Dear UB SDM family,

I am honored to reach out to you today in my capacity as the new Dean of the School of Dental Medicine. It is a privilege to be a part of this remarkable community that exemplifies excellence in dental education, groundbreaking research, exceptional patient care, and impactful community outreach.

I first came to SDM as an international student in 1997, pursuing my master’s degree in Oral Sciences, followed by a Clinical Research and Teaching Fellowship in Periodontology and a PhD in Epidemiology from the School of Public Health and Health Professions. This period of my life was transformative, both personally and professionally, and equipped me with the tools for future success in both the public and private sectors.

My career has been rewarding in so many ways, but I have always had a desire to return to the place that feels like home. During the last 20 years since I graduated, I was able to experience different career paths in dentistry and science: a professor, clinical researcher and leader of a nonprofit that set policies and standards for our profession. I come back to SDM with a full understanding of our impact on students, faculty, staff and most importantly, our patients.

It is truly wonderful to be back. The sense of belonging and the nurturing environment provided by this institution are truly remarkable. It is in this homecoming that I find renewed inspiration and a deep sense of purpose. We will shape the future of dentistry and empower our students, faculty, and staff to achieve their full potential.

I am genuinely excited to be part of this incredible community once again, and sincerely grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Dean. I am committed to building upon the legacy of excellence that defines our institution.

Thank you for welcoming me back with open arms. Let us embark on this journey together, creating new possibilities and making a lasting impact on dental education, research, patient care, and community outreach.

Marcelo W. B. Araujo, DDS, MS, PhD (He/Him/His)
Dean and Professor
School of Dental Medicine
University at Buffalo
ON THE COVER:

Dean Marcelo W.B. Araujo with residents from the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics (L to R) Laura Cavallari, Rayan Alsuwailem, Dean Araujo, Dam Soh.

Photo by Douglas Levere

IN THIS ISSUE

BOCA CONTINUES TO THRIVE AND SERVE

THE ORAL HISTORY OF ORAL BIOLOGY
A project started by Frank Scannapieco

COMMENCEMENT
Meet the class of 2023 and see where they are all headed.

 Publication of UB Dentist is made possible by the generous support of the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association.
The School of Dental Medicine formally unveiled the Buhite-DiMino Center for Implant Dentistry and Advanced Dental Education on April 12, 2023.

The 6,000-square-foot center, which began seeing patients last November, is located on the first floor of Squire Hall, South Campus. It includes six surgical suites—two of which have audio-visual monitors to broadcast surgical procedures for students—that are equipped with state-of-the-art technology. It also has four dental units for screenings, consultations and other implant dentistry and oral health services. Each unit has a computer station and X-ray unit.

The idea behind the center is to promote interdisciplinary education for dental professionals, advance clinical research and provide equal access to quality and comprehensive care to the Western New York community.

“The Buhite-DiMino Center for Implant Dentistry and Advanced Dental Education is an incredible facility that is accelerating the swift academic and clinical growth of implant dentistry at UB,” says Stefan Ruhl, interim dean of the dental school.

“Thanks to our generous supporters—Dr. Robert Buhite Sr. and Mr. Frank DiMino—we have a space that will keep UB at the forefront of oral health care in Western New York for years to come.”

The Buhite-DiMino Center for Implant Dentistry and Advanced Dental Education represents the mission and vision of Buhite, a long-time dental school faculty member who specializes in implant dentistry, and DiMino, a friend and patient of Buhite who donated $2 million toward the center.

Unfortunately, Dr. Buhite passed away peacefully on Friday, June 9, 2023, surrounded by his loving family.

The Buhite-DiMino Center for Implant Dentistry and Advanced Dental Education represents the mission and vision of Buhite, a long-time dental school faculty member who specializes in implant dentistry, and DiMino, a friend and patient of Buhite who donated $2 million toward the center.

He was a cherished member of our dental school community. Dr. Buhite’s dedication, passion, and contributions to the field of dentistry have left an indelible mark on our institution and the countless lives he touched.

Dr. Buhite’s journey in dentistry was one marked by exceptional accomplishments and tireless dedication. He began his educational pursuits at The Aquinas Institute and Siena College before earning a Fellowship at Saint Louis University, where he studied and taught Anatomy and Physiology in the Medical and Dental Schools. It was during this time that he received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. Following two years of service as a dental officer in the U.S. Navy, he returned to Rochester in 1961, establishing his dental practice.

In the field of Implant Dentistry, Dr. Buhite was truly a pioneer. His expertise was widely recognized, and he became a renowned lecturer on the subject. Dr. Buhite’s significant contributions led him to serve as the founding Director of the Implant Dentistry Program here at the SDM. He played a pivotal role in designing and constructing the Buhite-DiMino Center for Implant Dentistry and Advanced Dental Education.

Let us remember and honor Dr. Buhite’s remarkable life and his significant contributions to our dental community. We will forever cherish his legacy and the impact he made on our school.
Latvian Delegation from Riga Stradins University Visits to Formalize Cooperation Agreement

During the last week in April, a delegation from Riga Stradins University in Riga, Latvia, traveled to the University at Buffalo for the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the University at Buffalo. The agreement was signed by President Satish K. Tripathi and Rector Professor Aigars Petersons, and by Interim Dean Stefan Ruhl and Dean Andris Abeltins. It recognizes the mutual desire of both institutions to promote co-operation and development of activities in the general areas of: 1) exchange of scholars and scientists to conduct research of mutual interest; 2) exchange of faculty for lectures and short-term visits; 3) student exchange; and 4) invitations to scientists to participate in conferences and symposia.

Rector Petersons and Dean Abeltins were joined for the visit to Buffalo by Dr. Agrita Kiopa, Vice-Rector for Science, Professor Guntilis Bahs, Vice-Rector for Health Studies, and Mr. Toms Baumanis, Vice-Rector for Administration and Development. The delegation met with faculty from the School of Dental Medicine in particular areas of interest to begin to explore topics for possible exchange. The RSU visitors also had meetings with colleagues in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and the School of Public Health and Health Professions.

The formal agreement was the culmination of a year-long exploration with a delegation from Riga visiting UB SDM last year in May and Dr. Ruhl visiting Riga in October 2022. However, other schools within UB, specifically Engineering and Management have been cooperating for several decades with Riga University, facilitated in the early days by Dr. Mirzda Neiders, Professor Emeritus, Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences and a native of Latvia.

Thanks to Dr. Neiders for her continued support, and to John Wood, Senior Associate Vice Provost for International Education, and Katrina Zeplowitz.

We look forward to a promising future of enhanced collaboration and exciting opportunities for faculty, students, and researchers. Together, we will contribute to the advancement of knowledge, innovation and the improvement of global health.

Award-winning fashion photographer Rick Guidotti recently visited the School of Dental Medicine to promote the use of more inclusive imagery in medical education and to celebrate the beauty of human diversity. The two-day visit culminated in an event at a University Pediatric Dentistry clinic during which Guidotti gifted professional photography to dozens of children and youth with disabilities in Western New York.

Guidotti—whose clients have included Yves St Laurent, Revlon and L’Oreal—is the founder of POSITIVE EXPOSURE, a non-profit dedicated to building a more inclusive world through photography, film, exhibitions, lectures and educational programs. The charitable program has partnered with hospitals, medical schools and educational institutions around the world to reframe patient depictions in medical education through its initiative FRAME, a web-based educational library and resource.
We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Marcelo W. B. Araujo, DDS, MS, PhD, as dean of UB’s School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Araujo began his role as dean on May 15, 2023.

