.S. and overseas. Prominent among our alumni in service and outreach are Kevin (’81) and Beth (’81) D’Angelo, both adjunct professors in the School’s Department of Restorative Dentistry, together with their son Bill and his wife, Elizabeth, both members of the class of 2011. Kevin is past president of the Flying Dental Association and current mission chairman. He and his family have participated in dental missions throughout the U.S. and other countries often flying with supplies for the event. The D’Angelos are among the many UB School of Dental Medicine graduates who donate their time and expertise to offer dental care to those in need.

Our graduates are leaders in the profession. The most recent example of this is Dr. Payam Goudarzi (’96) who just became the youngest president in recent memory of the New York State Dental Association. Payam follows another UB alumnus and current faculty member, Dr. Brendan Dowd (’86) who ended his NYSDA presidential year just this past June.

For Mary Bush, associate professor in restorative dentistry and class of 1999 graduate, her lifetime avocation of fiction writing has reached an important milestone with the publication of her first book, “A Simple Lie”. And making her book even more interesting to her professional colleagues, her crime-solving heroine is a dentist. Expect more intrigue from the author. She has a three-book contract with her publisher.

Finally, congratulations to our UB Dental Alumni Association for the continuing success of its yearly Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting. At a time when many dental meetings are struggling with declining attendance, this year’s event at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center drew graduates from many years. It was an opportunity to learn new things, meet with current dental students and just reminisce with friends.
Thank You Squire Society Donors!

The 2019 Squire Society donor recognition event was held in September at the Darwin D. Martin House Complex designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The event attracted approximately 80 guests, who enjoyed a docent-led tour of the Martin House, cocktails and dinner, and remarks from Dean Joseph Zambon.

The Daniel Squire Society is made up of individuals who have given $1,000 or more in support of the School of Dental Medicine during the past year. Gifts provide support for renovations, scholarships, research and high-quality instruction and more. To learn more, contact Neil Dengler at ndengler@buffalo.edu or (716) 881-7486.
NewsBriefs

Fall Events

Welcome Back BBQ

Advanced Education Orientation
Give Veterans a Smile Day

In honor of Veterans Day, on November 9th, the UB School of Dental Medicine hosted its fifth annual Give Veterans a Smile Day event, a day that provides free dental care.

The program is a partnership between the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, the New York State Dental Association and the Eighth District Dental Society. Free dental screenings, cleanings, restorations, extractions, and repairs were provided to over 170 Western New York veterans.

To start off the day, the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station Honor Guard led a procession into the clinic and Dean Joseph J. Zambon and special guest speaker WWII veteran, Efner “Lucky” Davis of Arcade, delivered remarks immediately following the procession.

The effort called on hundreds of volunteers from the community, including 80 local dentists and hygienists, 50 UB dental school staff members and 150 dental students. Faculty and students from the School of Nursing, School of Social Work, and the School of Public Health and Health Professions also provided free services.
Flying To Where Help Is Needed

D’ANGELOS MAKE PROVIDING FREE DENTAL CARE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES A FAMILY AFFAIR

THE D’ANGELOS – ELIZABETH, ’11, WILLIAM, ’11, KEVIN, ’81 AND BETH, ’81

STORY BY GROVE POTTER
Volunteering to treat the less fortunate is a bedrock tenet of the dental profession, and few families live this philosophy as fully as the D'Angelos. Kevin and Beth D'Angelo, both '81, have been making numerous trips annually to remote spots in the U.S., and one annual trip to the Dominican Republic, for 20 years.

Their son Bill, '11, has been making the trips since he was in high school, and his wife Elizabeth, '11, has been making the trips regularly too, until having twins this year.

The D'Angelos take 20 students from the UB School of Dental Medicine on the trips with them. The domestic trips are run by RAM, the Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corp, a 34-year-old organization that sets up temporary medical operations in rural underserved areas.

“UB students and faculty are the biggest force for RAM along the Eastern seaboard,” said Kevin D'Angelo, who goes on five RAM trips a year.

“If UB didn’t show up it would be devastating,” Beth concurred.

“It’s a big part of the UB program,” Kevin said. “It’s a win-win situation. We are able to take the students down and help all these people, and they’re involved in giving early in their careers, and they get great experience.”

Students get valuable surgical practice treating some often serious dental conditions.

“In remote areas, they do not have fluoride in the drinking water. And many people have massive, chronic oral infections. And that drives other medical problems, like diabetes, high blood pressure, and cardiovascular events,” Kevin said. “So when we go in there, we’re making a heck of a dent on the total health problems because we’re getting rid of the chronic infections. Then a doctor of medicine can come in and start treating diabetes better and preventing cardiovascular events and strokes.”

Many of the patients are not in pain, because the infections are draining into their mouths,” Kevin explained, but that just infuses the whole body with bacteria.

“You just do whatever you can for them,” Kevin said. “I just love being able to see the changes we’re able to bring to people’s lives. It’s joy. It’s a true joy when you do it.”

The RAM teams can treat over 400 people in a weekend. The organization requires the local community to secure a location, lodging and food for the visiting medical people, and it brings in tractor-trailers filled with dental chairs and sets up a giant treatment room.
Kevin organized a RAM visit to Olean a year and a half ago, where dental students helped treat hundreds of patients. Extractions and fillings are the primary procedures. Sometimes optometrists are part of the RAM trips, bringing eye care and glasses to the rural areas.

“It’s amazing. They just come in and set up 30 or 40 chairs,” said Kevin. “Then we go in at 6 a.m. on Saturday and work to about 6 p.m. Then we go back on Sunday and work until about 1 p.m.”

**FLYING DENTISTS**

Kevin and Bill are also pilots who make up a powerful father-son team that flies to the rural sites. “Whoever is not too tired will fly,” Bill said. “Any excuse to get in an airplane is a good excuse. You combine that with helping somebody out, and it makes it a lot more fun. You’re flying into an airport you’ve never flown into before, getting introduced to communities that are very unique. Having a small plane gets you in there a lot quicker, and gets you home Sunday for some time with the family.”

Being able to fly to the places where care is needed makes the volunteer work doubly enjoyable for Kevin. “People ask me, ‘Why don’t you go to Africa to give care?’ and I tell them that I can’t fly to Africa in my plane.”

