


UBDentist

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

SUMMER 2024



OFF THE CHARTS

Applications, admittance, grades & test scores are on the rise at the UB School of Dental Medicine.

PG 10



FROM THE DEAN

The unprecedented interest in our programs is a testament to our school's stellar reputation and the collective efforts of our dedicated community.

Dear UB SDM family,

This is my second summer in Buffalo since I came back to UB last year, in May, to begin my tenure as dean. One year has passed and I am more excited than ever for the future of our school.

As I reflect on my first year as dean, I am filled with gratitude and pride. It has been immensely rewarding to witness our progress and achievements. Many of them are featured in our current issue, like our cover story on the record-breaking number of applications we received for the fall 2024 incoming class. The unprecedented interest in our programs is a testament to our school's stellar reputation and the collective efforts of our dedicated community.

As a school, we embody the True Blue spirit of UB. Our spirited energy is contagious, attracting the best and brightest students and faculty from around the globe. This is why we are working tirelessly to provide them with an exceptional experience, something we can only achieve together.

Every day, we are driving innovation in the clinic, classroom and labs, paving the way for state-of-the-art treatments, advanced dental technology, and improved oral health for future generations. As you read about

our students' accomplishments, the exciting work of our faculty and staff, and our alumni news, I know you will be inspired, as I have been.

We are currently designing the map that will lead us into the future—a strategic plan that will guide us as we deliver on our commitment to shape the future of oral health through research, education and clinical care.

I am eagerly looking forward to sharing the details of the strategic plan with you. Let's embrace the exciting opportunities ahead of us and implement change that will have an immense impact for all of us in the SDM family, after all, you are the foundation of everything that we do.

Marcelo W. B. Araujo, DDS, MS, PhD
Dean and Professor
School of Dental Medicine
University at Buffalo

ON THE COVER:

On the rise: Latest dental admissions trends point to an exciting future for the students, school and profession.

Illustration by Dave Donati

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News from the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine

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OFF THE CHARTS

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

1 Dental school partners with TeamSmile, Buffalo Bills to provide free dental care

More than 240 Western New York elementary school students received free dental care while visiting with Billy, the Buffalo Bills mascot, on Tuesday, May 14, at Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park.

The University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine partnered with TeamSmile, a Kansas City, Mo.-based nonprofit organization that pairs oral health professionals with professional athletic organizations to provide dental care to underserved children in communities across the country.

The half-day event was far from a regular trip to the dentist. Children from seven public schools in Buffalo and the Southtowns received dental care in units set up in two suites overlooking the field where the iconic football team plays. The event also offered activities encouraging students to have fun before and after receiving dental care.

Eight faculty members from UB's dental school and 25 dental students, along with residents in advanced education in pediatric dentistry, advanced education in general dentistry and the Erie County Medical Center, provided care to the young patients in 13 treatment units and 16 hygiene units. This included dental exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, X-rays and, in some cases, teeth fillings or extractions at no cost to the children. In addition, about 100 volunteers were on hand to help with the event.

Representatives from national partner Colgate offered educational games and activities focused on dental health. The children enjoyed dancing to DJ-inspired music and face painting and had the opportunity to meet Bills players Dion Dawkins and Kaiir Elam, who made a special appearance.



STUDENTS FROM THE PS 099 STANLEY M. MAKOWSKI EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER POSE FOR A PHOTO WITH DION DAWKINS, BUFFALO BILLS OFFENSIVE LINEMAN.

“A lot of children we serve haven’t ever been to the dentist, haven’t been frequently or had a bad experience,” said Kami Thomas, director of TeamSmile. “We create an environment that is less stressful for them. We want the children to come away with a positive feeling about dental care.”

Inclusive environment for kids with disabilities

This year’s TeamSmile event featured a pilot program for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and included students from Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center (BHSC). The dental school collaborated with occupational therapists (OT) and OT students at UB to provide care for approximately 20 children.

“Children with IDD often have unmet and significant health care needs, including dental care,” Thomas noted. “This pilot program is committed to delivering equitable care through transportation, suitable conditions and care plans to address the needs of individual patients.”

Prior to the event, OT faculty and students completed interviews with every child from BHSC who attended, according to Elisabeth Thompson, clinical instructor of health sciences in the Department of Pediatrics and Community Dentistry, who also serves as director of occupational therapy at University Pediatric Dentistry.



LEFT: BILLY BUFFALO HIGH-FIVES A YOUNG PATIENT FOR BEING BRAVE IN THE DENTAL CHAIR. RIGHT: CHILDREN ENJOYED PLENTY OF FUN ACTIVITIES, LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRUSH AN EXTRA-LARGE SET OF TEETH...WITH AN EXTRA-LARGE TOOTHBRUSH!



STUDENT VOLUNTEERS WITH KAIR ELAM, BUFFALO BILLS CORNERBACK.

“We use that information to support each child using proactive strategies during the dental cleaning and exams,” Thompson explained. “This included treating the children in sensory adapted dental environments specifically designed for them.”

Meelin Dian Chin Kit-Wells, DDS '94, Pedo. Cert. '00, MEd, clinical assistant professor, pediatric dentistry, who headed up the UB portion of the event, noted that the event not only provided quality dental care to children of all abilities, but also provided the participating dental students with an excellent opportunity to treat children with IDD.

Dental care going forward

One of the goals of TeamSmile is to connect children with ongoing dental care. When children register for the event, their parents are asked if they have a dental care home.

“We’ve found through the years that over half of the families do not,” Thomas said.

To remedy this situation, a dental school representative identifies dentists in the Buffalo area who will provide dental care at no cost or through Medicaid. They provide this list to parents after the event and follow up throughout the year to ensure they connect with a dental care provider.

Since its inception in 2007, TeamSmile has conducted more than 275 programs, served more than 55,000 children and provided more than \$20 million in free dental care and oral health education nationwide. The Buffalo event is one of many outreach initiatives in the community that the dental school participates in.

“UB is incredibly involved with TeamSmile; it’s a true equal partner,” Thomas said. “We don’t find that with most dental schools. UB provides so many volunteers and is very engaged.”

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and United Concordia Dental Insurance Co. were other presenting partners of the event.

2 Dr. Stefan Ruhl named chair of oral biology

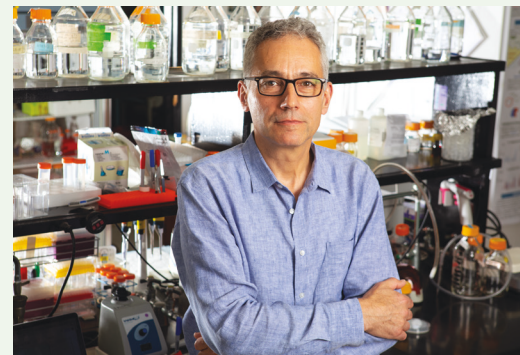
Stefan Ruhl, professor in the School of Dental Medicine, was named chair of the Department of Oral Biology in March 2024. He succeeds Ashu Sharma, professor of oral biology, who had been interim chair since January 2023.

“Dr. Ruhl, a prominent researcher who has provided many years of teaching and service to UB, will shape the future of the department and build upon its legacy as a preeminent center of oral health research,” Marcelo Araujo, dean of the dental school, said in announcing the appointment.

A fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Ruhl is an internationally renowned expert on saliva, oral bacteria and the oral microbiome.

He joined UB in 2007 from the University of Regensburg, where he was a professor of operative dentistry and periodontology. He has served in various capacities in the dental school, including associate chair and acting chair of the Department of Oral Biology from 2019–21 and interim dean from 2022–23.

The department organized the first PhD program in oral biology in the United States in 1963. Since then, the PhD program has produced a cadre of oral health researchers, many of whom have made significant contributions to dental research, medicine and education.



The department’s research achievements have catapulted the school into the top 10 dental institutions in the U.S. to receive NIH research funding.

“Dr. Ruhl’s vision and breadth of experience in oral biology and the dental school will be pivotal for the department to achieve future successes that align with the school’s goals and the university’s top 25 ambition,” Araujo noted.

“We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Sharma for his leadership as interim chair. Dr. Sharma’s sacrifices and guidance have been instrumental in maintaining the department’s stability and progress. We are thankful for his steadfast commitment and service.”

3 UB dental school receives prestigious diversity award from National Institutes of Health

The University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine has received the Institutional Excellence in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in Biomedical and Behavioral Research Prize from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

UB is one of 10 universities that received the inaugural \$100,000 prize for demonstrating exceptional dedication and innovation in fostering DEIA within research environments. Other winners include Duke University, Vanderbilt University and the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

“The prize recognizes transformative cultures, systems, projects and processes that promote inclusive excellence and create environments that advance and value a culture of DEIA,” said Marie Bernard, MD, chief officer of scientific workforce diversity for the NIH.

The competition, which began in April 2023, is co-sponsored by NIH UNITE and the 24 institutes and centers across the NIH. This is the first cohort of institutions to receive the prize.

“I am extremely proud, though not surprised, that UB was included among this year’s impressive group of recipients,” said Marcelo Araujo, DDS, MS ’99, PhD ’03, dean of UB’s School of Dental Medicine. “Through ongoing, vibrant initiatives, the dental school is doing its part to make the oral health field more diverse. We are committed to opening up opportunities to underrepresented minorities, serving individuals with disabilities, and hiring more faculty from a range of backgrounds and cultures.”

UB’s dental school was recognized specifically for its pathway programs, Destination Dental School and Native American Pre-Dental Student Gateway Program, and its mentoring program, Support, Training, Early-Career Enhancement and Retention (STEER).

“We are honored and extremely grateful to be a recipient of this prestigious prize,” said Latifa Bairam, BDS, Pros Cert. ’81, MS Oral Sci. ’84, director of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. “Within the dental profession, representation is slowly changing to reflect our patient population. With support from the NIH, we are hopeful that our programs and initiatives will continue to support growth and change.”

Founded in 2021, Destination Dental School (DDS) aims to remove barriers to careers in dentistry through a free seven-week summer pathway program open to undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students from across the United States and Canada interested in a career in dentistry.

Last summer, it graduated its third cohort of students. And in August 2023, it received the Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from INSIGHT into Diversity magazine for the second year in a row.

DDS was preceded by the Native American Pre-Dental Student Gateway Program, which was established in 2018 as a collaboration with the Seneca Nation Health System. The two pathway programs combined in 2022.

“UB’s pathway programs differ from traditional ones because they are free to participants,” said Jessica Scates, director of operations in the dental school’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. “Graduates also receive resources to help them prepare for the Dental Admission Test. And they are reimbursed for the test fee and receive a waived application fee to our dental school. Altogether, these expenses total over \$1,500 per graduate. This is a terrific investment when you consider that 98% of surveyed program graduates continue to pursue a career in dentistry.”

STEER was established in 2023 in collaboration with the dental school’s Office of Faculty Affairs to empower early- and mid-career professionals. Funded in part by the ADEAGies Foundation, STEER offers trainings based upon participant input and financial support to attend national conferences. The curriculum includes one-on-one mentor meetings, cohort meetings, professional development presentations and seminars.

“To ensure the success of STEER, we developed clear, measurable outcomes and indicators that we mapped to each of our objectives,” said Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS, Ortho Cert. ’12, MS Ortho ’13, MBA, MSc, FRDC(C), L. B. Badgero Endowed Chair, Department of Orthodontics, who served as the past assistant dean for EDI and founded the STEER program.

The work paid off. Scates noted that 96% of respondents from the program’s first year have rated the trainings as either very good or excellent.