Dr. Araujo’s appointment results from an extensive international search that yielded a pool of highly qualified candidates. Dr. Araujo, who formerly served as chief science officer of the American Dental Association (ADA) and chief executive officer of the ADA Science & Research Institute (ADASRI), brings to this role impressive leadership experience, an extensive network in scientific and clinical dental research, a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the field of dental medicine, and a strong vision for expanding the impact of the school.
Dr. Araujo joined the ADA in 2015 as vice president of the ADA Science Institute and was named chief science officer and chief executive officer of the ADASRI in late 2019. Through these roles, Dr. Araujo has been at the forefront of emerging scientific issues affecting oral health, dental practice, patient care, and health programs nationally and globally. He has provided strategic leadership for the ADA’s research enterprise, developing collaborative opportunities for the ADA’s key scientific initiatives, increasing grant funding, and enhancing the ADASRI’s impact.

Prior to the ADA, Dr. Araujo served in senior research and development positions at Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health Products and Pfizer Consumer Healthcare. Prior to joining the pharmaceutical industry, Dr. Araujo held academic positions in the US and in Brazil, and he practiced dentistry in Rio de Janeiro.

An active clinical researcher whose current work on developing guidelines for antibiotic prescriptions for dentists and periodontists is supported by the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Araujo has published extensively on impactful issues in dental medicine. Dr. Araujo is a member and upcoming chair of the American Association for Dental Oral and Craniofacial Research’s ethics in dental research committee, and he serves on the medical advisory board for the HPV Alliance. In recognition of the strength and impact of his work, he received the International Association for Dental Research and American Association for Dental Research William J. Gies Award for clinical research, the International Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UB Alumni Association, and he is an honorary member of the American Academy of Periodontology.

Dr. Araujo earned his PhD in Epidemiology and Community Health and master’s degree in Oral Sciences from UB, where he also completed a fellowship in periodontology research and teaching. He received his DDS and a certificate in periodontology from Universidade Gama Filho in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Dean Gary Pollack and all of the members of the search committee for their outstanding service, which was vital to the successful outcome of this search. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank interim dean Stefan Ruhl for his leadership and stewardship of the School of Dental Medicine during the transitional period.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Araujo to this important leadership role at UB and within our campus community.

Sincerely,
Dr. A. Scott Weber
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and
Dr. Allison Brashear
Vice President for Health Sciences; Dean, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
ON THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023, the school held the 2023 Student Research Day at UB Center for the Arts Atrium, located on UB’s North Campus. A record 81 posters were presented and the entire SDM student body attended.

“I would like to thank those who participated at Annual Student Research Day. Congratulations to all of those who presented and competed in the research competition. A special congratulations to all of the award recipients as well. We were happy that our keynote speaker, Dr. Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, was able to join us. It was gratifying to listen to her speak about her illustrious career and how her training at University inspired her career in science, “ stated Dr. Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, Director of Research. “I especially would like to give a big shout out to Dr. Lindsay Chakan, Director of the SDM Office of Research Support, and Gina Bellavia, Research Administrator, who made this event happen for everyone!”

Special thanks goes to event sponsors Avantor and Phillips Oral Health Care.

Student Research Day 2023

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Khristyna Adam (P. Arany)
Yousef Alhooreb (P. Arany)
Mahmud Amin (P. Arany)
Hannah Bobis (P. Arany)
Jennifer Bullis (P. Arany)
Akhila Kiran (P. Arany)
Zofia Rozmus (R. Dziak)
Alexis Tensfeldt* (R. Dziak)

DENTAL STUDENTS

Adity Aggarwal ’23 (H. Aksel)
Anshu Chopra ’23 (S. Govindool)
Matthew Deng ’24* (D.E. Heppner)
Ankita Garg ’23 (S. Andreana)
Vincenzo Gramuglia ’24* (T. Al-Jewair)
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Nimrita Singh ’24 (P. Arany)
Asad Tanweer ’26 (P. Arany)
Roopul Trivedi ’23 (R. Li)
Nicole Walawander ’24 (P. Arany)
Sung Yoon ’24 (S. Govindool)

ADVANCED EDUCATION STUDENTS/RESIDENTS

Ahmed Al Mazayen • Pros/Oral Sci
Akber Ali • OMFS (R. Cronyn)
Ali Sameer Alsharif • Pros/Oral Sci (R. Li)
Natalie Anselmi • Oral Biol (M. Visser)
Kiana Bynum • Oral Biol (J. Kay)
Haley Chizuk* • Orthoped (P. Arany)
Bryce Church • Ped Dent (C. Heard)
Jeremy Egan* • OMFS (M. Markiewicz)
Farangis Farsio • OMFS (M. Markiewicz)
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PHOTOGRAPHS OF BOCA OUTREACH TRIPS OVER THE YEARS AND OF THE 2023 BOCA GALA.
The annual BOCA gala this year—planned and hosted entirely by dental students—was elegant and successful. Well-dressed people enjoyed an evening of fine food, music and the BOCA auction.

It was a far cry from the early days, when BOCA was just getting started about 20 years ago. Then, a spirited core of students mustered a fruit sale and small auction, planting the seeds for a program that would explode to become an outreach effort in which almost all UB dental students now participate.

BOCA programs now reach into rural America, Central America, the Caribbean and Africa. The trips, on which students, faculty and practicing dentists provide care, have become so consistent that the people being served await them and seek ongoing dental care.

And for the participants, the trips can have a profound impact.

‘With Me Forever’

Dr. Amy Stone Nagai, ’09, Ped Dent Cert., ’11, was an early BOCA participant who continues to make numerous domestic and international trips with the group.

“The trips all affected me profoundly, in different moments, and in different ways,” she said. “There was one particular patient encounter that will stay with me forever.”

On a RAM (Remote Area Medical) trip to Tennessee, she treated a woman her own age who needed a full mouth extraction. “She informed me that she had been taking antibiotics on and off for ‘a few years,’ and had everything all set for her dentures, but was unable to pay for her extractions...
"Our goal is to have 100 percent participation at least one level of the organization," Gambacorta said. There are local community service opportunities at food kitchens and homeless shelters, as well as the trips. This year Dr. Gambacorta will escort groups to Kenya, Sierra Leone, and a Native American reservation in South Dakota.

"That moment will stay with me forever, as a reminder of how grateful people are for what we are able to do for them, and for how truly privileged we are to live the lives we do, and have the ability to give back what we are able," she said.

For Chris Lepore, a D3 student and outgoing fundraising chairman for BOCA, a RAM trip also highlighted the importance of giving back and serving those in need.

"A lot of the people thank you, saying they haven't been able to afford dental care all their lives. They just come once a year to this RAM event and try to hold on until next year," he said. "Some people have been in pain for weeks, just waiting for the trip. Some wait over 12 hours in the night to try to be one of the first people seen in the morning, and some come from four to five hours away."

BOCA is Well Known

Seth Tirsun, a D3 student and outgoing president of BOCA, said the program is a drawing card for the school. "Chris and I help with interviewing applicants, and frequently prospective students ask about BOCA and outreach because the reputation kind of precedes the school," he said. "It has such a broad scope, people hear about it."

Any students can go on a BOCA trip, and some go on more than one, he said.

Dr. Joseph Gambacorta, '93, associate dean for community engagement and global initiatives, has been taking students on BOCA trips since 2006, along with Dr. Kevin D'Angelo, '81.

"Our goal is to have 100 percent participation in some level of the organization," Gambacorta said. There are local community service opportunities at food kitchens and homeless shelters, as well as the trips. This year Dr. Gambacorta will escort groups to Kenya, Sierra Leone, and a Native American reservation in South Dakota.

