



2025

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

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE  
**COMMENCEMENT**

Friday, May 2, 2025

5 P.M.

Center for the Arts Mainstage Theatre

North Campus

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

Dean



*Baird Point is an outdoor, Greek-style amphitheater located on the southern shore of Lake LaSalle. It was a gift to the university from the Baird Foundation and the Cameron Baird Foundation. The marble columns on the concrete platforms were once part of the old Federal Reserve Bank in downtown Buffalo. Following their relocation to the lake, the columns were dedicated as a memorial to servicemen and servicewomen.*

# Program

## Processional

Selections from  
"Pomp and Circumstance"  
By Edward Elgar

## Academic Mace Bearer and Educator of the Year

Nicole Hinchy, DDS  
Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs

## Marshals

Latifa Bairam, BDS  
Jose Luis Tapia, DDS  
Robert J. Yetto, DDS

## Herald

Tammy Thompson, DDS

## Opening Declaration

Professor Hinchy

## Welcome

Professor Thompson

## National Anthem

Julia Pitarresi  
BFA, Music Theatre '25

## Introduction of Platform Party

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

## Greetings

Satish K. Tripathi, PhD  
University President

## Dean's Address

Dean Araujo

## Awards Presentation

Dean Araujo

## Commencement Address

Kathleen O'Loughlin, DMD, MPH

## Educator of the Year Address

Professor Hinchy

## Student Address

Amanda Zeccola  
Vice President, Class of 2025

## Recommending of Candidates

Dean Araujo

## Conferring of Degrees

President Tripathi

## Readers

Casey Reidy  
Patrick Anders, DDS, MPH

## Hooding

Dean Araujo

## Dentist's Pledge

Dean Araujo

## Alumni Address

Joseph T. DeLuca, DDS '07  
President, UB School of Dental Medicine  
Alumni Association

## Alma Mater

Julia Pitarresi

## Closing Declaration

Professor Hinchy

## Recessional

"Triumphal March" from "Aida"  
by Giuseppe Verdi

# SUNY Trustee and UB Officials

## Eunice Ashman Lewin

*Member of the State University of New York Board of Trustees*



President and co-founder of Impacto Consulting Associates, Eunice Ashman Lewin joined the SUNY Board of Trustees in February 2010. She serves on the board's Executive Committee and co-chairs

the Student Life Committee. She also serves on the committees for academic affairs, communications and external affairs, community colleges, and academic medical centers and hospitals.

A former commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Lewin was a founding member of the Roswell Park Alliance and a board member of the Buffalo Urban League and Hispanics United of Buffalo. She is a member of the Hispanic Women's League and the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable.

In 2024, Lewin was named chair of the Buffalo Urban League Board of Directors, dedicating herself to its mission of ensuring African Americans and others in underserved communities achieve their highest true social parity, economic self-reliance, power and civil rights.

A retired bilingual social worker for the Buffalo Board of Education, she is a champion for STEM education.

Born in Guantanamo, Cuba, Lewin immigrated to the United States with her family in 1967. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Marymount Manhattan College, a master's degree in American and Puerto Rican studies, and an EdM in educational administration, both from UB.

## Jerry Jacobs Jr.

*Chairman of the University at Buffalo Council*



Jeremy "Jerry" M. Jacobs Jr. is the chief executive officer of Delaware North, a role he shares with his brothers, Lou and Charlie. He also serves as an alternate governor to the Boston Bruins.

As CEO, Jacobs oversees the company and its operating subsidiaries, focusing on strategic growth, corporate governance and financial management. He joined Delaware North in 1986 and held progressive leadership roles before becoming CEO in 2015.

Jacobs is actively involved in numerous philanthropic, civic and business organizations in Buffalo and across the country. His current board positions include The Corps Network, Mimivax and the Jacobs Institute. He is also a member of the U.S. Travel Association's CEO Roundtable and the Partnership for New York City.

Jacobs was a founding board member of Say Yes Buffalo, and he has dedicated more than two decades of service to the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, including past chairmanships of the board of directors and the annual fundraising campaign. He is a past member of the Board of Regents at Georgetown University and past chair of the Nichols School's Board of Trustees. He also served three terms on the University at Buffalo Foundation board.

Jacobs holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Georgetown University.

## Satish K. Tripathi

*University President*



An internationally distinguished researcher and higher education leader, Satish K. Tripathi, PhD, is the University at Buffalo's 15th president.

Tripathi, who served as UB's provost from 2004-

2011, was dean of the Bourns College of Engineering at the University of California, Riverside, from 1997-2004. Previously, he spent 19 years as a professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, including seven as department chair.

In 2024, Tripathi was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A fellow of IEEE and AAAS, he has published more than 200 scholarly papers, supervised more than 30 doctoral and postdoctoral students and served on program committees of numerous international conferences.

Tripathi graduated at the top of his class from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). He holds a master's degree and doctorate in computer science from the University of Toronto, as well as master's degrees in statistics from the University of Alberta and BHU. He has received honorary doctorates from Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, and Brock University.

Tripathi co-chairs the Association of American Universities (AAU) Task Force on Expanding U.S.-India University Partnerships, serves on the College Football Playoff Board of Managers and the boards of University Innovation Alliance and Internet2. Previously, he chaired the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents and Internet2 and served on the boards of the AAU, NCAA Division I, NCAA Board of Governors, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

## **A. Scott Weber**

*Provost and Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs*



As provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, A. Scott Weber, PhD, serves as the university's chief academic officer, providing leadership across the academic enterprise including research, scholarship and

creative activities; undergraduate, graduate, professional and international education; faculty development; inclusive excellence initiatives; and university libraries. Weber is leading the implementation of the university's vision to be recognized among the top 25 public research universities in the nation, focused on building on UB's strengths to achieve new levels of excellence in research, scholarship, education, clinical care and engagement.

A UB faculty member since 1983, Weber is an innovative scholar, teacher and former chair of UB's Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. Prior to his appointment as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, Weber held several other senior administrative roles at UB, including senior vice provost for academic affairs, where he was instrumental in the creation of the UB Curriculum and nationally recognized Finish in 4 program; and vice president for student life, where he focused on enhancing the student experience and promoting overall student wellness.

Weber serves on New York's Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Board for Chemical Waste Management. He is a former board member and current advisory committee member of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

Weber earned bachelor's and master's of science degrees in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnical Institute and a PhD in civil engineering from the University of California, Davis.

## **Allison Brashear**

*Vice President for Health Sciences  
Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine  
and Biomedical Sciences*



Allison Brashear, MD, MBA, a world-renowned neurologist, is reshaping academic medicine at UB. As vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, she

promotes partnerships and integration across health sciences disciplines, driving health care innovation both locally and nationally. Additionally, she leads UBMD Physicians' Group as president and CEO.

Her impactful research has led to the approval of three botulinum toxin treatments for conditions like post-stroke spasticity. Continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2008, she is a leading expert in ATP1A3-related diseases, a spectrum of rare neurologic disorders.

Prior to UB, Brashear was dean of the University of California, Davis School of Medicine, as well as a professor and the Walter C. Teagle Endowed Chair of Neurology at Wake Forest School of Medicine.

Brashear earned her medical degree and completed her neurology residency at Indiana University School of Medicine. She earned her MBA, focused on health-sector management, at Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

In 2022, Brashear was elected to the Association of American Colleges Council of Deans Administrative Board; she became chair-elect in 2024. The same year, she was appointed to the AAMC's board of directors and joined the NIH Scientific Management Review Board. Brashear is also a trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation and a board member of the WNY Women's Foundation.

## **Marcelo W.B. Araujo**

*Dean of the School of Dental Medicine*



Marcelo Araujo, DDS, MS '99, PhD '03, dean of the School of Dental Medicine, is a distinguished academic leader, professor of periodontology, clinical researcher, epidemiologist and proud UB alumnus.

