

# UBDENTIST

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE **SPRING 2013**



## ALL SMILES

KIDS OF ALL AGES RECEIVE TREATMENT, EDUCATION  
AT 12TH ANNUAL GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT



I'm certainly not a television junkie, but I saw a commercial a few weeks ago that has stuck with me ever since. It was a commercial for an insurance company, but its message was universal: Even one good deed is contagious. It depicted many scenes where a person performed a simple but compassionate deed for a stranger, and that stranger went on and did something good for another stranger, and so on.

Each one of us—no matter what relation to oral medicine we have—needs to excel to serve others and, I daresay, perform even one extra good deed for someone daily. At times, I think we forget about our mission of service toward others. It can be secondhand nature for us to help others, but I call on each of us to make a more conscious effort of it. After all, doing a good deed is contagious.

In fact, just look around at the dental school and read this edition of UB Dentist. February was National Dental Health Month and included "Give Kids a Smile Day." Literally thousands of children have received dental treatment and education at no cost. In late 2012, a state-of-the-art mobile dental unit was unveiled that will provide dental care across Western New York, focusing on rural areas where access to care is not only a concern, but also an epidemic. More than 50 years ago, Joseph LaNasa, '57, saw the very same need and made a mobile dental unit out of his own station wagon!

Current students are just as motivated, as seen in their participation with BOCA. They just returned from a mission trip

in Tennessee led by UB alumni Kevin D'Angelo, '81, and Joseph Gambacorta, '93. This edition also features John Balikowski, '65, who works tirelessly to provide medical and dental care to the people of Ethiopia. He is, by definition, an unsung hero of good deeds.

It's actually pretty simple to perform just one extra deed a day. I think Mahatma Gandhi summed it up perfectly when, decades ago, he said: "If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him ... We need not wait to see what others do."

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joshua T. Hutter" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joshua T. Hutter, DDS '05, *President, UB Dental Alumni Association*

*This page is dedicated to Marilyn Sulzbach, who retired in February from the dental school and Alumni Association. Her tireless service is unmatched and she will be greatly missed!*

## ON THE COVER:

Jacklyn Lerner, '13, poses with just a few of the many pint-sized patients treated on Give Kids a Smile Day.

PHOTO: DOUGLAS LEVERE

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## UBDENTIST

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School of Dental Medicine

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# NewsBriefs



## BOCA provides care in Fiji

In spring 2012, seven dental students and Joseph Gambacorta, '93, SDM's assistant dean for clinical affairs, traveled to the Yasawa Islands in Fiji to treat patients. Working in the community hall of the village, the group provided dental education and treatment to several hundred individuals. The trip was such a success that Gambacorta will be taking another group this summer.

This Buffalo Outreach and Community Assistance (BOCA) program was the first to use PDAs to input patient data and keep track of all patient interactions. This will be very beneficial because BOCA volunteers now will have the ability to track the patients they treated during their previous visit.

## 2 Dentists helping in Syria

Two dentists affiliated with UB's dental school have devoted their time and talents to help a country in need.

Mohammed Yasser Tabbaa has been performing humanitarian work in Syria, treating scores of injured civilians in secret hospitals in the country, which is in desperate need of medical relief in the wake of widespread violence.

Each month, Tabbaa travels across the Turkish border into

Syria, risking his life to bring needed medical supplies. The hospitals need about \$400,000 to be fully equipped and Tabbaa is working tirelessly to raise awareness of the country's troubles and to bring more of his colleagues into Syria to help.

Tabbaa was featured in a CNN video in October showing the risky work. He received his DDS from Damascus University in Syria in 1999 and his Certificate and MS in Orthodontics from UB in 2004.

Meanwhile, Othman Shibly, '99, MS in Oral Sciences, '95, clinical associate professor in the Department of Periodontics and Endodontics, has been helping in his native Syria, where he still has family.

He wanted to contribute something meaningful to help Syrians who had been displaced and injured, and are now living in Turkish refugee camps.

On June 29, 2012, he went to Turkey to attend an academic

conference in Istanbul. During the second week of his visit he went to one of the camps—the Kilis refugee camp along the Syrian border in Gaziantep City, Turkey—and spent a week assessing the oral health needs of those who had escaped from the Assad regime. At the time, 11,000 people lived in the camp.

Shibly had anticipated a great deal of need, but what he found shocked him. "There were people who had been injured by having soldiers push the end of a rifle into their teeth. People with broken jaws. People with injuries to the face. So many people. Some of these were children," he says.

When he returned to Buffalo, Shibly helped raise money to fund the purchase of dental equipment and supplies for two of the camps. Syrian medical relief workers will provide a place within their medical centers in the camps to set up the dental clinics.

## 3 Kramer joins Oral Biology

Jill M. Kramer has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Oral Biology. Kramer is an alumna of the DDS/PhD program at UB, receiving her DDS in 2006 and her PhD in 2007. She completed a residency in oral and maxillofacial pathology at Long



KRAMER

She was most recently an attending in the Department of Dental Medicine at LIJMC in the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. She also served as an assistant investigator at

Island Jewish Medical Center (LIJMC) in 2010, and is board certified in the specialty.

the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research in the Center for Oncology and Cell Biology.

The focus of her research is the study of autoimmune disease with oral manifestations, such as Sjogren's syndrome, with a goal of identifying novel therapeutic targets for this disease that will lead to improvements in both oral and systemic health.

# 4

## SDM helps launch new journal



The first issue of a new online, international research journal designed for dental students and their mentors

is about to be launched by the UB School of Dental Medicine and AEGIS Communications of Newtown, Pa.

The journal, FORUM for Dental Student Research and Innovation (FDSRI), will include original research papers, reports of student innovations, explanations of technologies and techniques, interviews with research innovators and role models, research career guidance, a photo gallery and letters to the editor. SDM is well-represented on the founding editorial board with members Michael Glick, dean; Sebastian Ciancio, '61, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and chair of the Department of Periodontics and Endodontics; Thomas Mang, director of research, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; and Anne Meyer, associate dean for research. Meyer is editor-in-chief of the journal.

Other members of the editorial board are from dental schools in Brazil, China, India, Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Sweden. Each research manuscript submitted

is reviewed by at least two knowledgeable researchers in the U.S. and elsewhere.

The first issue of FDSRI features an interview with Ciancio conducted by Rianna Mayou and Greg White, UB DDS students in the Class of 2013. There also is a tutorial by Mang about laser technology and the use of lasers in dentistry.

Research articles from dental students and their mentors in Saudi Arabia, Israel and China address the following topics: screening for diabetes and hypertension, infection control in clinics, use of removable dentures by adults age 50 and over, and potential biochemical markers of carcinoma in salivary glands.

Meyer noted that this first collection of manuscripts "provides a fascinating window to the different cultures in which the student authors are working, and why they and their mentors select certain topics for their research."

Rounding out the issue is an article about innovations in dentistry, a photo gallery that includes some scanning electron microscopic images from Peter Bush, director of SDM's South Campus Instrument Center, and a letter from the editor. Look for the new journal's homepage at <http://www.fdsri.com>.

# 5

## A dollar and a dream...

Believing in the New York State Lottery's tagline "All you need is a dollar and a dream" finally paid off for a member of the SDM family. Stanley Scott, '75, won \$2 million in the Sept. 26, 2012, Powerball drawing.

Scott, a dentist in Hamburg, N.Y., bought 10 sets of Quick Pick numbers from a 7-Eleven in Hamburg on Sept. 23. A day after the drawing, Scott realized he had a winning ticket, which pays out \$1.3 million after taxes.

"He always would say, 'One of these days I'm going to win the lottery,' and I would say, 'Yeah, sure.' And sure enough, like a good husband, he did what he said he was going to do," Scott's wife, Karen Scott, told The Buffalo News in an article about her husband's winnings published in October.

The typical Powerball second prize for matching the first five numbers is \$1 million, but Scott's prize doubled because he added the "Power Play" option. Scott was presented an oversized check at a Lottery event held at the 7-Eleven where he purchased the winning ticket.



## 6 Run for Smiles set for April 20

The UB School of Dental Medicine and ASDA are gearing up for the second annual Run for Smiles 5k Race, which will take place on Saturday, April 20.

Last year's inaugural Run for Smiles helped raise thousands of dollars to benefit outreach programs at the dental school.

The race serves to raise awareness for members of the community about the options they have to find a dental home. The race donates funds to CARES (Counseling, Advocacy, Referral, Education, Service), a program in the dental school that works to break

**PARTICIPANTS POSE WITH SDM DEAN MICHAEL GLICK AT LAST YEAR'S INAUGURAL UB RUN FOR SMILES.**



down the barriers to care that patients face. The run also will benefit Buffalo Outreach and Community Assistance (BOCA), a student-run group that provides free dental care in many locations throughout the world.

Runners can sign up for the race at [www.score-this.com](http://www.score-this.com) (underneath the Run for Smiles logo). You can also find more event information on Facebook at UB Run for Smiles 5k and Twitter (@UBRunForSmiles), or by emailing [ubsmilerun@gmail.com](mailto:ubsmilerun@gmail.com).

