

# ORTHO ENGAGE

December 2025



## A Message From the Dean

Greetings, ortho alumni, residents, faculty and staff!

This past year has marked significant progress and achievement for both our school and your department. It is my pleasure to share highlights of everything we've been able to accomplish together.

In September 2024, we began an extensive renovation project to modernize and expand the orthodontics clinic, the first major renovation to the clinic since it was constructed in the mid-80s. However, the project represents far more than a physical transformation. Designed with students and patients in mind, the new clinic reflects our commitment to enhanced educational and training experiences and excellent patient care, which will reinforce our program's leadership in the country.

In addition to the support provided by the university and the School of Dental Medicine, this project was made possible through the generosity of our alumni and friends of the department. For that, I want to thank you all for the great support!

Through a successful fundraising campaign, the new clinic will be named in honor of Dr. C. Brian Preston, former chair of the department. His leadership continues to shape the program, and this recognition is a meaningful tribute to his legacy and vision.

As we look toward the future, we take pride in the department's leadership in the digital dentistry space. The school continues to support the department's evolution through investments in new intraoral scanners and digital appliance bonding software. Combined with the new state-of-the-art clinic, the department will be empowered to pursue innovation while keeping patients at the center of care.

Our accomplishments over the last year reflect our shared commitment to excellence. Our success would not have been possible without your support. Thank you for being part of this exciting next chapter!

Warm Regards,  
Marcelo Araujo, DDS, MS '99, PhD '03  
Dean, School of Dental Medicine



## Message From the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the second issue of our annual orthodontic newsletter, Ortho Engage.

Much of our focus last year was on preparing for our seven-year accreditation review by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. I am pleased to share that our advanced education and predoctoral orthodontic programs successfully completed their site visit in September.

This September also marked our inaugural UB ORTHO Alumni Symposium, a new annual event that brings alumni back to share their expertise with current residents. The symposium coincided with a visit from 14 orthodontists from Japan, who toured the department and participated in the program, fostering valuable international collaboration and cultural exchange.

We are excited to welcome several new faculty members. Dr. Chris Murphy, a UConn graduate in both dentistry and orthodontics, joins us as a volunteer clinical assistant professor, enhancing our early treatment and surgical orthodontics curricula. We are also thrilled to welcome back Dr. Fatemah Husain, UB ortho alum and craniofacial orthodontist, who will lead our craniofacial orthodontics course. In the coming months, Dr. Kelly Micheletti Cerqueira will join as a full-time clinical assistant professor, with more details on her role to follow.

Looking ahead, a major milestone is the transition to the new Dr. C. Brian Preston Orthodontic Clinic, with construction expected to be completed in January 2026. The modernized facility will feature 20 treatment chairs, two consult rooms, a dedicated resident room, and state-of-the-art dental units, supporting both education and patient care. We anticipate beginning the 2026 spring semester in this space and look forward to celebrating its official opening.

These achievements are possible thanks to the steadfast support of the university, the School of Dental Medicine, and our alumni and donors. We are deeply grateful for their partnership in enhancing education and elevating care for the WNY community. Thank you for your ongoing support, engagement and commitment as we enter another year of growth, innovation and achievement.

Sincerely,  
Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS, MBA, MSc, MS, FRCD(C)  
Department Chair



# Meet Our Residents

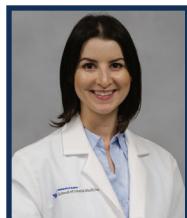
## Class of 2028



### Olivia D'Angelo

I was born and raised in metro Detroit, Michigan, and earned my dental degree from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. Before dental school, I played Division I lacrosse at Jacksonville University; staying active has always been an important part of my life. Outside of dentistry, painting

has always been a creative outlet for me. If I am not traveling or working out, I am painting! My passion for orthodontics began as a middle schooler. I was so eager to get braces that after weeks of begging, my mom surprised me one morning by taking me to the orthodontist instead of school. That experience sparked a genuine excitement for the field, one I look forward to carrying into my patient care. My goal after graduation is to own a practice geared toward treating families who are equally excited to see a better version of themselves.



### Raluca-Stefania Georgescu

Hello everyone! I'm Raluca-Stefania Georgescu, originally from Romania. I graduated from dental school in 2019, then completed a three-year pediatric dentistry residency, practicing in the field until moving to Buffalo to pursue orthodontics. I am excited and grateful for this new journey, as

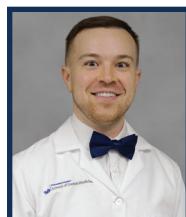
becoming an orthodontist has always been a dream. During dental school, I co-founded a nonprofit focused on dental hygiene education for children in underserved communities, and I hope to continue this legacy throughout my career. Outside of school, I love reading, doing Pilates, spending time with my partner and our two cats (our furry children!). Looking ahead, I am committed to building my future orthodontics career in the United States, where I hope to dedicate my time not only to clinical practice but also to teaching and giving back to both the community and the profession.



