



2026

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

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE  
**COMMENCEMENT**

Friday, May 1, 2026

5 P.M.

Center for the Arts

North Campus

Marcelo W.B. Araujo, DDS, PhD

Dean

# Letter to the Class of 2026 from President Tripathi



Dear Graduates,

Congratulations! You have reached an important milestone—one that marks both the completion of your degree and your arrival at a threshold of new opportunities and responsibilities. For that reason, today we celebrate not only what you have accomplished, but who you have become.

Your time here has been defined by intellectual growth, perseverance and discovery. You arrived with promise; you leave with purpose, ready to make an impact in a changing landscape that needs your talents and will test your resolve.

As graduates of the University at Buffalo, you uphold a mission dedicated to advancing knowledge and serving society. Your education has endowed you with greater clarity: to understand complexity and question assumptions. If we have done our job well, you have also come to appreciate the resilience of our collective humanity while recognizing where it is fraying.

You will encounter trials in the years ahead. When confronted with division or adversity, I urge you not to turn away, but to engage. Draw on what you have learned here to mend and renew the fabric of our communities. Whatever your discipline, you possess both the capacity and the duty to champion the public good through your work, commitment and leadership.

As Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us, “We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.” The challenges you encounter will not be yours alone, nor will their solutions be found in isolation. Beyond your knowledge, you carry a shared obligation—to fortify those bonds, enrich those connections and cultivate fairness and compassion in all that you do.

It has been one of the great privileges of my life to celebrate our UB graduates and to witness your growth. As I conclude my presidency this summer, my faith in the contributions you are poised to make remains unwavering.

To the Class of 2026, please accept my heartfelt best wishes. May your efforts advance integrity and harmony across society, and may you inspire others to follow your example.

Sincerely,

Satish K. Tripathi  
President

# Program

## Processional

Selections from  
"Pomp and Circumstance"  
By Edward Elgar

## Academic Mace Bearer and Educator of the Year

Patrick Anders, DDS, MPH  
*Associate Dean for Advanced Education*

## Marshals

Christopher R. Pusateri, DDS, MS  
Eugena Stephan, DMD, PhD  
Jose Luis Tapia, DDS, MS

## Herald

Tammy Thompson, DDS  
*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

## Opening Declaration

Professor Anders

## Welcome

Professor Thompson

## National Anthem

Abby Tyler  
*BFA, Music Theatre '26*

## Introduction of Platform Party

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

## Greetings

Satish K. Tripathi, PhD  
*University President*

## Dean's Address

Dean Araujo

## Commencement Address

Lisa A. Tedesco, PhD  
*Vice Provost Emerita, Dean Emerita, and  
Professor Emerita  
Emory University*

## Educator of the Year Address

Professor Anders

## Student Address

Claire Genevieve Martin  
*President, Class of 2026*

## Recommending of Candidates

Dean Araujo

## Conferring of Degrees

President Tripathi

## Readers

Simone Duarte, DDS, MS, PhD  
Professor Anders

## Hooding

Dean Araujo

## Dentist's Pledge

Dean Araujo

## Alumni Address

Joseph T. DeLuca, DDS  
*President, UB School of Dental Medicine  
Alumni Association*

## Alma Mater

Abby Tyler

## Closing Declaration

Professor Anders

## 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 was appointed to the SUNY Board of Trustees in February 2010. During her tenure, she has been instrumental in

reinstating the Student Life Committee and in spearheading the committee's food insecurity and mental health task forces.

A retired bilingual social worker for the Buffalo Board of Education, Lewin is deeply dedicated to her community. She served on the Western New York Health Equity Task Force, was named co-chair of the 5/14 Remembrance Committee and is a founding member of the Roswell Park Alliance and the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable. Lewin is also a member of the Hispanic Women's League and Hispanics United of Buffalo and previously served as a commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. In 2024, she was named chair of the Buffalo Urban League, where she continues to advance its mission of social parity, economic self-reliance and civil rights for underserved communities.

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 and master's degrees in American and Puerto Rican studies and in educational administration 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. He was appointed UB Council chairman by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul in December 2024. His additional 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 the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the International Academy of Artificial Intelligence Sciences, 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 serves on the College Football Playoff Board of Managers and the board of University Innovation Alliance. 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 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 & Erie County.

Weber earned bachelor's and master's of science degrees in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnic 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, is a world-renowned neurologist and a transformative leader reshaping academic medicine at the University at Buffalo. As vice president for health sciences and

dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, she oversees a comprehensive educational continuum—spanning undergraduate biomedical programs, graduate research and professional medical and postgraduate training. She drives health care innovation locally and nationally, advancing strategic partnerships and serving as president and CEO of UBMD Physicians' Group.