## 7 Glick makes it a three-peat

Dean Michael Glick has been awarded the American Dental Education Association's (ADEA) William J. Gies Foundation First Place Editorial Award for the third year in a row. Glick received the award during the annual meeting of the American Association of Dental Editors on Oct. 17 in San Francisco.

Since 1958, the William J. Gies Editorial Award has been presented yearly to the author of the most valuable editorial published in a dental journal or periodical. The ADEA and the William J. Gies Foundation for the Advancement of Dentistry of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA Gies Foundation) collaborate each year to identify and recognize award recipients.

Glick received the 2012 award for his editorial in the Journal of the American Dental

Association (JADA), "Clinical Judgment: A Requirement for Professional Identity." He won the same award in 2011 for his JADA editorial "Education and Training: Two Different Proficiencies Necessary to Provide Oral Health Care" and in 2010 for a JADA editorial titled "Expanding the Dentist's Role in Health Care Delivery: Is it time to discard the Procrustean bed?" Glick is JADA's editor.

The award is named for William J. Gies, a biochemistry professor from Columbia University who, in 1926, published a landmark report on dental education in the U.S. and Canada. Each year, dental editors from across the country submit their best editorials to be considered for the award.

This is the fourth year in a row that an SDM faculty member has won the award. Chet Gary, '78, clinical assistant professor in restorative dentistry, was the recipient in 2009.

## 8 Rumfola, Andreana join ACD

The American College of Dentists (ACD) welcomed 296 new Fellows at its Annual Meeting and Convocation in San Francisco Oct. 17-18, 2012. Two new members from the ACD-Western New York Section gained fellowship: Joseph Rumfola, '02, Cert. in AEGD '03, and Sebastiano Andreana, MS in Oral Sciences, '95. Rumfola practices general dentistry in Springville, N.Y., and is also associate director of the dental school's Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program. Andreana is SDM's director of Implant Dentistry.

The ACD is the oldest major honorary organization for dentists. Its members have exemplified excellence through outstanding leadership and exceptional contributions to dentistry and society. The ACD has long been regarded as the "conscience of dentistry."

JOSEPH RUMFOLA, LEFT, AND SEBASTIANO ANDREANA AT THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS ANNUAL MEETING IN OCTOBER.





## 9 SDM, Alfred offer new MS in dental ceramics

A new master's degree in dental ceramics is being offered as a result of a collaboration between UB's dental school and the Inamori School of Engineering at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University.

Students who participate in this degree program can earn a master of science degree from either university with a specialization in dental ceramics.

The joint venture originally was proposed by SDM Dean Michael Glick and has been fostered by SDM faculty members Robert Baier, MS in Biomaterials program director; Heidi Crow, associate dean for advanced education; and Edward Monaco Jr., advanced certificate in prosthodontics program director.

## 10 Tezal studies HPV link

Human papillomavirus (HPV), once almost exclusively associated with cancer of the cervix, now is linked to head and neck cancer. Furthermore, according to a UB study published in June in JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, gum disease is associated with increased odds of tumors being HPV-positive.

Primary investigator Mine Tezal, MS in Oral Sciences, '98, and Cert. in Periodontics, '04, SDM assistant professor of oral biology, and a team of scientists from UB evaluated data from 124 patients diagnosed with

primary head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) between 1999 and 2007.

"The aim of the study was to test the presence of periodontitis, a persistent inflammatory process and HPV-status of HNSCC," Tezal says.

Of the 124 tumor samples Tezal and her team studied, 50 were positive for HPV-16 DNA, and subjects with HPV-positive tumors had a significantly higher severity of periodontitis when compared to subjects with HPV-negative tumors.

According to the National Cancer Institute, there has been a steady increase in the prevalence of oropharyngeal cancers in the U.S. since 1973. Tezal notes that this increase has mainly been attributed to oral HPV infection.

Understanding the natural history of the oral HPV infection and targeting factors associated not only with its acquisition but also with its persistence, says Tezal, will lead to more effective strategies for prevention and treatment.

"The next step in this research will be intervention studies to test whether treating the sources of inflammation, like gum disease, can reduce the acquisition and/or persistence of oral HPV infection and improve the prognosis of HPV-related diseases," she says.

## The origins of SDM's academic mace

For hundreds of years, the academic mace has been the symbol of authority at official functions of institutions of higher learning. The design and materials of the mace reflect the history of the school, its discipline and its relationships. SDM's mace is made of wood, silver and Steuben crystal. The shaft, or body, of the mace comes from a piece of timber from Grant Hall in Niagara Falls, N.Y. When the hall was razed, a beam of timber was salvaged and presented as a gift to the school by three Niagara Falls dentists, Joseph Accardo, Guelfo Canali, '53, and Kenneth Reid.

This was not the first time that dentists in the Falls had made a difference. On Aug. 3, 1859, 26 members of the dental profession met in Niagara Falls with the objective of forming a national association composed "exclusively of practitioners of dentistry."

These dentists sought to form an association of representatives of all the nation's dental organizations based on high professional standards. In developing their constitution, members wrote that "this organization shall be known by name, style and title as the American Dental Association." Washington adopted their plan the next year, with few modifications, and the ADA was born. Niagara Falls was a popular site for ADA annual sessions during the 19th century. The ADA met there 13 times from 1859 to 1902, more times than any other city in the ADA's first 150 years.



A BEAM FROM THE OLD GRANT HALL IN NIAGARA FALLS WAS SALVAGED AND PRESENTED TO SDM BY THREE FALLS DENTISTS. THE TIMBER WAS USED TO CREATE THE MACE THAT IS USED DURING SDM GRADUATIONS.



PHOTOS BY NOEL LEIGH

## SDM talent on display

On Jan. 18 the curtain rose on the 17th annual School of Dental Medicine Talent Show. Twelve acts representing students, staff and faculty graced the stage over the course of the two-hour show in the Center for the Arts Drama Theatre. Acts included Dr. Elias Kaufman, who played banjo and sang a tribute to the Class of 2013 based on the Woody Guthrie classic "So Long, It's Been Good to Know You." Yiching Wu, '14, played a traditional Chinese string instrument called the pipa.

Hargun Singh, '13, and many of her classmates performed a musical montage entitled "The Journey of Dental School," and Matt Valerio, '14, played piano and sang an

1. DONNA SCOTT ON PIANO AND WINSTON LIU ON VIOLIN PERFORMING A DUET AT THE 17TH ANNUAL SDM TALENT SHOW IN JANUARY. BOTH ARE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2016. 2. FACULTY MEMBER OLGA BAKER, ACCOMPANIED BY HER DAUGHTER, PERFORMS "SE NOS ROMPIO EL AMOR" ON THE CUATRO. 3. FACULTY MEMBER ELIAS KAUFMAN ON BANJO. 4. WINCHESTER STUART, '16, WORKS HIS MAGIC. 5. MATT VALERIO, '14, PERFORMS "YESTERDAY'S LIES" ON PIANO.

original composition entitled "Yesterday's Lies."

Staff member Jill Uebelhoefer, a veteran performer, sang both solo and as part of a band put together by Dr. Michael Hatton, '82, and also featuring Dr. Joseph Rumfola, '02; staff member Dianne Gebauer; and Rick Hill, '15. Hatton performed with another band that also included Rumfola, Dr. Ken Lee, '89, Valerio, Hill and Yvonne Schmidt. Dr. Lata Shenoy, '77, and her Arthur Murray dance studio partner were back in great ballroom

dancing form after a two-year hiatus from the stage.

Rianna Mayou and Aki Osada, both members of the Class of 2013, performed (piano and guitar) an audience participation medley of "Name That Tune! The Classic Rock Edition." Dr. Olga Baker played the cuatro, a four-stringed guitar-like instrument, and was joined by her daughter Sophia, who sang Pajarillo, or Little Bird.

Winchester Stuart, '16, broke the musical mold by performing magic, complete with

audience participation. Dr. Pat Anders, '86, served as emcee, keeping things moving between acts. Per tradition, everyone enjoyed baked goodies and other refreshments after the show.

The event is made possible by financial support from the Alan J. Gross Student Resource Fund.

Gross was instrumental in starting the talent show, along with Dr. Elaine Davis, associate dean for student affairs, in 1997.





## What is the 8th District Dental Society?

It is a group representing approximately 1,000 dentists in the eight counties of Western New York. Members of the 8th District (EDDS) are also members of the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) and the American Dental Association (ADA).

## Why should someone join?

The tripartite structure of our organization gives the profession a strong voice in governmental affairs at the state and local levels. We are strong advocates at the state and national levels on issues such as mid-level providers, malpractice statutes of limitations and how universal health care will affect our profession. At the local level, we offer the membership such benefits as continuing education, peer review, claims review and endorsed vendors. I would encourage anyone interested in joining or becoming more involved to contact the dental society or me personally. They can visit our website at [8thdistrictdental.org](http://8thdistrictdental.org) for more information.