### Andrew Halverson

Hello! My name is Andrew Halverson and I am from Minneapolis, Minnesota. I am excited to be in Buffalo to experience the East Coast and learn the specialty of orthodontics. My journey to Buffalo began in 2014 by attending The University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire for my bachelor's

in 2014. From there, I attended the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry for my master's in dental therapy until 2017. Enticed by a "winter-less" life, I moved to Southern California and attended Western University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine to earn my Doctor of Dental Medicine degree in May 2025. I enjoy traveling the country and the world. If I am not traveling, I like spending time with my family. I have three nephews that keep me very entertained and up to date on current trends. In my free time, I love to read, run long distances (I have completed one full marathon, 15 half marathons, 8 10K's, and 17 5K's), and bake cheesecakes. My inspiration for orthodontics came from having braces myself. I saw the positive impact a healthy and aligned smile can have on your life. I am eager to acquire knowledge, skills and experiences here at UB to take with me into the world to bring about transformative smiles to my future patients. My goal is to end up in private practice, become involved with my community, and remain involved with academia to help inspire the next generation of orthodontists!



### Brett Turek

My name is Brett Turek, and I am president of the first-year resident class. I was born and raised in Northwest Indiana and attended Purdue University where I earned a B.S. in Brain and Behavioral Sciences. I earned my DDS from Indiana University School of Dentistry and then completed a

General Practice Residency in Chicago, Illinois. Afterwards I practiced general dentistry in Chicago and eventually began teaching part-time at Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine - Illinois. My hobbies include staying active at the gym, volleyball, tennis, hiking, going to the beach or a pool and traveling. I am looking forward to eating and drinking my way through Buffalo and Western New York. I am excited to continue my training at UB and learn to be the best orthodontist I can be, and I look forward to helping my patients achieve lasting form, function and esthetics with their smiles.

## Class of 2026



**Jeffrey Emmanuel Ajayi**  
Howard University College of Dentistry



**Tim French**  
Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine



**Yasmin Mohamed**  
University of Sharjah College of Dental Medicine



**Lojayen Al Muhareb**  
Kuwait University



**Ryan Prevost**  
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine



**Brooke Talsania**  
University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine

## Class of 2027



**Pedro Andrade**  
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine



**Emma Chubb**  
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine



**Kyle Hastings**  
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine



**Ahmad Al-Kandari**  
Kuwait University



**Jared Layton**  
University at Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine



**Nicholas Servadio**  
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine

## Resident Awards

**American Association of Orthodontists Foundation Research Aid Award**  
Alaa Abdullah

**Journal of Clinical Orthodontics Student of the Year Award – Finalist**  
Gabriel Valencia

**Greater Buffalo Association of Orthodontists Resident Award**  
Alaa Abdullah (1st)  
Ashley Jarkowski (2nd)  
Adrianna Simeone (3rd)

**Dr. William Proffit Resident Scholar Award, 3rd Place**  
Gabriel Valencia

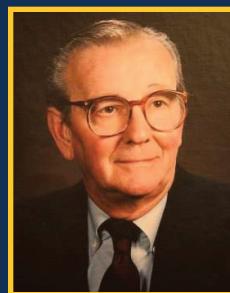
**William W. Feagans Clinical Postgraduate Scholarship**  
Alaa Abdullah

**WNY Dental Group Award**  
Taylor Toothman Sulkowski

**AAO Resident Champion**  
David Do

**NESO Cup Award**  
Lojayen Al Muhareb

**Dr. John J. Cunat Resident Research Travel Award**  
Taylor Toothman Sulkowski  
Gabriel Valencia



The Dr. John J. Cunat Scholarship fund was established in 2021 in honor of Dr. Cunat, a former chair of the University at Buffalo Department of Orthodontics. The Resident Research Travel Award, funded by this scholarship, provides recognition and financial support to our residents who demonstrate academic and research excellence.

