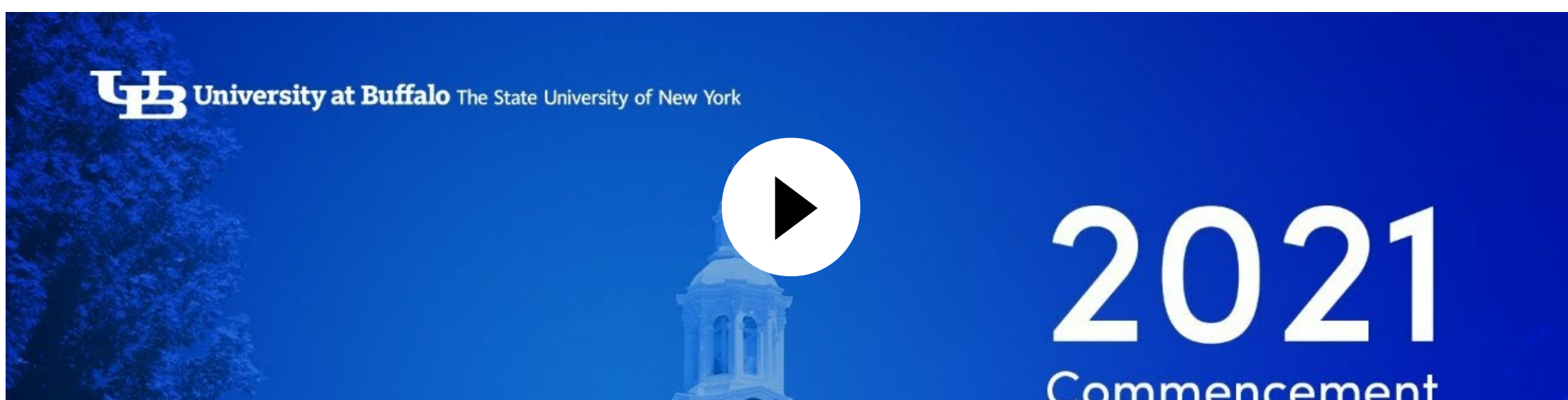




2021 School of Dental Medicine's Commencement Ceremony

The 127th Annual School of Dental Medicine Commencement was held on Friday, May 7th at the UB Stadium, located on the North Campus. It was also streamed live. Please click below to view the ceremony.



2021 Faculty and Staff Awardees



Dr. Jose Luis Tapia, Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences

2021 Educator of the Year

The Educator of the Year is chosen by the class, and is the individual to whom the Yearbook is dedicated. This person will also carry the mace at commencement, and will give a brief address to the class.

Jose Luis Tapia, DDS, MS

"It is truly an honor to be recognized as the Educator of the Year by the Class of 2021, a talented and amazing Class," states Dr. Tapia. "I will be forever grateful for the privilege of participating in their education and journey into the dental profession."



Dr. Latifa Bairam, Clinical Associate Professor, Senior Group Leader, Department of Restorative Dentistry

The Richard A. Powell Award

This award is presented annually to a full or part time faculty member who, in the considered judgment of faculty and students, is an outstanding dental educator. This individual must be an inspired teacher who promotes in his/her students, the concept of "Let each become all he is capable of being". The recipient of this award demonstrates superior knowledge of a particular discipline, is able to communicate effectively and conveys compassion for his/her students. The awardee appreciates differences in individual students and works with each to realize his/her full potential.

Latifa Bairam, DDS, MS



Dr. Mary A. Bush, Associate Dean for Student, Community & Professional Initiatives, Office of Student Affairs / Admissions

The William M. Feagans Award

The William M. Feagans Award was established by the Dental Student Association. The nominated staff or faculty member is elected annually by the current senior class. Dr. William M. Feagans was dean of the School of Dental Medicine from 1970 to 1993, and like Dr. Feagans, the recipient shall have shown to students a concern that encompasses the finest aspects of academic dentistry, while balancing the challenges of "real life" dentistry and student life.

Mary A. Bush, DDS

The Charles S. Lipani Award

This award is presented infrequently to a faculty or staff member, who is chosen by the faculty of the School of Dental Medicine, to recognize outstanding contribution to the School, the faculty or the dental profession.

SDM's Frank Scannapieco Named SUNY Distinguished Professor



Dr. Frank A. Scannapieco, Associate Dean for Faculty and Professional Development, Chair, Distinguished Professor, Department of Oral Biology

School of Dental Medicine's Frank Scannapieco has been named SUNY Distinguished Professor, the highest rank in the SUNY system.

He was appointed to the distinguished professor rank by the SUNY Board of Trustees at its April meeting.

The rank of distinguished professor is an order above full professorship and has three co-equal designations: distinguished professor, distinguished service professor and distinguished teaching professor.

Scannapieco was named Distinguished Professor in recognition of his international prominence and distinguished reputation within his field. According to SUNY, "this distinction is attained through significant contributions to the research literature or through artistic performance or achievement in the case of the arts. The candidate's work must be of such character that the individual's presence will tend to elevate the standards of scholarship of colleagues both within and beyond these persons' academic fields."

Frank A. Scannapieco, chair of the Department of Oral Biology and associate dean for faculty and professional development in the School of Dental Medicine, is an internationally recognized scholar in the field of oral biology. His research focuses on the mechanisms of dental plaque formation and their implications on health and disease, the interactions between saliva and bacteria, and the relationships between oral and systematic disease. Among his many important research contributions is his demonstration of the association between oral and respiratory infections.

A faculty member in the UB dental school for more than 30 years, Scannapieco has received more than \$13 million in grant funding, mostly from the National Institutes of Health, and has published nearly 200 research articles, books and book chapters.

He is a fellow of the American Association for Dental Research and has received numerous awards, including the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, the William J. Gies Award for Achievement from the American Dental Education Association and the 2019 Research in Oral Biology Award from the International Association for Dental Research.

Scannapieco received a doctorate in dental medicine and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Connecticut, a doctorate in oral biology from UB and a master's degree in biology from Northeastern University.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Scannapieco on receiving this prestigious appointment.

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

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