## How does the society work with the School of Dental Medicine?

There is a good working relationship between the dental school and the society. As the president of the society, I have a seat on the executive council of the dental school and Dr. Michael Glick has a seat on our executive council. We have collaborated on several initiatives recently, including a

**John Nasca, '87**, became president of the 8th District Dental Society in January 2013. He is a native Western New Yorker who has been in private practice in Williamsville for nearly 25 years and also serves as a clinical instructor at the SDM. His wife, Maureen Sullivan, '87, also is a dentist. She chairs the dental department at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

mentoring program that started last year that matches students with practitioners in the area to give practical advice on issues that may not be covered in depth in school, such as the business details of operating a practice.

I have to give credit to EDDS Past President Brendan Dowd, Elaine Davis from the dental school and especially Erie County Dental Society Past President Hemant Shelawala for their efforts in establishing this very successful program, which looks like it will be even more popular this year. We're also holding our first-ever UB Dental/8th District Conference on April 19, which will feature several continuing education classes and a vendor expo.

## Where would you like to make some improvements?

I would like to see greater membership participation by full-time faculty of the school. Because faculty receive a lot of tangible membership benefits as a result of their university affiliation, such as health and disability insurance, and access to continuing education, they may not feel as great a need to participate in the dental society. It is our job to reach out to them and all nonmembers and demonstrate the benefits to them and our profession as a whole. The amount of time and effort our volunteers put into various councils, committees, mentoring programs and outreach programs is staggering. These efforts are on all dentists' behalf, not just members of our society. I think if dentists realized this they'd be more likely to write that yearly dues check. We would also like

to increase participation by our members. We are always looking for help on our councils and committees. We do cancer screenings for the elderly; we do kids fairs at area malls; and we encourage participation in Give Kids a Smile Day at UB. These types of things are very rewarding because you know you are helping others and it puts a positive light on our profession in the eyes of the local public.

## What are some of the challenges you're facing?

Our membership percentage is high; in fact, ADA membership is one of the highest of all professional organizations (nearly 70 percent), but we would like to increase that percentage. We are always trying to stay current and remain relevant, and we want to provide value for our membership dues. We're dealing with issues of economy and access to care, high dental graduate student debt, decreased reimbursement by health insurance carriers and government programs like Medicaid, and many other issues. These are all things we're monitoring and how they might affect our profession. Increasing membership and participation would give us an even stronger voice.

—Bert Gambini

## KLIMECKO NAMED 8TH DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Klimecko was named executive director of the 8th District Dental Society, effective Jan. 2, 2013. Originally from Western New York, Klimecko finished up a two-year term as a church minister in Lake Ariel, Pa.

# A DENTIST IN ETHIOPIA

BALIKOWSKI, '65, TRAINS FUTURE DENTISTS IN A COUNTRY DESPERATE FOR CARE

TERRACED MOUNTAINS, TIGRAY REGION, NORTHERN ETHIOPIA



# IA

BY DAVID J. HILL



**SLOWLY BUT SURELY**, THE DENTAL CULTURE IN ETHIOPIA IS CHANGING. ETHIOPIANS ARE FOCUSING ON TAKING PREVENTIVE MEASURES AS OPPOSED TO RESORTING TO THE REMOVAL OF TEETH TOO DECAYED TO SAVE. AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS CHANGE IS A 74-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN AND ALUMNUS OF THE UB SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE.

John Balikowski, who earned his DDS in 1965, first arrived in Ethiopia seven years ago on a two-week medical outreach trip with Jewish Voice Ministries. During the trip, which was profiled in the Fall 2009 issue of UB Dentist, Balikowski and three other dentists treated 1,200 patients over eight days.

While there, Balikowski quickly saw the need for dental care in one of Africa's poorest nations. "I was surprised. I didn't expect to find what I did in Ethiopia," Balikowski said by phone from Florida in early January.

The need for dental care in Ethiopia is greater than anywhere else in the world, according to the FDI World Dental Federation, an international dentistry organization. The dentist-to-population ratio is 1 to 1,278,000, according to "FDI Vision 2020: Shaping the Future of Oral Health." (SDM Dean Michael Glick led the Vision 2020 task force.)

ABOVE: AN ETHIOPIAN BOY IN THE NORTHERN TIGRAY REGION



Because of the lack of dental care in Ethiopia, it's not uncommon for people to travel hundreds of miles to the capital city of Addis Ababa to receive treatment—if they can afford it.

That's why, in 2010, Balikowski started a dental training school in Mekelle, in the northern part of the country known as the Tigray Region, where more than half of its 4.3 million citizens live in poverty. At that time, only one of the region's 13 hospitals, 50 health centers and 200 clinics was providing some dental care, through non-licensed staff.

A man of faith, Balikowski says there's a reason he was called to Mekelle following years of missionary work. "There's need all over the world, and I really believe that nothing happens by accident—everything happens by divine plan," he says. "God has a plan for each one of us, and I ended up in Ethiopia."

#### TRAINING FUTURE DENTISTS

**B**alikowski named his school World Dental Relief Dental School in gratitude for a generous donation of equipment he received from World Dental Relief, an Oklahoma-based charitable organization that distributes dental supplies and equipment to health care missions around the world.

Balikowski befriended World Dental Relief President Ron Lamb on a previous trip.

"Ethiopia is the size of the state of Texas, with 85 million people and only 91 dentists," Lamb says. "I think all but a few of those are in the capital city of Addis Ababa. The needs there are incredible. It is hard to imagine."

The school trains Ethiopians in dental hygiene and basic dentistry. It had its first graduating class—14 in all—in July 2012. Thirteen of the graduates were from Tigray. "And they've all been licensed already and are out working in different places around Tigray," says Balikowski, whose voice and enthusiasm exude a youthful energy that belies the fact he'll turn 75 in April.

"None of his Ethiopian dental students had ever been to a dentist and only half of them owned a toothbrush. These were college students," Lamb says, adding, "John is truly a dentist pioneer in a Third World country starting a training program from scratch. I know of nobody but Dr. John Balikowski who could do this."

Balikowski oversees the dental training program on a volunteer basis. He resides in Florida when he returns to the U.S. during breaks in the school's academic year, but



he lives in Ethiopia approximately nine months out of the year.

This year, there are 20 first-year students in his school and 25 in the second-year class. Of the 25 students who will graduate this July, 17 are men; next year's class will have 18 women.

"We follow a two-year dental hygiene program like here in the States, but we also teach simple fillings and extractions," explains Balikowski.

"I said to the minister of health, 'If we're going to change the dental health of Ethiopia, it's not going to come through tooth extractions. It's going to come through pre-

vention.' He was very agreeable. I said we need to start a school for dental hygienists."

The school operates out of space donated by the College of Health Sciences in Mekelle. Since arriving in Ethiopia, Balikowski has received plenty of support and backing

"When I come back to the States, I spend my time finding things to take back. We don't have dental supply houses there. I don't carry clothes—I carry dental supplies."

—JOHN BALIKOWSKI, '65



**"I can't change the world and I can't change all of Ethiopia, but maybe some of my graduates can."**

**—JOHN BALIKOWSKI, '65**

IN THE PHOTO AT FAR LEFT, JOHN BALIKOWSKI, '65, IS PICTURED IN THE FRONT ROW (FAR LEFT) WITH RECENT GRADUATES OF THE DENTAL TRAINING PROGRAM HE STARTED IN MEKELLE, ETHIOPIA.

from the nation's health ministry and from the college. "The Health Sciences College said they would find a place for me. When they showed me the place, I couldn't believe it," he says. "It's absolutely perfect."

World Dental Relief is among the main reasons he was even able to establish the dental school. By chance, the organization acquired approximately \$1 million worth of dental equipment and supplies. Lamb emailed Balikowski about a donation from Midmark Dental, which was replacing all the dental units at a U.S. Air Force dental clinic in Texas. Lamb asked if Balikowski had a need for them. In all, Balikowski received 22 dental chairs and units.

"He is an amazing person and has been a good friend for many years. We shipped an entire dental school to him from our warehouse

here in Broken Arrow [Oklahoma]," says Lamb. "It was an exciting project to work on with him."

To help raise additional money for the dental training program, the school has begun a "Founding Sponsor" program. For a \$2,500 sponsorship, donors will have a name plate attached to one of the dental chairs and their name will be engraved on a plaque at the school.

### HOW IT ALL BEGAN

**B**alikowski graduated from UB's pharmacy school in 1960 and was accepted into the dental school the following year. After graduating from SDM in 1965, he served for three years as a naval dental officer. He returned to Western New York in 1968 and for the next 18 years operated a private practice in Elma, N.Y. Then, in 1986, he and his wife, Donna, decided to become full-time mis-

sionaries with the Assemblies of God. They served primarily in the Philippines, where they treated poor patients in remote areas. Together, they founded Philippine Health Care Ministries.

With Donna's health failing, the couple returned to America in 2003. She died a year later. Balikowski eventually began making short trips back to the Philippines, as well as to India and East Timor.

