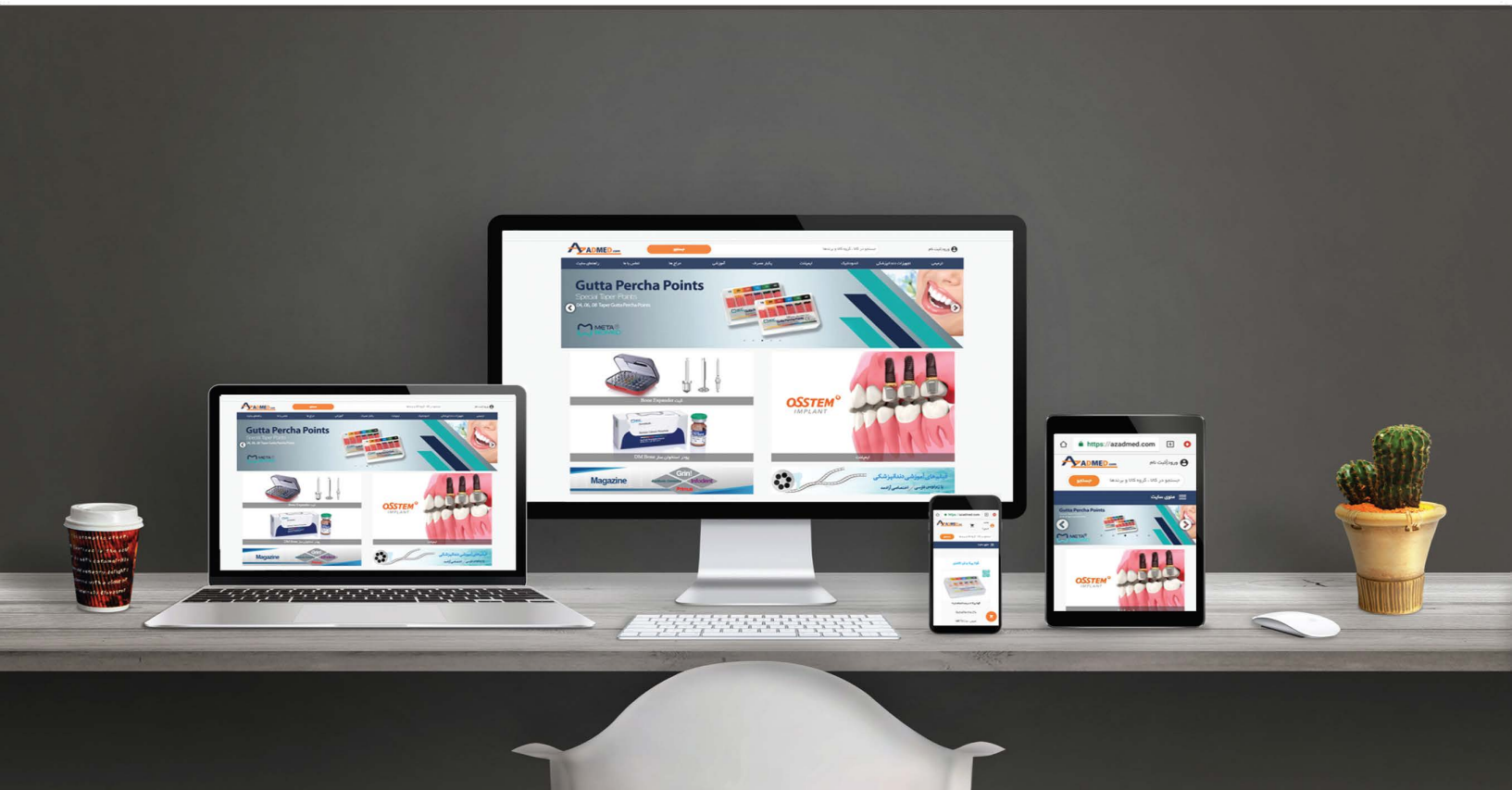




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UBDENTIST

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



CHARACTER BUILDER Page 8

Alumni Association and Class of '61
endow professorship
Page 6

I was surprised to discover when I arrived in Buffalo that the School of Dental Medicine—one of the preeminent dental schools in the nation, recognized widely for the quality of its academic programs—had no endowed faculty position of any kind, while many other schools have several. It has been my hope ever since to address this situation by establishing an endowed position. And now, through the generosity of our extended family, we have our first. May it lead to more.

The gift of funds from the Dental Alumni Association and the Class of 1961 to endow the William M. Feagans Professorship comes at a critical moment in the school's evolution. We've entered what has been widely characterized as the Darwinian era in U.S. higher education, in which we'll survive on our own merits, or not. As a public-education enterprise in a time of diminishing public resources, we are compelled to become more reliant on self-generated revenue and the generosity of friends in order to fulfill our mission. So it is especially gratifying that this endowment comes from the people who know the school as only its graduates can.

The Dental Alumni Association is unique among alumni groups in organizing a major annual professional meeting dedicated to improved patient care through continuing education. This year's Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting offered almost 40 different continuing education programs and attracted more than 2,500 attendees. The meeting is a wonderful institution: a true labor of love and expression of pride by the association in its commitment to continuing education and to each other. And it is an important source of support for our school.

The alumni association has been remarkably supportive in many other ways, particularly with assistance for student activities, scholarships and funds for travel to professional meetings. Indeed, the very collegial relationship between the school and the alumni association and the collaborations that have developed from it has been one of the principal rewards of serving as dean. It has also been a privilege and pleasure to serve with Russ Nisengard, and I'd like to acknowledge his important role in bringing the creation of an endowed position to a successful conclusion.

I anticipate that the generosity of our alumni will enable the school to develop additional endowed faculty positions in our continuing effort to ensure the long-term financial stability and security of the school and the traditional excellence of its academic programs.

Yours sincerely,



Richard N. Buchanan, DMD

from the DEAN



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NewsBriefs

Life-changing experience

In September, several third- and fourth-year dental students treated 12 war orphans who were visiting the U.S. courtesy of the World Life Institute, a human relief agency based in Waterport, N.Y. The institute's Project Life World



Nancy J. Parrisi

Fourth-year dental student Amit Patel prepares to fill some cavities for Maryam, age 11, an orphan from Russia who was benefitting from a rehabilitative program that partners with the School of Dental Medicine.

