

# UBDentist

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

WINTER 2023

## RENOVATED CLINICS

PUT DENTAL SCHOOL ON

THE CUTTING EDGE | PG. 8





FROM  
THE  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION  
**PRESIDENT**

**Your engagement is  
crucial in realizing  
our collective mission  
and in nurturing the  
legacy of excellence  
that defines the  
UB School of  
Dental Medicine.**

**Together, we are building the future of dentistry.**

It is an honor to serve as president of the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association and to be part of a community dedicated to advancing the mission of our alma mater and fostering a strong network of support among our fellow dental professionals.

At the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association, our mission is clear and resolute: To actively contribute to the success and growth of our school, to support the aspirations of current students, and to strengthen the bonds among our cherished alumni. We take great pride in being a beacon of unity for dental professionals who have walked the halls of our school and gone on to make meaningful contributions to the field.

Our commitment to the UB School of Dental Medicine is unwavering. We aim to provide resources, mentorship, and advocacy to ensure that the school continues to be at the forefront of dental education and research. By actively engaging with the evolving landscape of dentistry, we strive to create opportunities for collaboration and innovation that benefit both the dental school and the broader dental community.

Equally important is our dedication to supporting the students who are currently shaping their futures within the hallowed halls of our alma mater. As alumni, we endeavor to offer insights, encouragement, and practical assistance to help them navigate the challenges of dental education and prepare for successful careers. Through your membership and donations, we aim to empower the next generation of dental professionals.

Last but certainly not least, our association places immense value on the connections we maintain with our fellow alumni. We believe in creating a vibrant network where ideas, experiences, and opportunities can be shared. By fostering a sense of community and belonging, we strive to ensure that the bonds forged during our time at the University at Buffalo remain strong and enduring.

I encourage each of you to actively participate in the various events, initiatives, and programs that the Dental Alumni Association has to offer. Your engagement is crucial in realizing our collective mission and in nurturing the legacy of excellence that defines the UB School of Dental Medicine.

Thank you for being part of this incredible community. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact on dental education, professional development, and the broader world of dentistry.

Warm regards,

Joseph T. DeLuca, DDS '07  
President

University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association

ON THE COVER:

Renovations of three dental school clinics have elevated training and patient care.

Photo by Douglas Levere

# IN THIS ISSUE

WINTER 2023

## UBDentist

News from the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine

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### WHITE COAT CEREMONY

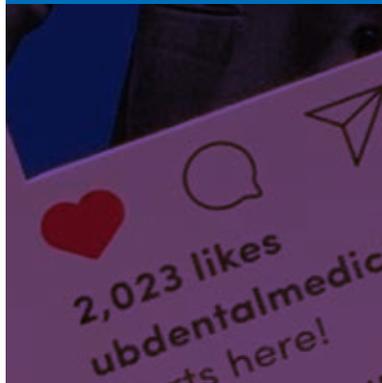
Family and friends gathered for the annual event that initiates four years of dental training.



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### NEW INSTAGRAM CHANNELS

Our school and dean join Instagram to connect with our communities.



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### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Salsa dancing and language lessons—in addition to providing screenings and oral health care—were part of the celebrations.



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Publication of *UB Dentist* is made possible by the generous support of the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association.



# 1 UB dental programs ranked seventh in nation, 11th in world

**The UB School of Dental Medicine** has been ranked among the top in the United States and the world, according to the 2023 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy.

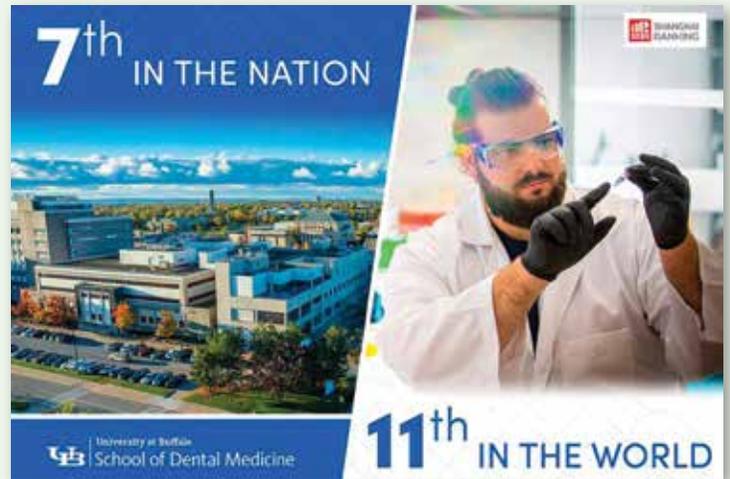
The rankings, regarded as one of the most prestigious and influential global rankings in higher education, place dental programs offered by UB at No. 7 in the nation and No. 11 worldwide.

The Global Ranking of Academic Subjects is largely based on university research outcomes, and institutions are scored on the number of articles published in influential academic journals,

the impact and citation of research, the amount of prestigious scientific awards presented to faculty, and the volume of international collaboration on research.

Marcelo W. B. Araujo, DDS, MS '97, PhD '03, dean of the dental school, said the rankings are a testament to the faculty's commitment to their students and to pursuing cutting-edge research.

"Our latest standing in the 2023 Global Ranking by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy speaks volumes," Araujo said. "Our faculty work tirelessly day after day to take their areas of expertise to the next level.



They generated \$8.8 million in research expenditures in the past year alone."

He added that the rankings support the goals of President Satish K. Tripathi and Provost A. Scott Weber for UB to become one of the top 25 public research universities in the country.

Thousands of universities are ranked in the Global Ranking of Academic Subjects in categories that span the natural, life, medical and social sciences and engineering.

For a full list of rankings by subject, visit the Global Ranking of Academic Subjects website.

# NIH 2 Dental school climbs to ninth in nation for research funding

**The UB School of Dental Medicine** ranks ninth among U.S. dental institutions receiving research funding from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), an improvement of five spots from the previous two years when it ranked 14th.

UB dental school researchers received a combined \$5,652,798 during the institute's 2022 fiscal year.

"The University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine is committed to solving the most complex problems in oral health," said Allison Brashear, MD, vice president for health sciences at UB and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. "Our researchers are at the forefront of innovation and they are helping to advance prevention, early detection and treatments that improve oral health across the lifespan."

The School of Dental Medicine was buoyed by nine new awards, totaling \$2.2 million, during fiscal year 2022. The remaining \$3.4 million resulted from previous multi-year grants that NIDCR awarded UB.

The new awards range from studies that address the influence of the oral microbiome on cancer-linked oral thrush to translational studies that examine how specific white blood cells mediate obesity-associated periodontal disease.

The growth in funding from NIDCR, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, reflects UB's overall growth in research funding. Growing research expenditures is part of UB's ambition to become one of the nation's top 25 public research universities. It also aligns with UB's status as a flagship of the State University of New York.

# 3 UB community serves 162 vets during Dentistry Smiles on Veterans Day

The eighth annual **Dentistry Smiles on Veterans Day** event held Nov. 11 on the University at Buffalo South Campus, hosted by the UB School of Dental Medicine, included more than 300 volunteers from across UB as well as external partners. That included roughly 240 students.

They provided services for 162 veterans—many of whom lack dental insurance or do not qualify for dental treatment through the Veterans Health Administration, a benefit reserved only for those with service-related dental injuries.

The comprehensive care included 96 periapical X-rays, 285 bitewings and 52 panoramic radiographs. Dental procedures included 71 cleanings, 52 restorations, and one sealant application. The oral surgery unit completed 117 uncomplicated extractions and 19 surgical extractions. Additionally, nine dentures or removable partial dentures were repaired, and one bridge was recemented. These services are valued at roughly \$93,500, organizers say.

The event's success was underscored by the fact that 17 patients made follow-up appointments. Additionally, many took home forms to potentially become new patients at SDM's clinics.

"The hope is to establish a new dental home for 40% of these individuals, continuing the positive trend from previous events," said Brendan Dowd, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry and event organizer.

"Dentistry Smiles on Veterans Day is an excellent example of how collaboration among various units in the academic health center can create a holistic health care experience for the community," said Marcelo W. B. Araujo, DDS, MS '97, PhD '03, dean of the School of Dental Medicine. "The event's success not only contributes to the profession of dentistry but also highlights the broader impact of interprofessional collaboration on patient health outcomes and whole-body wellness."

He added that the organizers would like to thank the Eighth District Dental Society, the New York State Dental Association, Fidelis Care and Wellcare.



The event extended beyond dentistry, incorporating interprofessional education initiatives. The School of Nursing administered more than 30 flu vaccinations and performed more than 50 pre-clinical health history and blood pressure evaluations.

Faculty and students from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences evaluated and updated patients' electronic medication history. They also performed several pharmacological consultations with patients.

The Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, part of the School of Public Health and Health Professions, had students and faculty on hand to engage patients with training and education on how to lead a healthier lifestyle, such as smoking cessation and proper nutrition.



STUDENTS FROM UB SCHOOLS ACROSS THE ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCES PARTICIPATED IN THE VETERANS DAY EVENT.

# 4 Destination Dental School completes third year, wins national recognition

The University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine's Destination Dental School—a program that aims to remove barriers to careers in dentistry for underrepresented students—drew 30 students from across the country to Squire Hall in July, following virtual instruction over the previous six Saturdays.