Prior to joining the university, Araujo held leadership positions at top nonprofit dental organizations and within the pharmaceutical industry, where he made a significant impact in health care products research. Over a career spanning two decades, he has made substantial contributions to oral care and multiple therapeutic areas, including cardiology, respiratory diseases, nutrition, women's health and wound care.

Araujo's extensive experience in research, health care business and health sciences has cultivated a broad perspective on the dental profession and a deep understanding of its opportunities and challenges. As dean, Araujo is using this perspective to steer the School of Dental Medicine into a new era of excellence and innovation.

Araujo's current research and clinical trials include a study to assess the use of antibiotics to treat periodontal disease, supported by the National Institutes of Health. He continues to explore the connection between oral and systemic conditions, including the search for new safe biomaterials through AI and its implications for public health.

Araujo earned a PhD in epidemiology and community health and a master's degree in oral sciences from UB, where he also completed a fellowship in periodontology clinical research and teaching. He received his DDS in 1995 and a certificate in periodontology in 1997 from Universidade Gama Filho in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## Commencement Speaker

### **Kathleen O'Loughlin, DMD, MPH**

*Retired, Executive Director of the American Dental Association*



Dr. Kathy O'Loughlin recently retired after 12.5 years as the first female executive director of the American Dental Association (ADA), the nation's leading advocate for oral health. She joined the ADA in 2009 after serving as the Chief Dental Officer for United Health Group and president and CEO for Delta Dental of Massachusetts, a role she held for six years.

Prior to her career in industry, Dr. O'Loughlin maintained a private dental practice for over 20 years and served as an assistant clinical professor at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, where she also earned her Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) in 1981. Dr. O'Loughlin was Tufts' first female dental school class president and valedictorian. She earned her Master of Public Health (MPH) from Harvard University in 1998.

Dr. O'Loughlin served on the Board of Directors of Biolase, a publicly traded dental technology company, and is a member of the Board of Directors of Dental Lifeline Network. In addition, Dr. O'Loughlin serves as a Venture Partner for Revere Partners, a venture capital firm dedicated to dental innovation. Dr. O'Loughlin currently provides leadership development to non-profit boards and executives around the country.

## Shay Bowen Memorial Fund

The School of Dental Medicine gratefully acknowledges the Shay Bowen Memorial Fund for support of our commencement keynote speaker. Mrs. Hazel (Shay) Park Bowen joined UB in 1971 as administrative assistant to the dean of the School of Dental Medicine, a position she held for over 20 years. To that role, she brought the high standards of professionalism, loyalty and thoughtfulness for which she is remembered so fondly by former students, faculty and staff. One of Shay's lasting accomplishments was the initiative she undertook to refine the school's commencement ceremonies. Through the Shay Bowen Memorial Fund, her family and friends have ensured that the example of her special talents and contributions will live on.

## Candidates for Degrees

*Subject to the completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon those individuals listed herein who were identified by April 3, 2025, and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. This listing includes candidates for the following degree conferral dates: August 2024, February 2025 and June 2025.*

### **Latin Honors**

Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of the following minimum criteria, Latin honors may be conferred upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. Cum laude will be selected from the top 8-20% of the class, magna cum laude will be selected from the top 2-7% and summa cum laude will be selected from the top 1% of the class. Standings for Latin honors may change once final grades are posted or degrees conferred.

### **Legend**

Cum laude is denoted by •  
Magna cum laude is denoted by ••  
Summa cum laude is denoted by •••

# Doctor of Dental Surgery Degrees

## Recommending Candidates for Degrees

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

## Faculty DDS Recipients June 1, 2025

Ahmet Öргеç  
Department of Restorative Dentistry  
University at Buffalo  
School of Dental Medicine  
Buffalo, New York

Anna Paritsky  
Department of Periodontics  
and Endodontics  
University at Buffalo  
School of Dental Medicine  
Buffalo, New York

## DDS Recipients June 1, 2025

Sarah Afzaal  
Federally Qualified Health Center  
Boston, Massachusetts

Ahmed Albakry  
General Practice  
Residency Woodhull Medical Center  
Brooklyn, New York

Lia Carmella Alletto  
General Practice Residency  
Rochester General Hospital  
Rochester, New York

Noor Alrawi ••  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Department of Veterans' Affairs  
San Antonio, Texas

Zaina Ali Alsadam  
General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York

Afia Anwar Khan ••  
Private Practice  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Monica Bassi  
Private Practice  
Toronto, Ontario

Katie Marie Beatty  
Pediatric Dental Residency  
University of Rochester -  
Eastman Institute for Oral Health  
Rochester, New York

Debapriya Debaprasad Biswas  
Private Practice  
Phoenix, Arizona

Alex Burgmaster  
General Practice Residency  
St Joseph's Hospital Health Center  
Syracuse, New York

Michael Caputo  
General Practice Residency  
St. Barnabas Hospital Health System  
Bronx, New York

Joshua Nathanael Carter  
Private Practice  
Franktown, Virginia

Amanda Marie Castagnino-Chichester •  
Private Practice  
Warren, Pennsylvania

Young Rim Chang  
Private Practice  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Parneet Chhatwal  
Pediatric Dental Residency  
One Brooklyn Health System -  
Brookdale/Interfaith  
Brooklyn, New York

Amanda Kristine Choy  
General Practice Residency  
Northwell Health -  
North Shore University Hospital  
Manhasset, New York

Leonard Partick Close III  
General Practice Residency  
St. Charles Hospital  
Port Jefferson, New York

Margaret Denman •  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Veterans' Administration Medical  
Center - Buffalo  
Buffalo, New York

Gurkirat Singh Dhillon •  
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Residency  
Rochester General Hospital  
Rochester, New York

Kaitlin May Dickerson ••  
General Practice Residency  
East Carolina University School of  
Dental Medicine  
Greenville, North Carolina

Gabriella Dierna  
General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York

Paul DiMarzo  
General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York

Tina Fadel •  
Pediatric Dental Residency  
University of Connecticut Health Center  
Farmington, Connecticut

Laura Elizabeth Fajardo  
General Practice Residency  
St. Barnabas Hospital Health System  
Bronx, New York

# Doctor of Dental Surgery Degrees

Ayesha Farhad  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Nassau University Medical Center*  
*East Meadow, NY*

Matthew Fasulo  
*Pediatric Dental Residency*  
*University of California Los Angeles*  
*Los Angeles, California*

Alyssa Marie Fay  
*Private Practice*  
*Bristol, Vermont*

Jacob Micah Forchheimer  
*General Practice Residency*  
*BronxCare Hospital Center*  
*Bronx, New York*

Paige Ariana Francesconi  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
*Interfaith Dental*  
*Nashville, Tennessee*

Ruby Ashlin Gadomski  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Rochester General Hospital*  
*Rochester, New York*

Samantha Gavin •  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Staten Island University Hospital*  
*Staten Island, New York*

Stella Joohee Gha  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Northwell Health -*  
*North Shore University Hospital*  
*Manhasset, New York*

Snehal Ghugardare  
*Private Practice*  
*Boston, Massachusetts*

Ricardo Andres Gonzalez-argoti  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Jacobi Medical Center*  
*Bronx, New York*

Johanna Leopoldina Graham  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
*University at Buffalo*  
*School of Dental Medicine*  
*Buffalo, New York*

Vikram Gramopadhye  
*Private Practice*  
*Toronto, Ontario*

Daniel Hogan  
*General Practice Residency*  
*St Joseph's Hospital Health Center*  
*Syracuse, New York*

Stephen Joseph Hogan  
*General Practice Residency*  
*St Joseph's Hospital Health Center*  
*Syracuse, New York*

Mirna Husinec  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
*Veterans' Administration Medical Center*  
*Providence, Rhode Island*

Janis Jimenez  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Hartford Hospital*  
*Hartford, Connecticut*