The dental school’s focus on celebrating diversity in the dental profession has also led to the creation of a required online, interactive pre-orientation to equity, diversity and inclusion for incoming first-year dental students and a course focused on the social determinants of health, she added.

Together, the dental’s schools efforts have resulted in more opportunities for underrepresented individuals in the dental workforce and a more welcoming environment.

“The work we have established at UB’s dental school began with a committee of dedicated students, faculty, staff and community members who had big ideas,” Scates said. “We’ve been fortunate to have the team to make many of those ideas a reality.”

Representatives from the 10 prize-winning institutions will participate in a virtual symposium this summer devoted to their DEIA interventions that resulted in sustained, measurable change.

4 Dental school researchers win Journal of Dental Research Cover of the Year Award

When it comes to oral health, few things are more important than saliva. UB School of Dental Medicine researchers are advancing our understanding of how salivary glands function properly through genetic studies of mice—knowledge that could improve treatments for patients who suffer from saliva deficiency.

Their paper, “Genetic Study of Elf5 and Ehf in the Mouse Salivary Gland,” was featured on the cover of the March 2023 issue of the Journal of Dental Research (JDR). The study was led by Dr. Rose-Anne Romano (oral biology) and Dr. Satrajit Sinha (biochemistry) and co-authors Jason Osinski, Theresa Wrynn, Erich Horeth and Kirsten Smalley (oral biology).

In the spring, their cover was selected as the winner of the JDR Cover of the Year, 2023 award.

Given by the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR) and the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR), the winning cover was selected for being “an aesthetically pleasing, scientifically novel image that enhances the impact of the article.”

The Journal of Dental Research is a prestigious peer-reviewed scientific journal dedicated to the dissemination of new knowledge and information, encompassing all areas of research in the dental, oral and



UB SDM RESEARCHERS WITH THEIR JDR COVER OF THE YEAR, 2023 AWARD. FROM LEFT: JASON OSINSKI, DR. ROSE-ANNE ROMANO, DR. SATRAJIT SINHA, THERESA WRYNN, ERICH HORETH, KIRSTEN SMALLEY.

craniofacial sciences. This was the second such honor for Dr. Romano, whose work on transcriptomic and single cell analysis of the murine parotid gland won the JDR’s Cover of the Year award in 2019.

5 NIH-funded training grant engages dentists in researching periodontitis in Jamaica



FROM LEFT: DR. THAON JONES, HEAD OF THE UWI MONA SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY; DR. LINDSAY CHAKAN, DIRECTOR, UB SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE OFFICE OF RESEARCH SUPPORT; DR. PATRICIA DIAZ, UB SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE SUNSTAR ROBERT J. GENCO ENDOWED CHAIR, SUNY EMPIRE INNOVATION PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR OF THE UB MICROBIOME CENTER, DEPARTMENT OF ORAL BIOLOGY; AND DR. PAUL BROWN, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES AT UWI.

Understanding periodontitis and associated diseases in Jamaica is the focus of a new international NIH-funded training grant led by Dr. Patricia Diaz, Sunstar Robert J. Genco Endowed Chair, SUNY Empire Innovation Professor, director of the UB Microbiome Center, Department of Oral Biology.

The study aims to examine the prevalence, clinical presentation and biological determinants of aggressive periodontitis in Jamaican adolescents. No study has been previously conducted in the Caribbean to assess the disease’s prevalence, yet knowledge of causes and treatments is needed to advance oral health in Jamaica.

Dentists trained in clinical research are needed, too. Together, the UB SDM and University of the West Indies Mona School of Dentistry are sparking interest among dental

graduates in Jamaica who can carry out this critical research. Dr. Diaz and Dr. Lindsay Chakan, director, Office of Research Support, recently traveled to Jamaica to recruit dental graduates interested in learning how to conduct clinical research. During the trip, they presented on the NIDCR-FIC D43 Training Program to D4 and D5 dental students studying at the University of the West Indies.

Trainees have the opportunity to take courses, receive hands-on training in clinical research, and gain expertise in clinical research methods, study design, and regulations and procedures. The program involves six months in the U.S. working with a member of the School of Dental Medicine faculty.

The goal? To generate interest in clinical research to better understand oral health problems in Jamaica and train the next generation of clinician-scientists and academicians.

Read more about the training grant on the UB Microbiome Center website: buffalo.edu/microbiome.

Your Name Here

Make your gift today and “name” an operator in Squire Hall.

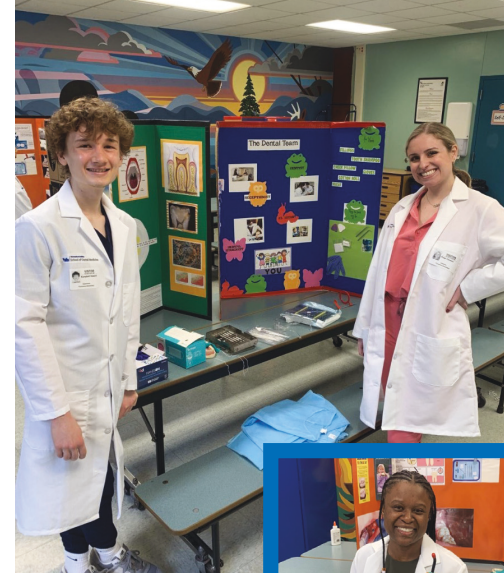
Squire Hall is undergoing historic renovations, equipping the School of Dental Medicine with state-of-the-art facilities that are taking the patient and student experience to the next level.

You can be a part of it! For \$25,000, you can help underwrite and “name” an operator. Your name will be highlighted on signage adjacent to your operator for all to see.

Payments can be made outright or over a term of years. We hope you'll join us as we continue to enhance and improve our facilities.

→ Contact Neil Dengler at 716-881-7486 or ndengler@buffalo.edu for more information.





GIVING KIDS A SMILE

AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

By Laurie Kaiser

On Feb. 5, students from the School of Dental Medicine and SUNY Erie Dental Hygiene School teamed up with everyone’s favorite monkey, Curious George, to emphasize the importance of healthy teeth and gums during the 23rd annual Give Kids a Smile event at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Approximately 150 volunteers provided more than 250 children from seven local schools with services, including oral health screenings and fluoride applications. The young visitors also learned the best way to floss and brush and played games tied to the museum’s Curious George exhibit. The students provided short and friendly lessons to the children who flocked to their tables, demonstrating what healthy gums look like, what different hygiene instruments do, and how to save a tooth if it gets knocked out—put it in a cup of milk.

The ADA-sponsored Give Kids a Smile is a centerpiece program of National Children’s Dental Health Month, benefitting between 350,000 and 400,000 children annually.

“Give Kids a Smile has a dual purpose: to address the immediate dental needs of children who would otherwise go without care and to raise awareness about the

pressing need for a more comprehensive health care system that prioritizes our children’s dental health,” Marcelo Araujo, dean of the School of Dental Medicine, said in a short ceremony that kicked off the event. “Community initiatives such as Give Kids a Smile aim to provide immediate care, strengthen the safety net and promote disease prevention and education.”

Araujo’s remarks were followed by those of other local dignitaries, including Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown and BPS Specialty Program Officer Parette Walker, both of whom praised UB and SUNY Erie for their commitment to the community. It was also noted that event was possible thanks to the efforts of the many volunteers and the leadership of event organizer Meelin Dian Chin Kit-Wells, DDS ’94, Pedo. Cert. ’00, MEd, clinical assistant professor, pediatric dentistry.

Prior to the event, Chin Kit-Wells advised the dental students not to shy away from using scientific words, such as avulsion and laceration, with the children while also employing a gentle approach to assuage any fear the kids might have.

“That,” she said, “is what dentistry is: a mix of science and love.” **UBD**

SMILE EDUCATION DAY:

DENTAL SCHOOL BRINGS SMILE EDUCATION TO LOCAL, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

By Sarah Smykowski

On Feb. 28, UB dental students, residents and faculty delivered oral health education to nearly 1,000 children in 18 local schools—and two international schools—during Smile Education Day. Held the last Wednesday in February, Smile Education Day teaches children how to achieve and maintain good oral health. This year, the program expanded its footprint to reach schools in the City of Buffalo, Niagara Falls, the Tuscarora area and two international sites. A combination of in-person and virtual outreach allowed more children in more places to experience the event. By engaging children early and often in good oral health habits, volunteers aim to establish a foundation for healthy smiles that will follow children well into adulthood. “Smile Education Day is an example of what a dental school can provide in partnership with the community,” said Meelin Dian Chin Kit-Wells, DDS ’94, Pedo. Cert. ’00, MEd, clinical assistant professor, pediatric dentistry, who organized the event. “A lifetime of healthy smiles and overall health.”

PHOTOS BY CASS MCALLISTER

OFF THE CHARTS

UB DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATIONS
HIT RECORD HIGH.

STORY BY **GROVE POTTER**

SOMETHING GREAT IS HAPPENING AT THE UB SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE.

More people than ever are applying for admittance, the grades and test scores of those applicants are rising, and a higher percentage of those accepted are choosing UB.

In other words, the UB dental school is ascendent.

“It’s the reputation of the school. I hear that over and over again,” said **Mary A. Bush**, DDS ’99, AEGD Cert. ’00, associate dean for student affairs. “Our first question when we interview is ‘Why UB?’ We’ll hear that they heard about it from the dentist they shadowed or they know somebody in the class, and they can’t stop telling them how great the program is. It’s word of mouth.”

The rise in UB dental school applications is astounding when compared to the declining national average. In the five years from 2018 to 2023, the UB dental school saw a 63.7% increase in applications, compared with a 7% decline nationally. And in 2024, UB received its highest number of DDS applicants ever: 2,374, a 78% increase from 2018. (National figures are not yet available for 2024.)

Also soaring are applications to the International Dentist Program, which admits

dentists from other countries for a two-year program to earn certification to practice in the U.S. and Canada. The school received 1,399 applications in 2024 for 30 spots. That is a record-high number, 113% more than in 2018.

What is drawing all of these students to the UB School of Dental Medicine?

“The culture,” Bush said. “UB has that special sense of family, collegiality. You’re going to have people who have your back while you’re here for four years.”

It also helps that the school is ranked No. 7 in the U.S. and No. 11 in the world. (2023 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy)

The parents of an admitted student recently told Bush that their daughter was set on attending a school either in the South or on the East Coast. “But, lo and behold, she came for the interview, and after her visit, there was no doubt this is where she would attend.”

“We’re looking at a total of almost 2,400 applicants. We interview about 250, and then we have an entering class of between 90 and 95.”

Luke Ramey,
director of admissions

GETTING IN

Being accepted to the dental school is tough, and getting tougher. **Luke Ramey**, director of admissions, said fall 2024 applicants faced the most competitive application process ever at the school. “We’re looking at a total of almost 2,400 applicants. We interview about 250, and then we have an entering class of between 90 and 95.”

International students at the dental school face the stiffest competition for admittance. Only about 2% of the IDP applicants are admitted, and they must first pass a “bench test” to prove their dexterity and proficiency. Following admission, they take an intensive summer class and then join the D3 class in the fall.

But perhaps most astounding of all is the school’s yield rate, the percentage of admitted students who accept UB’s offer of admission. In 2024, the yield rate was 68%.

It’s easy to see why UB is a top choice for students. Ramey said the school’s culture convinces most admitted students that UB is the place for them. “I think it’s when students get here, and they see the environment and meet our current students. They see this is a collaborative environment, not necessarily a competitive environment.” On tours, when current students stop and greet admitted students, those conversations have a big impact, he said.