The program is free and open to underrepresented undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students who have a keen interest in the dental profession. The summer event welcomed the program's third cohort of students.

During the week, participants ranging in age from 19 to 37 shadowed current dental residents, engaged in hands-on learning activities including resin placement, alginate impressions, suturing and bleaching trays, and learned about different dental specialties. They also had the opportunity to hone their leadership skills and work with UB dental students to prepare for the Dental Admission Test (DAT) and engage in mock interviews. More than 70 dental school faculty, staff and students volunteered to help make the event possible.

"Our unique pathway program is intended to reduce inequities in the oral health field, which will lead to better health outcomes for everyone," said Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS, Ortho Cert. '12, MS '13, assistant dean of equity, diversity and inclusion in the School of Dental Medicine. "This includes making the dental school application process more seamless and establishing a home at UB for students who are underrepresented in the profession."

UB dental alumna Arian Johnson, DDS '21, founded Destination Dental School in 2021 after realizing there was a lack of resources for students like herself when she applied to dental school in 2017. She received support from the School of Dental Medicine's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP).

Making the dental profession more accessible to individuals from underrepresented races and cultural backgrounds is the main goal of the program, along with introducing students to UB, said Wendell Carmona, director of Destination Dental School.



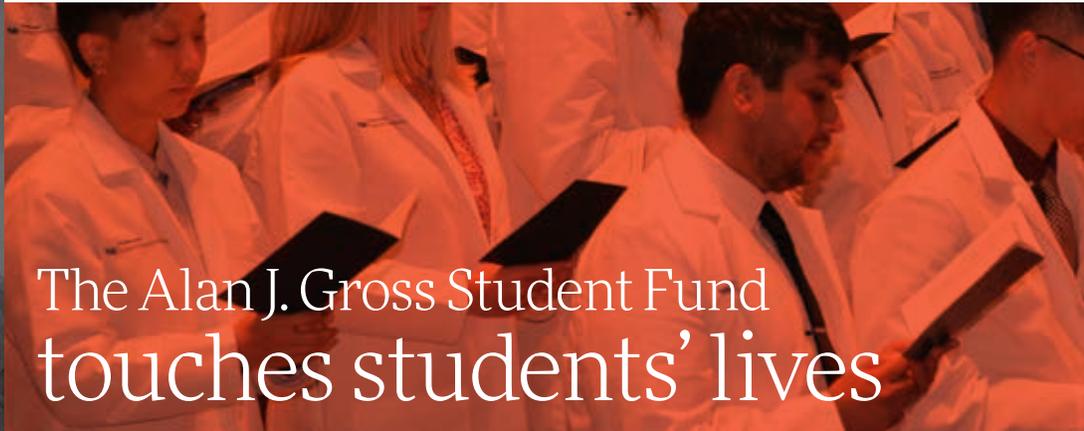
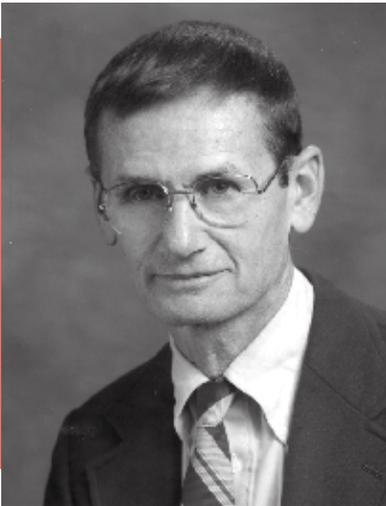
"We also want to expand their perceptions of all that is available to them," Carmona added.

In September, Destination Dental School received the 2023 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from "INSIGHT Into Diversity" magazine, the second year that the pathway program has received this award.

"At a time when there is still a noticeable disparity between the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of dentists and the populations they serve, we know we need to do our part to develop a more diverse workforce," says Marcelo W. B. Araujo, DDS, MS '97, PhD '03, dean of the School of Dental Medicine. "I was impressed by the amazing talent of the individuals who participated this summer in the UB dental school pathway program."



PHOTOS: MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI



## The Alan J. Gross Student Fund touches students' lives

**“There was no White Coat Ceremony until Alan and Elaine presented it to the school.”**

**Nancy Gross Dispenza**

**F**rom the moment new dental students don their white coats at the beginning of their training through graduation, they are impacted by the Alan J. Gross Student Fund.

The fund, named in memory of Gross, DDS '52, MS Oral Sci. '83, who earned his PhD in his late 50's and became a professor at the dental school after practicing dentistry for many years, was created “to enhance the environment of dental students.”

The fund sponsors the following events at the school: White Coat Ceremony, Annual Talent Show, Match Day Lunch, the Teaching Awards given to three teachers selected by the sophomore, junior and senior classes, and the senior graduation awards.

In fact, the fund was instrumental in the creation of the dental school White Coat Ceremony, said Nancy Gross Dispenza, Dr. Gross's widow.

“The White Coat Ceremony was Alan and Elaine Davis's idea,” she said. Davis was head of the Student Affairs Department at the time, and she and Gross knew other schools had such events. “There was no White Coat Ceremony until Alan and Elaine presented it to the school.” The ceremony has become a major event for students and their families.

She said Gross and Davis were best friends and both “really wanted the students to have a good experience while they were in dental school.”

Gross passed away in 1998, at age 71, from stomach cancer. He had been a long-distance runner, competing in several

Boston Marathons, and later a competitive cyclist, completing several 100-mile century rides. He also was a ski instructor and an accomplished musician.

Gross served on a committee that met with students who were having problems with their grades and were at risk of being asked to leave. He befriended them and learned about the struggles they were facing inside and outside school, Gross Dispenza said. One student became a longtime friend and was with the family the day before he passed, she said. Another, who had to leave the school, was admitted to another dental school in the Midwest with Gross's help, and Gross attended the young man's graduation.

He would also reach out to the families of dental students when traveling to say hello and let them know how their children were doing. “We ended up at someone's summer home in the Finger Lakes,” Gross Dispenza said.

The fund was started with money raised by Gross's brother, Gordon Gross, who rode his bicycle from the Pacific to the Atlantic on a fundraising campaign that split proceeds between cancer research and the fund.

Gross's devotion to the students may be best captured in how he prepared for each school year. He memorized the students' names before school started so that he could greet and welcome them to the school, she said.

“He loved the dental school, and he loved the students,” she said. [UBD](#)

If you would like to make a donation to the Alan J. Gross Student Fund, please contact Neil Dengler, senior director of advancement, at [ndengler@buffalo.edu](mailto:ndengler@buffalo.edu) or (716) 881-7486.

# RENOVATED CLINICS

PUT DENTAL SCHOOL ON

STORY BY GROVE POTTER

THE CUTTING EDGE





## WHEN DENTAL SCHOOL ALUMNI TOUR THE REMODELED CLINICS IN SQUIRE HALL, THEIR REACTION IS SUDDEN AND POWERFUL: ASTONISHMENT.

Bright, modern and on the cutting edge of dental technology, the clinics catapult the school into the future of dental education and take the patient experience to an entirely new level.

In addition to the much improved aesthetics, “work flows are better, and more technology has been brought in,” said Dr. Eugena Stephan, associate dean for clinical affairs. “It makes us able to provide state-of-the-art care rapidly, without having to go get equipment and bring it in. It’s there.”

The latest improvements started in 2018 with completion of the B-30 clinic, where second-year students develop their manual skills. They continued through reconstruction of the post-doc clinic where four specialties train, to the recently opened Buhite-DiMino Center for Implant Dentistry and Advanced Dental Education.

Stephan said the renovations are part of the normal evolution of the dental school. “If you don’t evolve, you’re not providing optimal education to your students and care to your patients.” Also, the facilities help recruit faculty and students, she said.

Still to come are renovations of the orthodontic clinic and creation of a special needs clinic, which Stephan calls “the next big wave.”

Here is a rundown of what has been done thus far:

### **The B-30 Clinic**

Located in the basement, the B-30 Clinic is where D2’s spend most of their time. Open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m., it is brightly lit with spacious work sites. Students take several “hand skills-based courses” where they learn “direct dentistry, indirect dentistry, removable, implant dentistry and endodontics,” said Dr. Joseph DeLuca, director of Pre-Clinical Simulation Facility.

The spacious workplaces, each with an extra chair for a professor, are equipped with large television screens where students can watch professors perform live demonstrations or review earlier procedures. “When I was a student, we used

overhead projectors and hand drawings,” he said. “Now we have 3D videos and demos. Every live demo we do in class, every student has a perfect view of it.”

The clinic has a scanning center and a CAD-CAM design center for making crowns.

“At the end of second year, they go from hand skills to patient care. The basic skills and the fundamental blocks are learned in this space,” DeLuca said.

## The Post-Graduate Clinic

Located on the first floor, the clinic serves dentists working in Implant, Prosthodontics, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Periodontics, and Endodontics. Also very well lit and spotless, the operatories have higher dividers in between, creating more patient privacy, said Dr. Joe Rumfola, '02, AEGD director.

“I’m sure we are going to get a lot of additional interest in our program just because of the way it looks physically,” he said. “This area is now state-of-the-art. I have not seen anything better anywhere else.”

