NOW IT BEGINS

Getting a new class ready for dental school.
When I assumed my responsibilities as dean of the School of Dental Medicine at the State University of New York at Buffalo in early 2002, I believed, based on prior experience, that New York, like other states, would support capital improvements at the school. I must now reluctantly conclude that I was wrong. Concerted efforts extending over a period of more than five years to pursue support for long overdue renewal of our obsolescent clinical teaching and patient care facilities through various state funding programs have failed.

The School of Dental Medicine, like other New York dental schools, provides a safety net for underserved and special patient populations and thereby incurs significant uncompensated care costs. As a direct consequence, it is simply impossible for the school to generate funding sufficient to support large capital improvement projects.

So I leave this as unfinished business. I am gratified that during my tenure as dean we have met several other significant goals, among them recruitment of three new department chairs, creation of the Implant Center—our school’s first research-based tertiary care enterprise—comprehensive review and revision of our curriculum, creation of the school’s first endowed faculty position through the generosity of our alumni, and a 15 percent increase in full-time faculty accompanied by a significant renewal of faculty—my primary goal for the school. But the goal of modernizing our clinical facilities remains to be accomplished.

We have begun to invest the school’s own limited funds in the early, smaller phases of this important project, including digitized radiography and an electronic patient record system. To continue, we will need the support of the university, our alumni and our friends in the dental industry. I ask our alumni for assistance in making the case for support of the clinic modernization project to the university leadership and to our friends in the dental industry in Western New York.

One of the principal rewards of my service as dean has been the opportunity to collaborate with our Dental Alumni Association, the 8th District Dental Society and the New York State Dental Association. These are all highly constructive and progressive organizations that provide outstanding leadership for our profession and effective advocacy for dental education. It has been a professional privilege and personal pleasure to work with these groups. I am profoundly grateful for their support and friendship and confident that my successor will enjoy a similar relationship with these outstanding leaders. I ask that you join in the continuing effort to be led by our new dean to obtain appropriate public funding for renewal of our clinical facilities, and I extend best wishes to all for continuing success in sustaining the high quality programs upon which our school’s long traditions of academic excellence rest.

Thank you.

Richard N. Buchanan, DMD
and an MHS from the Medical University of South Carolina. He also holds a Certificate in Periodontics. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology and has published in the area of implants and regeneration of alveolar bone for implant placement. He is licensed in Pennsylvania and Ontario, and maintains a private practice in Ontario. Zeiter teaches half a day a week in clinical programs; he also lectures and gives seminar programs.

SDM in gripping tale

Best-selling author Kathy Reichs’ latest crime novel, 206 Bones, her 12th in a series featuring forensic anthropologist Dr. Temperance Brennan, has a clue that will interest dentists. Deep in the story Brennan tracks down UB’s dental material database and the fictional Trainer (perhaps the real Peter Bush?). Trainer’s role, alas, is limited to e-mailing the forensic report. Like her lead character, the author is a Canadian forensic anthropologist. She and Bush met at an American Academy of Forensic Science meeting and stayed in touch as friends.

I reread the last line, fingers tight on the mouse. Helomolar was introduced on the market in 1984. How does a thriller writer know so much about dental materials? The first line of Reichs’ acknowledgements at the start of the book solves that mystery:

My heartfelt thanks to Peter Bush, Laboratory of Forensic Odontology Research, School of Dental Medicine, SUNY at Buffalo, for his advice on scanning electronic microscopy and energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy.

The dental school itself gets a line in the story when Brennan tracks down UB’s dental material database and the fictional Trainer (perhaps the real Peter Bush?). Trainer’s role, alas, is limited to e-mailing the forensic report. Like her lead character, the author is a Canadian forensic anthropologist. She and Bush met at an American Academy of Forensic Science meeting and stayed in touch as friends.

