

UBDENTIST

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE • FALL 2008



Mark Barone '85

RURAL SUCCESS Page 6

The School of Dental Medicine, University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association (UBDAA) and the Eighth District Dental Society enjoy a collaborative relationship that promotes shared goals. This cooperation between the profession's key institutions in the Western New York region facilitates efforts to improve the profession and its capacity to serve.

The dental school benefits from this collaboration in several tangible ways. For example, the UBDAA has consistently provided generous support for our students and for student-initiated programs such as Buffalo Outreach and Community Assistance. Last year the UBDAA joined with the Class of 1961 to fund the first endowed faculty position in our school's history.

The Eighth District Dental Society has included our students as active participants in its activities and its leadership groups for more than four decades, demonstrating a progressive appreciation of the role engaged students can play in shaping the future of the profession and, reciprocally, the role many of our students eventually will play in the work of the society.

The school is fortunate to have such partners, but our community is the ultimate beneficiary. The Smile Week held this October, organized in response to the mandate that added dental health screening to school-readiness requirements, is just the latest example of Eighth District, UBDAA and school working together to serve the community. There are several other similar activities each year.

Our collaboration includes working together to sponsor advocacy activities at the regional, state and national levels. Through these efforts, we make a strong, clear, and, most important, unified statement to government, community and business leaders about the importance of our profession's contribution to our community's oral and systemic health, as well as its impact in higher education and regional economic development.

So I take the opportunity of this column—and I will continue to take other opportunities as they occur—to thank both the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association and the Eighth District Dental Society for their steadfast commitment to our partnership. The leadership of both organizations changes from year to year, but the commitment is constant. Our school is very lucky to have such friends.



Richard N. Buchanan, DMD

from the DEAN



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FALL 2008

UBDENTIST

News from the University at Buffalo
School of Dental Medicine

UB Dentist is published quarterly by the School of Dental Medicine; produced by the Office of University Communications, Division of External Affairs. Fall 2008. 08-DEN-006

www.sdm.buffalo.edu

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Nancy J. Parisi

Pediatric dentistry resident and 2008 Back to School Conference co-organizer Kellie Greenwich, '07, chats with speaker Patrick Anders, '86, during lunch between sessions.

Reaching the special needs patient

The School of Dental Medicine's Back to School Conference is a fall tradition for many Buffalo-area pediatric dentists, who see the first day of the new school year as a rare quiet day in the office.

About 120 dental professionals—community dentists, dental staff, residents and upper-level dental students—gathered at the Ramada Inn in Amherst on Sept. 3 to attend morning and afternoon lectures. Topics focused on the theme of “understanding and treating the special needs patient” and covered information about providing safe, effective treatment for both adult and child special needs patients, as well as overviews of specific disorders and disabilities.

The conference has another tradition, too—UB pediatric dental residents of organize it. Kellie Greenwich, '07, and Drew Carlin chaired this year's event, whose speakers included leading pediatric dentistry scholar Paul Casamassimo of the Ohio State University College of Dentistry; Patrick Anders, associate professor of oral and diagnostic sciences at UB; and Martin Hoffman and Laurie Sadler, pediatric physicians from Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

During lunch, Anders said he was impressed by the other speakers and appreciated the opportunity to speak on adult special needs. “It was nice having two dentists and two docs focus on a single theme like this.”

Wesley Shute, a third-year UB dental student, found the conference helpful. “It goes beyond and supplements the work you do in the classroom,” he said.

Shute was joined at his lunch table by Joseph Bernat, '73, chair of pediatric and community dentistry and director of the school's postdoctoral program. He mentioned that it had been 30 years since residents were first invited to give presentations at the conference. “It grew from there, until eventually residents ran the show,” he said, also noting the cross section of the Western New York dental community in attendance.

Many of the attendees were CDAs with varying degrees of exposure to the special needs patient.

“You don't always know whether it's a kid being a kid, or someone who has ADHD, so you have to learn how to tell the difference,” says Katrina DeLaney, a CDA who works in one of the dental school's clinics.

Dian Wells, '94, clinical assistant professor of pediatric

and community dentistry, said she felt that “everyone can relate” to the content of the lectures, especially the CDAs and hygienists who work at many of the dental school's satellite sites as part of the school's Comprehensive Oral Health for Disabled Youth program.

2 Legislators to recognize access accomplishments

Members of the Western New York state legislative delegation will join leaders of the Western New York dental community to recognize efforts to improve access to care at the annual legislative reception on Nov. 5, during the Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a tour of exhibits. A reception on the exhibit floor will follow.

At the reception, legislators will be thanked for their support of the 2007 legislation that requires elementary school students to get dental screenings and provide their schools with dental health certificates. The contribution of volunteers at the Good Neighbors Health Center and participating providers in the Smile Week Dental Health Certificate Program will also be recognized.

The New York State Dental Foundation will present \$5,000 awards to Tri County Hospital in Gowanda and the Cuba Dental Clinic in Allegany County as part of the foundation's Give Kids a Smile awards program.

There is no cost for attendance by members of the Eighth District Dental Society and the UB Dental Alumni Association. Reservations are encouraged and may be made by calling the Eighth District office at (716) 995-6300.

3 Teaching awards

The Alan Gross Award for Excellence in Teaching was created in 2002 to recognize faculty in the first, second, and third years of the dental curriculum.

The award was developed to honor the memory of Alan J. Gross, '52, a well-liked and highly respected faculty member who put great emphasis on the importance of teaching skills. The award recognizes enthusiasm for the subject matter, the ability to convey information clearly, and a genuine concern for students.

A committee of students chooses the award winners. The committee decisions are based on nominations—statements made by nominators on how the instructor impacted him or her—rather than popularity.

This year's recipients, and the classes who chose them, are:

David Brown, '83 (Class of 2011), Terry McLean, '83 (Class of 2010), and Ron Zielin, '64 (Class of 2009).



Brown

4 UB works to implement new dental health certificate program

In 2007, the State Legislature, at the request of the New York State Dental Association, approved legislation to require local school districts to request students in certain grades to submit dental health certificates for the 2008-09 school year.

Now, the Eighth District Dental Society and the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine have joined forces to assist families in obtaining dental exams for their school-age children.

The effort started with a special Smile Week, Oct. 6-13, when free or low cost dental screenings were available at participating locations throughout the eight-county region. These included the dental school, the dental clinic at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, the school's seven pediatric dentistry practice sites and private practice sites that are

continuing to sign on for the screening program.

