

# UB DENTIST

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE • FALL 2007



**THE SOCIAL WORKER  
CAN SEE YOU NOW**

page 10

I would like to use my page to draw your attention to the message on the back cover of this magazine: What you'll find there is a call to raise your voice on behalf of the university, and a mechanism through which you can make yourself heard. I endorse this effort wholeheartedly as one that can do good for the school because it does good for the university, and one that can improve the future for the surrounding community as well.

My message is necessarily addressed to readers who live in New York State, and particularly to those who live in the area served by the Eighth District Dental Society. We New Yorkers have never enjoyed the benefit of the kind of powerful support for public higher education that is common in most other states. Politicians in states such as Ohio, or Michigan, or Wisconsin, or California, to name just a few where this is true, know that the public insists that they support public higher education. The citizens of those states have long-standing traditions of esteem for, and loyalty to their public universities. This is not yet true in New York—when the state cuts funding for higher education, you don't see the presidents of the New York Stock Exchange and Citigroup and Pfizer and Time Warner rise up together to oppose it.

UB Believers, the advocacy group for UB that is described on the back cover, is a step in the direction of creating a stronger voice for public higher education in New York. I hope you will join in. Whether you're a student, a faculty member, or an alumnus; whether you live in Western New York or New York City or on Long Island, this is an opportunity for all of us to improve the quality of life in the state by improving its university system.

I think UB has earned the right to ask you to speak up. UB president John B. Simpson is preparing the university for a strong future by using strategic planning as a leadership tool. This planning process, which we call UB 2020, is yielding new directions and defining new initiatives that will make UB a preeminent public research university. And as we define the goals that will get us there, we can communicate them more effectively.

This is a great time to be associated with UB—what we do here in the next few years can make a difference for decades to come. So I ask you again to turn the magazine over to see how you can speak up for UB.

Yours sincerely,



Richard N. Buchanan, DMD

# from the DEAN



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### SDM EDITORIAL GROUP

**Russell J. Nisengard, DDS, PhD**  
President  
UB Dental Alumni Association

**Marilyn I. Sulzbach**  
Executive Secretary  
UB Dental Alumni Association

**Carol R. Vanini**  
Director of Development  
School of Dental Medicine

### NEWSLETTERS UNIT

**Judson Mead**  
Newsletters Coordinator

**Lauren Newkirk Maynard**  
Newsletters Editor

**Celine Tan**  
Art Director and Designer

Cover Photo: **KC Kratt**

UB Dental Alumni Association  
337 Squire Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14214-8006  
800-756-0328, ext. 2  
(716) 829-2061  
Fax: (716) 829-3609  
[msulzbac@buffalo.edu](mailto:msulzbac@buffalo.edu)  
[www.ubdentalalumni.org](http://www.ubdentalalumni.org)

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# NewsBriefs

## Getting the word out

On Tuesday, June 5, 2007, dental educators, researchers, students and other oral health advocates attended a field advocacy workshop at UB's Jacobs Executive Development Center. Jointly hosted by UB, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the American Association for Dental Research (AADR), the event was organized to raise awareness of the value and need for advocacy on oral health care issues.

In opening remarks, Richard N. Buchanan, DMD, dean of the School of Dental Medicine, described the work of the New York State Academic Dental Centers (NYSADC). The consortium, which was formed in 1996, has three main goals: to enhance access to high-quality care for underserved, disadvantaged and other special patient populations throughout the state; to educate future generations of oral health care providers; and to formulate sound and cost-effective public health policy. Buchanan said the NYSADC has emerged as an important statewide resource in addressing oral health care disparities and abating the significant unmet oral health care needs of New Yorkers.

The day's program offered

perspectives on advocacy from legislative and dental leaders around the state. Amy Moore, legislative assistant to Congressman Thomas M. Reynolds, stressed the importance of partnerships, saying that staff are effective in getting messages to legislators. Eric Paul, legislative director in the office of New York State Senator Dale Volker, added that "we are all in this for the long term." Both stressed the importance of building trust and remaining steadfast and patient with the advocacy process.

Michael J. Pietkiewicz, UB assistant vice president for government relations, made a presentation on UB's timeline, budget cycle, and steps toward articulating the legislative agenda for the entire university. He described the concept of "integrated advocacy," noting that everyone has an integral role in advocacy. Speaking of the university's relations with legislators and their staffs, he said, "Our job is to help them understand our priorities; their job is to come to us to learn what we need."

Roger Triftshauser (DDS '61), treasurer of the American Dental Political Action Committee, addressed the value of advocacy, emphasizing, particularly to the students in attendance, that participation at every level matters.

Also, seasoned ADEA staff members presented various tools and key concepts of effective advocacy.

In the afternoon session, AADR-ADEA representatives discussed their efforts to protect vulnerable children with acute dental care needs by seeking Congressional authorization of a Dental Disproportionate Share (DDS) payment in Medicaid to assist academic dental clinics that serve a disproportionate number of uninsured/underinsured children. They also discussed attempts to obtain funding support from the Health Care Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers (HEAL NY) capital grant program for renewal of obsolescent clinical education and patient care facilities.

## 2 Buon giorno! SDM's Italian connection

A group of Italian dentists and dental hygienists visited SDM in early August as part of an international continuing education program in dental research, treatment and prevention. The week-long visit has become an annual event stemming from a friendship between Joseph Margarone Jr., former chair of the UB Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and Ugo Covani, an Italian dental surgeon who directs



[ 2 ] Dental hygienists Olivia Marchisio (left) and Anna Maria Genovesi (right) flank dentist Antonio Barone at a breakfast for this year's Italian continuing education program.

Photos: Celine Tan

the Tyrrhenian Stomatological Institute in Versilia, on the coast of Tuscany. Covani also holds a visiting clinical professorship in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at UB. He and Richard Hall, chair of the UB department, agree that the

program is a great partnership between the two countries. “It’s been going well for 15 years now,” says Hall. “The schedule works out, too, since the visits take place during Italy’s hot summer, before our students are on campus, so the Italians have access to the faculty, cadaver labs and classrooms.”

The dentists and hygienists were split into two groups, and took separate courses on topics ranging from dental implant surgery to preventive oral care. Representatives from Sweden and Martina, an Italian dental implant company, were also in town to give presentations on their products to the international group. Annamarie Phelan, the school’s associate director of continuing education, helped coordinate the Italians’ activities, from the classroom sessions to “after-school” shopping trips and excursions to Niagara Falls, the Anchor Bar and waterfront restaurant Shanghai Red’s.