Yoonsoo Jung  
*U.S. Navy*

Haritha Jupudy  
*Pediatric Dental Residency*  
*Louisiana State University*  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*

Dunia Kakmekha  
*Private Practice*  
*Troy, Michigan*

Manoja Ramapriya Kanchumarthi  
*Private Practice*  
*Phoenix, Arizona*

Samuel Kaplansky  
*Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Residency*  
*University of Connecticut Health Center*  
*Farmington, Connecticut*

Kyra Katz •  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Roswell Park Cancer Institute/SUNY Buffalo*  
*Buffalo, New York*

Sandeep Kaur  
*Private Practice*  
*St. Catherine's, Ontario*

Brendan Keeney ••  
*General Practice Residency*  
*University Hospital -*  
*SUNY Upstate Medical University*  
*Syracuse, New York*

Daniel Earl Keller ••  
*Private Practice*  
*Bristol, Vermont*

Grace Kim  
*Federally Qualified Health Center*  
*Boston, Massachusetts*

Brenda Jay Kizy  
*Private Practice*  
*Detroit, Michigan*

Johan Olav Kjørven  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Erie County Medical Center*  
*Buffalo, New York*

Lindsay Lassetter Mora •  
*Prosthodontics Residency*  
*University at Buffalo*  
*School of Dental Medicine*  
*Buffalo, New York*

Daniel Zhengdao Li •  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
*University at Buffalo*  
*School of Dental Medicine*  
*Buffalo, New York*

Nicholas Christopher Lim  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Erie County Medical Center*  
*Buffalo, New York*

Monica Mack  
*General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York*

Quinn Reo Maguire ••  
*Prosthodontics Residency  
Veterans' Administration  
Greater Los Angeles  
Healthcare System  
West Los Angeles, California*

Prathima Mallempalli  
*Private Practice  
Austin, Texas*

Dyllan May •••  
*Private Practice  
Green Bay, Wisconsin*

Paulo Mazini Neto  
*Private Practice  
Austin, Texas*

Holly Mabel McLean  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
University of Detroit Mercy  
Detroit, Michigan*

Jenish Mehta  
*Private Practice  
Ivyland, Pennsylvania*

Winifred Mei  
*General Practice Residency  
Montefiore Medical Center  
Bronx, New York*

Paul Mensah  
*Pediatric Dental Residency  
Woodhull Medical & Mental Health Center  
Brooklyn, New York*

Hibaelrahman Mohammed  
*Private Practice  
Richmond, Virginia*

Pragyan Mohanty  
*Private Practice  
New Haven, Connecticut*

Aeliya Nabeel •  
*Private Practice  
San Antonio, Texas*

Areeg Naeem  
*Pediatric Dental Residency  
University at Buffalo  
School of Dental Medicine  
Buffalo, New York*

Harish Narain  
*Private Practice  
Orlando, Florida*

Xinye Monica Noh •  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Wichita State University  
Wichita, Kansas*

Jennifer Oluwafeyisayo Okewunmi  
*Private Practice  
Houston, Texas*

Khaled Oreby  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Regions Hospital  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Nasim Orumchi  
*Private Practice  
Toronto, Ontario*

Michael Daniel Ottavio  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
New York University  
Langone Dental Medicine  
Interfaith Dental Clinic  
Nashville, Tennessee*

Dhrutiben Khodabhai Patel •  
*Private Practice  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Riddhi Patel  
*Private Practice  
Carrollton, Georgia*

Karin Claire Cesar Prins  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
University of Tennessee  
Health Science Center  
Nashville, Tennessee*

Angelika Pupiec  
*General Practice Residency  
Staten Island University Hospital  
Staten Island, New York*

Farhan Rahman  
*General Practice Residency  
Woodhull Medical Hospital  
Brooklyn, New York*

Shriya Dinesh Rao  
*General Practice Residency  
Woodhull Medical Hospital  
Brooklyn, New York*

Allison Marie Rehm  
*General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York*

LeAnn Brittany Richert  
*General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York*

Kania Rimu  
*General Practice Residency  
Wyckoff Heights Medical Center  
Brooklyn, New York*

Madelyn Ritter  
*General Practice Residency  
University of Colorado  
Anschutz Medical Campus  
Aurora, Colorado*

# Doctor of Dental Surgery Degrees

Michelle Rybak  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Staten Island University Hospital*  
*Staten Island, New York*

Nausheen Saloda  
*Private Practice*  
*Chicago, Illinois*

Gurinderjit Sandhu •  
*Private Practice*  
*Calgary, Alberta*

Marie Clare Schaefer  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
*University at Buffalo*  
*School of Dental Medicine*  
*Buffalo, New York*

Mattie Seamans  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Denver Health Medical Center*  
*Denver, Colorado*

Valerie Shlimov  
*Prosthodontics Residency*  
*The University of Texas Health Science*  
*Center at Houston*  
*Houston, Texas*

Gabrielle Lauren Shuron •  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Cleveland Clinic*  
*Cleveland, Ohio*

Sandeep Singh  
*Private Practice*  
*Toronto, Ontario*

Saumya Singh  
*Private Practice*  
*San Jose, California*

Edmund Song  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Woodhull Medical Hospital*  
*Brooklyn, New York*

Matthew George Strickland  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Meharry Medical College*  
*Nashville, Tennessee*

Nigar Sultana  
*General Practice Residency*  
*University Hospital -*  
*SUNY Upstate Medical University*  
*Syracuse, New York*

Shishira Surapu Reddy  
*Private Practice*  
*Raleigh, North Carolina*

Hamza Syed  
*General Practice Residency*  
*New York University*  
*Langone Dental Medicine*  
*Mineola, New York*

Umar Salim Syed  
*Pediatric Dental Residency*  
*One Brooklyn Health System -*  
*Brookdale/Interfaith*  
*Brooklyn, New York*

Heather Ann Tamburro  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
*East Carolina University*  
*Thomasville, North Carolina*

Anthony Tardibuono  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
*New York University Langone Dental*  
*Medicine -*  
*Ft. Myers, Florida*  
*Family Health Center of Southwest Florida*  
*Ft. Myers, Florida*

Jacinta Tracey  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Loyola University Medical Center*  
*Chicago, Illinois*

Ashley Alysse Turner  
*Pediatric Dental Residency*  
*University at Buffalo*  
*School of Dental Medicine*  
*Buffalo, New York*

Rathna Valluri •••  
*Orthodontics Residency*  
*Tufts University*  
*Boston, Massachusetts*

Katherine Vega Rojas  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Mountainside Medical Center*  
*Hackensack, New Jersey*

Jessica Vilas-Boas  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Yale-New Haven Hospital*  
*New Haven, Connecticut*

Ava Elizabeth Walch •  
*Pediatric Dental Residency*  
*Children's National Hospital*  
*Washington, DC*

Paige Warmuth •  
*General Practice Residency*  
*University Hospital -*  
*SUNY Upstate Medical University*  
*Syracuse, New York*

Tyler Roger White  
*General Practice Residency*  
*Erie County Medical Center*  
*Buffalo, New York*

Tobiras Jerusalem Barao Whitfield  
*General Practice Residency*  
*New York University*  
*Langone Dental Medicine*  
*Mineola, New York*

Wesley Wolf  
General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York

Winnie Wong  
General Practice Residency  
Rutgers School of Dental Medicine  
Newark, New Jersey

Casey Keith Woodward •  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, North Carolina

Carolyn Xin ••  
Private Practice  
Toronto, Ontario

Jack Yacoub  
General Practice Residency  
Lehigh Valley Hospital - Muhlenberg  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Tristan Cole Yates  
General Practice Residency  
Rochester General Hospital  
Rochester, New York

Amanda Madison Zeccola  
General Practice Residency  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts

Mahjuba Zehra  
Private Practice  
Saint Louis, Missouri

Alexa Paige Zeilander  
Pediatric Dental Residency  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, Ohio