The dental screenings for school-age children, combined with the issuance of dental health certificates, is part of the first-year program statewide to assure dental visits by children.

In response to a recent mailing to private practitioners and dental clinics, the dental school's Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry has created an additional page on its Web site, www.sdm.buffalo.edu/outreach, concerning the dental health certificate initiative.

The Web site offers a link to a downloadable sample certificate. According to Joseph Bernat, '73, chair of the department, the certificate available at the site is one originally created by the Dental Bureau of the State Health Department for guidance of the state's Department of Education.

The Web site also lists locations offering free or low cost dental screenings.

Although the new law hasn't worked out all the kinks, Bernat applauds the purpose. "This is way overdue."

Bernat says the effect of the legislation, when it is fully implemented, will be to increase the contact with more of the 20-25 percent

MEET THE 2012s

The class of 2012, now busy with their first weeks of studies at the School of Dental Medicine, has the following profile:

- ♦ Men outnumber women, 52 to 37.
- ♦ The class comes from 19 states and one Canadian province (Ontario). New York, not surprisingly, sent the most, with 42. Utah sent 6 and California, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania each sent 5. The student who traveled the farthest came from Alaska.
- ♦ UB is the best represented undergraduate school, with 10 grads; SUNY Geneseo is second with 4; Hunter (CUNY), LeMoyne, UCLA and the University of Utah tie for third with 3 each.
- ♦ The most popular undergraduate majors in the incoming class were biology, with as many as 42 (counting early assurance students); psychology and "science-other," with 6 each; and biochemistry, with 4. It is of note that the class also has one philosophy major and two foreign language and two engineering majors (electrical, mechanical) and three economics and three business majors—the makings of a multinational dental supply corporation?



UB dental students at the American Student Dental Association annual session in Scottsdale, Ariz. Left to right: Dan Rodda, '11, Jamie Cohn, '11, Chintan Shah, '11, Michelle Boyd, '10, Jennifer Frustino, '09, Tansy Schoonmaker, '09, Helen Weirich, '10, and Amy Stone, '09.

of children who he estimates currently have dental disease problems.

He says the school is already in contact with large numbers of children through regular visits to schools by dental students, through mandated screenings of Head Start pupils and through programs such as Give Kids a Smile Day and Smile Education Day, which he says reach as many as 30,000 school children.

According to Frank Barnashuk, '80, president of the Eighth District Dental Society, dentists may sign up at any time to be added as participating providers under the dental health certificate program.

Two more Smile Weeks are being planned for 2009. Bernat expects the next to be in February in conjunction with National Children's Dental Health Month and the third to be close to the end of the school year or during the summer.

Dentists interested in learning more about dental health certificates and the Smile Week program should check the dental school's community dentistry Web site or call the UB Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry office at (716) 829-3717 or the Eighth District Dental Society at (716) 995-6300.

5 UB students on the national stage

UB students had star power at the 2008 American Student Dental Association annual session in Scottsdale, Ariz. in August.

Jennifer Frustino, Class of 2009, received the Delegate of the Year Award. The award recognizes the ASDA chapter president who has best represented a chapter in its district. UB is in District 2, which includes the dental schools at Buffalo, NYU, New Jersey, Columbia, and Stonybrook.

The UB ASDA chapter was recognized with the Ideal ASDA Award for Organized Dentistry for having the best organization among all dental schools in the nation, judged on involvement with state/local dental societies, voting representation in the state dental society, representation on state dental society councils, contribution to state

society publications, and participation in the Tripartite Grassroots Membership Initiative.

Wes Shute, Class of 2010, was elected 2008-09 Speaker of the House of Delegates. Shute is the first UB student elected to a national leadership position in the ASDA. The speaker presides during House of Delegates meetings and attends ASDA regional meetings to conduct mock House of Delegates sessions and guide delegates in the correct way to prepare resolutions. The speaker also serves on the ADA Council on ADA Sessions.

Amy Stone, Class of 2009, was chosen to be a 2008-09 Member-at-Large. She will serve ASDA at a national level by promoting recruitment and retention of members and providing direct assistance to individual schools or trustees regarding membership recruitment and retention.

The UB delegation in Scottsdale comprised Jennifer Frustino, Amy Stone, and Tansy Schoonmaker (Class of 2009); Helen Weirich, Jim Marusich, Michelle Boyd, John Taylor, and Wes Shute (Class of 2010); and Jamie Cohn, Dan Rodda, Chintan Shah, and Andrew Zeiger (Class of 2011).

6 New faculty

Shuying Yang, MD, PhD, has joined the Department of Oral Biology as an assistant professor. Yang received her MD in 1994 from ShanXi Medical University; an MS in 1997 from Henan Medical University and Beijing Medical University; and a PhD in molecular biology and immunology in 2000 from Henan Medical University and Shanghai Second Military Medical University. Before joining the UB faculty, she



was a staff scientist at the Forsyth Institute in Boston, Mass. Her research interests include the role of gene expression in osteoclast differentiation, activation and survival, and in bone remodeling.

Correction

A photo caption on Page 5 of the Summer 2008 issue of UB Dentist misspelled the names of the two alumni shown judging students' clinical work. They are David E. Jauch, '68, and Richard O'Connor, '64. The editors regret the error.

SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW RESIDENTS

AEGD

Kyra Chadbourne
Sau Wai (Phoebe) Chan
Jin Young Chung
Jennifer Johns
Yvonne Tsay

Endodontics

Tareq Al Rashoud
Shawn Jordan
Peter Moses

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Michael McKinney
Carlos Ramos

Oral Pathology

Ngozi Nwizu

Orthodontics

Houmam Al Koussa
Athari Alamiri
Amy Bowman
Wendy Chu Tandar

Kersden Loretoni
David Majeroni

Pediatric and Community Dentistry

James F. Adjan
Tobias Corcoran
Michelle Kuntz
Jacob Myers
Adam Preece

Periodontics

Asim Al-Suwaiyan
Seok-Mo Heo
Sasi Kumar Sunkara

Prosthodontics

Arely Denisse Garza
Namrata Nayyar
Eiad Elathamma

General Practice Residency

Julie Labrecque
Nas Sediqi



7 THE PITCH FROM THE 1930S

Advertisements for Dr. West's toothbrushes—a waterproofed anti-soggy brush that speeds up cleaning—and Colgate's Ribbon Dental Cream—"I never did quite believe those extravagant claims some high-priced toothpastes make"—are from a collection assembled, mounted and donated to the school by Louise Schoene, wife of Gary Schoene, '72. Pieces from the collection rotate on display in the dean's suite. The Schoenes recently gave the school a set of posters advertising exhibitions of artist Charles Burchfield's paintings.