“We are excited to be here, and to learn about the differences between Italian and American dental techniques, research and prevention,” said Olivia Marchisio, a dental hygienist (*igienista dentale*) who served as translator for many of the 26 Italians who made the trip. Among them were several dentists affiliated with the institute and

the University of Genoa, including Covani; Anna Maria Genovesi, a doctor of dental hygiene; and Antonio Barone, an implant specialist who studied with Robert Genco in the early 1990s.

“I’ve been coming here for 10 years now, and it’s been wonderful to share techniques and improve our skills at the same time,” Barone says.

### 3 Meyer is interim research dean

Anne E. Meyer, PhD, has been appointed interim associate dean for research. Meyer, who is principal research scientist and site director in UB’s Industry/University Center for Biosurfaces and research associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences, will support the research activities of students and faculty. As associate dean, she will encourage faculty research participation by developing information on research opportunities, assisting with grant applications, mentoring new faculty and serving as the liaison to external funding agencies and prospective research collaborators. She will also represent the research needs of the school within the larger UB community.



### THEY’VE GOT GAME

In what has been an annual rite for more than 10 years, David Croglia, DDS ’87, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, brought a contingent of residents from the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program to the UB Bulls football training room under UB Stadium in August to take dental impressions of incoming freshmen on the team in order to make custom mouth guards for the players. Here, Jeff Levy (DDS ’07) goes to work on freshman recruit Davante Shannon.

## 4 What did you do last summer?

All day long, on Aug. 3—with scheduled breaks at 10:24, 12:12 and 3:00—31 DDS students presented research they'd been working on for the past several weeks to fellow students and mentors involved in the dental student research program.



Nancy J. Parisi

### THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF HIS LIFE

Interim associate dean for research Anne E. Meyer welcomes James Garrett of Riverside, Calif. to the dental profession at the School of Dental Medicine white coat ceremony for incoming students, held in the UB Center for the Arts on August 17. Proud family members looked on as students from all over the U.S. put on the familiar coat with the help of faculty and second-year students. Several alumni also shared the stage with their children. Dean Richard N. Buchanan, DMD, told students and guests that the event not only marked the start of a scientifically grounded academic career, but also signified their ethical and moral responsibilities to the profession.

The tight schedule, with 10 minutes for presentations and two minutes for questions, is the standard presentation format at International Association for Dental Research meetings—and so the format is yet one more lesson for the student researchers.

This summer's research ranged from basic molecular biology ("RNA interference analysis of the role of AP-2a in regulating ITPR1 gene expression in G-292 osteosarcoma cells and MCF7 mammary epithelial cells") to social science ("What do you think? Dental students' perceptions of patients with special needs").

Students in the program, which is coordinated by Richard Ohrbach, DDS, PhD, and Sarah Gaffen, PhD, receive stipends for their work. During the year, each participant chooses a faculty mentor and developed a research proposal for faculty committee review and approval in order to earn a place in the summer program.

"This program is driven by student interests," according to Ohrbach.

The program only funds stipends, and the summer projects must be the students' own, not simply work in lab. "For our faculty mentors, this is a labor of love for their science," Ohrbach says.

Funds for stipends come from the school and alumni and from a National Institutes of Health training grant that expires after the 2008 session. Ohrbach hopes to develop other funding sources that can sustain the long-standing program in the future.

In addition to their research, participants in the summer program attend a weekly seminar that combines sessions on such topics as how to read and critique a scientific paper and how to integrate research and dentistry, with faculty research talks.

## 5 New appointments at the school



**Joan M. Doris, DSW**, has joined the Department of Pediatric and

Community Dentistry as an assistant professor. She was most recently an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work at Ohio University (2003-07). She will teach biobehavioral courses in the DDS program; she will also be affiliated with the CARES program. (See page 12 for more on Doris.)



**Hyeong Il Kim, DDS, MS, FACP**, has joined the Department of

Restorative Dentistry as an assistant professor. He has

been director of the fixed and removable laboratories and a clinical instructor (2002-07) at the UB School of Dental Medicine, where he earned an MS in oral sciences, was a fellow in implant dentistry, and earned a DDS. Kim has been a diplomat of the American Board of Prosthodontics since 2002. He will be teaching courses in fixed and removable technique and in clinical prosthodontics.



**Stefan Ruhl, DDS, PhD,** has joined the Department of Oral Biology as an assistant professor. He was most recently associate professor in the Department of Operative Dentistry and Periodontology at the University of Regensburg, Germany (2004-07). He earned his DDS and PhD at Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany. Ruhl is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Dental Research* (2005-07). He will teach in the MS and PhD programs and develop new research collaborations within the school and with researchers affiliated with UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences and UB's 2020 initiatives.



**Mine Tezal, DDS, PhD,** has joined the Department of Oral

Diagnostic Sciences as an assistant professor. She was most recently a research assistant professor in the Department of Oral Biology (2004-07) and clinical assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics and Endodontics (2006-07) both at the UB School of Dental Medicine, and principal investigator at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute (2006-07). She will teach in the MS and PhD programs. Tezal will develop new research collaborations within the school and with researchers affiliated with UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences and the UB's 2020 initiatives.

## 6 McCall appointed chair

**W. D. "Scott" McCall Jr., PhD,** has been named chair of the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences. McCall, who holds the rank of professor, served the department as interim chair for the past three years. A member of the department since 1976, McCall conducts research on the effects of gender and TMD on mandibular mechanics; he has published more than 60 peer-reviewed papers. He has supervised the research of more than 25 master's candidates.

## UB SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE CDE—FALL COURSES

ALUMNI TUITION DISCOUNT: 20%;  
RECENT GRADS ('06-'07), 50%

### Friday Morning Breakfast Club

9 a.m. - 12 Fridays

UB School of Dental Medicine

\$95 each or \$175 for both (3 ce hrs)

### Sept. 21

**No Harm, No Foul: A Practical Approach to Treating Patients with Common Medical Issues**

Drs. Patrick Anders and David Croglia

### Nov. 16

**Pearls in Dentotherapeutics**

Dr. Sebastian Ciancio

### UB on the Niagara Wine Trail

Saturday, Oct. 6

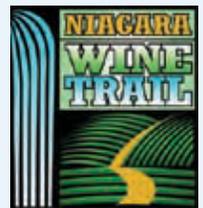
**Medical History Evaluation and Management of Medical Emergencies**

Dr. Richard Hall

Meet 9 a.m. at Holiday Inn Lockport;

bus returns at 5 p.m.