Orphan Rehabilitation Program selects children based on need and age (usually 9 to 12 years old) to spend a few months overseas for rehabilitation and a chance to “just be kids.” This year, the program hosted children from Iraq, Chechnya, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, a nation hit hard by the 2004 tsunami.

During their stay, Project Life kids come to the School of Dental Medicine for a dental evaluation and then

return a few weeks later for follow-up appointments—both conducted by students. Half of the cost to run the UB clinic is underwritten by Jamil Sarfraz, a Rochester physician whose twin daughters, Sara and Tara, earned DDS degrees from UB in 2006. The school matches his support to cover remaining fees in the pediatric clinic. For many students, the experience has become a highlight of the pediatric clinic rotation.

For Laura Holena, a fourth-year dental student, this was her second year participating in the peds rotation. When she donned plastic safety glasses and inspected her instruments, her Afghan patient, Sabir, looked nervous, but Holena and her fellow students seemed adept at small talk to calm the children as they worked, making jokes and asking them questions about their favorite foods and TV shows.

“Dealing with the language barrier is fun, and you realize how important body language is to teaching,” says fourth-year student Joe Churchill. He filled cavities and showed several children how to brush their teeth, picking up a bit of Urdu, a dialect spoken in Iran and Pakistan, along the way.

“It’s a great program,” he says of Project Life. “It deals with issues beyond the dental

perspective and reinforced my decision to go into pediatric dentistry. In terms of community outreach and public health populations, it was stimulating to think about different ways you can help others.”

Many of the shy smiles belied traumatic backgrounds. “We see orphans who have experienced terrible things, including the deaths of family and friends, and who have high socioeconomic, psychological, and emotional needs caused by war and violence in their home countries,” says Linda Redfield Shakoor, director of Project Life.

2 UB Believers update

More than 4,000 people have joined the new advocacy group, UB Believers, since it was formed this past summer to ensure that UB receives the support it needs from the state for its plans to grow by 40 percent between now and the year 2020. The active involvement of dental school alumni in the UB Believers effort—and the benefits that will accrue to the School of Dental Medicine—will help make both UB and the school stronger. To sign up on the Web, or for more information about UB Believers, go to ubbelievers.buffalo.edu.

3 2009s achieve perfection

For the first time in the history of the School of Dental Medicine—at least that associate dean for academic affairs Joseph Zambon knows of—last year’s pass rate for the National Board Dental Examination Part I was 100 percent.

The class of 2009 took the exam in the summer of 2007. Students take the two parts of the board examination at the end of their second and fourth years. They must pass the first part to continue in the program and pass the second part to graduate.

“We require students to pass both,” according to Zambon, “because you need both to practice anywhere in the U.S. and the mission of the school is to train people to go out and practice.”

Zambon says that, typically, there are a few students who need a second attempt at the exam. Second-year students take a board review course in the spring semester and then have three months to take the computerized test through a private testing service.

In the past, dental schools were ranked on the basis of their test scores, but the practice has been discontinued. Zambon says that UB always

scored well in the rankings despite never having had the 100 percent first-attempt pass rate it achieved this year. Zambon isn’t expecting perfection every year.

4 Research honor for third-year student

At the Hinman Student Research Symposium, held in November 2007 in Memphis, Tenn., third-year student Zohair M. Qureshi won the Most Outstanding Presentation in Clinical Research Award for his poster “Pain and Limitation With Chewing: Experimental Validation of the Jaw Function Limitation Scale.” There were 85 presentations at the symposium by students representing 52 schools in the U.S. and Canada.

Qureshi has participated in the School of Dental Medi-

THREE CHEERS FOR THE RENAISSANCE MAN

Frederic J. Hofschneider, ‘14 (pictured in his office), packed a lot of eclectic activity into an 18-year dental career, not to mention his lifetime. A true renaissance man, the late Rochester dentist was an avid inventor, artist, musician and fisherman with a legacy of ideas still in existence. According to his daughter, Kathryn Schroth, who recently donated her father’s papers to the UB Archives, in 1923 Hofschneider invented the automatic dental lubricator (originally called the Oratundra)—the first device to irrigate dental burs with a stream of water during drilling. He also played a part in developing the porcelain-jacket crown and introduced the first non-backwash hypodermic syringe. In local lore, Hofschneider is recognized for penning the music and lyrics of the UB fight song, “Here’s to Old U. of B.,” and his Hofschneider Corp. invented and patented many fishing lures, including the classic “Red-Eye Wiggler.”



cine Summer Research Program for the past two years, working under the mentorship of Richard Ohrbach, associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences. At the March 2007 Student Research Day program, he won the Maryanne Mather Clinical Research Award and a travel award to attend the Hinman symposium.



2008 Dental Alumni Association Officers

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President-Elect—Mary Beth Dunn, '90, Pedo '92

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Secretary—Charles S. Travagliato, '80

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5 Clicking for credit

Soon after they enter the lecture hall in Diefendorf Hall on the South Campus, the nearly 90 fourth-year dental students taking “Practice and Risk Management” use their laptops to answer a multiple-choice question. The answers are instantly projected as a bar graph on a screen in the front of the lecture hall.



Celine Tan

Emily Wylie, '08, uses a “clicker” on her laptop—the calculator-like icon on the left side of the screen—to answer questions posed by instructor Chester Gary during a recent class meeting.

John Maggio and Chester Gary, clinical assistant professors of restorative dentistry who co-teach the class, are among a number of UB faculty members using “audience response systems”—nick-named “clickers”—a new, high-tech trend in classroom learning whose popularity has been skyrocketing at universities across the country.

What makes the audience response system in the School of Dental Medicine different is that the school uses software that enables students’ laptops to serve as clickers, eliminating the need for the small remote-control devices. The “vPad” software, provided by Turning Technologies, a company specializing in audience-response systems for business and higher education, is installed on incoming students’ laptops at orientation.

Maggio says the benefits of using clickers include increased participation, instant gauging of student comprehension, information retention and promotion of in-class discussion, as well as boosting attendance levels by using students’ answers to determine who is in class and to calculate participation grades.