While on one of those Philippines trips, Balikowski received an email from a colleague inviting him to join the Jewish Voice Ministries' trip to Africa. He arrived there in February 2006 and began obtaining the Ethiopian licenses he needed to perform dental surgery and training. He established a training facility and clinic in Addis Ababa, and began training local doctors and nurses, along with medical



missionaries from the U.S., Canada and Australia.

Eventually, Balikowski became involved in organizing Ethiopia's first-ever doctoral program in dental medicine at Addis Ababa University. The program formed in September 2008. The following October, Balikowski joined a medical mission team in Mekelle and began training locals.

dentists, and the ones who do receive training prefer to go into private practice, where they can make significantly more than the \$125 a month the Health Sciences College in Mekelle will pay. Moreover, Balikowski says, the school's academic year coincides with that of U.S. universities, making it difficult to solicit help from his American colleagues.

a copy of the manual. "I found out they have no textbooks there. And that's very typical. They just get notes or handouts. I've endeavored to buy a lot of used textbooks."

## WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

With each graduating class, there will be a new influx of students. Already, Balikowski has been contacted by university officials in Burundi, a country more than a thousand miles away, who would like to send some of their students to train in Mekelle. "As word gets out, there will be more people that want to come here," Balikowski says.

"We see the potential for this school expanding. We have tons of students. You can lecture to 200, but in dentistry, you need hands-on supervision. We hope it'll expand, but it has to come by training Ethiopians and raising up new teachers," he adds.

Although daunting, the work is fulfilling. "We're changing the country dentally because of the people we are training. People could die in Ethiopia from dental infections," Balikowski says. "I've been to some places that are the worst I've ever seen, and I've been all over the world.

"But I see that we're making a difference," he continues. "We're trying to make it better, little by little. We do what we can. I can't change the world and I can't change all of Ethiopia, but maybe some of my graduates can."

"They're meeting a basic need. The students I've had through the years have seen tens of thousands of patients."

-JOHN BALIKOWSKI, '65

## CHALLENGES ABOUND

Where these students are going to be working, they're the only dentists. We're training them to be very preventive-conscious so we can try to stop the biggest problem in the world, which is periodontal disease," Balikowski says. "They're meeting a basic need. The students I've had through the years have seen tens of thousands of patients."

With so much need, challenges are plentiful. The school's three most formidable obstacles are finding teachers, obtaining funding and getting dental supplies and equipment.

There's a lack of teachers because there is a lack of trained

Of course, funding is always needed as the school continues to train future dentists. Money is needed for equipment, textbooks and staff. Not surprisingly, Ethiopia lacks dental suppliers, which makes obtaining equipment and supplies challenging and expensive. "When I come back to the States, I spend my time finding things to take back," Balikowski says. "We don't have dental supply houses there. I don't carry clothes—I carry dental supplies."

Textbooks have been another need. While he was on the faculty at the dental school in Addis Ababa, Balikowski offered to his students a training manual he had developed previously for physicians and nurses. When he came to Mekelle, students were eager to get

*Monetary donations to the World Dental Relief Dental School in Mekelle are greatly appreciated. Funds can be sent to: World Dental Relief, P.O. Box 747, Broken Arrow, OK 74013-0747. Funds should be designated for Ethiopia.*





# DENTAL HEROES

*"TOOTH FAIRIES" AND SUPERHEROES TREAT HUNDREDS  
AT 12TH ANNUAL GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY*



TWO HUGE YELLOW SCHOOL BUSES PULL UP TO SQUIRE HALL ON THE SOUTH CAMPUS AND LET OUT THEIR PASSENGERS, CHILDREN RANGING IN AGE FROM ABOUT 3 TO 7. THE KIDS STREAM INTO SQUIRE, WHERE THEY MEET VOLUNTEERS WHO GREET THEM AND ASSIGN THEM TO ESCORTS.

WELCOME TO THE 12TH ANNUAL GIVE KIDS A SMILE (GKAS) DAY. ►►

STORY BY *STEPHANIE CHIAW* AND *SARA SALDI*

PHOTOS BY *DOUGLAS LEVERE* AND *JASON CHWIRUT*



**GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY...**



***"GKAS IS A DAY DEDICATED TO THE AWARENESS OF AND THE ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH,"***

says Dian ChinKit-Wells, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry and GKAS clinical coordinator. "The scope of treatment includes restorations, extractions, orthodontic consultations, dental sealants, fluoride treatment and the completion of required school dental health form. "As always, every child will leave the UB clinics with a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss and instruction on how to keep their teeth healthy," Wells adds. "For more serious problems, children will either receive limited restorative

dental work or will be scheduled for additional treatment. By the end of February, we will have worked to find today's pediatric patients a dentist in Western New York, or they can continue to come to UB and call us their dental home."

GKAS Day gets bigger and better every year, according to Tracey Fest, patient care coordinator for the Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry and event coordinator of GKAS.

"The program grows every single year; we've never seen this volume of children from the past years," Fest says, noting that 800 children were expected to visit the dental school during the eight-hour event. "Each year it does get better because we are more organized. Today, we have about 350 volunteers that we coordinate efforts with."



***MEANWHILE, IN THE HOT SEAT...***







Those volunteers included faculty, staff and students from the UB dental school, as well as dental hygiene students from Erie Community College and UB's Educational Opportunity Center and private Western New York dentists.

This is the fifth year that the whole Fest family has been involved in the event.

Fest's two sons, Colin, 13, and Mitchel, 11, served as private patient escorts.

"I feel really grateful to be part of it because of all the kids we've helped and the free dentistry. At the end of the day, it's a really good feeling knowing that you've helped so many kids," Colin says.

This year's theme was "Dental Heroes—We Have the Courage to Care." In keep-

ing with the theme, some volunteers wore superhero capes. Most of the dental heroes—including "tooth fairies" and the Teddy bear mascot—gathered in Harriman Hall, site of the popular Teddy Bear Clinic. The Teddy Bear Clinic often is the last stop of the day for the kids after they receive their dental care.

"We plan the fun activities for the kids so after they get their teeth cleaned, they can come over for a little education session," says Melissa Pyc, a registered dental hygienist who serves as Teddy Bear Clinic coordinator. "There's a lot of hand-washing, some dental education, things about safety—fire and police officers are here from Buffalo. So, it's kind of the fun part of the day where all the kids get to relax."



**A CARING CRUSADER SWINGS INTO ACTION...**



## GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY...



GKAS day provides free dental care for patients ranging from toddlers to high-schoolers, who come from Head Start programs, public schools and individual families. What they all share is a lack of access to regular dental care. "We are here because our kids do not have dental insurance," said Katie Preston, whose 5-year-old son, Zachary, had a few cavities filled; Mason, 4, and Bran, 1, had their teeth cleaned. "This event is definitely helpful because just one cavity that Zachary had with the X-ray would cost us \$350," she said.

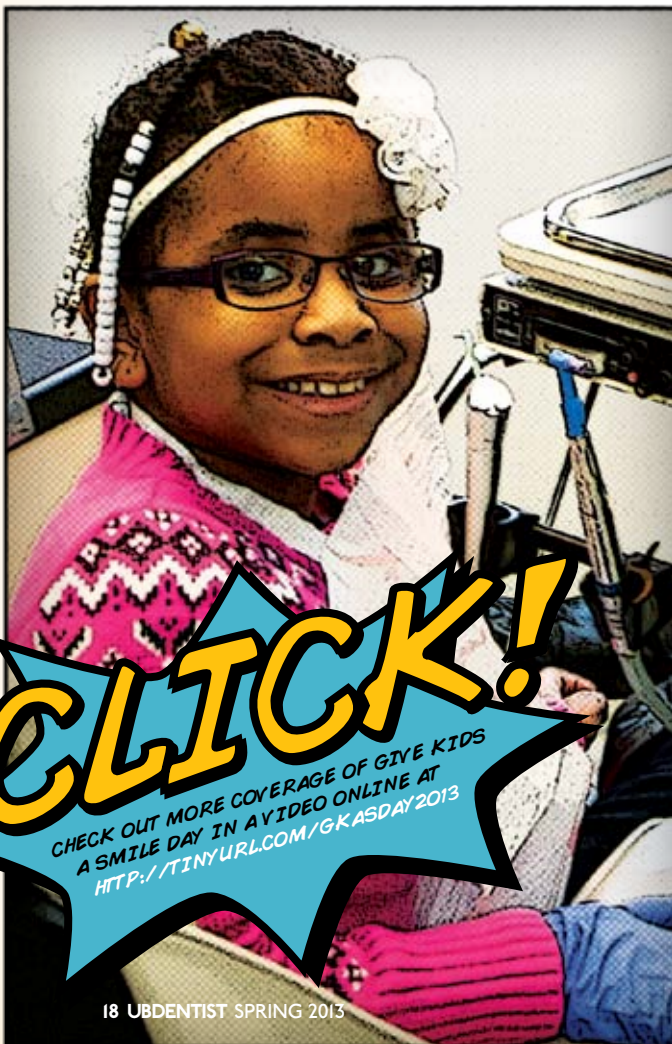
Among the patients were 60 to 70 Amish children from Pennsylvania.