Technology upgrades include more digital dentistry, intra-oral scanners, a magnifying 3D camera device called Mora Vision, a new laser, more lab space and a digital X-ray sensor.

But Rumfola said the most impactful benefit is the proximity to other specialists. “By moving all of these clinics to the same floor, it is a whole lot easier to interact with other faculty or other residents,” he said. “That benefits everybody. The programs, certainly the patients, and the residents get to learn from each other.”

## The Buhite-DiMino Center for Implant Dentistry and Advanced Dental Education

Formally opened in April 2023, the clinic is focused primarily on surgical procedures to allow patients to receive dental implants, said Dr. Sebastiano Andreana, MS Oral Sci. '95, who oversees the clinic. The ultra-modern workstations and cleanliness make it feel like a hospital operating room.

The bone augmentation procedures done in the clinic can involve drawing blood from the patient, spinning it in a centrifuge to separate the healing factors, and then combining those with bone graft material to speed the healing and bone mineralization process. All of that is done within the clinic operating rooms.



“Our residents are trained to draw blood. Our assistants are trained to spin the blood in centrifuges,” he said.

Graduate students in Periodontics, Prosthodontics, AEGD and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery work in the clinic, which offers anesthesia and sedation. The clinic also teaches the use of lasers in biopsies, trimming and transplanting gum material and stimulating healing.

### » We’ve made some incredible updates



Pre-Clinic | Before



After



**“THIS AREA IS NOW STATE-OF-THE-ART. I HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING BETTER ANYWHERE ELSE.”**  
 — JOE RUMFOLA, AEGD DIRECTOR



“We went from one room upstairs, to two rooms, to three rooms upstairs ... and finally, that’s when Dr. Robert Buhite Jr. said, ‘Let’s build a center for implant and advanced procedures,’” he said. “It has been a significant improvement for the school and also for the dental community. We have international programs bringing their students here.”

The center was built using a \$2 million donation from The Frank DiMino Foundation. Mr. DiMino was a longtime patient of Dr. Buhite, who was a pioneer in Implant Dentistry. Dr. Andreana called the clinic, “Dr. Buhite’s dream ... In April, some alumni were walking through and they were just stunned by what UB has been able to accomplish.”

**What’s next**

Dr. Stephan said the dental school remains focused on preparing and anticipating the future, “and not locking ourselves into the present ... We need to be making sure it’s evidence-based and not jumping on every trend, that you are providing what’s been shown to be the best care and the most modern care.”

The Joseph and Stephanie Mucha Patient Welcome Center in the lobby “has been an improvement that has changed our workflow for patients,” she said. “That’s been great. It’s a different philosophy in how you run the clinics.” That will be followed by renovations of the orthodontics clinic, creation of the special needs clinic, renovated lobbies on the second and third floors, and a new pediatric clinic on the third floor.

“The momentum comes from the demand of the students,” she said. “You want to be the best you can be. We have a lot of faculty with a lot of pride, and we don’t want to offer a mediocre product, not to our students and not to our patients. We want to give them the best.” **UBD**



Post-Grad Clinic | Before



After



Welcome Center | Before

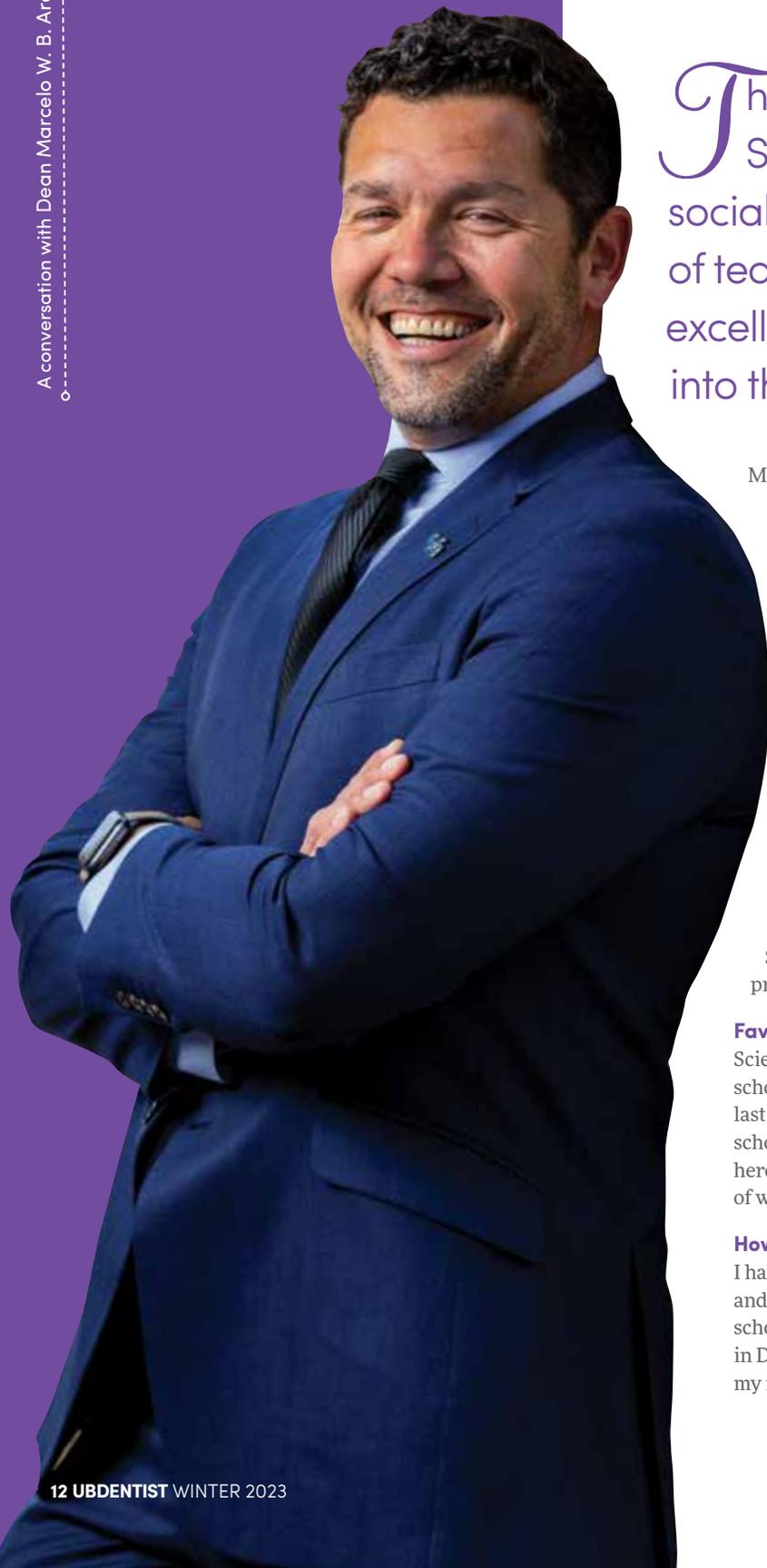


After

# Q&A

## NEW DEAN BRINGS

### NEW EXPERIENCES AND FRESH PERSPECTIVES



The first Gen X dean at the UB School of Dental Medicine uses social media and an understanding of teaching, research and clinical excellence to help steer the school into the future.

BY GROVE POTTER

Marcelo W. B. Araujo, DDS, MS '97, PhD '03, began his tenure as dean of the UB School of Dental Medicine in May 2023, returning to the school where he earned his master's and PhD degrees. He first arrived at UB in 1997 as a practicing dentist from Brazil and graduated as a dentist, researcher, and emerging leader in the profession.

His career path has taken him up the ranks in industry and into research and governance at the American Dental Association. He recently sat for a candid interview with *UB Dentist*.

#### What is your personal history?

I was born in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. My father was a lawyer. My mother is a retired teacher. I have a sister who is two years younger than me and I have a brother who is 15 years younger than me.

#### Early schooling?

We went to the same school where my mom always worked. She was my teacher when I was in kindergarten, and she was my principal when I was in high school.

#### Favorite subjects in school?

Science, history and volleyball. I played on the varsity team in high school, but also played club and college and all the way through my last eight years in Chicago. I played during my first year of dental school. I've been playing volleyball since I was 13 years old. Now here in Buffalo, I'm still trying to find a team, and we are doing a lot of work to support the UB volleyball team. #GOBULLS

#### How were you drawn to science?

I had wanted to be a dentist since I was 16. I went to dental school and did my perio residency in Brazil, and then was able to get a scholarship to come to Buffalo to get a MS Degree. When I worked in Dr. (Mira) Edgerton's lab for two years for my master's, I changed my mind completely and knew I wouldn't be a clinician anymore.

I decided to be a researcher. I'm very grateful to UB for continuing my scholarship so I could get my PhD in epidemiology and community health here.

#### **Why did you pick UB?**

Violet I. Haraszthy, DDS, '02, MS Oral Sci. '94, Prosth. Cert. '98, PhD Oral Bio. '99, was giving a talk in Brazil at my residency graduation and I was asked to be her host because I was one of two students in my class who could speak English fluently. Thanks to my dad—he made sure as a kid I learned English and then Spanish. My first language is Portuguese.

I was already a periodontist, and I knew I needed to do my master's because I wanted to teach part-time in Brazil.

Buffalo is a school that has been very prominent in perio, so when I got the opportunity to come to UB, I didn't say no.