Bush said many students who apply are familiar with the school through social media. “We have some students who are very active on social media, and I know they are getting our word out there. They have large followings, so the potential

students see it from future peers.” Some of the posts are “a day in the life of a dental student,” she said, and the collegiality and support among classmates is apparent.

In addition, the newly remodeled dental school facilities are jaw-dropping. “They see the new AEGD clinic, implant center and post-grad clinic, and they’re show stoppers,” Bush said. “And when they see the B30 Simulation Lab, they say it’s beautiful.”

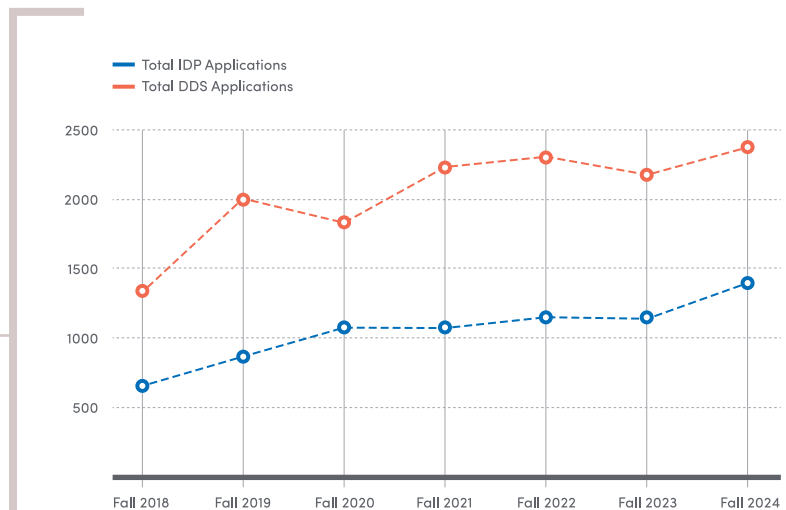
BUILDING A CLASS

The *esprit de corps* of the class does not happen by chance. The admissions committee looks for students “who you would want to call your classmate,” Ramey said. “There are plenty of high-achieving students we don’t interview. We are looking for a very well-rounded student. I think that is part of the appeal of the school.”

All those who are interviewed meet the school’s minimum admission standards of a 3.0 GPA and a minimum average DAT score of 15, although the actual numbers for the admitted class are much higher: GPA 3.71 and DAT 21.6, in 2023.

“The metrics have to be there so we are not admitting students who are set up for failure,” Bush said. “You really want to make sure they are going to be successful.” In addition, applicants must show a real interest in dentistry. “We want students who want to be in this profession. We ask them a lot of questions about dentistry, and a lot of times they don’t have a familiarity with the profession.”

**UB School of Dental
Medicine Applications
2018–24**



The school likes to see applicants with about 100 hours of shadowing with a dentist “to make sure they know what they are getting into,” Ramey said. “Do they understand what it means working with the front office staff, hygienists and technicians, and being the leader of that team?”

SHIFTING TRENDS

Bush has a very succinct explanation for one of the biggest trends in dentistry: the growing number of women dentists. “It has a great work/life balance. That’s what I tell a lot of prospective students. Especially with people who want to go into medicine. It’s a very different work/life balance.”

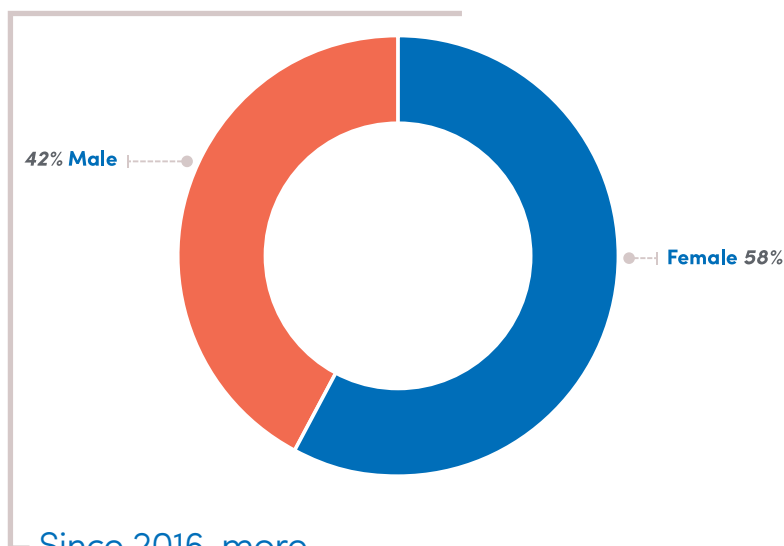
Since 2016, the number of women applying to dental school has outpaced the number of male applicants. At UB, 2018 was the first entering class with more women than men. The most recent applicant pool was almost 58% women.

Additionally, the number of dental school applicants from historically underrepresented backgrounds is growing. These national trends are indications that future clinicians will possess a broad range of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives—something that is critical to improving access to quality oral health care.

“We recruit in areas that are underserved,” Bush said, citing rural communities as an example. “We will go into high schools and middle schools to educate students about dentistry as a career, to let them know these options are out there.”

For 25 students each summer, the school offers Destination Dental School. This summer program is an intense gateway experience for students who are interested in dentistry, preparing those who have been historically underrepresented in the profession to apply and be accepted to dental school.

Fall 2024 Applicants



Since 2016, more women than men have been applying to the school.

7/11

UB SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
IS RANKED NO. 7 IN THE U.S. /
NO. 11 IN THE WORLD.

(2023 GLOBAL RANKING OF ACADEMIC SUBJECTS,
SHANGHAI RANKINGS CONSULTANCY)

ALUMNI SOUGHT FOR ADMISSIONS

WANTED: DENTAL SCHOOL ALUMNI INTERESTED IN HELPING SELECT OUR FUTURE STUDENTS.

The UB School of Dental Medicine is seeking graduates of the school to help with admissions. That can mean reading applications, helping interview students, or both.

“You’re always with another person in the interviews,” said Dr. Bush. Currently, there are about 30 people on

the admissions committee, which Bush says is “a little light.” The more alumni who can be involved, the better.

The busy interview time is September through December, and committee members can pick which days they would like to come in, she said. Reading applications can be done remotely from anywhere. The reviewer does not have to be in Buffalo to participate.

Anyone interested in helping select the next generation of dentists can email Dr. Bush at bushma@buffalo.edu.

98%
of survey
respondents
were still
pursuing a
career in
dentistry after
the Destination
Dental School
program.

The fourth class of students participated in the summer of 2023. “Each cohort has a mix of first-year students, sophomores, juniors and seniors, and also non-traditional. We’ve had everyone from 19 years old up to 45,” said **Jessica Scates**, director of operations in the dental school’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Since its inception, the program has graduated 109 prospective dental students.

“Last year, we surveyed 85 program graduates, and 46 responded. Of those, 98% were still pursuing a career in dental school,” Scates said. “In fall 2024, UB will welcome two program graduates to the incoming first-year class.”

The program partners with the Native American Pre-Dental Student Gateway Program, which enrolls about six students each summer.

“There are huge disparities in oral health, and one of the ways to remedy that is to make sure our workforce represents our population,” Scates said. “If we’re not doing our work to diversify our workforce so we can meet those needs, then we are not serving the community in which we live.”

Serving the community means ensuring the residents have access to oral health services, and more dentists are needed across the country. More than 50% of New York counties have been designated as part or whole Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) due to their shortage of dental care providers.

UB is doing its part by training future dentists. Many choose to stay in the state after graduation, a decision in-state students are more likely to make. 84% of UB’s incoming class is from New York – the largest percentage in the last five years and another noteworthy trend in the school’s admissions. As high numbers of New York residents continue to enroll at UB, the School of Dental Medicine embraces the potential to strengthen the number of providers in the state.

AN EVER-EVOLVING DISCIPLINE

The dental school’s record-breaking admissions stats point to an exciting future of the profession, which holds tremendous promise for the students who will carry on the torch. “Dentistry is always evolving. It is becoming a more diverse profession,” said Bush. “And with digital dentistry, including scanning and 3D milling, the technology is only going to grow.”

Today’s students are tomorrow’s dentists, and it starts at the point of admission. With applications on the rise, a rich diversity of students, and the profession evolving at a rapid pace, there’s never been a better time to be a UB dental student. Our 3,700+ applicants would agree. **UBD**

Fun Facts about the DDS and IDP Programs

2,374

APPLICANTS TO THE DDS PROGRAM,
FALL 2024

113%

INCREASE IN IDP
APPLICATIONS SINCE 2018

78%

INCREASE IN DDS
APPLICATIONS SINCE 2018

1,399

APPLICATIONS TO THE IDP
PROGRAM, FALL 2024



IDP WHITE COAT CEREMONY

WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



“
Class of 2026,
you are a
remarkable
group!”

Dr. Mary Bush,
associate dean for
student affairs

By Grove Potter

THE 2026 CLASS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DENTIST PROGRAM

was welcomed during an elegant White Coat Ceremony on May 10. Dean Marcelo W. B. Araujo or direct family members from the dental or medical professions helped don the traditional jackets.

The 30 members of the class are current dentists from other countries who are earning a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), which will allow them to practice in the U.S. or Canada. After an intensive summer program, the students will join the D3 dental school class.

The group includes nine men and 21 women who hail from 13 countries and, together, speak 24 languages.

In her welcome address, Mary Bush, DDS '99, AEGD Cert. '00, associate dean for student affairs, noted the depth of experience in the class. “On a professional level, you have spent countless hours engaged in research, given presentations, written publications. A number of you have master’s degrees in areas such as public health, biomedical sciences and oral health sciences. One of you has a master’s in law, another has a bachelor’s and master’s in classical dance, and yet another has a master’s in mental health and wellness.”

Some students have been dental educators at colleges and universities.

Dean Araujo congratulated the students on being in the program. “This was a hard class to get into,” he said. “You should be proud of yourselves.” Indeed, there were 1,399 applications for the 30 spots, a 2% acceptance rate.

Dr. Tammy Thompson, Pedro. Cert. '00, associate dean for academic affairs, urged the students to retain their humility and to adhere to academic integrity. “If you don’t know the answer, find the answer,” she said. “Listen to your patients.”

Dr. Eugena Stephan, Pros. Cert. '92, PhD Oral Bio. '98, associate dean for clinical affairs, reminded the students to “put your patients’ needs first...Treating patients is an honor and a privilege,” she said.

Welcoming her first class as IDP program director, Hema Arany, DDS '23, reminded the class to recognize the importance of integrity and teamwork, offering that “Success depends on the ability to collaborate.”

Also welcoming the students were Claire Martin, president of the Class of 2026, and Shishira Surapu Reddy, president of the IDP Class of 2025.