Tom LaGree, a third-year UB dental student, said the Amish children, many of whom have never seen a dentist, came to UB because it's the closest dental school where they can find this kind of program.

"This gives us an idea of the impact of this program," which has expanded over the years to reach communities outside the Buffalo area, LaGree said. "There's no turning anyone down."

Dignitaries attending the day's events included Michael Glick, professor and dean of the UB dental school; Rep. Brian Higgins, D-Buffero; Erie County Commissioner of Health Gale R. Burstein; and City of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown.

"UB has had a profound effect on health and wellness in Western New



CHECK OUT MORE COVERAGE OF GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY IN A VIDEO ONLINE AT [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/GKASDAY2013](http://tinyurl.com/gkasday2013)



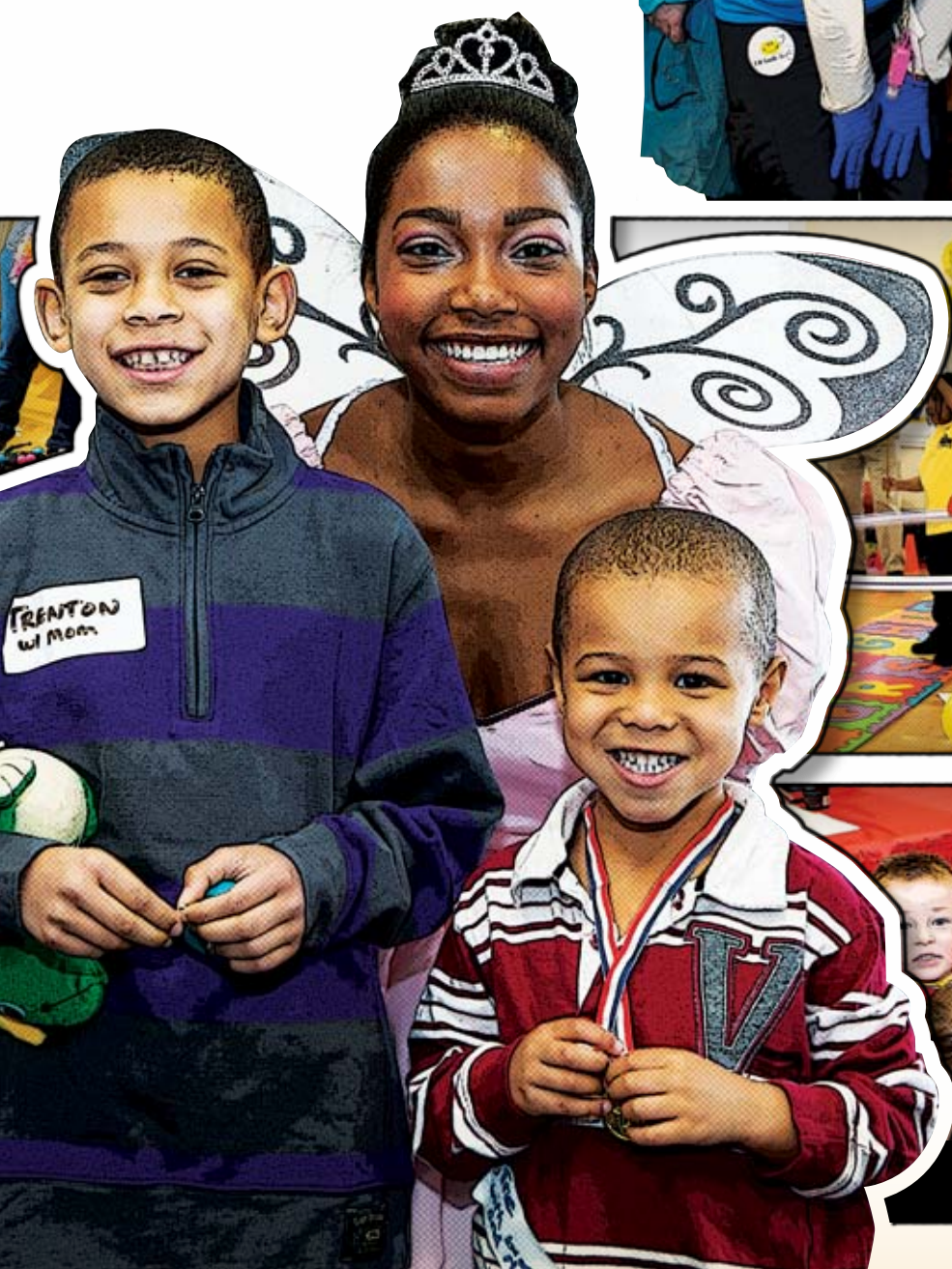
TWO-TOOTHED TOT TACKLES T-REX! ...



York. And the UB dental school is a leader, especially in giving back to the community,” Higgins said.

“I’ve been here every year for this event and I believe the UB dental school is the best dental school in the nation because of the health care they provide not just on this day but on every day of the year,” Brown said.

Give Kids a Smile Day is held as part of National Children’s Dental Health Month in collaboration with the American Dental Association and the 8th District Dental Society.



**MAYOR DECLARES GKAS DAY VICTORIOUS!**



# A PERFECT MATCH

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM STUDENT MATCH DAY 2013

**S**tudent Match Day is a celebratory affair, as dental students learn which postdoctoral program has accepted them. The additional year of study after dental school is required by New York State. This year's match day was especially exciting for two members of the SDM Class of 2013: Sakshi Deep and Vattan Sharma.

The two grew up in cities 80 miles apart in Punjab state, India. They learned this when they met at UB two years ago as members of SDM's first class of the International Dentist Program (IDP). They soon became study partners. On Student Match Day on Jan. 28, they learned their professional careers were both headed in the same direction: the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program at the University of

Rochester Medical Center's Eastman Institute for Oral Health.

"One of the things that works well for us is that we're professionally compatible," says Deep. "We learn from each other a lot."

Deep and Sharma applied to the Eastman program under the "couples match" category, which allows couples to attend the same program. Sharma was in clinic when he saw the email that reported the good news. His first

call was to Deep, who was on rotation at Mercy Hospital.

"I was walking toward the hospital and started to jump and said, 'All right, we made it!' This was our first choice, to get into Rochester," she says.

Both spoke highly of the Eastman program. "It's a very academic and research-based program, and it has a very good reputation overall. I could see myself working in that environment," Deep says. Adds Sharma: "I really liked the program director and they just made us so comfortable there. There's a



PHOTOS BY JASON CHWIRUT





huge diversity of dentists coming from all different parts of the world to that program.”

When Sharma and Deep first came to Buffalo in the summer of 2011, “We had no idea we lived in the same state. We never talked to each other before,” says Sharma.

“During our summer program, we were just getting to know people and were interacting. Then we formed a study group,” adds Deep. Over their two years, the two have helped other IDP students with their coursework and with getting acclimated to Buffalo.

After the residency program, Sharma is considering further training in prosthodontics, while Deep is eyeing a number of specializations in which she feels she would excel. Both are happy to begin this next phase together.

“I think this program is going to bring us even closer,” Sharma says. “We’ll be together for another year and hopefully things work out for us.”

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED

For many fourth-year students, Student Match Day answers a rather stressful, but necessary question:

“What will I be doing and where will I be going in the next year?”

Learning the answer brings both excitement and relief.

“It’s a bunch of emotions all together. Now I know where I’m going to be next year. That was a question until today,” says Tom Dobmeier, who was accepted to his top choice, the AEGD program at the Buffalo VA Medical Center. “The program is great. I shadowed there over the summer,” he says, adding, “I was a little nervous. There were a lot

**“IT’S A BUNCH OF EMOTIONS ALL TOGETHER. NOW I KNOW WHERE I’M GOING TO BE NEXT YEAR. THAT WAS A QUESTION UNTIL TODAY.” -Tom Dobmeier**

of people from Buffalo who wanted to go to the VA. It was a relief to get the final result.”

Dobmeier, who received a degree in chemistry from Canisius College, says it was important that he stay local. His uncle and cousin are both dentists, and Dobmeier’s mom works in their office in Cheektowaga.

## CATCHING UP

During orientation for her first year of dental school in fall 2009, Ashleigh Sebros was an eager, excited student trying to stay organized and get a handle on all the supplies and equipment she needed to buy. Fast forward four years, and Sebros was just as excited on Student Match Day as she

was when she and several other first-years were interviewed for the fall 2009 issue of UB Dentist. We decided to catch up with some of them.

