

# SDM Shout Out

Weekly News Updates for SDM Faculty, Staff and Students

## SDM's Dr. Rodney Littlejohn Honored for 40 Years of Service by Area Chamber of Commerce



Pictured in the group photo for the 40th Anniversary: Front Row, L to R (kneeling): Brandy Gallagher, Katrina Goff, Mary Beth Costantino Back Row, L to R (standing): Seneca County Chamber of Commerce President, Jeff Shipley; Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce President, Miranda Odell; LBO Staff: Stacey Kent, Ashley Breese, Mari Sandroni, Dr. Liz Barbi, Dr. Rod Littlejohn, Kassie Michaels, Brielle Jodeit, Alida Turner, Susan Perdicho, and Corrine Carter; GACoC Board Member Polly Clark of Canandaigua National Bank; GACoC Board Treasurer, Meghan Finnerty of Finger Lakes Federal Credit Union; and Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce Member Programs Coordinator, Justin Blue. (photo: Neil Sjoblom)

The Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce recently partnered with the Seneca County Chamber of Commerce to honor the 40th Anniversary of Dr. Rodney Littlejohn, '09, with a Member Milestone Celebration featuring a celebratory photo at Littlejohn and Barbi Orthodontics, located at 1203 Waterloo Geneva Road in Waterloo. The milestone honors four decades of Dr. Rodney D. Littlejohn practicing orthodontics.

A Finger Lakes native, Dr. Littlejohn, also commonly referred to as "Dr. Rod," received his Doctorate of Dental Surgery with honors from Georgetown University School of Dentistry in 1979. He then completed a one-year dental residency at Rochester General Hospital. Dr. Littlejohn obtained his graduate orthodontic certificate in 1982 and his Master of Science in 2009, both from the School of Dental Medicine at the University at Buffalo.

In the early 1980's Dr. Littlejohn opened an office in Waterloo where he steadily grew his business and clientele. By 2005 Littlejohn Orthodontics was built and opened its doors, offering a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility, which houses the practice today. Expanding again, in 2018 Dr. Liz Barbi joined the practice, becoming a partner in 2019, and the business evolved to Littlejohn & Barbi Orthodontics. The practice currently



has a team of 13, consisting of two doctors, along with a loyal and talented group of clinical and administrative staff.

In his spare time, Dr. Littlejohn is a clinical instructor in the Orthodontic Department at the UB School of Dental Medicine, where he teaches business management and marketing strategies, while encouraging residents to think outside the box and lead by example. Known as a visionary, he inspires those he works with every day and strives to be a positive influence on his patients, both orthodontically and personally.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Littlejohn on his 40 years of practice.

[Click here to read full article.](#)

## UB Dental School Staffer Making a Difference this Summer



Pictured: Eileen McIlhagga feeding a wild baby bunny in the small mammal room, which is part of the SPCA's Wildlife Department.

It's time to feed the baby birds. Again.

SPCA wildlife volunteer Eileen McIlhagga, the business reporting manager for the School of Dental Medicine, opens the zipper to a chorus of bird calls, loudly demanding food. She restarts the timer, measuring off just 30 minutes until the next feeding starts again.

"They don't have their mom anymore and they need to be taken care of," McIlhagga says. "Basically, whatever mom would do for them, we have to do now."

There is no typical day as a volunteer in the Wildlife Department at the SPCA Serving Erie County in West Seneca, according to McIlhagga, who started volunteering in February 2022. She has worked with a variety of songbirds, squirrels, opossums, snapping turtles, geese, ducks, hawks and more.

Her favorite is working in the baby mammal room, taking care of the bunnies. "They are really cute and fuzzy," McIlhagga says with a smile.

The tiniest bunnies need to eat through a feeding tube. Placing the tube can be tricky; you have to guide the tube to their stomach and not down the trachea. It's a job not many volunteers are willing to take on, but McIlhagga says she thrives on it.



"It's kind of scary, but really exciting when I know that they've each been fed," she says. The process starts with McIlhagga making a "bunny burrito" by wrapping the wiggling baby in a receiving blanket, tucking in their legs. She coaches them, whispering "come on" and "you can do this" throughout the feeding process.

The SPCA's Wildlife Department helps approximately 4,000 animals annually, according to John Lattimer, veterinary technician, licensed wildlife rehabilitator and founder of the department. In the summer months, staff can see as many as 30 to 50 new animals daily. He praises McIlhagga as one of their "best bunny tubers."

"She's turned out to be an awesome volunteer, always available when we need help," Lattimer says. "She's caught on very quickly, and you can see how much there is to learn."

In the coming months, McIlhagga hopes to complete the steps needed to become a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. She has finished the coursework and test, but is still waiting for an interview with the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Her volunteer hours are part of her efforts to eventually work as a seasonal employee with the SPCA.

Although she doesn't see many of the animals released back into the wild, McIlhagga says it's nice when she returns each shift to a different collection of animals.

"It's nice to know when you come back the next week, if somebody is gone, to know that you made a positive impact on them being successful."

*UB alumna Eileen McIlhagga, BS '92 and MBA '94, has worked for the School of Dental Medicine for 25 years. She has eight pets at home and opted to work with wildlife as a compromise with her husband: "[He] said that it would be too much of a temptation for me to bring more dogs and cats home."*

[Click here to view more photos](#)

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If you have any news you would like to share, please contact Kelli at [natale@buffalo.edu](mailto:natale@buffalo.edu).

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