KC Kratt

Small town, BIG IDEA

by Judson Mead

There is a typical busy modern practice with three general dentists, five hygienists, five dental assistants and four business team members. The practice handles 60-70 patient visits a day in up-to-date operatories. The partners are preparing to expand the practice in order to take on a fourth associate. In every respect, from the equipment to the range of their services to their business issues to their busy parking lot, this could be one of Buffalo's affluent suburbs—Williamsville or Clarence. But when you look out the window, you see that Summit Family Dental Care is not in anyone's suburb. ▲

« The Village of Warsaw, N.Y., the county seat of Wyoming County, has a population of some 3,800. Wyoming County is rural, with a population of 43,500—compared with nearly 1 million for Erie County—and its agriculture is primarily family-owned dairy farms. The area is well known for outdoor recreation, especially hunting and fishing.

Summit Family Dental Care is in Warsaw, N.Y., high on the east side of the narrow Wyoming Valley above Oatka Creek. The office looks across the valley to steep, densely wooded land, a few farm buildings visible in the distance. The village business district is a mile south on Route 19.

The Village of Warsaw is almost the perfect picture of an upstate New York small town: just two traffic lights, one in the village center, the second near the hospital; a noble Civil War memorial; large houses on shady streets that run down to the center of the village. Buffalo is about an hour west, Rochester an hour northeast.

It is in just such places that dental care is disappearing as dentists retire without having been able to (or tried to) attract younger dentists to buy or even simply take on their practices. This is the case in small towns in rural areas across the U.S.—from North Dakota to New Mexico to western Massachusetts.

The states are trying to deal with the disappearance of dental practices from rural areas with programs, often centered on student loan forgiveness, tailored to their own particular circumstances. North Dakota, with its thin population and vast distances, is different from rural Massachusetts.

Mike Gburek, Mark Barone, '85, and Susanne Kupka-Moore—the dentist partners in Summit Family Dental Care—believe they've built a model that can work for rural communities, at least in areas that have demographics like upstate New York. And they'd like to show their model to anyone because they all believe that small towns like theirs, just as much as suburbs and cities, deserve high-quality, modern dental care.

Their story started in 1985 when Mike Gburek, just graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, took over the practice of Willard Humphrey, '46, in Warsaw. Gburek's arrival in

Warsaw was typical of a time that has past.

He'd grown up in Buffalo before his father, a chemist, was transferred to Detroit. He had happy memories of childhood visits to Silver Lake, near Perry, N.Y., not far from Warsaw. Before his fourth year in dental school, he surveyed the dental practices in that area. Where were the dentists, how old were they, where were the patients? At one point he introduced himself to an elderly dentist in a solo practice on the second floor of a business block in Warsaw. When he explained that he was interested in associating with a practice that he could eventually take over, the old fellow told him to get out of his office.

But he did connect with Warsaw's other dentist. Humphrey was practicing in the basement of his house. He was contemplating a half retirement, six months in Florida and six months at his practice in Warsaw. Bringing Gburek into the practice could make that work.

But when everything was set, just a few days before Gburek took his boards, Humphrey was diagnosed with a serious illness. New York hurried Gburek's licensure and a few months later he had taken Humphrey's place.

A practice grows

After two years, he was working 60 hours a week and looking for an associate. Mark Barone saw the opening in a Patterson Dental listing and drove out. "I fell in love with the place right away," he says. He still remembers the primer on practice in a small town that Gburek delivered over lunch that day, especially how closely he'd be living with his patients. "He was dead on about that."

Barone tried it for a year and then committed, buying a house in Warsaw that he still lives in. Gburek built the building the practice now occupies and they moved out of what he called the "dungeon." They developed the practice, educating patients about what modern dentistry

can do—Barone says he used to have to explain the value of getting a crown, something that went unquestioned in the suburban practice where he'd been an associate.

They added a third partner 12 years ago. Susanne Kupka-Moore, who grew up in Lancaster, N.Y., and went to UB as an undergraduate and Tufts School of Dental Medicine, commuted for five years before finally settling in Warsaw. She was the first woman dentist to practice in Wyoming County.

Now the partners are getting ready to grow again as part of a plan they consider an ideal for a rural community dental practice. Anticipating the addition of a fourth dentist to the practice, they renamed what had been Gburek, Barone, and Kupka, DDS, because they thought that with one more name they'd sound like a law firm. With the name change, they also launched a Web site—www.summitfamilydental-care.com.

Growth will perpetuate the practice and preserve its value for the community. Gburek says that small town solo practices have no practical value as saleable investments. Young dentists today carry too much student debt to take on the additional debt of purchasing and modernizing a practice and then making



The dentists at Summit Family Dental Care—Michael Gburek (left), Susanne Kupka-Moore and Mark Barone, '85—say that dental practice in rural communities can be good business if it is structured to last.

it work as a business while charging fees that a rural community can afford.

But a multi-dentist practice, organized as a corporation, can add associates without upsetting a business that is in equilibrium with its surroundings. As the dentists at Summit have organized their corporation, they hold equal shares. They will retire at 65, having started to phase out of corporate decisions at 61 to avoid conflicts of interest, rather than selling out.

Summit Family Dental Care is large enough to be both completely modern, affording the latest technology, and quite stable so that its success in the future depends on continuity, rather than on surviving the discontinuity of changing ownership.

Gburek says that working in this model, the dentist should plan to save more or work a little longer to build assets that can't come from selling—so that the financial part of retirement planning doesn't pose a threat to the practice itself.

Retirement itself, however, is a threat to dental care in rural communities. Joseph Bernat, '73, chair of the School of Dental Medicine Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry, points out that when the dentists who are retiring today were entering practice, dental schools were producing about 6,000 graduates a year. Now that number is 4,000, so there are fewer dentists to go around.