Kevin, who has flown about 5,000 hours, also leads the charity unit of the Flying Dentists Association, a group of about 130 dentist-pilots. Members of the group often join the D’Angelos on their annual trip to the Dominican Republic. “We bring a lot of airplanes into the country,” Kevin said. From Buffalo, it’s a 13-hour flight, with two fuel stops.

About 10 UB dental students go on the trip each year where they treat Haitian workers in the sugar cane fields. “We’re the main dental group down there,” Beth said. “We see up to 800 people on each trip.” The Haitians chew sugar cane in the fields, which causes some tooth decay.

When the UB dental school retired the treatment van it used in the Southern Tier, the D’Angelos bought it and the U.S. military flew it to the Dominican Republic for them. The family also has built up a supply of generators and compressors to power their operations.

**A SON’S PRIDE**

Bill sums up his parent’s volunteer work very simply. “They’re like super heroes,” he said. “They’re hard to keep up with.”

Kevin and Bill are also pilots with Wings Flights of Hope, which transports patients to emergency treatment and transplant organs to where they are needed.

Giving back has been part of the D’Angelo’s lives since graduating from dental school, and they are passionate about paying it forward to the younger dentists.

“Going on these trips is very helpful to the students,” Beth said. “The trips are really influencing students and inspiring many to continue giving for their lifetime.”

“It’s like planting a seed,” Kevin said. “Some will grow.”

“The trips are really influencing students and inspiring many to continue giving for their lifetime.”

**BETH D’ANGELO**

“I just love being able to see the changes we’re able to bring to people’s lives. It’s a joy.”

**KEVIN D’ANGELO**
A CLUE TO HER SUCCESS

Dental professor finding literary success with a dentist heroine.

By Grove Potter

When the heroine of your murder mystery novel is a dentist, expect some difficulty getting a publisher.

That’s the lesson Mary Bush, ’99, AEGD Cert ’00, associate professor of restorative dentistry, learned after penning ‘A Simple Lie.’ Publishers just were not interested in a dentist solving mysteries.

“The acquiring editor at one publisher said ‘I can’t even read this. My boss has such an aversion to dentists that even if I wanted to take this on, I know I will be stopped,’” Bush recalled. “That’s how odd this journey has been.”

Bush, who teaches third- and fourth-year students in the dental clinic, even gave up on her dentist novel and wrote another book. But she came back to it.

“I dusted it off and read it. I toned down the dental angle a bit and I thought the voice of the book was flat. So it was pretty much a complete rewrite. That took a while. The structure was there. I knew what I wanted to say, I just needed to say it differently,” she said.

Her persistence paid off. The book was released on Amazon on November 27, and she has a contract with her publisher, Bloodhound Publishing, for two more. The books are available only through Amazon and other online retailers, not in stores.

Wounded Dentist

The heroine, Valentina Knight, is a dentist but she can no longer practice because she suffered a serious hand injury when a convict bit her thumb while she was evaluating his jaw for an injury. Suddenly without a job, she has to find something else to do.

“I didn’t want to make her a dentist because that would
trap me into what I can write," Bush said. “So if I opened her up to being a death scene investigator, that could give her many different stories.

“When you’re trained as a dentist, you really only do dentistry. So she was having a hard time finding a new job and she got pretty desperate and she saw an open position for a death scene investigator. These people go out to the death scene in lieu of the medical examiner to collect the body and gather any data that’s necessary, ask questions of people who are there. They gather information for the medical examiner to render cause or manner of death,” she said.

But to get the job, Valentina tells a little lie. And someone finds out about it. Somehow, that leads her into a case involving a serial killer, and solving the case involves dental expertise.

**Scientific Husband Helps**

Bush has always been interested in writing, even writing stories as a child. She calls it “my nerdy hobby.” She used to get up at 5:30 a.m. to write for a couple of hours before work, but now writes most days after work.

Some of the forensic details in ‘A Simple Lie’ come from real cases Bush worked on with her husband Peter Bush, who runs the South Campus Instrumentation Center. Local and state law enforcement agencies sometimes reach out to the lab—which has an electron microscope—for help with cases. And Peter serves as his wife’s scientific resource. “I’ll ask him a question about the electron microscope, and he’ll start giving me many details.”

Bush’s writing process involves letting the characters develop the plot.

“I’ll sit down at the keyboard and I’ll come up with an idea and I’ll just let the characters go. And sometimes it will just be me writing prose, sometimes I’ll just write dialogue,” she said. “You kind of let them talk and get an idea of how she is reacting. And the story starts to take more shape as you’re moving from page one to page two to page three. It’s usually a very rough draft. And you take a step back and say ok, this is what’s going to happen here.

“I knew the lie was going to get her into the story. What was going to happen after that, how the whole story was going to progress to the end, I didn’t know.”

Valentina Knight could prove to be a durable character for Bush. She is halfway through the second novel with her dentist/crime scene investigator on the case.

**UB a Source for Stories**

Modern publishing involves a lot of self-promotion, and that has pulled Bush onto Facebook. In addition to telling friends about the book, she has been excited to connect with former students who have careers and families now. She also researches what other authors are doing to push their books.

“I’m seeing what the other authors are doing and how they are promoting. You see the ones who are active, and their books are doing well on Amazon,” she said.

As her writing career takes off, Bush said she would never leave her position at the UB School of Dental Medicine or step away from dentistry.

“I think I need that contact with people and seeing the world and being involved with things. That’s where the stories come from,” she said. “Seeing things, talking to people in the clinic and talking with Peter and getting involved with cases that come in. I think I would really miss coming in here and doing that.”

**Dentists as Authors**

Plenty of dentists have written books, primarily text books and other technical or scientific texts. One dentist, John Haase, who passed away in 2006, was a prolific fiction writer of 11 books. Two of his books were made into movies. “Me and the Arch Kook Petulia” was made into the 1968 movie “Petulia,” an ode to the swinging 1960s. And “Erasmus with Freckles” was made into “Dear Brigitte,” starring James Stewart.

But it is rare for a dentist author to create a fictional lead character who is a dentist.
“You dentists have more departments than you have teeth.” That statement, although said in jest, was said by the President of the University at Buffalo immediately after he had met with the department chairs of the entire university. That meeting included 12 chairs from the School of Dental Medicine. Several of the dental departments had only 2 or 3 full time faculty, a number that did not provide the critical mass necessary to teach, provide service and conduct research, the latter of which is expected in a research university.