## Doctor of Dental Surgery Special Academic Programs

### Thesis Honors

Daniel Zhengdao Li  
*Detoxification of Implant Surfaces With  
Automated Oral Prophylaxis Device: An Ex-  
Vivo Comparison Study*  
Primary Mentor:  
Sebastiano Andreana, DDS

Dhruviben Patel  
*Color Stability and Mechanical Properties  
of Nylon Retainers after Different Cleaning  
Methods-An In-Vitro Study*  
Primary Mentor: Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS,  
MBA, MSc, MS, FRCD(C)

LeAnn Richert  
*Nano Calcium Sulfate (nCS) and  
Nanohydroxyapatite (nHA) combined with  
Strontium (Sr) for use as a Bone Grafting  
Material*  
Primary Mentor:  
Rosemary Dziak, PhD

Nausheen Saloda  
*Effect of Experimental Cleaning Methods  
on the Color Stability of 3D-Printed and  
Thermoformed Aligners -An In Vitro Study*  
Primary Mentor: Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS,  
MBA, MSc, MS, FRCD(C)

Jessica Vilas-Boas  
*Tumor-associated Macrophage  
Reprogramming to Improve Oral Cancer  
Therapeutic Efficacy*  
Primary Mentor:  
Keith Kirkwood, DDS, PhD

Mahjuba Zehra  
*Endothelial Cell Responses to  
Photobiomodulation Treatments in Diabetic  
Wounds are mediated via Concerted PDGF,  
VEGF and TGF- $\beta$  signaling*  
Primary Mentor:  
Praveen Arany, BDS, MDS, MMSc, PhD

## Concentrations

### Esthetic Dentistry

Afia Anwar Khan  
Mirna Husinec  
Daniel Zhengdao Li  
Dyllan May  
Holly Mabel McLean  
Paige Warmuth  
Carolyn Xin  
Tristan Cole Yates

### Oral Diagnostic Sciences

Zaina Ali Alsadam  
Alex Burgmaster  
Margaret Denman  
Kaitlin May Dickerson  
Laura Elizabeth Fajardo  
Jacob Micah Forchheimer  
Stephan Joseph Hogan  
Brendan Keeney  
Madelyn Ritter  
Nausheen Saloda  
Mattie Seamans  
Gabrielle Lauren Shuron  
Jacinta Tracey  
Rathna Valluri  
Ava Elizabeth Walch  
Tyler White

### Periodontics

Noor Alrawi  
Afia Anwar Kahn  
Debapriya Debaprasad Biswas  
Michael Caputo  
Brendan Keeney  
Winifred Mei  
Gurinderjit Sandhu  
Nigar Sultana  
Jessica Vilas-Boas

### Prosthodontics

Tina Fadel  
Stella Joohee Gha  
Daniel Earl Keller  
Lindsay Lassetter Mora  
Quinn Reo Maguire  
Valerie Shlimov  
Tobiras Jerusalem Barao Whitfield

## Doctor of Philosophy Degrees

### Recommending Candidates for Degrees

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

### Oral Biology

Natalie Anselmi, PhD  
*"Outer Membrane Proteins of Pathogenic Oral Treponemes Inhibit Intracellular Signaling and Functions of Neutrophils"*  
Major Professor: Michelle Visser, PhD

Kiana Talisa Bynum, BS  
*"Neutrophil Activation Alters Ability to Kill Normally Commensal Oral Microbes"*  
Major Professor: Jason Kay, PhD

Armond June, BS  
*"The Effect of Periodontitis on the Oral-Gut Microbiome Axis"*  
Major Professor: Patricia Diaz, DDS, PhD

Achamaporn Punnaitinont, PhD  
*"Analysis of the Role of TLR7 in primary Sjögren's Disease"*  
Major Professor: Jill M. Kramer, DDS, PhD

## Master's Degrees

### Recommending Candidates for Degrees

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

### Master of Science

#### Oral Sciences

Abdullah AlBaghli, BDS  
*"Flexural Strength and Microhardness of printed and milled temporary crown and bridge materials from Graphy, Ivoclar and Formlabs"*  
Major Professor: Hyeongil Kim, DDS, MS

Bayan Ali Alhaddad, BDS  
*"IL-36 Family Cytokines Induce Immune Activation in Primary Sjögren's Disease"*  
Major Professor: Jill M. Kramer, DDS, PhD

Mohammed Saleh Alshayiqi, BDS  
*"Relationship Between Implant Geometry and Primary Stability in Variant Bone Densities: An In Vitro Pilot Study"*  
Major Professor: Rui Li, DDS, PhD

Laura Elizabeth Cavallari, DDS, MS  
*"Effect of Surgical and Non-surgical Treatment of Peri-implantitis on Survival of Implants Treated in a Dental School Setting"*  
Major Professor:  
Robert Schifferle, DDS, MMSc, PhD

Marah Damdoum, DDS, MS  
*"Potential effects of proton pump inhibitors on periodontal disease: A systematic review"*  
Major Professor: Lisa Yerke, DDS, MS

Ryan Andrew Hubert, BS  
*"Caries Theranostics with Targeted Chromophore-assisted laser analysis of Streptococcus Mutans"*  
Major Professor: Praveen Arany, DDS, PhD

Akhila Kiran, BS  
*"Crosstalk between Redox, pH, and TGF-beta1 Signaling Mediates Calcium Hydroxide-Induced Reparative Dentin"*  
Major Professor: Praveen Arany, DDS, PhD

Syed Zaeem Raza, DDS, BDS  
*"Shear Strength and Color Stability of Crown and Bridge Printed UDMA Resin to Printed Resin by Formlabs and Milled PMMA by Ivoclar"*  
Major Professor: Hyeongil Kim, DDS, MS

Madelyn Ritter, BS  
*"Investigating Laser-Assisted Atraumatic Extractions: A Pilot Study in Porcine Jaws"*  
Major Professor: Praveen Arany, DDS, PhD

Azhar Samargandi, BDS  
*"Color stability and Surface Roughness of Different CAD/CAM Denture Teeth Materials"*  
Major Professor: Rui Li, DDS, PhD

Hosam Yousef Zebda, BDS  
*"Myofascial Pain with Referral: Role of Nociceptive Drive and Central Pain Mechanisms"*  
Major Professor: Richard Ohrbach, DDS, PhD

# Advanced Education and Specialty Certificates

## Orthodontics

Alaa Anwar Abdullah, BDS, MS

*“Long-term Stability of 3D Printed Orthodontic Models Under Various Storage Conditions”*

Major Professor: Ashish Gurav, DMD, PhD

David Do, DMD, MD, MPH

*“Relationship Between Obesity and Craniofacial Morphology in Growing Children and Adolescents”*

Major Professor: Ashish Gurav, DMD, PhD

Ashley Lin Jarkowski, DDS

*“Dimensional Changes in Invisalign Attachments During Treatment by Attachment Type and Complexity of Tooth Movement”*

Major Professor:

Stephen Warunek, DDS, MS

Adrianna Simeone, DDS, MS

*“Coating of Orthodontic Elastomeric Ligatures with Quaternary Ammonium Silane”*

Major Professor:

Stephen Warunek, DDS, MS

Taylor Toothman Sulkowski, DDS

*“Accuracy of High-Frequency Ultrasound in the Detection of White Spot Lesions”*

Major Professor: Thikriat Al-Jewair, DDS, MBA, MSc, MS, FRCD(C)

Gabriel Valencia, DDS

*“Analysis of Power Bar Force I and Force II Elastics on Biomarkers of Orthodontic Tooth Movement – a pilot study”*