# Scholarly Activity

## Meet our faculty!

### Thikriat Al-Jewair

L.B. Badgero  
Endowed Chair, Assoc.  
Professor, Director  
of the Advanced  
Education Program in  
Orthodontics

### Ashish Gurav

Assistant Professor,  
Clinic Director

### Stephen Warunek

Clinical Assistant  
Professor; Research  
Director

### Robert Aszkler

Clinical Assistant  
Professor

### Stephen Aszkler

Clinical Assistant  
Professor

### Rodney Littlejohn

Clinical Assistant  
Professor

### David Covell

Professor

### Rebecca Falsafi

Clinical Assistant  
Professor

## Publications

1. Talsania B, French T, Mohamed Y, Al-Muhareb L, Ajay J, Al-Jewair T, Akyalcin S. (September 2025) Residents' journal review: articles from current orthodontic literature, Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop -Clinical Companion. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xaor.2025.09.001>
2. Al-Jewair T, Zylalaj A, Poursattar Bejehmir A (August 2025). Orthodontic considerations for managing patients with Functional Movement Disorders: A narrative review and clinical guide. *Front. Dent. Med.* 7:6:1628802. doi: 10.3389/fdmed.2025.1628802.
3. Al alwami S, Tanberg W, Monegro A, Covell Jr D, Martinot JB, Al-Jewair (July 2025). Assessment of craniofacial growth pattern relative to respiratory mandibular movement and sleep characteristics: A pilot study. *Eur J Dent.* 19(3):768-76.
4. Al-Kandari A, Andrade P, Al-Jewair T (June 2025). AI-Driven nasoalveolar molding design for cleft patients may be a promising but evolving approach. *J Evid Based Dent Pract.* 25(2):102131.
5. Layton J, Hastings K, Al-Jewair T (June 2025). Long-term oral appliance therapy for obstructive sleep apnea may lead to more consistent dentoalveolar than skeletal changes. *J Evid Based Dent Pract.* 25(2):102130.
6. Husain F, Riccardi J, Alletto L, Stellrecht E, Poursattar Bejehmir A, Al-Jewair T (May 2025). Effectiveness and accuracy of clear aligners in treatment of deep bite: a systematic review. *Clin Oral Investig.* 21:29(6):306.
7. Gramuglia V, Makowka S, Tanberg W, Zhou A, Sharma A, Al-Jewair T (March 2025). Effect of Quaternary Ammonium-Based antimicrobial coating on the mechanical properties and bacterial adhesion to Gummatal archwire. *Int J Dent.* 11:2025:8157347. doi: 10.1155/ijod/8157347.
8. Al-Jewair T, Paurazes S (March 2025). Impact of the Integrated National Board Dental Examination on resident selection: Assessing its utility and optimal timing in advanced dental education program. *J Dent Edu.* 3:e13867. doi: 10.1002/jdd.13867.
9. Koch R, Monegro A, Tanberg W, Waruek S, Al-Jewair T (January 2025). Prevalence and risks of sleep bruxism in children and adolescents presenting for orthodontic treatment. *Eur J Orthod.* 47(1):cjaf002.
10. Saleh A, Monegro A, Warunek S, Al-Jewair T. Automated mandibular movement monitoring during rapid palatal expansion: an exploratory study, in: Bianchi, J, Karanth D, Kim-Berman H (Eds.). *Artificial Intelligence: What Should Clinicians Know? Craniofacial Growth Series*, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 2025;60:1-12.
11. Hamiduddin A, Warunek S, Miller SL, Glenn G. (December 2024) Diagnostic challenge: Case 1, Part 2. *J Clin Orthod.* 58(12):778-782.
12. Hamiduddin A, Warunek S. (November 2024) Diagnostic Challenge: Case #1 Part 1. *J Clin Orthod.* 58(11):690-692.

