



UB's SDM Launches New Mentor Program for Early/Mid- Career Professionals



[Debra Stamm, PhD, Director of Advanced Education Services and Director of STEER Program](#)

In 2022, UB School of Dental Medicine's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion launched a climate survey to measure different aspects of inclusion at UB SDM. Results showed a high percentage of SDM faculty and staff lack adequate professional development opportunities and resources.

At a national level, high turnover in the dental profession has created a substantial intellectual cost to institutions and diminished workplace morale. In addition, to address alarming oral health inequities among our patients and to reduce the disparities in advancement for underrepresented professionals, the American Dental Education Association and the National Institute for Health have issued calls to increase and sustain efforts to recruit, retain and advance women and individuals, who are historically underrepresented by race/ethnicity in the dental profession.

In response, the SDM EDI Office partnered with UB's Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs to design a program that will meet the needs of SDM's professionals.

The school is pleased to announce the official launch of **Support, Training, Early/Mid-career Enhancement and Retention (STEER)**. STEER is a formal mentoring program that establishes intentional and formal mentoring relationships for early/mid-career professionals at UB SDM.

The STEER program will be administered in three phases: 1) recruitment and training for a cohort of senior-level mentors, 2) coordination of a formal mentorship program for early/mid-career dental faculty, and 3) coordination of a formal mentorship program for early/mid-career staff.

STEER curriculum has been designed to support professional development of dental professionals. Participants will utilize tools to self-assess and develop career plans. Core curriculum will focus on clinical practice, leadership, professional development, promotion and tenure, teaching, research and service with presentations designed around the needs and interests of each individual.

STEER will be led by Debra Stamm, PhD, Director of the Office of Advanced Education Services.

"The STEER program is uniquely designed to meet the needs of dental professionals at SDM," states Stamm. "With its strategic curriculum and networking opportunities, STEER is an ideal catalyst for faculty as they strive

to reach their career aspirations."

The STEER program is one way in which the school can support professional development and celebrate career accomplishments for all members of the UB SDM community.

To learn more about the STEER program, please visit the [STEER webpage](#).

SDM's 2023 Match Day!



On Monday, January 23, 2023, the DDS Class of 2023 gathered in person to celebrate Match Day, when dental students learn where they will train as residents after graduation. It's an exciting time for our students as they continue on to the next leg of their dental journey!

"Our SDM class of 2023 will head out to advanced education programs all across the country," remarked Mary Bush, Associate Dean of Student Affairs. "The success achieved by the class of 2022 continues a tradition of UB students as many of our D4 students were able to successfully gain residency at their first or second choice. The strength of our students, and our program, is reflected in this impressive accomplishment and I am proud of the overall excellence our students bring to the profession. Congratulations to all!"

Please see this webpage for examples of where our Class of 2023 will be heading after they graduate in May: <https://dental.buffalo.edu/education/dds-program/dds-program/doctor-of-dental-surgery--dds-/after-you-graduate.html>

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Students, Faculty and Staff Celebrate 2023 Lunar New Year Celebration



Members of the Asian Dental Student Organization holding the Lunar New Year Mural, signed by all the guests. From left to right: Isabel Yang, '26, Anusha Atique, '24, Hamza Syed, '25, Michelle Chen, '23, Matthew Deng, '24

UBSDM's Asian Dental Student Organization hosted a Lunar New Year Celebration on Friday, Feb. 3 in Harriman Ballroom, located on UB's South Campus.

Lunar New Year marks the first new moon of the lunisolar calendar, traditionally followed by many East Asian countries including China, South Korea, and Vietnam. In China - Chinese New Year or the Spring Festival (春节). In South Korea - Korean Lunar New Year or Seollal (설날). In Vietnam - Tết or Tết Nguyên Đán. In China, Lunar New Year 2023 began on January 22 and lasts until February 5, ending with the Lantern Festival on the last day of celebrations.

Traditions include bright red lanterns to represent vitality and prosperity, red and gold banners with New Year messages of good luck, dragon dances, lots of food, and firecrackers. In the Chinese and Korean zodiac, 2023 is the year of the rabbit. In the Vietnamese zodiac, 2023 is the year of the cat. Guests participated in various activity stations to learn about lunar new year customs and traditions such as creating kirigami paper wall cuttings of the Chinese character "spring" (春), a chopsticks game, signing a lunar new year mural, and receiving lucky red envelopes. Guests who completed all of the activity stations were entered into a raffle to win lucky bamboo plants or amigurumi plushies.

Traditional music was played and food was catered by Eastern Pearl Restaurant with the significance of each food in relation to lunar new year explained. Many thanks to everyone who helped organize and help prepare and to Student Affairs for sponsoring the event.

We hoped that everyone learned something new about Lunar New Year and enjoyed the event!

[Click here to view photos.](#)

If you have any news you would like to share, please contact Kelli at natale@buffalo.edu.

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