A leading authority on ATP1A3-related diseases, she has received continuous National Institutes of Health funding since 2008. Her groundbreaking research helped secure approval for three botulinum toxin therapies used to treat post-stroke spasticity and other neurologic conditions.

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

She earned her medical degree and completed her neurology residency at Indiana University School of Medicine and her MBA at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

In 2025, Brashear was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. She holds national leadership roles, including serving on the Association of American Medical Colleges' Council of Deans Administrative Board, where she became chair-elect in 2024, on the AAMC board of directors and as a trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation. In Buffalo, she serves as a board member of the WNY Women's Foundation.

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

*Dean of the School of Dental Medicine*



Marcelo Araujo, DDS, PhD, 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

### **Lisa A. Tedesco, PhD**

*Vice Provost Emerita, Dean Emerita, and Professor Emerita,  
Emory University*



Lisa A. Tedesco is vice provost emerita (academic affairs – graduate studies), dean emerita of the James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies, and professor emerita, behavioral, social, and health education sciences, Rollins School of Public Health.

Under her tenure, the Laney Graduate School grew to more than 1,800 students and over 50 doctoral, master's, and certificate programs, with an emphasis on opportunities for interdisciplinary study, professional development and career planning, diversity and inclusion, and student mental health and well-being. As a health psychologist, Dr. Tedesco's teaching and research have focused on behavioral sciences, health promotion and disease prevention, and education in the health professions. During 2021-22, she served as the Dean-in-Residence at the Council of Graduate Schools. In fall 2022, she continued in leadership at Emory and served as special advisor to the provost.

Prior to her work at Emory, Dr. Tedesco was on the faculty and in leadership at the University of Michigan. At Michigan's School of Dentistry, Dr. Tedesco was associate dean for academic affairs and professor of behavioral sciences. She also served in university administration as vice president and secretary and as interim provost.

Dr. Tedesco holds a master's and PhD in Educational Psychology from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, and from 1981 to 1992 was on the faculty in the School of Dental Medicine.

In her retirement, she remains active as a senior advisor with Academic Analytics and works with the ADEA/Gies Foundation as chair of the Board of Trustees.

## 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 2, 2026, and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. This listing includes candidates for the following degree conferral dates: August 2025, February 2026 and June 2026.*

### **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, PhD  
Dean

## DDS Recipients

June 1, 2026

Haley Elizabeth Abbott  
General Practice Residency  
New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital  
Brooklyn, New York

Yousif A.M. Alkawaz  
Private Practice  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Basel Alkrunz •  
Private Practice  
Chicago, Illinois

Asia Arshalous Allen  
Orthodontics Residency  
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine  
Buffalo, New York

Mona Almaala  
Private Practice  
Durham, North Carolina

Kodia Al-Sharqi  
Pediatric Dental Residency  
Jacobi Medical Center  
Bronx, New York

Nirav Arora  
Private Practice  
Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

Julia O. Aziz  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
University of Rochester Eastman Institute for Oral Health  
Rochester, New York

Maxwell Christian Balko  
General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York

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

Pratiksha Basnet Rayamajhi ••  
Private Practice  
Manchester, New Hampshire

Nishesh Batra •  
Private Practice  
Dallas, Texas

Laureen M. Bazzi •  
General Practice Residency  
Veterans Administration – John D. Dingell Medical Center  
Detroit, Michigan

Anna Belan  
Private Practice  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Aneesh Bhardwaj  
Private Practice  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Olivia Margaret Bird •  
General Practice Residency  
New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital  
Brooklyn, New York

Anthony Joseph Blaskovic •••  
Orthodontics Residency  
University of Rochester Eastman Institute for Oral Health  
Rochester, New York

Alejandro Caraballo IV  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
University of Rochester Eastman Institute for Oral Health  
Rochester, New York

Sabrina Carter  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine  
Buffalo, New York

Jordan Warner Chatelle  
General Practice Residency  
Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center  
New York, New York

Ambika Chaudhary  
Private Practice  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Biling Chen  
Private Practice  
Houston, Texas

Karen Chen  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Columbia University  
New York, New York

Chidozie Chukwujama  
Private Practice  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Marta Danyleyko  
Private Practice  
Chicago, Illinois

Alexander Griffin Dengel  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Veterans Administration Medical Center – Sepulveda  
Sepulveda, California