# Scholarly Activity

## Abstracts

1. Riccardi J, Scrier C, Farsaii A, Tanberg W, Al-Jewair T. "Craniofacial predictors of residual OSA: An AI-enhanced CBCT study". *J Dent Res* 104 (Spec Iss A): 0328, 2025.
2. Schrier C, Bialkowski J, Blaskovic A, Patel D, Al-Jewair T. "Evaluating the Impact of an Orthodontic Interest Group on Pre-Doctoral Students". *J Dent Educ* 2025. PO-031.
3. Toothman Sulkowski T, Makowka S, Kripfgans OD, Tanberg W, Warunek, S, Al-Jewair T. "Accuracy of ultrasound in detecting white spot lesions". 2025 Poster presented at SUNY at Buffalo SDM Student Research Day.
4. Schrier C, Bialkowski J, Patel D, Blaskovic A, Tanberg W, Al-Jewair T. "Pathways to orthodontic residency: evaluating the impact of an orthodontic interest group on pre-doctoral students". 2025 Poster presented at SUNY at Buffalo SDM Student Research Day.
5. Alleto L, Caraballo IV A1, Leyva Rodriguez DM, Visser MB, Al-Jewair T. "Cytotoxicity assessment of direct-printed and thermoformed clear aligner materials". 2025 Poster presented at SUNY at Buffalo SDM Student Research Day.
6. Zylalaj A, Poursattar A, Al-Jewair T. "Orthodontic considerations for managing patients with functional movement". 2025 Poster presented at SUNY at Buffalo SDM Student Research Day.
7. Riccardi J, Scrier C, Farsaii A, Tanberg W, Al-Jewair T. "Craniofacial predictors of residual OSA: An AI-enhanced CBCT study". 2025 Poster presented at SUNY at Buffalo SDM Student Research Day.
8. Solada N, Patel D, Makowka S, Tanberg W, Al-Jewair T. "Effects of experimental cleaning methods on the color stability of 3d-printed and thermoformed aligners". 2025 Poster presented at SUNY at Buffalo SDM Student Research Day.
9. Choo Cong D, Shepard T, Kit-Wells Chin D, Stephan E, Thompson T, Al-Jewair T. "Non-academic attributes in advanced dental residency applications: A scoping review of assessment methods". 2025 Poster presented at SUNY at Buffalo SDM Student Research Day.
10. Colak O, Tanberg W, Hamanaka R, Elnagar M, Al-Jewair T. "Artificial Intelligence-assisted clinical decision model for managing retained primary second molars with no permanent successors". 2024 Poster presented at SUNY at Buffalo SDM Student Research Day.
11. Al-Jewair T, Koch R, Monegro A, Warunek S. Sleep bruxism unveiled: understanding assessment and risks in children and adolescents. *Sleep Med* 115: 73, 2024. DOI: 10.1016/j.sleep.2023.11.233.
12. Abdullah A, Allen A, Ortega I, Tanberg W, Makowka S, Gurav A. "Long-term Stability of 3D Printed Orthodontic Models Under Various Storage Conditions". AAO Annual Meeting Philadelphia, PA, April 2025.
13. Abdullah A, Allen A, Ortega I, Tanberg W, Makowka S, Gurav A. "Durability of 3D Orthodontic Models: Effects of Time and Storage". AADOCR Annual Meeting and Exhibition, New York, NY, March 2025.
14. Jarvis E, Baker J, Tanberg W, Makowka S, Gurav A. "Evaluation of Fracture Resistance and Effect of Torquing Moment on 3D-Printed Orthodontic Brackets". AADOCR Annual Meeting and Exhibition, New York, NY, March 2025.
15. Baker J, Makowka S, Covell D, Gurav A. "Dimensional Accuracy of in-House 3D Printed Orthodontic Brackets". Northeastern Society of Orthodontists Annual Meeting, Hartford, CT, November 2024.

## Meet our faculty!



**Fatemah Husain**  
Clinical Assistant Professor



**Graham Gardner**  
Clinical Assistant Professor



**Ming-Yu Chen**  
Visiting Professor



**Christopher Murphy**  
Clinical Assistant Professor



**Ney Paredes**  
Clinical Assistant Professor



**John Tibbets**  
Clinical Assistant Professor



**Brian Willison**  
Lecturer

## Meet our staff!

**Victoria Balazs**  
Program Coordinator

**Hanin Faisal**  
Dental Assistant

**Lisa Ceglia**  
Receptionist

**Nancy Merkle**  
Dental Assistant

**Kaitlyn Dudziak**  
Dental Assistant

**Becky Parton**  
Receptionist



# Meet Our Adjunct Faculty

## Graham Gardner, DDS, CERT



Dr. Graham Gardner is an esteemed partner at GLO Orthodontics in Richmond, Virginia. After graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Dental Medicine, he completed his orthodontics certification at New York University, where he learned his passion for teaching. Along with his private practice and responsibilities at UB, he teaches at VCU, inspiring the next generation of dental professionals. He lectures internationally about Invisalign and shares his contributions to developing their new technology. In his spare time, he likes to travel to Petra, Jordan, and the Outer Banks, NC. He has three children and enjoys writing children's books!

## Fatemah Husain, BDM, MS, FRCDC, ABO-Board Certified



Dr. Fatemah Husain is board-certified craniofacial orthodontist and a Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada, with a special interest in the treatment of complex craniofacial & surgical cases. She received both of her Bachelor of Medical Sciences and dental degree with honors from Kuwait University. Pursuing further training, she completed her residency in orthodontics and obtained a Master of Science in Orthodontics at UB. Dr. Husain also undertook a fellowship in Craniofacial and Special Needs Orthodontics at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, one of the busiest craniofacial centers in the US. She is currently an assistant professor at her alma mater, Kuwait University, and UB.