Smile Team joins Clean Sweep

Every Wednesday morning from spring through fall, Buffalo mayor Byron Brown and his Clean Sweep Team—representing such city services as housing inspection, animal control, fire, signs and lights; and such social services as public health nurses—and, this year for the first time, the dental school’s Smile Team, descend on a Buffalo street selected for the volume of calls to the city’s quality of life hotline. The Clean Sweep Team deals with any quality of life concerns they find; they knock on doors to leave information packets and discuss social service needs. The Smile Team connects unserved residents with dental homes—20 families in one morning recently. Mayer Brown says that just spending time around the Smile Team has made him more conscious of his own oral health. On a late summer morning, the mayor stopped for a picture with Smile Team members Cathy O’Day, RDH; Tracey Fest, RDH; and fourth year students Jeremy Zobel, Kyle Thorsrud and Won Gi Lee.

Excellent teaching

The Alan J. Gross Excellence in Teaching Award is presented annually to a faculty member in each of the first, second and third years of the DDS curriculum. Students in each year choose the award recipient for their enthusiasm for the subject matter, ability to convey information clearly and genuine concern for students. The 2008-09 award winners are Min-ah Cho (first year), Jose Luis Tapia (second year) and Brina Sobajra (third year).

School recognized for effort on smoking

The School of Dental Medicine was recognized for exceptional commitment in addressing smoking cessation by the Erie-Niagara Tobacco Free Coalition/New York State Department of Health Western New York Tobacco-Free Programs at a May event in Buffalo. Leslie Blair, coordinator, Cessation Center, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, presented a certificate of recognition to a delegation comprising Judith Blanvain, DDS ’77, associate dean for clinical affairs; Yol Gonzalez, DDS ’05, Peri ’02, TMJ ’94, MS ’95; Elizabeth Lozier, research assistant; and Theresa Speers, clinical research associate, all from the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences.
Endowment for new lectureship

Robert J. Genco, ’63, SUNY Distinguished Professor and vice provost, has started a fund to endow an annual lectureship at the Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting that will present world leaders in research addressing clinical applications in a field that advances the preservation of oral and general health. The fund is also supported by a contribution from the Sunstar Foundation for Oral Health Promotion, and is seeking other support. To honor his initial contribution, the lectureship will be called the Robert J. Genco Distinguished Professorship and will be presented the inaugural lecture on Oct. 23 in New York City. The award will be presented on Oct. 23 in New York City.

What’s eating the dental school?

Harriman Quad, the area enclosed by Harriman, Squire, Foster, and Abbott halls, is getting a makeover. When the project is finished next spring, UB’s only traditional college quadrangle will be a showcase, with new landscaping, new entrances for Squire, Foster and Harriman, new sidewalks, a central plaza with seating, a widened paved area outside the Harriman entrance suitable for small events, and rain gardens to catch storm waters from the adjacent buildings. Before any paving and planting, the 1930s infrastructure under the quad had to be updated to protect the new landscape from the need for excavation any time soon. The infrastructure work and new entrances will be finished this fall, and 60 major trees will be planted to settle in over the winter. Next spring, the quad will be finished with grass, furniture, and 10,000 shrubs and perennial plants.

New graduate students and residents

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Jamie S. Luria
Nas Sadiqi

Oral Pathology
Samyu Prabakaran
Khalid Shakhi

Oral Sciences
Yousef Alawadih
Hussam AlFawaz
Mai AlMujil
Mohammad Ghami
Lindsay Hall
Sonia Sharma
Jonathan B. Stockton
Timothy L. Volante

Orthodontics
Thikrnat S. Al-Jewair
Mohammed AlSalman
Carla A. French

Zohair M. Gureshi
Michael V. Roxny

Pediatric and Community Dentistry
Andrew Beuttenmuller
Jessica Levy
Adam Shepard
Amy Steen
Carrie Wanamaker
Periodontics
Ahmed Elhassan
Ji Won Jung

Prosthodontics
Mosa Altassan
Terrazza C. Hernandez
Kameliphob Phusuk

TMD
Sonia Sharma

Dental Foundation award for Buchanan

The New York State Dental Foundation has chosen Dean Richard N. Buchanan as the recipient of its 2009 Foundations of Excellence in Academics Award, which recognizes the creative and innovative use of science curriculum to teach oral health. The award will be presented on Oct. 23 in New York City.