Also, dental schools are almost all located in metro-

politan areas, so students may never experience what a rural community practice can be. "The challenge is to get to students early," Bernat says, "before they settle on city and suburban life, to show them that you can have a dynamic and modern practice in a small community, and show them the attractions of small town life."

Destroying the myths

The "One-million-dollar question," as Susanne Kupka-Moore puts it, is where the new associates will come from. The partners have hosted UB dental students for summer externships on and off since 2003. Gburek lectures on rural practice at the school. Barone issues an open invitation to any UB dental student to come out to take a look.

Moore says that when students come for the summer, their reaction to what they see when they walk in is "Wow!"

She guesses they're expecting to find only farmers in overalls waiting to have teeth extracted. Instead, what they see is a patient population that is a mix of white collar and blue collar, people who work in Buffalo and Rochester or who work for Morton Salt or nearby Attica Correctional Facility, and, yes, farmers, getting the same

KC Kratt

full range of general dental services—from cosmetics to implants—they'd find in urban and suburban practices.

"People want the same care in Warsaw as they do in Amherst," according to Gburek. Patients who can't afford care are served by a mobile clinic operated by Oak Orchard Community Health Center in Brockport, N.Y., that periodically sets up in Warsaw for two-week stays.

Another assumption about small town practice that Summit overturns is that it doesn't pay. The ample patient population supports Gburek, Barone, and Kupka-Moore, and their hygienists, assistants and office staff, suppliers and the people who plow the parking lot in the winter and cut the grass in the summer. And they get paid in U.S. funds, not apples or chickens. (The image of the country dentist having to accept barter for services is a postcard from the past.)

Barone says that they draw patients from a large area—as far as East Aurora to the west, Batavia to the north, and Dansville to the south. Perry, N.Y., 10 miles east of Warsaw, has dentists taking care of the patients in that area.

Yet another myth about small towns is that they're black holes: once you move in, you're gone, never to be seen

again. That wasn't so with Mark Barone, who was president of the Eighth District Dental Society in 2006.

Dental practice can be as varied and up-to-date in a small town as anywhere. A small town practice can be a viable business if it is well organized and well conducted, especially if it is a multi-dentist practice that can smooth out issues of coverage and tapering down and handoffs as careers end. The only real obstacle to recruitment—and it isn't a small one—is small town life.

Living the good life

When Gburek moved to Warsaw to try out his dream, a dentist named Ned Evans, who had just retired from practicing in Hamburg, which had been a small town when he started, came out to help him set up his business. Evans told him to get involved with the community.

Gburek, who has an easy outgoing manner, won a seat on the school board. He is "Dr. Mike" throughout the town. He walks to work every day. He says that people in a small town aren't impressed with ostentation, that they value egalitarian mutual respect.

Barone loves to hunt and fish. The woods are full of game and the Oatka is one of New York's premier trout streams. He says he's "not the hustle

and bustle type" so Warsaw's pace is exactly what he wants.

All three dentists say that distance is a disadvantage. Barone says that he feels the absence of ready access to colleagues other than his partners for the kind of professional conversation one gets in study groups.

Another disadvantage of their small town location, but one that the size of their practice has helped overcome, is access to specialists. Gburek, Barone and Kupka-Moore have the work to make it worthwhile for specialists to keep regular hours at their practice on weekends but they would increase the specialist commitment if they could—as a convenience for their patients.

Whether or not rural upstate New York can attract young dentists is a pressing issue. Kupka-Moore, at 41, is the youngest dentist in Wyoming County. According to Gburek, in the next 10 years the county will see a turnover of five to six dentists. Ideally, their replacements will start to fill in behind them soon. If not, the state will eventually determine that the area is underserved and make up the shortfall with clinic services that Gburek says simply cannot be as close to a community as a homegrown practice.

The partners at Summit Family Dental Care are confident that they will find the right associate to join the practice when they're ready. Mike Gburek says that first, their pick will be someone who is well prepared didactically, has the right personality—introverts are not well suited for a small town practice—and, finally, has the passion for dental care that they have.

Their confidence rests on their success. They know because their own practice is living proof that there is nothing inherent in small rural communities—at least those in areas with a population density comparable to Wyoming County—that prevents building a thriving practice. The key is multiple dentists serving a large enough patient population to support a practice that can stay up-to-date with new technologies and bring in new dentists to succeed partners as they retire.

That, and maybe a dream. "If you have a dream, you can make almost anything work," Mike Gburek says. But his ultimate dream might be to take dreaming out of the formula altogether and make his plan for small-community dental care an off-the-shelf certain success. At least for the right combination of dentists. ▀



Douglas Levere

Oral Diagnostic Sciences supports several specialty care clinics including one associated with the Center for Orofacial Pain Research.

AN EDUCATED DIAGNOSIS

The complete classroom-to-clinic experience provided by Oral Diagnostic Sciences ▲

by James Bisco

Norman Mohl, '56, had an idea that was logical yet radical. Integrate independent programs with somewhat parallel curricula under one department banner and make the teaching more than a classroom exercise—give students real clinical experience.

“The idea was that students taking these courses didactically in Squire Hall could then rotate to the hospitals and see sick patients, not just hear about them,” says Mohl, who served as the first chair of the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences (ODS).

“We decided that this department should be responsible for teaching students how to take histories, how to talk to and write to physicians on equal terms. This also reinforced the basic sciences, which had never been done before. If you have a sick patient, you’ve got to use the basic sciences you learned. We wanted dentists to feel that they were the same as physicians except they specialized in a certain part of the body just like ear, nose and throat doctors do. It also gave our faculty an opportunity to see interesting cases.”

Oral Diagnostic Sciences became a department in 1994 through the merger of oral pathology—then called stomatology—and oral medicine. The department now covers a spectrum of diagnoses—and diagnostic tools—having subsequently gathered oral radiology, temporomandibular disorders (TMD) and orofacial pain, general practice residency and biomaterials under its administrative umbrella.

“Norm Mohl saw it as an interdisciplinary endeavor,” says Louis Goldberg, ODS professor who was dean of

the dental school when the department was created. “He strongly felt that it should not be simply a series of lectures given in a classroom but you also have to be right where the patients are being treated and be able to give consultation and be part of the clinical educational program. This was not traditional in any dental schools of the time.”