Major Professor: Jill M. Kramer, DDS, PhD

## CODA Approved Certificates

### Recommending Candidates

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

### Advanced Education in General Dentistry

**June 30, 2025**

Mohammed Saleh Alshayiqi, BDS

Denise B Curado, DDS

Riya Eapen George, DDS

Jiaqi Huang, DDS

Palak Maniar, DDS, MS

Joseph Mostowy, DDS

Azhar Samargandi, BDS

Parisa Tadi, DDS

Caitlin Viele Haggerty, DDS

### Endodontics

**June 30, 2025**

Sean Patrick Kennelly, DDS

Derek Lin, DDS

### Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

**July 31, 2025**

Bayan Ali Alhaddad, BDS

Mohamed Ahmed Y Dahawi, BDS, MS

### Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

**June 30, 2025**

Andrew Isaacson Buck, DMD

Eric Vu, DMD, MD

### Orthodontics

**June 30, 2025**

Alaa Anwar Abdullah, BDS, MS

David Do, DMD, MD, MPH

Ashley Lin Jarkowski, DDS

Adrianna Simeone, DDS, MS

Taylor Toothman Sulkowski, DDS

Gabriel Valencia, DDS

## Pediatric Dentistry

**June 30, 2025**

David Harold Choo Chong, DMD

Kevin J Dobbins, DMD

David Alexander Feere, DDS

Tyler Jamal Laurel, DDS, MA

Joshua Mathew Matam, DDS

Kassiani Strembenis, DDS

Taylor Shepard, DDS

David Alexander Younie, DMD

## Periodontics

**February 1, 2025**

Layla Arab, DDS, MS

**June 30, 2025**

Rayan Alsuwailem, BDS, MS

Nathalia Paiva de Andrade, DDS, PhD

Laura Elizabeth Cavallari, DDS, MS

Marah Damdoum, DDS, MS

## Prosthodontics

**June 30, 2025**

Abdullah AlBaghli, BDS

Syed Zaeem Raza, DDS, BDS

## Temporomandibular Disorders and Orofacial Pain

**February 1, 2025**

Manavjot Kaur Gill, BDS, MS

**July 31, 2025**

Josephine Itakpe, BDS, MS

Hosam Yousef Zebda, BDS

## Awards and Presentations Faculty and Staff

### Dean's Award

The Dean's Award is presented to a member of the faculty, staff, student body or community who has made a positive professional impact on a greater than local or regional level.

*Faculty: Eugena B. Stephan, DMD, PhD*  
*Staff : Martha Boyer*

### The Richard A. Powell Award

This award is presented annually to a full or part time faculty member who, in the considered judgment of faculty and students, is an outstanding dental educator. This individual must be an inspired teacher who promotes in his/her students, the concept of "Let each become all he is capable of being." The recipient of this award demonstrates superior knowledge of a particular discipline, is able to communicate effectively and conveys compassion for his/her students. The awardee appreciates differences in individual students and works with each to realize their full potential.

*Hema Arany, DDS, MDS, CAGS*

### The Charles S. Lipani Award

This award is presented infrequently to a faculty or staff member, who is chosen by the faculty of the School of Dental Medicine, to recognize outstanding contribution to the school, the faculty or the dental profession.

*Meelin Dian Chin Kit-Wells, DDS, MEd*

## Student Awards and Recipients

### Academy of General Dentistry Award

is presented to the graduating dental students who have exhibited the greatest interest, knowledge and proficiency in the field of general dentistry during senior year.

*Matthew Fasulo*  
*Madelyn Ritter*

### Academy of Operative Dentistry Award

is presented to the graduating dental student who has best exemplified outstanding achievement in operative dentistry.

*Noor Alrawi*

### Academy of Osseointegration Award

is presented to the most outstanding dental student for work in the field of implant dentistry.

*Paulo Mazini Neto*

### Dr. Joseph A. Accardo Eighth District Dental Society Award

is presented to the graduating student who most exemplifies Dr. Accardo's leadership and visionary skills in organized dentistry as well as his political activism.

*Jacinta Tracey*

### American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award

is presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated the most clinical proficiency and interest in esthetic dentistry during the past year.

*Stella Joohee Gha*

### American Academy of Implant Dentistry Award

is presented to the graduating student who has demonstrated the most interest, academically and clinically, in implant dentistry.

*Michael Caputo*

**American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Award**

is presented to the graduating student who has demonstrated the greatest interest and accomplishment in the field of oral pathology.

*Kyra Katz*

**American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award**

is presented in recognition of exceptional interest and accomplishment in the field of oral radiology.

*Gabrielle Lauren Shuron*

**American Academy of Oral Medicine Award**

is presented to the graduating student demonstrating interest and outstanding proficiency in the field of oral medicine.

*Tyler Roger White*

**American Academy of Orofacial Pain**

is presented to a graduating student who has shown the greatest interest and commitment to temporomandibular disorders (TMD) and orofacial pain.

*Jacob Micah Forchheimer*

**American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Certificate of Merit Predoctoral Student Award**

is presented to a graduating dental student who shows the most promise in pediatric dentistry.

*Umar Salim Syed*

**American Academy of Periodontology Award**

is presented to a graduating dental student for interest and achievement in the field of periodontics.

*Casey Keith Woodward*

**American Association of Endodontists Award**

is presented to a graduating student demonstrating the greatest ability and interest in the field of endodontics.

*Johan Olav Kjørven*

**American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Implant Award**

is presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and performance related to the placement and restoration of dental implants.

*Quinn Reo Maguire*

**American Association of Orthodontists Award**

is presented to a graduating dental student who has demonstrated outstanding aptitude and achievement in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics.

*Lia Carmella Alletto*

**American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award**

is presented to the graduating student who has demonstrated a special interest/achievement in community dentistry and dental public health.

*Grace Kim*

**American College of Dentists Outstanding Student Leader Award**

is presented to a graduating student for outstanding clinical skills in the art and science of dentistry, and is based on clinical achievement, initiative and scholarship.

*Noor Alrawi*

# Student Awards and Recipients

## **American College of Prosthodontists Award**

is presented to the outstanding graduating student who has shown high academic and clinical proficiency in the field of prosthodontics.

*Quinn Reo Maguire*

## **American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Award – Horace Wells Senior Student Award**

is presented for outstanding ability and interest in the field of pain control.

*Yoonsoo Jung*

## **American Student Dental Association Award of Excellence**

honors the spirit of volunteerism and recognizes student participation or leadership in service to the school or local community.

*Jacinta Tracey*

## **The Barrett Prize Award**

is presented in Dr. Barrett's memory to the student attaining the highest scholastic average for the entire four years of dental study. Dr. William C. Barrett was the founder of our school and the first dean, from 1892 to 1903.

*Dyllan May*

## **Brasseler USA Esthetic Dentistry Award**

is presented to a graduating student for the most outstanding esthetic case completed in the fourth year, as judged by faculty. The award is sponsored by Brasseler USA.

*Carolyn Xin*

## **Eleanor Bushee Award**

is presented by the American Association of Women Dentists to recognize a graduating female dental student who has demonstrated both academic excellence and outstanding leadership.

*Valerie Shlimov*

## **Dean's Award**

is presented to a graduating dental student who demonstrates critical thinking and is devoted to the advancement of the dental profession.

*Jennifer Oluwafeyisayo Okewunmi*

## **Dental Alumni Award**

is presented by the Alumni Association to a graduating dental student based on academic standing, clinical achievement, personality and participation in university and other activities.

*Anthony Tardibuono*

## **Dental Lifeline Network's Brian D. Stone Memorial Award**

is presented to a senior who demonstrates volunteerism and great care towards patients with special needs. Dr. Stone was a dedicated and longtime volunteer with the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program, deeply committed to advancing the mission of DLN and the DDS program.

*Paige Warmuth*

## **Dental Student Association Staff Appreciation Award**

is presented to a staff member who has shown dedicated and sincere interest in the education and welfare of dental students.

*Kevin Ryan*

### **Educator of the Year**

is the faculty member chosen by the senior class who has executed his or her responsibility as an educator in a most exceptional manner and contributed significantly to the welfare of dental students.