“It helps you pay attention,” notes Callie Davis, a fourth-year student. “The questions reinforce what the main points of the lecture are—what they really want us to take away from it.”

In addition to reviewing major ideas from reading assignments and reinforcing key concepts at the top of class, Maggio says clickers have affected his teaching style by encouraging greater in-class participation from students.

“They raise their hands much more often, they’re discussing things much more, they’re participating more than they ever have,” he says, noting that his classes featured very little discussion or debate before the introduction of the audience-response technology.

“I find that there’s more participation in the classes with the vPad as opposed to the classes without,” fourth-year student Lisa Delucia says. “It’s not like a poll we’re all filling out on paper and will find out the results next week. It’s an instant snapshot of how the class views a topic or opinion.”

Although requiring laptops in class does introduce a potentially distracting technology into the learning environment, Maggio says the benefits of clickers are great if they’re employed frequently and creatively. Using survey questions to encourage class discussion and posing important questions for review and attendance purposes—as well as subtracting participation points for incorrect answers to certain questions—strongly discourages students from e-mailing friends and surfing the Web, Maggio says.

Academic administrators in the dental school say that ongoing technology upgrades on the South Campus will bring clickers to more classrooms.

—Kevin Fryling

6 New clinical group directors

Davis Garlapo, full-time professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, graduated from the School of Dental Medicine in 1968. In 2006, Garlapo became group director for the third- and fourth-year clinical program.

Lata Shenoy, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, graduated from the School of Dental Medicine in 1977. She received her certificate in fixed prosthodontics in 1982, attended the postgraduate program in esthetic dentistry and has completed the endosseous and prosthetic implant externship program at UB. She became a group director in July 2007.

Benita Sobieraj, full-time clinical assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, graduated from the Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland) in 1991, and from UB in 1997. Sobieraj has served as group director since 2005 and is also course director for "Principles of Occlusion."

Patricia Starring, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, graduated from the School of Dental Medicine in 1985. Starring teaches part-

time in restorative dentistry and became group director in August 2006. She is active in organized dentistry.

7 New faculty join the SDM



Gary Alexander has joined the Department of Restorative Dentistry as a clinical assistant professor. Alexander received a DDS from the School of Dental Medicine in 1981 and a certificate in fixed prosthodontics in 1983. He has his own practice and works part-time in the postgraduate program at the School of Dental Medicine.



Latifa Bairam has joined the Department of Restorative Dentistry as a clinical assistant professor. Bairam received a BDS at the College of Dental Medicine in Baghdad, Iraq, in 1975 and an MS in oral sciences from UB. She received a certificate of residency in dentistry and maxillofacial prosthetics from Roswell Park Cancer Institute and a certificate in removable prosthodontics from the School of Dental Medicine.



Dennis Blair has joined the Department of Restorative Den-

tistry as a clinical instructor. Blair received a DDS from the School of Dental Medicine in 1977. He has an active private practice and teaches part-time in the dental school clinics.



Brendan Dowd has joined the Department of Restorative Dentistry as a clinical instructor. Dowd received a DDS from the School of Dental Medicine in 1986. He works in private practice and teaches part-time in the dental school clinics.

Hatim Hamad has joined the Department of Periodontics and Endodontics as a clinical assistant professor. He received a DDS from the School of Dental Medicine in 1999 and an MS from the George Washington University. He completed his endodontic training from 2003 to 2005 while serving in the Navy. Hamad was in charge of the endodontic department at the Submarine Base in Groton, Conn., from 2005 to 2007.



Camila Sabatini has joined the Department of Restorative Dentistry as a clinical assistant professor. She comes to UB from the Operative Department in the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. Sabatini received a DDS from the Universidad Central de

Venezuela. She received an MS and a certificate in operative dentistry in May 2007. She is a full-time faculty member.

Diane Slawinowski has joined the Department of Restorative Dentistry as a clinical instructor. Slawinowski received a DDS in 2001 from the School of Dental Medicine and completed a general practice residency in 2002. She works in private practice and teaches part-time in the dental school clinics.



Sawsan Tabbaa has joined the Department of Orthodontics as an assistant professor. Tabbaa received a DDS in 1983 and a certificate of specialty in orthodontics in 1986 from Damascus University in Syria. She received an MS in oral science from the School of Dental Medicine and trained in temporomandibular joint disorder and orofacial pain at the school. She also received an orthodontic certificate of specialty from the school in 2004. Tabbaa became an American Diplomate of Orthodontics in 2006.



Nancy J. Parisi

Alumni Association, Class of '61 CHALLENGE THE FUTURE

by Judson Mead

Endowed faculty positions—named professorships and faculty chairs—give schools an advantage in recruiting top-flight faculty. And named positions confer a halo of reputation on the holder. Being the John Henry Smith Professor of Oral Diagnostic Sciences not only has a nice ring, it says that the person holding the title is unusually distinguished. Until now, the School of Dental Medicine has had no such positions. Although its faculty wear honors from other sources, including SUNY Distinguished Professorships, the school has not been able to offer such distinction in its own right.

That changed this fall with the presentation of a \$1 million gift to the school by the Dental Alumni Association and the Class of 1961 to endow the William M. Feagans Professorship. A symbolic check was handed to Dean Richard N. Buchanan at the Alumni Association reunion dinner on Oct. 26.

In remarks at the dinner, Russell Nisengard, DDS, PhD, senior associate dean of the school and president of the Alumni Association, thanked past presidents of the association, 12 of whom were in attendance, for their foresight in maintaining the fund until it had grown large enough to contribute to a gift of this size.

When the fund had reached a level—approximately \$700,000—that could make a significant difference to the school, members of the alumni association executive committee discussed possible uses with Dean Buchanan, who said that his hope was to establish an endowed faculty chair. The committee agreed that this would have the most impact—but the minimum needed for such an endowment was larger than the available fund.

“We knew what we had wouldn’t allow what we wanted to happen,” says Nisengard. “But I knew the Class of ’61 was looking for a use for funds it had accumu-

lated.” He had conversations with members of the class that led to a meeting between himself and Roger Triftshauser, ’61, Sebastian Ciancio, ’61, Carol Vanini, the school’s director of development, and the dean. Members of the Class of ’61 discussed the idea at their 45th reunion in 2006 and agreed to support the professorship.