# Doctor of Dental Surgery Degrees

Brianna Rose Distler •  
*General Practice Residency*  
State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, New York

Shreya Edulakanti  
*Private Practice*  
Princeton, New Jersey

Amr Wagih Eldesouky •  
*General Practice Residency*  
Woodhull Medical Center  
Brooklyn, New York

Amanda Elizabeth Engel  
*Pediatric Dental Residency*  
Ann & Robert Lurie Children's Hospital of  
Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

Faustina Frattali  
*Private Practice*  
Charleston, South Carolina

Emily Genovesi  
*Prosthodontics Residency*  
University at Buffalo School of Dental  
Medicine  
Buffalo, New York

John Angelo Germinerio •  
*Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency*  
Augusta University  
Augusta, Georgia

Aditi Ghosh  
*Private Practice*  
Lancaster, PA

Gabriela Giannuzzi  
*General Practice Residency*  
Veterans Administration Medical Center –  
Louis Stokes Cleveland  
Cleveland, Ohio

Emily Rose Gola  
*General Practice Residency*  
Veterans Administration Pittsburgh  
Healthcare System  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Gayle Sarah Gottlieb  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
East Carolina University – Robeson County  
Lumberton, North Carolina

Elizabeth Gu  
*Pediatric Dental Residency*  
University of Connecticut Health Center  
Farmington, Connecticut

Katherine Gutierrez  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
University at Buffalo School of Dental  
Medicine  
Buffalo, New York

Mohammed Harb  
*General Practice Residency*  
Veterans Administration Medical Center –  
Northport  
Northport, New York

Jordan Jay Hollander •  
*Pediatric Dental Residency*  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington

Catherine Jiwoo Hong  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
Providence Veterans Administration Medical  
Center  
Providence, Rhode Island

Laura Huff  
*General Practice Residency*  
Rochester General Hospital  
Rochester, New York

Nosa Ighile  
*Private Practice*  
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

Ellie Ilene Jarvis ••  
*General Practice Residency*  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York

Leila Jazayeri  
*Private Practice*  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Cameron Michael Leung Jedemann  
*General Practice Residency*  
Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center  
New York, New York

Zaid Jureyda  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
University at Buffalo School of Dental  
Medicine  
Buffalo, New York

Rand Kaddou  
*Private Practice*  
Houston, Texas

Karanjot Kaur •  
*Private Practice*  
Seattle, Washington

Dipankar Suresh Khadtale  
*Private Practice*  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Hassan Khalid  
*Private Practice*  
Baltimore, Maryland

Ashley Kim ••  
*Endodontics Residency*  
Boston University  
Boston, Massachusetts

Minjoo Kim  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
Providence Veterans Administration Medical  
Center  
Providence, Rhode Island

Matthew Charles Lawson  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
University at Buffalo School of Dental  
Medicine  
Buffalo, New York*

Kevin Le  
*Internship  
Rutgers University School of Dental  
Medicine  
New Brunswick, New Jersey*

Selena Seojin Lee  
*General Practice Residency  
Veterans Administration Medical Center –  
Brooklyn  
Brooklyn, New York*

Madison Rose Lenhard  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Veterans Administration Medical Center –  
Buffalo  
Buffalo, New York*

Olivia Aren Suzanne Littman •  
*General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York*

Kristianne Liu  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Waimanalo Health Center  
Oahu, Hawaii*

Natalie Lunie Lolo  
*General Practice Residency  
New York Medical College  
Valhalla, New York*

Christopher W. Long  
*General Practice Residency  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, Oregon*

Louis Manuel Lopez  
*General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York*

Isabella Luciano  
*General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York*

Brandon Lutchmidat  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Veterans Administration Orlando Healthcare  
Orlando, Florida*

Soundarya Chowdary Mandava  
*Private Practice  
Houston, Texas*

Claire Genevieve Martin  
*General Practice Residency  
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Buffalo, New York*

Pooja Shailesh Mehta  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, Ohio*

Mark Mikhail  
*Pediatric Dental Residency  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
Cincinnati, Ohio*

Brennan Michael Mooney  
*General Practice Residency  
Rochester General Hospital  
Rochester, New York*

Chandana Namburi  
*Private Practice  
Austin, Texas*

Jenna Nocero  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Interfaith Dental  
Nashville, Tennessee*

Julia Marie Ophals  
*Pediatric Dental Residency  
East Carolina University School of Dental  
Medicine  
Greenville, North Carolina*

Isabella Ortega  
*General Practice Residency  
Rochester General Hospital  
Rochester, New York*