Beginning in the 1990s, there has been an increasing number of department mergers in US Colleges and Universities and they do so for common purpose and improved efficiency. But one important issue that requires special consideration is that of blending differing faculty mindsets and different department cultures.1

This issue did not go unnoticed in the dental school. Dean William M. Peagans appointed a committee to study the situation and make recommendations about the Department of Oral Medicine and the Department of Stomatology and Interdisciplinary Sciences. The committee recommended that these departments be merged. Although the Dean agreed, he was about to retire and thought that the decision should be left to his replacement. The new Dean, Louis Goldberg, also agreed and appointed me as Chair. The name chosen for the new department was “Oral Diagnostic Sciences.”

Inherent in the mission of Oral Diagnostic Sciences (ODS) was the teaching and application of the principles, scientific bases and techniques that underlie the diagnostic disciplines and the advancement of knowledge in the areas of orofacial pathology and disorders. This implied that emphasis would be given to the use and integration of those biological, behavioral and clinical sciences that are relevant to the differential diagnosis of pathological conditions in the orofacial region—and to the utilization of critical thinking skills in that process. In addition to teaching courses in all four years of the predoctoral curriculum as well as postgraduate and graduate courses, the department’s
responsibilities included the Oral Diagnosis Clinic, the Oral Radiology Clinic, a special Oral Medicine Clinic, a special TMD and Orofacial Pain Clinic, a Biopsy Service and a General Practice Residency at the Buffalo General Hospital. Also included were the CODA Accredited Advanced Education Program in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and a TMD and Orofacial Pain Program, a Master of Science (MS) Program in Biomaterials, and participation in a school-wide MS Program in the Oral Sciences as well as participation in Roswell Park Cancer Institute. For a while, several clinics were established to consult on issues such as halitosis and dental phobia.

The faculty of the new department included some very experienced teachers, researchers and clinicians, two of whom were SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professors, several tenured Professors and Associate Professors plus several with specialty boards in various clinical disciplines. Most held dental degrees but there were several PhDs in the group. In addition, several faculty from other departments in the dental school, Oral Biology, Dental Materials, and Behavioral Sciences, chose to join.

This mix of programs and faculty raised a very important issue facing the new department. Ways had to be found to integrate its members into a cohesive and collegial group.

In order to encourage this, specific steps were taken in an attempt to create an environment where faculty could interact with each other on a social as well as a professional basis.

A space was located that was large enough to accommodate such a department and also enhance the interaction of the department members. It included a centrally-based office in which to accommodate all department secretaries and office equipment, offices for several full time faculty, including the Chair; and desks for part time faculty and graduate students. It also included a large seminar room, mail slots for all faculty, and a small room with a coffee maker and refrigerator for lunches and breaks. This increased the likelihood that faculty would meet, either by design or by accident.

Weekly meetings were scheduled that alternated between department meetings and department seminars. The meetings were used to inform faculty of any new policies or announcements from the administration, and discuss content of the ODS predoctoral curriculum and its graduate programs. This included review of such subjects as History Taking, Principles of Differential Diagnosis, Pain Physiology, Criteria and Validity of Diagnostic Tests and the Use of Evidence-Based Diagnostic Methods. New ideas were also discussed, such as changing the method used by ODS faculty when consulting in the school’s clinics. When some faculty did not agree with the majority, subtle peer pressure usually resulted in a unanimous or near-unanimous decision. These meetings were always harmonious, perhaps because of the ever-present camaraderie and good humor. This camaraderie was enhanced by initiating summer picnics that included all faculty, staff, spouses and children.

With regard to the seminars, they began with each full-time faculty member presenting a seminar on their role and activities in the school. As Chair, I presented the first seminar. These faculty seminars were a challenge to some, however, they also greatly enhanced knowledge and collaboration among those with similar interests or activities. Later, faculty from other dental school departments and from the School of Medicine were invited to present seminars. As can be seen in the last issue of the UB Dentist, the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences has survived, and has become a major influence in the School since its founding 25 years ago, and with its cooperative and harmonious faculty.²

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"...the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences has survived, and has become a major influence in the School since its founding 25 years ago..."
Dr. Michael R. Markiewicz Appointment as Feagans Endowed Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs

By Emillia Scutari, ’21

The University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine eagerly welcomed Dr. Michael R. Markiewicz, MD, DDS, MPH, FACS back to Western New York, as the newly appointed Feagans Endowed Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs. Dr. Markiewicz, originally a Buffalo area resident, has traveled across the United States, training in oral and maxillofacial surgery, pediatric craniofacial surgery, head and neck oncologic surgery, and microvascular reconstructive surgery.

Markiewicz said he appreciates how instrumental his teachers and mentors were in contributing to his training and surgical expertise. As Chair and Professor, he plans to cultivate this culture of mentorship and continue to build the department.

“I feel so lucky to be part of a department at such a great university, teaching residents and students to do the surgeries I love, on the population of patients I am so passionate about,” he said. “The things that get me excited in the morning are the ability to manage such a unique population of patients, and the ability to teach residents and students.”

Dr. Markiewicz received his undergraduate degree from the University at Buffalo in 2003 and earned his Master’s in Public Health from Harvard University in 2007. Following his graduation from the UB School of Dental Medicine in 2008, Dr. Markiewicz completed his Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency at Oregon Health and Science University in 2014. He then completed both a fellowship in Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery at the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando in 2015, and a fellowship in Head and Neck Oncologic and Microvascular Surgery at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Jacksonville in 2016. He had then served for several years as a faculty member and attending surgeon at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Northwestern University.

“I feel so lucky to be part of a department at such a great university, teaching residents and students to do the surgeries I love, on the population of patients I am so passionate about,” he said. “The things that get me excited in the morning are the ability to manage such a unique population of patients, and the ability to teach residents and students.”

Dr. Markiewicz received his undergraduate degree from the University at Buffalo in 2003 and earned his Master’s in Public Health from Harvard University in 2007. Following his graduation from the UB School of Dental Medicine in 2008, Dr. Markiewicz completed his Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency at Oregon Health and Science University in 2014. He then completed both a fellowship in Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery at the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando in 2015, and a fellowship in Head and Neck Oncologic and Microvascular Surgery at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Jacksonville in 2016. He had then served for several years as a faculty member and attending surgeon at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Northwestern University.