"One student who had been on a trip to South Dakota told me that BOCA gave him the confidence to do things in the clinic that he would not have otherwise," Gambacorta said. "The outreach is different from being in school. There's a lot more autonomy. One of the things I preach is you need to make some decisions, and I'll be here to back you up."
International Start

BOCA now stands for Buffalo Outreach and Community Assistance, but it wasn’t always so. It started out as Buffalo Outreach to Central America.

Dr. Adam Chalom, a 2005 graduate with a practice in Rochester, was a freshman in dental school when he went backpacking in Central America. The trip opened his eyes to the needs of others living in poverty, and he came back to school eager to reach out.

“UB dental school had yet to have an international outreach program,” he said. “We had a mandatory externship that could involve work at a hospital, or at school, or with a dental practice. The school had stuff inside the U.S., but nothing internationally. I said I know this is happening at other schools.”

So Chalom and two dental students, James Pignataro, ’04, and Amanda Cryan, ’04, Ped Dent Cert., ’06, approached the school, which was very receptive. But the school had affiliations with church-based programs abroad, so the first trip, with about 12 students, was to Belize with a church group.

“It exploded after that,” Chalom said. “After the first year, they realized it was doable. There were no hiccups. It was really smooth and everyone was really happy. The students were ecstatic… It went way beyond where I thought it would. When I went to my five year reunion, I was there sitting in the crowd, and BOCA announced they had just hit their $1 million mark of delivering free dental care. That’s how big the program had become.”

Many Galas to Come

This year the BOCA gala drew over 300 people, with students, faculty and members of the local dental community.

“It is one of the larger events we have at our school that ties everything together,” said Lepore, the outgoing fundraising chair. “The Buffalo dental community knows that the gala really is important for what the students give back to the Buffalo community. I think that’s why we have such a great turnout every year.”

The lessons learned by helping run BOCA and going on the trips have had a profound impact on Dr. Stone Nagai. “BOCA is what allowed me to truly be a well rounded dental student. It gave me the opportunity to participate in leadership roles, to learn about fundraising, and how much behind the scenes effort goes into the mission trips,” she said. “It is no small task to run the organization!”

“Personally, it will forever serve a reminder, as to our ability to impact and help others, and the privilege that is,” she said.
In 1960, when UB transitioned from being a private school to become the largest university in the SUNY system, a quiet thing happened in the dental school: the Department of Oral Biology was formed. It was the first oral biology department in the nation.

The dean of the dental school at that time, James English, had been director of dental research in the Navy, so he knew the value of scientific research.

For Frank Scannapieco, Perio Cert., ’89, PhD Oral Biol., ’91, who served 18 years as chairman of the Oral Biology department until November 2022, telling the history of that important event has led to the start of an open-ended oral history project recounting the history of the dental school.

Called the “School of Dental Medicine Oral History Project, 1960–1980,” it has just appeared on the school’s website. And if Scannapieco’s wishes come true, it will continue to grow to include more of the entire university’s story.

“I started about 10 years ago,” Scannapieco said. “I wrote a few historical articles about the department... I was trying to document what happened here. What were the crucial things that allowed for the school to become so well known, to allow oral biology to flourish. There was not a lot of good record keeping.”
“UB deserves to be properly remembered. I hope to educate the new generation about what came before them.”

Frank Scannapieco, Department of Oral Biology
The website includes interviews with professors from the school’s early days. Scannapieco did many of the interviews over Zoom during the Covid pandemic. He said he would like to continue the work and see the effort spread to other schools in the university.

“I have no idea if it will resonate or not. UB deserves to be properly remembered,” he said. “I hope to educate the new generation about what came before them.”

A quiet leader

The oral history project is one of several significant accomplishments Scannapieco can count from his tenure as chair. He grew the department from 12 to 19 professors, filling its ranks with bright, young scientists. And he oversaw a group of established dental scientists creating new knowledge across a broad array of oral biology.

Those who know him credit his honest, down-to-earth leadership style with making the department an area of fertile research.

“He took opinions from everybody,” said Dr. Ashu Sharma, interim chair of the Oral Biology department. “When we were recruiting young faculty, as chair the decision was his, but he listened to everybody. He set up good search committees and he listened to the decisions of everybody. He is a very democratic person and a very gracious man.”

The personal touch

For Dr. Stefan Ruhl, who recently served as interim dean of the School of Dental Medicine, Scannapieco’s approach helped cement his decision to move with his family from Germany to take a post in the Oral Biology department.

After meeting at a conference in the Netherlands, Scannapieco invited Ruhl to Buffalo for an interview. “I immediately liked the place, and Frank contributed to that. On the day of the interview, he took me in his own car and drove me downtown and showed me the city and showed me Niagara Falls. This was an incredibly nice gesture.”

Ruhl returned with his family to take a closer look, and decided to make the move.

“This was a huge risk and move for me and my family, said Ruhl, who turned down two offers to lead large departments in Germany. “But everything worked out extremely well, and Frank certainly helped make this possible.”

Ruhl said he appreciated Scannapieco’s leadership style.
“I came over here at an advanced stage of my career, and he was not at all imposing anything on me. He was available if I needed. His approach was always no nonsense, matter of fact, down-to-earth communication. And he was very approachable. I didn’t feel a steep hierarchy. He was always there when I needed him.”

The Department of Oral Biology is highly regarded in the United States and even more revered internationally, Ruhl said. “I think it’s underappreciated, as a matter of fact, by our school and also by the university. They don’t know what they really have here. It is a unique department.”

The School of Dental Medicine recently moved into the top 10 of NIDCR (National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research) funded oral research institutions, and that is in great part due to the research and funding success in the Oral Biology department, reflecting the contributions of all of its scientists.

In fact, hiring top scientific minds may be one of Scannapieco’s greatest skills.

“He was able to hire an excellent group of young scientists, Ruhl said. “He apparently had a great instinct for who will be able to produce quality science in the oral biology field.”

Sharma concurred.

“The future is very good because we are a very young department. Most of the faculty is very young with another 20 years in front of them,” he said.

Mentorship isn’t easy

Scannapieco said his theory of leadership is fairly simple.

“My thing is the Golden Rule. You treat people the way you want to be treated, so I have tried to do that,” he said. “It’s not always easy to do in the real world.”

Knowing when and how to exert influence is key, he said.

“I also felt strongly about giving good people good opportunities and letting them flourish.”

“Leadership is mentorship, and mentorship is not easy. Mentorship is sticking your nose in, but not too much,” he said. “People have to want to be mentored, to subject themselves to scrutiny and take what they can and hopefully pass it forward.”

“The biggest challenge we have in the university is mentoring from one generation to the next, and the faculty mentoring the students,” he said.