\$95 includes CDE, transportation, lunch and tastings (3 ce hrs)



### Friday, Nov. 9

**Sleep Parasomnias and the Dental Practitioner**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UB School of Dental Medicine

Drs. Kathleen Bennett and Richard Ohrbach

\$195 (6 ce hrs)

### Friday, Nov. 16

**Win-Win Practice Transitions That Maximize Value, Reduce Risk: Associateships, Evaluations, Buying and Selling, Contracts and More!**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UB School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Chester Gary

\$195 (6 ce hrs)

### Friday Dec. 7—'Last chance CE'

**Nutrition and Oral Health**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UB School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Robert Schifferle

\$195 (6 ce hrs)

## UB CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION

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[www.BuffaloCE.org](http://www.BuffaloCE.org)



## PGY-1 now required for New York licensure

# GOING THE EXTRA YEAR

“Satisfactory completion of a clinically-based postdoctoral general practice or specialty dental residency program, of at least one year’s duration in a hospital or dental facility,” is the new standard. ▲

by Kevin Fryling

John Vorrasi, the 2006-07 president of the UB chapter of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), heard a presentation by Robert Peskin, DDS, on New York’s new PGY-1 licensure requirement at the January 2007 regional meeting of ASDA chapters in New York City.

New York State’s 2004 law requiring completion of a postdoctoral general practice or specialty dental residency of at least a year’s duration as a prerequisite for licensure—known simply as PGY-1—had finally gone into effect three weeks before.

Vorrasi was familiar with the issues behind the new rule because his father, a general

dentist in Rochester, is an ADA delegate. But he hadn’t heard such a comprehensive presentation on the machinations of the ADA’s effort to address the subject as Peskin’s, so he wrote a summary for the *Condensor*, the school’s ASDA newsletter.

“It didn’t seem to me that anyone knew the background,” he says about his classmates who are affected by the change. He describes his fellow New Yorkers who plan to practice in the state as having mixed reactions: “Some feel cheated, some think it’s worthwhile.”

Vorrasi, who is applying for residencies outside New York, is taking the clinical exam. “I



Celine Tan

Fourth-year student John Vorrasi hopes to be admitted to a specialty, but will take the clinical examination.

want to cover myself,” he says.

This year is the first that the clinical exam has no relevance toward a dental license in New York—although the option to substitute it with an accredited postgraduate dental training program has been in place since 2003 due to a separate bill passed in 2002. The postgraduate residency requirement ushers in a licensing process that resembles the model used in medical schools.

According to Joseph Zambon, DDS, PhD, associate dean for academic affairs and professor of periodontics and endodontics, UB’s longstanding tradition of student participation in postgraduate

dental residencies puts the school in a strong position in relation to the new state licensure requirements. He notes that many UB graduates already serve in dental residencies at such local hospitals as Buffalo General, ECMC and Women and Children’s Hospital, as well as numerous programs across the state and country.

“The University at Buffalo has always been well known for students entering postgraduate programs,” he says. “Other schools run about 30 percent in terms of students who will take a postgraduate program—we run about 60 to 70 percent,” which includes about 10 percent in specialist programs. “We like

to think we've instilled a love of learning in our students."

He adds that the supposition that students who participate in postgraduate residencies are better prepared to embark on a dental career is perhaps the greatest reason for the changes in the state's licensure requirements.

"Scientific information doubles about every three years, so there's a lot more to know," Zambon says. "Implant dentistry was very minimal 20 years ago; now it's a standard of care in certain situations. Aesthetic dentistry has become more important. It's been increasingly difficult to cram everything into four years of dental school."

He also points to a growing consensus that a one-shot examination, performed on a volunteer patient, is fraught with difficulties and tensions that make it a poor indicator of a student's true skills or real-world performance. Supporters of the PGY-1 legislation included the Upstate Program Directors Group, New York State Department of Education, New York State Dental Association (NYSDA), American Association of Hospital Dentists and New York State Academic Dental Centers, a coalition of the state's dental schools.

Tobias Boehm '04, a first-year periodontics resident and doctoral student in the UB Department of Oral Biology,

took the two-day Northeast Regional Board exam several years ago.

"You had to perform a simple restoration and a professional tooth-cleaning on a patient, and a root canal and three-unit bridge on a mannequin head," he recalls. "I have to admit it was extremely stressful and that after two days I was well beat."

The fact that students must locate patients whose dental restoration needs are in synch with stringent board examination guidelines, in order to ensure a standardized test,

has also been called problematic. "Most stressful is that you're dependent on your patient showing up," says Boehm, who

is originally from Germany. "One of my patients did not, so I had to call a second patient and say, 'Please come now.'"

Patients who cancel at crucial times have been known to place roadblocks on the career path of future dentists, and, according to Zambon, there are ethical issues in involving live patients in a high-stakes, high-pressure exam.

"Physicians don't take high-stakes licensing examinations that require them to treat patients," he says. "You don't

see physicians doing appendectomies as part of their licensing exam."

Kendra Fryer Zappia, a 2006 UB dental graduate, part-time employee at a private dental practice and first-year resident in a program that rotates between several clinics in Upstate New York, said it's been invaluable to experience a general practitioner's tight schedule, which includes fillings, root canals, extractions and crown and bridge work on a regular basis.

"My confidence has definitely gone up since dental school," she says. "In dental school, it used to take us about three hours to just start a root canal, and now I can do a pulpotomy

in about 20 minutes. Being outside in our residencies in private practice, I've gotten quicker, because of the experience I've gained, the knowledge and the confidence. Right out of dental school, you're not really ready for private practice."

She also said she has gained important exposure to nonmedical issues related to private practice, such as navigating the health care and insurance system, treatment planning and scheduling.

Advanced education in gen-

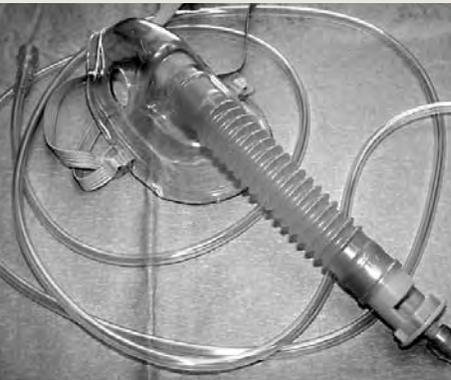
eral dentistry residency programs such as Zappia's are set in clinics or dental schools that provide postgraduates numerous patients and exposure to such subjects as senior and pediatric dental care, Zambon explains. The other program open to students interested in general practice is a general practice residency program, which is hospital-based and assigns residents to rotations that teach such topics as dental anesthesia and operating room dentistry.

Christopher Parks, a fourth-year UB dental student in the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program, spent this past summer in a three-week dental externship at Buffalo General Hospital and ECMC; he also explored residency programs on the West Coast while serving a six-week temporary active duty Navy clerkship in San Diego. He supports dental residency requirements because of his plans to serve as a dentist assigned to a small ship or marine billet.