Just prior to the donning of the white coats, Bush told those assembled, “Class of 2026, you are a remarkable group!” **UBD**

Meet the **GRADUATES** of the CLASS OF

2024

DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

ENTERING GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY OR ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY PROGRAMS

Abdulhafedh Ahmed Al-Gahuri

University of Rochester Eastman
Institute for Oral Health
Rochester, New York

Michael Gabriel Bobak

Veterans Administration Medical
Center-Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Robert Campbell

Maine Veterans Administration
Medical Center
Togus, Maine

Kaila Brooke Chavis

East Carolina University School of
Dental Medicine-Clinic
Lumberton, North Carolina

Maital Sara Citron

Jersey Shore University Medical Center
Neptune, New Jersey

Daniel Joseph Clark

Allegheny General Hospital
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Matthew Qiancong Deng◆◆◆

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Connor James Dolce

University of California, Los Angeles-
Westwood
Los Angeles, California

Sara Emara

Jersey City Medical Center
Jersey City, New Jersey

Vanessa Finazzo◆◆◆

Northwell Health-North Shore
University Hospital
Manhasset, New York

Vincent Michael Gagliardo III◆

Veterans Administration Medical
Center-Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Matthew Brian Giangreco

Erie County Medical Center
Buffalo, New York

Bailey Cooper Haines

Albert Einstein Medical Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Jiaqi Huang

University at Buffalo School of
Dental Medicine
Buffalo, New York

Adam Jaczynski

Woodhull Medical Center
Brooklyn, New York

Shivam Jauhar

Northwell Health-North Shore
University Hospital
Manhasset, New York

Matthew Thomas Kaiser

University of North Carolina Adams
School of Dentistry
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Pauline Kalta◆◆◆

Morristown Medical Center
Morristown, New Jersey

Sarah B. Kamil

University of Rochester Eastman
Institute for Oral Health
Rochester, New York

Kelsey Donohue Kearns

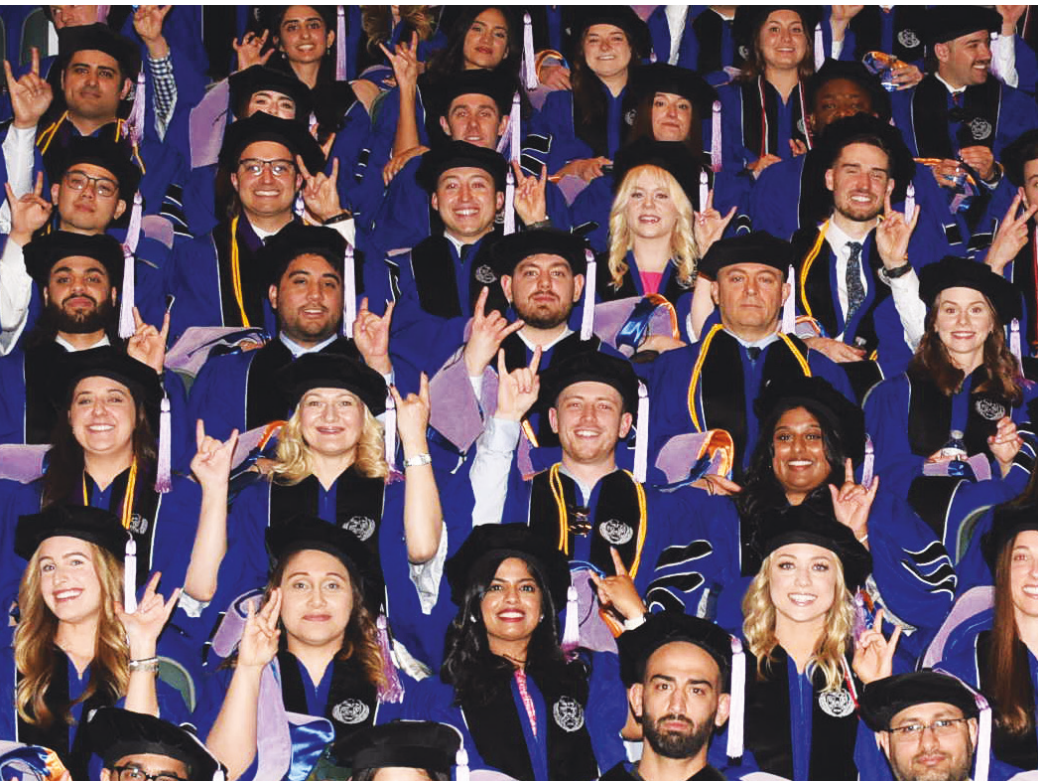
St. Charles Hospital
Port Jefferson, New York

Moiz Khan

Roswell Park Cancer Institute/SUNY
Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Christopher Andrew Lepore◆◆◆

Veterans Administration Medical
Center-Buffalo
Buffalo, New York



John Lepore
Rochester General Hospital
Rochester, New York

Olivia F. Longhouse
New York Presbyterian Brooklyn
Methodist Hospital
Brooklyn, New York

Nathaniel Edward Lyons◆
University Hospital-SUNY Upstate
Medical University
Syracuse, New York

Palak Hiten Maniar
University at Buffalo School of
Dental Medicine
Buffalo, New York

Madelyn Downey Mascaro
NYU Langone Dental Medicine-
Bradenton
Bradenton, Florida

Alexis Victoria Millan
East Carolina University School of
Dental Medicine
Greenville, North Carolina

Ayah Mobied
University of Rochester Eastman
Institute for Oral Health
Rochester, New York

Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed
Rochester General Hospital
Rochester, New York

Joseph Anthony Mostowy
University at Buffalo School of
Dental Medicine
Buffalo, New York

Juliana Barbara Panteloukas◆
Veterans Administration Medical
Center-Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Michael Pringle
Erie County Medical Center
Buffalo, New York

Claire Morgan Prunier
Denver Health Medical Center
Denver, Colorado

Corey James Reazor
Erie County Medical Center
Buffalo, New York

Elizabeth Jean Sampson
Cambridge Health Alliance
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Saloni Dharmesh Shah
University Hospital-SUNY Upstate
Medical University
Syracuse, New York

Ashima Sharma
University of Rochester Eastman
Institute for Oral Health
Rochester, New York

Brittany Rose Sheehan
Erie County Medical Center
Buffalo, New York

Lauren Holley Sheppard
East Carolina University School of
Dental Medicine-Clinic
Thomasville, North Carolina

Nathan Shimer
University of Texas School of
Dentistry-Houston
Houston, Texas

Oneida Shushe
Veterans Affairs Medical Center-
Albany
Albany, New York

Aimen Asad Siddiqui
Roswell Park Cancer Institute/SUNY
Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Nimrita Singh
University Hospital-SUNY Upstate
Medical University
Syracuse, New York

Anna Spence
Erie County Medical Center
Buffalo, New York

Parisa Tadi◆
University at Buffalo School of
Dental Medicine
Buffalo, New York

Peyman Tadi
Erie County Medical Center
Buffalo, New York

Ramses Tamayo Guerra
Woodhull Medical Center
Brooklyn, New York

Faraz Tariq
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

Layne G. Thurston
University Hospital-SUNY Upstate
Medical University
Syracuse, New York

Seth Richard Tirsun
Icahn School of Medicine at
Mount Sinai
New York, New York

Levi Michael Upham
Veterans Administration Medical
Center-Wilkes-Barre
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Caitlin Ann Viele Haggerty
University at Buffalo School of
Dental Medicine
Buffalo, New York

Tanner Isaac Wakefield
U.S. Navy Medicine Readiness and
Training Command
San Diego, California

Nicole Heary Walawander
Erie County Medical Center
Buffalo, New York

Zachary Ryan Weinberger◆
Rochester General Hospital
Rochester, New York

Michael Daniel Welsh
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Hastings Edward Williams
University of Tennessee
Nashville, Tennessee

Brianna Mary Yusiewicz
Temple University Maurice H.
Kornberg School of Dentistry
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Arthur Vartan Zakaryan
University of Colorado Anschutz
Medical Campus
Aurora, Colorado

Sam Zhan
U.S. Army
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

ENTERING SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

Sabrina Rose Blaskovic◆◆◆
Orthodontics and Dentofacial
Orthopedics
University of Rochester Eastman
Institute for Oral Health
Rochester, New York

Casey Samantha Brand◆
Orthodontics
University of Colorado
Denver, Colorado

Erin Sue Cannon
Pediatric Dentistry
Cohen Children's Hospital at Long
Island Jewish Medical Center
New Hyde Park, New York

Emma Elizabeth Chubb
Orthodontics
University at Buffalo School of
Dental Medicine
Buffalo, New York

Simone Rose DeBellis
Pediatric Dentistry
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, New York

Shruti Gajbhiye
Pediatric Dentistry
University of Rochester Eastman
Institute for Oral Health
Rochester, New York

Vincenzo Louis Gramuglia◆
Orthodontics
Medical University of South
Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

Balraj Grewal
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery
Internship
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Stephanie Hsu
Pediatric Dentistry
Nemours Children's Hospital
Wilmington, Delaware

Natalia Jakacki
Prosthodontics
Veterans Administration Greater
Los Angeles Healthcare System
West Los Angeles, California

Tyler Lyons
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Internship
Louisiana State University
New Orleans, Louisiana

Ryan McQuillen◆◆◆
Prosthodontics
University of Rochester Eastman
Institute for Oral Health
Rochester, New York



PHOTOS BY GRAD IMAGES

◆ CUM LAUDE | ◆◆ MAGNA CUM LAUDE | ◆◆◆ SUMMA CUM LAUDE



William David Meyer◆◆
Periodontics
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Waseem Mir◆
Orthodontics
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Kayla Schwartz◆
Endodontics
Tufts University
Boston, Massachusetts

Nicholas Servadio
Orthodontics
University at Buffalo School of
Dental Medicine
Buffalo, New York

Alexandria Nicole Sullivan
Pediatric Dentistry
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, New York

Marta Telepko
Pediatric Dentistry
One Brooklyn Health System-
Brookdale/Interfaith
Brooklyn, New York

Ethan C. Wood◆
Pediatric Dentistry
University at Buffalo School of
Dental Medicine
Buffalo, New York

Sung Hwan Yoon◆◆
Orthodontics
University of Texas School of
Dentistry Houston
Houston, Texas

**ENTERING DENTAL PRACTICE/
ACADEMICS**

Dara Ahmadnia
Crenshaw, California

Imran Ali Alidina
Austin, Texas

Satyavrat Arya
Vandalia, Ohio

Anusha Atique
Norwalk, Connecticut

Manasa Bhavana
Dallas, Texas

Cailen Marie Blaire
New Castle, Pennsylvania

Bhavneet Kaur Chawla
Turnersville, New Jersey

Gagandeep Singh Dang
Madison, Wisconsin

Myagmarjav Dashnyam
Winchester, Virginia

Apurva Dhengle
Austin, Texas

Yara Mohamed Elsayed
Sterling, Virginia

Zinaida Aleksandrovna Fomenko
Houston, Texas

Gerliz Ann Cabling Garcia
Hillsborough, New Jersey

Leena Garg◆◆
Jacksonville, North Carolina

Elaheh Habibi
Jacksonville, Florida

Gene Hong◆
Richmond, Virginia

Kyrols Nazih Ibrahim
Boston, Massachusetts

Bruce Enrique Imbacuan
Cleveland, Ohio

Okba Jahjah◆
Roseburg, Oregon

Anum Khurshid
Atlanta, Georgia

Andy Thach Dinh Le
Sarasota, Florida

Renard Ruigi Anatalio Macasaet
Los Angeles, California

Hayat Masood
Dearborn, Michigan

Sneha Mary Mathen
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Caitlyn Murray
Denver, Colorado

Aimuamwosa Obarisiagbon
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Ujwal Vinubhai Patel◆◆◆
Waterbury, Connecticut

Monica Polakhare
Casselberry, Florida

Tala Noaman Abduljabbar Qutachi◆
Sterling, Virginia

Shannon Solaty
Nashville, Tennessee

Andrew Phillip Surya
Burlington, Ontario, Canada

David Van Huffel
Columbus, Ohio

**RESIDENCY/EMPLOYMENT
NOT REPORTED**

Duha Bayati

Aadil Iqbal

Ramesh Khorsand

Joseph McKoy Lamantia
United States Navy Dental Corps

Braeden Anil Mathur

THESIS HONORS

Satyavrat Arya
*The effects of bone grafting on
immediate implant primary stability
in a simulated model*
Primary Mentor: Sebastiano
Andreana, DDS, MSc