And understanding history, knowing whose shoulders you are standing on, is part of that. UBD
Meet the GRADUATES of the CLASS OF 2023
Charles Sherwood Kane  
New York University Langone Eastern Shore Rural Health  
Eastville, VA

Rachel Anna Knaust†  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Albany, NY

Shreya S. Kolar  
Lehigh Valley Hospital-17th Street  
Allentown, PA

Hunter Vincent LaRosa  
SUNY Upstate Medical University  
Syracuse, NY

Linh Thi Le  
Veterans Administration Medical Center  
Buffalo, NY

Joseph Charles Lippa  
University of Rochester Eastman Institute for Oral Health  
Rochester, NY

Stephanie Caridad Loo  
University of Tennessee, Health Science Center College of Dentistry  
Nashville, TN

Vanessa Chelsea Mareno  
Jacobi Medical Center  
Bronx, NY

Olivia Grace Marziale+++  
Veterans Administration San Diego Healthcare System  
San Diego, CA

Pallavi Mathur  
University of Connecticut Health Center  
Farmington, CT

Collin Robert Miller†  
Woodhull Medical Center  
Brooklyn, NY

Samna Minhas  
w/Oncology Fellowship  
Roswell Park Cancer Institute  
University at Buffalo  
Buffalo, NY

Karishma Mitter  
Danbury Hospital Dental Services  
Danbury, CT

Fritz Augustus Mora  
University at Buffalo  
Buffalo, NY

Taryn Janetta More  
Faxton St. Luke’s Healthcare  
New Hartford, NY

Sania Zehra Naqvi  
Department of Behavioral Health/ St. Elizabeth’s Hospital  
Washington, DC

Emily Nguyen  
New York University Langone Dental Medicine  
Tampa, FL

Sadaf Lena Noor  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, NY

Victoria Mary Olsen  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, NY

Amin-Eldin Hussni Omar  
Veterans Administration Medical Center  
Orlando, FL

Nidhhi Parmar†  
University at Buffalo  
Buffalo, NY

Catherine Gissel Payano  
Jacobi Medical Center  
Bronx, NY

Shaman Kenneth Perera  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
New York, NY

Abigail Theresa Romano  
St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center  
Syracuse, NY

Joseph Anthony Saade  
St. Vincent Charity Medical Center  
Cleveland, OH

Gabriella Sadek  
New York University Langone Dental Medicine  
Brighton, CO

Briana Rose Sambuchi  
East Carolina University  
Spruce Pine, NC

Yianni Michael Savidis  
Rochester General Hospital  
Rochester, NY

Anna Cassidy Scott†  
Veterans Administration Medical Center  
Providence, RI

Stewart Shabanaj  
Veterans Administration Medical Center  
Buffalo, NY

Prachi Shukla  
University of Rochester Eastman Institute for Oral Health  
Rochester, NY

Preethi Singh  
Jacobi Medical Center  
Bronx, NY

Ariana Rachela Spagna  
State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, NY

Charlene Tsou  
Northwell Health, Long Island Jewish Medical Center  
Manhasset, NY

Marybeth Ward  
St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center  
Syracuse, NY

Ting Xue  
Kings County Hospital Center  
Brooklyn, NY

ENTERING SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

Shane Nicholas Endres  
Periodontics  
University of Rochester  
Rochester, NY

Morgan Elizabeth Girardi†  
Pediatric Dentistry  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC

Jenna Ilana Heitzler  
Orthodontics  
Hudson Regional Hospital-CTOR Academy  
Hoboken, NJ

Alcija Emilia Kazmierowska  
Pediatric Dentistry  
Children’s Hospital of Colorado  
Aurora, CO

Kevin Charles Lin†  
Periodontics  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA

Victoria Maglaras  
Periodontics  
Oral Health Sciences PhD  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI

† CUM LAUDE | +++ MAGNA CUM LAUDE | ++++ SUMMA CUM LAUDE
Joshua Mathew Matam
Pediatric Dentistry
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Nicholas Endre Nemeth
Periodontics
State University of New York
at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY

Iakov Nikitkov
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Internship
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Ryan Michael Prevost
Orthodontics
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Bishoy Seliman
Pediatric Dentistry
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center
Queens, NY

Lauren Marie Shine
Pediatric Dentistry
University of Rochester
Eastman Institute for Oral Health
Rochester, NY

Hangi Song
Pediatric Dentistry
One Brooklyn Health System,
Brookdale/Interfaith
Brooklyn, NY

Corey Garrett Stein
Orthodontics
University of Rochester
Eastman Institute for Oral Health
Rochester, NY

Kassiani Strembenis
Pediatric Dentistry
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Amee Anne Gabrielle Thomas
Periodontics
Public Health MS
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Brooke Anne Thornhill
Pediatric Dentistry
Jacobi Medical Center
Bronx, NY

Jonathan Conrad Vogler
Periodontics
University of Tennessee
Health Science Center
Memphis, TN

Braden Robert Woodward
Pediatric Dentistry
Temple University Hospital-
Northeastern Division
Philadelphia, PA

Taylor Nicole Wright
Pediatric Dentistry
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Jiaxin Yuan
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Internship
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

Kassiani Strembenis
Pediatric Dentistry
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Amiee Anne Gabrielle Thomas
Periodontics
Public Health MS
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Taylor Nicole Wright
Pediatric Dentistry
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Jiaxin Yuan
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Internship
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

ENTERING DENTAL PRACTICE/
ACADEMICS

Zachary Robert Andrews
Restorative Dentistry,
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Hema Arany
Restorative Dentistry,
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Nadia Basharat
Marlborough, MA

Eleni Nicole Carr
Pittsburgh, PA

Michael George Casab
State College, PA

Andrew Chan
Palo Alto, CA

Andrew John Ciesielski
Buffalo, PA

Luis David Cortes
Yakima, WA

Pinky Dhariwal
Massachusetts

Ankita Garg
Mount Laurel, NJ

Jafer Sadiq Hasani
Hamilton, ON

Anam Khalid
Windsor Mill, MD

Lena Zia Khan
Houston, TX

Divya Malik
Philadelphia, PA

Ellen J. Mays
Toronto, ON

Mark A. Nasr
Metuchen, NJ

Baljot Pannu
Boston, MA

Abhishek Vijaykumar Parikh
Boston, MA

Aditi Priyamvara
Landover, MA
Ramtin Sadid-Zadeh  
Restorative Dentistry,  
University at Buffalo  
Buffalo, NY

Vishal Saxena  
Kitchener, ON

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN ORAL BIOLOGY DEGREE

Christine Song, BS  
deltaNp63 is a key determinant of functionally diverse epithelial cell lineages in the mouse submandibular gland.  
Major Professor: Rose-Anne Romano, PhD

MASTERS OF SCIENCE  
DEGREES

BIOIMATERIALS

Lolowh Abdalaziz Almogbel, DMD  
Evaluation of mechanical and surface properties of ceramic reinforced PEEK as a denture base material.  
Major Professor: Rui Li, DDS, PhD

Jekita Kaenploy, DDS  
Fracture strength of PEEK hybrid abutment restored with lithium disilicate crown.  
Major Professor: Ramtin Sadid-Zadeh, DDS, MS

ORAL SCIENCES

Manal Abdullah A. Alamri, BDS  
Nanocalcium sulfate and tricalcium silicate: Biocompatibility and pH studies in vitro.  
Major Professor: Praveen R. Arany, DDS, PhD

Ibrahim S. Alouagil, BDS  
CBCT patterns of bone loss and clinical predictors for the diagnosis of cracked teeth and teeth with vertical root fracture.  
Major Professor: Lucila Piasecki, DDS, PhD

Azza Alhelou, BDS  
Assessment of GM-CSF and M-CSF in a mouse model of primary Sjogren’s syndrome.  
Major Professor: Jason G. Kay, PhD

Yahya Sayed Suliman Atassi, BDS  
Clinical trial of the efficacy of pinhole surgical technique compared to connective tissue graft in treatment of gingival recession-Patient reported outcomes.  
Major Professor: Othman Shibly, DDS, MS

ORTHOMEDICINE

Harnoor Kaur, MS  
Magnesium doped calcium sulfate: Effect of concentration on physical properties and osteoblastic regeneration.  
Major Professor: Rosemary Dziak, PhD

Kevin Le, BA  
1,4-DPCA Effects on VEGF & CXCL12 expressions in human osteoblastic cells.  
Major Professor: Rosemary Dziak, PhD

Zheng Dao Li, BS  
Major Professor: Sebastiano Andreana, DDS, MS

Amrit Mir, BDS  
Reliability and validity of clinical characteristics of myofascial referred pain.  
Major Professor: W. Scott McCall, PhD