"It's always a good idea to appear confident when you walk in front of a patient," he explains. "If I'm going to be the only dentist out there, then I want as much training as I can get. It would be not only be arrogant, but also naïve for me to think that I could just walk out of dental school and take care of absolutely anything I'm going to come across." ▀

*“Scientific information doubles about every three years, so there’s a lot more to know.”*

—JOSEPH ZAMBON



## DENTAL PLAQUE, VENTILATORS, AND PNEUMONIA

Ventilator-associated pneumonia is a major cause of infection in the hospital. Studies have shown that this infection can add \$40,000 to costs and double the length of the patient's hospital stay.

Now it appears that the patient's own dental plaque is a major source of germs that cause ventilator-associated pneumonia.

In results presented at the International Association of Dental Research (IADR), researchers from the UB School of Dental Medicine show that the same bacteria identified in dental plaque of patients when they were admitted to the ICU and placed on ventilators were found later in the lungs from those who subsequently developed pneumonia.

"Our study shows that a strong relationship exists between oral and respiratory pathogens in patients with ventilator-associated pneumonia," says Paul Heo, DDS, a doctoral student in the Department of Oral Biology and first author on the study.

"We are saying that if the patients' mouths and teeth aren't cleaned while they are in the hospital, they may easily develop lung disease."

The presentation is part of a three-year longitudinal, double-blind study funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and headed by Frank A. Scannapieco, DDS, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Oral Biology.

The trial aims to determine if swabbing ventilated ICU patients' mouths with a bactericide can protect them from developing pneumonia.

In this component, Heo and colleagues concentrated on three strains of suspected pathogens that are responsible for most hospital-acquired pneumonia: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Samples of plaque from teeth and of secretions from the trachea were obtained from ICU patients on the day of admission and every third day thereafter, up to 21 days. Bronchial alveolar lavage samples also were collected from those suspected of having developed pneumonia.

Samples were selected from nine patients who were found to have the pathogens of interest in their plaque and were suspected of having pneumonia.

Genetic profiles of bacteria from tracheal and bronchial samples of the nine patients with pneumonia were found to be identical to profiles of bacteria from their dental plaque.

"These results suggest that the teeth likely serve as an important reservoir of infection in these patients," Heo says.

Elaine M. Haase, PhD, research associate professor of oral biology, also contributed to the study.

## GUM DISEASE IN POSTMENOPAUSAL WOMEN

A study conducted in a large sample of postmenopausal women by University at Buffalo epidemiologists has provided new information on the prevalence of certain gum-disease-causing oral bacteria in this population and the association of the bacteria with oral bone loss.

Results showed that women infected with four bacteria known to cause periodontal disease were more likely to have more severe oral bone loss than those without these oral pathogens.

Two widely recognized periodontal pathogens, called *P. gingivalis* and *T. forsythensis*, were found to infect 15.1 percent and 37.9 percent of the women, respectively. Two additional oral bacteria suspected to be pathogenic, *P. intermedia* and *C. rectus*, were found in 43.4 percent and 17.4 percent of women.

"This is one of the first studies in community-dwelling postmenopausal women that assessed bacteria presence and associated it with oral bone loss, while controlling for other factors, such as age, smoking status and income," says Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD, associate professor of social and preventive medicine, UB School of Public Health and Health Professions, and senior author on the study.

Results appear in the June 2007 issue of the *Journal of Periodontology*. Robert J. Genco, DDS, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Professor and UB professor of oral biology was a coauthor on the study along with other several other UB researchers. ▀

by Lois Baker

A CONVERSATION WITH

# Robert Joynt

The Director of Admissions at the School of Dental Medicine talks about how the school selects the students who eventually become the faces of dental practice.



Celine Tan

## How long have you been director of admissions?

I've been director since 1984, so 24 years. I've been on the faculty since 1970 and I started on the admissions committee in 1976-77. I was interested in it. I think it's a big part of how well we do as a school. The better the students we take in, the better the graduates we produce.

## How much time do you spend in your admissions role?

It depends on the time of the year. Once we get started in mid-September, it's a good half of my time through March. Then it tapers off.

## What's the present state of recruitment to the school?

At the present time we are doing very little recruiting. We participate in a few local career fairs and sponsor tours of the school by groups of students from colleges and universities interested in pursuing dentistry. Last year we processed 2,001 applications; the year before we had 1,800; the year before that, 1,300. We start getting applications at the end of June and we have about 1,300 already so we'll have more than ever this year.

## Why the interest in dentistry?

It's a national trend and I'm not entirely sure why. It might be a little bit of disillusionment with

medicine—including third-party payers. But the health sciences, in general, seem to be booming.

## How do you get from 2,000-plus applications to a class of 85?

First, we look primarily at grades. We make a cut there. Then we invite applicants who make that cut to the school for interviews. Last year we interviewed about 350 applicants—we offer more interviews than that, but 350 is about the number who accept our invitation to come in. So the first cut is grades and scores, then after we meet with applicants, other factors come into play such as their maturity, knowledge of dentistry, communication skills.

## How do you decide among the final 350?

Two members of the admissions committee interview each applicant. At a meeting following the interview, each applicant is presented to the committee by the interviewers. Following the review, the committee ranks each applicant.

## How do you actually admit the class?

We use what's called rolling admission. We send out acceptance letters on December 1—that's the date all dental schools have agreed will be the earliest for acceptance. We send out about

80-90 acceptances and we usually fill half the class with that first mailing. After that we accept students from our final applicant pool until the class is full. Right now we're averaging two acceptances offered for each place in the class.

## Who serves on the admissions committee?

Faculty and three or four senior students, 18-20 members altogether, but any meeting might have 10-12 in attendance. It's a terrible schedule for the faculty—we interview two days a week and meet every week from September through March, so it is the most demanding committee in the school.

## When you look back at the past 10 years, do you see changes in the kind of person applying to dental school?

The greatest change I have seen over the past ten years is the increase in the diversity of both our applicant pool and our first-year classes. There was a time when our classes were made up of a group of males by the names of Tom, Bill, Ed. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of females admitted and in the ethnic diversity of our incoming classes. We have also seen a continuing, impressive rise in the academic qualifications of our applicants.

## Are your applicants coming from a wider geographic area?

Yes, from all over the country.

## What do you look for that gives you confidence a candidate can succeed?

The committee is most encouraged by seeing that an applicant has a good sense of what they're getting into. I think it's true with all professional schools that a lot of applicants may be more focused on the lifestyle, the things the profession can bring them, than on the things they'll actually be doing everyday as professionals. We're always very encouraged by an applicant who really knows what dentistry is about, who can talk about the pluses and minuses, who realizes that it's hard going, that it's difficult work.