Emma Chubb
*Effects of orthodontic ligatures on
frictional properties*
Primary Mentor: Ashish Gurav, DMD, PhD

Natalia Jakacki
*The effect of expiration date on
flexural strength of 3D-printed interim
resin material*
Primary Mentor: Rui Li, DDS, PhD

Moiz Khan
*AI-assisted endodiagnostic: Enhancing
pulpal & periapical diagnosis through
machine learning*
Primary Advisor: Praveen Arany, BDS,
MDS, MMSc, PhD

Ramesh Khorsand
*Treatment outcomes of customized
vs. conventional orthodontic brackets:
A systematic review*
Primary Mentor: Thikriat Al-Jewair,
DDS, MBA, MSc, MS, FRCD(C)

Ujwal Vinubhai Patel
*Treatment outcomes of customized
vs. conventional orthodontic brackets:
A systematic review*
Primary Mentor: Thikriat Al-Jewair,
DDS, MBA, MSc, MS, FRCD(C)

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
ORAL BIOLOGY DEGREE**

Yin Luo, DDS
*Heparan sulfate-protein interactions
in bone homeostasis*
Major Professor: Ding Xu, PhD

Sarah Lucile Metcalfe, BS
*Macrophage Polarization Changes
Oral Microbial Interactions*
Major Professor: Jason Kay, PhD

Chih Yean Ong, BS
*Deciphering heparan sulfate-BMPER
interaction in bone remodeling*
Major Professor: Ding Xu, PhD



◆ CUM LAUDE | ◆◆ MAGNA CUM LAUDE | ◆◆◆ SUMMA CUM LAUDE



MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES

BIOMATERIALS

Reem Alrabiah, BDS

The Effects of Strontium on the Viability of Oral Carcinoma Cell Lines in the Presence of Simulated Smoking Environment
Major Professor: Michelle B. Visser, PhD

ORAL SCIENCES

Sawsan Ahmed Fadhl Almwala, BDS

Assessing the Initial Primary Stability of Dental Implants via Various Osteotomy Preparation Techniques: An Ex Vivo Comparative Study Utilizing Two Distinct Noninvasive Methods
Major Professor: Sebastiano Andreana, DDS, MSc

Ali Sameer Alsharif, BDS

Color stability of CAD CAM fabricated complete denture after artificial aging-In Vitro Comparison Study
Major Professor: Rui Li, DDS, PhD

Ahmed Abdulhadi Al Mozayen, BDS

Evaluation of Shear Bond Strength of Zirconia to Resin Cement After Surface Treatments with Different Air Abrasion Zirconia Particles
Major Professor: Hyeongil Kim, DDS

Layla Arab, DDS

Dexmedetomidine use for Moderate sedation in the periodontal practice
Major Professor: Lisa Yerke, DDS, MS

Khadijah Bagazi, BDS

*Sialidase Activity of the Periodontopathogen *Tannerella forsythia* Modulates Phagocytic Activity and Inflammatory Response of Macrophages*
Major Professor: Ashu Sharma, PhD

Manavjot Kaur Gill, BDS

Headache attributed to TMD: Impact of different diagnostic criteria on headache characteristics
Major Professor: Richard Ohrbach, DDS, PhD

Monique Marie Kapur-Mauleon, BS

A Characterization of Craniofacial Phenotypes in a Novel Mouse Model for Kabuki Syndrome via Micro-CT Analysis
Major Professor: Hyuk-Jae Edward Kwon, DDS, PhD

Zhengdao Daniel Li, BS

Detoxification of implant surfaces with automated oral prophylaxis devices: An ex vivo comparison study
Major Professor: Sebastiano Andreana, DDS, MSc

Melissa Estefhania Luna Rubina, DDS

Role of Oral Microbiome in 5FU-induced Oral Mucositis
Major Professor: Patricia Diaz, DDS, PhD

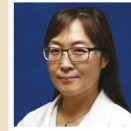
Omar Alabd Mohamed, BDS

Impact of High-Speed Sintering on The Mechanical and Optical Properties of Multi-Layered Zirconia
Major Professor: Rui Li, DDS, PhD

Heather Tamburro, BS

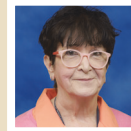
Stability of Poly Lactic-Co-Glycolic Acid Microspheres in Toothpaste for Sustained-Release Formulations
Primary Advisor: Praveen Arany, BDS, MDS, MMSc, PhD

Honors
for Faculty and Staff



DEAN'S AWARD/FACULTY

Seungye Kim-Pusateri, DDS '02, Pros. Cert. '05, MS '05



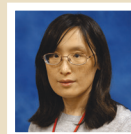
DEAN'S AWARD/STAFF

Casey Reidy



DENTAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION STAFF APPRECIATION AWARD

David Horbinski



DR. ALAN J. GROSS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD, CLASS OF 2024

Rui Li, DDS, MS, PhD Oral Bio. '15, Pros. Cert. '17



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Latifa Bairam, BDS, Pros. Cert. '81, MS Oral Sci. '84



FLORENCE KRONSON AWARD

Nicki Hogenkamp



THE CHARLES S. LIPANI AWARD

Patrick Anders, DDS '86, MPH



THE RICHARD A. POWELL AWARD

Joseph T. DeLuca, DDS '07



THE WILLIAM M. FEAGANS AWARD

Robert Yetto, DDS '83



ORTHODONTICS

John Anthony Baker, DDS
Comparing Friction and Slot Dimensional Integrity of in-House Fully-Customizable 3D Printed Orthodontic Brackets to Commercially Available Alternatives
 Major Professor: Ashish Gurav, DMD, PhD

Ozge Colak, DDS
Artificial intelligence-assisted clinical decision model for managing retained primary second molars with no permanent successors
 Major Professor: Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS, MBA, MSc, MS, FRCD(C)

Aliyyah Hamiduddin, BDS
Treatment Outcomes and Accuracy with LightForce™ 3D-Printed Custom Brackets and Clear Aligners
 Major Professor: Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS, MBA, MSc, MS, FRCD(C)

Benjamin Steven Hietanen, DDS
3-dimensional changes of the nasomaxillary complex correlated to the Nasal Obstruction Symptom Evaluation (NOSE) scale in patients treated with mini-implant assisted maxillary expansion
 Major Professor: Ashish Gurav, DMD, PhD

Ye Lin, DMD
Changes in Anthropometric Measurements and Facial Proportions for Orthodontic Patients Following Orthognathic Surgery
 Major Professor: Stephen Warunek, DDS, MS

Elizabeth Erin Lukens, DDS
Analysis of Frictional Properties of Customizable 3D-Printed Ceramic Orthodontic Brackets and Tubes (LightForce™): An In-Vitro Study
 Major Professor: Ashish Gurav, DMD, PhD

CERTIFICATES OF ADVANCED STUDY

ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY

- Massilia Abibsi, DMD
- Anthony John Felli, DDS
- Bushra Khan, DMD
- Fritz Augustus Mora, DDS
- Nidhhi Parmar, DDS
- Brittany Pollock, DDS
- Xiaoxuan Wang, DMD



ENDODONTICS

Hacer Aksel, DDS, PhD
Shreya Gakhar, BDS
Eunjung Ji, DMD

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY

Reem Alrabiah, BDS
Khadijah Bagazi, BDS
Melissa Estefhania Luna Rubina, DDS

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Keith Paskett, DMD, MD

ORTHODONTICS

John Anthony Baker, DDS
Ozge Colak, DDS
Aliyyah Hamiduddin, BDS
Benjamin Steven Hietanen, DDS
Ye Lin, DMD
Elizabeth Erin Lukens, DDS

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Ahmad Alnuaimy, DDS
Dean Ngoc Doan, DMD
Katherine Dority, DDS
Julia Kollesar, DDS
Elizabeth A. Patrick, DDS



Lauren Pernick, DDS
Nicholas Alexander Sirotenko, DDS
Onalee Sortino, DDS
Rachel Grace Helen Zilio, DDS

PERIODONTICS

Sawsan Ahmed Fadhil Alkawla, BDS
Seyedeh Maryam Razmi, DDS
Isolde Gina Rojas-Rudolph, DDS, PhD

PROSTHODONTICS

Ali Sameer Alsharif, BDS
Lolowh Abdulaziz H Almogbel, BDS
Ahmed Abdulhadi Al Mozayen, BDS
Omar Alabd Mohamed, BDS

TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDERS AND OROFACIAL PAIN

Hema Kumar Vuppapalaty, BDS, MS

SDM 2024 Senior Awards

Recognizing Achievement, Skill and Contribution

Academy of General Dentistry Award
 Connor James Dolce
 Christopher Andrew Lepore

Academy of Operative Dentistry Award
 Ethan C. Wood

Academy of Osseointegration Award
 Ryan McQuillen

Dr. Joseph A. Accardo Eighth District Dental Society Award
 John Lepore

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award
 Elizabeth Jean Sampson

American Academy of Implant Dentistry Award
 Satyavrat Arya

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Award
 Ramses Tamayo Guerra

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award
 Okba Jahjah

American Academy of Oral Medicine Award
 Matthew Qiancong Deng

American Academy of Orofacial Pain
 Olivia F. Longhouse

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Certificate of Merit Predoctoral Student Award
 Simone Rose DeBellis

American Academy of Periodontology Award
 Sabrina Rose Blaskovic

American Association of Endodontists Award
 Kayla Schwartz

◆ CUM LAUDE | ◆◆ MAGNA CUM LAUDE | ◆◆◆ SUMMA CUM LAUDE

CEMENT

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award
Peyman Tadi

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Implant Award
Brianna Mary Yusiewicz

American Association of Orthodontists
Sabrina Rose Blaskovic
Vincenzo Louis Gramuglia

American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award
Olivia F. Longhouse

American College of Dentists Outstanding Student Leader Award
Sabrina Rose Blaskovic

American College of Prosthodontists Award
Robert Campbell

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Award-Horace Wells Senior Student Award
Arthur Vartan Zakaryan

American Student Dental Association Award of Excellence
John Lepore

Barrett Prize Award
Sabrina Rose Blaskovic
Matthew Qiancong Deng
Vanessa Finazzo
Pauline Kalta
Christopher Andrew Lepore
Ryan McQuillen

Brasseler USA Esthetic Dentistry Award
Juliana Barbara Panteloukas

Eleanor Bushee Award
Pauline Kalta

Dean's Award
Marta Telepko

Dental Alumni Award
Tanner Isaac Wakefield

Erie County Dental Society Chester A. Glor Award
Emma Elizabeth Chubb

Dr. Marshall Fagin Prosthodontic Award
Fritz Mora

The Pierre Fauchard Academy Award
Ryan McQuillen

Fonzi Dental Study Club, Anthony S. Gugino Humanitarian Award
Seth Richard Tirsun

Dr. Davis Garlapo Memorial Prosthodontics Award
Natalia Jakacki
Ryan McQuillen

International College of Dentists (Leadership) Award
John Lepore

International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award
Emma Elizabeth Chubb
Balraj Grewal
Tyler Lyons
Alexandria Nicole Sullivan
Ujwal Vinubhai Patel
Seth Richard Tirsun

International Congress of Oral Implantologists Award
Gerliz Ann Cabling Garcia

Edwin C. Jauch Award
Satyavrat Arya

Donald Kozlowski Memorial Award
Matthew Qiancong Deng

Robert B. Levine Award
Ujwal Vinubhai Patel

Eric J. Murawski Memorial Award
Zachary Ryan Weinberger

Dr. Russell Nisengard Award
Satyavrat Arya

New York State Association of Endodontists
David Van Huffel

New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Student Award
Aimuumwosa Obarisiagbon