*Nicole Hinchy, DDS, MS*

### **Erie County Dental Society Chester A. Glor Award**

is presented annually by the Society to a graduating dental student who is a long-time resident of Erie County and exemplifies the qualities demonstrated by Dr. Glor. Dr. Glor's commitment to the dental profession spanned over 50 years and was characterized by his love of dentistry, his collegiality and generosity to his colleagues and the community.

*Nigar Sultana*

### **Dr. Marshall Fagin Prosthodontic Award**

provides a scholarship to a past dental student who has been accepted into the University at Buffalo's Prosthodontics residency program. The recipient for this award exhibits excellence in clinical prosthodontics, high moral character and a commitment to ongoing learning.

*Lindsay Lassetter Mora*

### **The Pierre Fauchard Academy Award**

is presented to an outstanding student who has exhibited leadership and excelled in both the academic and clinical aspects of the dental program. Pierre Fauchard was an 18th century French dentist who has been called, the "Father of Modern Dentistry". He has been credited with the generation of many new concepts and interventions, and was responsible for developing the scientific foundation of the dental profession.

*Lindsay Lassetter Mora*

### **The William M. Feagans Award**

was established by the Dental Student Association. The nominated staff or faculty member is elected annually by the current senior class. Dr. William M. Feagans was dean of the School of Dental Medicine from 1970 to 1993, and like Dr. Feagans, the recipient shall have shown to students a concern that encompasses the finest aspects of academic dentistry, while balancing the challenges of "real life" dentistry and student life.

*Robert Yetto, DDS*

### **Fonzi Dental Study Club, Anthony S. Gugino Humanitarian Award**

is given in honor of Dr. Anthony S. Gugino by the Fonzi Dental Club of Buffalo to recognize a graduating dental student who has demonstrated those qualities exemplified by Dr. Gugino, namely: unselfishness, total involvement in dentistry, high moral character and helpfulness to fellow students.

*Paul DiMarzo*

### **Dr. Davis Garlapo Memorial Prosthodontics Award**

is presented to high-performing senior students, studying the discipline of prosthodontics, given in memory of longtime School of Dental Medicine faculty member Dr. Davis Garlapo.

*Tina Fadel*

*Daniel Earl Keller*

*Quinn Reo Maguire*

*Dyllan May*

*Tristan Cole Yates*

*Tobiras Jerusalem Barao Whitfield*

# Student Awards and Recipients

## **Dr. Alan J. Gross Excellence in Teaching Award by Class of 2025**

is presented in honor and memory of Dr. Alan J. Gross. Students of the current D4, D3 and D2 classes nominate worthy faculty members. The award recognizes teaching with excellence with a genuine concern for students. The graduating D4 Class of 2025 has chosen to nominate..

*Latifa Bairam, BDS, MS*

## **International Congress of Oral Implantologists Award**

is presented to a graduating dental student who has displayed the greatest interest and commitment to oral implantology and/or implant dentistry.

*Valerie Shlimov*

## **Donald Kozlowski Memorial Award**

is presented annually to the graduating student who is judged by his or her colleagues as most respected based on overall achievement and attitude during dental school instruction. Donald Kozlowski would have been a member of the graduating class of 1969 at the School of Dental Medicine. Instead, his life tragically ended in his junior year. Because he was extremely popular and highly respected, his classmates dedicated a memorial plaque in his honor.

*Daniel Zhengdao Li*

## **Florence Kronson Award**

was instituted in 1974 to recognize the individual who has executed his or her responsibility in an outstanding manner and has contributed significantly to the welfare of the students. Florence Kronson was a long-time member of our dental school staff. She was a dedicated, compassionate person who showed great concern for, and interest in, students as individuals.

*Nicole Doria  
Tyler McCluskey*

## **Eric J. Murawski Memorial Award**

is presented to a graduating 4th year dental student who shows promise in the area of oral surgery. The award is given in memory of Eric. J. Murawski, DDS'14, MD'17.

*Samuel Kaplansky*

## **Dr. Russell Nisengard Award**

is presented to a graduating student who aspires to pursue a career in an academic setting. The award is given in memory of UB SDM alum and faculty member, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Russell Nisengard, whose own career exemplified success in academic dentistry, as an educator, researcher, and administrator.

*Alexa Paige Zeilander*

## **New York State Association of Endodontists**

is presented to a graduating student who is considered to be the best clinician in endodontics.

*Tristan Cole Yates*

## **New York State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Student Award**

is presented by the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery to the graduating student who has demonstrated academic excellence and clinical proficiency in this discipline.

*Matthew Fasulo*

## **The Northeastern Society of Periodontists Award**

is presented to a graduating student who has demonstrated sincere interest and proficiency in the study of periodontics and periodontal research.

*Brendan Keeney*

### **Omicron Kappa Upsilon Membership**

is presented by this national dental honor society. Each year, active members of the local Lambda Lambda chapter elect a maximum of 12% of the graduating class for membership. These students are from among the academic top 20% of the class.

#### **Student Inductees**

*Noor Alrawi*

*Afia Anwar Khan*

*Kaitlin May Dickerson*

*Tina Fadel*

*Brendan Keeney*

*Daniel Earl Keller*

*Lindsay Lassetter Mora*

*Daniel Zhengdao Li*

*Dyllan May*

*Quinn Reo Maguire*

*Dhrutiben Khodabhai Patel*

*Gurinderjit Sandhu*

*Ava Elizabeth Walch*

*Paige Warmuth*

### **Omicron Kappa Upsilon Research Award**

is presented by this national dental honor society, through the Lambda Lambda Chapter of the University at Buffalo, to the graduating dental student who has made an outstanding contribution to the science of dentistry through research activity.

*Daniel Zhengdao Li*

### **Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dr. Lata Shenoy Award**

is presented by this national dental honor society, through the Lambda Lambda Chapter of the University at Buffalo, to the graduating dental student who has made an outstanding contribution to the science of dentistry through research activity.

*Afia Anwar Khan*

### **Pediatric and Community Dentistry Department Award**

is presented by the faculty of the department to graduating students in recognition of outstanding performance and effort in the field.

*Tina Fadel*

*Ashley Alysse Turner*

*Paul Mensah*

### **Richard A. Powell Award**

is presented to a graduating student who has displayed outstanding service, achievement and dedication to the School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Powell was a Professor and Associate Dean who dedicated his entire professional life to the service of his University, School, profession and patients. It is in his honor that this award is given.

*Anthony Tardibuono*

### **Quintessence Awards**

are offered by the Quintessence International Journal of Practical Dentistry and are presented to graduating students for outstanding achievement in research, clinical restorative dentistry and clinical periodontics.

*Research Achievement: Winifred Mei*

*Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry: Daniel Zhengdao Li*

*Clinical Achievement in Periodontics: Lindsay Lassetter Mora*

### **Lester Schatz Memorial Award**

is presented by The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies in memory of Dr. Lester Schatz, who was a member of the Dental School Class of 1944, to a student who has shown excellence in preventive dentistry and periodontics, devotion to the profession and genuine concern for patients.

*Dyllan May*

# Student Awards and Recipients

## **SDM Implant Dentistry Award**

is presented by the faculty of Restorative Dentistry to a graduating student in recognition of outstanding performance in the field of Implant Dentistry.

*Quinn Reo Maguire*

## **Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Leadership Award**

is presented annually by ADEA to a graduating student who has demonstrated effective leadership, is an advocate for equity, diversion and inclusion, champions access to oral health care for underserved and disadvantaged populations, and shows a likelihood to enter dental education or organized dentistry.

*Jennifer Oluwafeyisayo Okewunmi*

## **The Special Care Dentistry Association Student Award**

is presented to the graduating student who has demonstrated a sincere interest and concern for the dental needs of persons with disabilities and special patients while a dental student.