▲ PICTURED ABOVE

In foreground, from left: Roger Triftshauser, ’61, UB Provost Satish Tripathi, Dean Richard Buchanan, 2007 Dental Alumni Association President Russell Nisengard, ’66, and Mrs. Betty Feagans with members of the Feagans family.

“I believe that it is important for alumni of the school, especially alumni who graduated 15 years and longer ago, to realize that the needs of the school are different from when they were students,” Nisengard says. “State support was 90 percent of the school’s budget then. Now it is less than 30 percent. The school needs private support to maintain our high quality.”

At the reunion dinner, Triftshauser challenged the assembled reunion classes to imagine what they could do for the school if they could recruit all their members to contribute \$1,000 a year for five years. He was speaking as the representative of the class that had just donated \$300,000 to the endowment—and as someone who knows something about class spirit. Anyone who graduated from the school in a year ending in a “1” or a “6” will know the Class of ’61.

Triftshauser, who practices in Batavia and has retired from the Naval Reserve as an admiral, has served as a county legislator and is a well-known advocate for the dental profession both in Albany and Washington, D.C. He says there has never been a class like ’61. They stay in touch with newsletters and other communications; they can count on the largest turnout of any class at any reunion year; they get a Dixieland band to lead them

into dinner, bursting through their class banner to make their entrance. Triftshauser quotes the wife of classmate Jake Martin after their 45th reunion in 2006 saying, “I’ve never seen as many men hugging men as at this reunion.” He credits the late Gerald Grassi with sustaining their enthusiasm over the years.

The class called itself “the union” when they were in school, according to Ciancio, who is SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and chairman of the Department of Periodontics and Endodontics. “We always were a helping class, a very giving class,” he says. “Most of us were from relatively medium income families and we were appreciative of the education we were receiving.”

In the 1980s, the class raised funds for an emergency clinic in Squire Hall—now the pediatric dentistry clinic. The Class of ’61’s name stands out above the entrance. That fundraising effort, in keeping with the outsized nature of everything the class does, exceeded its goal, and the balance formed the kernel of the fund that eventually joined the alumni fund.

Expressing appreciation for the gift, Buchanan said, “I look forward to further conversations with the Dental Alumni Association as we start to identify candidates for this first endowed position.” ▀

From longest serving to first named

Twenty-six classes of the School of Dental Medicine knew William M. Feagans, who served as dean of the school from 1970 to 1992, the longest term in the school’s history. Feagans, who lives in Florida with his wife, Betty, will now be known to future classes who study with the holder of the William M. Feagans Professorship.

Feagans earned his DDS in 1954 at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, where he taught for two years before earning a PhD in anatomy from the Medical College of Vir-



William M. Feagans

ginia. He taught anatomy at the Medical College of Virginia until 1966, when he became assistant dean for curriculum and faculty affairs at the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine.

When he came to Buffalo, he assumed responsibility for a school with a shining reputation that was nonetheless dispersed in cramped quarters on UB’s South Campus and in a building on Main Street in Snyder. The majority of the operatory equipment in the clinics in Farber Hall had not been replaced since the 1930s, although they had been updated with high-speed air turbines. Feagans pushed through a major renovation of the main clinic in 1973, expanding the facility and installing 100 new operatories.

In the early 1980s, his chief work was to organize and oversee the reconstruction of Squire Hall and the renovation of Foster Hall into a modern home for the dental school. When it opened in 1986, Squire offered spacious clinics with dedicated operatory units for every student, making the school the envy of most others. Near the end of his tenure, Feagans presided over the school’s centennial observations, commissioning a history, starting a centennial fund, and, most visibly, commissioning the soaring double helix that rises from the lobby to the third floor of Squire Hall, bearing the names of past classes on the arms that connect the helices.

It is a small thing, given these large projects, but another lasting mark that Feagans left behind hangs on the walls of Squire. He found pictures of all past graduates of the school, back to the very first, and pictures of the faculty who taught them. He believed in the importance of tradition. Now his name will be doubly remembered.



Coaching clinic to dental clinic

TRAINING FOR LIFE

by Lauren Newirk Maynard

Peter Capone, '89, met Justin Bowers when Justin was an eighth grader at Johnson City (New York) High and Capone was recruiting for the school's wrestling team. Bowers took to the sport, as would his younger brothers Jordan and Joshua Glenn. The boys were smart and had tremendous athletic talent, but they were missing a father figure. Their mother had separated from her husband and was raising her sons on public assistance. So Jeanine Bowers welcomed Capone's invitation to mentor them. ▀



Eric Frick

Peter Capone, '89 (center, rear), has been a motivator both on and off the mat for his nephew, Chuck Dibble, '08 (left), and wrestling protégés Jordan Glenn, '09, and Nolan Robinson, '11.

The boys blossomed under Capone's disciplined affection. "They needed some 'guy time,'" he says. "A place where they could just be boys—and learn to grow up a little. We quickly became a big family." Over a period of nearly 10 years, the brothers spent an increasing amount of time in the Capone household, which included his wife, Sue, and their two children—to the point where they slept over many nights, waking up early to train, and then working out again for several hours after school.

Capone, who was starting his coaching career, would train right alongside them, helping the boys hone their technique to the point where each, in his turn, was ready for state competition. By the time Justin had graduated from high school, Jordan was "on deck" (a wrestling term for waiting to approach the mat) for the next level. After work, Jeanine would drop him and 7-year-old Josh off at the Capones' for the weekend. There, the boys trained together and with other teammates in Capone's basement gym—complete with full-sized wrestling mat—that rivaled any high school training ground.

"We had rules, just like for my own kids," Capone says. "They could lift weights and work out, but they had to be responsible, they had to do their homework."

The hard work has paid off. Justin went to Cornell

University and went on to become a stockbroker on Wall Street. Jordan followed Capone's lead and is now a third-year dental student at UB. Josh is a sophomore on a full wrestling scholarship at American University in Washington, D.C.

Capone can still mix up the brothers' names ("I've nicknamed them 1, 2 and 3"). All three have placed at the New York State championships, but Josh is the standout. He won a New York State high school championship in 2003, and last year captured American's first NCAA Division I national title in a heart-stopping rematch against an Iowa State rival.