The Northeastern Society of Periodontists Award
William David Meyer

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Membership
Satyavrat Arya
Sabrina Rose Blaskovic
Matthew Qiancong Deng
Leena Garg
Pauline Kalta
Waseem Mir
Ryan McQuillen
Christopher Lepore
Vanessa Finazzo
William David Meyer
Ujwal Vinubhai Patel
Sung Hwan Yoon
Kayla Schwartz
Zachary Ryan Weinberger

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Research Award
Emma Elizabeth Chubb

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dr. Lata Shenoy Award
Ujwal Vinubhai Patel

Pediatric and Community Dentistry Department Award
Erin Sue Cannon
Ethan C. Wood

Richard A. Powell Award
Shivam Jauhar

Quintessence Awards
Research Achievement:
William David Meyer
Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry: Juliana Barbara Panteloukas
Clinical Achievement in Periodontics: Oneida Shushe

Lester Schatz Memorial Award
Sabrina Rose Blaskovic

Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Leadership Award
Anusha Atique

George B. Snow Awards
Fixed prosthodontics:
1st place: Bailey Cooper Haines
2nd place: Connor James Dolce
Removable Prosthodontics:
1st place: Leena Garg
2nd place: Cailen Marie Blaire

The Special Care Dentistry Association Student Award
Nicole Heary Walawander

St. Apollonia Guild Dental Student Service Award
Ramses Tamayo Guerra

Student Affairs Recognition Award
Satyavrat Arya
Emma Elizabeth Chubb
Bailey Cooper Haines
Shivam Jauhar
Christopher Andrew Lepore
John Lepore
Olivia F. Longhouse
Juliana Barbara Panteloukas
Nicholas Servadio
Marta Telepko
Seth Richard Tirsun
Brianna Mary Yusiewicz

U.S. Public Health Service Dental Award of Excellence
Christopher Andrew Lepore

Whip Mix Hanau Prosthodontics Award
Caitlin Ann Viele Haggerty



PHOTO BY CASS MCALLISTER

Alumni rally for tie in Hanau Cup 2024



BY RAYMOND G. MILLER, DDS '85

Tradition is one of the hallmarks of great institutions and associations. The University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association has continued the long-established annual event of the Hanau Cup Hockey game for over five decades. The annual event brings students and alumni together for a battle to establish dominance in the great game of hockey. This year's game, held at Buffalo RiverWorks on March 10, 2024, in Buffalo's Old First Ward, did not disappoint. The alumni, down by three goals with less than 10 minutes remaining, fought back to reach a 10-10 tie with a younger, stronger, more athletic student team.

A first-time game sponsor, Michael Gengo, DDS '13, Endo Cert. '15, of Queen City Endodontics, scored the game-tying goal with seconds remaining to steal the win from the students.

Tremendous goal tending by Jenna McCune, DDS '22, was also a major factor in keeping the students off the score sheet, despite numerous chances. No rule for overtime or a shoot-out was established, since that would keep the players from the feast of chicken wings, pizza and beer awaiting

them at the post-game celebration.

Other dental alumni players included: Fred Rodems, DDS '80, Oral Max. Cert. '84, Raymond Miller, DDS '85, Marlin Salmon, DDS, Ortho Cert. '85, Edward Dwyer, DDS '93, Andrew Privitera, DDS '96, Michael Boulé, DDS '98, Robert Jenkins, DDS '07, Justin Au, DDS, Oral Max Cert. '13, Christopher Nowak, DDS '15, Paul Herrmann, DDS '19, Perio Cert. '22, Oral Sci. MS '22, Benjamin Hietanen, DDS '19, Caleb Holmes, DDS '19, Adam Ungaro, DDS '13, Pedro Cert. '15.

The students were represented by Bailey Haines, DDS '24, Joseph Mostowy, DDS '24, Mirna (Mimi) Husinec, '25, Matthew Rockhill, '27, Sammy Zyla, '27, and Abigail Boulé, '27, daughter of Dr. Michael Boulé. James Matteliano, DDS '80, joined the student team to provide some veteran wisdom and experience.

The game was also sponsored by Justin Baumann and Jessica DeMichiel of DDSmatch and the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association. Our hope is that the game continues to grow in popularity among current UB SDM students and that this tremendous tradition will continue.

2024 UBDAA REUNION LEADERS

If you would like to be involved in planning your reunion, please contact Sherry at 716-829-6419 or ss287@buffalo.edu.

1974

Dr. George Quintero

1984

Dr. Beth E. Reilly

1989

Dr. John N. Athans
Dr. H. Sonny Spera

1999

Dr. Daniel H. DeTolla
Dr. Leo A. Massaro
Dr. Jason Marshall

2009

Dr. Andrew J. Carmosino
Dr. Jason A. Creps

2014

Dr. Kelly A. Burch

2019

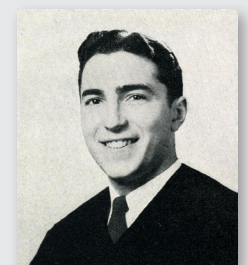
Dr. Christopher Becker
Dr. Arielle Burkavage
Dr. Kathleen Gonzales
Dr. Benjamin Hietanen
Dr. Amir Karimi
Dr. Alexander J. Sikora

We are always looking for Reunion Leaders, especially 1979, 1994 and 2004!



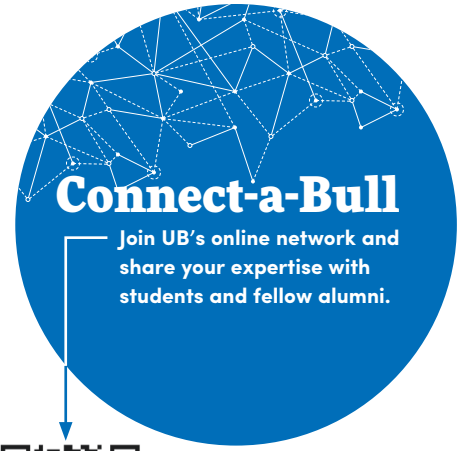
Al-Shaheen Youssef, DDS '15, MS Ortho '20, and Adam R. Gailey, DDS '15, were married on Sept. 16, 2023, with many of their University at Buffalo dental alumni friends surrounding them.

Happy Birthday!
Stanley Shore, DDS '47, celebrated his 100th birthday in February 2024.





The University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association, along with the Engineering and Applied Sciences Alumni Association, hosted the **UB vs. Akron basketball game at the UB Alumni Arena** on Feb. 17, 2024. Over 150 alumni and friends gathered to cheer on the Bulls and enjoyed a pre-game courtside reception with food, drinks and conversation.



buffalo.peoplegrove.com

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

UB Fast 46

UB's Center for the Arts
Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024
5:30-8 p.m.

UB Alumni Achievement Awards

500 Pearl Street
Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024
6-9 p.m.

UB Homecoming Football and Tailgate

UB Stadium
Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024
Game Time: 3:30 p.m.

UB Alumni Reception during ADA SmileCon

New Orleans, LA
Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024
1-2:30 p.m.

Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting

Buffalo Convention Center
Nov. 6-8, 2024
BNDMeeting.com

Remember When Reception

Hyatt Regency Atrium
Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024
5:30-7 p.m.

Reunion Dinner Dance Gala and Awards

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



Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) is the National Dental Honor Society. It was founded in 1914 at Northwestern University "to recognize and promote high scholarship and ethical character among students of dentistry, and to honor those who have distinguished themselves in these qualities." The University at Buffalo chapter, Lambda Lambda, was established in 1937. Membership is limited to 12% of the class. The Saturn Club was the location for this year's Convocation and Induction Dinner on Thursday, May 2, 2024. Alumni, faculty and life members were honored that evening. Alumni membership was awarded to: Satyavrat Arya, Leena Garg, Ujwal Vinubhai Patel, Sabrina Blaskovic, Matthew Deng, Vanessa Finazzo, Pauline Kalta, Christopher Lepore, William Meyer, Ryan McQuillen, Waseem Mir, Kayla Schwartz, Zachary Weinberger and Sung Yoon. Faculty membership was awarded to Elizabeth Kapral, DDS '13, and Lucila Piasecki, DDS '22. Life membership was given to H. Sonny Spera, III, DDS '89. The new officers were also announced at the dinner. Outgoing president Yoly Gonzalez-Sucker, DDS '05, MS Oral Sci. '95, TMD Cert. '96, Perio. Cert. '02, led the program. Newly installed officers are president, Dr. Latifa Bairam, Pros. Cert. '81, MS Oral Sci. '84, vice-president, Dr. Rui Li, PhD Oral Bio. '15, Pros. Cert. '17, vice-president elect, Lisa Yerke, DDS '06, MS Oral Sci. '16, and secretary/treasurer, Andrew Privitera, DDS '96.

FOR
MORE
INFO

Sherry Szarowski
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716-829-6419

Bowling for smiles

Dental school bowling league among Buffalo's oldest

By Grove Potter

BUFFALO IS A BOWLING CITY with plenty of lanes and high-quality leagues, and one of the oldest leagues in the city is associated with the UB School of Dental Medicine.

The Buffalo City Dental Bowling League started 85 years ago, in 1939, and has operated continuously except for three years during World War II and two years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is a Buffalo thing. I've never heard of it at another dental school," said Joseph DeLuca, DDS '07, longtime league member and director of the Pre-Clinical Simulation Facility and clinical associate professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry. "There are about 100 people in the league every year. Every team can have 10 bowlers, and five of those bowlers will bowl against another team every week."

The teams include local dentists, people from dental supply companies like Ivoclar and laboratories, faculty from the dental school and one team of fourth-year dental students. The league runs from the beginning of September until the beginning of April at Transit Lanes and concludes with a big banquet.

"It's a handicapped league," Dr. DeLuca said.

"A bowler gets 95% of the pins that they have below a score of 195, up to 70 pins." That means less experienced bowlers can compete with more experienced competitors.

Bowlers in the league range from dental students to retired dentists in their late 80s and 90s. Dr. Paul Kendall from the Class of 1959 recently claimed the title of eldest at age 89, after two longtime bowlers in their 90s stepped aside.

"It's definitely social," Dr. Kendall said. "When it started in 1939, it was just dental students, instructors from the school, and folks from dental companies, laboratories and supply companies who sold equipment to the dental offices...It was mainly to bring the dental students and the faculty together."

Although the league has some members new to bowling, there are some experts, too.

"The league went for about 50 years until we had a 300 game," Dr. Kendall said. "And now within the last five years, we've had a 300 game bowled every year. Probably about 10 percent of the bowlers in the league would be considered elite bowlers. It's still mainly a social league."

The camaraderie of the league is comforting as well, Dr. DeLuca said.

"A couple of years ago, a group of students were having a rough time in their second year of dental school, and I told them to come to bowling. 'You can be part of this when you're a fourth year. You might hate school right now, but it's not necessarily indicative that you're going to hate your career. Come see a bunch of dentists relaxing and having fun,'" he said. "And they did."

Is there any shop talk during games? "I would say it happens," Dr. DeLuca said. "If I'm working on a difficult case, I'll bring it and get an opinion from an orthodontist



colleague while bowling. We have oral surgeons and endodontists in the league, too."

Years ago, Dr. Kendall remembers, the dental company reps gave great assistance to students in the league.

"When we graduated back in the '50s, most of the dentists started right out in their own practice, and it was tough. You didn't really know how to start a dental practice and how to operate the business. And the laboratories and dental supply companies were a tremendous help to the young graduates starting out."

That collegial, helpful spirit continues in the league today, he said.