*Ava Elizabeth Walch*

## **St. Apollonia Guild Dental Student Service Award**

is presented by the Guild of Saint Apollonia to recognize a senior dental student who has consistently and humbly dedicated themselves to providing oral health care to those with the least resources.

*Farhan Rahman*

## **Student Affairs Recognition Award**

is presented to students who have enhanced the quality of student life and supported student recruitment efforts at our school in a positive and energetic manner.

*Afia Anwar Khan*

*Margaret Denman*

*Tina Fadel*

*Laura Elizabeth Fajardo*

*Janis Jimenez*

*Brendan Keeney*

*Jennifer Oluwafeyisayo Okewunmi*

*Shishira Surapu Reddy*

*Jacinta Tracey*

*Ava Elizabeth Walch*

*Tobiras Jerusalem Barao Whitfield*

## **Stephen B. Totten Award**

is presented to the graduating student who has done the most significant work in the field of oncology.

*Janis Jimenez*

## **U.S. Public Health Service Dental Award of Excellence**

is presented to a senior student of dental school who is committed to public health dentistry and the U.S. Public Health Service core values of leadership, service, integrity, and excellence.

*Nigar Sultana*

## **Whip Mix Hanau Prosthodontics Award**

is presented to the graduating student who has excelled in the study and clinical application of prosthodontics.

*Daniel Earl Keller*

## Retirements

**David Croglia**

*Clinical Assistant Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Ernesto DeNardin**

*Professor  
Oral Biology*

**Donald Freeman**

*Restorative Dentistry*

**Joseph Gambacorta**

*Clinical Associate Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Denise Lewis**

*Restorative Dentistry*

**Christine Macie**

*Clinical Affairs*

**Willard (Scott) McCall**

*Professor  
Oral Diagnostic Sciences*

**Lata Shenoy**

*Clinical Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Karen Spates**

*Clinical Affairs*

**Lynn Smith**

*Clinical Affairs*

**Mark Trautman**

*Pediatric and Community Dentistry*

**Katherine Vester**

*Clinical Affairs*

## In Memoriam

**Gerald Benjamin**

*Clinical Associate Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Joseph Bernat**

*Clinical Associate Professor  
Pediatric and Community Dentistry*

**David Brown**

*Emeritus Clinical Assistant Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Elias Kaufman**

*Emeritus Associate Professor HS  
Pediatric and Community Dentistry*

**Joseph Natiella**

*Professor  
Oral Diagnostic Sciences*

**Jill Rusinski**

*AECD Clinic Practice Manager  
Clinical Affairs*

# Academic Regalia

The traditional regalia worn at commencement exercises is a record of academic achievement of the individuals taking part. Its use, which originated at English and European universities during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, came to the United States in 1754 with the founding of what is now Columbia University.

In 1895, the Intercollegiate Commission, a group of leading American educators, met at Columbia to draft a code which would serve to regulate the design of gowns and hoods for various degrees as well as to fix the colors that indicate the various faculties. This code has been adopted by most of the colleges and universities in America. It was revised in 1932 and again in 1959.

The level of degree held is indicated by the gown's cut. Doctoral gowns have full length sleeves, and those worn by Masters have long, closed somewhat fuller sleeves which reach nearly to the wearer's knees. The arm goes through a slit, giving the appearance of short sleeves.

The color as well as cut of the gown varies. Although most doctoral gowns are black, in some cases their color is that of the university conferring the degree. The doctoral gown is trimmed in velvet; three two-inch bars on the sleeves and a five-inch border extending from the back of the neck down to the two sides in front. Although usually black, the velvet may be of a color that indicates the nature of the degree. For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the color is dark blue; for Doctor of Medicine, green; for Doctor of Dentistry, lilac; for Doctor of Education, light blue; for Doctor of Science, golden yellow; for Doctor of Law, purple; for Doctor of Social Work, citron, etc. master's and bachelor's gowns have no facing.

The hood seems to have had a more practical origin. During the Middle Ages, monks wore them to protect their shaved heads in the winter and as a container in which to collect alms. It is the most significant part of the academic dress. Its shape and size indicates the degree of the wearer; the color of the velvet border indicates the academic field, and that of the lining the color or colors of the institution granting the degree. The bachelor's hood is three feet long and has a two inch velvet border, master's is three-and-one-half feet long and has a three inch border, and the doctor's is four feet with a five inch border. The State University of New York at Buffalo hood is lined with blue and gold stripes.

The mortarboard cap has been conventionalized from the skull cap, which was worn by monks of the 12th and 13th centuries. They are usually black. Tassels are worn over the left front quarter by degree holders; candidates wear the tassel over the right front quarter until the degree is conferred.

## The Gold Cord

The University at Buffalo pays special tribute to some of its most accomplished graduates with the conferral of the gold cord. The gold cord is given in recognition of the outstanding achievement of students who are graduating (or are projected to graduate) cum laude, magna cum laude or summa cum laude. A long, braided neckpiece, the gold cord may be worn with the cap and gown at any commencement ceremony.

## Red, White and Blue Cord

This cord is being worn by graduating UB students who are active duty servicemembers, reservists, members of the National Guard, newly commissioned officers or veterans of the United States armed forces.

## Academic Stole

The Omicron Kappa Upsilon academic stole is a vestment used by OKU to denote academic achievement, and is intended to be worn as part of a member's academic attire. The stole is in the colors of OKU, navy blue with gold embroidery, trimmed in the color of dentistry, lilac.

## 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.

The mace of the School of Dental Medicine 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, where the American Dental Association was founded in 1859. When Grant Hall was razed, a beam was presented as a gift to the School by three Niagara Falls dentists; Doctors Joseph Accardo, Guelfo Canali and Kenneth Reid.

In the mid-point of the body, there are 46 silver vertical ribs representing the original class of 46 students in 1892. The ribs are positioned between 2 silver decagons symbolizing the original 10 members of our first full-time faculty. There are three intersecting silver planes, representing the three charges of the School of Dental Medicine: education, research and patient care.

At the summit of the body held between the three intersecting silver planes is the Steuben crystal sphere. This crystal sphere not only symbolizes purity, the lack of disease, it also represents quality. Furthermore, it is uniquely representative of New York State.

The silver base plate of the mace bears the inscription "Gift from the Class of 1961."



## Dentist's Pledge

I, as a member of the dental profession, will keep this pledge and these stipulations.

*"I understand and accept that my primary responsibility is to the oral health of my patients and my community. I shall dedicate myself to render, to the best of my ability, the highest standard of oral health care and to maintain the public's respect and confidence. Therefore, let all patients who come to me, and let all members of the community I serve, be assured that they are safe in the knowledge that their total health and well-being are my first consideration.*

*I shall accept the responsibility that, as a professional, my competence rests on continuing the attainment of knowledge and skill in the arts and sciences of dentistry.*

*I acknowledge my obligation to support and sustain the honor and integrity of the profession, and to conduct myself in all endeavors such that I shall merit the respect of patients, colleagues and my community. I further commit myself to the betterment of my community for the benefit of all of society.*

*I shall faithfully observe the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct set forth by the profession. All this I pledge with pride in my commitment to the profession and the public which it serves."*

## UB Alma Mater

*Music by Walter S. Goodale, MD, 1903.  
Lyrics adapted by UB students in 2006 for  
contemporary use.*



### **Verse 1:**

The pride of our spirit and tradition,  
Our alma mater's truth and name declare.  
Celebrate our history and wisdom,  
O let us all prepare to sing her glory.

### **Refrain:**

To Buffalo all hail to thee,  
Noble and strong it's our university!  
To blue and white pledge loyalty,  
Singing, I will always remember thee!