Chaoqun Pan, MS  
Effective laser parameter for periodontal pathogens.  
Major Professor: Praveen R. Arany, DDS, PhD

Seyedeh Maryam Razmi, BDS, MS  
Cell wall mannosidases, Dfg5 and Dcw1, are required for virulence and pathogenicity of Candida albicans.  
Major Professor: Rui Li, DDS, PhD

Sara Lynne Rosenthal, BS  
Characterization of major surface proteins and pathogenicity of oral Treponema species.  
Major Professor: Michelle B. Visser, PhD

Kedith Sawangsri, DDS  
Effect of sintering cycle on the strength and translucency of multi-layer zirconia.  
Major Professor: Hyeongil Kim, DDS, MS

Ashima Chanil Sharma, BA  
Assessing the effects of lateral orthodontic forces on dental implant stability.  
Major Professor: Sebastiano Andreana, DDS, MS

THESIS HONORS

Anusha Chopra  
Photobiomodulation modulates normal and cancer stem cells in a cell density-dependent manner via redox and TGF-b1 signaling.  
Primary Mentor: Praveen Arany, DDS, PhD

Kevin Charles Lin  
Fracture strength of screw-retained zirconia crown-implant assembly: A comparison between zirconia and titanium implants.  
Primary Mentor: Ramtin Sadid-Zadeh, DDS, MS

Victoria Maglaras  
Quantitative alveolar bone histomorphometric analyses of heterogeneous slack rats.  
Primary Mentor: Keith Kirkwood, DDS, PhD

Divya Malik  
The effect of relining on flexural strength of digitally fabricated denture base materials.  
Primary Mentor: Rui Li, DDS, PhD

Saf M.S.H. Haif, BDS  
Oral health status of children of Syrian refugees and internally displaced Yazidi in Northern Iraq.  
Major Professor: Othman Shibly, DDS, MS

Harnoor Kaur, MS  
Magnesium doped calcium sulfate: Effect of concentration on physical properties and osteoblastic regeneration.  
Major Professor: Rosemary Dziak, PhD

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1,4-DPCA Effects on VEGF & CXCL12 expressions in human osteoblastic cells.  
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Major Professor: Hyeongil Kim, DDS, MS

Ashima Chanil Sharma, BA  
Assessing the effects of lateral orthodontic forces on dental implant stability.  
Major Professor: Sebastiano Andreana, DDS, MS
DENTAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION STAFF APPRECIATION AWARD
Nicole Doria (HOLDING AWARD, LEFT) and Tyler McCluskey (HOLDING AWARD, RIGHT)

THE WILLIAM M. FEAGANS AWARD
Latifi Bairam, BDS, Pros Cert., ’81, MS Oral Sci, ’84

FLORENCE KRONSON AWARD
Yvonne Cox

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
Ramtin Sadid-Zadeh, DDS, ’23, BDS, MS, Pros Cert.

RICHARD A. POWELL AWARD
Robert Cronyn, DDS, ’82, JD, ’91, Oral Surg Cert.

CHARLES S. LIPANI AWARD
Debra Stamm, PhD, ’22

DEAN’S AWARDS
Frank Scannapieco, Perio Cert, ’89, PhD Oral Biol, ’91, (LEFT PHOTO) and Robert Buhite, II, ’87, (RIGHT PHOTO) receiving the award for his father Dr. Robert Buhite, Sr.

ORTHODONTICS
Erik Thomas Gompers, DDS
A comparison of the effects of chlorhexidine hexametaphosphate and silver nanoparticle antimicrobials on the mechanical properties of elastomeric chain.
Major Professor: Pramod Philip, BDS, MSD

Fatemah A.A.H. Husain, DDS
Influence of Invisalign’s precision bite ramp position on deep bite correction and root length in adults.
Major Professor: Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS, MS, FRDC(C)

Ryan Lawrence Koch, DDS
Detection and management of sleep bruxism with automated mandibular movement monitoring in children and adolescents.
Major Professor: Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS, MS, FRDC(C)

Ronald Joseph Lowe III, DDS
Teleorthodontics: Perception and reliability of virtually obtained records for orthodontic decision making.
Major Professor: Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS, MS, FRDC(C)

Alexandria Mary Newton, DMD
A comparison of Class II correction using the Caniere Motion Appliance versus an in-office sectional appliance: Treatment effects and efficiency.
Major Professor: David Covell, Jr., DDS, PhD

CERTIFICATES OF ADVANCED STUDY

ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY
Sumayyah Ahmed, DDS
Antonela Badan, DMD
Yi Chen Lu, DMD
Marc Mariella, DMD
Ahmad Salah, DDS
Jenna Sauter, DMD
Anisha Zaman, DDS
Neya Zingaro, DDS

ENDODONTICS
Fatima Mansour Bosaid, BDS
Nihar Pillai, BDS
Mohini Ratakonda, MDS
Mose Snyder, DMD

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY
Akber Ali, DMD, MD
Jeremy Egan, DMD, MD

ORTHODONTICS
Erik Thomas Gompers, DDS
Fatemah A.A.M. Husain, DDS
Ryan Lawrence Koch, DDS
Ronald Joseph Lowe III, DDS
Alexandria Mary Newton, DMD
Laura Joohee Shim, DMD

PEDiatric DENTISTRY
Bryce Donald Church, DMD
Jiwan Kim, DDS, MS
Nadia Latifi, DDS, MEd
Hamilton Pennywell, DDS

Colby Richey, DDS
Kaitlyn Taylor, DDS
Amanda Joan Torsney, DDS

PERIODONTICS
Yahya Sayed Sulaiman Atassi, BDS
Saif M.S.H. Haif, BDS

PROSTHODONTICS
Jekita Koenploy, DDS
Kedith Sawangsri, DDS

TEMPOROMANDIBULAR DISORDERS AND OROFACIAL PAIN
Amrit Mir, BDS
Shabnam Seyedzadeh Sabounchi, DDS, PhDPhD
Recognizing Achievement, 
Skill and 
Contribution

SDM 2023 Senior Awards

American Association of Orthodontists Award
Ryan Michael Prevost
Corey Garrett Stein

American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award
Kierra Renee Bleyle

American College of Dentists Outstanding Student Leader Award
Andrew Sherif Hanna

American College of Prosthodontists Award
Fritz Augustus Mora

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Award—Horace Wells Senior Student Award
Iakov Nikitkov

American Student Dental Association Award of Excellence
Andrew Sherif Hanna

Barrett Prize
Olivia Grace Marziale

Brasseler USA Esthetic Dentistry Award
Olivia Grace Marziale

Eleanor Bushee Award
Sababa Chisty Anan

Dean’s Award
Ryan Michael Prevost

Dental Alumni Award
Joseph Charles Lippa

Erie County Dental Society Chester A. Glen Award
Iakov Nikitkov

The Pierre Fauchard Academy Award
Brooke Anne Thornhill

Fonzi Dental Study Club, Anthony S. Gugino Humanitarian Award
Hunter Vincent LaRosa

International College of Dentists (Leadership) Award
Victoria Marie DiVilio

International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award
Nardine Bastawros

International Congress of Oral Implantologists Award
Kevin Charles Lin

American Academy of General Dentistry Award
Zachary Steven Gorgone
Jafer Sadiq Hasani

American Academy of Operative Dentistry Award
Daniel Joseph DeMauro

American Academy of Osseointegration Award
Anthony J. Felli

Dr. Joseph A. Accardo Eighth District Dental Society Award
Brian Rose Sambuchi

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award
Justin Michael Chang

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Award
Cecilia Claire Horchos