Those having torches will pass them on to others.”

—Plato

He also serves as clinical professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, and Division of Pediatric Surgery, Department of Surgery, at the Jacob’s School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. “I work very closely with UB Neurosurgery to treat children with congenital craniofacial deformities,” he said. “Our team in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery will operate, together with Dr. Renee Reynolds and Dr. Veeti Li at UB Neurosurgery, to treat these children. It is a big part of my practice, and I am so blessed to be able to treat these children here in Buffalo.”

Additionally, Dr. Markiewicz is the co-director of the Craniofacial Center of WNY at Oishei Children’s Hospital and is the craniofacial surgeon on the Cleft and Craniofacial team. “I am so lucky to be a member of a team of talented people who are passionate about treating children with congenital anomalies,” he said.

“My two favorite populations to treat are children affected by cleft and craniofacial anomalies, and adult and children with benign and malignant tumors of the head and neck. I love the population of patients I treat,” he said. “In any given week, our team may treat a child with a congenital head shape deformity requiring craniofacial surgery, or a child with a cleft requiring repair, or an adult with a cancer of the head and neck, requiring removal and microvascular reconstruction. Often, given my training background, I unfortunately treat children with tumors of the head and neck. I am passionate about these children and their parents. By using contemporary surgery such as microvascular reconstruction, we are able to return these children to their normal lives.”

Dr. Markiewicz’s passions and values are reflective of his goals for the program at UB. He values the European model of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the full scope of practice it entails, such that Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons are the primary providers in Europe for cleft and craniofacial patients, as well as patients with oral cancer needing microvascular facial reconstruction. “As Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, we can remove a cancer, reconstruct the jaws, restore nerve function, and restore the patients’ ability to chew and eat through the use of dental implants, bringing them to full functional and esthetic rehabilitation,” he said.

Alongside the current exemplary faculty in the department, which Dr. Markiewicz credits for establishing an already storied department, he plans to recruit a diverse group of world-renowned surgeons. “By collaborating with other departments in the university and surrounding hospitals, I want to build a world class department and training program in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.”

Pursuing a career in academia was a long-term goal of Dr. Markiewicz’s and he is very thankful for the opportunity to operate and teach in Buffalo. He specifically recognizes Dean Joseph Zambon for his support and commitment in appointing him as Chair. UB looks forward to following the growth and achievements of the department with pride.

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**DR. ROBERT CRONYN—NEW DIRECTOR OF THE ADVANCED EDUCATION PROGRAM IN ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY**

Dr. Robert Cronyn has assumed responsibility for the direction of the Advanced Education Program in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery effective June 24, 2019, replacing Dr. Justin Au. Dr. Cronyn has been a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery since 2014.

He has been teaching in the program for the past three years. Dr. Cronyn was appointed at the UB School of Dental Medicine as a full-time Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and holds a staff appointment at the Erie County Medical Center that serves as an off-site teaching location for the program.

His education includes a DDS and JD from the University at Buffalo, and a Certificate in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from the Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center. He worked as a general dentist and later attorney in Buffalo for 20 years prior to joining the US Army, where he rose to the role of Chief, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Commander at several bases—Ft. Riley, Afghanistan and Ft. Meade. He has been teaching pre-doctoral oral surgery since joining the school, and we now welcome him to this new role. Congratulations.
RECOGNIZING YOUR SUPPORT

Special thanks to alumni, staff, faculty and friends who support the School of Dental Medicine. Their generosity helps sustain the tradition of philanthropy and excellence that is the heritage and future of the School. Gifts come in all sizes, provide scholarship support, enhance the work of faculty and student research, and provide equipment and facility upgrades. The following donors made gifts of $1,000 or more between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. (Only UB degrees are listed, CRT denotes UB post-doctoral certificate program.)

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* Deceased
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UB IMPLANT STUDY CLUB 2019–2020
(THURSDAYS 6 TO 9 P.M.)
FEB 20 Introducing YOMI Robotics for Dental Implants
Anthony S. Albano
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JUN 18 Pietro Felice, MD, DDS, PhD
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ANNUAL HALF-YEAR
NEW MEMBERSHIP FEE: $725
SINGLE MEETING NONMEMBER FEE: $225
Limited Enrollment
3 CE HRS/MEETING

APR 17
(9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)
NYS SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTISTS MEETING
Practice and Wealth Management for the Orthodontist in an Ever-Changing World...Unique and Rarely-Heard Strategies for You and Your Patients
Mart McClellan, DDS, MS; Tim Streid; Chris Bentson
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Westchester County, NY
NYSSO MEMBER: $225
NONMEMBER ORTHODONTIST: $275
ORTHODONTIST OFFICE STAFF: $125
6 CE HRS

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES
(6 TO 9 P.M.)
APR 29 Pain Management, Palliative Care and Addiction Training
NYS mandated 3 hr course
Marc Gottlieb, DDS
MAY 6 Peri-implant Disease: What Does the Evidence Say? Communicating with Confidence
Caryn Tierney, BSDH, MA, RDH
MAY 13 Back to the Roots: Endodontics Simplified
Patrick Battista, DDS
MAY 20 Little Mouths are a Big Deal
Mary Beth Dunn, DDS
MAY 27 What You Need to Know to Talk to Your Patients About TMD
Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker, DDS, MS
JUNE 3 2020 Infection Control for the Dental Team
Frank Barnashuk, DDS
Baldy Hall, Room 200G, UB North Campus (live lecture)
TUITION: $65 (BUF)
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3 CE HRS

APR 30–MAY 1
(THURSDAY 5 TO 9 P.M.; FRIDAY 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)
Sedation for Treating the Apprehensive, Medically Compromised and/or Phobic Patient
NYS approved mandated 12 hr course for sedation license renewal
Marc Gottlieb, DDS
UB School of Dental Medicine
UB ALUMNI MEMBER: $495
NONMEMBER DENTIST: $595
TEAM MEMBER: $195
12 CE HRS

MAY 8
(9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)
UB DENTAL HYGIENE SYMPOSIUM
From Pockets to Pathogens – Maximize Technology for Optimal Periodontal Therapy Success / Eye Health and Pain Prevention
Amber Auger, RDH
Acqua Event Center, 2192 Niagara St., Buffalo, NY
TUITION: $125 before May 1; after $145
6 CE HRS