Both of my mentors—for my PhD '03 (Dr. Robert J. Genco) and for my fellowship (Dr. Sebastian G. Ciancio)—were well-known professors. They published a lot of papers. They wrote books. That's how I knew about UB. Not just the two of them, but also because of other professors in the department.

#### **What's it like to come back as the boss?**

No, I work for them. I work for the UB community and I am very proud of it!

#### **After graduation?**

I went back to Brazil for a year. I got a job as an assistant professor in a dental school there. I was going to stay there teaching. That was my plan. But I was approached by a former classmate from here. He told me about a position in industry, supporting clinical research for mouth rinses and toothpastes, and they needed a periodontist researcher who could speak English, Portuguese and Spanish to lead the Latin American science affairs for the company. I moved back to the U.S. in 2004.

I worked in other areas besides oral health. I'm thankful for my training in epidemiology in the medical school, because they saw that I could do other things besides dental research. I did a lot of science in the areas of wound care, women's health, vision, hair care, nutrition. Most of my work was in clinical research.

#### **After your work in industry?**

I got an opportunity to leave industry and I thought it was time to move on. I went to the American Dental Association and for eight years I was their chief science officer, and for the last three years, besides being the science officer, I was the CEO of a subsidiary focused on research and science.

#### **What was it like at the ADA?**

Very diverse. I worked on policy related to HPV vaccination and policy related to the use of opioids in dentistry. I did some work internationally supporting the use of dental materials, specifically the use of dental amalgam related to mercury with the World Health Organization and others. It was developing standards for dentistry. I oversaw a group of about 54 scientists doing all this.

#### **What drew you back to academia?**

I will rephrase that and say, 'What drew me back to Buffalo?' The opportunity came up about a year ago. The Dean's Search Committee reached out to me to put my name on the list of potential candidates for the dean. Here's what I always say to the people I mentor. If anybody asks you to do something, you should do it because they see the potential you have. If they don't see the potential, they wouldn't ask you. So if you think about it, even when I came to work with Dr. Edgerton, they asked, 'Do you want to go and

#### **Were you surprised by anything upon your return to UB?**

I love the new clinic and the new labs. The potential and financial health of the school is strong, and we can do a lot.

#### **What is your vision for the dental school?**

We are creating a strategic plan now and we will define a new vision and mission for the school. It's very important that we bring all sorts of thoughts, people and ideas into the school. The University at Buffalo has a name people recognize. The dental school is number nine, and possibly number eight, in terms of funding for research, which enhances our reputation but also comes with a lot of responsibilities. I want to make sure we move up in the rankings and that we become the first choice school of those students we admit.

#### **How important is research to the dental school?**

It's very important. Most of our research is in oral biology, but we have research in all other departments, as well.

The teaching and the research have to be together. We have to make sure that what the scientists are doing can be implemented in the clinic. That's why it's very important that the professors who do research also teach, or they practice. We need to make sure that the

## **BASIC SCIENCE AND CLINICAL RESEARCH NEED TO WORK TOGETHER, BUT IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE DO RESEARCH LOOKING TO AN OUTCOME.**

talk to her?' If I had said 'no,' nothing else would have happened. Right? So if someone asks me anytime, 'Do you want to do this?,' I always say 'yes,' because they think I can do it. If I say 'yes,' something will come out—good or bad—but if I say 'no,' I will never know.

I am always looking for who is going to give me the 'yes.'

research is translational. If you're working to develop a new device, what is it going to be doing? Basic science and clinical practice need to work together, but it's very important that we understand that we do research looking to an outcome.

I need to make sure people are comfortable with that plan. That people are okay with changing some of the stuff that they do. And ensure that people we are hiring in other departments are also thinking something similar. ○-----▶

# Q&A

It's very important, because otherwise there is a separation—clinicians versus researchers—when researchers need to inform the decisions that clinicians make. So if I treat a patient, I need to make a decision based on the science and not just because this is how my professor told me how to do it. Otherwise, this is a trade.

## Have you started making changes?

Yes, I have already made a lot of changes specifically focused on people. Moving people around, making sure we have focus. Making sure I look into equity, into our pay and our functions, and that all people are valued at all levels. Understanding how we can support staff and at the same time understand what the faculty needs are.

There is a major issue in the U.S. hiring faculty. There is a shortage of faculty, so there are a lot of openings and not enough people. Students now are leaving dental school with a lot of debt. We are lucky to have a very small number of students with a lot of debt. Nationally, we see an average dental student debt of about \$400,000. That includes undergrad and dental school. Our average at UB is much lower than the national average.

The debt is too high compared to other professions, so when you leave school and you have to pay all this debt back, why would you go into a career of continuing studies for research if the pay you can get right away in practice is enough that you can start paying off your debt?

## How do you communicate with the faculty?

I think it's just being accessible, in a very careful way. I try to make sure that I empower the department chairs and the associate/assistant deans to make decisions and to speak to faculty first. I want to make sure people are empowered to make decisions.

We have meetings with a larger group of faculty once a month. I think they are learning that they can speak up, different from the past.

## How do you communicate with students?

Walking around. Going to events. We started a dean's Instagram page, so I get a lot of chats. I don't talk back much, but I get a lot of questions and comments.

I think they appreciate the presence on social media. We have some students here who try very hard to be influencers. They ask me to tag them all the time. I think it's very positive for potential future students to see me interacting with students.

## What is your leadership style?

Being approachable, but also not being a micromanager. Allowing people to make decisions, but also being accountable and responsible for their decisions.

## THE POTENTIAL AND FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL IS STRONG, AND WE CAN DO A LOT.

## Where did you develop your leadership style?

I think in the corporate world. In training throughout the years. I started as a senior manager and I left as a senior director, so I grew within the ranks of the industry, and I was put through a lot of leadership training. I always had career coaches, especially at the ADA. I have one now. I work with her to make sure I have the opportunity to listen and for her to be a neutral person who I can talk with. Also, she is able to go out and get feedback and get a 360-degree understanding of what I need to improve.

I think I caught people by surprise when I told them have a coach, not just because I have one, but also admitting to them that I needed help.

## Can you explain your use of social media?

I'm talking to students in a way that you have to be short and direct.

I think having a presence on social media at different levels is important in reaching different audiences. The way I use my LinkedIn is very different from the way I use my Instagram page. I promote the school with LinkedIn, and I promote the things that are very important for UB Dental to be known for within the network of people I have. It's a network that includes more than 5,000, from

government, the ADA and outside the U.S. My network on LinkedIn is robust and has been built through many, many years.

Instagram is a different language. It's being a bit more open and vulnerable, I would say, with some of the ways we say things. I love volleyball, people know some of the things I may be doing. I made sure I put that out to let them know they were being represented. I'm not posting just for fun. I'm there carrying the school. It's important

that the students and faculty know I'm there representing them, celebrating them, and also alumni.

I have gotten feedback from people in other schools about how I have shifted the perception about what a dean is. This is the problem. Someone told me now I'm the 'new dean,' then I'll become the 'dean,' and I may become the 'damn dean.'

Every decision I have made is not because of me. It's because of the school. There is a need for a culture shift here, and if I make some decisions now, yes, it will impact some people, but there are decisions that have to be made because the school needs a change.

I think people need to see that the school has a lot to offer and they have to believe. I think they need to see the culture now is progressive and in a way that is open. There were things that needed to happen. And we need to help them understand the profession is changing. Research funding is changing. Service is changing. If we keep our mindset the way it was, we're not going to be able to move forward.

## Does your age impact your views about the future of dental medicine?

As a Gen Xer, I am part of a cohort of deans who are starting now to lead dental education. Change is coming. **UBD**

## Dean and Dental Alumni Association President Speak at Orlando Event

**Dean Marcelo W. B. Araujo, DDS, MS '97, PhD '03**, spoke at the UB Alumni and Friends Reception during the Annual American Dental Association Meeting in Orlando, FL, on Oct. 6, 2023. Dean Araujo shared insights and updates about the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, shedding light on the exciting developments and future endeavors of our institution. Additionally, attendees heard **Geneve Crofut, DDS '03**, president of the dental alumni association, share updates about the association, emphasizing the continued dedication to fostering connections, supporting alumni achievements, and the dental school.

The alumni association looks forward to hosting an event in New Orleans, LA, in October 2024. Details will be forthcoming.



## UB Alumni Achievement Awards 2023

On Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, the UB Alumni Association recognized the contributions of outstanding alumni during the awards celebration at the Marriott Buffalo Niagara. **Sheldon Winkler, PMCRT '71**, received the Distinguished Alumni Award for the School of Dental Medicine.

Winkler is professor emeritus at Temple University, as well as an author, editor, researcher and national and international speaker on prosthodontics, implant dentistry, dental materials and geriatric dentistry. He is president and executive director of the American Academy of Implant Prosthodontics. He has authored or co-authored six textbooks, including *Essentials of Complete Denture Prosthodontics*, a widely used reference; approximately 185 articles and chapters in professional journals and textbooks; and founded the journal *Implant Dentistry*, which he edited for six years. Winkler currently is editor emeritus of the *Journal of Oral Implantology* and editor of *Implant Prosthodontics Monographs*. He received his DDS degree from New York University College of Dentistry and completed his advanced training in prosthodontics at UB. He served as associate professor of removable prosthodontics at UB from 1970 to 1979, and played a major role in the establishment of the dental laboratory technology program at Erie Community College.