While most of her classmates were in Squire Hall the morning of match day, Sebros chose to stay home. “I didn’t want to find out around everyone else. I wanted to process it by

myself," she says. Sebro was admitted to her top choice, Temple Episcopal Hospital of Pediatric Dentistry in Philadelphia. "I opened the email and immediately burst into tears, and then called my mom, which was my reaction to getting into dental school as

well," she says. Sebro was admitted to her top choice, Temple Episcopal Hospital of Pediatric Dentistry in Philadelphia. "I opened the email and immediately burst into tears, and then called my mom, which was my reaction to getting into dental school as

hold the baby so a dental assistant could set up the dental chair, the child stopped crying as soon as Sebro held him. When she gave him back, the child began screaming again. "I think it reflected well on my saying I'm good with kids," Sebro jokes.

with lots of general-practice training. "They have an on-site oral surgeon that's there full time. You get your own operatory and your attendings are treating patients right beside you, rather than standing over your shoulder waiting for

**"I OPENED THE EMAIL AND IMMEDIATELY BURST INTO TEARS, AND THEN CALLED MY MOM, WHICH WAS MY REACTION TO GETTING INTO DENTAL SCHOOL AS WELL." —Ashleigh Sebro**

well," Sebro says, adding that she collected herself and then came to school and started thanking her professors.

"I've had a lot of really good support from UB's faculty with my goals, so it's been nice to go to all those people and say, 'Thank you for supporting me, I got in.' I'm just over-the-moon happy."

Over her four years at SDM, Sebro developed an interest in pediatric dentistry, largely through working with the Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry and by participating in outreach events. Sebro's training at UB fully prepared her for the interview at Temple Episcopal.

Not even a crying baby could throw her off her game.

In fact, when she offered to

In all seriousness, Sebro says, UB provided a solid foundation. "When I went on interviews and talked to other students, I just realized that UB gave me a really good foundation. I felt really prepared on my interviews. I wasn't nervous about them asking me any clinical questions or questions about my experience."

Another student profiled in 2009, Rick Andolina Jr., is moving on to the General Practice Residency (GPR) program at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, N.Y. He's excited not only because Ellis was his top choice, but also because the program filled its three remaining spots with SDM classmates Caitlin Deitz, Aakash Shah and Dave Cappuccio. Andolina—whose father is a 1980 SDM alum—wasn't surprised that the Ellis program took four UB students.

"Buffalo has a strong reputation for its clinical skills and ability to treat patients," Andolina says. "Every residency program I applied to said that they are always impressed with Buffalo students and very often accept Buffalo students over similar candidates from other schools due to our excellent training."

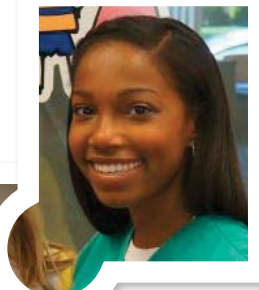
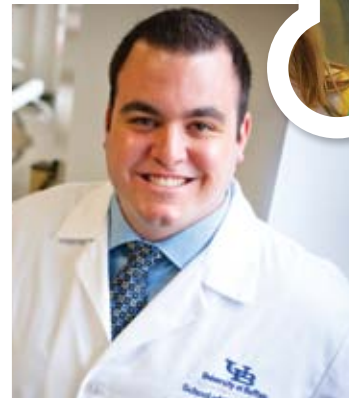
Andolina was drawn to Ellis because it's a hospital-based program

you to finish work. We have the ability to treat patients on our own, but we can also walk to a neighboring operatory to ask a question or get advice."

Andolina, too, couldn't say enough about the preparation he received at SDM. "The way we interact with patients here at Buffalo—with scheduling our own patients and truly providing that comprehensive care from the moment they walk in to the moment treatment is completed—really prepares us for being able to create an accurate treatment plan."

He adds, "I am very grateful for the hard work and dedication that our faculty, staff and administration constantly put in to making UB SDM such a great place."

—David J. Hill



ABOVE: ASHLEIGH SEBRO. LEFT: RICK ANDOLINA JR.





*Thanks to you,*

I have the whole world of oral health care spread out before me.

Lauren Vitkus, '14 studied large things as a civil engineering major at Brown University. As a UB dental student working with her mentor, Peter Bush, director of the South Campus Instrument Center, she went small: studying *Streptococcus mutans* adhesion mechanisms. She used a novel fixation method for imaging the bacterium with the center's newest Hitachi scanning electron microscope—which she reverently calls “amazing”—that revealed the streptococcus capsule in new detail. Vitkus, who holds a Rosenthal Family Fund Scholarship, is a former lacrosse star (four-year starter and All-Ivy League player at Brown) who says being a college athlete taught her time management. **The best reason to support UB is what students like Lauren will do in the future.**

The best public universities have the strongest private support.

[www.giving.buffalo.edu](http://www.giving.buffalo.edu)



**University at Buffalo** *The State University of New York*

**REACHING OTHERS**



# AlumniNews



CHILDREN GET A GOOD LOOK AT A SNAKE DURING A PRESENTATION ON REPTILES AS PART OF AN EDUCATIONAL SERIES FORMER SDM FACULTY MEMBER NORMAN MOHL IMPLEMENTED IN FLORIDA, WHERE HE AND HIS WIFE MOVED AFTER RETIRING IN 2005.

## Can't take the teacher out of the retiree

**N**orman D. Mohl, '56, retired from the faculty of the dental school in 2005, when he and his wife moved to the community of Village Walk in Sarasota, Fla.

While he may be officially retired from teaching at UB, Mohl continues to educate through a series he implemented in Florida.

The community has more than 1,300 residents, including children, and offers a wide variety of planned activities for the residents, who hail from a range of backgrounds and professional and personal experiences.

"I decided to organize a weekly lecture series during the winter months and to draw on the expertise among the residents to present most of the lectures," Mohl says. "I called this lecture series 'Village Walk University.'"

A few of the presentations, including one on reptiles, have been held on Saturday afternoons to allow kids from the community to attend.

Here's a sampling of some of the lectures held recently and given by experts in their respective fields:

- **Tales From the De-Crypt: Codes in History and Literature**
- **Michelangelo's "David" and the Art of Sculpture**
- **History and Collective Memory**
- **Experiences of a Medical Missionary in Bolivia**
- **How Art Captures the Beauty of America**
- **Piano Notation Symbols-It Ain't Music 'til the Paperwork is Done**
- **Past, Present and Future of the Web and the Internet**
- **The National Guard-Military Investment in the Future**

Mohl has given four presentations: a History of the Middle East; the Reality and Symbolism of Teeth; Bipedalism in Human Evolution; and What is Comedy and Why Is It Good for You?

## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PIN?

If you see this pin on a lapel or scarf or a lab coat, you can thank the person wearing it for supporting the UB School of Dental Medicine.

The Squire Society, named for Dr. Daniel H. Squire, a member of the school's first graduating class in 1892 and dean from 1912 to 1935, recognizes donors who make gifts to the school of \$1,000 or more in a year.

Would you like a pin and all the thanks that come with it? Make a gift to the dental school of \$1,000 or more this fiscal year (before June 30, 2013) and you'll receive the pin, a certificate of membership in the society and an invitation to the Squire Society reception in Buffalo on Sept. 6, 2013.

SDM graduates of the past decade ('02-'12) can become Squire Society members for gifts of \$500 or more.

To discuss how you can support the School of Dental Medicine, please contact Director of Development Bob Van Wicklin at 829-2945 or email [rvanwick@buffalo.edu](mailto:rvanwick@buffalo.edu).



## BILLY BARUE TOURNEY DATE SET

The 24th annual Billy Barue golf outing is scheduled for April 27 at Chestnut Hill Country Club in Darien Center, N.Y. The tournament will follow a four-person scramble format with shotgun start at 11 a.m. The \$75 per player (\$300 team) fee includes unlimited range balls, 18 holes with golf carts, barbecue lunch, steak dinner, raffle and door prizes. Cash is accepted; checks should be made payable to ASDA. For more information,

contact Evan Cyrkin at [evancyrk@buffalo.edu](mailto:evancyrk@buffalo.edu) or 585-766-8628, or Mike Weinstein at [mw68@buffalo.edu](mailto:mw68@buffalo.edu).



## ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS

SDM's Alumni Office is accepting nominations for the Honor and Humanitarian awards.

If you know of an alumnus who is deserving of either honor, contact the Alumni Office at 829-2061 or 800-756-0328, ext. 2. Nominations can also be faxed to 829-3609 or emailed to [ss287@buffalo.edu](mailto:ss287@buffalo.edu).

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

The Humanitarian award is given to the alumnus who best exhibits the following characteristics: unselfishness, concern for others, commitment to dentistry, commitment to and involvement in the community, high moral character; and someone who through his or her actions has become a leader in the community.

## LaNASA SHARES EARLY MODEL DENTAL VAN



When he returned to the dental school in November 2012 to attend a ribbon-cutting for the new SDM mobile dental unit S-miles To Go, Joseph LaNasa, '57, brought with him a unique photograph. It was a picture of a young LaNasa standing in front of a very early model mobile dental unit, a trailer hitched to a station wagon. At the time the photo was taken—January of 1958—LaNasa was serving with the U.S. Public Health Service as a dentist at a Native American school at Jemez Indian Pueblo, located about 60 miles northwest of Albuquerque, N.M., where the main clinic of the U.S. Public Health Service was located. In the background is the primary school where LaNasa worked on patients. In a previous issue of UB Dentist, LaNasa recalled how warmly he was welcomed into the pueblo schools and homes, saying, "It was an honor to be there."