What did you do last summer?

Starting immediately after the spring semester was over and working through the final weekend before classes started this August, the Office of Information Resources (OIR) spent the summer installing and making operational point-of-care electronic oral health record systems at all the operators in the school’s three main clinics. Patient records, including digital radiographs, are available chairside for review and for recording clinical data. Students carry cards with smart chips that can instantly move a session to a different terminal—what OIR director Gunther Kohn calls “virtual machines on the fly”—for a consult. The terminals have swipe-card log-on for faculty who need access to a chart to authorize a radiograph, for instance, without having to take the time to type in name and password. “That’s a work-flow enhancer,” Kohn says. The system will change the way we teach and the way we practice.” The point-of-care team leads are Paul Bell and Mike Vossler. The project was supported by the school’s dental repair unit, UB Micro, the UB Card office, and UB Computing and Information Technology Operational Support Services.

The OIR clinic modernization team showed below left, includes (l-r back) Ed Brooks, Mike Miney, Paul Bell, Shaun Hoppel, Kristy Hammonde, (l-r front) Barb Benzerling, Dan Emmer, Ann Dziadzic, Gunther Kohn, Carine Zaenglein, Len Binns. On the team but not in the photo are Mike Vossler, Deb Falter, Michelle Rudroff, Ben Kaufman, Mike Weinstein, Marshall Binns, Puneet Chawla, Steve Blouet.

The plan for the new Harriman Quad (Squire is on the right). The plantings will be completed in spring 2010.

Davis promoted

Elaine Davis, a faculty member at the dental school since 1983, has been promoted to full professor. Davis was originally hired to assist faculty in operative dentistry research. In 1993, she became associate dean for student affairs, a position she still holds. She has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a PhD in educational psychology. Davis teaches courses in professionalism and ethics, communication skills, and statistics. Her current research focuses on attitudes toward aging and access to care issues; she provides statistical consulting for graduate students and faculty. She serves on the school admissions committee, and as a student research, honors and curriculum committees, and is chair of the bylaws committee. She also serves on UB’s preprofessional health committee and is currently serving a three-year term for the behavioral sciences section of the American Dental Education Association. Davis is an occasional reviewer for the Journal of Dental Education and a statistical consultant for the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry. In addition, she is a member of the ADA Council on Dental Education and its licensure committee on educational measurement and testing.

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Against All Odds

The ministry of health official from whom Balikowski secured the necessary permissions for the medical mission suggested in return that perhaps Balikowski could train dental workers in Tigray. Perhaps 2007. Balikowski boggled at the number. But he says he’ll try to train two from each hospital in the region for a start. His work is voluntary; he’ll pay his own way back to Tigray.

Such is the life of a man who, having retired as a medical missionary based in the Philippines, finds himself on a single-handed mission to a country with a population of 41 million and only 55 dentists, all trained outside the country. And Ethiopia needs dental care. Balikowski recently spent several days in another region of the country treating the worst dental problems he’d seen in 44 years of practice.

John Balikowski practiced in Elmia, N.Y., for 18 years before he and his wife, Donna, answered the calling of their faith in 1986 to work in the Philippines delivering dental care to the poor in remote regions; with Philippine volunteers, they founded Philippine Health Care Ministries.

The Balikowskis rotated back to the U.S. every four years for a year of speaking and fundraising for the ministry’s dental care. For the past three years he’d been teaching such a course to medical missionaries at the Elim Bible Institute in Lima, N.Y. Now he was confronted with overwhelming need. He looked heavenward, committed himself to carry on as long as his health held up and he could find the resources he needed, and plunged in.

He went back to Ethiopia for months at a time. He obtained a five-year license as a dental surgeon from the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health. He secured the endorsement of the Bureau of Hospitals in Addis Ababa to train in basic dentistry. He rented a building in Addis Ababa where he set up training facilities and a clinic. And he began training Ethiopian doctors and nurses and medical missionaries from the U.S. and Canada and Australia: dental diseases and anatomy, simple extractions, atraumatic restoration treatment using glass ionomer cements and hand instruments.