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award
Zachary Steven Gorgone

American Academy of Oral Medicine Award
Preethi Singh

American Academy of Orofacial Pain Award
Catherine Gissel Payano

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Predoctoral Student Award
Lauren Marie Shine

American Academy of Periodontology Award
Aimee Anne Gabrielle Thomas

American Association of Endodontists Award
Fritz Augustus Mora

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award
Joshua Mathew Matam

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Implant Award
Stewart Shabanaj

Edwin C. Jauch Award
Divya Malik

Donald Kazlowski Memorial Award
Andrew John Ciesielski
Madeline M. Harvey

Robert B. Levine Award
Nardine Bastawros

Eric J. Murawski Memorial Award
Jiaxin Yuan

Dr. Russell Nisengard Award
Rachel Anna Knaust

New York State Association of Endodontists Award
Anthony Joseph Agosto

New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Student Award
Alexandra Barbara Hensler

The Northeastern Society of Periodontists Award
Cecilia Claire Horchos

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Membership Awards
Nardine Bastawros
Anshu Chopra
Victoria Marie DiVilio
Morgan Elizabeth Girardi
Zachary Steven Gorgone
Andrew Sherif Hanna
Rachel Anna Knaust
Olivia Grace Marziale
Ryan Michael Prevost
Anna Cassidy Scott
Corey Garrett Stein
Brooke Anne Thornhill

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Research Award
Victoria Maglaras

Pediatric and Community Dentistry Department Award
Morgan Elizabeth Girardi
Taylor Nicole Wright

Richard A. Powell Award
Anthony J. Felli

Quintessence Awards
Research Achievement: Victoria Maglaras
Restorative Dentistry: Kevin Charles Lin
Periodontics: Sandy Ding

Lester Schatz Memorial Award
Victoria Maglaras

Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Leadership Award
Vanessa Chelsea Marena

George B. Snow Awards
Fixed Prosthodontics: 1st Place: Anthony J. Felli
2nd Place: Bushra Azhar
Removable Prosthodontics: 1st Place: Divya Malik
2nd Place: Roquil Snehal Trivedi

The Special Care Dentistry Association Student Award
Lauren Marie Shine

St. Apollonia Guild Dental Student Service Award
Morgan Elizabeth Girardi

Student Affairs Recognition Award
Zachary Robert Andrews
Zachary Steven Gorgone
Andrew Sherif Hanna
Madeline M. Harvey
Vanessa Chelsea Marena
Olivia Grace Marziale
Ryan Michael Prevost
Brooke Anne Thornhill

Whip Mix Hanau Prosthodontics Award
Anthony J. Felli

Removable Prosthodontics: 1st Place: Divya Malik
2nd Place: Roquil Snehal Trivedi

The Special Care Dentistry Association Student Award
Lauren Marie Shine

St. Apollonia Guild Dental Student Service Award
Morgan Elizabeth Girardi

Student Affairs Recognition Award
Zachary Robert Andrews
Zachary Steven Gorgone
Andrew Sherif Hanna
Madeline M. Harvey
Vanessa Chelsea Marena
Olivia Grace Marziale
Ryan Michael Prevost
Brooke Anne Thornhill

Whip Mix Hanau Prosthodontics Award
Anthony J. Felli

International Congress of Oral Implantologists Award
Kevin Charles Lin
To outside observers, Stephanie Mucha was a hardworking nurse at the VA Hospital who lived a modest life. She kept a beautiful garden at her home across the street from the UB South campus and cared for her husband.

But on the side she invested her meager earnings wisely, buying blue chip stocks that paid dividends, which she always reinvested. Through that investment strategy, she grew her holdings to more than $8 million at the time of her death in 2018 at the age of 101. And, perhaps most amazing of all, she became a great philanthropist and gave it all away.

Mucha donated a total of $6 million to various schools at the University of Buffalo, including just over $2 million to the School of Dental Medicine. The new welcome center at the dental school clinic—the Stephanie and Joseph Mucha Patient Welcome Center—is one beautiful result of her generosity.

“She donated to the dental school because of the excellent care she received there,” said Ted Bieniek, her longtime friend and caregiver.

She also made million dollar donations each to the School of Engineering, because her husband had wanted to be an engineer, to the School of Nursing, to the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and to the School of Arts and Sciences in honor of its graduate program in Polish studies.

She also donated $2 million to the Kosciusko Foundation in New York City, the American center of Polish culture, for scholarships and to teach English to Polish people overseas.

“She left a legacy that few of us can ever achieve,” Bieniek said. “I know that the fruits of her labors are being used to help students, such as she was once herself. And to these unknown students, she is bringing light, like the sun.”

When Mucha’s philanthropy became known in the Polish community, “it was like a shot heard around the world,” he said.

She started investing as a result of being in the operating room when a prototype of Wilson Greatbatch’s pacemaker revived a dog whose heart had stopped. She and her husband scraped together $255.50 to buy 50 shares of Medtronics, which had purchased the rights to the pacemaker. That investment grew to $465,000 by 2007.

At that point she started investing the dividends in other stocks.

On the advice of her attorney, to reduce her taxes she made a $1 million donation to UB in exchange for a 9 percent annuity. “They didn’t think she would be living that long,” Bieniek said. “Every quarter she was getting almost $100,000, and she invested it all in the stock market. She laughed, saying ‘I’m using their money.’ ”

Among her holdings were companies like Toyota, Anheuser Busch, Walt Disney, Essential Utilities (a water company), ConocoPhillips, Lockheed Martin, Verizon, GlaxoSmithKline, and Kimberly Clark. “She invested in things people use, not in technology,” Bieniek said.

He recalled that one of her favorite sayings about investing was, ‘Don’t worry if the stock market goes up and down, just as long as you get the dividends.’
THE MODERN HISTORY OF THE UB SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE, as told in the pages of this magazine, has been designed and illustrated by Dave Donati for the past 10 years. He, and his wife Lynda, run Green Soup Design, a graphic design firm that does work across the university.

As art director and designer of UB Dentist magazine, Donati brings creative flair to the happenings and accomplishments of the school, its students, faculty, alumni and staff.

What is your educational background?
I am a UB graduate, with a BFA in illustration.

What drew you to graphic design?
I was always artistic from a very young age. My mom saved drawings that I did from four years old onwards. Her father was a sculptor, so it kind of ran in the family.

My parents are both from Carrara, Italy. That’s where Carrara Marble is from—the white marble used for the statue of David. My grandfather was a sculptor.

When did you form Green Soup Design?
Green Soup was formed officially in 2010. It was my wife’s freelance name that she had since college. And it was actually a typo. The original name was Green Group, but it came back as a typo from a magazine as Green Soup, and she just loved it.

What does Green Soup Design do?
We do branding and graphic design. We can either create a brand or work within an existing brand. We can create your logo, your color scheme, all of your marketing materials, your website, email campaigns. The only thing we don’t do is video.

Do you do a lot of work with UB?
We are one of eight design firms that the entire school can work with, the preferred vendors list. UB makes up about 75 percent of our business.

How long have you been doing UB Dentist magazine?
Since 2013, so this is our 10th year. We figure on average three issues a year, so this is roughly our 30th issue.

Are there design guidelines?
Everything that we design has to be fresh and interesting and unique, but also it has to be within the UB branding guidelines. That’s where it pays to have a designer who understands branding and how important it is.

What are the pros and cons of being a freelancer?
I had my dream job in 2000 at a small design studio. We did college view books, billboards, annual reports, corporate brochures, a lot of direct mail pieces. Things that I enjoyed as a designer. And we did websites.