UB PRESIDENT  
DR. SATISH TRIPATHI,  
DR. SHELDON WINKLER,  
DEAN MARCELO ARAUJO,  
DEAN ALLISON BRASHEAR

## Dr. Chester J. Gary Receives 2nd Place Gies Award

**Chester J. Gary, DDS, JD**, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, has been awarded the 2nd Place William J. Gies Editorial Award for his outstanding editorial, "Beyond Diversity, Unity and Innovation," which was published in the *New York State Dental Journal* in January 2022. The award, established in 1958, is presented annually to the author of the most valuable editorial published in a dental journal or periodical, chosen from a highly competitive field of submissions.

**Congratulations to our UB alumni** who were awarded Fellowship at the American College of Dentists Convocation (FACD). Pictured left to right: Joseph Deluca, '07; Darren Forcier, '01; Ashleigh Robinson, '19; Alyssa Tzetzso, '20; Joshua Hutter, '05; Elizabeth Kapral, '13; Geneve Crofut, '03.



## 2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Hanau Cup Hockey Game**  
Buffalo Riverworks  
March 10, 2024  
2 p.m.

**University Fast 46**  
Center for the Arts  
Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024  
5:30–8 p.m.

**Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting**  
Buffalo Convention Center  
Nov. 6–8, 2024

**Remember When Reception**  
Hyatt Regency Buffalo  
Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024  
5:30–7 p.m.

**Reunion Dinner Dance**  
Buffalo Convention Center  
Friday, Nov. 8, 2024  
6:30 p.m. Cocktails  
7:30 p.m. Dinner



## WHITE COAT CEREMONY WELCOMES “A REMARKABLE GROUP”

FAMILY & FRIENDS CELEBRATED WITH THE 95 MEMBERS OF THE NEWEST CLASS IN THE UB SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE DURING THE ANNUAL WHITE COAT CEREMONY AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS IN AUGUST

BY LAURIE KAISER

**F**aculty members and some family members in the dental profession cloaked the new dental students, initiating their four-year journey to become Doctors of Dental Surgery (DDS).

“It’s an honor for me to welcome my first class as dean,” said Marcelo W. B. Araujo, DDS, MS ’97, PhD ’03, who took the helm of the School of Dental Medicine on May 15, in his opening remarks. “The dental profession is one of loving what you do and giving back to the community.”

Of the more than 2,300 applicants for fall admission to the Class of 2027, only 95 were accepted.

In her address to the class, Mary Bush, associate dean of student affairs for the dental school, noted the diversity, talent, job experiences and interests of the students.

They represent 18 states and 12 countries, speak 22 languages and have undergraduate degrees as varied as petroleum engineering and exercise science. They have worked as teachers, emergency medical technicians and fitness instructors, among many other professions.

“We have entrepreneurs in this class, including an owner of a charcuterie business, an owner of a photography business and a business that sells painted customized shoes,” Bush said. “We also have a worship leader, a model and a podcast host. Several of you have served in the armed forces, and we thank you for your service.”

The class also includes first-generation students such as Cindy Lopez-Dominguez, a Puerto Rico native and 2019 graduate of Hunter College who was attending the ceremony with her



Of the more than 2,300 applicants for fall admission to the Class of 2027, only 95 were accepted.

mother, brother, husband and best friend. She said that UB was an easy choice for dental school.

"UB's core values align with mine, especially its commitment to outreach," said Lopez-Dominguez, who has spent the last few years working as a dental assistant. "I benefited from community outreach and want to give back."

The class includes three sisters—Chao Jing Pan, Chao Si Pan and Chaoqun Pan, who are also first-generation students starting their dental journey together. Ranging in age from 20 to 26, the sisters were born in China before immigrating to Queens, New York.

Among the class are numerous athletes representing multiple sports, including a figure skater who competed in the 2018 Winter Olympics. Bush also noted that many of the new dental

students are proficient with their hands—an important skill for the profession—in pursuits such as drawing, painting, woodworking, small-engine repair and play a host of musical instruments.

She also noted that this class has a heart for community service, volunteering with charitable organizations such as the American Heart Association and the Ronald McDonald House, along with domestic violence shelters, refugee centers, suicide crisis lines and soup kitchens.

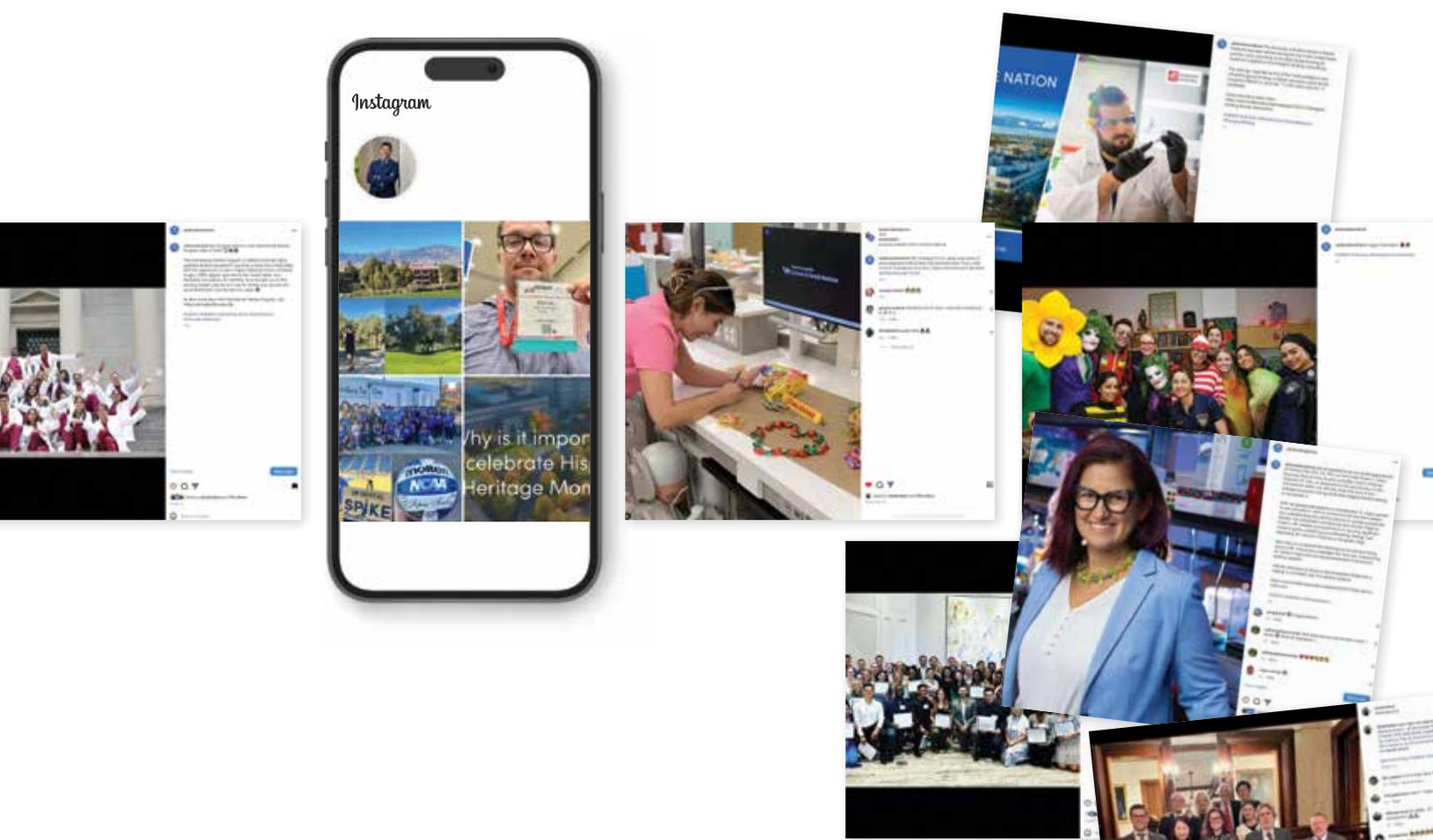
"You have also volunteered around the world in medical and dental clinics," Bush said. "And you have assisted those needing help at the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Good Neighbor's Clinic, and Compass House—all right here in Buffalo. Class of 2027, you are a remarkable group." **UBD**

PLACING WHITE COATS ON MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2027 WAS AN HONOR FOR THE DEAN AND FOR SOME STUDENTS' FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE DENTAL PROFESSION.



# Instagram





# Embark on a visual journey with @ubdentalmedicine

**W**e are thrilled to unveil the latest addition to our digital presence—the [@ubdentalmedicine](#) Instagram account! Tailored exclusively for the UB School of Dental Medicine community, this vibrant platform promises to be a hub of inspiration, knowledge and connection.

From behind-the-scenes glimpses into our labs and clinics to celebrating the achievements of our talented dental students, faculty, staff and alumni, [@ubdentalmedicine](#) invites you to be a part of the

incredible journey of our dental school. Follow us to see cutting-edge research updates, event highlights, practical dental insights and engaging community activities.

In addition to the school’s account, Dean Araujo is also active on Instagram, engaging with members of our SDM community and sharing his experiences as dean.