Helayna Ortiz  
*General Practice Residency  
Jacobi Medical Center  
Bronx, New York*

Sayma Parhana  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
University at Buffalo School of Dental  
Medicine  
Buffalo, New York*

Prathi Patel  
*Private Practice  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Saya Patel  
*Pediatric Dental Residency  
One Brooklyn Health System – Brookedale/  
Interfaith  
Brooklyn, New York*

Smit Patel  
*Private Practice  
Hamilton, New Jersey*

Srushti Kaushikkumar Patel  
*Private Practice  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

Alberto Perez Escobar  
*General Dentistry  
U.S. Army*

Grace Perna  
*Internship – Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery  
University of Missouri Kansas City  
Kansas City, Missouri*

Grace Elizabeth Quevedo  
*General Practice Residency  
Erie County Medical Center  
Buffalo, New York*

# Doctor of Dental Surgery Degrees

Alexander Reale •

*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
East Carolina University School of Dental  
Medicine  
Greenville, North Carolina*

Ross Jared Reddock

*General Dentistry  
United States Navy*

Greyssi María Reyes Paz

*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
East Carolina University School of Dental  
Medicine  
Lillington, North Carolina*

Joseph Dominick Riccardi •

*Orthodontics Residency  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Manuel Romo Crisostomo

*General Practice Residency  
Englewood Health  
Englewood, New Jersey*

Lea Safarpour •

*Orthodontics Residency  
Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus  
Aurora, Colorado*

Serena Sanon

*General Practice Residency  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, Oregon*

Sara Lynne Schaeffler

*General Practice Residency  
St. Charles Hospital  
Port Jefferson, New York*

Megan Schornack •

*Private Practice  
Hopkinsville, Kentucky*

Chlöe Lee Schrier ••

*Orthodontics Residency  
University at Buffalo School of Dental  
Medicine  
Buffalo, New York*

Priyank Seth

*Private Practice  
Indianapolis, Indiana*

Kanan Shah

*Private Practice  
Rochester, Minnesota*

Deepika Sharma

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

Abigail Shea

*General Practice Residency  
NYC Health – Hospital/Bellevue  
New York, New York*

Swapnali Shinde Kamble

*Private Practice  
St. Louis, Missouri*

Gary Shum •••

*General Practice Residency  
Northwell Health  
Manhasset, New York*

Barinder Pal Singh

*Pediatric Dental Residency  
NYU Langone Dental Medicine – Princess  
Anne, MD  
Princess Anne, Maryland*

Khrystyna Maria Sobko

*Advanced Education in General Dentistry  
Veterans Administration Medical Center –  
Buffalo  
Buffalo, New York*

Rachel Steffan •••

*Pediatric Dental Residency  
Children's Hospital – Harvard University  
Boston, Massachusetts*

Danielle Sudol •

*General Practice Residency  
Northwell Health  
Manhasset, New York*

Aziza Sultana

*Pediatric Dental Residency  
Indiana University – Riley Children's Hospital  
Indianapolis, Indiana*

Mounika Sunku •

*Private Practice  
Charlotte, North Carolina*

Asad Waqar Tanweer

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

Abel Eskinder Tefera

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

Santino Testani

*General Practice Residency  
Veterans Administration Medical Center –  
Northport  
Northport, New York*

Manali Divyesh Vora

*Private Practice  
Boston, Massachusetts*

Manny Weinstein

*General Practice Residency  
University Hospital – SUNY Upstate Medical  
University  
Syracuse, New York*

Winnie Xu  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
East Carolina University  
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

Isabel Yang  
*General Practice Residency*  
Jamaica Hospital  
Queens, New York

Zahra Yazdani Kachouei \*\*\*  
*Private Practice*  
Tacoma, Washington

Oleg Zadoyanny  
*General Practice Residency*  
Rochester General Hospital  
Rochester, New York

Charles Zaepfel  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
Veterans Administration Medical Center –  
Buffalo  
Buffalo, New York

Larissa Zeigler  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
NYU Langone Dental Medicine – Hometown  
Health  
Schenectady, New York

Annie Zheng  
*Advanced Education in General Dentistry*  
East Carolina University  
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

Ajola Zylalaj  
*Orthodontics Residency*  
Montefiore Medical Center – Einstein  
College of Medicine  
Bronx, New York

## **Doctor of Dental Surgery Special Academic Programs**

### **Thesis Honors**

Amr Wagih Eldesouky  
*“Fracture Resistance and Failure Mode of  
CAD/CAM Milled Versus 3D Printed Nano-  
Ceramic Crowns for Endodontically Treated  
First Premolars”*  
Primary Mentor: Adaias Matos, DDS, PhD