## Christopher Murphy, DMD, MDS



Dr. Chris Murphy graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the Providence College liberal arts honors program and earned his dental degree from the University of Connecticut. He continued his specialty training in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics at the University of Connecticut with a focus on optimal force delivery, methods of accelerating tooth movement & biomechanics. He is a clinical faculty member & lecturer in developmental biology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine Advanced Graduate Education Program in Orthodontics & is excited to join the UBSDM's Department of Orthodontics.

## Ney Paredes, DDS, MS



Dr. Paredes was born and raised in Peru, where he completed his dental degree and earned his first orthodontic certificate in 2013. After moving to the United States, he attended the Orthodontics Residency and Master's Program at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), receiving an additional three years of advanced orthodontic training. After graduation, Dr. Paredes relocated to Houston, where he practiced for more than three years before opening a private practice with his wife earlier this year in Katy, Texas. Outside of private practice, Dr. Paredes enjoys teaching, traveling, playing soccer and cooking.

## John Tibbets, DDS, MS



Dr. Tibbets is a 1979 UB graduate with a BA in biology, a 1992 graduate of the UBSDM and a 1994 graduate of the UBSDM's orthodontics program. Prior to attending dental school, he was a chemistry, physics and biology instructor for nine years at The Salisbury School in CT and The Nichols School in Buffalo. He was married to Betsey Watson, whom he met during his first year as a UB undergrad, for 43 years prior to her death in March 2022. Dr. Tibbets has three fantastic children, Evan, Leah, and Shannon, and eight wonderful grandchildren, ranging in age from 4-13. His passion, following a 30-year career as a private practice orthodontist in Williamsville and Buffalo, is to travel and golf wherever and whenever he can. Dr. Tibbets enjoys traveling to see his family and has golfed in all 50 states.

## Brian Willison, CDT



Brian Willison joined Great Lakes Dental Technologies in 1981 as a lab technician. In 1989, after extensive training, he became an instructor and obtained National Board Certification in the field of orthodontics. Brian joined UB in 1997 as a faculty member and laboratory lecturer in the UBSDM's Department of Orthodontics. He has also taught at many universities nationwide. He has published a variety of articles in industry journals and lectures at numerous seminars worldwide. Brian co-authored the book, "Practical Guide to Orthodontic Appliances...A Comprehensive Resource from Theory to Fabrication". Brian has also been involved in many patents in the dental field.

# A Year in Review

## Tweed Study Course

Our second-year residents participated in the Tweed Study Course in Tucson, AZ, from Sept. 13-21, 2025. This course introduces residents to the Tweed philosophy enhancing their diagnostic and treatment planning skills, while teaching advanced orthodontic wire bending and biomechanics.



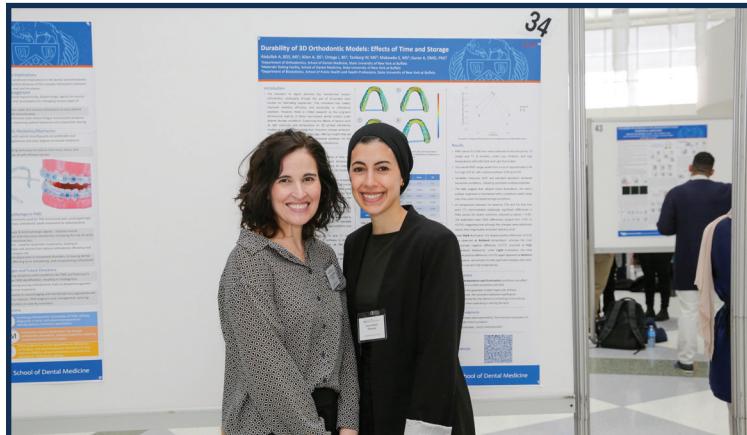
## AAO Professional Advocacy Conference

In March 2025, Dr. Ryan Prevost, a third-year resident and class president, participated in the AAO Professional Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. Ryan advocated on issues relevant to orthodontic residents, such as student loan debt and issues related to small business development to reform legislation for the betterment of the orthodontic profession.



## UBSDM Student Research Day

The 2025 UBSDM Student Research Day featured the Class of 2025 residents presenting their groundbreaking orthodontic research. Their studies promise to advance the field with topics ranging from novel methods for white spot lesion detection to long-term stability of 3D-printed models. Each project reflects the dedication to further shaping our understanding of orthodontics.