Capone was at the match. In the mid-1980s, he had wrestled his way to two national championship tournaments at Hofstra, losing the national title match in his senior year. Seeing Josh take the NCAA title was a perfect second act to his competitive days.

Family man, plus

It's an understatement to call Peter Capone a family man. He grew up part of a sprawling Sicilian extended family, with 13 brothers and sisters. His father, Anthony, and brother, Thomas, both deceased, practiced dentistry. As a boy, he assisted with procedures at his father's solo practice in Watertown, N.Y., and observed how patients and family responded to personalized care.

"He never wanted thanks for what he did for our children,

grandchildren and extended family, he simply told me to pass it on to the next generation," Capone says. "I just hope that when it is all said and done, that my father would have been proud of how I tried to pass it on."

Capone's childhood shaped both of his career choices. After earning his DDS from UB and completing a general practice residency at Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, he joined Riverside Dental Associates in downtown Binghamton (where he still practices) and signed on as a wrestling coach at Johnson City High School. The central New York wrestling powerhouse has won five state titles in 20 years—three of them during Capone's tenure as head coach. As director of Johnson City's highly successful feeder program, he also oversees the training of peewee wrestlers starting as early as kindergarten.

Mind and body

"School was never easy for me back then," Capone says, recalling how intense he found the dental lectures and exams—and most of all, studying. Accustomed to daily physical activity, he would set an alarm clock to go off 10 minutes before the hour, put down his anatomy textbook and go for a half-mile run around the block.

Today he still has far too much energy for just dentistry. "I have to sweat out my daily stress, or I feel depressed," he says. After a

full day at the dental practice, he plays flag-football and indoor-soccer when he isn't training a new generation of grapplers—many who are now the children of his first high school squads. “You actually don't get much exercise as a head coach,” he says, adding that he would much rather be an assistant who gets to “work with the kids and then leave” than have to stay late doing the paperwork for an athletic department.

Still, Capone's loyalty is perhaps stronger than his



Peter Capone encourages Jordan Glenn during a key match in the 1999-2000 New York State high school championship meet that Capone's Johnson City team won.

impulse to compete. Straight out of an alternate version of “Friday Night Lights,” he once turned down a plum coaching job at Binghamton University to stay on at Johnson City. “My wife, Sue, and I talked about this for a long time, and we both concluded that I would make a bigger impact on high school boys than young men who already have goals in life.”

The connection of family, dentistry and wrestling in Capone's life also runs through UB. While he was

a student, Capone served as assistant wrestling coach for the UB varsity team. Now he sends his former wrestlers to study dentistry: in addition to Jordan Glenn, '09, former Johnson City wrestler Nolan Robinson, '11, enrolled this past fall. And probably not by coincidence, Capone's nephew, Chuck Dibble, '08, found his way to UB after wrestling in Watertown. Dibble remembers sitting in his grandfather's and uncle's dental chairs when he was younger and he spent his summers at Capone's wrestling camps. He hopes one day to coach high school wrestling. “Maybe I'll end up competing against Uncle Pete,” he laughs.

Hungry to be the best

Among the next generation of UB dentists, Robinson and Jordan Glenn are impressive examples of Capone's handiwork—brimming with potential, and prepared for whatever life throws their way.

It has been easy for Glenn to balance success at school and in sports; in fact, he says his attraction to both wrestling and dentistry, especially the clinic rotations, comes from being good with his hands. “I like to get in there and do it, not just read about it in a book.” He says that growing up with Capone instilled lessons of self-discipline, grit and determination, of having fun and being good to others.

Robinson wrestled for Capone since the seventh grade

and placed fifth in the state championship tournament the year Josh Glenn won the title for Johnson City. He then shifted easily to his first love, football, as a four-year starting linebacker and team captain at Hobart College.

“Wrestling teaches you a lot about yourself and about life,” he says, calling wrestling the hardest thing he has ever done. “Coach had the highest expectations, but he always made it fun. He made you hungry to be the best.”

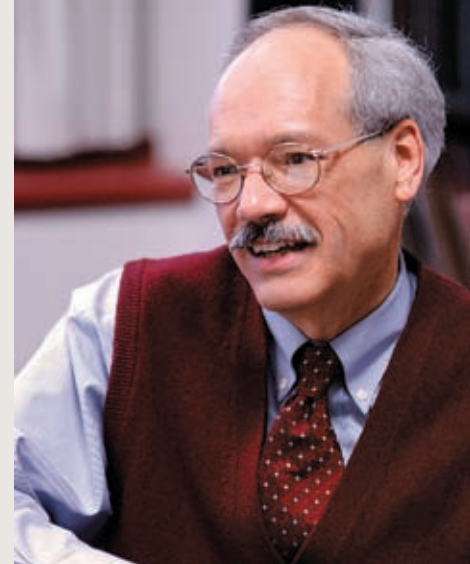
Robinson trained with Josh at Capone's house, and he remembers a particular moment when they were in ninth grade—at the time Binghamton was trying to recruit Capone. “He sat the team down and told us he was staying, and that he wanted to go to states and would do whatever it took to help get us there,” Robinson says. “So we worked hard until we were seniors to reach that goal, to show him we could do it, to prove that we were everything he said we were. He never stopped believing in us.”

“Both dentistry and wrestling just seemed like the natural path for me,” Capone says, noting that he could never be able to devote as much time to coaching if it weren't for his partners at the practice, including UB dental alumni Eric Ruffo, '04, and Dan Williams, '88. “They've always respected my life outside the practice and have been 100 percent supportive,” he says. “They're like family.”

A CONVERSATION WITH

Joseph Zambon

The associate dean for academic affairs talks about keeping the curriculum both up-to-date and manageable.



What does the academic dean do?

The academic dean is responsible for the dental school's DDS curriculum, including the didactic and clinical courses, periodic course reviews, student course evaluations, and analyses of student outcome measures and the DDS academic program. My office also provides faculty development in support of the school's electronic curriculum project and other instructional technology initiatives. The dean's office serves as a resource to the school's curriculum committee, as well as with the school's student progress and promotions committee and executive council.

What is the present state of the curriculum?

