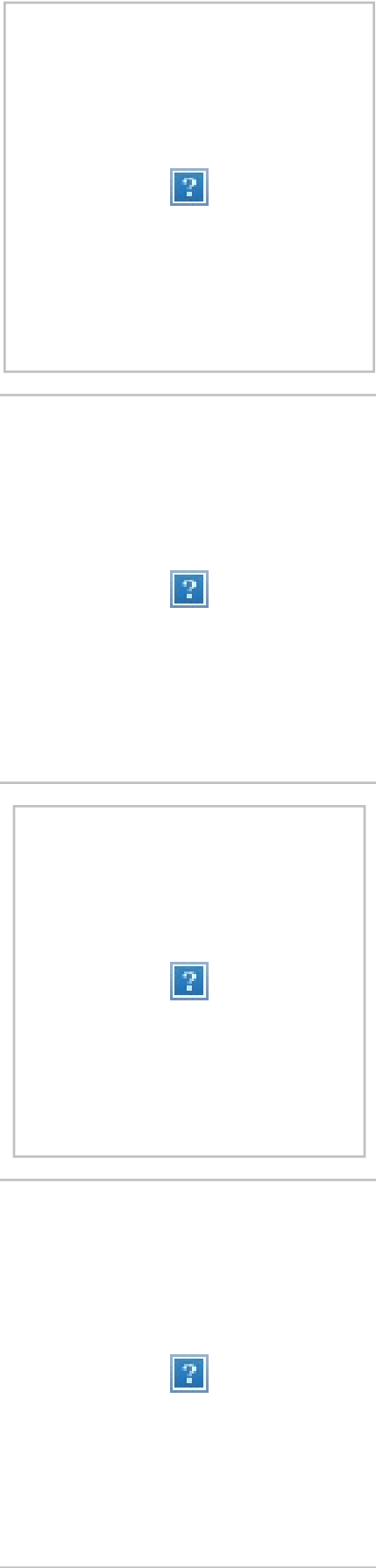




Transitions in SDM Administration



[Drs. Donald Antonson, Joseph Gambacorta, Eugena Stephan and Thikriat Al-Jewair](#)

In early September, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Donald Antonson, left UBSDM for a warmer climate and to be closer to his family, and joined the faculty of NOVA Southeastern University in Clearwater Florida. After 11 plus years at UB he remarked in an email to all, "It has

been a joy for me to be here and watch our growth and your pride. We watched students graduate and head-off to their professional lives; we nailed accreditation with flying colors. We are a school that is willing to change. We have moved up in national and international status that shows our peers and ourselves that we have succeeded."

Taking on a new role as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Faculty Development is Dr. Joseph Gambacorta. Gambacorta is an alumnus of the UBSDM graduating with his DDS in 1993 and serving as a faculty member for over 19 years. For the past nine years he has served as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, a position he feels has helped him prepare for this new position. "The clinic dean job is one of those jobs that really encompasses the entire school. You get to know everybody." Now he plans to get everyone talking. "You're not going to really move things forward if you can't talk to people. You've got to get together." He said open dialogue among stakeholders is critical for the school to continue to turn out dentists with sophisticated skills, compassion and the ability to continue learning.

Another UB alumnus, Dr. Eugena Stephan, Clinical Associate Professor in Restorative Dentistry, accepted the position of Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. Her DMD is from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and her certificate in Prosthodontics (1992) and PhD in Oral Biology (1998) are from UB. She brings much experience to the role having recently served as Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs and a Predoctoral Clinical Group Director as part of her 27 years of teaching experience. Students appreciate her dedication to teaching having named her the 2020 Educator of the Year. She works closely with the axiUm Support Team and Leads Team to continue to evolve our clinic management system. "I hope that the years I have spent teaching in the UB School of Dental Medicine clinics will help me in my new position. Delivering excellent care to our patients and an outstanding education for our students will always be my focus," states Dr. Stephan. "It is an exciting time for the school as the renovation projects move forward to maintain a state of the art facility which complements our missions of providing oral health care services and education."

Earlier this year, Dr. Thikriat Al-Jewair was named Assistant Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion replacing Dr. Dana Keblawi. Dr. Al-Jewair is Associate Professor of Orthodontics and a Diplomat of the American Board of Orthodontics and a Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada in Orthodontics and Public Health. She also directs the Advanced Education Program in Orthodontics. She has over 65 peer-reviewed publications on orthodontic treatment outcomes, adult and pediatric sleep-disordered breathing, and evidence-based orthodontics.

In describing her vision for the future, she writes, "In recent years, the UBSDM has made significant progress in improving equity, diversity, and inclusion programming and measures. I am eager to work with like-minded colleagues to foster direct conversations about EDI and build an inclusive culture for all SDM community members. I envision a school where equity, diversity, and inclusion guide our decision-making, policies, daily practices, patient care, resource allocation, and culture. One of my core values is supporting the recruitment, retention, and advancement of underrepresented groups in dental education; to this end, I am endeavoring to address the disproportionately small (i.e., relative to patient populations) number of educators and students of color."

They are all busy getting acclimated to their new roles and welcome your thoughts.

SDM Students Host New Halloween Event in the WNY Community



SDM dental students host first annual "Inclusive Trunk or Treat"

On Sunday, October 31st, UBSDM students participated in the First Annual "Inclusive Trunk or Treat" event hosted by AADMD and BOCA! UBSDM students celebrated Halloween with the local community this year, all while spreading the message of inclusion and acceptance of people who have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs).

Students decorated their cars and dressed up in Halloween costumes while they handed out candy, toothbrushes, and played fun Halloween activities with children and their families. SDM students were excited to see faculty and their children in attendance as well. A big highlight of the event was the performance from a talented local musician, Sujeet Desai, who is a self-advocate for individuals with Down Syndrome!



Members of AADMD and BOCA gather in costumes to celebrate Halloween 2021

CHICKEN BBQ

DINNER

CARRY-OUT OR DRIVE-THRU

(Pre-sale ONLY! Please order by 3PM on Friday, Nov 5th)*

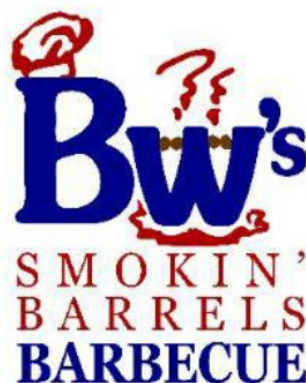
TUESDAY, NOV 9th, 2021

4-6PM

Pick up in front of Squire Hall, South Campus

- 1/2 BW's BBQ Chicken
- Potato salad
- Coleslaw
- Roll with butter

\$12⁰⁰



*Payment options: Cash or check, contact your Department Campaign Liaison
Credit/Debit purchases, see the following link:

<https://uwbec.unitedwavepledge.org/comm/SpecialEventRegPledge.jsp?Org=23093&Campaign=645127>

For questions please contact:

Theresa (829-3720, tkruse@buffalo.edu) or Pam (829-6417, pcjones@buffalo.edu)

This fundraiser benefits UB Employees Campaign for the Community

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

CONNECT WITH US



