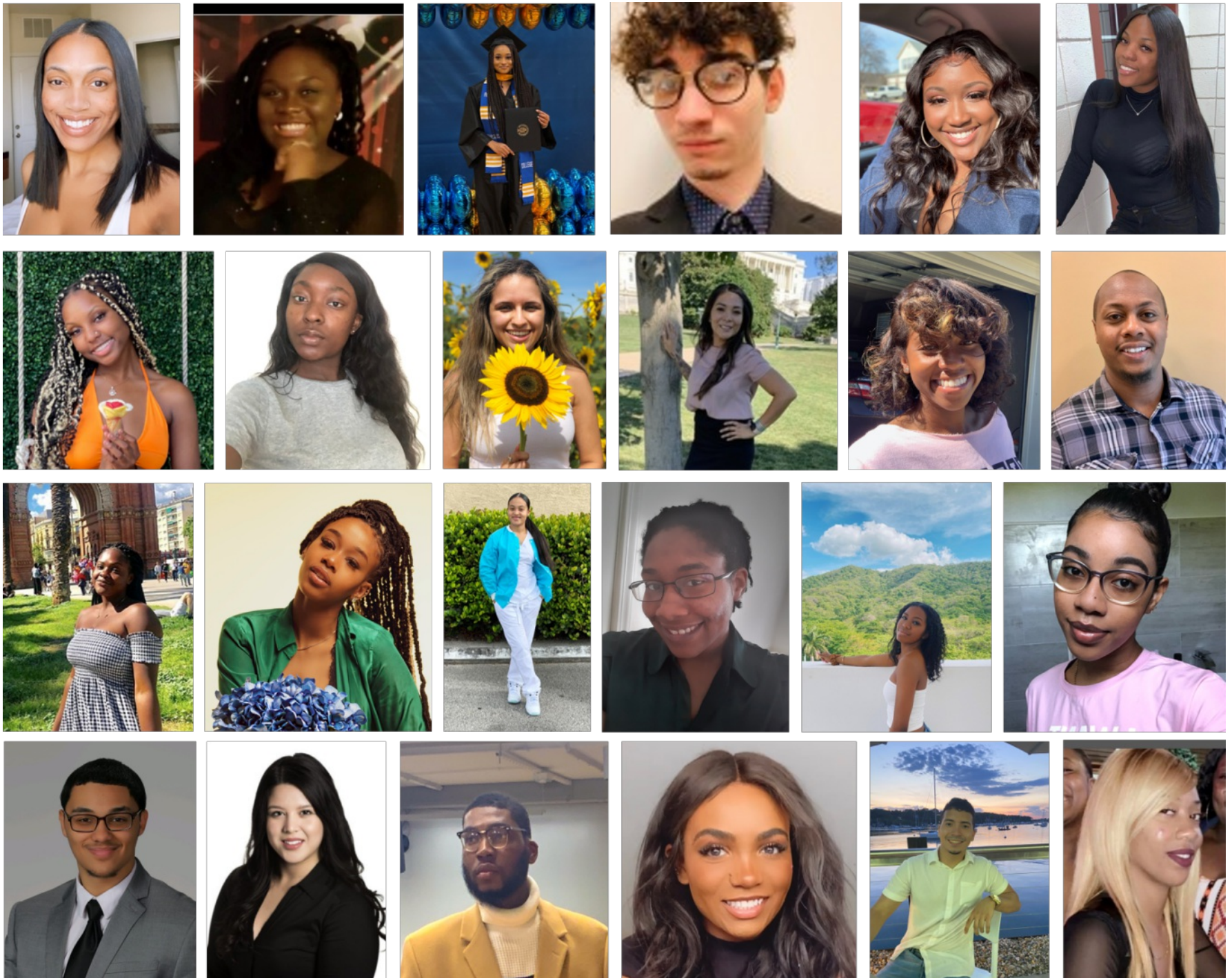




UB School of Dental Medicine Accepts First Class to Pipeline Program Designed to Increase Diversity in Dentistry



2021 Class of Destination Dental School Program

The School of Dental Medicine has welcomed the first cohort of 24 students to the Destination Dental School program, a new initiative that aims to remove barriers to careers in dentistry for underrepresented students.

The free, eight-week program, which is open to underrepresented undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students nationwide, drew participants from 14 states, stretching from New York to Florida to California.

Destination Dental School will provide participants with an understanding of the day-to-day life of a dentist and dental student, help strengthen their dental school applications, and develop their skills as researchers.

By increasing the enrollment of underrepresented students in dental schools, the program will help address the shortage of dentists of color. Latino, African American and Native American people make up around 5%, 4%

and 1% of dentists, respectively, despite representing a larger percentage of the U.S. population, according to the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute.

Pipeline programs, however, have proven to be an effective solution, increasing enrollment of underrepresented students in dental schools by 54%, according to a report by the Journal of the American Dental Association.

"The racial and ethnic diversity of the oral health care workforce remains disturbingly insufficient to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population in the United States," said program director Wendell Carmona, volunteer adjunct professor in the School of Dental Medicine and managing clinical director for Aspen Dental in Niagara Falls.

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SDM's 2021 Sebastian G. Ciancio Chautauqua Dental Congress



Pictured l-r: Annamarie Phalen, Associate Director, Continuing Education and Renee Woolford, Continuing Education Assistant



Dr. Sebastian G. Ciancio

The Sebastian G. Ciancio Chautauqua Dental Congress was held June 30-July 2, 2021 at the Chautauqua Suites Hotel and Expo Center in Mayville, N.Y.

Over 90 private practice dental professionals attended the 3 days of CE lectures as well as Mrs. Marilyn Ciancio and her family along with 30 family friends who attended the Friday morning renaming ceremony and dedication in memory of Dr. Sebastian G. Ciancio.

Featured speakers included Chet Gary, DDS JD: **Legal 'Pot'pourri: CBD, Vaping, eRisk and Teledentistry**, Violet Harasthy, DDS, PhD: **Halitosis, Toothpastes, Mouthrinses...A Potpourri of Dental Health Related Topics** and Mia L. Geisinger, DDS, MS: **Achieving Ideal Smile Esthetics: From Mona Lisa to Instagram**.

The Dental Congress was renamed after Sebastian G. Ciancio, one of the world's leading figures in periodontology and pharmacology, and a dedicated UB faculty member for more than 50 years, who passed away unexpectedly in October, 2020.

Ciancio was a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and the immediate past chair of the Department of Periodontology and Endodontics, a role he filled for 35 years.

He was widely known for his research in the treatment of periodontal disease. His studies examined the effects that oral hygiene devices, such as toothbrushes and dental floss, and chemical agents, such as toothpaste and mouthwashes, have on gum disease.

Ciancio joined the School of Dental Medicine in 1964 as an instructor in periodontology. In addition to his long career in the dental school, he also served as a clinical associate professor in the UB Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, and as a consultant for the Buffalo Veterans Administration Medical Center and Erie County Medical Center.

He founded the Chautauqua Dental Congress, a forum for continuing dental education in Western New York, and the publication Dentistry Today named him one of the nation's leading lecturers in the area of continuing dental education.



The Ciancio family attended the special ceremony renaming the Dental Congress to the *Sebastian G. Ciancio Chautauqua Dental Congress*.

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

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