## CALL FOR YEARBOOKS

The Dental Alumni Association is attempting to complete a yearbook library stretching from the turn of the 20th century to the present. The association hopes to obtain at least two copies for each year. Volumes still needed include:

1892-1897

1908-1914

1916

1919-1920

1922

1925-1929

1931-1937

If you have any of these volumes and would be willing to donate them, call Sherry Szarowski at 829-2061 or 800-756-0328, ext. 2.

The Dental Alumni Association is a not-for-profit organization; your donation may be tax deductible.



# CE

## School of Dental Medicine Office of Continuing Dental Education

# course calendar

**APRIL 12 (9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)**

### **Practical Periodontal Therapy: Save the Tooth or What's Next**

Sebastian Ciano, DDS, and  
Othman Shibly, DDS

UB ALUMNI MEMBER: \$175  
NONMEMBER DENTIST: \$225  
TEAM MEMBER: \$95

6 CE HRS

**APRIL 17 (6 TO 9 P.M.)**

### **EVENING LECTURE SERIES**

### **CAD/CAM Dental Manufacturing and Emerging Technologies**

Room 200G, Baldy Hall, UB  
North Campus

Mark Lauren

TUITION: \$65 (BUF)

*Distance learning surcharge applies*

3 CE HRS

**APRIL 18 (6 TO 9 P.M.)**

### **EXCELLENCE IN IMPLANT DENTISTRY...UB IMPLANT STUDY CLUB**

### **Treatment Planning for the Edentulous Patient**

Guest speaker: Cecilia Aragon  
DDS, MS, FRCD(c), FACP

SINGLE MEETING: \$295

3 CE HRS

**APRIL 19 (9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)**

Hotel Albany

### **ANNUAL NYSSO MEETING**

### **NYS Dentistry Law: Strategies for Compliance**

### **Dealing with Complaints/Reducing Lawsuits**

### **Digital Smile Design Software**

NYSSO MEMBER: \$225

NONMEMBER: \$265

TEAM MEMBER: \$95

6 CE HRS

**APRIL 19 (NOON)**

UB South Campus

### **UB DENTAL / 8TH DISTRICT CE CONFERENCE & VENDOR EXPO**

### **Current Concepts in Dental Therapy**

Michael Glick, DMD; Sebastian Ciano, DDS; and Robert Genco, DDS, PhD

UB ALUM/8TH DIST. MEMBER: \$125

NONMEMBER: \$145

TEAM MEMBER: \$75

4 CE HRS

**APRIL 24 (6 TO 9 P.M.)**

### **EVENING LECTURE SERIES**

### **Massage Therapy and TMJD**

Room 200G, Baldy Hall, UB North Campus

Dominick L. Fricano Jr., LMT, CRM

TUITION: \$65 (BUF)

*Distance learning surcharge applies*

3 CE HRS

**APRIL 26 (9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)**

### **All Hands-on Porcelain Veneers Workshop**

Guest faculty: David Rice, DDS

UB ALUMNI MEMBER: \$525

NONMEMBER DENTIST: \$625

TEAM MEMBER AUDIT: \$125

6 CE HRS

**THUR-FRI MAY 2-3  
(REPEATS JUNE 6-7)**

### **Individualized Endodontics Lecture & Workshop "...mano a mano"**

TUITION: \$895

*Limited to 8 participants*

14 CE HRS

**MAY 8 (6 TO 9 P.M.)**

### **EVENING LECTURE SERIES**

### **Pearls for Prosthodontics**

Room 200G, Baldy Hall,  
UB North Campus

Marshall Fagin, DDS

TUITION: \$65 (BUF)

*Distance learning surcharge applies*

3 CE HRS

**MAY 10 (9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)**

Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo

### **DENTAL HYGIENE SYMPOSIUM**

### **Improving Periodontal Treatment and Acceptance**

Kristen Esler, RDH

RDH: \$125; \$145 AFTER MARCH 15  
DENTIST: \$195

6 CE HRS

**MAY 15 (6 TO 9 P.M.)**

### **EVENING LECTURE SERIES**

### **Why Implants? Process from Start to Finish for Entire Office Team**

Room 200G, Baldy Hall, UB  
North Campus

Eileen Bardwell, BA

TUITION: \$65 (BUF)

*Distance learning surcharge applies*

3 CE HRS

**MAY 17 (8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.)**

Salvatore's Italian Gardens,  
Transit Road, Buffalo

### **JOHN J. CUNAT EDUCATIONAL FUND ANNUAL LECTURE, SUPPORTED BY UB DEPT. OF ORTHODONTICS**

### **Dx & Tx of Cases with AP Jaw Discrepancies**

Guest faculty: Peter Ngan,  
DMD

UB ALUMNI MEMBER DENTIST: \$225

NONMEMBER: \$265

TEAM MEMBER: \$95

6 CE HRS

**MAY 22 (6 TO 9 P.M.)**

### **EVENING LECTURE SERIES**

### **2 Sides of Human Resources in the Dental Office: The Employee & Employer**

Room 200G, Baldy Hall, UB  
North Campus

Susan Kowalewski, MBA, PhD

TUITION: \$65 (BUF)

*Distance learning surcharge applies*

3 CE HRS



**Annamarie Phalen**

*Associate Director, Continuing Dental Education*



**MAY 29 (6 TO 9 P.M.)**

**EVENING LECTURE SERIES**

**Inflammation 911: The Body-Mouth Connection**

*Room 200G, Baldy Hall, UB North Campus*

Uche Odiatu, DMD

**TUITION: \$65 (BUF)**

*Distance learning surcharge applies*

**3 CE HRS**

**MAY 30-JUNE 1 (THUR. 5 TO 9 P.M.; FRI. 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.; SAT. 9 A.M. TO NOON)**

**Simplified Placement of Dental Implants (lecture, hands-on workshop, demo)**

Sebastiano Andreana, DDS, MS

**UB DENTAL ALUMNI: \$1,195**

**NONMEMBER DENTIST: \$1,295**

**TEAM MEMBER (SAT. ONLY): \$95**

**16 CE HRS**

**MAY 31 (9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)**

*Holiday Inn, Buffalo*

**SANFORD B. SUGARMAN FUND ANNUAL LECTURE**

*In cooperation with Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity and the Metropolitan Dental Study Club*

**Solving Your Clinical Challenges with Material Science, Improved Techniques and Clinical Efficiency**

Guest faculty: Stace Lind, DMD

**MEMBER: \$175**

**NONMEMBER DENTIST: \$225**

**TEAM MEMBER: \$95**

**6 CE HRS**

**JUNE 7 (9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.)**

*Webb Building, 92 Pearl St., Buffalo*

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**NEW DENTIST: \$55**

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**ORAL BIOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT**

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*Welcome Reception: Wed. evening Scientific Lectures and Poster Presentations: Thursday/Friday*

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**34th Annual Dental Congress**

Featuring UB faculty: Sebastiano Andreana, DDS, MS; Mike Hatton, DDS; and Eugene Pantera, DDS

*Chautauqua Institution*

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# ClassNotes



In December, two UB emeritus faculty members enjoyed a mini-reunion in Jerusalem. **Ernie Hausmann, Cert. in Periodontics, '74**, professor emeritus of oral biology, and his wife, Britta, were visiting their daughter. **Stuart Fischman, Cert. in Oral Pathology, '66**, professor emeritus of oral diagnostic sciences, and his wife, Jane, are living in Mevaseret, a Jerusalem suburb. Stuart is a visiting professor at the Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Hebrew University, teaching oral pathology and consulting with colleagues in community dentistry. Hausmann and Fischman both began their dental education at Harvard and spent their academic careers in Buffalo. They enjoyed a long chat over coffee, reminiscing about the "good old days" in Boston and Buffalo.

**Robert Balcerak, '62**, and his wife, Mary Lou, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner followed by a family vacation in Cape Cod, Mass.

**Arnold Pollikoff, '79**, is assistant professor at New York University College of Dentistry. In addition, he is a partner in AGD PACE-approved Dr. Travel LLC, a company that offers continuing-education credits

while on vacation. Pollikoff currently lives in Matawan, N.J.

**Michael N. Hatton, '82; MS in Oral Sciences '86; Cert. in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, '88**, and his wife, Elizabeth Hatton, MD, taught an emergency-training program to 12 Naval Sea Cadets this past summer in the Behling Simulation Center in Farber Hall. The Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a youth education program operated by

the U.S. Navy and is designed for kids between the ages of 8 and 17 who are interested in the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard. The Hattons currently have five children in the military.

**Gagan Bhalla, '86**, an orthodontist from Mississauga, Ont., was awarded the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Gold Medal at an awards event held in the prestigious House of

Lords in London, England, on Oct. 12, 2012. Bhalla is the first Canadian orthodontist cum Yogi to receive the award.