Right now the school is working on a major revision of the DDS curriculum. This is part of a nationwide movement among dental schools coordinated by the American Dental Education Association. Dental school curricula, like those of many other professional schools, tend to be content "dense." Our students are scheduled five days a week for a total of 30–35 hours in classes, labs or clinics. One of the goals of curriculum reform is to decompress the curriculum by focusing on the more clinically relevant aspects of dental education.

How do you evaluate courses in the DDS program?

The school follows a systematic approach in reviewing each course. We review each course syllabus and enter data in the school's curriculum database that lists everything we teach across all four years of the curriculum. The director of academic affairs, Athena Tsembeles, and I meet with course directors to review their course syllabi. We try to identify outdated or repetitive material that should be deleted, as well as content that should be added. The students also play an important part in this. Their online course evaluations are reviewed by our office, by the course directors and by the department chairpersons. Periodically, we enlist the aid of consultants from outside the school to review particular parts of the curriculum. We scan the external environment for current trends in dental education and how they may impact our program. Finally, we survey our graduating seniors and our alumni for their thoughts on the predoctoral curriculum: Should we be doing more? What should we be doing less?

How do you keep the curriculum current?

In addition to identifying nationwide trends and innovations, we

rely on the expertise of the faculty. They are the content experts in their disciplines who through their respective departments update their course content in order to prepare our students for contemporary dental practice. There are new diseases and conditions, new materials, new therapies. We make sure that our curriculum reflects these changes. For example, methamphetamine use causes a new pattern of dental caries known as "meth mouth," which became evident a few years ago. Accordingly, we incorporated "meth mouth" into the curriculum. There have been a number of changes in the dental school curriculum reflecting the increasing importance in dental practice of esthetic dentistry, implant dentistry, the relationship between oral infections and systemic disease, and case-based instruction.

Is the DDS curriculum much different now from what it was five years ago?

If you compared today's curriculum with that of five years ago, you'd see a number of major differences. In the basic sciences, for example, there has been increasing emphasis on case-based and problem-based instruction. The school offers a summer enrichment program between the third and fourth year that enables

students the opportunity to participate in additional clinical experiences in the school or at an extramural site of the student's choice. Clinical education has seen an increasing emphasis on preventive dentistry, such as smoking cessation. These kinds of changes in the curriculum prepare our students for contemporary dental practice.

Do you work in parallel with the work of the curriculum committee?

Yes. Our work supports the school's curriculum committee. They are responsible for the predoctoral curriculum. The curriculum committee reviews any significant change proposed for a course and submits recommendations to the school's executive council.

What else do you see as you survey the school from the dean's office?

In the 12 years I've served as academic dean, I have always been impressed by the high quality of both our faculty and our students. When we ask students what is the best part of their dental school experience, they invariably say, "the faculty." And the faculty, on almost a daily basis, tell me how well the students have done. The students, faculty and staff make this dental school one of the best in the country.

Belinda Tan



Your support makes us great

Your support for the School of Dental Medicine makes it possible for a scholarship student to graduate with more career options because he or she has less debt. Your support sends a student to a research conference to bring home ideas that could bloom into something new and change the future. Your support enhances the work of the faculty, it expands the scope of our research, it brings us the best equipment, and in all these ways and countless others it sustains the excellence that makes the School of Dental Medicine one of the nation's best.

This honor roll of donors includes all annual fund and designated gifts to the School of Dental Medicine received between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. We strive to ensure that these gifts are listed accurately, but if any information listed here is in error, please call the Office of Development at (716) 829-6007 or e-mail suertel@buffalo.edu.

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ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS

Your gift serves as an example of the impact I would like to have beyond my graduation and I'm excited that someday I'll be in your position, giving back to the institution that has helped build the foundation for the rest of my life.

**Laura Frangella,
Class of 2008**

This scholarship will help us out immensely and we appreciate it very much. I hope someday to follow your lead and give back to future dental students.

**Kameron Schaberg,
Class of 2010**

It is remarkable to see the philanthropy of a class so many years removed. Upon learning of the award, my mind was opened to a greater sense of family with the alumni.

**David Lindman,
Class of 2010**

I am responsible for paying my way through dental school and this award will serve to take away some of that burden while allowing me to continue in my goal of achieving the highest level of education I can.

**Amanda Wildman,
Class of 2010**

The 30th Annual BUFFALO NIAGARA DENTAL MEETING

SPONSORED BY THE UB DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

October 24 - 26, 2007
SCENES FROM THE FLOOR

There were more than 30 different continuing education and other presentations, ranging from issues in practice management—"Ten latest trends in practice management," "Organize your practice with proven practice management systems"—to dental medical matters—"Utilization of advanced technologies in detecting oral cancer and potential malignant diseases," "Diabetes Mellitus: Strategies for providing comprehensive care"—to advice for a dentist's own welfare—"Stress management forever," "How to age gracefully."

More than 2,500 guests from the region attended what is one of the nation's top 15 dental marketplaces and one of the largest events staged annually at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. More than 100 exhibitors filled all 150 available display spaces on the convention center floor.

Sponsored by the UB Dental Alumni Association, with support from more than 30 organizations, the Buffalo Niagara Dental Meeting has been getting bigger and better for 30 years. Mark your calendars for next year: November 5-7, 2008. See you then!





Nancy J. Parisi



Photos: Andre Grozynski (except where noted)

AlumniNews

Dancing the night away



1. Roger Triftshauser, '61, exhorts the assembled reunion classes to raise their support for the school.

2. Mrs. Betty Feagans flanked by members of the Feagans family.

3. Maj. Gen. Russell J. Czerw, '87, Chief of the Army Dental Corps, accepts the 2008 Dental Alumni Association Humanitarian Award.

4. Sebastian Ciancio, '61, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and chair of the Department of Periodontics and Endodontics, with his wife, Marilyn.





Photos: Nancy J. Parisi (except where noted)

5. Dancing after dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

6. John Vorassi, class of 2008, considering the life of an alumnus, with his wife, Heidi.

7. Back after only 20 years, Brian Zunner, '87 (left), with Douglas Sandmann, '87, and wife, Erin.

8. Jennifer Redmore, '97, with her husband, Keith, and littlest Redmore, John, 5 weeks old.

9. Before the main event, Russell Nisengard, '66, senior associate dean, discusses class fundraising with expert Roger Triftshauser, '61.