"We are always sure to have a team from the dental school," Dr. Kendall said. "We pay their expenses. They are in dental school. They are not working, so they don't have any money." **UBD**



LEFT: NICOLE HINCHY, DDS '12, CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ORAL DIAGNOSTIC SCIENCES, PATRICIA HABERMAN, DDS '88, CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, RESTORATIVE, AND BROOKE KOLBER, DDS '17. **ABOVE:** D4 STUDENT BOWLERS, NOW CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATES. FROM LEFT: DANIEL CLARK, DDS '24, MATTHEW GIANGRECO, DDS '24, NATHAN SHIMER, DDS '24, LAYNE THURSTON, DDS '24, AND CLAIRE PRUNIER, DDS '24.

CELEBRATING STUDENT RESEARCH IN THE SDM

BY SARAH SMYKOWSKI



STUDENT EXCELLENCE IN

research and innovation was on display at the School of Dental Medicine's Student Research Day, held in the Center for the Arts on Feb. 23, 2024.

Over 70 students presented research on topics ranging from laser-assisted tooth extractions to the gut-microbiome's role in linking obesity to periodontal disease. Though the topics were as diverse as the fields they represented, they shared a common aim to advance oral health and dentistry.

Student Research Day, now in its 30th year, is an opportunity to celebrate research conducted by students at all stages. This year's event featured poster presentations by undergraduates, predoctoral students, advanced education students and postdoctoral fellows. Across the dozens of rows of presentations were as many unique perspectives and approaches to investigative discovery.

"This annual event affords us the opportunity to think differently about problems we have faced in the laboratory or clinic," said Marcelo Araujo, dean of the

School of Dental Medicine. "We can be inspired to apply what we've learned from our amazing students to our own research or clinical practice."

The event's keynote speaker was UB alumna J. Leslie Winston, DDS, PhD '95, vice president for global oral care measurement sciences and professional scientific relations at the Procter & Gamble Company. Winston spoke to students about career resiliency in dentistry and embracing unexpected opportunities, a mindset that's critical to professional success.

Her keynote address resonated with both aspects of the audience's identities: students on the precipice of their careers and researchers on the brink of new discoveries. "Dentistry brings tremendous opportunities," Winston remarked, "But you need to have the courage to try something you might not have thought was possible."

This event was a success thanks to the efforts and leadership of Dr. Lindsay Chakan, director, Office of Research Support, who created a memorable experience for the participants. [UBD](#)

2024 STUDENT RESEARCH DAY POSTER AWARDS

JUNIOR

UB UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

UB Pre-Dental Association Award | **Mariadela Demoura**

DENTAL STUDENTS

AADOCR/Dentsply Sirona SCADA* | **Zofia Rozmus**

Hinman Student Research Symposium* | **Emily Genovesi**

James English Award for Predoctoral Students | **William Meyer**

UB School of Dental Medicine, Department of Oral Biology Award | **Emma Chubb**

Excellence in Predoctoral Research Award | **Julia Ophals and LeAnn Richert**

Maryanne Mather Clinical Research Award (Predoc)* | **Parisa Tadi**

Frank A. Scannapieco Oral Biology Research Award | **Winifred Mei**

SENIOR

MASTER'S STUDENTS

James English Award for Advanced Education and/or MS Students | **Dam Soh**

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

James English Award for PhD Students | **Theresa Wrynn**

Ernest J. Hausmann Oral Biology PhD Research Award | **Dayron Leyva Rodriguez**

CLINICAL RESIDENTS

Russell J. Nisengard Advanced Programs Research Award | **Manavjot Kaur Gill**

Maryanne Mather Clinical Research Award* | **Omar Glover**

POSTDOCTORAL

CLINICAL FELLOWS, VOLUNTEER SCHOLARS, AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

UB School of Dental Medicine Award (Postdoc) | **Christian Ahearn**

ALL PRESENTERS

AADOCR Student Research Day Award* | **Rodwan Ibrahim**

* indicates travel award

STUDENT RESEARCHERS POSE BEFORE THE GALLERY OF POSTERS ON DISPLAY IN UB'S CENTER FOR THE ARTS. PHOTO BY CASS MCALLISTER

PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SELF-STUDY LECTURES

Find details & registration information online at BuffaloCE.org.

Pediatric Oral Radiology: From Radiation Safety to Lesions & CBCT

Juan F. Yepes, DDS, MD, MPH, MS, DrPH

Supporting Wholistic Wellness in Fulfilling Dental Patients' Needs

Sharlynn Daun-Barnett, LMSW

Oral Cancer Screening

Elizabeth Kapral, DDS & Nicole Hinchy, DDS

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

Kay Hickey, LDA

Infection Control for the Modern Dental Office

Alyssa Tzetzso, DDS

2 CE HRS/\$25

LIVE ZOOM LECTURE SERIES WEDNESDAYS, 6–8 P.M.

OCT. 2

Preserve, Protect and Restore: The Science Behind Vital Pulp Therapy

Mohini Ratakonda, BDS, MDS

OCT. 23

Classification of Periodontal/ Peri-implant Diseases and Conditions

Isolde Gina Rojas-Rudolph, DDS, PhD

OCT. 30

Irrigation and Obturation in Modern Endodontics

Monica Romero, DDS, MS

NOV. 20

How AI can Advance Periodontic Treatment

Nathalia Andrade, DDS, MSc, PhD

DEC. 4

Oral Pathology Diagnosis

Jose Tapia, DDS

Live Zoom meetings.

DENTIST/DOCTOR: \$45

RDH/DA: \$35

2 CE HRS

ACDE WEBINAR SERIES FALL 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 time. Presentations are available to meet every dental health care professional's schedule and interests.

Live Zoom sessions. Full details & registration are available at ubdentalumni.org. Fees range from \$49–\$69, based on number of credit hours.

Times are Eastern Standard Time.

AUGUST

13 8 P.M.

Exploring New Ways to Conserve Tooth Structure

Joel N. Janis, DDS

14 8 P.M.

Oral Health Care Considerations for Victims of Human Trafficking

Cara Copeland, DMD, MEd, MS; Alexandra Pierre-Bez, DMD, MEd, MWU CDMA

20 8 P.M.

Dental Sports Medicine: Managing Your Patient "Who is an Athlete"

John F. Wisniewski, DMD, MS

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 are available on the UB dental events course calendar at BuffaloCE.org.

24 11 A.M.

**Anterior Composite Restorations—
The Perfect Recipe**

Anwar Al-fayume, BDS, MDS

27 8 P.M.

Dental Pain, How does it happen?

Maha Ahmad, PhD

SEPTEMBER

6 11 A.M.

**Vital Pulp Therapy Using Direct Pulp
Caps in Permanent Teeth: An
Alternative to Root Canals?**

Sierra Nunn, DMD

9 8 P.M.

**The Use of Artificial Intelligence in
Dentistry**

Thomas T. Nguyen, DMD

13 11 A.M.

**Preparation for Dental Trauma
Management**

Douglas Kistler, DDS, MAGD

16 8 P.M.

**Diagnosis and Management of
Athletic-Related Traumatic Dental
Injuries**

Ibrahim Duqum, MS, BDS, FICD

19 8 P.M.

**Quick and Easy Update in Operative
Dentistry**

Augusto Robles, DDS, MS, DMD

24 8 P.M.

**Management of Traumatic Crown
Fractures With and Without Pulpal
Exposures in Children and Adults**

Ehsan Azadani, DDS, MS

OCTOBER

7 8 P.M.

**Latest Trends in Root Canal
Irrigation**

David E. Jaramillo, DDS

11 11 A.M.

**Lingualized Occlusion for
Complete Dentures**

Tanya Cook, BSc, DDS, MASc, MEd,
Dip Pros

29 8 P.M.

**An evidence-based perspective on
the efficacy, applications, and
clinicians' perception of clear
aligners' therapy**

Sarah Abu Arqub, BDS, MSc,
MDentSc

NOVEMBER

1 11 A.M.

**Fluorescence Enhanced Theragnosis
—an evidence-based reliable new
approach for Clinical Dentistry**

Liviu Steier, DDS, PhD

4 8 P.M.

Simplifying Adhesive Dentistry

Rafael Rocha Pacheco, DDS, MSc

7 8 P.M.

Dental Research—Who Cares?

Gerard Kugel, DMD, MS, PhD

9 11 A.M.

**Panoramic 2D Pathology and CBCT
3D Pathology**

Mel Mupparapu, DMD, MDS, Dipl.
ABOMR; Steven R. Singer, DDS

15 11 A.M.

**Which Medication Now? Consider-
ations for Dental Pain Management
and Navigating Substance Use
Disorders**

Kimberly Sanders, PharmD

17 11 A.M.

**Pack the Punch: Soft Tissue Biopsy
Technique for the General Dentist**

Khanh Trinh, DMD; Daria Vasilyeva,
DDS, PhD

19 8 P.M.

**Right Under (and Up) Our Noses...
And Evolving Before Our Eyes,
Emerging & Re-emerging Diseases**

Nancy Dewhirst, RDH, BSDH

DECEMBER

6 11 A.M.

**Updates from the University of
Minnesota—Dental-dedicated MRI**

Laurence Gaalaas, DDS, MS

13 11 A.M.

**The Use of Contemporary Ceramics
in Dental Implant Rehabilitation**

Radi Masri, DDS, MS, PhD

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**2025
CHAUTAUQUA
DENTAL
CONGRESS**

JUNE 25–26

Program details and
venue coming soon!



Annamarie Phalen
Associate Director,
Continuing Dental Education

ADA CERP® | Continuing Education
Recognition Program

UB*CDE is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. UB*CDE designates these activities for continuing education credits.

Updated 6/10/24. All information correct as of press time...UB CDE reserves the right to change tuition, dates, topics and/or speakers as necessary.

THE FINAL EDIT: A FAREWELL TO **DR. PAMELA JONES,** LONGTIME EDITOR OF *UB DENTIST*.

By Joseph Rumfola, DDS '02
Edited by Sarah Smykowski

IF YOU'VE ENJOYED READING *UB Dentist* magazine, you have Dr. Pamela Jones to thank. From her editorial eye to production skills, Dr. Jones's behind-the-scenes leadership created a publication that connected UB's dental medicine community across disciplines, generations and states. After 17 years and dozens of issues of *UB Dentist*, Dr. Jones is focusing on the "next issue" of her own story: retirement!

It's difficult to summarize Dr. Jones' long and varied career with the UB School of Dental Medicine. Arriving in Buffalo in 1979 as a UB student, she earned her PhD in 1985 as a mentee of Dr. Vijay Kumar and was hired by then-dean Dr. Louis Goldberg in 1993 as his assistant. In addition to her oversight of the *UB Dentist* magazine, she served in many roles: assistant to the dean, chief financial officer, assistant dean, and associate dean for advanced dental education. These experiences invested her with robust institutional knowledge, which she used to positively impact the school's success.



Dr. Jones became involved with *UB Dentist* when she began supervising Marilyn Sulzbach, who was the UB Dental Alumni Association's executive secretary in charge of publishing *The Dental Report*, the group's quarterly newsletter. In 2007, the Alumni Association and UB SDM joined to produce a larger publication: *UB Dentist*. Since then, the magazine has grown and evolved, becoming both a window into the present and a historical record of the past.

Dr. Jones reported that it was "great fun" to work with Sherry Szarowski, who is currently the association's executive director and BNDM coordinator, and the other members of the magazine's editorial board. "It's such a great creative outlet, and a great vehicle to reach out not only to alumni but others within Squire Hall," Dr. Jones said.