But I always had this desire to be my own boss. My father was an auto mechanic who ran his own business. I saw how he enjoyed being his own boss, and he would say it’s great to run your own business. When I told him I was going out on my own, he was proud.

Has the magazine changed your feeling about dentists at all?
Yes, it has. It has made it a lot less scary to go to the dentist. My only memories of being at the dentist when I was little were not good. I had a lot of cavities as a kid, so I had a lot of drilling, and all I remembered was pain.

I have come to respect the profession much more, and the fear is gone.

Changes at the magazine?
This issue is a redesign. The challenge has been to maintain the UB brand.

What is the value of the magazine?
It’s huge for the school. It’s a great way to keep the School of Dental Medicine in the hearts and minds of their former and current students.

Could it be just an online magazine?
Print is not dead, as much as people have been trying to bury it for the last 20 years. Print lives on. People are more apt to read an entire magazine than an entire online publication.

We all know that magazines are home-baked into a dentist’s office, so you can add it to the group of magazines. You never know who is going to pick it up and read it. There are plenty of UB alumni out there.
**OCT 23**
6 TO 8PM
Get ‘Crafty’...combining CDE and learning about craft beer at some of the area’s best breweries!

**UB DENTAL SCHOOL HISTORY: 1960–1980**
Frank Scannapieco, DMD, PhD
12 Gates Brewing, Buffalo, NY
REGISTRATION: $65 INCLUDES BEER TASTING AND APPS.
2 CE HRS

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**WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES**
6 TO 8PM

**OCT 4**
Mastication Function is More Than You Thought
Mehmet Eskan, DDS, PhD

**OCT 25**
Pediatric Oral Pathology: From Soft Tissue Lesions to Canker Sores!
Juan Yepes, DDS, MD, DrPH

**NOV 15**
Bridging Oral and General Health: A General Dentist’s Role with Photobiomodulation Therapy in Supportive Cancer Care
Praveen Arany, DDS, PhD

Live Zoom meetings. Watch live or at your leisure up to 10 days after lecture.

DENTIST: $45
RDH/DA: $35
2 CE HRS

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**SELF-STUDY PRE-RECORDED CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION**

**Oral Manifestations of Head and Neck Cancer Treatment**
Charles Matlach, DDS
2 CE HRS/$25

**The Best Laser for Clinical Dentistry: Myths, Fallacies vs Current Science!**
Praveen Arany, BDS, PhD
2 CE HRS/$25

**Successful Periodontics...The Body is the Hero**
Joseph Breloff, DDS, MS
2 CE HRS/$25

**Let’s Get Gingival: Min-Inv Approaches to Perio Plastic Surgery/Diagnosis and Management of Gummy Smiles**
Ryan Shure, DDS, MSc
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Upon receipt of your registration, we send an email with a link to the recording and instructions for earning CE credit. Confirmation of credit(s) earned are emailed out monthly for each program. If you have any questions or would like to register by phone, please call the Continuing Education office 716-829-2320.
In conjunction with the Association for Continuing Dental Education (ACDE), along with 30 of its member schools, we jointly present the “ACDE Webinar Series.”

This series features university-based key opinion leaders presenting numerous topics on multiple dates and times. Presentations are available to meet every dental health care professional’s schedule and interests.

Times are Eastern Standard Time.
The annual ice hockey tilt that pits University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine (UBSDM) students against a haggard group of alumni and faculty faced off at Buffalo Riverworks on March 3, 2023. The tradition is always well received and attended by students and alumni as participants and fans.

Buffalo Riverworks is a tremendous facility on the Buffalo River for food, drinks, and events like roller derby, curling and hockey. The rink is covered but open to the elements with the Buffalo skyline as a backdrop. Despite a day of freezing rain, the resilient players and fans came out in full force.

This year’s event, as always, was a spirited back and forth game with the Faculty/Alumni Team prevailing. The victory showed that, besides the tremendous talent of the “older” participants, someone in admissions dropped the ball and relied more on GPA’s and DAT scores rather than skating, shooting, points per game (PPG) and goals against average (GAA). Hopefully this trend can be reversed, and the UBSDM will again be recruiting the talented hockey players needed to continue this longstanding contest.

The Faculty/Alumni Team included Michael Gengo’13, Paul Herrmann ’19, Benjamin Hietanen ’19, Caleb Holmes ’19, Jonathan Kaszuba ’22, James Matteliano ’80, Raymond Miller ’85, Christopher Nowak ’15, Andrew Privitera ’96, Fred Rodems ’80, and Alexander Sikora ’19. Suiting up for the UBSDM Team were Lynn Copeland ’23, Alicja Kazmierowska ’23, Joseph Lippa ’23, Bailey Haines ’24, Joseph Mostowy ’24, Braeden Mathur ’24, Mirna Husinec ’25 and Abel Tefera ’26.

The University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association sponsored a great post-game party where chicken wings, pizza, and beverages were enjoyed by all!
Wicked Winter Storm Brings Welcome Visit

The Christmas storm of 2022 brought Dr. Alexander Campagna, ’09, Gen Pract Cert., ’10, and his wife, Andrea, an unexpected and welcome surprise. Nine tourists from South Korea and their driver had become stranded when their van got stuck in a ditch near the Campagna’s home in Williamsville.

The storm was cranking up, so the Campagna’s invited the group into their three-bedroom home, and the party was on.

The group—seven women and three men—stayed Friday and Saturday night, sleeping in a guest room, on couches, an air mattress, and in sleeping bags as the frigid storm raged on. Dr. Campagna told The New York Times that he and his wife “became accidental innkeepers.” And they couldn’t have been happier.

They swapped stories, watched the Buffalo Bills defeat the Chicago Bears on Christmas Eve, and shared delicious Korean home-cooked meals prepared by the guests. The visitors were surprised and elated to find that the Campagnas, both fans of Korean food, had all sorts of ingredients in stock: mirin, soy sauce, Korean red pepper paste, sesame oil and chili flakes. There was also kimchi and a rice cooker.

“It was kind of like fate,” Yoseb Choi, 27, who is from Pyeongtaek, told The Times. He was traveling with his wife, Claire, on the tour, which they had booked for their honeymoon. He said the hosts were “the kindest people I have ever met.”

Dr. Campagna called the chance gathering a “unique blessing,” and said the experience has inspired he and his wife to plan a visit to South Korea. “We will never forget this.”

On Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 239 alumni, faculty, and friends attended the UB Bulls Basketball game and pregame reception at the UB Alumni Arena for Alumni and Volunteer Appreciation Night.
Mark Heiss, ’82, FPFA, FACD, FICD, FADI, FIADFE, received Fellow status to Pierre Fauchard Academy. He is also a Fellow of the International College of Dentists and the American College of Dentists. He was appointed treasurer of the Illinois Academy of General Dentistry and dentist manager for the Chicago Dental Society Free Clinic. He serves on the CDS Foundation Board, Illinois State Dental Foundation Board, and is on the board of the American Association of Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR).

Jason Grinter, ’04, recipient of the Murray Rosenthal Scholarship while at the UB School of Dental Medicine, has partnered with Cyrus Oates, DDS, in making regular visits to Rockford Public Schools in Illinois for more than a decade to provide students with dental exams and identify any potential health concerns. The doctors say the good relationship they have with the school district helps make the program run smoothly, and students who need more than routine care can take a school bus to their dental offices for treatment. “I don’t have to guess if the parent is going to show up with their kid or not,” Dr. Oates said. “Every Tuesday, I know that bus is coming with six or seven kids.”