Follow [@ubdentalmedicine](#) and [@ubsdmdean](#) to dive into a world where we share the joy of dentistry and build a stronger, more connected UB School of Dental Medicine community! **UBD**

# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH TOUCHES ENTIRE DENTAL SCHOOL

THE CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN THE DENTAL SCHOOL THIS YEAR INCLUDED LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES—SALSA DANCING LESSONS, MOVIE NIGHT, AND A BIG DINNER PARTY TO CLOSE OUT THE MONTH—BUT THE REAL IMPACT MAY HAVE BEEN IN THE LANGUAGE LESSONS THAT STUDENTS TAUGHT.

By Grove Potter



## ↑ HISPANOS UNIDOS

By focusing on simple phrases like greetings and directions and basic dental terminology, members of the Hispanic Dental Association—Buffalo Student Chapter gave their fellow students tools to reach Spanish-speaking patients.

“We have a very heterogeneous population of patients,” said Yoly Gonzalez, DDS ’05, MS Oral Sci. ’95, TMD Cert. ’96, Perio Cert. ’02, mentor to the HDA chapter. “We are working to be culturally prepared to provide the best service to our patient population.”

There are 11 members of the HDA chapter, which is open to students beginning in their second year. The chapter was revitalized five years ago by Gabriel Valencia, DDS ’22, now a post-doc in orthodontics at UB, and it has been going strong since.

The chapter has been involved with several community initiatives, such as the

school’s outreach programs, specifically efforts on Buffalo’s Lower West Side, including oral health screenings at the Neighborhood Health Center (formerly the Judge Mattina Health Center) on Niagara Street, and clothing and food drives for Vive La Casa and Hispanos Unidos de Buffalo. The chapter also hosts lunch-and-learn seminars to address cultural and oral health among Hispanics in the U.S.

They also offered free oral cancer screenings from the mobile clinic parked outside Alumni Arena during a women’s volleyball game in September. Advertised as a joint effort between UB Athletics and the School of Dental Medicine to “spike” oral cancer, the event provided four hours of complimentary screenings for anyone who was interested.

“Checking for oral cancer is a standard of care that dentists regularly provide. If people aren’t seeing a dentist, they don’t get the screening,” Gonzalez said. “It’s very important, and I’m happy we were able to provide this service.”

The mobile dental clinic was part of another “very magical” thing that happened during the year,” Gonzalez said. “We got help from the whole dental school and we took the mobile dental van and parked it for a week at Hispanos Unidos de Buffalo to provide dental services. It was very busy.”

“The goal is that this will be incorporated in our educational curriculum, so this will be sustained.”

In addition, Hispanos Unidos is next door to a methadone clinic, and many clients also came to the mobile dental van.



← → SPIKE ORAL CANCER EVENT



HDA HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION



“We made the effort to bring them to the dental school. If they needed dentures and could not pay, then, with the faculty and Dr. Eugena Stephan, who is our associate dean of clinical affairs, we provided them.”

Most of the members of the UB Hispanic Dental Association chapter are first generation professional school students, which carries special significance, Gonzalez said.

“It’s not only the pride of earning a professional degree, but also the responsibility that comes with that. We are now role

models for other kids who thought ‘I could never do this.’ Thirty years ago, I was the first in my family, and now, 30 years later, it is still the same pattern.”

“It will take time, but I think it is a dream that can be fulfilled. We have to encourage people to fulfill their educational dreams.” **UBD**

DENTAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN SCREENINGS AT THE “SPIKE ORAL CANCER” EVENT AT A UB VOLLEYBALL GAME AND HELPED PROVIDE CARE AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER IN BUFFALO DURING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH.

## UB IMPLANT STUDY CLUB 2024

THURSDAYS, 6 TO 9 P.M.

Our Implant Study Club provides access to a respected mentor, open feedback, multiple points of view and attention to our members' changing needs.

**SPRING MEETING DATES**  
FEB 15, MAR 14, APR 18, MAY 16

UB School of Dental Medicine

HALF-YEAR NEW MEMBERSHIP  
FEE: \$725  
SINGLE MEETING FEE: \$225  
3 CE HRS/MEETING

## APR 26

9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

### UB DENTAL HYGIENE SYMPOSIUM

**"Mysteries of the Medical Histories!" Do You Have What It Takes To Successfully Interpret A Patient's Medical History?**

Thomas Viola, RPh, CCP,  
Pharmacology Declassified

Reikart House, Buffalo, NY

TUITION: \$135 BEFORE APR 1

6 CE HRS

## MAY 10-11

9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

**Infant and Pediatric Tongue Tie: Diagnosis and Laser Treatment**

2 Day Lecture & Hands-On with  
*The Peel Technique®*

Robert Convissar, DDS, FAGD,  
DABLS, MALD

UB School of Dental Medicine

UB DENTAL ALUMNI: \$995  
NONMEMBER DENTIST: \$1,195  
TEAM MEMBER: \$195

12 CE HRS

## WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES

6 TO 8 P.M.

**APR 10**  
**Laser-Assisted Veneer & Crown Removal ... Save Your Veneers and Your Chairtime**

Marina Polonsky, DDS, MSc

**APR 17**  
**Pediatric Oral Radiology: From Radiation Safety to Lesions and CBCT**

Juan F. Yepes, DDS, MD, DrPH

**APR 24**  
**Supporting Wholistic Wellness in Fulfilling Dental Patients' Needs**

Sharlynn Daun-Barnett, LMSW

**MAY 1**  
**Oral Cancer Screening**

Elizabeth Kapral, DDS & Nicole Hinchy, DDS

**MAY 8**  
**Short Staffed? Strategies to Stay Productive, Efficient & Sane!**

Kay Hickey, LDA

**JUN 5**  
**Infection Control for the Modern Dental Office**

Alyssa Tzetzko, DDS

Live Zoom Meetings.

DENTIST/DOCTOR: \$45  
RDH/DA: \$35  
2 CE HRS

## JUN 7

9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

### JOHN J. CUNAT EDUCATIONAL FUND ANNUAL LECTURE

**How Far is Too Far? Tales of Caution from Altered Sleep to Dentoalveolar Limits**

Carlos Flores-Mir, DDS, MSc, DSc, Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta

Westin Buffalo, NY

UB DENTAL ALUMNI: \$235  
NONMEMBER DENTIST: \$275  
TEAM MEMBER: \$95

6 CE HRS

## JUN 14

9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

**Endodontic Workflow: Principles and Techniques for Safe, Successful Endodontic Therapy**

Jorge Veras, DDS, MS, and faculty of Endodontics

UB School of Dental Medicine

REGISTRATION FEE: TBD

6 CE HRS: 6



**Annamarie Phalen**  
Associate Director,  
Continuing Dental Education

## JUN 27-28

### SEBASTIAN G. CIANCIO ANNUAL CHAUTAUQUA DENTAL CONGRESS

For the entire dental team!  
CDE Lectures Thurs. A.M. & P.M.,  
Fri. A.M.

**THURS. A.M. Forensic Dentistry: An Overview of Current Practices**

Mary Bush, DDS & Ray Miller, DDS

**THURS. P.M. Roots of Dental Trauma...Understanding Patient Behaviors**

Elizabeth Dooher-Anthony, RDH

**FRI. A.M. Open Wide: An Intraoral Clinical Evaluation of Pediatric Dental Patients**

Mary Beth Dunn, DDS

Chautauqua Suites, Mayville, NY

DENTIST: \$245  
TEAM MEMBER: \$135

12 CE HRS

### COURSE REGISTRATION

Confirmation notice will be emailed upon receipt of your tuition payment.

**BY PHONE**  
716-829-2320 | Toll-free:  
800-756-0328

**ONLINE**  
Complete course details and online registration available on the UB dental events course calendar at [BuffaloCE.org](http://BuffaloCE.org).

## SELF-STUDY PREVIOUSLY RECORDED LECTURES

Details & registration online  
[www.BuffaloCE.org](http://www.BuffaloCE.org)

**Achieving Predictable Success in Endodontics**

Dr. Sharaschandra Reddy  
Govindool

**Anterior Open Bite**

Drs. Dave Covell & Thikriat Al-Jewair

**Best Laser for Clinical Dentistry**

Dr. Praveen Arany

**Clinical Challenges in Sinus Floor Augmentation**

Dr. Nicola Valente

**Ethical Missteps: How To Avoid "Stepping In It"**

Drs. Sam Carocci & Joe Rumfola

**Infection Control (NYS approved)**

Dr. Alyssa Tzetzko

**Let's Get Gingival**

Dr. Ryan Schure

**Navigating the Mysteries of EOBs**

Colleen Huff, FAADOM

**Oral Manifestations of Head/Neck Cancer Tx**

Dr. Charles Matlach

**Successful Periodontics**

Dr. Joseph Breloff

**Treatment of Implant Complications**

Dr. Anna Paritsky

ACDE  
WEBINAR SERIES  
SPRING 2024

In conjunction with the Association for Continuing Dental Education (ACDE), along with 30 of its member schools, we jointly present the "ACDE Webinar Series."

This series features university-based key opinion leaders presenting numerous topics on multiple dates and times. Presentations are available to meet every dental health care professional's schedule and interests.

Times are Eastern Standard Time.

FEBRUARY

1 8 P.M.