## How closely do you follow the students you admit?

I'm course director for preclinical operative dentistry, so I see them all. I'm also on the student progress and promotions committee so I can follow them along. That's an important part of what we do in admissions; it's good to follow up whether what we thought would happen did actually happen. There are always some people we have concerns about, sometimes justified, as it turns out, sometimes not. ▀



KC Kraft

# Serving clinic patients CARES WORKS

by Judson Mead

Jennifer S. came to Buffalo from a Southern Tier town with her teenage son when he got hit in the mouth and needed emergency dental work. She also had dental problems of her own and someone suggested that she try the dental school. Jennifer eventually found her way to UB and discovered she needed oral surgery, just to start. She is a single mother, she is hearing impaired, her partial plates interfered slightly with speech. Her son was troubled, she was unemployed. There were high hurdles between her and the dental plan the oral surgeon prepared. She made “phone calls and phone calls.” Then someone told her to call CARES. ▲

Started as an experiment with a \$33,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo in 2001, the School of Dental Medicine's Counseling, Advocacy, Referral, Education and Service Program (CARES) is now a fixture, employing two full-time social workers and handling some 300 referrals in 2007. The program helps patients in the school's dental clinics cope with issues that range from mental health to transportation, from caregiving to Medicaid applications.

None of these matters are ones a dentist can intervene in, but they all bear on dental care. If Mrs. B. can't keep her appointment at the school because she doesn't dare leave her ailing husband alone, she can't get her dental care. But if a CARES social worker helps Mrs. B. arrange respite care, she can come in.

Former dean Louis J. Goldberg, DDS, PhD, saw a need to address such problems. In the mid-1990s, when he came to UB, the school's patient population was getting older and retention was an increasing problem, making continuity of care difficult for students. Goldberg remembers saying to Lawrence Shulman, then dean of UB's School of Social Work, "We have social work problems. You have a school of social work. Let's do something together."

It was an instance when nothing interfered with the obvious solution. Dental students benefited, patients benefited,

the social work school gained an internship site, and social work and dental faculty had a platform for research on topics of interest to both. In fact, the program is such a clear win-win-win proposition that when social work professor Joan Doris, a new faculty member in the Department of Community and Pediatric Dentistry (see box, next page), first heard about it, she didn't think it was particularly noteworthy because it made such sense that every school should have one.

As it happens, there are only two others in the country: the University of Rochester employs a part-time social worker in its Eastman Dental Center—UB sought their collaboration before starting CARES; and now the New York University College of Dentistry has added a staff social worker after consulting with UB's CARES staff.

CARES operates under the aegis of the Office of Clinical Affairs and reports to Jude A. Fabiano, DDS, associate dean for clinical affairs. It has an advisory board consisting of Fabiano; Goldberg; Elaine Davis, PhD, associate dean for student affairs; and Deborah Waldrop, PhD, associate professor in the School of Social Work.

It was Fabiano and Waldrop who were originally commissioned by their deans to study the social work needs of older dental clinic patients. From their surveys of the needs of dental clinic patients and the subsequent work of CARES,

they and their colleagues have produced a body of research published in *Social Work in Health Care*, the *Journal of Dental Education*, and *Gerontology and Geriatrics Education*.

The grant that founded CARES paid for a half-time social worker; when that was spent, the dean continued the program year-to-year. Fabiano demonstrated that fees generated by patient retention attributable to CARES offset the cost of operating the program; in the three-year period Fabiano studied, 80 percent of patients referred to CARES with at least one identifiable barrier to dental care continued their care in the clinic. In 2005, CARES received the American Dental Association Geriatric Care Award. In 2007, the school started funding two full-time social workers on a continuing basis.

Cynthia S. DuPont, who has been director of CARES since June 2006, says the program's first contact with a patient usually comes from either dental student or faculty referral. There are CARES brochures in clinic waiting areas and some patients contact the program directly. DuPont or CARES coordinator Britt A. Holdaway interview patients (who technically are "clients" when they sit down with a social worker) to identify issues so they can make connections to appropriate services. They keep students who refer patients up to date on their actions. CARES also

« Left to right. Cynthia S. DuPont, CARES director; Jude A. Fabiano, DDS, associate dean for clinical affairs; and Britt A. Holdaway, CARES coordinator.

serves as the screening portal for applications for financial help through the school's participation in the Donated Dental Services program.

"We try to see the whole picture," DuPont says. Looking into a transportation problem may reveal collateral difficulties with mental health status, or finances, or nutrition, or even eyesight. It is not the dental student's (or dentist's) responsibility to find these things out—but someone should. DuPont once intervened with a young patient who had come in with a toothache but who was rushing out of the building before receiving treatment because

he was overcome with frustration at the paperwork and at having to wait. She calmed him and discovered that his family had social service needs that CARES was able to help him address.

The school's decision to create a social work faculty position is the latest indication that social services are now well integrated into both the operation of the dental school and the education of dentists. Goldberg makes the point that students are under pressure to learn dental skills and they can't be expected to assess the psychosocial state of their patients without some education and some kind

of social service infrastructure supporting it. Fabiano, Waldrop, Goldberg and Davis are now studying the knowledge and attitudes of dental students, from first through fourth years, about geriatric patients. According to Fabiano, the clinic currently has more than 5,800 patients over 65 on its rolls.

As for former CARES client Jennifer S., who speaks clearly after some speech therapy to adjust to her new dental work, she says she plans to stay with UB as long as she can. She will be back in the clinic for a scheduled cleaning in September. ▴

### Teaching the psychosocial side of dental patients

Joan Doris, assistant professor in the Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry, was intrigued by how different the job posting was from anything else listed under Social Work in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. A tenure track faculty position in social work at a dental school?

"I think it says something not only about the faculty here at the dental school," she says, "but also about the effectiveness of the CARES program that this position was created."

Doris, who comes to UB from a faculty position at Ohio University, has had extensive clinical experience in addition to her academic career, will provide clinical supervision for CARES, as well as teaching seminars in basic communication with patients and in understanding geriatric mental health issues as they relate to dentistry.

She will also develop research around opportunities created by the CARES program, both with the patient population and the program itself. She mentions two areas of interest concerning patients: pediatric dental anxiety, which she says has not been extensively researched, and the practical matter of how to extend dental care to refugee populations in Buffalo, many of whom have never had any dental care. On the program level, she thinks there may be value in studying and describing the change in the culture of the school with respect to social work over the life of the program so that other dental schools can learn from UB's experience.

Doris says that what she knows about dentistry "you could put on the head of a pin and still have room left over for half a dozen angels," but she has seen the need for dental care up close from the social work side, having worked with battered women and impoverished clients.