Emily Genovesi  
*“In Vitro Assessment of Open-Access Digital  
Workflow for Presurgical Nasoalveolar  
Molding in Unilateral Cleft Lip and Palate”*  
Primary Mentor: Praveen Arany, DDS, PhD

Aditi Ghosh  
*“Community Water Fluoridation and Oral  
Health Inequities in U.S. Youth”*  
Primary Mentor: Rubelisa Oliveira, DDS,  
PhD

Ellie Ilene Jarvis  
*“Evaluation of Fracture Resistance, Torquing  
Moment, and Torsional Creep of 3D Printed  
Orthodontic Brackets”*  
Primary Mentor: Ashish Gurav, DMD, PhD

Mounika Sunku  
*“Examining Efficacy of Laser Versus Routine  
Mechanical Veneer Tooth Preparation”*  
Primary Mentor: Praveen Arany, DDS, PhD

Zahra Yazdani Kachouei  
*“Photobiomodulation Enhances Matrix  
Synthesis for Pulp Regeneration”*  
Primary Mentor: Praveen Arany, DDS, PhD

## **Concentrations**

### **Oral Diagnostic Sciences**

Paul Anthony Bargnesi  
Olivia Margaret Bird  
Alejandro Caraballo IV  
Faustina Frattali  
Selena Seojin Lee  
Olivia Aren Suzanne Littman  
Isabella Ortega  
Helayna Ortiz  
Lea Safarpour  
Sara Lynne Schaeffler

### **Periodontics**

Kodia Al-Sharqi  
Anna Belan  
Olivia Margaret Bird  
Cameron Michael Leung Jedemann  
Karanjot Kaur  
Mounika Sunku

### **Prosthodontics**

Jordan Warner Chatelle  
Biling Chen  
Alexander Griffin Dengel  
Amr Wagih Eldesouky  
Emily Genovesi  
Ross Jared Reddock  
Danielle Sudol

## Doctor of Philosophy Degrees

### Recommending Candidates for Degrees

Marcelo W.B. Araujo, DDS, PhD  
Dean

### Oral Biology

Omar Glover, DMD  
*“Obesity-Induced Gut Dysbiosis Drives M-MDSC Expansion and Osteoclastogenesis in Periodontitis”*  
Major Professor: Keith Kirkwood, DDS, PhD

Cole Matrishin, BS  
*“Ecology of Phages and Other Mobile Elements in the Keystone Pathogen Porphyromonas gingivalis”*  
Major Professor: Kathryn Kauffman, PhD

Edwin Jordany Ovalle, BS  
*“Mechanism of Oral-Mediated Lysophosphatidylserine Nanoparticle-Based Immune Tolerance”*  
Major Professor: Jason G. Kay, PhD

Dayron Manuela Leyva Rodriguez, BS  
*“Spirochete Neutrophil Interactions Initiate Vascular Inflammation Promoting Aortic Endothelial Cell Dysfunction”*  
Major Professor: Michelle B. Visser, PhD

Theresa Wrynn, BS  
*“Decoding Salivary Gland Identity: Transcriptional Blueprints of Development and Adult Homeostasis”*  
Major Professor: Rose-Anne Romano, PhD, and Satrajit Sinha, PhD

## Master’s Degrees

### Recommending Candidates for Degrees

Marcelo W.B. Araujo, DDS, PhD  
Dean

### Master of Science

#### Oral Sciences

Mona Saud S. Aldawsari, BDS  
*“Arthralgia and Myalgia: Separate Disorders, or Same Disorders in Different Tissues”*  
Major Professor: Richard Ohrbach, DDS, PhD

Rahaf Saud Almukhlifi, BDS  
*“The Effect of Strontium on Cytokines and Extracellular Matrix Production of Human Gingival Fibroblasts in the Presence of a Simulated Smoking Environment”*  
Major Professor: Michelle B. Visser, PhD

Nada Abdulrahman A. Alsulaiman, BDS  
*“Fracture Load of Cantilever Implant-Supported Zirconia Fixed Partial Dentures: An In Vitro Study”*  
Major Professor: Rui Li, DDS, PhD

Jade Denielle Greene, BS  
*“Independent Contributions of Obesity and High-Fat Diet on Myeloid Osteoclastogenesis in Intestinal Bmal1-KO Mice”*  
Major Professor: Keith Kirkwood, DDS, PhD