**Interdisciplinary Treatment Planning: How to Enhance Your Treatment Planning Using Digital Technology**  
Roоз Khosravi, DMD, PhD, MSD

5 8 P.M.

**Oral inflammation and its links to oral and systemic health: Novel approaches to screening and monitoring**  
Michael Glogauer, DDS, PhD

7 7:30 P.M.

**Oral Candidiasis: Misconceptions and considerations for diagnosis and treatment**  
Dave Chandra, DMD, PhD

15 8 P.M.

**What Should We Know About Peri-implant Disease?—Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies**  
Yung-Ting Hsu, DDS, MDSc, MS

22 8 P.M.

**Stop Blaming Your Patients: Lead by Example and Become a Better Communicator**  
Tien Jiang, DMD, Med

27 8 P.M.

**Update on Local Anesthesia: Newer Concepts and Clinical Dilemmas**  
Dean DeLuke, DDS, MBA

MARCH

1 2 P.M.

**Differential diagnosis of pre-malignant oral lesions and early detection and prevention of oral squamous cell carcinoma: "Quo Vadis"**  
Nelson L. Rhodus, DMD, MPH

5 8 P.M.

**Periodontal Plastic Surgery**  
Ioannis Kormas, DDS, MS

8 11 A.M.

**Getting Started with Digital Dentures**  
Gregory Bennett, DMD

13 8 P.M.

**Management of Cleft Lip and Palate—What does the dental professional need to know?**  
Jean-Charles Doucet, DMD, MD, MSc

20 8 P.M.

**GP Beware: The Grave Missteps You're Ignoring in 3rd Molar Extractions**  
Jared Williams, DDS

25 8 P.M.

**Full mouth reconstruction—What do I learn from my patients?**  
Wenchou (James) Wu, DDS, MS, FACP

APRIL

5 11 A.M.

**To Extract or Not to Extract in Post-irradiated Oral and Oropharyngeal Cancer Patients in the era of Pentoxifyline and Tocopherol**  
Adepiton Owosho, DDS, FAAOM

7 3 P.M.

**Digital Dentures—Are we there yet?**  
Taha Akhtar, BDS, CAGS, MSD

10 8 P.M.

**Factors Affecting the Accuracy of Guided Implant Surgery**  
Arndt Guentsch, DMD, PhD, MHBA, MS

13 11 A.M.

**Improving the clinical success of alveolar ridge preservation and guided bone regeneration (GBR): The when, where, and how?**  
Haider Al-Waeli, BDS, MSc, PhD

19 11 A.M.

**Regenerative Endodontic Procedures**  
Mario Alovizi, DDS, PhD

22 8 P.M.

**A "Clinicians Report" Dentistry Update, from a University Academic and Clinician**  
Mark Durham, DMD

26 11 A.M.

**Recovery Capital for Substance Use Disorder: Assets, not Abstinence**  
Alex Elswick, BA, MS, PhD

MAY

2 8 P.M.

**Practical Oral Pathology: 7 Tips for the Practicing Dentist**  
Daria Vasilyeva, DDS, MA

5 11 A.M.

**Building virtual patients for predictable outcomes of complex full mouth implant rehabilitation**  
Junying Li, DDS, MS, PhD

14 8 P.M.

**Biofilm Management: Are We at a Tipping Point with Guided Biofilm Therapy?**  
Penny Hatzimanolakis, RDH

18 11 A.M.

**"Occlusion" to Know for Your Practice**  
Sang J. Lee, DMD, MMSc

22 8 P.M.

**Removable Partial Denture Design: A Comprehensive Guide**  
Fang-Yu Su, DMD, MSD

24 11 A.M.

**The Why Behind the Smile: Motivations for Orthodontic Care**  
Maria Doughan, DDS, MSc

30 8 P.M.

**Tips and Tricks for Successful Local Anesthesia**  
David McMillan, DDS

JUNE

4 8 P.M.

**Attachment Systems for Implant-Supported Overdentures**  
Angela Gullard, DMD, PhD, MDS

7 11 A.M.

**Anatomical Variations on CBCT: Can They Impact Clinical Practice?**  
Christiano de Oliveira Santos, DDS, MS, PhD

13 8 P.M.

**Demystifying Trigeminal Neuropathy: A Nerve-Racking Diagnosis**  
Elizabeth Hatfield, DDS

20 8 P.M.

**2024 Dental Ethics Update**  
David Hancock, DDS, FACD



# BNDM 2023

**BNDM featured Sunstar Robert J. Genco Endowed Chair announcement** BY DR. JOSEPH RUMFOLA

## THE BUFFALO NIAGARA DENTAL MEETING (BNDM)

is special. It might be the only, or at least it's one of very few, dental meetings run by an alumni association. In times of dwindling membership, decreased sponsorship, and reluctance of dentists to attend in-person CE, we've been holding steady and generating income that we use to support the school and our members. The UB Dental Alumni Association is an outstanding organization of volunteers committed to honoring their alma mater, celebrating their reunions, and running a meeting that's of significant value in a style that showcases the best of Buffalo. We might not have the glitz of New York or the size of Chicago, but we make up for it with familiar faces, quality CE with more bang for your buck, and the warm fuzzy feeling of home.

As an alumni association, we couldn't do it alone. We receive significant help from UB's School of Dental Medicine. It helps provide us with staff and students to run the event, and it donates speakers both in the form of faculty and graduates. Each year, we do our best to showcase our colleagues in the form of our Alumni Speaker Series, and the meeting in 2023 saw impressive people who have accomplished significant things sharing their knowledge with us. In case you missed out or didn't realize that many of our speakers belong to our UB Dental alumni family, here's a recap:

**Photo 1:** UB School of Dental Medicine Dean Marcelo Araujo, DDS, MS '97, PhD '03, announced the appointment of Patricia Diaz, DDS, MS, PhD, as the Sunstar Robert J. Genco Endowed Chair at the BNDM. She is director of UB's Microbiome Center and is the first faculty member to hold the position. Established through a \$1 million donation by Sunstar in 2020, the position is dedicated to honoring the legacy of the late Robert Genco, DDS '63, a researcher in oral biology and microbiology. The holder of the chair will serve as a liaison between UB and Sunstar to continue his research legacy.

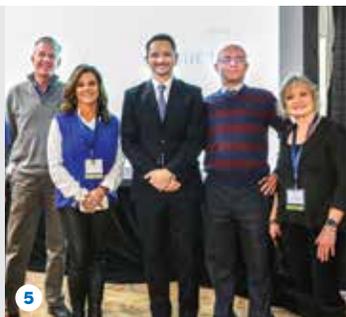
Hiroo Kaneda, CEO of Sunstar and life-long friend of Genco said the chair "honors the work and legacy of Dr. Genco and UB's School of Dental Medicine, our long-standing relationship during his 44 years at the university and his key role in identifying the connection between periodontal disease and general health."

Dr. Araujo discussed how to incorporate science into clinical practice, and Dr. Diaz presented information on restoring homeostasis to the oral microbiome in treatment of periodontal disease.

**Photo 2:** Michael Markiewicz, DDS '08, MPH, MD, FRCD(C), FAAP, FACS, led a panel of 12 renowned speakers, who packed the ballroom with a discussion of the oral cancer



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DON DANNECKER, izon productions



patient from A-Z. Dr. Markiewicz currently serves UBSDM as a professor and Feagan's Endowed Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He was joined by several medical colleagues, a speech-language pathologist, and two other UBSDM faculty: Jose Luis Tapia, DDS '12, MS, a clinical associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences and oral pathologist, and Keith Kirkwood, DDS, PhD, who serves as senior associate dean for research and Centennial Endowed Chair of the School of Dental Medicine.

**Photo 3:** Alyssa Tzetzto, DDS '20, MPH '21, AEGD Cert. '21, handled the NYS mandated infection control course. Dr. Tzetzto is a recent graduate of UBSDM, a native Buffalonian, a full-time educator in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, and serves on the Executive Council of the UB Dental Alumni Association. Following in the footsteps of Terrence Thines, DDS '75, and Frank Barnashuk, DDS '80, Dr. Tzetzto brought a fresh perspective to the typically scintillating material.

**Photo 4:** David Croglio, DDS '87, a clinical assistant professor at UBSDM and team dentist for the UB Bulls and Buffalo Sabres, spoke from experience on treating athletes in the dental practice, with a discussion on "Sports Dentistry." He provided insight on the available types of mouthguards and how to deal with trauma when it arises.

**Photo 5:** Benedict R. Miraglia, DDS '93, a general dentist practicing interceptive orthodontics in Mt. Kisco, NY, discussed the use of clear aligner therapy to affect childhood growth and development. His topics included understanding the etiology of sleep disordered breathing, the effects of underdeveloped jaws, and the dental team's role of intercepting dental patients before they become sleep apnea patients.

**Photo 6:** Congratulations to Ivoclar on celebrating their 100th anniversary of passion, vision and innovation! Thank you for your continued support of UB and the BNDM.

Our Program Committee is always interested in hearing about speakers. If you are interested in speaking or know of an alum that would be a good fit for our meeting, please contact: Sherry Szarowski (716) 829-6419.





AWARD RECIPIENT

**Distinguished Service Award**

**Andrew Vorrasi,  
DDS '80**

The Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of outstanding leadership, advocacy and support to the dental profession, the UB School of Dental Medicine and the Alumni Association.