Balikowski also started to network. The medical clinic director he worked with on his first trip introduced him to Solomon Mulgeta, the director of the Dental Training Center at Addis Ababa University. The training center was teaching basic dentistry to health workers who then worked in government clinics for four years before receiving licenses for limited dental practice.

He met the dean of the Ethiopian military’s college of health. She talked about wanting to start a dental school—the dental problems in the military forces mirror those in the general population. He met her again by chance sometime later at an airport; no longer in the military, she was working for the health ministry in charge of medical education. They talked about the need for more dental training programs for physicians.

Balikowski got involved in the effort to organize Ethiopia’s first-ever doctoral program in dental medicine. He obtained a manual from the government in India detailing all the requirements—from texts through classroom dimensions—for a five-year dental medicine program and used it as a template for the program in Addis Ababa. He also took on initial responsibility for the curriculum.

In September 2008, the inaugural class of 30 future doctors of dental medicine started a two-year medical curriculum at Addis Ababa University that will be followed by a three-year DDM curriculum. Now in their second year of medical training, with another class expected to begin in the fall, the 30 are fast approaching a DDM that is still recruiting specialist faculty. According to Balikowski, there are only four specialists in Ethiopia: two oral surgeons, a prosthodontist and an orthodontist.

“We have a great need for faculty,” Balikowski says. “What we need are people who can fly in to do block sessions.”

In the meantime, Balikowski and his volunteers started conducting clinics in four Mercy Centers in Addis Ababa, orphanages bursting with children. He and his growing force of trainees are providing preventive care and documenting the children’s oral health in the hope that their findings will persuade the Ethiopian Ministry of Education to institute preventive care programs in schools. And that opens the matter of where to find dental hygienists in a country that has no training programs for that practice.

What difference can one lone man of no means make in a country where the needs are infinite?

Continued on Page 20

Building Ethiopia’s First Dental Medicine Program

THIS OCTOBER, John Balikowski, ’65, will accompany a medical mission team to Mekele, a city in the Tigray Region in northern Ethiopia. He made arrangements with officials in the regional ministry of health for the team to work there.

The group from the States—21 personnel in all, sponsored by Jewish Voice, a religious charity active in Ethiopian relief projects—includes physicians, nurses, opticians, HIV educators and three dentists. They will treat patients for five days.

Tigray Region, with a population of 4.1 million, has 13 hospitals, 50 health centers and some 200 clinics—but no dentists. None.
In less than two weeks, the School of Dental Medicine takes its incoming freshmen and turns them into dental students. There are lectures on everything from health insurance to personal safety; social events designed to introduce students to each other and to Buffalo; and shape-ups for uniforms and new tools. The school’s academic affairs and student affairs offices are responsible for organizing and serving up this healthy breakfast of information to start the school year off right.

Now where do I go?

(Ashleigh Sebro, ’13)

1. Once I fill these up, all I have to do is grab the right tray and head to lab. 2. Which bur kit is this again? 3. Let’s see if I can get this thing to work... 4. And these are just today’s supplies! 5. So, I’m from Toronto. Where’s a good place to get sushi around here? 6. Articulator, check. Now we’re ready for anything. 7. Whew... My credit card and I are tired. 8. Thanks, Mom. I couldn’t have done this without you!
Suiting up

Clothes (and accessories) make the dental student

A knot of medical and dental students crowd into the lobby of the Biomedical Education Building, the chatter loud and excited as more people stream in from the elevators. Two young women—first-year dental students—squeeze their way to the stacks of surgical scrubs piled high on tables and chairs. There is a flurry of activity as scrub tops are pulled on and then discarded. A pair of bottoms flies through the air. Someone drops his backpack to catch a cascading pile.

It’s the second day of the second week of dental school orientation, and the class of 2013 is enthusiastically making its way through rites of passage.

Stacey Scheff sifts through scrubs and picks out a real green pair. Mara Teplitzky chooses blue, holding the huge pants up to her petite frame. “I think I need a small,” she says. They head to the bathroom to try on their new uniform.