The *UB Dentist* editorial board will miss Dr. Jones, her guidance and mentorship. With mixed emotions, we say thank you for everything, good luck, and enjoy retirement! **UBD**

Genene Crofut, DDS '03, immediate past president of the UB Dental Alumni Association, joined Dr. Thikriat Al-Jewair and UB orthodontic residents at Holimont in February 2024 during the Erie County Dental Society Ski Day. Dr. Al-Jewair brings the residents to the event every year to learn how to ski. Dr. Crofut, an exceptional skier, enjoys giving lessons to the novice skiers.



LEFT TO RIGHT: ALIYYAH HAMIDUDDIN, ALAA ABDULLAH, GENENE CROFUT, LOJAYEN AL MUHAREB, JEFFREY AJAYI, OZGE COLAK AND YASMIN MOHAMED.

On March 14, 2024, over 50 alumni and friends joined University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine's dean, Marcelo W. B. Araujo, DDS, MS '99, PhD '03, and senior associate dean for research, Keith Kirkwood, DDS, PhD, for a reception in New Orleans. The reception took place during the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research meeting, the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research meeting, and the Canadian Association for Dental Research meeting. During the meeting, faculty, students, and

staff participated in numerous poster and oral presentations spanning topics from oral mucositis to Sjogren's disease and salivary proteomes. The school also participated as an exhibitor, promoting the advanced education programs and research core facilities with students and researchers from around the world.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Submit your class notes to **Sherry Szarowski** at ss287@buffalo.edu.

IN Memoriam

Fadi Ayoub, DDS '97, of Amherst, entered into rest on Jan. 28, 2023. Devoted father of Mario (April Kane) Ayoub and Elias Ayoub; cherished grandfather of Kellen Ayoub, also survived by relatives and friends.

Peter F. Bayer, DDS '74, age 84, passed away on Dec. 16, 2023. He was a precise, high-performing test engineer at Tyndall Air Force Base, FL, a perfectionist of an orthodontist, and founder of Bayer & Curtis Orthodontics, where his engineering and dentistry joined hands. Pete was active in local, state and national dental/orthodontic organizations. Mentoring and motivating his own family and many others were part of his driving forces: always to do your best, exceed expectations and never settle.

Gerald C. Benjamin, DDS '77, passed away on Jan. 6, 2024. Dr. Benjamin grew up in Laurelton, NY, and earned his bachelor's in history from UB in 1970 and DDS in 1977. He completed a Certificate of Proficiency in Esthetic Dentistry from UB in 2001. Gerald was proud of his contribution as the co-founder of the world's first esthetic center

within a dental school at UB in 1995. He was the first-place winner of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Smile Contest in San Antonio in 1999. He enjoyed mentoring younger dentists and was always willing to discuss techniques and offer assistance with difficult cases.

Anthony J. Benison, DDS, Ortho Cert. '63, age 90, passed away on Dec. 15, 2023. After graduating from St. John's High School in Worcester, MA, he earned a degree from the College of the Holy Cross in 1954 and continued on to Tufts Dental School in 1958. After dental school, he served in the U.S. Air Force in Ohio, then later in Reykjavik, Iceland. After an honorable discharge from the Air Force, he studied orthodontia at UB. In 1963, Anthony opened businesses in Worcester and Marlborough, where he practiced orthodontia for over 35 years.

Joseph E. Bernat, DDS '73, Pedo Cert. '75, Oral Sci. MS '83, passed away on May 1, 2024, at 76. Dr. Bernat was a well-respected pediatric dentist and was a chairperson of the University at

Buffalo pediatric dental department. He loved sharing his passion for boats and sailing with his family and friends.

Stanley H. Bruckheim, Jr., DDS '55, of West Chester, PA, passed away at age 93 on Jan. 7, 2023.

Richard A. Carroll, DDS '76, age 75, a North Syracuse native, fly-fisherman, community volunteer, and lover of all things Irish, passed away on April 6, 2024, at his home in PA. Dick graduated from UB's School of Dental Medicine in 1976. His undergraduate degree in pharmacology helped him work his way through dental school. He began his dental career in Augusta, ME, moved to Michigan, and returned to Central NY to establish his practice in 1983 in Chittenango. His wife, Nancy, was his front office manager for decades. Together, they raised three children and served various roles in their church and community.

Robert W. Conn, Jr., DDS '58, of Vero Beach, FL, passed away on Dec. 20, 2023. Born in Buffalo, he studied biology at UB and earned his DDS from UB's School of Dental Medicine in 1958. He was a member of

the National Dental Honor Society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon. He joined the U.S. Air Force as a dental officer in 1958 and was discharged in 1960 with the rank of captain. Duty stations included an airbase in Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada, and Springfield, MA. He practiced general dentistry with his father from 1960-62 until moving to Warren, PA, to join Warren Dental Arts (a group dental practice). In 1966, he accepted a staff position in the dental department of the Warren State Hospital. He was promoted to director of dental services in 1968. After retiring in 1989, he and his wife, Arlene, moved to Vero Beach. He was a retired Kiwanian with 40 years of perfect attendance and was actively involved in his church as a deacon and an elder.

Cendie R. Crawley, DMD, GP Cert. '96, age 60, of Troy, AL, passed away on Dec. 24, 2021. Dr. Crawley completed her dental residence program at UB for Certification in General Dentistry Practice in 1996. Dr. Crawley was certified by the Joint Commission of National Dental Examinations in 1996 and joined the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

IN Memoriam

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Service as a lieutenant junior grade officer, where she served until 2000. In 1997, the U.S. Surgeon General recommended Dr. Crawley for the Presidential Citation for Outstanding Service in the Reserve Dental Officer Program. Dr. Crawley received licenses to practice in TN, KY, VA, GA and IL. She owned a solo dental practice in Demorest, which she operated for over 20 years. She served in Jerusalem, Israel, as a practicing dentist for Jewish and Palestinian children from 2000–01 and continually did assignments on American Indian reservations throughout the United States.

James L. Donahue, DDS '55, age 94, passed away on Feb. 15, 2024, in Richmond, VA. He earned his DDS from UB in 1955. After two years as an Army captain in the Dental Corps at Ft. Lewis in Tacoma, WA, he and his wife, Cynthia, opened a dental office in St. James, NY. He became involved in civic service as a Nissequogue Village trustee, then mayor for two terms. In 1984, Dr. Donahue was joined in practice by his son James. He retired in 1997 after genuinely enjoying 40 years of private practice. He was one of the founding dental staff members of the St. Charles Dental Hospital Residency program in Port Jefferson, where he volunteered as an attending dentist and dental educator for over 40 years.

Carmen P. Fasulo, DDS '60, of Amsterdam, passed away on April 14, 2024, in Naples, FL. He was a graduate of St. Bonaventure University and UB's School of Dental Medicine. He started practicing in oral maxillofacial surgery in 1963 and was widely respected within the medical world. He started his own practice with his partner, Dr. Busino, who was like a brother through years of working together.

Carmen was a musical maestro, playing the accordion all the way to the Ted Mack show, "The Original Amateur Hour," a woodworking wizard, and above all, an impassioned educator to all whom he loved. His generosity knew no bounds, freely sharing his expertise without expecting anything in return, except the chance to make a life-saving impact with his knowledge.

Robert C. Geckler, DDS '61, of Lockport, NY, passed away peacefully on Dec. 31, 2023, following a short illness. A 1961 UB SDM graduate, Bob practiced dentistry in Lockport for over 50 years. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955–61. Later in life, Dr. Geckler took great joy in joining the faculty at UB, helping guide future dentists. In 2008, he was inducted into the prestigious Omicron Kappa Upsilon dental fraternity, and in 2016, UB conferred a certificate of teaching excellence of his distinguished clinical instruction. Dr. Geckler had a lifelong love of magic, performing as "Dr Bob." He was a member and past president of the Gene Gordon Ring 12 and a member of the Order of Merlin, past president of the Lockport Rotary, and recipient of a Paul Harris Fellow.

Lawrence J. Giangreco, DDS '60, passed away on Dec. 9, 2023. Larry was born in Rochester, NY, attended East High and graduated from the University of Rochester despite suffering a severe neck fracture in his first year, causing him to spend that year in traction and a half-body cast. After graduating from UB's School of Dental Medicine, he became a respected dentist in the Rochester community, practicing for 60 years, finally semi-retiring at age 87.

James Guttuso, DDS '58, age 90, passed away on March 18, 2024. James served in the U.S. Navy. He was an endodontist and dental professor at UB, and had a suc-

cessful private practice in Buffalo and South Florida. His love for teaching was lifelong and included an extended time period in Tokyo, Japan, teaching the art and science of endodontics at the University of Tokyo, and eventually becoming a professor at Nova Southeastern University. He was involved in many organizations, serving as president of the American Association of Endodontics, president of Il Circolo, Sicilian American Cultural Society, and eucharistic minister in the Catholic Church.

Norman A. "Doc" Hicks, DDS '72, a longtime resident of Coudersport, passed away on March 6, 2023, in Coudersport. Born in Canandaigua, NY, Doc was a graduate of Manlius Military Academy. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having served during the Korean War from 1949–52. He graduated from Oswego State Teacher's College and was employed as an industrial arts teacher for a few years. He continued his education at UB, where he earned his DDS in 1972. He had a practice in Dansville, NY, then moved to St. Mary's, PA, where he practiced until retirement in the 1990s. In retirement, Doc, along with his wife, relocated to Coudersport to be close to their church, the Gospel Tabernacle, where he was active in the men's prayer group.

Ronald S. Jung, DDS '57, age 91, of Buffalo, NY, and North Port, FL, passed away on Dec. 26, 2023. Ron was a U.S. Air Force veteran and attended UB, studying to become a dentist. He practiced dentistry in Buffalo for his entire career before a well-earned retirement to Florida. Ron was an avid tennis and racquetball player and loved long bike rides.

Roland G. Nentwich, DDS '74, passed away on Oct. 18, 2023, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. Dr. Nentwich received his DDS from UB and practiced as a dentist in Oxford, MA, for 16 years.

Mid-career, Dr. Nentwich expanded his knowledge in the dental sciences and returned to Buffalo, NY, with his family to pursue an orthodontic certificate from Eastman Dental at the University of Rochester. He then returned to central MA, where he cared for patients as an orthodontist for over 27 years in the communities of Shrewsbury and Holden. He treasured being a dentist and an orthodontist, often saying that providing orthodontic care to his patients gave his life purpose.

Joseph Pagliacci, DDS '85, of Tonawanda, NY, passed away on May 1, 2024. Dr. Pagliacci was a goaltender at Western Michigan University and graduated from the UB School of Dental Medicine in 1985. He had a practice in the Buffalo for over 35 years and was an avid fisherman.

Ralph A. Schmauss, DDS '67, of Springville, NY, passed away on Aug. 5, 2023, at age 81. He was the owner and operator of Ralph A. Schmauss DDS Family Dentistry in Springville, and was also a U.S. Army veteran who served from 1967–69. He enjoyed watching the Buffalo Bills, gardening, working on DIY projects and attending the St. Aloysius Church in Springville.

John R. "Doc" Vona, Jr., DDS '61, of Silver Creek, passed away on March 14, 2024. He completed dental school at UB in 1961 and immediately entered the U.S. Army Reserve dental division at Fort Riley, KS. He had a thriving dental practice for over 45 years and continued to work well into his mid-80s for the Resource Center in Dunkirk, where he retired after working 61 years as an area dentist. He prided himself on building relationships and patient care with a splash of humor. He played on UB's basketball and baseball teams, for which he was recently inducted into the WNY Baseball Hall of Fame.

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