With an aging population coming to the dental school, the medical aspect has grown in significance. “More of our patients have diseases of various kinds, are taking drugs of various kinds and are under

the care of a physician,” Goldberg says. “So their medical conditions impact upon oral health and dental treatment that should be provided. The people in ODS have the expertise to go in both directions—they know dentistry and medicine. They are able to provide important communication between medicine and dentistry.”

Mohl served as chair for the department’s first decade. When Mohl retired, Willard D. (Scott) McCall, professor, served as interim chair for three years before being named chair last year. When it was first suggested that he might succeed Mohl, he didn’t think that was likely. “I said No way. They need a dentist and I’m an engineer.”

Mohl had recruited McCall to UB in 1976 from the University of Michigan where he was working as an engineer with an interest in dental research. “I was happy as a lark in the research lab here and teaching until this interim chair thing,” said McCall. “Now here I am trying to figure out how a dental school works.”

The self-effacing chair presides over a unified department of 27 faculty. “The people in this department are marvelous. They are bright, collegial and opinionated. We have meetings where it can get raucous but never hostile. I find meetings are interesting things. You go around getting everybody’s opinion and a good idea usually seems to emerge.”

The graduate student population is a broad spectrum. In

a university known for its diversity, ODS is among the most international of departments. “We are exporting education,” says Alfredo Aguirre, ’01, director of the advanced program in oral and maxillofacial pathology.

McCall characterized the students as bright, ambitious, and focused. “It seems like 98 percent of them graduate in four years. It’s a well-oiled teaching machine.”

Aguirre noted that the current curriculum, regulated by the Commission on Dental Ac-

“The objective was to consider the department not just a dental school department but a university department in the full meaning of that term.”

—NORMAN MOHL

creditation, is rigorous and covers basic sciences with advanced courses in biochemistry, molecular biology, statistics and research, in addition to the oral pathology courses (clinical and at the microscopic level), general pathology and systemic pathology.

Mohl notes that as the department matured, the standard of clinical research publication and basic research rose in concert with significant efforts to obtain federal grants. “The objective was to consider the department not just a dental school department but a university department in the full meaning of that term,” he says.

McCall adds that there is still the need to conduct more research, particularly in radiology and oral medicine. “There’s a lot of potential for research. What I’d like is if we had enough faculty so there would be time to conduct some of this research.”

Harking back to the original departmental curriculum merger, another reassessment is now in discussion.

“Somehow we have drifted into this mode of each person teaching a one-credit course. There seems to be a consen-

sus that we ought to whack down the number of courses, maybe simply by merging,” said McCall. “There also seems to be enthusiasm for trying to get away from the semester block. Maybe if a course just needs two-thirds of a semester, stop it and start some other course.”

To advance clinical and research opportunities, ODS developed a number of specialty care clinics, including those in orofacial pain, radiology, oral medicine and breath disorders (which has since moved to oral biology).

On the immediate horizon, the department is planning a new oral medicine clinic, the brainchild of Michael Hatton,

’82, clinical associate professor and an oral surgeon, who was recently appointed director of oral medicine. He saw the need for a clinic that would monitor patients on a regular basis who, for example, may have had a lesion removed from their mouths.

“While a lesion may not have been cancerous, it remains a situation that should be watched,” says McCall. “We have some patients in the dental school that should be watched. And there are a lot of patients at Roswell that do not have cancer that should be watched. There seems to be a natural need to follow these cases—and so we’re starting this clinic for that purpose.”

The ODS umbrella continues to cover a comprehensive range of diagnostic science. Mohl notes that diagnosis itself is now recognized as a discipline.

The pioneering chair is now retired in Florida but still making occasional guest lecturer appearances in ODS.

“The department has achieved what I had hoped for,” he says. “It is considered a full university department with a range of activities, from clinical care to clinic research to basic research. We are looking after patients with medical complexities and not just as a consult, but actually participating in the care.” ▀

DENTAL STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH AT AADR NATIONAL MEETING IN DALLAS

by Lois Baker

► **MICHAEL R. MARKIEWICZ, '08**, was first author on a meta-analysis of oral surgery studies that appears to answer the question of whether corticosteroids ease recovery following wisdom tooth surgery.

The study found that corticosteroids lessen swelling and jaw stiffness significantly during post-surgery recovery, but have minimal effect on pain.

"There have been many prospective clinical trials assessing corticosteroids' reduction of edema, trismus and pain, but the effect shown in some of these small studies has been minimal," according to Markiewicz. "This is the reason for performing a meta-analysis. By combining the data of these smaller studies, we made a more powerful study with a large sample size that hopefully better answers this question."

The meta-analysis covered 12 trials that met specific criteria for inclusion. Researchers were interested primarily in findings at two points post-surgery: they selected results for day 2 and day 7, respectively, to codify for "early" and "late."

Results showed that swelling, as measured on standard computed tomography, in corticosteroid receiving patients was 0.6 millimeters less at "early" assessment and 0.5 millimeters less at "late" assessment than controls. Those who received corticosteroids also were able to open their jaws an average of 4.1 millimeters more at "early" assessment and 2.7 millimeters more at "late" assessment. Pain was somewhat less at "early" assessment in patients who received corticosteroids than in those who did not, but the difference didn't reach statistical significance. There was no difference in pain between groups at the "late" time point.

► **BETSEY CLARK, '09**, was first author of a study confirming that the bacterium *Solobacterium moorei* is directly associated with chronic bad breath.

In a case-control study involving 21 persons diagnosed with halitosis (cases) and 36 who did not have halitosis (controls), the researchers

found *S. moorei* present in the mouths of all 21 case subjects.

Four persons in the control group also were infected with *S. moorei*, but they had periodontitis, an infection of the gums, rather than halitosis.

"Bacteria on the dorsal surface of the tongue are the primary source of oral halitosis," said Clark. "Tongue bacteria produce malodorous compounds and fatty acids, and account for 80-90 percent of all cases of bad breath." Some cases of halitosis originate in the lungs or sinuses.

"*S. moorei* was found in 100 percent of participants with halitosis and 14 percent of those without halitosis," said Clark. "As we identify and find out more about the bacteria that cause bad breath, we can develop treatments to reduce their numbers in the mouth and eliminate bad breath."

► **PETER MOSES, '08**, was first author on the study showing that brushing twice a day with toothpaste containing a bactericide and a toothbrush with a tongue cleaner can eliminate halitosis.

"All 14 subjects enrolled in this clinical study, all of whom had halitosis when they entered, had eliminated their halitosis at the end of the 28-day intervention," Moses said.