Joan Doris

# Spreading the Smiles



## GIFT TO BOOST OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

Funding from a legacy gift for the Buffalo Outreach and Community Assistance (BOCA) program will someday help put smiles on the faces of those in need of dental care in the U.S. and around the world.

Burton Spiller '56, a retired orthodontist from LeRoy, N.Y., wanted to make a gift to the dental school that would "help the doers and the receivers." He chose to set up a \$150,000 bequest to benefit BOCA, a popular SDM program founded and administered by UB dental students.

Now in its fifth year, BOCA provides vital dental care to underserved populations. To date, 155 SDM students and 28 faculty have treated more than 6,000 patients and performed 3,505 restorations and 4,361 extractions for poor populations in such locations as the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Belize, Mexico, Ghana and the Appalachian region of the United States. Plans are in place to expand its local outreach in the Buffalo area.

"It makes me feel wonderful to know I'm doing a small part to improve a piece of our world beyond my time in it." Spiller says about his bequest.

"BOCA gives students a valuable experience, and it gets needed services to people who otherwise may never receive care for their dental problems. "

UB is grateful to Spiller for his generous gift to the dental school and for his foresight in promoting a global outreach program that benefits the volunteers and the recipients. Jude A. Fabiano, associate dean for clinical affairs and BOCA's faculty advisor, says that gifts like Spiller's are important as the program grows, especially for underwriting the cost of dental equipment and helping to fund student participation. SDM students currently pay out-of-pocket for the trip, which can cost upwards of \$3,000. The portable dental units (PDUs) used for cleanings and oral surgeries cost around \$2,200.

"I have a grant to purchase some PDUs, but we could definitely use a few more, especially when multiple teams are in the field simultaneously," says Fabiano, who adds that BOCA is primarily self-funded, aside from donated medical supplies and an annual cash donation from the SDM Alumni Association. "Receiving gifts like this one would be a terrific way to start a scholarship fund for interested students, who often have to take out loans or find other creative ways to raise money for these trips," he says. ▴

## HOW YOU CAN HELP BUILD THE SCHOOL EVERY YEAR

The UB School of Dental Medicine Annual Fund is a vital source of support for a great variety of programs in the school. All gifts make a difference, regardless of the amount, but it is your participation that matters most. There are two primary ways to direct your gift to the UB School of Dental Medicine Annual Fund:

### Unrestricted Gift

Your unrestricted gift to the Annual Fund provides important flexible funding that addresses the school's immediate needs. Examples of what such unrestricted gifts support include faculty and student research, tuition assistance, equipment, and renovations. Unrestricted contributions are used where the need is the greatest.

### Restricted Gift

Your gift can be designated to benefit a special area of interest, such as providing funds for a particular

department or program, for furthering specific advancements in research or supporting existing scholarship endowments.

Please make a gift to the dental school today. For more information about giving to the UB School of Dental Medicine, please contact Carol Vanini, Director of Development, at (716) 829-3931 or at [vanini@buffalo.edu](mailto:vanini@buffalo.edu). For your convenience, there is an envelope provided in this issue of *UB Dentist*. To make your gift online, please visit [www.giving.buffalo.edu](http://www.giving.buffalo.edu).

**Milton D. Grodner '44** resigned from the Dept. of Senior Affairs Advisory Council of the City of Albuquerque, N.M. after 10 years of service. On July 16, the department held a luncheon in his honor and he was officially commended by executive order from Mayor Martin Chavez for his contribution and commitment to improve the quality of life of the senior community.

**Gordon Kauderer '58** and his wife, Marilyn, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends on July 15, 2007, at a formal reception at Arrowhead Golf Club, Akron, N.Y. Dr. Kauderer retired after 43 years of private practice. The couple has three children and eight grandchildren.

**Joseph J. Massaro '58** holds the rank of colonel in the U.S. Volunteers, a group of military retired personnel trained to perform an honors ceremony at a funeral for a veteran at grave side. Included are firing of rifle volleys, playing of taps and U.S. flag folding. Dr. Massaro currently resides in Floral Park, N.Y.

**Frederick M. McIntyre '72,**



**Certif. Fixed Prosthodontics and MS '87,** was presented

the William M. Feagans Award by the Dental Student Association. The award was given for his concern that encompassed the finest aspects of academic dentistry, tempered with an appreciation of the demands of "real life" dentistry and the inherent challenges of student life. Dr. McIntyre retired from the Dept. of Restorative Dentistry, UB School of Dental Medicine, on July 1, 2007.

**Daniel J. Conny '73 and Certif. Fixed Prosthodontics '80** was presented the Educator of the Year Award by the Class of 2007. He served as academic mace bearer and led the class into the commencement ceremony. Dr. Conny is associate professor, Dept. of Restorative Dentistry, UB School of Dental Medicine.

**James A. Balukjian '74** was named dental director at Delta Dental of Rhode Island. In this position, he will provide clinical expertise and oversight for the insurer's programs and serve as a spokesperson for clinical and dental policy decisions. Dr. Balukjian resides in Greenville, R.I.

**Lata S. Shenoy '77 and Fixed Prosth '82** made her big debut when the hit television show "Dancing With the Stars" visited

Buffalo in July 2007. After years of performing in dance competitions, as well as the School of Dental Medicine Talent Show, Dr. Shenoy and her partner were one of four couples invited to perform in front of the audience and contestants.

**William R. Calnon '78** was installed as trustee of the ADA, where he will serve on the ADA board as a trustee from the 2nd district of New York. Dr. Calnon resides in Spencertown, N.Y.

**George W. Ferry '78** has been awarded the 2006-07 Alan J. Gross Award for Excellence in Teaching by the class of 2010. This is the third time Dr. Ferry has received this award—he is the first faculty member to receive it three times. Dr. Ferry is clinical associate professor in the Dept. of Restorative Dentistry, UB School of Dental Medicine.

**Bruce M. Goldstein '82 and Ortho '84** has been practicing orthodontics in the Scottsdale, Ariz., community for 23 years. He is the first orthodontist in the state of Arizona to implement the revolutionary Suresmile technology into his private practice. He is also a clinical instructor of orthodontics at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health.

**Mark J. Szarejko '85** will give a presentation titled "Dental Considerations for the Medically Compromised Patient" at the National Conference on Correctional Health Care annual conference, Oct. 16, in Nashville, Tenn.

**Mary Beth Dunn '90 and Pedro '92** has been elected to the board of directors of the UB Alumni Association for 2007-08. The UB Alumni Association is a volunteer-led international organization that provides ongoing service to alumni and is a focus of alumni support for, and service to, UB, its students, faculty and staff. Dr. Dunn currently practices pediatric dentistry in Clarence, N.Y.