MAY 15–16
(9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)
2020 DIGITAL DENTISTRY FORUM
Supported in part by the Sanford B. Sugarman Fund
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UB School of Dental Medicine
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UB DENTAL ALUMNI MEMBER: $495
NONMEMBER DENTIST: $595
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JUNE 4–5
(9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)
HANDS-ON WORKSHOP
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Adham Abdel Azim, BDS
UB School of Dental Medicine
UB DENTAL ALUMNI MEMBER: $995
NONMEMBER DENTIST: $1195
Limited Enrollment
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JUNE 5
(9 AM TO 4 P.M.)
JOHN J. CUNAT
EDUCATIONAL FUND
ANNUAL LECTURE
Supported by UB Department of Orthodontics
Today’s Data on Today’s Methods for Today’s Orthodontic Practice
Henry Fields, DDS, MS, MSD
Shea’s Seneca, 2178 Seneca St, Buffalo, NY
UB ALUMNI MEMBER: $235
NONMEMBER DENTIST: $275
TEAM MEMBER: $95
6 CE HRS

JUNE 19
(9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)
Pietro Felice, MD, DDS, PhD
UB School of Dental Medicine
UB DENTAL ALUMNI MEMBER: $295
NONMEMBER DENTIST: $395
TEAM MEMBER: $95
6 CE HRS
The annual Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting remains one of the strongest and most well-attended events of its kind in the industry. The region’s dentists enjoy getting together each year, to catch up and stay informed. Continuing Education (CE) classes bring the latest information and technologies to everyone’s attention, and the vendors show their newest wares.

This year UB Dentist invited several attendees to share their impressions of the event. All found something memorable and worthwhile.

A fourth-year perspective

Being part of the Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting has been a wonderful addition to my dental school experience. From sitting in on the meetings that decide integral parts of the three-day event, to attending CE and being a guest at the dinner dance, it has been one of my favorite highlights in dental school.

As a fourth-year, my experiences have only gotten better. Being so close to graduation, it’s amazing how much of a difference three years can make. I remember attending CE as a second-year, introducing speakers, having only just completed my first cleaning on one of my classmates. So much of what I heard in lectures would go over my head, and I realized that there was still a long road ahead of me in becoming a dentist. As a fourth-year, I was able to not only comprehend everything the speakers were lecturing about, but I also had my own opinions on them and realized that CE will continually be part of my life in the future.

The week is such a treat to have as a student. It was a reminder of how important alumni are, and how happy I am for being a part of UBDAA as a student. The week ended in celebration with the dinner dance, which I’ve been able to attend the past three years. I love seeing all the alumni and the relationships between old classmates. It really is the perfect way to celebrate the classes as well as the new class (2020) that will be alumni very soon. It is a tradition that I cherish and one that I will continue as my reunion years are celebrated in the future.

Thank you UBDAA for allowing us to be involved at BNDM. We all appreciate your hard work and your graciousness in letting us be a part of it. (Kristina Petrich, Class of 2020)
Everyone working together

I have been involved with planning and organizing the Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting (BNDM) for 18 years, however, this year was my first year as the Meeting Coordinator. It was an exciting year of changes and challenges, taking on many new responsibilities of the BNDM, including coordinating the speakers, exhibitors, students, volunteers and every other aspect of our meeting. I cannot thank our wonderful and dedicated committee members enough for their amazing support and guidance during the year. This collaboration allowed me to assume the new role effectively and efficiently to provide an exceptional meeting.

We are always looking for ways to improve the BNDM, from the programs, events, appearance, activities, entertainment and prizes. This year was no different! We were able to introduce the “Money Booth,” thanks to our sponsors, and it was a hit! Attendees had to visit the sponsors’ booths and deposit their validated entry into the spin barrel for a chance to win cash. We brightened the registration area with a bright colorful carpet which attendees definitely noticed and commented on how fun and cheerful the area looked.

One thing that was evident to me this year is how much everyone works together, how much everyone involved in the UB Dental Alumni Association, the School of Dental Medicine and the Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting wants this meeting to succeed. I worked closely with the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, Hale Expo Services and Cheshire Audio Visual to coordinate the speaker rooms and the exhibit floor. Everyone involved are true professionals and I thank them for all they did to make this transition year seamless.

(Sherry Szarowski, Executive Director, UB Dental Alumni Association)
Connections made and remade

I’ve manned the combined UB Dental Alumni Association and School of Dental Medicine booth on the exhibit floor for many years. It’s a great spot to watch all the connections being made and remade. Vendors are showcasing new products for old and new customers, and teaching students how to interact with them and their products. It’s so great to see alums of the school connect with their former classmates and faculty, often making plans to get together.

This year members of the alumni association executive committee joined me in the booth, which added to the activity as dentists, staff and students stopped by to say hello and ask about the school and catch-up. Old yearbooks are a big draw for dental students and clinical staff. They like to see what their faculty or dentists looked like back then.

For me it’s wonderful seeing students imagining their future offices sometimes with the help of faculty, watching alumni connecting with each other and asking what the school has in store for the future and how they might contribute or share in it. (Pamela Jones, PhD, Assistant Dean)

Looking forward to next year!

The 2019 Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting was the second meeting that I have attended as a dental student, and the first one that I attended for two of the lecture days. My initial impression walking into this year’s meeting was a sense of revitalization. I felt that coming in off the street and being greeted with the new carpet adorning the convention center floor felt very inviting and modern. The thematic colors of the carpet were carried throughout the convention center, which gave a great feeling of continuity. I felt the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center was “dressed up” nicely compared to last year, especially in the check-in area.

The meeting proved to be a great opportunity to receive CE on a wide range of topics, in and relating to dentistry. I was able to attend four separate lectures given by different speakers covering everything from oral pathology to eating disorders, and what we should be mindful of as clinicians.

During the breaks, my classmates and I also got the opportunity to visit and speak with the exhibitors and vendors. There were many opportunities to try materials, instruments, and products that we will be using both during
“We are always looking for ways to improve the BNDM, from the programs, events, appearance, activities, entertainment and prizes.”

SHERRY SZAROWSKI

We are always looking for ways to improve the BNDM, from the programs, events, appearance, activities, entertainment and prizes.