"The fear of halitosis, known as halitophobia, sometimes is so great that up to 25 percent of people claiming to have halitosis actually don't," he said. "Halitophobia is associated with obsessive compulsive disorders and even has resulted in suicide."

The toothpaste used in the study contained triclosan. At the beginning of the study, participants were tested for halitosis and the presence of halitosis-causing oral bacteria.

At the end of the trial, results showed that mouth air levels of odiferous sulfur-containing compounds had dropped from an average score of slightly more than 400 parts-per-billion at baseline to an average of 100 parts-per-billion. Analysis of the microbial samples showed significant decreases in numbers of halitosis-causing bacteria after 28 days. ▀



A fund for everyone

THE REUNION YEAR SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

The Reunion Year Scholarship Endowment Fund was established to make an impact that will directly affect future generations of dental students.

The fund will be generated by donations—ideally, five-year pledges of \$1,000 per year—by UB dental school alumni during their reunion years. Once the new fund is large enough to generate income, it will go directly towards scholarships for incoming UB dental students.

Your five-year annual pledge of \$1,000 or more will not only help a deserving student, it will make you a member of the Dean's Associates, the school's largest donor recognition society. You will receive special invitations to UB and dental school events. Most importantly, it will encourage your classmates to participate as well.

When the endowed scholarship fund reaches its minimum goal of \$50,000, it can begin making awards of up to \$2,000. It is hoped that this can be as early as fall 2010. One of the fastest ways to reach this goal is by pooling all reunion-year pledges or gifts from each class every reunion year. As the endowment grows over time, the number of scholarship awards will also increase.

State funding for the School of Dental Medicine (and all of SUNY) as a percentage of costs is declining and tuition costs are increasing. So



your five-year pledge or direct gift can make a huge difference in the life of a promising student—and for the future of dental education at UB as well.

Make your reunion year a special one! Help us extend the pride you show for your school and your class, and help set an example for the next generation of dental professionals.

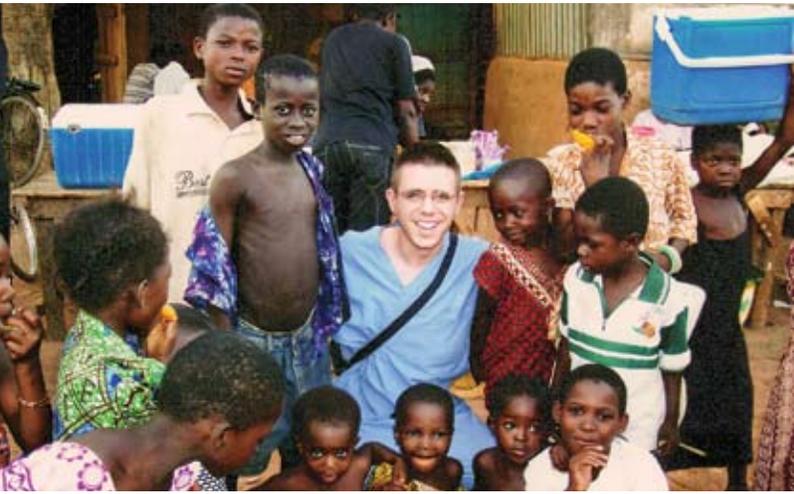
Check your mailbox for upcoming information about how you can support the Reunion Year Scholarship Endowment Fund and the UB School of Dental Medicine. You may also make your gift online at <http://giving.buffalo.edu/givenow/0424>. ▴

Farewell to a friend and colleague

Carol Vanini, our longtime director of development, has taken the position of director of development at Highland Hospital in Rochester, N.Y. Highland Hospital is part of the University of Rochester Medical Center. She leaves the University at Buffalo after 13 years of service—two years with the Institute for Regional Development and 11 years with the School of Dental Medicine. She wishes us to extend her sincere thanks to all of you for your support of her work and that of Marilyn Koren, associate director of development. Carol writes, “Over the past years, I have developed close relationships with my colleagues and our alumni, and I will always think of UB as a very special place. Please accept my wishes for continued success.” We thank her for her great service and wish her all the best in her new position.



Gathered for Carol Vanini's send-off are (from left) Marilyn Koren, associate director, Development; Marilyn Sulzbach, executive secretary, Alumni Association; Carol Vanini, director, Development; Carol McCourt, secretary, Alumni and Development; Sue Ertel, administrative assistant, Development; and Sherry Szarowski, secretary, Alumni Association.



Tales of service

Michael Adsit, '05, surrounded by patients on an early trip to Ghana. He is following a service tradition well established by UB dental alumni.

RALPH C. GIULIANO, '77, is a recipient of the Professor Egon Plager Award for accomplishments in advancing the welfare of other human beings from Siena College, his undergraduate alma mater.

Giuliano, who practices in Southbury, Conn., has been making service trips to La Victoria for almost two decades with two Siena classmates, also dentists.

On their early trips, the three dentists worked with outdated dental equipment and an inadequate store of dental supplies. They were handicapped by lack of refrigeration. Dental equipment was cleaned by hand in basins of contaminated local water. Electricity was undependable.

Giuliano and his friends spent most of their visits treating

children at a preschool clinic and educating Dominican dentists on new procedures. They saw that the children were in the habit of chewing and even brushing their teeth with sugar cane.

Over the past 15 years, Giuliano and his two Siena classmates have volunteered one week a year in La Victoria, installing backup power generators, helping to build an outpatient hospital, donating dental chairs and medical supplies.

In 2001, the three, along with other volunteers from the U.S. helped put the finishing touches on the new hospital—including a dental clinic.

“Our goal was to be able to get this place to be self-sustaining,” Giuliano says.

Today the hospital employs two full-time dentists who serve the 500 children of La Victoria.

The three friends are now considering a new destination for their humanitarian efforts. “The world is our community,” Giuliano says. “And as human beings, we have a responsibility to this community.”

—Adapted from *Siena News*

MICHAEL ADSIT, '05, was introduced to the problem of lack of dental care in third-world countries when

he was a dental student. Sure, Americans read about medical doctors traveling overseas to aid the infirm, but what about a toothache? He hadn't thought about that.

The simple solution to dental problems in many areas of the world was self-extraction of teeth to resolve an ache or serious decay. Dental problems went without attention from dentists, rare in outlying villages in Africa or remote parts of South America.