## GBAO/UB Ortho Case Review Symposium

The Greater Buffalo Association of Orthodontists (GBAO), led by Dr. Shaheen Youssef (UB Orthodontics '20), hosted the annual case presentation competition for the third-year UB orthodontics residents. The event took place on April 9, 2025, at the historic Richardson Hotel in Buffalo.

All six senior residents showcased their clinical expertise through structured oral presentations, each highlighting a completed orthodontic case that they treated during their time in the program. The presentations followed the rigorous standards of the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO), requiring clear articulation of clinical findings, diagnoses, treatment rationale and the mechanics used to achieve their treatment goals.

A panel of local GBAO member orthodontists evaluated each presentation and finished case using ABO certification criteria. Every resident delivered a commendable presentation, and the GBAO evaluators expressed high praise for the overall quality of the cases. Three residents were recognized for exceptional case presentations:

- 1st Place: Dr. Alaa Abdullah
- 2nd Place: Dr. Ashley Jarkowski
- 3rd Place: Dr. Adrianna Simeone

The event served not only as a competition, but also as a celebratory moment to welcome the third-year residents into the professional orthodontic community. Congratulations to all the graduating residents and this year's winners!

## NESO Cup Poster Competition

Drs. Lojayan Al Muhareb and Yasmin Mohamed, third-year residents, and Dr. Husain, adjunct faculty, participated in the NESO Cup Poster Competition held in Bonita Springs, FL, from Nov. 14-15, 2025. Residents from various programs participated showcasing original research in the field of orthodontics. Congratulations to Lojayan on winning the 2025 NESO Cup!



# A Year in Review

## 2025 Annual Moyers Symposium

Dr. Ashish Gurav delivered a presentation at the Moyers Pre-Symposium held at the University of Michigan in March 2025. The presentation was entitled "3D Printed Orthodontic Brackets." The presentation was well received.



## Erie County Dental Society's CE Ski Trip

On Feb. 14, 2025, our department took part in the Erie County Dental Society's ski-themed continuing education event featuring a seminar entitled "Fun things to do in dentistry when not skiing" by Dr. Joshua Grant, a former army prosthodontist. The presentation centered on the

interdisciplinary management of civilian and armed forces prosthodontic needs. In addition to the insightful sessions, attendees had the opportunity to rejuvenate themselves with skiing breaks on the slopes.



## Ortho Screening Day

On Jan. 25, 2025, we proudly hosted our fifth annual outreach event for the Western New York community, ORTHO Screening Day. This year, we collaborated with the UB Department of Pediatrics and Community Dentistry to provide free screenings to evaluate the orthodontic and dental treatment needs of patients in WNY. Since its inception, ORTHO Screening Day has served nearly 550 patients, making a significant impact on community oral health and esthetics.



Follow us on  
Instagram!



@UB\_Ortho

## Department of Orthodontics Alumni Symposium



The inaugural University at Buffalo Department of Orthodontics Alumni Symposium took place on Sept. 22, 2025. This annual event is designed to strengthen the bond between our alumni and the department by creating a platform to share knowledge, expertise and insights that will enrich our residents' education and provide them with real-work perspectives. This year's symposium was especially exciting, as it coincided with a visit from a delegation of approximately 14 private-practice orthodontists from Japan. Over the course of their visit, the group toured our department, participated in the symposium, and gained insight into the U.S. orthodontic practice environment.

### Speakers:

#### Jeff Kozlowski, DDS (UB Ortho '98)

Comprehensive Phase I Treatment with Passive Self-ligating Appliances

#### Utako Tochigi, DDS

Surgery or Non-Surgery? Toward an Era of Patient Choice

#### Brandon Comella, DDS, MS (UB Ortho '04)

Complex Crowding: Arch Development is the Key to Success

#### Jun Kawamura, DDS, PhD

Orthodontic Biomechanics by using Three-Dimensional Digital Simulation



# A Year in Review

## AAO Annual Session

UB Orthodontics was well represented at the AAO Annual Session in Philadelphia. A variety of activities were held over four days:

### Friday, May 3:

- Faculty attended the Society of Educators meeting to discuss updates in orthodontic education. Dr. Al-Jewair participated in a panel about resident education.
- Dr. Al-Jewair served on the opening AAO House of Delegates.