“Suiting up”

They are roommates starting the DDS program at City College of Binghamton. “We never saw each other, since age 3. Stacey attended the University of Rochester,” she says. They head to the bathroom to try on their new uniform.

The costs of tools and materials for a first-year dental student totals around $8,000—the highest for any of the four years of the program. During orientation alone, students pay vendors directly for their articulators ($400) and dental supplies, including such disposables as burs and impression materials ($2,700). They pick up the electronic dental curriculum called VitalBook ($1,400) and an Apple PowerBook laptop ($3,500).

Even though they know what to expect, purchase after purchase adds up. Many students are spending more money today than they have before on any day of their lives. The dental school’s Office of Academic Affairs eases the financial burden on freshmen by evenly distributing expenses throughout their first year.

Pairing up

Buy, could I ever use some advice?

There may not have been enough chairs for everyone to sit down at the dental school’s “big sister/big brother” luncheon for the Class of 2013, but that didn’t stop David Andolina Jr. from finding a seat.

The enterprising freshman dragged one of the large circular tables to the bleacher seats across the gymnasium of the Gloria J. Parks Community Center, where he and most of the freshmen were gathered to meet their “biogs”; second-year students who volunteer to be mentors and social ambassadors for the incoming class.

Andolina’s father, Richard Andolina, ’80, is a board member of the UB Alumni Association and secretary-treasurer of the New York State Dental Association.

“I’m from a small New York town called Arkport, close to where my father practices, and growing up I got to know everyone,” he says. “I already feel like it’s the second-year ‘biogs’ help their freshmen ‘littles’ acclimate to dental school.”

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“It’s all about creating a culture that attracts and supports well-rounded, well-adjusted students.” Her first boss, former dean Louis Goldberg, stressed to her that students should, above academics and achievements, be happy.

And what if there were more people than seats at the big-little lunch? Davis and her staff see it as a sign that the Class of 2013 is glad to be here.

Gearing up

So many tools, so little time

“OK, now I’m starting to feel like a dentist.” Ashleigh Sebo, a graduate of McGill University who comes to UB from Toronto, pauses in the crowded hallway in the basement of Squire Hall to show off her brand-new articulator as she cracks a big smile.

“Now that tracked first- and fourth-year students through the academic year. "It’s a pressure cooker," Davis says. “These are all smart, high-achieving students, but in the end we are all human and have the same problems.”

One of her missions is to see that problems don’t become overwhelming.

Elaine L. Davis agrees. She began overseeing student affairs in 1993 and has since revamped student orientation, which has a program for each class year. She added more social events, created a Web site for new and returning students, hired Flash and school counselor Karen R. Miller and reshuffled events to balance academic and social introductions.

The academic affairs and student affairs offices are two units with separate functions, both located in the same third-floor suite in Squire. The staff collaborates on admissions, advising, and projects like matters as finances, relationships, health problems and other lifestyle issues. Her doctoral thesis was based on a project that tracked first- and fourth-year students through the academic year.

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Gearing up

So many tools, so little time
The articulator’s black case looks like a modern, plastic version of a small doctor’s bag. Inside is probably the tool, other than her new apple laptop, that Sebro will use the most during her four years of dental school.

“I’ve had a great time getting to know everyone and going to all the parties and picnics, but this feels more real today,” she says. “Now we know that classes are around the corner.”

Sebro has already picked up her handpiece and consumable supplies and sorted the materials in the plastic drawers of a tall unit she bought from Walmart.

“The upperclassmen told me to get this, because it’s good to stay organized,” she says. “All I have to do is pull out the right tray and take it with me to lab.”

Each class gets its own half-day supply distribution session.

The first-year supply distribution, directed by Daniel Conly, associate professor of restorative dentistry, is scheduled into orientation through the offices of academic and student affairs. Reps from Brasser USA and Henry Schein Dental give demonstrations and show students how to unpack and catalog their multiple bins of dental burs, carbide kits and other supplies.