As a UB senior, Adsit volunteered for a service program with Renzo Nylander, '73, clinical instructor of periodontics and endodontics. The group went to Nalerigu in the West African country of Ghana.

Paying their own way, they traveled to outskirt villages, providing dental services with the few tools and medicines they could use in an environment with no electricity or other modern conveniences. They lived in 100-degree-plus heat, working in crude buildings or outdoors. People swarmed to them from miles around as word spread. Adsit returned again in 2006.

Ghana's government had learned over the years that sending students abroad to learn dentistry did not fill the nation's needs. Once trained, students rarely returned to their homeland. In the

mid-1990s, the government established a dental college in the capital city of Accra.

This year, Adsit will be going back to Ghana with another UB group. His goal is to teach a fluoride rinse program through the country's school system. The program has been introduced in other third-world countries with outstanding success.

After graduation, Adsit bought the practice of retiring dentist Neal Johnson in Newark, N.Y., assuming full charge in June 2007. It is the close bond between the two that allows Adsit to work in third-world countries while Johnson fills in at home.

—Adapted from *The Times of Wayne County*

Triftshauer to chair ADA Political Action Committee

Roger Triftshauer, '61, a Batavia, N.Y., orthodontist and past president of both the University at Buffalo Dental Alumni Association and the Eighth District Dental Society, has been elected chair of the American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC), the nation's largest dental political action committee.

Triftshauer has served for two years as treasurer of the Washington-based advocacy organization. He will assume the top post of the lobbying

organization January 1.

ADPAC, an arm of the American Dental Association, works to elect candidates to Congress who support the dental profession and understand the importance for the nation of oral health. Triftshauer has been active in ADPAC for more than 15 years; he leads dentists on visits to Capitol Hill during the Washington Leadership Conference each spring.

“Dr. Triftshauer is well recognized nationally as an outstanding spokesperson for the dental profession in Washington,” according to Frank Barnashuk, '80, president of the Eighth District Dental Society. “His election to this highly prestigious position affirms his dedication to his colleagues and to the improvement of the nation's oral health.”

Triftshauer, formerly a member of the Genesee County Legislature, has been a frequent lecturer at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine on the advocacy role of the ADA.



Triftshauer

SPRING MEETING MAY 7-8, 2009 THE CONFERENCE CENTER, NIAGARA FALLS

Brought to you by
The Eighth District Dental Society &
UB School of Dental Medicine

THURSDAY, MAY 7...JOIN US AFTER WORK!

Welcome Reception 5:30 p.m.

Mandates & Miscellaneous

Limited enrollment...lectures begin 6:30 p.m.

Infection Control/OSHA Update*

Healthcare Provider CPR*

Dental Office Hiring & Firing

Tobacco Use & Counseling for Patients

DANB Exam Review for Dental Assistants*

(continued all day Friday)

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Functional Considerations in Esthetic Dentistry

Continental breakfast 8 a.m., lecture begins 9 a.m.

In recent times, esthetic dentistry seems to have taken precedence over principle-centered, comprehensive restorative care.

Dr. Thomas McDonald will discuss the functional principals that define the parameters of esthetics and affect the long-term stability of restorative treatment.

A step-by-step patient evaluation and treatment planning system will be presented for precise, comprehensive, esthetic restorative treatment. The TMJ and occlusion will be discussed in detail in an effort to determine an accurate starting point for restorative treatment.

A “tool box” for esthetic diagnosis and treatment will be presented. Provisional restorations will be discussed as a means to evaluate esthetics and function and transmit this information to the dental laboratory.

Clinical cases will demonstrate challenges in the areas of TMJ dysfunction, occlusal issues, severe wear, and esthetics.



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- \$125 | Dental Team Member registered by April 1, 2009
- \$245 | Eighth District/UB Dental Alumni Member Dentist registered by April 1, 2009
- \$295 | Nonmember Dentist

*Additional registration fee applies.

All information correct as of press time. Topics and/or speaker information may be changed or added as necessary.

CLASS NOTES

Robert J. Swart, '53, reports that he is now an 83-year-old retiree. He lives part of the year in Canandaigua, N.Y., and part of the year in Naples, Fla. He is a 12-handicap golfer in both locations and he and his son won the Country Club Naples Invitational.

Sebastian G. Ciancio, '61, has been appointed to the National Board Test Construction Committee of the American Dental Association. Ciancio is currently chair of the Department of Periodontics and Endodontics at the School of Dental Medicine.



Gerald Benjamin, '77, of Albany, N.Y., was selected by Cosmedent Inc. of Chicago, Ill., to spotlight his work in the summer issue of their magazine *Cosmedent Quarterly*. Benjamin earned a certificate of proficiency in esthetic dentistry from UB and is nationally recognized in the field of restorative and cosmetic dentistry. He has won the prestigious American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Smile Contest and frequently publishes his cases on the ACE dental forum to critical acclaim. *Cosmedent* published five pages of

Benjamin's work, including his protocol for anterior cosmetic bonding, and included numerous photos of three cases. Benjamin also published an extended letter to the editor in the January 2008 issue of the *New York State Dental Journal* regarding the need for better dental school instruction for dental students in the placement of posterior direct composites as a prerequisite for supervising trained dental assistants. The journal usually does not publish photographs in the letters to the editor section but agreed to publish several pages of examples of posterior direct restorations from Benjamin's work.

Nora Townsend, '81, participated in a military

joint services humanitarian deployment to Trinidad from May 24 to June 7 this year. Oral surgery was performed on residents in need of dental care. The joint services included the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force. Nora was stationed at the First Battalion of Trinidad and Tobago.

Capt. David A. Banach, '82, retired from the U.S. Navy in an elaborate ceremony believed to have been a first for the Dunkirk, N.Y., waterfront. The ceremony was conducted by retired Rear Adm. Roger W. Triftshauser, '61, who was also present when Banach was sworn in following his graduation from dental school. The event included a landing

craft and the traditional "piping out," featuring the boatswain's pipe in a ceremony significant to sailors around the world for centuries. Banach now operates a private practice in Jamestown, N.Y. He and his wife, Rosemary, are the parents of three children: Rebecca, 9; John, 7; and Bernadette, 5.

