

SDM Shout Out

Weekly News Updates for SDM Faculty, Staff and Students

UB Dental Alumni Association Reunion Dance and 2022 Dental Alumni Awards

On Friday, November 4, 2022 the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association celebrated the School of Dental Medicine's alumni and honored guests during the Reunion Dinner Dance Gala at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The event was held as part of the annual Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting.

[Click here to view photos of the Reunion Dinner Dance Gala.](#)



Presenting the award to Dr. Joseph Zambon is Genene Crofut, DDS '03,
President, University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association.

Honor Award:
Joseph J. Zambon, DDS '74, Perio. Cert. '83, PhD Oral Biology '84

The Honor Award is given to an individual whose enthusiastic and untiring endeavors have helped to promote continued growth, development and success of the UB School of Dental Medicine.

A lifelong resident of Western New York, Dr. Zambon spent his career as a faculty member at UB Dental joining in 1982 and rising to the rank of tenured SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. His service to the School is also impressive with roles of Program Director, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and most recently as Dean since 2016.

An internationally recognized oral microbiologist, he has authored or co-authored more than 200 scholarly papers including three of the 100 most highly cited papers in dentistry. He has been principal or co-principal investigator on more than 60 grants securing more than \$11 million in grant funding over his career.

Among Dr. Zambon's numerous awards are twice named Dental Educator of the Year, the UB Exceptional Scholar Award, the R. Earl Robinson Periodontal Regeneration Award and the Clinical Research Award both from the American Academy of Periodontology.

As Dean, Dr. Zambon led the School in creating and implementing a new strategic plan focused on growing research capacity; providing transformative educational opportunities; improving clinic operations; recruiting excellent and diverse faculty, staff and students; and enhancing the school's visibility. He has worked to transform the School's facilities including a preclinical simulation center that includes computer-aided design and manufacturing labs, an optical imaging and analysis research core facility, and a clinical dental implant center. Also implemented is a new electronic health record and clinical management system to improve operation of the teaching clinics.

Dr. Zambon also led a comprehensive campaign to raise funds to support the school's world-class research and education programs, its clinical facilities and student experience initiatives. The campaign has so far received more than \$30 million in gifts, including four gifts over \$1 million to support construction of new facilities and scholarships.

Under his leadership, the School achieved recognition as one of the nation's top dental schools including being ranked Number 8 in the nation and Number 9 worldwide in the highly influential 2020 Annual Ranking of World Universities.





Genene Crofut, DDS '03, President, University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association, presents the Distinguished Service Award to Lawrence E. Volland, '75 at the 2022 Reunion Dance event.

Distinguished Service Award Lawrence E. Volland, DDS '75

The Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of outstanding leadership, advocacy and support to the dental profession, the UB School of Dental Medicine and the Alumni Association.

Dr. Volland, a native of Kenmore, earned a B.S. degree from St. John Fisher College in 1971. He graduated from SUNY at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine with Thesis Honors in 1975 and after a short stint with the Erie County Public Health Department, entered private practice in Lockport, NY. Beginning in 1977, Dr. Volland worked as a part-time Clinical Instructor in the Department of Operative Dentistry at UB. He continued in that position for six years. Dr. Volland continues to practice part-time after selling his solo practice in May 2022.

Dr. Volland has been active in organized dentistry at all levels of the tripartite and his involvement started before graduating. In 1973, the Eighth District Dental Society approached the dental school for a student to sit on the Society's Executive Council. Dr. Volland was appointed; making the EDDS the first component dental society in the State to have student representation.

Dr. Volland served as President of the Eighth District Dental Society in 1994 and President of the New York State Dental Association in 2005. He served as a delegate and alternate delegate to the ADA a total of nineteen years, and has held Council and Committee positions at the ADA, including five years on the Board of ADPAC. Dr. Volland was awarded The Distinguished Service Award by NYSDA in 2018, and he considers it a great honor having been selected as Commencement Speaker to the SUNY at Buffalo Dental Medicine Class of 2005. Dr. Volland has also held leadership positions in the International College of Dentists and the American College of Dentists.

Dr. Volland continues as a Director on the Board of NYSDA Support Services, a position he has held since 2003. He is Treasurer of the New York State Dental Foundation and has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Empire Dental Political Action Committee since 1994, serving as Chairman for nine years starting in 2006.

Locally, he is a long time Director, and has served as Chairman, on the Board of The Dale Association, a mental health and senior services agency in Niagara County.

As he eases into retirement, Dr. Volland is looking forward to spending more time in his garden and traveling with his wife, Judy, particularly if it is to see their four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

UB Miles for Smiles Continues to Deliver Crucial Dental Care to Lebanon Children



Othman Shibly (rear row, center, with white shirt and baseball cap) poses with some of the volunteers who provided dental care to children in schools and refugee camps in Lebanon.

More than 1,000 children at schools and Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon recently received free dental care and education through the UB Global Miles for Smiles program, a long-running mission led by director and UB faculty member Othman Shibly to deliver critical oral health care to marginalized communities in need around the world.

The humanitarian mission, which took place Oct. 6-14, provided care to children in low-income families at three schools in Lebanon, as well as children at three Syrian refugee camps in the country. The program was supported by the School of Dental Medicine, Syrian American Medical Society, Henry Schein Cares Foundation and 20 volunteers from across the United States, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

"Who gave my children privileges to have better circumstances than those children? — a question I asked myself many times when I was in Lebanon with the Global Miles for Smiles team. I am sure if they had similar opportunities as my children that they would achieve just as much or more than mine," says Shibly, clinical professor of periodontics and endodontics. "But it happened that they were in the wrong place at the wrong time, and it happened that the world forgot their humanity and ignored their responsibility to protect these children.

"I thanked them for giving us the opportunity to realize the humanity in our hearts when we served them, and I apologized for not doing enough for them."

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