**Violet Haraszthy, MS '94, Certif. in Combined Prosthodontics '98 and DDS '02** was promoted to associate professor with tenure in the Dept. of Restorative Dentistry, UB School of Dental Medicine.

**Heidi Lewis '00,** along with husband, Andres, and big brother Evan (3 years old) welcomed the birth of her son, Joel Marcus, on July 4, 2007. Dr. Lewis resides in Weston, Fla.

**Bill (Hubert) Hawkins '01** announced the birth of his son, Hubert William Hawkins V, on June 5, 2007. Hugh was 7 lbs., 14 oz. and 20.5 inches long. Also, over the last year Bill has opened his new



**CHIH-YI (ROBERT) LI '02** traveled to Kenya on a mission trip in July of 2007. His team consisted of 10 members from the First Baptist Church of Ellisville in St. Louis, Mo. There were two dentists on this team, as well as two registered nurses providing chairside assisting. They visited the villages of Maoi, Marigat, Radat, and Muserechi during the 10-day trip. Together, they were able to remove close to 200 badly decayed teeth from 150 patients and provide ministry in the remote countryside.



practice in Littleton, N.H., named Dr. Hugh's Dental.

**Christopher R. Pusateri '02 and Prosth '05** accepted a position at Ivoclar Vivadent Inc. He will continue to work in the AEGD Clinic at the school one day per week.

**Jose L. Tapia, Oral Path '03 and MS '03** was selected by the Class of 2009 to receive the Alan J. Gross Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award is made on the basis of enthusiasm for the subject matter, the ability to convey information clearly, and a genuine concern for the student.

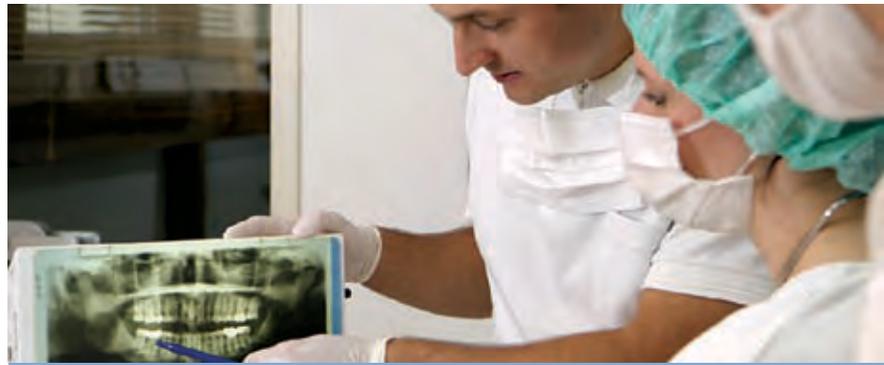
**Judy Yuan '03 and Prosth '06** recently accepted an appointment as clinical assistant professor in the prosthodontic department at the University of Illinois-Chicago. She will assume this position in fall 2007 after completing a year as an ITI Scholar in Bern, Switzerland, under the direction of Dr. Dan Buser. Dr. Yuan also had her MS degree research published in the August 2007 issue of the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*.

**Jill Hayes '04 and Scott Farley '04** were married

in September. Scott graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in June 2007 with his certificate in orthodontics and has moved back to Buffalo to begin practicing as an associate at Douglas Wright Orthodontics. Jill completed her service in the U.S. Air Force in August 2007. She spent one year in an AEGD at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and then two years at Charleston AFB, S.C. as a general dentist. She has also relocated back to Buffalo and is working at Barzman, Kasimov & Vieth Dental. They live in downtown Buffalo.

**Kyung E. Lee '06 and Adam R. Pristera '05** would like to announce their engagement. They met at the School of Dental Medicine in Tier C. Dr. Lee completed the AEGD program at Columbia University in New York City and will continue her education at the New York University Endodontic Program (inspired by Drs. Pantera, Levine and Calabrese from the UB endodontic program). Dr. Pristera is currently continuing his education at the Columbia University Endodontic Program.

**Yaritza Miranda Perio '07** placed in the top 10 percent of all students in North America AAP in-service Examination.



## UNIVERSITY-BASED HANDS-ON CONTINUING EDUCATION GET IT AT UB!

### FRIDAY OCT. 12

#### Introduction to Restorative Procedures for the Dental Team member: Hands-on Workshop (10 ce hrs, includes required reading)

**\$395** • Limited enrollment

1. Proper selection and application of clamps/rubber dams
2. How to place a matrix band properly
3. The importance of and how to select wedges
4. How to condense amalgam fillings and their properties
5. How to carve an amalgam restoration
6. How to manipulate, finish and polish a resin restoration

### SATURDAY NOV. 3

#### Radiology Boot Camp...Back to Basics: Hands-on Radiology Workshop (6 ce hrs)

**\$345** • Limited enrollment

Guest faculty: **Prof. Gail Williamson** and **Dr. Edwin Parks** from Indiana University School of Dentistry

1. Review radiation safety and patient management strategies
2. Identify and correct intraoral and panoramic errors
3. Learn optimal techniques for intraoral radiography
4. Properly position patients for panoramic radiograph

### SATURDAY NOV. 10

#### Head and Neck Anatomy Review: Live Demo 'Cadaver' Workshop (6 ce hrs)

**\$495** • Limited enrollment

Guest faculty: **Dr. Charles Severin**, UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

1. Gross and sectional anatomy of the head and neck
2. Standard and sectional (CT and MRI) radiographic images of the head and neck
3. Common developmental anomalies of the head and neck

## UB CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION

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# The 30th Annual BUFFALO NIAGARA DENTAL MEETING

SPONSORED BY THE UB DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

October 24 -26, 2007  
BUFFALO CONVENTION CENTER

[ WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24 \* 5:30-8:00 P.M. ]

#### **Opening Night Celebration**

Supported by Ivoclar Vivadent Inc.

[ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25 ]

#### **Ten latest trends in practice management\***

**Char Sweeney, CDPMA**

Supported in part by educational grants from CareCredit & Patterson Dental

#### **Tin roofs, tofflemires and ten thousand smiles:**

**Volunteer dentistry**

**Jude Fabiano, DDS '77**

Alumni Speaker Series

#### **Retirement investment strategies and self-employed retirement plans\***

**Edward Deicke and Joseph E. DiSanza**

Supported by an educational grant from North Shore Wealth Management

#### **CPR; MP Emergency Response Training**

**Women's wellness: An oral health perspective**

**Barbara Steinbert, DDS and Linda Blackiston, RDH**

Supported by an educational grant from Philips Oral Healthcare

#### **Utilization of advanced technologies in detecting oral cancer and potentially malignant diseases**

**Scott Benjamin, DDS '78**

Alumni Speaker Series

#### **Forensic Odontology: The tales that teeth tell!**

**Dean Cherpelis, DDS '88**

Alumni Speaker Series

#### **Invisalign—its application and today's orthodontist/GP team approach**

**Doug Wright, DDS and Peter S. Rivoli, DDS '86**

Alumni Speaker Series

#### **MICHAEL A. MEENAGHAN SYMPOSIUM ON IMPLANT DENTISTRY**

**The future is now**

**Jack T. Krauser, DMD**

Supported by an educational grant from Nobel Biocare

#### **So... what's new in infection control?**

**Harold Edelman, DDS**

#### **Teamwork strategies: From sabotage to support\***

**Char Sweeney, CDPMA**

Supported, in part, by educational grants from CareCredit & Patterson Dental

#### **Endodontics on the cutting edge**

**Stephen P. Niemczyk, DMD**

Supported by an educational grant from Tulsa Dental

#### **Dental office regulatory management issues**

**Al Frost, DDS '83**

Alumni Speaker Series

#### **Current Army medical and dental capability**

**Major General Russell J. Czerw, DDS '87**

Alumni Speaker Series

#### **Stress Management: Forever\***

**David Farrugia, EdD**

#### **Children deserve the best**

**Kaneta Lott, DDS**

#### **Lasers in dentistry: The basics and beyond**

**Scott Benjamin, DDS '78**

Alumni Speaker Series

[ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26 ]

#### **Dentures for the baby boomers: The next generation denture patient**

**Joseph Massad, DDS**

Supported by an educational grant from Dentsply Caulk

#### **3RD ANNUAL ALAN J. DRINNAN MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM**

**AIDS in the 21st century: Our responsibility as professionals**

**Stuart Fischman, DMD**

Alumni Speaker Series

#### **Update on medical conditions of interest to the dentist**

**Terrence J. Thines, DDS '75, MS**

Alumni Speaker Series

#### **How to age gracefully**

**Tracey Bernardoni**

Supported by an educational grant from Gold's Gym

#### **CPR; MP Emergency Response Training**

**Diabetes Mellitus: Strategies for providing comprehensive care**

**JoAnn Gurenlian, RDH, PhD**

Supported, in part, by an educational grant from Colgate

**Esthetic dentistry and materials update**

**Gerard Kugel, DMD, MS, PhD**

Supported, in part, by educational grants from Kerr & Orascoptic

**All-ceramic restorations: Materials selection to cementation**

**Thomas T. Teel, DDS**

Supported by an educational grant from Ivoclar Vivadent Inc.

**Protection, savings and growth\***

**Richard Thomas**

Supported by an educational grant from Alliance Advisory Group

**Exceeding patient expectations: Beyond their beautiful smiles**

**Bradley S. Portenoy, DDS '85**

Alumni Speaker Series

**Medical emergencies in the dental office**

**Richard E. Hall, DDS '78, MD**

Alumni Speaker Series

**Organize your practice with proven practice management systems\***

**Randy Bird**

Supported by an educational grant from Sullivan Schein

**Complete wellness program for the whole office\***

**David E. Jauch Jr. and Jared Byer**

**Risk Management**

**John Asaro, DDS '73 and Kevin Ricotta, JD**

**So... what's new in infection control?**

**Harold Edelman, DDS**

**Oral Medicine: Linking systemic diseases with oral health care**

**JoAnn Gurenlian, RDH, PhD**

Supported, in part, by an educational grant from Colgate

**Contemporary periodontal management**

**Larry Sweeting, DDS**

Supported by an educational grant from Orapharma

**"Make me smile" with implants: esthetics problems**

**James L. Soltys, DDS**

Supported by an educational grant from Straumann USA

**NYS amalgam separator law explained**

**Michael Darcy**

Supported by an educational grant from M.A.R.S. Bio-Med Processes Inc.

**\*May not meet requirements for mandatory NYS continuing dental education credits.**

**REGISTER EARLY: PRE-REGISTRATION CLOSES THURSDAY, OCT. 11, 2007 AND PRICES GO UP!**

**CANCELLATION POLICY:**

Written requests for a refund must be received by Oct. 11, 2007. • Cancellation fee of \$25 will apply to all cancellations. • No refunds issued after Oct. 11.

For more information, call: 800-756-0328, ext. 2 or (716) 829-2061 or visit our Web site at [www.ubdentalumni.org](http://www.ubdentalumni.org).

## REUNION DINNER DANCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2007

HYATT REGENCY BUFFALO  
BALLROOM

COCKTAILS 6:30 p.m.

DINNER 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS \$70

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

NON-REUNION AND NON-ALUMNI  
GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

VALET PARKING AVAILABLE.

# UB BELIEVERS

UB Believers is the name of a new, broad-based advocacy group that has been created to help support the University at Buffalo and its plans to grow by 40 percent between now and the year 2020. ▲

UB's positive impact on the quality of life in Western New York can be measured in many ways. Its annual economic impact already stands at an impressive \$1.5 billion and it is projected to be \$2.6 billion in 2020 as the result of UB's planned growth. A larger UB will be better positioned for success and will have a greater impact on the prosperity and quality of life of the region.

Launched in August, UB Believers is composed of dedicated individuals who recognize that they have an important role to play in helping UB achieve greater prominence among the nation's leading public research universities. They include representatives from key constituencies, ranging from community leaders and alumni to parents and students to members of the faculty and staff.

Groups like UB Believers have been created in recent years at other leading public universities, including the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota and Rutgers University. They have proven to be valuable advocates, helping to make the case to elected officials for funding those institutions.

Membership in UB Believers is free and open to all who want to support UB's growth to greatness. It is not limited to those who live in Western New York—we need the support of everyone who believes in UB. As a UB booster, you will receive regular e-mail updates from the university on its plans, progress and legislative issues. You also will receive e-mail communications asking you to become an active advocate on specific government and budgetary issues im-

portant to UB and its future that will be under consideration by Governor Eliot Spitzer and members of the New York State Senate and Assembly.

When you are called to action, you will be referred to a special UB Web site where you will be able to direct e-mail to elected officials, using a prepared message or developing your own. You also will be able to encourage others to show they believe in UB by using the site to send them information about UB Believers and to encourage them to join.

Our goal is to assemble thousands of dedicated individuals like you as members of UB Believers. Together, we will have a tremendous impact on building the future of the University at Buffalo, as well as that of Western New York and its economy.

To join UB Believers,  
please go to  
[www.buffalo.edu/  
YourUB](http://www.buffalo.edu/YourUB).

**UB** School of Dental Medicine  
University at Buffalo The State University of New York

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Buffalo, NY 14214

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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.