Anna Paritsky, DDS, DMD  
*“Strontium-Loaded Hydrogel Scaffold to Improve Soft Tissue Healing Around Implants in a Rabbit Maxilla Model”*  
Major Professor: Rosemary Dziak, PhD

Raveeroch Rakthainiyom, DDS  
*“Comparative Analysis of Speed Sintering Protocols on Chairside Zirconia Blocks Using Different Furnaces”*  
Major Professor: Hyeongil Kim, DDS, MS

Abigail Shea, BS  
*“Overproduction of Phosphatidylserine Effects on Pre-Osteoblast Cells”*  
Major Professor: Jason G. Kay, PhD

Nusrat Jamila Tarannum, BDS  
*“A Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) from Tannerella forsythia Uniquely Engages the Non-Canonical Caspase 4/5 Pathway During Inflammasome Activation”*  
Major Professor: Ashu Sharma, PhD

Thunyamon Wongsuwannakorn, DDS  
*“Comparative Evaluation of Zirconia Implant-Supported Fixed Prosthesis with and without Titanium Bases with Different Prosthetic Screw Designs: An In Vitro Study”*  
Major Professor: Hyeongil Kim, DDS, MS

# Advanced Education and Specialty Certificates

## Orthodontics

Jeffrey Emmanuel Ajayi, DDS  
*"Outcomes of Clear Aligner Orthodontic Treatment in the University at Buffalo Orthodontic Clinic"*

Major Professor: David A. Covell, Jr., DDS, PhD

Lojayan Al Muhareb, DMD  
*"Comparative Analysis of Optical Properties and Biofilm Adhesion Between Direct Printed and Thermoformed Clear Aligners: A Combined In-Vitro and In- Vivo Study"*

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

Timothy Gerard French Jr., DMD  
*"Perception and Utilization of Artificial Intelligence in Patient Communication, Diagnosis and Treatment Planning, and Remote Dental Monitoring"*

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

Yasmin Mohamed, BDS  
*"Impact of Daily Cleaning Protocols on Microplastic Release from 3D-Printed Aligners"*

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

Ryan Michael Prevost, DDS  
*"Mental Health Conditions and Resource Utilization among Post-Graduate Orthodontic Residents: An International Perspective"*

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

Brooke Elizabeth Talsania, DMD  
*"Comparing Effects of MARPE and SARPE on Maxillary Anterior Root Resorption Utilizing CBCT Radiography"*

Major Professor: Ashish Gurav, DMD, PhD

## CODA Approved Certificates

### Recommending Candidates

Marcelo W.B. Araujo, DDS, PhD  
Dean

### Advanced Education in General Dentistry

#### June 30, 2026

Toshani Arya, DDS  
Gucci Gusun Ding, DMD  
Michael Charles Gimotty III, DDS  
Johanna Graham, DDS  
Amanda Grace Janes, DMD  
Zhengdao Daniel Li, DDS, MS  
Marie Clare Schaefer, DDS  
JingJing Zhao, DMD

### Endodontics

#### June 30, 2026

Casey Giarrano, DMD  
Christopher Y. Kim, DDS  
Lucila Piasecki, DDS, MS, PhD  
Monica Romero, DDS, MS

### Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

#### July 31, 2026

Rahaf Saud Almukhlifi, BDS  
Nusrat Jamila Tarannum, BDS

### Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

#### June 30, 2026

Adarsh Mehta, DMD, MD

### Orthodontics

#### June 30, 2026

Jeffrey Emmanuel Ajayi, DDS  
Lojayan Al Muhareb, DMD  
Timothy Gerard French Jr., DMD  
Yasmin Mohamed, BDS  
Ryan Michael Prevost, DDS  
Brooke Elizabeth Talsania, DMD

## Pediatric Dentistry

#### June 30, 2026

Sophia Mazanitis, DMD  
Jashandeep Kaur Mundi, DDS  
Egan Sachs-Hecht, DMD  
Riley Steed, DDS  
Joanne Tan, DMD  
Jemima Sarah Varughese, DMD  
Ethan Wood, DDS

#### July 31, 2026

Doris Fenigstein, DDS

## Periodontics

#### June 30, 2026

Omar Glover, DMD  
Dam Soh, DDS, MS

## Prosthodontics

#### June 30, 2026

Nada Abdulraham A. Alsulaiman, BDS  
Raveeroch Rakhainiyom, DDS  
Thunyamon Wongsuwannakorn, DDS