SHERRY SZAROWSKI

and after dental school, as well as an inside look at the direction that modern dentistry is headed. I must admit that a highlight of the meeting was using a hard and soft tissue laser to “prep” an apple and an extracted molar.

Overall, this year’s meeting was an awesome experience as a third-year dental student, and even more interesting and engaging as I continue to progress as a dental professional. I am very much looking forward to what the meeting holds for next year! (Ben Hunt, Class of 2021)

CONTINUED

STANLEY L. ZAK, JR., DDS ’76

Dr. Zak was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. Dr. Zak attended Canisius College, graduating in 1972 with a BS in Biochemistry. He then attended the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, earning his DDS degree in 1976.

Dr. Zak has been active in the local dental societies throughout his career. He is a life member of the American Dental Association, the New York State Dental Association, the Eighth District Dental Society, and the Erie County Dental Society. In the Eighth District, Dr. Zak served as a Counselor-at-Large for six years and was the Chair of the William C. Knauf, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament for many years. In the Erie County Dental Society, he has served as Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Vice President, Treasurer, and President. In 2010, Dr. Zak received the Frank Stone Award from the Erie County Dental Society. Dr. Zak is an active member of the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association, having served as its President for three terms, the Dinner Dance Chair and he currently is serving on the Alumni Board. He serves as Exhibits Chair for the Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting.

Upon graduation from dental school, Dr. Zak opened a solo dental practice in Cheektowaga, where he continues to practice today. He was a part-time Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Operative and Restorative Dentistry at UB School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Zak is a fellow of the American College of Dentists.

Dr. Zak’s interests include music, travel, gardening, golf, bowling, and spending time with his family. He is the proud Captain of Stanley’s Steamers in the Buffalo City Dental Bowling League and is a Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Counselor. Dr. Zak is a past president and current Board Member of the Guild of St. Appollonia, Farmington Woods Home Owner’s Association, and St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church. At St. Mary’s, he is a member of the parish council, a volunteer for its Summer Picnic, a Eucharistic Minister, and a member of the Church Building Committee.

Dr. Zak and his wife Phyllis have been happily married for 47 years. Their son Paul and his wife Karen have blessed them with two grandchildren, Natalie, 9 and Joshua, 7.
Networking with practitioners

As a second-year student this was my first time attending the Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting and overall it was a pretty cool experience. My initial impression upon entering the venue was that I wasn’t expecting it to be as large as it was. It was quite impressive to see the exhibit floor full of vendors and exhibitioners. I was expecting the vendors to not be interested in speaking with me because I was a student and not a dentist looking to build his/her practice, but it was actually quite the opposite. The vendors were very enthusiastic, informative and seemed genuinely excited to interact with me.

I also enjoyed the assortment of courses that were offered at the meeting. Everything from talks about pediatric dentistry to the current advancements in biomaterials took place, which allowed us (students) to gain more insight on our respective interests. The speakers I did get a chance to see were all very engaging. My favorite part of the meeting was getting the chance to meet and interact with practicing dentists from around the country. They each provided invaluable wisdom and advice that I don’t think I would’ve gotten had I not attended the meeting. It was pretty awesome to meet dentists who have been practicing and perfecting their craft for decades still be excited about dentistry. I can’t wait to see what the meeting has to offer next year. (Tyler Laurel, Class of 2022) UBD

DONALD A. TUCKER, DDS ’81

Dr. Donald Tucker was born minutes after his identical twin, Dr. Douglas Tucker, in Manhattan. He went to grade school in Springfield, Massachusetts, and high school in Penfield, New York. After attending SUNY at Albany, where he graduated with honors in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry, he worked at the University of Rochester for a year where he co-authored five papers on cation transport in mitochondria. Dr. Tucker went on to receive his DDS at the UB School of Dental Medicine in 1981 and finished a general practice residency at the Buffalo VA Hospital in 1982. To date, he has over 2,000 hours of CE, has completed the Misch Institute course on implants, and has a Misch and ICOI Fellowship in Implantology. He is also credentialed in oral sedation.

Dr. Tucker’s current activities include being founder and team captain of Rick’s Riders, which is a Ride for Roswell team formed 11 years ago in memory of Dr. Richard Fink. He also supports two dental clinics in Haiti; one in Coq Chante and the other in Port au Prince. Teaching modern dental techniques to Haitian dentists is something he enjoys and finds deeply rewarding. Dr. Tucker is currently on the Board of Directors of the NYSDA Foundation. His spiritual home is the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst where he is a member of the Board of Trustees. He is an Eagle Scout, and is also a Dentistry Merit Badge counselor for the Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. Tucker, along with Dr. Jennifer Frustino, formed the Erie County Task Force to improve HPV vaccination rates and educate the dental profession and public about HPV and cancer. He is also a member of SMART (Special Medical Assistance Response Team) and was part of the Flight 3407 disaster response.

Dr. Tucker’s past activities include being a Counselor-at-Large at Eighth District Dental Society and a member of the Eighth District Dental Foundation. Dr. Tucker was Council Chair of the Eighth District Dental Society Council on Dental Education and Licensure and served on the NYSDA Council on Dental Education and Licensure. For two years, Dr. Tucker taught restorative dentistry at the Erie County Community College dental assisting program. His leisure time is spent swimming on the UB Masters swim team, gardening, and spending time with his four grown children and his very supportive wife, Dian.

PRESIDENT’S AWARD—JOSEPH S. MODICA, DDS ’82

Dr. Raymond G. Miller presents the President’s Award to Dr. Joseph S. Modica in appreciation for his service and outstanding leadership as UBDAA President from 2018–2019.
2019 UBDAA ADA Reception

More than 60 alumni and friends attended the UB Dental Alumni Association’s annual reception during the ADA FDI World Dental Congress Meeting held at the Tabletop Tap House Restaurant in San Francisco, CA, on September 6, 2019. Always a welcome retreat from the annual ADA meeting, this year’s event was another success. Alumni from classes ranging from 1969 onward were treated to drinks and heavy hors d’oeuvres. Dental Alumni President Dr. Joseph Modica welcomed the alumni and their guests, thanking them for attending and for their support of the alumni association throughout the years. Dean Joseph Zambon discussed the current changes going on at the dental school, the improvements and updates occurring, and discussed a recent ranking of dental schools worldwide that has UB School of Dental Medicine number 11 on that list. Following their remarks, attendees enjoyed catching up with friends and fellow graduates. It was another successful reception at the ADA meeting for the alumni association. We are looking forward to our next reception in Orlando in October 2020. Hope to see you there!