Retired dentists Bart Neckers, ’81 (L) and Dave Weinman, ’81 (R), in February 2023 played softball in the Dominican Republic for a team organized by Senior Softball USA. Three USA teams and three Dominican Republic teams competed in a two-day tournament in Punta Cana. The doctors both played for the victorious USA Red team, which won all five of their games. The duo started playing softball together in dental school.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Submit your class notes to Sherry Szarowski at ss287@buffalo.edu.

A few UBDSM alumni are currently serving the American Board of Periodontology as examiners for the oral examination. The UB School of Dental Medicine has a tradition in being a leader in periodontology, which is reflected in the wide span of decades this group represents. From left to right: Srinivas Myneni, BDS, MS Oral Sci., ’08, PhD Oral Biol., ’12, Perio Cert., ’14; Thomas J. Kepic, ’75, MSD; James A. Katancik, DDS, Perio Cert., ’96, PhD Oral Biol., ’98; Benjamin T. Duval, ’96; Harlan J. Shiau, ’00, DMSc.

2023 UBDAA REUNION CHAIRS
Would you like to get involved in planning your reunion? We are always looking for Reunion Co-Chairs, especially for classes 1968, 1973 and 1978! Please contact Sherry in the Dental Alumni Office at 716-829-6419 for details.

1963
Dr. Murray S. Rosenthal

1983
Dr. David H. Brown
Dr. Richard J. Lynch
Dr. Raymond A. Niceforo
Dr. David R. Stasiak
Dr. Robert J. Yetto

1988
Dr. David A. Braun

1993
Dr. Domenico M. Berardi
Dr. Edward A. Dwyer
Dr. Joseph E. Gambacorta

1998
Dr. Joseph A. Craddock
Dr. Heather VanWinkle

2003
Dr. Genene Crofut
Dr. Jeffrey I. Goldberg

2008
Dr. Kristen E. Riester
Dr. Erica L. Scott

2013
Dr. Elizabeth B. Kapral
Dr. Mara Teplitzky
Dr. Barbara Hnizda Valeria

2018
Dr. Harshvir Aujla
Dr. Lawrence Cronyn
Dr. Alicia Hulme
Memoriam

David R. Adams, ’82, age 72, a longtime resident of the Norwich, NY, area, died Oct. 26, 2022 following an extended illness. He served in the Army, stationed in Germany, while also spending time in Russia in the intelligence division. He remained with the Army Reserve with the 10th Mountain Division until 2010, retiring in the rank of Major. He graduated from Colgate University before attending UB. He operated his own practice in Norwich for 35 years. He served as a dentist for the New York State Veterans Home at Oxford for more than 20 years. He also served on the Norwich City School District Board of Education, served as tax assessor for the town of Norwich, and was involved with local Boy Scouts of America organizations.

Peter J. Brandetsas, ’59, age 91, of Perry, NY, passed away on Jan. 8, 2023, at the New York State Veterans Home in Batavia. He graduated from the University of Rochester before attending dental school. He served in the Army during the Korean Conflict. He opened his dental practice in 1961 in Perry. An Eagle Scout in his youth, he played basketball and baseball in college. He enjoyed golfing, bowling, racquetball, pickleball, skiing and reading.

Albert J. Colman, ’59, age 89, of Cromwell, Conn., passed away on January 26th, 2023. He graduated from Rochester University, UB and University of Michigan where he specialized in prosthodontics. He served in the Air Force in Northern California where he practiced dentistry. He opened a prosthodontic practice in Beverly Hills specializing in complex cases as well as in pediatric cleft palates. After practicing dentistry for nearly 30 years, he and his wife Diane traveled throughout Europe, Africa, and the US. They settled in Connecticut, where he took a position teaching at the University of Connecticut Graduate School of Dentistry.

Michael E. Ferrick, ’65, age 84, passed away on November 27, 2022, in Sarasota, Fl. Born in Buffalo, NY, he was the youngest of eight siblings, a proud Navy veteran, and a dentist who enjoyed 50 years of practicing dentistry.

Donald W. Fornes, ’64, age 85, passed away on January 16, 2023, in Sarasota, Fl. An Army veteran, he was a dentist in Clarence for over 40 years. He loved spending time with his family, golfing, bowling, woodworking, gardening, fishing and following the St. Bonaventure men’s basketball team.

Jeffrey H. Fox, ’84, age 63, passed away on March 7, 2022.

Ronald H. Jarvis, ’63, died May 26, 2023. After serving as a Lieutenant in the Dental Corps of the U.S. Navy at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Ron went on to receive his MSD from the University of Indiana in 1965. He had a private dental practice specializing in prosthodontics and restorative dentistry in Amherst, NY. A life-long learner, Ron was a member of many dental societies, clubs and associations. He was past President of the Eighth District Dental Society, the Erie County Dental Society, the American Prosthodontic Society and the UB Dental Alumni Association. He also taught at UBSDM and the Eastman Dental Center in Rochester, NY. He was an avid golfer and loved trains and visiting Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA.


Donald Neil MacDougal, ’68, passed away on April 4, 2023. He graduated from Cornell University, before attending the UB School of Dental Medicine. He had a successful dental practice for 27 years in Syracuse before retiring to Colorado.

James A. Myles, ’76, age 75, of Fairport, passed away on October 27. A native of Westwood, NJ, he graduated from the University of Rochester and went on to serve in the submarine service in the Navy, attaining the rank of Lieutenant, before attending dental school. He worked as a dentist for 28 years, and courageously fought a 50-year battle with Multiple Sclerosis.

Thomas D. Rafaill, Ortho Cert. ’65, MS ’66, age 87, of Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich., passed away on July 2, 2022. He earned his DDS from The University of Detroit Dental School. He had his own orthodontic practice in Roseville, Mich. for 45 years. He also served in the Air Force for two years. He also served as a council member and treasurer of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church.


Giuseppe “Joe” Santaniello, Ortho MS ’74, age 80, of Longmeadow, Mass. passed away unexpectedly on February 24, 2023. He practiced in East Longmeadow, Mass., and Enfield, Conn. He earned his DDS from University of Maryland. He was commissioned in the Air Force as a First Lieutenant and served as an Assistant Base Dental Surgeon. In 1972, he joined the Air Force Reserves. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 1997. From 1998 to 2002, he served as the Air Force Reserve Mobilization Assistant to the Air Force Surgeon General at the Pentagon. Before retiring from the Air Force in 2002, he received numerous medals and commendations, notably the Meritorious Service Medal. Not the average 80-year-old, he was still actively running his two practices. On his lunch breaks, he ran two miles daily. He also was an avid biker.

Vincent A. Solomon, ’64, age 84, passed away on March 3, 2023. He was a Captain and dentist in the Air Force, stationed in Thailand, and practiced dentistry in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, for over 38 years. He was a tennis referee at The Ohio State University, and was previously on the Board at Temple Israel, a member of Sertoma and Masons, and sat on the Reynoldsburg City Council for two years.

The University at Buffalo is a premier public research university, the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York system. The School of Dental Medicine is one of 12 schools that make UB New York’s leading public center for graduate and professional education and one of five schools that constitute UB’s Academic Health Center.

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5:30PM-7:30PM

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(Thursday & Friday)
Sponsored by Patterson Dental

Featured Speakers

Thursday, November 2, 2023
David Hornbrook, DDS, FAACD, FACE, FASDA
Miles Cone, DMD, MS, CDT, FACP
Simone Duarte, DDS, MS, PhD

Friday, November 3, 2023
Michael R. Markiewicz, DDS ’08, MPH, MD, FRCD(c), FACS
Daniel G. Pompa, DDS
Anne Koch, DMD
Benedict R. Miraglia, DDS ’93

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Marcelo W.B. Araujo, DDS, MS, PhD
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