## Temporomandibular Disorders and Orofacial Pain

#### July 31, 2026

Mona Saud S. Aldawsari, BDS  
Sarbjeeet Singh, BDS, MPH

## 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.

*Maxwell Christian Balko*

### **Academy of Operative Dentistry Award**

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

*Ross Jared Reddock*

### **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.

*Danielle Sudol*

### **American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award**

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

*Rachel Steffan*

### **American Academy of Implant Dentistry Award**

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

*Christopher W. Long*

### **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.

*Alejandro Caraballo IV*

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

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

*Olivia Aren Suzanne Littman*

### **American Academy of Oral Medicine Award**

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

*Paul Anthony Bargnesi*

### **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.

*Isabella Ortega*

### **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.

*Rachel Steffan*

### **American Academy of Periodontology Award**

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

*Olivia Margaret Bird*

### **American Association of Endodontists Award**

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

*Ashley Kim*

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

has been established to recognize a graduating student who has demonstrated exemplary aptitude and achievement in the field of oral surgery.

*John Angelo Germinerio*

### **American Association of Orthodontists Award**

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

*Ellie Ilene Jarvis  
Joseph Dominick Riccardi*

### **American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award**

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

*Elizabeth Gu*

### **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.

*Mark Mikhail*

### **American College of Prosthodontists Award**

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

*Danielle Sudol*

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

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

*Santino Testani*

### **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.

*Laura Huff*

### **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.

*Anthony Joseph Blaskovic  
Gary Shum  
Rachel Steffan*

### **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.

*Jordan Warner Chatelle*

### **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.

*Claire Genevieve Martin*

# Student Awards and Recipients

## Dean's Award

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

*Elizabeth Gu*

## 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.

*Jordan Warner Chatelle*

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

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

*Julia Marie Ophals*

## 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.

*Tian Zhou*

## 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.

*Patrick Anders, DDS, MPH*

## 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.

*Madison Rose Lenhard*

## 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.

*Emily Genovesi*

## 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.

*Anthony Joseph Blaskovic*

## 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.

*Latifa Bairam, BDS, MS*

**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.

*Abel Eskinder Tefera*

**Dr. Davis Garlapo Memorial Prosthodontics Award**

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

*Marta Danyleyko  
John Angelo Germinerio  
Ross Jared Reddock  
Rachel Steffan*

**Dr. Alan J. Gross Excellence in Teaching Award by Class of 2026**

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 2026 has chosen to nominate:

*Latifa Bairam, BDS, MS*

**International College of Dentists (Leadership) Award**

is presented by the officers and regents of this worldwide honorary organization to honor a graduate who has demonstrated exceptional professional growth and leadership during the undergraduate years.

*Laura Huff*

**International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award**

is presented to graduating dental students who have demonstrated significant leadership and exemplary character traits when participating in humanitarian service projects.

*Amanda Elizabeth Engel  
Olivia Aren Suzanne Littman  
Julia Marie Ophals  
Alexander Reale  
Manuel Romo Crisostomo  
Rachel Steffan*

**International Congress of Oral Implantologists Award**

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

*Olivia Margaret Bird*

**International Team for Implantology Award for Excellence in Implant Dentistry**

is presented annually at select U.S. dental schools. This award honors a graduating fourth-year dental student who has demonstrated exceptional interest, commitment, and promise in the field of implant dentistry.

*Anna Belan*

**Edwin C. Jauch Award**

is presented in memory of Dr. Edwin C. Jauch, professor of Operative Dentistry and a member of our faculty for over 30 years, until his death in 1965. His contribution to the growth of our school was considerable. Members of the graduating class present completed comprehensive cases to a panel of judges, who determine which of the cases is most outstanding.

*Winner was notified at the end of April.*

## Student Awards and Recipients

### **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.

*Maxwell Christian Balko*

### **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.

*Kevin Ryan*

### **Robert B. Levine Award**

has been established by his son, Dr. Richard A. Levine, Class of 1972, to recognize a graduating dental student who has been judged, through a competition, to have completed an outstanding clinical case of operative dentistry. Dr. Robert Levine, a member of the Class of 1937, was an outstanding practitioner of Operative Dentistry and an inspiration to those with whom he worked.

*Winner was notified at the end of April.*

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

is presented to a graduating fourth-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.

*Kevin Le*

### **Dr. Russell J. 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 UBSDM alum and faculty member, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Russell Nisengard, whose own career exemplified success in academic dentistry, as an educator, researcher, and administrator.