The award was presented within the framework of the Global Achiever Award Program and is justified by Bhalla's outstanding achievements and significant contributions in orthodontics, as well as his service to the global community in promoting health and wellness

## InMemoriam

**Adam C. Labenski, '41**, of Norwich, Conn., died Aug. 16, 2012. He was 94. After UB, he practiced dentistry in Norwich until his retirement. During World War II, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army with the 172nd Infantry Combat Unit in the Southwest Pacific, and was a survivor of the sinking of the troop carrier President Coolidge in the New Hebrides Islands. He twice was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service. He was a life member of the American Dental Association, the Connecticut Dental Association and the New London County Dental Association, as well as a past president.

**Harry H. Feltman Jr., Cert. in Orthodontics, '49**, of Dallas, died Sept. 20, 2012. He practiced orthodontics in Dallas for 40 years. Feltman was an officer in the U.S. Navy, a member of the Masonic Lodge, Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity, and an active member of Temple Emanu-El and the Jewish Community Center.

**Walter Rector Woods, '49**, of Syracuse, died Sept. 20, 2012. He was 87. An Eagle Scout with bronze palm, Woods was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa and the Merchant Marines in World War II, and served as a captain in the Air Force during the Korean War. He practiced dentistry in

Syracuse for 44 years with his wife, May F. Kummer, and Cliff Good. Woods was a fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry and president of the American Society of Dentistry for Children.

**Morris Ganon, '51**, of Henrietta, N.Y., died Oct. 13, 2012, at age 88.

**George Easterbrook, '52**, died Oct. 11, 2012, in Lockport. He was 94. Easterbrook served in the Army during World War II, where he attained the rank of sergeant. He saw action in France and Germany, including the Battle of Heilbronn in April 1945. He established a dental practice in Amherst, which he operated until his retirement in 1986. He

also taught pediatric dentistry at Women and Children's Hospital, from which he received a 30-year service award. Easterbrook was named a life member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, an honorary organization for dentists.

**Robert E. Ebinger, '53**, a Hamburg dentist for 42 years, died Jan. 9, 2013. He was 85. Ebinger was a member of the National Dental Honor Society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the 8th District Dental Society and New York State Dental Association.

**Joseph L. Warthling, '54**, died Jan. 25, 2013, at age 87. He operated his practice in the City of Tonawanda from 1954 until he

with the help of Indian culture and the heritage of yoga.

Bhalla is committed to making Canada one of the healthiest nations in the world. He con-

ducts free Yoga-Pranayam classes, interactive workshops and seminars, and is a speaker for community groups, organizations and schools to

promote good health and well-being. Under his leadership, more than 700 yoga teachers have been trained and more than 150 free yoga classes are being conducted per week in Canada.

Bhalla's awards include the Humanitarian of the Year Award, presented by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce; the Melvin Jones Fellow, presented by the Lions Club International Foundation for his dedication to humanitarian services; and the Hind Rattan Award.

He received a certificate of recognition for his promotion of yoga presented by Member of Parliament Hon. Gurbax Malhi. He also received the Bharat Gaurav Award of Excellence, presented by SONA, for

his dedication and community service. The Mississauga Erin Mills Lions Club also presented Bhalla with the Lion of the Year award.

He has been actively involved with many fundraising activities, including Lions Club, Credit Valley Hospital and Child Haven International, which assists children and women in need in several countries. He is an active member and former vice president of the Mississauga Erin Mills Lions Club, has served as a board member for the Credit Valley Hospital Foundation, and is currently vice president and board director for Patanjali YogPeeth (PYP) Canada. In his spare time, Bhalla enjoys photography, traveling, reading and playing golf.



GAGAN BHALLA, LEFT, RECEIVES THE MAHATMA GANDHI PRAVASI GOLD MEDAL FROM BARONESS SANDIP VERMA, ENGLAND'S MINISTER OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, AND SHRI GAUCHAR NAWAB, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE NRI WELFARE SOCIETY OF INDIA.

retired in 1992. Warthling was instrumental in bringing Youth Court to Tonawanda and in forming Tonawanda American Little League Baseball.

**Louis J. Soltys, '55**, died Nov. 26, 2012. He was 83. Soltys was a captain in the Air Force from 1955-57 before receiving an honorable discharge. Soltys, who operated a successful private dental practice on Clinton Street in Whitesboro for many years, was known by many to have a special rapport with the children in his care. In 1979, he continued his career as a dentist for the State of New York and worked at the Rome Develop-

mental Disabilities Services Office until his retirement in 1994.

**Robert Austin Auger, '59**, died Nov. 24, 2012, at age 78. Auger served in the U.S. Army Dental Corps from 1959-67. He served in Vietnam with the 38th Medical Detachment and was released from the Army in 1967. In 1969, he established his orthodontic practice in Monterey, Calif. He was a clinical instructor in the UCLA Orthodontic residency program for 25 years. He retired in 2003.

**Ernest W. Wasielewski, '60**, died Nov. 7, 2012. He operated an orthodontic practice in Cheektowaga for 35 years.

**A. Alexander Drapanas, '63**, died Jan. 7, 2013. He was 76. Drapanas established a private practice in comprehensive and reconstructive dentistry in 1963 and remained active at his Linwood Avenue office in Buffalo until his death. Nationally recognized as a forensic examiner, he often was called to serve as an expert witness in trials. He was one of the first dentists to introduce dental implant therapy locally in 1970 and was one of the first in the area to adopt laser drilling techniques in the 1990s. In addition, he was the Buffalo Bisons' team dentist. Drapanas was a coxswain on the crew at Lafayette High

## SDM MOURNS LOSS OF MCGIVNEY

Glen P. McGivney of Sanford, N.C., died Nov. 28, 2012. He retired as a professor in SDM's Department of Restorative Dentistry in 2000. He was a U.S. Navy veteran.





LEFT: ROBERT L. CRONYN, '82, WITH SPC SAKI AT BAGRAM AIR FORCE BASE, AFGHANISTAN. ABOVE: LARRY MUNK, '96, LEFT, WITH CRONYN, IN AFGHANISTAN.

**Robert L. Cronyn, '82**, is currently in the U.S. Army, stationed at Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan. As an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Cronyn was recently summoned to the base's veterinarian clinic to extract the lower canines on SPC Saki, one of the base's

bomb-sniffing dogs. While setting up for the surgery, Cronyn met another SDM alum, **Larry Munk, '96**, who is with one of the Special Forces teams. "You meet the friendliest folks from the SDM here in Afghanistan," says Cronyn, who was due to return to the U.S. in March.

**Brian J. Jackson, '89**, received the honored Fellow Award at the American Academy of Implant Dentistry's 61st annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The award is presented to an individual who has made significant professional, clinical, research or academic achievements in implant dentistry. The designation has been granted to less than 1 percent of the total membership in its history. Jackson is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral



JACKSON

Implantology/ Implant Dentistry and a fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry. He is a partner in the dental practice of Slavin Jackson Burns in Utica, N.Y.

**Joseph Salamon, '07**, was recently named the Nashville Area Dental Provider of the Year by the United States



SALAMON

Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service (IHS). The

award recognizes "exceptional initiative in establishing a quality improvement program that has resulted in the Seneca Dental Program being recognized as the most improved dental program in the Nashville Area," said Timothy Ricks, director, Nashville Area Office of Public Health. "While this is an individual award," Salamon says, "it reflects the collective work of the doctors and professional staff to enhance the delivery of quality dental care to the patients of the Seneca Nation Health System. It truly is a team effort." An SNHS staff dentist since November 2009, Salamon currently serves as the chief dental officer based at the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation Health Center.

## InMemoriam

School and at the West Side Rowing Club. For years he was ranked regionally and nationally as a squash player in both singles and doubles. In later years, he was a top-ranked local tennis player.

**Frank L. Graziano, '65**, died Oct. 28 in Canterbury Woods, Amherst. He was 86. Born in Buffalo, Graziano volunteered to serve in the Army during World War II and fought in the

Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. During his military service, he also was assigned to decode intercepted messages and host an Armed Forces Network radio show called "Midnight in Frankfurt." When he was 35, Graziano enrolled in the UB dental school and earned his DDS in 1965. He was appointed director of continuing education at the dental school after earning his master's degree in educational administration and

created the first dental school publication for UB dental alumni. In 1970, Graziano graduated from the UB endodontic program and became chair of endodontics. He also served on the dental school's executive, admissions, administrative review and finance committees. Graziano went on to establish a private endodontics practice in Snyder and Batavia. He retired in 1990.

**George T. Amann, '76**, of Mechanicville, N.Y., died Dec. 14, 2012. He was 70. He was a former science teacher in the Greater Amsterdam School District and was the owner of Dr. George T. Amann Dentist Office in Mechanicville. He was a past captain and president of the J.L. Short Hook and Ladder Co. #1, and was a past safety officer of the Mechanicville Fire Department, where he served for 52 years.

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