

SDM Shout Out

Weekly News Updates for SDM Faculty, Staff and Students

SDM's Dr. Mary Bush Receives Prestigious Award



Dr. Mary Bush

University at Buffalo forensic dentist Mary Bush has received the 2021 Reidar F. Sognaes Award of Excellence in Forensic Odontology from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). She is the first woman to receive the honor.

The annual award – named in memory of Reidar F. Sognaes, a distinguished forensic scientist and scholar of oral pathology – recognizes an individual who has made significant achievements and contributions to forensic odontology.

Bush, DDS, associate dean for student, community and professional initiatives and associate professor of restorative dentistry in the UB School of Dental Medicine, was honored virtually during the AAFS 73rd Annual Scientific Meeting on February 15.

“To win this distinguished award from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the Odontology section, is a humbling experience,” says Bush. “And to be the first woman to receive this recognition is truly an honor.”

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ASDA Sustainability Club Receives UB's 2021 SLICE Award



Award for Sustainability Excellence by a Department or Cross-Function Team: UB's American Student Dental Association's Sustainability Club, in recognition of the club's collaboration and support of reduction, reuse and recycling of dental-specific equipment and supplies within the clinics at the School of Dental Medicine, including [surgical mask, N95 and KN95 respirator recycling bins for dental clinics](#).

UB's American Student Dental Association (ASDA) Sustainability Club was nominated for this award by Matthew Deck, director of clinical operations, and Matt Blum, director of student affairs, both at the dental school. Deck and Blum highlighted the following accomplishments:

"The ASDA Sustainability Club presented to the D1 (first-year) class regarding environmental sustainability in pre-clinic, giving them many tips to integrate into their education. They have also taken the environmental mantra of "reduce-reuse-recycle" to heart. The club is currently working closely with supply representatives to reduce the unnecessary purchase of dental materials; constructing a tooth hand-me-down program for students to encourage the reuse of hundreds of plastic teeth purchased annually; and has joined forces with UB dental administration to introduce TerraCycle Zero Waste Mask recycling bins to our school."

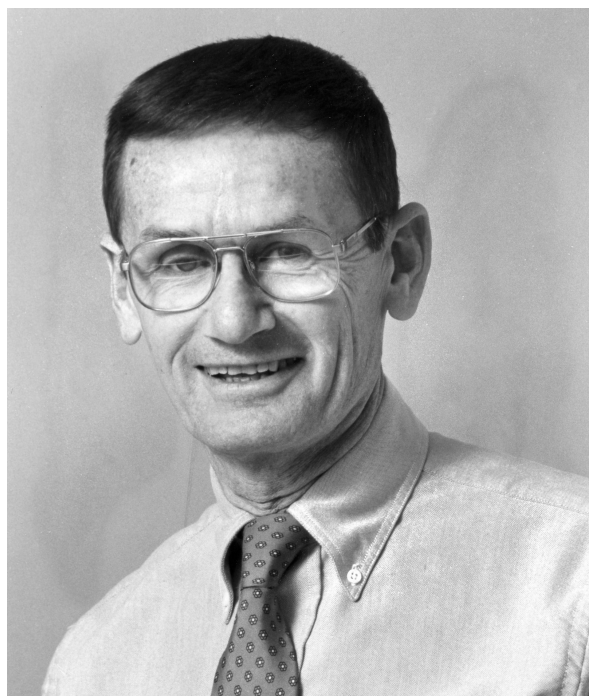
The club also collaborated with a local small business, "Life is Succulent," to raise over \$300 to support new recycling efforts. They have also sponsored an Earth Day plant sale and are in the process of planning the first "ASDA Sustainability Amazing Race," where teams of students will travel around Buffalo to complete sustainable tasks. To accomplish all this in one year during a pandemic is extraordinary and worthy of honoring."

Sydney Finster, '22, chair of the ASDA Sustainability Club states "This award means so much to me because it's not just today that matters but it's our future. Our efforts now could make a lasting change." She continues, "these initiatives have been on my mind for a long time; it has been so rewarding to see them accomplished this year. We have worked so hard to make a difference and create awareness on our campus. Our thanks to Matt Deck and Matt Blum for helping us achieve all of our goals this semester! We couldn't have done it without them. This past year has definitely been one for the books!"

This important work does much to advance sustainability initiatives and the university greatly appreciates these efforts.

Congratulations to all!

The Dr. Alan J. Gross Excellence in Teaching Awards



Dr. Alan J. Gross

The Dr. Alan J. Gross Teaching Awards are given by the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine in recognition of excellence in teaching. The recipients are nominated and selected by the dental students in *second, third and fourth year classes*.

Class of 2021, Dr. Alan J. Gross Excellence in Teaching Award
Rui Li, DDS, PhD
Jose Luis Tapia, DDS

Class of 2022, Dr. Alan J. Gross Excellence in Teaching Award
Dana M. Keblawi, DDS, MS
Jose Luis Tapia, DDS

Class of 2023, Dr. Alan J. Gross Excellence in Teaching Award
David H. Brown, DDS

Alan J. Gross graduated from the University of Buffalo School of Dentistry in 1952. Following a one-year general practice residency at the former E.J. Memorial Hospital, he began private dental practice for, what was to become, a period of 44 years. In the mid-1960's Dr. Gross was a part-time Clinical Instructor of Operative Dentistry at the dental school. He was continuously associated with the school since 1979, when he returned to pursue an M.S. Degree in the Oral Sciences Graduate Program. The M.S. Degree was conferred in 1983. In 1997, he sold his dental practice and became a full-time faculty member at the dental school.

Dr. Gross' intense interest in general dentistry, clinical research and dental education was further manifested when he enrolled in the Ph.D. Program in Educational Psychology at UB; the degree was conferred in 1996. The topic of his dissertation, "Dental Education: Through the Students' Eyes," reflected his strong interest in quality of student life issues. It is noteworthy that Dr. Gross consistently applied this concern for students in all his interactions with them. For example, he learned students' names and something about them as individuals. These positive attributes were not unnoticed or unappreciated. Dr. Gross was twice named "Educator of the Year" by Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity, received the William M. Feagans Award for outstanding teaching and had the School of Dental Medicine's 1990 Yearbook dedicated to him for being the "Educator of the Year." In 1998, he received the Dental Alumni Humanitarian Award for his commitment, concern for others, leadership and character. In addition, The Alan J. Gross Student Resource Center was established in his honor.

In addition to his primary teaching activities, Dr. Gross served as Director of Faculty Development at the dental school. He developed and taught a course for new faculty and a special course on teaching skills for all dental faculty.

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

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