*Swapnali Shinde Kamble*

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

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

*Mohammed Harb*

### **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.

*Grace Perna*

### **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.

*Anna Belan*

### **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**

*Pratiksha Basnet Rayamajhi*  
*Olivia Margaret Bird*  
*Anthony Joseph Blaskovic*  
*Amr Wagih Eldesouky*  
*Ellie Ilene Jarvis*  
*Karanjot Kaur*  
*Olivia Aren Suzanne Littman*  
*Alexander Reale*  
*Joseph Dominick Riccardi*  
*Chloë Lee Schrier*  
*Rachel Steffan*  
*Danielle Sudol*  
*Zahra Yazdani Kachouei*

### **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.

*Joseph Dominick Riccardi*

### **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.

*Amanda Elizabeth Engel*  
*Elizabeth Gu*  
*Mark Mikhail*

### **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.

*Claire Genevieve Martin*

### **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: Emily Genovesi*  
*Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry: Santino Testani*  
*Clinical Achievement in Periodontics: Laureen M. Bazzi*

### **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.

*Olivia Aren Suzanne Littman*

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

is presented annually by ADEA to a graduating student who has demonstrated effective leadership, champions access to oral health care and shows a likelihood to enter dental education or organized dentistry.

*Katherine Gutierrez*

# Student Awards and Recipients

## **George B. Snow Awards**

were established by George B. Snow, professor of the Prosthetic Dentistry and second dean of the School of Dentistry, to honor excellence in prosthodontics. Awards are presented for the best fixed prosthodontics and best removable prosthodontics, constructed during the senior year. A panel of distinguished local community dentists determines award recipients during spring competition.

*Winners were notified at the end of April.*

## **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.

*Julia Marie Ophals*

## **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.

*Greysi María Reyes Paz*

## **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.

*Nirav Arora  
Laureen M. Bazzi  
Shreya Edulakanti  
Amanda Elizabeth Engel  
Emily Genovesi  
Emily Rose Gola  
Laura Huff  
Cameron Michael Leung Jedemann  
Hassan Khalid  
Claire Genevieve Martin  
Mark Mikhail*

## **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.

*Elizabeth Gu*

## **Whip Mix Hanau Prosthodontics Award**

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

*Amr Wagih Eldesouky*

## Retirements

**Bonny Berry**

*Dental Care Coordinator  
Clinical Operations*

**Jordan Blair**

*Clinical Assistant Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Bennette Burt**

*Dental Assistant  
Clinical Operations*

**Albert Cantos**

*Clinical Associate Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Meelin Chinkit-Wells**

*Clinical Associate Professor  
Pediatric and Community Dentistry*

**Frances DePlato**

*Clinical Assistant Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Lauren Devantier**

*Clinical Assistant Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Brendan Dowd**

*Clinical Assistant Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Ann Dziedzic**

*Instructional Support Associate  
Clinical Operations*

**Samir El-Chehabi**

*Clinical Assistant Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Paula Fischer**

*Director  
Outreach Clinics*

**Paula Flynn**

*Clinical Assistant Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**James Harris**

*Compliance Officer  
Office of the Dean*

**Christine Mahoney**

*Dental Assistant  
Clinical Operations*

**Robert Schifferle**

*Professor  
Periodontics and Endodontics*

**Patricia Starring**

*Clinical Assistant Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Nora Townsend**

*Clinical Assistant Professor  
Oral Diagnostic Sciences*

**Kurt Winter**

*Staff Associate  
Oral Biology*

**Robert Yetto**

*Clinical Associate Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Ronald Zielin**

*Clinical Assistant Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

## In Memoriam

**Paul Creighton**

*Clinical Associate Professor  
Pediatric and Community Dentistry*

**Gary Haraszthy**

*Clinical Instructor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Ming Shih Levine**

*Clinical Instructor  
Periodontics and Endodontics*

**William Maher**

*Vol. Clinical Assistant Professor  
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*

**Kenneth McHenry**

*Emeritus Associate Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

**Norman Schaaf**

*Emeritus Professor  
Restorative Dentistry*

# 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 12th and 13th 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 two 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

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*Oral Diagnostic Sciences  
Acting Chair, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*

Stefan Ruhl, DDS, PhD  
*Oral Biology*

# Alumni Letter

# C

**ONGRATULATIONS!**

Dear Graduating Class of 2026,

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 2026 on this momentous occasion of your graduation. As you 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 your commitment to excellence in the field of dentistry. Throughout your time at UB dental, you have demonstrated not only academic and clinical skills but 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 2026! May your future be filled with boundless opportunities, fulfillment and joy.

Joseph T. DeLuca, DDS, Class of 2007

President, University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association

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**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.