The students sit in alpha order—A’s up front and Z’s in the back. They listen intently as they sort through small supply bin compartments and open plastic bags. Several second-year students hover nearby. At the front of the lab, vendor reps open large kits, showing each piece on the overhead video screens.

Motivated by the new equipment, Sebro is excited to get started. “I’ve wanted to be a dentist since I was 6,” she says. “I liked the idea of being my own boss and having the flexibility to move my practice.”

Vendors have set up tables inside the space adjacent to the lab. After the handpiece demo, students line up again to pick up and finalize payment on more consumables and impressions supplies. The room goes quiet from concentration to holding their breaths as they do so. The other end of the line returns to their seats and starts tearing open the cardboard boxes and plastic tackle-box-shaped supply kits. Protected in foam are several sets of typodonts—the clear and opaque cast teeth that are then mounted to an articulator. Anyone who went through dental school knows the role that typodonts play in this boot camp of basic restorative procedures, from cutting prep to doing wax-ups and learning dental anatomy.

Many students have had exposure to dental equipment, whether as dental technicians, hygienists or in a parent’s practice.

In addition to the tools, new dental students must master an expanding volume of electronic information technology. It used to be that students were required to enroll in a general introductory course to measure and strengthen their IT skills. Now, the school’s Office of Information Resources (OIR) finds that more students enter the DDS program knowing the basics—most are quite media savvy—and fewer need the prerequisite help. The Class of 2013 is the first to have completed an online IT skills assessment before arriving on campus. It was due in July along with their laptop orders.

“Mobile computing is here to stay,” says Athena Tsitsiambas, director of academic services. She works closely with OIR on many IT training and implementation projects for the school. “Students, equipment, whether as dental technicians, hygienists or in a parent’s practice.

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More oral bacteria, higher heart risk

A new UB study has shown that two oral pathogens in the mouth are associated with an increased risk of having a heart attack, but that the total number of germs, regardless of type, was more important to heart health.

Oelisso M. Andriankaja, DDS, PhD, conducted the study in the Department of Oral Biology as a postdoctoral researcher.

“Even though some specific periodontal pathogens have been found to be associated with an increased risk of coronary heart disease, the total bacterial pathogenic burden is more important than the type of bacteria,” said Andriankaja.

The study involved 386 men and women between the ages of 35 and 69 who had suffered a heart attack and 840 people free of heart trouble who served as controls. Samples of dental plaque, where germs adhere, were collected from 12 sites in the gums of all participants. The samples were analyzed for the presence of the six common types of periodontal bacteria, as well as the total number of bacteria.

The patients harbored more of each type of bacteria than the controls, the analysis showed. Only two species, Tannerella Forssythesis and Prevotella Intermedia, had a statistically significant association with an increased risk of heart attack.

An increase in the number of different periodontal bacteria also increased the odds of having a heart attack, results showed.

That reveals chronic periodontitis as an independent risk factor for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.

The study compared periodontitis in 226 people with head and neck cancer to periodontitis in 207 people without cancer. Tezal is an assistant professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences. She is also a research scientist in the Department of Dentistry and Maxillofacial Prosthetics at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, where the study was conducted.

The results showed that each millimeter of bone loss due to chronic periodontitis was associated with a greater than fourfold higher risk of head and neck cancer. The link between gum disease and cancer was strongest among people with cancers of the mouth, followed by cancers of the oropharynx and larynx.

The message in this finding is clear, according to Tezal: “Prevent periodontitis; if you have it already, get treatment and maintain good oral hygiene.”

When they stratified the relationship by tobacco use, they found that the association persisted in those patients who never used tobacco.

The results may help explain why head and neck cancer rates continue to climb although smoking rates have been declining for the last 40 years. The study also adds to a growing body of research that shows chronic inflammation and infection can affect the risk of cancer, heart disease, and other health problems.

Travel recommendation

Every spring, the ADA hosts a two-day Dental Students’ Conference on Research at its Paffenbarger Research Center in Maryland to introduce top dental students from more than 50 dental schools in the U.S. and Canada to research career opportunities.