Neil Scott, '86, operates what is believed to be upstate New York's only private dental practice that can see patients 24/7. Scott, who lives and practices in Hamburg, N.Y., can offer his middle-of-the-night services because in many ways he's a throwback to days gone by. His Country Dentistry office is in his home and is the polar opposite of a large city

or suburban dental office buzzing with dozens of dentists, hygienists and office workers. He is a true sole practitioner. Scott's around-the-clock service doesn't seem to threaten other dentists, and emergency room workers appreciate his late-night efforts.

Stuart Segelnick, '92, was recently promoted to clinical associate professor, Department of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry at NYU College of Dentistry.

Lynn Solomon, '95, Oral Path '00, MS '05, has been promoted to associate professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Lynn is active in teaching and research and sees clinical patients in the faculty practice, Tufts Dental Associates. She is also one of three board certified oral and maxillofacial pathologists in the Tufts oral pathology biopsy service (TOPS). Lynn gave an invited presentation titled "Immunology of Oral Mucosal Lesions" this spring at the European Research Group of Oral Biology in Fislisbach, Switzerland. In June, at the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology meeting in



CONGRATULATIONS to Patrick Hart, '73 (flanked by UB provost Satish Tripathi and UB president John B. Simpson), Lata Shenoy, '77, and Kenneth McHenry, '75, who have each completed 30 years of service at the School of Dental Medicine. All are currently faculty in the Department of Restorative Dentistry.

San Francisco, she was elected to the AAOMP Executive Council. Lynn and her husband, David, enjoy watching Red Sox games and living in downtown Boston, Mass. They celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 25, 2008. Their daughter, Heather, works as a manufacturer's representative for Stanley Furniture in the Western New York–Eastern Canada area. Daughter Ilene returns to Canada in September to begin law school at the University of Toronto.

Joseph E. Gambacorta, '93, participated in the Dental Volunteers for Israel program and found it an extremely rewarding experience. If anyone is interested in participating in this nonprofit organization, please contact Gambacorta at (716) 839-3370 or gambo@roadrunner.com. Gambacorta is currently part-time clinical assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry. 

Michelle Lewis, '96, and GPR '97, has been named to the professional staff of Inspire Dental Group, Orchard Park, NY. The dental practice is partnered by Gregory Abbott, '74, Born Dokko; Gary Haraszthy, MS '94; and Ronald Sadler, '86.

Obituaries

L. Halliday Meisburger Jr., '46, died July 14, 2008, at the Lodge of Cypress Cove in Ft. Myers, Fla., at the age of 85. A native of Buffalo, Meisburger served in the Army Dental Corps after graduating from UB and then joined his father's practice in Buffalo. In addition to his more than 40 years of practice, Meisburger was a member of the Eighth District Dental Society, taught oral pathology at UB and was a fellow of the American College of Dentists. He retired to Ft. Myers in 1991.

Joseph Murry Rait, '48, passed away on July 10, 2008, in Erie, Pa. Rait was born in Brooklyn,

N.Y., on March 17, 1926, grew up in Liberty, N.Y., and lived in Buffalo and Chautauqua, N.Y., and Seattle, Wash. He graduated from St. Lawrence University and the UB School of Dental Medicine, and served in the U.S. Navy as an officer during both World War II and the Korean War. Although trained as a dentist, he became an inventor. His passions in life were learning and developing new solutions to problems, including medical and imaging products, aerosol delivery systems, a liquid crystal gas gauge, and several battery technologies. He received 34 patents and started several R&D companies.

Donald E. Lennon Sr., '52, passed away June 9, 2008, at his home in Pittsfield, N.Y., at the age of 90. Donald graduated from Hamilton College in 1939 and served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1942 to 1946 in North Africa, Sicily and Italy; he was awarded the Silver Star. Lennon was a dentist in New Berlin, N.Y., from 1952 until 1986.

James Richard Winkler, '63, died Aug. 4, 2008, at his residence in Haymarket, Va., at the age of 70. He had practiced for 30 years in Springfield, Va.

FALL CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION COURSES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

Intro to Restorative Procedures for the Dental Team Member

Clinical faculty will demonstrate procedures, followed by practice with instruments on typodonts provided.

- ♦ Proper selection & application of clamps/rubber dams
- ♦ How to place a matrix band properly
- ♦ The importance of selection of wedges
- ♦ Manipulate, finish & polish a resin restoration

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 7 CE Credit hrs
\$495 per team member

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

Perils of Periodontitis

Evaluate the current status of oral infections, especially periodontitis, as a causal factor for systemic diseases. We will also discuss possible treatment options of several oral conditions such as halitosis and xerostomia and a comprehensive approach which could help to prevent oral disease and related systemic illnesses.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. 6 CE credit hours
UB Dental Alumni Member \$195
Nonmember Dentist \$225 Team Member \$95

CE BREAKFAST CLUB FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

What's New in Dental Pharmacotherapy

Update on recent developments in dental pharmacotherapy and how to incorporate new therapies into patient management strategies.

9 a.m.-noon 3 CE credit hours per lecture!
Dentist \$95 Team Member \$45

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

Simplifying Restorative & Esthetic Procedures in Daily Practice

Walk away with a better understanding of how to motivate patients to request esthetic/cosmetic procedures. Learn about state-of-the-art materials and techniques and how they can make your practice easier, more profitable, and more enjoyable.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. 6 CE credit hours
UB Dental Alumni Member \$195
Nonmember Dentist \$225 Team Member \$95

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The University at Buffalo is a premier public research university, the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York system. The School of Dental Medicine is one of 12 schools that make UB New York's leading public center for graduate and professional education and one of five schools that constitute UB's Academic Health Center.



BUFFALO NIAGARA DENTAL MEETING

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November 5 -7, 2008
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12 CE credits available toward fulfilling the New York State requirement (60 credits in 3 years).

HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Opening night—Sponsored by MLMIC

Come see the latest in dental technology at 150 booths!
Free to all.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

John A. Svirsky, DDS, MEd

Lumps, Bumps, and Lesions for All Seasons and Cases Only a Mother Could Love

Hugh F. Doherty, DDS, CFP

Creating a Cutting-Edge Practice

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Ronald D. Jackson, DDS, FAACD

Giving Your Patients Something to Smile About: The Art of Direct Resin

Karl R. Koerner, DDS, MS

Easier, More Predictable Oral Surgery in General Practice

AND MUCH MORE...

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