HOMECOMING 2019

The UB School of Dental Medicine and the Dental Alumni Association hosted a Tailgate Party during Homecoming Weekend on October 5, 2019 in Stampede Square. Roughly 100 alumni and friends stopped by the UB Dental tent before the UB Bulls vs. Ohio Bobcats kickoff to enjoy delicious homemade food and drinks. Everyone was excited to be there and cheer on our team with friends and colleagues!

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

UB Bulls Basketball Alumni Reception
UB Bulls Arena
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
5:30 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Game

Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting
Buffalo Niagara Convention Center
October 28–30, 2020
BNDMeeting.com

Remember When Reception
Hyatt Regency Sungarden, Buffalo, NY
Thursday, October 29, 2020
5:30–7:00 p.m.

Reunion Dinner Dance
Hyatt Regency Ballroom, Buffalo, NY
Friday, October 30, 2020
6:30 p.m. Cocktails
7:30 p.m. Dinner

RSVP
Sherry Szarowski
ss287@buffalo.edu
(716) 829-2061
Mark A. Heiss, ’82, FADI, FIADFE, is inducted into the International College of Dentists.

Kirthlyn A. Branch, ’77, passed away April 1, 2019 at age 83. Born in St. Kitts, she served as a merchant seaman for several years, visiting many countries before settling in the U.S. to pursue his education. He was one of four Regional Dental Directors for the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene School Dental Program—a position of which he was only the third black person to hold in the 90-year history of the program. He also opened his own successful dentistry practice, retiring in 2009.

Joseph P. D’Angelo, ’47, died on August 6, 2016 at the age of 94. He was living in Hallendale, Fla., having moved there after practicing dentistry in Buffalo for 34 years. He established a pediatric skilled nursing company in Miami and was actively involved in company management until the time of his death.

Harlow W. Dunton, ’66, of Pulaski, passed away on April 27, 2019 at the age of 78. After graduating from the UB School of Dental Medicine and returning home to Pulaski in 1967, he practiced dentistry for the next 55 years. He was active in the Naval Reserve for 16 years and was a Sunday School teacher at Park United Methodist Church for 30 years.

John T. Freedman, ’72, a former Skaneateles resident, died September 24, 2019, at age 73 in Durham, N.C., after a battle with cancer. He was the starting quarterback on the Hamilton College football team, and after graduating from dental school, he served as a Lieutenant at Brunswick Naval Air Station in Maine before moving to Skaneateles in 1974. He practiced dentistry there for over 30 years.

Kenneth K. Gordon, ’49, died August 30, 2019 at age 96. He worked in private practice in Utica for 70 years, continuing to meet patients until this past April. Ken served in the United States Army during World War II, where he was a recipient of a Purple Heart. He continued his service in the United State Army Reserves where he retired as a Colonel.

Ronald F. Grazen, ’59, a Lancaster dentist, died August 25, 2019 in his home in Clarence Center at age 83. He was a member of coach Emory Fisher’s undefeated track and field team at the University of Buffalo. He was state supply for the holidays last year. He has also started a book club for the oldest boys group on campus. And he has hired caterers and provided art supplies for the monthly cottage dinner nights—evenings that take the children out of their normal routines and into a fun “get away” for just one or two hours.

Bruce Goldstein, ’82, Ortho Cert. ’84, was elected the 2019–2020 president of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics during their annual meeting held July 12–15, 2019 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tenn. Dr. Goldstein is a diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and is in private practice in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Mark A. Heiss, ’82, FADI, FIADFE, is inducted into the International College of Dentists.

John C. Castanaro, ’07, was honored on October 25 by the ANDRUS organization at its annual gala in Westchester County. ANDRUS is a family-centered nonprofit organization providing mental health treatment and support, special education, and other social services to over 4,500 children and families in New York State. Some of the young clients have been injured by neglect, abuse, poverty or violence. Others wrestle with the challenges of living with mental illness and autism. Known as ‘Dr. C,’ Castanaro has provided countless hours of support to the young people, including supplying Christmas gifts for those who had no homes to visit over the holidays last year. He has also started a book club for the oldest boys group on campus. And he has hired caterers and provided art supplies for the monthly cottage dinner nights—evenings that take the children out of their normal routines and into a fun “get away” for just one or two hours.

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In Memoriam

Mark A. Heiss, ’82, FADI, FIADFE, is inducted into the International College of Dentists.

Kirthlyn A. Branch, ’77, passed away April 1, 2019 at age 83. Born in St. Kitts, she served as a merchant seaman for several years, visiting many countries before settling in the U.S. to pursue his education. He was one of four Regional Dental Directors for the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene School Dental Program—a position of which he was only the third black person to hold in the 90-year history of the program. He also opened his own successful dentistry practice, retiring in 2009.

Joseph P. D’Angelo, ’47, died on August 6, 2016 at the age of 94. He was living in Hallendale, Fla., having moved there after practicing dentistry in Buffalo for 34 years. He established a pediatric skilled nursing company in Miami and was actively involved in company management until the time of his death.

Harlow W. Dunton, ’66, of Pulaski, passed away on April 27, 2019 at the age of 78. After graduating from the UB School of Dental Medicine and returning home to Pulaski in 1967, he practiced dentistry for the next 55 years. He was active in the Naval Reserve for 16 years and was a Sunday School teacher at Park United Methodist Church for 30 years.

John T. Freedman, ’72, a former Skaneateles resident, died September 24, 2019, at age 73 in Durham, N.C., after a battle with cancer. He was the starting quarterback on the Hamilton College football team, and after graduating from dental school, he served as a Lieutenant at Brunswick Naval Air Station in Maine before moving to Skaneateles in 1974. He practiced dentistry there for over 30 years.