Nish Patel, now a fourth-year student, attended the 2009 conference as holder of this year’s ADA Dental Students’ Conference on Research Award. Patel is 2009-10 president of the Student Dental Research Group. Patel still plans to practice—he is looking at residencies—but after two summer research experiences and the ADA conference, where he met a Nobel Prize winner and visited the lab where the first dental resins were formulated, his horizons are broadened.

He says that Gaithersburg, Md., may not look like an exotic destination, but he is looking at residencies—but after two summer research experiences and the ADA conference, where he met a Nobel Prize winner and visited the lab where the first dental resins were formulated, his horizons are broadened.

How much will good oral health be worth to this little girl as she grows up? As much as happiness itself.

On Give Kids a Smile Day, February 5, 2010, the dental school will dedicate a full day to examining, treating and educating children from Buffalo public schools and the Bethel Head Start program. That’s a lot of happy futures. To see other ways the dental school and UB touch the community, visit www.buffalo.edu/reachingothers.
Recognizing your support

To all our donors, Thank you! Your support helps our students graduate with less debt (see the list of scholarships on Page 20); enhances the work of the faculty; supports our research efforts; buys needed equipment for our laboratories and other ways sustains our other traditions which are the excellence that is our heritage and our future.

This list of donors includes all annual funds and designated gifts to the School of Dental Medicine of more than $250 before received between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009. Space considerations preclude listing donors of less than $250 but their generosity is appreciated. We strive to ensure that gifts are listed accurately if any information listed is incorrect, please call the Office of Development at (716) 829-6007 or e-mail tracyoun@ub.edu.

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MISSION ETHIOPIA

Balikowski tells a story that explains something about how he deals with such enormities. One day when his training center was shut by a power cut—a regular occurrence—he visited a dental team that was in the country for a short-term trip. They were blacked out, too, but had a generator. When they discovered that Balikowski had no generator, one fellow pulled out $300 and another handed him $200, and so now he has a generator. It happens. And when it stops happening, he won’t be able to go on.

A country with only 55 dentists has no dental supply infrastructure because the market is minimal. Balikowski expects that once the university starts graduating dentists, their practices will attract suppliers and services. In the meantime, even supplying the dental program library is almost impossibly expensive. Ethiopia is landlocked; it costs $14.50 to get a shipping container from the U.S. to Addis Ababa. (Balikowski can only carry so much in his luggage when he flies.)

There are places in Ethiopia now where people want restorative care rather than extraction because they’ve had a good experience with dental care. This isn’t Balikowski’s doing alone, but he’s high on a short list of people who are planting the seeds of the future of dental medicine in Ethiopia.

The UB Alumni Association and the dental school have formed a partnership to offer a joint membership program. UB Dental Alumni Association members can now get a 50 percent discount on UB Alumni Association dues, with more benefits and resources from dual membership as a result.

“We’re really happy to be able to offer this new joint membership program to our alumni. It helps build a stronger association, provides cohesive programming and fosters deeper affinity with the university, which is what our alumni deserve,” Richard Lynch, DDS ’83, BS ’79, member of the UB Alumni Association board of directors, said.

As the voice of more than 200,000 alumni and friends worldwide, the UBAA helps alumni stay connected to the university and to each other. Whatever your interests are meeting fellow alumni, embracing the arts, cheering on the Bulls or networking outside your field, your membership will help you meet your goal. Joining also means you are supporting many important initiatives for alumni and students.

You get: UB Exclusive (a members-only publication), parking privileges, discounts on events, UB merchandise and online retailers, chapters around the world, recognition programs, networking events and more. You give: Scholarship and student recruitment support.

It’s all about pride—pride in UB, pride in belonging, and the satisfaction of supporting programs that make UB stronger and your degree even more valuable. For information about the UBAA, visit buffalon.edu.
Tabbaa recognized for public service

Sawsan Tabbaa (MS ’97, Ortho ’04) has received the 2009 Northeastern Society of Orthodontists (NESO) Public Service Award for significant contributions to the local, state, regional, national or international community.