[7]



[8]



[9]

Andre Grozynski



[2]



[1]

Photos: Nancy J. Parisi



[3]

1. Steven Oshins, '92, might say that 15 years out is the ideal place to be.

2. Edward Kucio, Class of '57 reunion co-chair, and wife, Joan, make coming to a 50th class reunion look like a great night out.

3. The dance band Brimstone fires up the night.

4. UB Dental Association Executive Council member Stanley L. Zak Jr., '76, and his wife, Phyllis, with Class of '57 reunion co-chair Joseph LaNasa.

5. David Croglia, '87, clinical assistant professor (left), with Thomas Friscia, '87.



[4]



[5]



Celebrating 60 years, the Class of 1947 is represented by (standing, l-r) John Laura, Robert Gartler and Alan McCullough; (seated, l-r) Edwin Patricola, Aaron Feuerstein and Milton Etengoff.



Gathered for their milestone 50th reunion, the Class of 1957 is represented by (standing, l-r) Lawrence Niad, Harold Drucker, Edward Kucio, George Smutko, Stewart Brenner, Anthony Pellerite and Michael Gallea; (seated, l-r) Michael Marfino, Donald Butlein, Joseph LaNasa, Morton Rivo and Henry Tiberi.

The class of 2008 practices for future reunions.



Photos: Andre Grozynski

Alumni Awards

HONOR AWARD

Lance F. Ortman

The UB Dental Alumni Association is pleased to recognize Lance F. Ortman, '73, with the 2007 Honor Award.

Lance Ortman exemplifies the criteria for this award through the enthusiasm and untiring endeavors with which he has promoted the growth and success of the School of Dental Medicine. There has been no day when the school has not been in his life: he is the third generation of dentists in his family to have graduated from UB. He completed his DDS with thesis honors in 1973, his certificate in prosthodontics in 1975, and his master of science in oral sciences in 1980. He spent 34 years in full-time faculty service at the School of Dental Medicine, retiring only recently.

During his faculty years, Ortman was a very active teacher, mentor and researcher. He occupied key positions in the school, including associate chair and interim chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry, associate dean for clinical affairs, and director of University Dental Associates. He was honored as Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1983. Ortman has also served on many school and departmental committees, including the executive council; University Dental Associates; and the curriculum, progress and promotions, and ad hoc committees.

Ortman is an active member of professional organizations, including Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honor Society, Academy of Prosthodontics, International Association of Dental Research, American Dental Education Association and the Eighth District Dental Society.

Although retired from full-time teaching, Lance Ortman continues to teach part-time. This award acknowledges the recognition his colleagues and students have long given him for his contributions to the School of Dental Medicine.



HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Russell J. Czerw

The Dental Alumni Association is pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Maj. Gen. Russell J. Czerw, '87, with the 2007 Humanitarian Award.

Czerw is chief of the Army Dental Corps and commander of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School at Fort Sam Houston. In addition to his DDS, Czerw holds a master's degree in strategic studies. He holds the U.S. Surgeon General's "A" proficiency designator and is a diplomate of the Federal Service Board of General Dentistry and the American Board of General Dentistry. He is a master in the Academy of General Dentistry and is a member of various professional organizations. Czerw has published numerous professional articles and has presented several lectures on dental and military subjects.

He is a graduate of the Officers Advanced Course, the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College, and he has received numerous decorations and awards during his career.

Czerw commanded the 93rd Medical Battalion in Heidelberg, Germany, after graduating from the Army War College in 2002. During his tour, Czerw deployed to Poland as the Task Force Medical Commander for Victory Strike III and to Iraq for Operations Enduring Freedom where he was a task force commander for dental, preventive medicine, veterinary and combat stress control units. This is believed to be the first time a dental battalion deployed in time of war. His last assignment was commander, U.S. Army Dental Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

His achievements and accomplishments reflect Czerw's dedication to the dental profession, as well as to the United States. He has distinguished himself as a leader and as a proud alumnus of the School of Dental Medicine.



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DENTAL PRODUCTS INNOVATION PARTNER

Joseph A. LaNasa, '57, and his wife, Geraldine, recently received the Honorary Alumnus of Distinction Award from Erie Community College (ECC) for their work in establishing ECC's new dental assisting program. This is the first time ECC has presented the award.

David L. Drake, '60, writes that after 45½ years in practice (21 years with the U.S. Navy and the rest in private practice), his joy is going to different countries to practice missionary dentistry. In the past two years, he has been in Myanmar (Burma) with Health Teams International.

David returned to Buffalo for the UB Baseball Reunion last year, to hit and throw a few balls again.

Bruce H. Seidberg, '63, MScD, JD, was recently elected president of the American College of Legal Medicine. He is the first dentist to be elected president.

Steven A. Guttenberg, '69, recently became the president of the American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He also received the Sterling V. Mead Award for outstanding achievement in dentistry, which is the highest award given by the Washington, D.C. Dental Society.

Mark Patters, PhD Oral Biology, '77, assumed leadership of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in August.

He attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, earning a BS and DDS before studying at UB.

Jane D. Brewer, '78, Prosthodontics '82, MS Oral Sciences '85, was the 2007 president of the American Academy of



Fixed Prosthodontics. Brewer is currently clinical associate professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, teaching postgraduate prosthodontics. She also maintains a private practice, Orchard Park Prosthodontics LLP, with **Gary Alexander, '81**, and **Jennifer Kuracina, '92**.

Nora Townsend, '81, GPR '82 and '83, is in private practice with **Salvatore Ortolano, '94, GPR '95** at Suburban Family Dental. She is associated with the 107th Air National Guard and teaches in the Buffalo General Hospital Department of Oral Surgery.

Michael Hatton, '82, has a shared appointment with the UB School of Dental Medicine Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences and Department of Oral and Maxillofacial

Surgery. He is the former Chief of Dentistry at Millard Fillmore Hospitals and recently retired from private practice.