### **Verse 2:**

We'll ever keep our standards high,  
And sing UB's praises to the sky.  
Receiving the finest education,  
Our knowledge we impart unto the nations.  
*(Repeat refrain)*

### **Verse 3:**

Our friends we've made with ties that bind,  
A union of our spirit, heart and mind.  
Together we'll continue life's journey,  
O may dear Buffalo forever be.  
*(Repeat refrain)*

# School of Dental Medicine

## Dean's Leadership

Patrick Anders, DDS, MPH  
Associate Dean for Advanced Education

Mary Bush, DDS  
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Matthew Delaney  
Unit Business Officer

Neil Dengler  
Assistant Dean, Senior Director for  
University Advancement

Simone Duarte, DDS, PhD  
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, Equity,  
Diversity and Inclusion

Keith L. Kirkwood, DDS, PhD  
Senior Associate Dean for Research,  
Centennial Endowed Chair

Gunther Kohn  
Chief Information Officer

Eugena Stephan, DMD, PhD  
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

Tammy Thompson, DDS  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Carrie Woodrow  
Chief of Staff

## Department Chairs

Thikriat Al-Jewair, BDS, MBA, MSc, MS,  
FRCD(C)  
Orthodontics

Brett Chiquet, DDS, PhD  
Pediatric and Community Dentistry

Robert Cohen, DDS, PhD  
Periodontics and Endodontics

Grace De Souza, DDS, PhD  
Restorative Dentistry

Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker, DDS, MPH  
Oral Diagnostic Sciences

Michael R. Markiewicz,  
DDS, MD, MPH, FACS  
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Stefan Ruhl, DDS, PhD  
Oral Biology

# Alumni Letter

# C

**ONGRATULATIONS!**

Dear Graduating Class of 2025,

On behalf of the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association, it is my great pleasure to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2025 on this momentous occasion of your graduation. As you prepare to step out into the world as accomplished dental professionals, we want you to know that you carry with you the pride and legacy of our esteemed institution.

Your dedication, hard work, and perseverance have led you to this significant milestone, and we applaud you for your commitment to excellence in the field of dentistry. Throughout your time at UB dental, you have demonstrated not only academic and clinical skills, also the qualities of compassion, integrity, and leadership that are essential to success in our profession.

As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, we want to warmly welcome you into the vibrant community of UB dental alumni. This network of professionals spans the globe and represents a wealth of knowledge, experience, and camaraderie that you can draw upon as you navigate your career.

Remember that your relationship with the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine does not end with graduation; rather, it marks the beginning of a lifelong connection. We encourage you to stay engaged with your alma mater by participating in alumni events, mentoring current students, and contributing to the continued growth and success of our beloved institution.

As you venture forth, know that you carry the hopes and aspirations of all those who have come before you and the trust of those who will come after. You are now ambassadors of UB dental, and we have every confidence that you will represent us with distinction in all your endeavors.

Once again, congratulations, Class of 2025! May your future be filled with boundless opportunities, fulfillment and joy.

Joe DeLuca, DDS, Class of 2007

President, University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association

# The State University of New York

## Board of Trustees

Merryl H. Tisch  
*Chairman*

Cesar Perales  
*Vice Chairman*

Joseph W. Belluck\*  
Courtney E. Burke  
Eric Corngold  
Marcos A. Crespo  
Robert J. Duffy  
James F. Haddon  
Giovanni Harvey  
Keith B. Landa  
Eunice A. Lewin\*  
Stanley S. Litow  
Edward M. Spiro  
Cary F. Staller  
Candice Vacin  
Camille J. Varlack\*

## System Administration

John B. King Jr.  
*Chancellor*

Melur K. Ramasubramanian  
*Executive Vice Chancellor  
and Provost*

## University at Buffalo Council

Jerry Jacobs Jr.  
*Chairman*

Julie M. Bargnesi\*  
Michael W. Cropp\*  
Jonathan A. Dandes\*  
Scott E. Friedman  
René F. Jones  
Brenda W. McDuffie  
Pat Roche  
Alika Turton

## Emeritus Members

Jeremy M. Jacobs\*  
*Chairman*

Sheila H. Battle  
Roger I. Blackwell  
Robert T. Brady  
Randall L. Clark  
Pamela Davis Heilman\*  
June W. Hoeflich\*  
Gerald S. Lippes\*  
Mary E. Randolph  
Rose H. Sconiers\*  
John N. Walsh III

## University at Buffalo

Satish K. Tripathi  
*President*

A. Scott Weber  
*Provost and Executive  
Vice President for  
Academic Affairs*

## Cabinet Members

Mark Alnutt  
*Athletics*

Allison Brashear  
*Health Sciences*

Christopher Connor\*  
*Enrollment Management*

Beth Del Genio\*  
*Chief of Staff to the  
President  
Government and  
Community Relations*

John Della Contrada  
*University Communications*

Venu Govindaraju\*  
*Research and Economic  
Development*

Brian F. Hamluk  
*Student Life*

Graham L. Hammill  
*Academic Affairs*

Kathleen S. Heckman\*  
*University Advancement*

Laura E. Hubbard  
*Finance and Administration*

Stacy Knapper  
*University at Buffalo  
Foundation*

Heath V. Tuttle  
*Chief Information Officer*

Seval Yildirim  
*Inclusive Excellence*

## Deans

Keith A. Alford  
*School of Social Work*

Marcelo W.B. Araujo\*  
*School of Dental Medicine*

Allison Brashear  
*Jacobs School of Medicine  
and Biomedical Sciences*

S. Todd Brown  
*School of Law*

Julia E. Czerniak  
*School of Architecture  
and Planning*

Ananth V. Iyer  
*School of Management*

Kemper E. Lewis  
*School of Engineering  
and Applied Sciences*

Gary M. Pollack\*  
*School of Pharmacy and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences*

Suzanne N. Rosenblith  
*Graduate School of  
Education*

Robin G. Schulze  
*College of Arts and  
Sciences*

Jean Wactawski-Wende\*  
*School of Public Health  
and Health Professions*

Annette B. Wysocki  
*School of Nursing*

## Academic Administration

Craig W. Abbey  
*Institutional Analysis  
and Planning*

Ann M. Bisantz\*  
*Undergraduate Education*

Christopher Connor\*  
*Enrollment Management*

Robert Granfield  
*Faculty Affairs*

Graham L. Hammill  
*Academic Affairs;  
Graduate School*

Nojin Kwak  
*International Education*

Evviva R. Weinraub Lajoie  
*University Libraries*

Seval Yildirim  
*Inclusive Excellence*

## University at Buffalo Foundation

Gregory M. Bauer\*  
*Chairman*

Robert E. Denning\*  
*Vice Chairman; Treasurer*

Jean C. Powers\*  
*Secretary*

Stacy Knapper  
*Chief Executive Officer*

## Trustees

Teresa Bair\*  
Jason L. Bird\*  
Helen M. Cappuccino\*  
Terrence M. Gilbride  
Kathleen M. Hamm\*  
Louis M. Jacobs  
Kathie A. Keller  
Daniel K. Magnuszewski\*  
Margaret H. McGlynn\*  
Michael J. Murray\*  
Paul A. Nussbaum  
Michael D. Olfano\*  
James J. Palmisciano\*  
Nagendra Raina\*  
Danielle Shainbrown\*  
Steven H. Shepsman\*  
Eileen S. Silvers\*  
Daniel A. Sperrazza\*  
Satish K. Tripathi

## Directors

Gregg S. Fisher\*  
Daniel M. Hamister  
Dale M. McKim III\*  
Marjorie E. Winkler\*

## Emeritus Trustees

Randall I. Benderson\*  
Dianne Bennett\*  
Lawrence P. Castellani  
Ellen E. Grant\*  
Jeremy M. Jacobs\*  
John N. Walsh III

\*UB alumnus/alumna/alum



**ON THE COVER:**

The modern seal for the University at Buffalo harks back to a design adopted in 1923 to reflect the evolution of the university from separate schools into a more close-knit organization. Though the seal has been revised several times over the decades, the foundational elements remain: a proud bison signifying the City of Buffalo atop a shield supported by the palm leaves of victory and emblazoned with the flames of wisdom.