In honoring Tabbaa, NESO noted that she has undertaken numerous community-service projects to mobilize health promotion and education at local, national, regional and global levels. Since 1995, she has presented oral health care education workshops for public and private schools in the Amherst, Buffalo and Williamsburg school districts. Her presentations focus on encouraging children to do good oral hygiene, to visit the dental office regularly and to perform well in school so they might become the future dentists and orthodontists.

Since 2002, she has been a member of the pastoral care team at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. In the year 2006, she hosted a cleft-lip-and-palate visiting student in her home and provided free surgical and orthodontic treatment for her. She has made several television appearances to promote public oral health care. Since 1995, she has organized and served as the recipient of the Alan J. Gross Award for Excellence in Teaching the by Class of 2011. Tabbaa is currently a faculty member of the American Academy of Oral Pathology at the University of Buffalo, and lives on the Upper East Side.

Julie Labrecque, GPR ’09, and German Jean-Charles were married on July 13, 2009, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada. Labrecque is currently in practice with Aspen Dental and Charles is an oral pathology resident.

Still Lookin’ Great

Members of the Class of 1956 having lunch on August 28 at McPartlan’s Corner in Cheektowaga, N.Y. The lunch was organized by Bili Arnoff after he learned that Norm Mohl would be visiting from Florida. Pictured are (l to r) John Lucceese, Norm Mohl, Don Golden, Gary Schuller, John Hurley, Don DeRose, Bili Arnoff and Tony Todoro.

In Memoriam

Jose Luis Tapia, MS ’03, Oral Pathology ’03, was selected as the recipient of the Alan J. Gross Award for Excellence in Teaching the by Class of 2011. Tapia is currently assistant professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences. Michael Hatton, ’82, MS ’86, GPR ’89, Oral Surgery ’88, was elected to membership to the American Academy of Oral Medicine in April 2009 and has passed the fellowship exam. Hatton is currently clinical associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences.


Ariste Michael (“Mike”) Jamesson, ’44, died May 19, 2009. He was 87 and lived in Cuba, N.Y. After serving with the Army Dental Corps during World War II, he practiced dentistry in Buffalo, Alfred and Cuba, N.Y.

Casmir J. Zdrojewski, ’53, died Aug. 23, 2009. He was 79. Zdrojewski was a member of the American Dental Association, 8th District Dental Society and Erie County Dental Society.

Glen A. McIntyre, ’75, died Aug. 31, 2009. He lived in Greece, N.Y., and was retired from a practice in Penfield, N.Y.

Norman Mohl, ’56, former chair and founder of the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences, has been reappointed to Tel Aviv University’s board of governors for a two-year term. Mohl has been on the board since 2003.

Stuart Fischman, Oral Pathology ’46, was invited to serve on the board since 2003.

Patrick Keem, ’76, is a candidate for Orchard Park, N.Y., town supervisor.

Albert Cantos, ’81, was elected to membership to the American Academy of Oral Medicine in May 2009. He will be eligible to sit for the fellowship exam after his two-year membership. Cantos is currently clinical assistant professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences. Michael Hatton, ’82, MS ’86, GPR ’89, Oral Surgery ’88, was elected to membership to the American Academy of Oral Medicine in April 2009 and has passed the fellowship exam. Hatton is currently clinical associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences.


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UB Dental Alumni Association
337 Squire Hall
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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.

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Paul S. Petrungaro, DDS, MS
Soft Tissue Emergence Profiles Around Dental Implants in the Esthetic Zone

Friday, October 23
Louis Malcmacher, DDS
The Hottest Topics in Dentistry Today
Carol Tekavec, CDA, RDH
Insurance Coding and Patient Communication (morning)
Record-Keeping Basics: Paper or Computer? (afternoon)

And much more....

If you are an alumnus and have speaking experience and would be interested in speaking at a future Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting, please contact Lisa Jerebko at (716) 474-1024 or ljerebko@roadrunner.com.

This year’s meeting is bigger and better than ever. Earn up to 15 CE credits for one low price.