Dr. Vorrasi graduated from St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY, in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He obtained his master's degree in chemistry from the University at Buffalo in 1976 before becoming a member of the UB School of Dental Medicine's class of 1980.

In organized dentistry, Dr. Vorrasi served as President of the Monroe County Dental Society, President of the Seventh District

Dental Society, Chair of the NYSDA Council on Dental Benefits Programs, and Chair of the ADA CDBP. He has also chaired a reference committee at the ADA.

He has served as Western New York Chair of the American College of Dentists and as a Regent of the International College of Dentists.

Dr. Vorrasi has participated in EDPAC events at UB and continues to participate in ACD ethics seminars for first- and fourth-year students. He currently serves on the UB Dental School admissions committee.

Dr. Vorrasi was the inaugural president of Empire Dental Administrators, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Seventh District Dental Society. This entity focuses on assisting member dentists in obtaining quality professional liability insurance.



He recently served as Interim Executive Director of the Seventh District Dental Society.

Dr. Vorrasi was a long-time lector at his church and served as parish council president.

He and his wife of 47 years, Sue, are happily retired and live in Rochester, as do their two children, Mary (Seth) and John (Heidi), and five grandchildren (Ethan, Marion, Claire, Emma, and Wyatt).

ABOVE (L TO R): GENENE CROFUT, ANDREW VORRASI, RICHARD ANDOLINA, SR.



Geneve Crofut, DDS '03, accepting the UB Dental Alumni Association 2022-23 President's Award from past president Carl Embury, DDS '13. This award was given in appreciation for her service and outstanding leadership of the UB Dental Alumni Association.



AWARD RECIPIENT

Honor Award

Maureen A. Sullivan, DDS '87



The Honor Award is given to an individual whose enthusiastic and untiring endeavors have helped to promote continued growth, development and success of the UB School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Maureen Sullivan is a clinically-based translational researcher focusing on dental treatment of the medically complex, as well as those with head and neck cancers in a high-risk population. She currently has many active clinical research protocols and maintains an active clinical based full-time practice within the Erie County Medical Center (ECMC). She has been Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator in 18 research grants obtaining over \$3 million in funding over the course of her career. She has trained dental residents for 17 years at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, where she was the Chief of the Department of Dentistry and Maxillofacial Prosthetics for 12 years prior to relocating to ECMC, where she continues to do the same.

Her teaching responsibilities include the training of dental residents and predoctoral dental students from the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. She lectures frequently locally, nationally, and internationally on oral cancer screening and the treatment of medically complex patients. Dr. Sullivan was invited as an international keynote speaker at Tawam Hospital at the 8th Emirates Oncology Conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in 2019.

Dr. Sullivan has received several awards, the most recent being the New York State Assembly Women of Distinction Award from the 146th Assembly District, and the Distinguished Physician Award from Erie County Medical Center Foundation. She also was awarded a Fellowship for the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

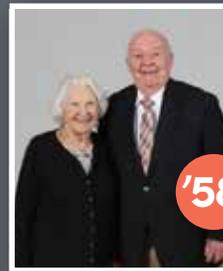
Under Dr. Sullivan's direction, the ECMC Dental Center at 800 Hertel Avenue opened in March 2023. The new dental office was built with advanced equipment to support the complex dental health of special needs patients of Western New York. The dental center also provides services for adult and pediatric dental care to the local community.

# UBDAA REUNION DINNER DANCE 2023



UB Dental Alumni Association Executive Council

## 70+ Years of Reunions



# REMEMBER WHEN RECEPTION 2023



## CLASSES AND INDIVIDUALS CAN STILL NAME OPERATORIES

As has been the case over the past few years, reunion classes were encouraged to donate money in support of "naming" an operatory in Squire Hall. To date, we've had nearly 50 operatories "named" as a result of donors' philanthropy. Individuals or classes who donate or raise \$25,000 can help the school by naming an operatory. Gifts may be made with cash, appreciated securities, even via IRA assets in some cases.

*For additional information, please contact Neil Dengler, Senior Director of Advancement, at [ndengler@buffalo.edu](mailto:ndengler@buffalo.edu) or (716) 881-7486.*



'98



'03



'08



'13



'18



'24

# classnotes

**Robert C. Beatty**, '89 Clinical Assistant Professor, Texas A&M School of Dentistry, who moved from Corning, NY, to Frisco, TX, in 2004, sold his practice in early 2022 to go full-time at TAMSOD.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Submit your class notes to **Sherry Szarowski** at [ss287@buffalo.edu](mailto:ss287@buffalo.edu).

**Bruce M. Goldstein** (center), DDS '82, MS '84, received the Samir Bishara Award of Merit from the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics (CDABO) at their 2023 meeting in Coeur D'Alene, ID. The award is given in honor of Dr. Bishara, an icon in the orthodontic field, to an orthodontist who has contributed to the success of the College of Diplomates. Goldstein is involved in numerous professional organizations and was a past President of CDABO in 2020.



## IN Memoriam

**John A. Balikowski**, '65, age 85, of Lakeland, FL, passed away on Sept. 13, 2023. He was a dental officer in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. After serving in the military, he was a dentist in Elma, NY. He became an Assembly of God minister and missionary of the Gospel. After his wife Donna passed in 2004, he became part of World Dental Relief as a medical missionary. He moved to Ethiopia where he started a dental college and built a bible school. He was a recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the University at Buffalo.

**William G. Braun II**, '51, age 96, of East Aurora, NY, passed away on May 15, 2023. He attended Hobart College and Cornell University, after which he served as an officer in the US Navy during World War II. Upon leaving the service, he attended dental school and then started a private dental practice on Bailey Avenue in Buffalo. He married Donna Mae Anderson and they had five children. Later, he was a charter investor in the Northtown Medical Building on Alberta Drive in Amherst, where he continued to practice dentistry until he retired at the age of 77. He belonged to Nativity Lutheran

Church, was a Mason in the Hiram Lodge and a Shriner at the Ismailia Temple of Buffalo. He was recently recognized for his Jubilee celebration of 60 Years as an Associate Nun with the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

**William P. Bauer**, '92, age 59, of Williamsville, NY, passed away on June 17, 2023. He was in private practice for 30 years in Buffalo.

**Robert S. Peet**, '76, age 74, formerly of West Seneca, NY, died on June 30, 2023. He graduated from Batavia High School in 1967, where he wrestled and played trombone in the high school band. He enrolled in St. Lawrence University, continuing to wrestle and belonging to the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, and went on to dental school at UB. He operated his own practice as a solo dentist for many years.

**Tracy L. Culver**, '90, age 59, of Lakewood, NY, passed away peacefully while being surrounded by friends and family, on Aug. 1, 2023, at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. She was a 1981 graduate of Westfield Academy & Central School and Fredonia State College prior to entering dental school. She worked at Tri-County Memorial Hospital from 1993 until 2009 before opening her own dental practice in Bemus Point, NY. She was a Buffalo Bills

fan through thick and thin and loved attending her son's hockey games and being a hockey mom.

**William J. Green**, '78, age 71, of Queensbury, NY, died on Oct. 6, 2023. He graduated from Colgate University before attending dental school. He set up private practices in Clifton Park, NY, and Corinth, NY. Following his retirement in 2020, he pursued his hobbies of photography, and of reading the great books on the Civil War. His true passion, however, was woodworking, where he spent many years enjoying and refining his craft.

**Robert E. Ogle**, '69, passed away on May 27, 2023.

**George Donald Wilhelm**, '74, age 81, of Tequesta, FL, and Penn Yan, NY, passed away on May 6, 2023. He was a guided missile technician for US naval submarines and served on the *USS Toro* and *USS Sam Houston*. Following his service, he graduated from Syracuse University and went on to dental school. He began his career as a resident dentist at the Veteran Administration Hospital in Buffalo, and then moved to private practice after returning to Penn Yan in 1975. In the mid-1980s, he relocated to Florida and worked in private practice. He then joined the State of Florida Department of

Health and worked in various dental, consultant and administrative roles. He retired from the State of Florida in 2012 as the Dental Executive Director for the Polk County Health Department.

**Ralph D. Vona**, '53, age 98, of Painted Post, NY, passed away on Aug. 23, 2023. He served in the US Army from 1943 to 1946 with (SHAEF) Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, directly under General Eisenhower. He later opened his dental practice in Addison, NY, and was Addison's only dentist from 1953 until 1990, when he sold his practice. He was a communicant of St. Catherine's Church and was an altar server until the age of 90. He served as a board member and past President of the Addison School Board.

**Harmon C. "Zac" Zacune**, '59, age 87, of Hoschton, GA, died March 22, 2023.

**Maurice Varon**, '48, age 96, died in Seattle, WA, on June 7, 2023. After dental school, he joined his father's practice (Charles Varon, also a UB dental school alumnus). He then served as an Air Force dentist before opening an office in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, where he practiced for more than 30 years.

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FSC LOGO

The University at Buffalo is a premier public research university, the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York system. The School of Dental Medicine is one of 12 schools that make UB New York's leading public center for graduate and professional education and one of five schools that constitute UB's Academic Health Center.



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Students in the joint Destination Dental School and Native American Pre-Dental Student Gateway Program in the pre-clinical simulation lab at UB's School of Dental Medicine.

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