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Class of 1983

Bill Marusich, Ray Niceforo, and Dave Stasiak, Class of 1983 in Nashville for the Bills vs. Titans game. The Bills were victorious!
He joined the medical staff at the USS Barbey (DE-1088). He served in the Navy during the Vietnam War as an anti-submarine officer aboard the USS Uhlmann (DD-687) and as a submarine officer aboard the USS Barbey (DE-1088). He served in the United States Air Force, attaining the rank of Captain. Later, he attended Loyola University Dental School, where he received a Masters Degree in Oral Anatomy and a post-graduate certification in Periodontics and Oral Pathology. He returned to the UB School of Dental Medicine where he was on the faculty for over 20 years as a Clinical Professor of Periodontology (later, Emeritus) as a course director in periodontal histopathology, and as Acting Chairman in the Department of Periodontics. He was Past President of the Erie County Dental Society. In 1979, he moved with his family to Boca Raton, Fla., where he practiced periodontics until 2004. He was honored for his contributions to dental research, teaching and local and national dental associations by receiving the prestigious UB Alumni Association ‘Man of the Year’ Award in 1983.

Joseph Miller, ‘57, passed away in February 2019. Joseph was a resident of Edmond, Oklahoma at the time of passing.

Charles J. Montante, ‘57, died October 7, 2019 at age 88. After graduating from dental school, he served from 1957 to 1960 in the U.S. Air Force before opening a dental practice in Wyoming, Pa., in 1960. He served as past president of the Luzerne County Dental Society in 1968 and as an adjunct faculty member in the dental hygiene clinic at Luzerne County Community College.


Michael A. Richards, Jr., ‘64, passed away October 14, 2019 at age 81 after a long battle with cancer. He was a Captain in the United States Air Force and was stationed at a base in Pont-à-Mousson, France between 1964 and 1966. He opened a dental practice in North Chili, N.Y., where he practiced for over 50 years.

Charles C. “Bud” Stover, MS Ortho ’69, of Hermitage, passed away January 28, 2018 at age 84. After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dentistry, he practiced general dentistry for six years before completing a two year residency in orthodontics at UB. He practiced orthodontics for more than 30 years in the Shenango Valley.

Jack J. Tresser, ’51, passed away March 12, 2018 at age 91. He was a resident of Florida at the time of passing.

Donald F. Woodworth, ’58, a dentist in Clarence for more than 55 years, died August 17, 2019, at age 87. He served in the Navy and Naval Reserve as a lieutenant in the Dental Corps. In 1958, he moved to Clarence, where he opened his dental practice. He and one of his sons, Dr. Edward J. Woodworth, practiced together beginning in 1994 until 2014.

Brian L. Zeiner, ’61, age 82, of Bloomfield, Conn., passed away October 9, 2019. He served as a Captain in the Dental Corp of the United States Air Force and opened a practice in Avon, Conn.
A Conversation with Dr. Payam Goudarzi, ’96

BY KEVIN HANLEY

For the second year in a row, the New York State Dental Association is being led by an alumnus of the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Payam Goudarzi, Class of 1996. He recently sat down with us for an interview:

How is your term in office going?
This has been an extraordinary year for me. I became the youngest president of the New York State Dental Association in June this year at our annual meeting in Buffalo. Having my installation in Buffalo was very special to me. I consider Buffalo my second home, having lived there for eight years as an undergraduate student and dental student. It has been fantastic working with wonderful leaders throughout our great state for the good of our profession and the best interests of our members.

What is the number one issue facing NYSDA and organized dentistry?
Dentistry faces many challenges, but I think the greatest challenge we face today is do-it-yourself dentistry. In the age of social media, tele-health, great advancements in digital imaging, and with companies leveraging major marketing campaigns, the concept of direct to consumer services has gained appeal among a segment of the population. This leads patients to believe they are able to do whatever they need for themselves and get the same results as if they had the procedure done by a professional. We, as dentists, have the patient’s best interest at heart and the knowledge and training to achieve the desired outcome. I believe this necessitates the profession educate the patient. Do-it-yourself companies will not talk about potential adverse effects.

Do you have a special project or issue you want to focus on during your presidency?
I was fortunate enough to have one of my main goals realized before being sworn in as NYSDA president. With the help and support of the NYSDA Board of Trustees, the TDSC (The Dentist Supply Co.) launched in May 2019 in New York State. This is a great addition to our menu of member benefits. With this online shopping tool only available to our members, they can save up to 20% on their everyday dental supply needs.

At this point I would like to turn my attention to our membership. We have done a great job over the years of being a very diverse organization, but I think we can do better; we can be more inclusive. I would like to see more of our young and female colleagues involved in leadership positions. I would also like to work with our colleagues in dental service organizations (DSO) in areas affecting both our private practitioners and DSO dentists. And, ultimately, I would like to see more of our DSO colleagues become members of NYSDA.

What do you think can be done to address the declining membership in organized dentistry?
Starting with the idea that organized dentistry fosters the success of diverse membership, we need to continue to represent and advocate for dentistry in areas important for our members and those affecting their practices. We need to engage and educate our members and potential new members about the benefits associated with NYSDA membership.

The face of dentistry has changed. We have more female colleagues and a more diverse group of colleagues entering our profession. We can send mailings or electronic communications, but nothing is more effective than face-to-face contact. We need to make sure we are not only more welcoming, but also provide leadership opportunities for our new colleagues. I am pleased to report, with the help of our immediate past president, Dr. Brendan Dowd, we will be having our first diversity and inclusiveness forum in early Spring of 2020 in New York City.

Why are we seeing a membership decline?
With a large percentage of our young colleagues going into large group practices or DSO models, they don’t see the need or benefit of joining organized dentistry. DSOs or large group practices will provide their continuing education needs, their malpractice and health insurance, and other essentials. We need to educate them that when we speak as one voice regarding any issue important to our profession, regardless of their particular practice model, be it locally, statewide, or nationally, we can achieve results beneficial to all of dentistry and the public at large.

Once you are done with your presidency, what are your plans?
I haven’t thought about this, as you never know what opportunities will present themselves in the future. I will continue to advocate for leadership exploration and development of our young colleagues. They are the future of our wonderful profession, and they need to have a voice in leadership positions, not only on our local district boards, but also at NYSDA and ADA levels.

Any further thoughts?
It has been an honor to work with so many of our wonderful colleagues in New York State and throughout the country on issues so important to our profession. The friendship and personal connections I have made with them are priceless. I had open heart quadruple bypass surgery in early August this year, and the number of phone calls, texts, and emails that included get well wishes and warm words of encouragements and prayers made me realize how lucky I am to have been able to make so many friendships over the years with so many of our colleagues. And that was made possible by me joining organized dentistry. I am truly grateful.
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