### Saturday, May 4:

- Dr. Gabriel Valencia participated in the William Proffit Resident Competition and finished in third place in the Basic Science Category.
- Dr. Al-Jewair presented her research about novel technologies for improved recognition of sleep-disordered breathing in orthodontic practice.
- Dr. Nicholas Servadio and two UB predoctoral students, Chloe Schrier and Anthony Blaskovic, displayed their e-poster, entitled "Pathways to Orthodontic Residency: Evaluating the Impact of an Orthodontic Interest Group on Pre-Doctoral Students."
- Faculty, residents and alumni attended the UB Ortho Alumni reception. The event was attended by around 60 alumni, residents, faculty and guests. Thank you to everyone who attended. We had a fantastic time hearing about the achievements of our alumni and sharing wonderful stories and reflections on the past.

### Sunday, May 5:

- Drs. Brooke Talsania and Yasmin Mohamed moderated oral sessions.
- Three UB predoctoral students and prospective orthodontic residents, Joe Riccardi, Chloe Schrier, and Ariana Farsii, presented a Table Clinic titled "Craniofacial Predictors for Residual Obstructive Sleep Apnea: Retrospective Study Using AI-Enhanced CBCT."

### Monday, May 6:

- Dr. Al-Jewair served on the closing AAO House of Delegates.

We look forward to seeing you all next year in Orlando!



# 2025 Graduation

## June 7, 2025



On Saturday, June 7, 2025, we commemorated the graduation of the Class of 2025. The graduation celebration symbolized the dedication, perseverance, and countless hours of hard work that each resident invested in their journey toward becoming orthodontists. As they crossed the threshold from residents to fully-fledged professionals, the atmosphere was filled with a sense of accomplishment and pride.

The gathering brought together families, current residents, faculty members, staff, and friends of the department, creating a vibrant tapestry of support and camaraderie. Amid the applause and heartfelt speeches, memories were shared, highlighting the challenges overcome and the growth experienced by each resident throughout their residency. The event served not only as a celebration, but also as a reminder of the bonds forged among the Class of 2025.

# Alumni News



## Alan Zhou, '22

I graduated from UB Orthodontics in 2022. Right after I graduated, I moved back to my hometown of Brooklyn, NY. Here in Brooklyn, I started to work in private practice for a few offices. During my time working at other practices, I was developing my own orthodontic clinic. In January 2025, I opened up Level Orthodontics in Williamsburg, the same neighborhood where I grew up in Brooklyn. I am currently focusing on growing Level Orthodontics and delivering high-quality orthodontics to the people of New York City.



## Eva-Maria Moll, '12

After graduating top of my class in dentistry from the University of Ulm, Germany, I began my orthodontic training and was later accepted into the postgraduate program at the UBSDM. Completing the program in 2012 with an MSc in Orthodontics

and becoming a Royal Fellow of the RCDC were pivotal milestones. The years in Buffalo shaped my approach profoundly – through precision, international mentorship, and lasting friendships. Since 2015, I've run my own fully digital orthodontic practice at Lake Constance, integrating advanced techniques such as 3D-printed transfer trays, in-house mini-screw guides, and TMJ-centered diagnostics to reduce relapse. Sharing knowledge is key to me; since 2016, I've been mentoring licensed dentists undergoing additional orthodontic training, an experience that has enriched my own growth as well. Outside of work, my husband and our two sons (8 and 6) inspire me daily to stay curious and grounded. I'm grateful to SUNY and everyone who supported my journey – both professionally and personally.



## Shaheen Youssef, '20

I currently serve as the President of Greater Buffalo Association of Orthodontists. I also continue to stay involved in UB affairs by serving as my class representative for the UB Dental Alumni Association. It's been a year since I purchased my office, LB Orthodontics, in East Amherst, NY. I am working to grow the practice and look forward to rebranding by next year. We'll be posting updates on our new Instagram account, so please give us a follow @LB\_ortho.



## In Memoriam: Carl Gugino

Carl Gugino passed away on Monday, Aug. 4, 2025, at the age of 96. He was a pioneering orthodontist who graduated from the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine in 1961 and focused on holistic dentistry and individualized care. He co-founded Great Lakes Orthodontic Laboratory in 1969, a lab that is still widely used today across the Western New York area. His contributions to the field of orthodontics are long-standing, and the Department of Orthodontics is keeping his family and friends in our thoughts.

## Class Anniversaries

### 1975

David K. Anderson  
Gary P. Hussion  
Glenwood E. Morris  
Jeffrey R. Norkin  
Gregory C. Woeppel

### 1985

Charles C. DeRoo  
Louis S. Gallo  
Marlin S. Salmon  
John R. Shaw  
Mark E. Thomson  
Stephen P. Warunek

### 1995

Kevin J. Ison  
Marsha E. Jordan-Holloway  
Mark A. Paciorek  
Diana J. Riordan  
Christopher H. Tom

### 2005

Kamal Al-Fakiani  
Brian G. Chrzan  
Blaine R. Couser  
Elissa Eaton  
Gideon Fersztman  
Bryan L. Garner  
Fadi F. Saleh  
Michael Tzotzis

### 2015

Nour A. Allahham  
Hamad S. Alqahtani  
David Dayan  
Cassandra Gandia  
David Lazzara  
John Palmer

# Recognizing Excellence

We are pleased to announce that the 2025 recipient of the S. Aszkler Distinguished Service Award is Dr. Timothy Tremont.

Dr. Tremont, a distinguished alumnus, serves as professor and section head of orthodontics in the Department of Advanced Specialty Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston. He also holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery.

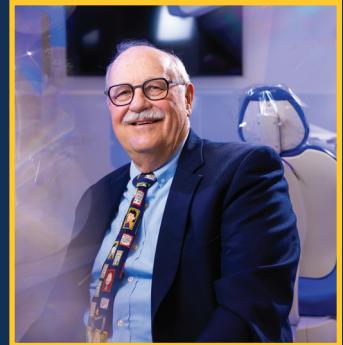
He earned his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and completed his orthodontic residency and Master of Science degree at the University at Buffalo.



Dr. Timothy Tremont

Dr. Tremont's scholarly work focuses on diagnosis, treatment planning, and clinical strategies in orthodontics. He is an accomplished lecturer who has presented nationally and internationally and regularly teaches courses on topics related to orthodontics and orthognathic surgery. He currently serves as a Director of the American Board of Orthodontics, representing the Southern Association of Orthodontists.

We extend our sincere congratulations to Dr. Tremont on this well-deserved recognition of his professional excellence and leadership.



Dr. Stephen Aszkler

**Award Criteria:** The S. Aszkler Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to a current faculty member or alumni who meets the following criteria:

- The recipient must have demonstrated significant service to the UB orthodontic department, the specialty of orthodontics or the community.
- The recipient should have made notable contributions to the enhancement of education within the UB orthodontics department or the broader orthodontic community.
- The recipient must have shown a strong commitment to serving people, whether through volunteer work, community outreach initiatives, or other forms of service.

**Nominations are being accepted.**

**Nomination Process:** Nominations for the award are solicited from faculty and alumni between Jan. 1–March 31. Nominees will be reviewed by an ad-hoc committee comprised of the department chair, two faculty members, two alumni members and one resident. The committee will carefully consider each nominee's qualifications and contributions before selecting the recipient of the award. Recipients will be announced in June.

**Nomination documents:** A 500-word statement detailing the candidate's accomplishments and the candidate's CV.

## Orthodontic Resident Education Fund

We invite you to support our residents by contributing to a new Orthodontic Resident Education Fund. This fund will support resident travel expenses for attending the AAO Annual Session and other continuing education events, as well as contribute to their MS research endeavors.

For contributions to the fund, please contact Neil Dengler at [ndengler@buffalo.edu](mailto:ndengler@buffalo.edu). Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to establish a sustainable resource for this fund. Your generosity will directly enhance the educational opportunities and professional development of our residents.



# Looking Ahead

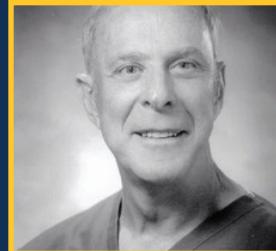
## Clinic Renovations

We are pleased to share that renovations of the Dr. C. Brian Preston Orthodontic Clinic are nearing completion. This long-anticipated transformation marks an exciting milestone for our department and the broader university community.

The renovation represents a major investment in the future of orthodontic education, patient care, and community engagement. The upgraded facility will provide state-of-the-art clinical spaces designed to enhance residents' clinical training, improve the learning environment, and expand the quality of care and services we provide to our patients throughout Western New York.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all donors whose generous support has made this project possible. Your contributions have allowed us to name six dental operatories and four additional rooms, each reflecting the spirit of collaboration and commitment that defines our program.

Please watch for an invitation to join us at the official opening ceremony, where we will celebrate this remarkable achievement together.



## Produced by

**Dr. Thikriat Al-Jewair**  
Chair and Program Director  
Department of Orthodontics

**Victoria Balazs**  
Program Coordinator  
Department of Orthodontics

**Cass McAllister**  
Marketing and Digital Media Specialist  
Office of Marketing and Communication

**Dr. Nicholas Servadio**  
2nd-Year Resident  
Department of Orthodontics