Raymond G. Miller, '85, GPR '86, received a promotion to clinical associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences, UB School of Dental Medicine, where he has been a part-time faculty member since 1986. He has taught continuing education courses and is involved in forensic dentistry research in collaboration with **Peter and Mary Bush, '99, GPR '00**. Miller is also a dental officer/forensic dentist in the disaster mortuary assistance response team that is part of FEMA in the Department of Homeland Security. He also serves on the executive committee of the Erie County Specialized Medical Assistance Response Team.

Richard Ohrbach, MS '89, TMD '89, received a research scientist award from Malmo University, Sweden, and spent the first two weeks of the award in Malmo with colleagues. Ohrbach is currently an associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences in the UB School of Dental Medicine.

Frank T. Sindoni, '92, MD '95, is currently the presi-

dent of the NYS Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

Cindy R. Pong, '94, and her husband, John Gemrich, wish to announce the birth of a son, Christopher John Gemrich. Christopher was born Nov. 6, 2007.



Sawsan Tabbaa, MS '97, Ortho '04, recently received an orthodontic faculty development fellowship award from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation.

Tyler Grosso, '01, and his wife Carol welcomed their first child, Mason James Grosso, on August 7, 2007. They currently live on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Grosso shares a private practice in Queens with his father. He is also the dental director of Phoenix House, one of the nation's largest substance abuse treatment facilities.

Gene Crofut, '03, was recognized as one of Buffalo Business First's annual "40 Under Forty." The list was released in August 2007 and recipients were honored at a function in November.

Graci Marra Bax, '05, is in private practice with

Robert Bochiechio, '92, and also works as a clinical dentist at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center as well as on the Tuscarora Reservation. In 2005, she served on a medical-dental mission to Chiapas, Mexico, with the Sisters of St. Francis of Lewiston, N.Y.

Joshua Hutter, '05, was appointed associate at the Western NY Dental Group's newest location in Blasdell, N.Y. He also maintains a practice at the dental group's Hamburg office. He resides in East Amherst, N.Y.

In Memoriam

Walter W. Sielski, '35, of Snyder, N.Y., died Oct. 5, 2007. He was 97. He helped carry one of his buddies ashore on Omaha Beach during the invasion of Normandy in 1944. Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, he moved to Buffalo when he was 7. While attending dental school, he lettered in basketball for UB. Sielski opened a practice in the Polish Union Hall on Fillmore Avenue in 1935 and maintained it until his retirement in 1985, closing the practice only to serve in the Army during World War II.

George V. Lesser, '39, of Rochester, N.Y., died March 27, 2007. He was past editor of the 8th District Bulletin and was

a recipient of the William J. Gies editorial award from the American Association of Dental Editors. He was also a fellow of the American College of Dentists. In 1996, Lesser was inducted into the UB Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in fencing.

Edward Thomas Lambert, '44, of Boynton Beach, Fla., died Aug. 31, 2007 at the age of 91. He was a gentle, congenial soul who practiced dentistry for 26 years in New York City. He is survived by his wife, Elinore, brother, Robert and two nephews.

E. Paul McMahon, '44, of Baldwinsville, N.Y., died March 7, 2007 in Wilmington, N.C. He practiced dentistry in Syracuse for 51 years, retiring in 1995. He was a WWII veteran, serving as a captain with the 143rd regiment, 36th infantry division, where he was awarded the Combat Medic Badge and the ETO Ribbon with two battle stars. McMahon was a dental attending on St. Joseph's Hospital staff for 26 years and he was chief of dental services at Van Duyn Hospital for 24 years. He was president of the Senior Advisory Board of McMahon-Ryan Child Advocacy Site to which he was a generous donor.

Arthur J. Wright, '44, of Lewiston, N.Y., died Sept.

21, 2007 in Watertown, N.Y. After his discharge from the Navy in 1946, he joined his father's dental practice in Niagara Falls and practiced dentistry for the next 40 years. He also was a clinical associate professor in the Department of Removable Prosthetics at the UB School of Dental Medicine from 1971 to 1977. In retirement, he pursued his passions for photography, painting watercolors, woodworking and sailing.

Milton Stern, '47, of Williamsville, N.Y. died Nov. 21, 2007 in the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care in Cheektowaga, N.Y. He was 83. An orthodontist, he had a practice for more than 50 years in Kenmore and Williamsville. After earning his DDS, he served the Seneca Nation while he practiced general dentistry. He later completed a postdoctoral program in orthodontics at the University of Pennsylvania. Stern served as president of Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity.

Roy J. Stelzle, '53, of Williamsville, N.Y. died March 25, 2007. He was a member of the Eighth District Dental Society since 1954.

Making smiles in Texas

Kerry Ragbir, '06—Last summer, fresh out of dental school at the University at Buffalo, Kerry Ragbir fulfilled a longtime dream of starting a dental practice. Because of its booming growth, he chose San Antonio.

Since then, Dr. Ragbir has tripled the value of his dental practice.

Now, Ragbir says, it's time to give something back. Like other dentists before him, Ragbir will reach out to the city's poor by offering free dental service on the second Saturday of each month, beginning this Saturday. Patients will be seen at his office at 4871 Fredericksburg Road from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on a first-come, first-served basis. They'll also be held to an honesty policy: though Ragbir won't ask for proof, only indigent cases are welcomed. "I'm doing this because it's the right thing to do," he said. "There are people here who need help."

Ragbir's motivation is rooted in his history. The son of a tobacco industry worker, he grew up poor on the island of Trinidad in the Caribbean. Ragbir, 29, moved to America in 1997 when he joined the Navy. He was trained to become a dental technician and used his GI bill toward his bachelor's degree. "Everybody else was partying and I was busy studying calculus and physics," he said. Ragbir applied and was accepted to dental school, where he completed his coursework nine months early.

Ragbir said his mission is to improve access to dental care for underserved families in San Antonio; he hopes to inspire other dentists to do the same.

About eight months ago, a janitor at his practice had an abscess that he offered to treat for free. She was grateful, he said, but he felt good for providing the service. Then, he watched Michael Moore's latest documentary, "Sicko," which explores how many Americans don't have access to even basic health care. "I'm not a fan of Michael Moore, but once I got this idea in my head, I couldn't get it out," Ragbir said.

Evelina Stephenson, executive director of the San Antonio District Dental Society, said there are clinics that offer free and low-cost dental assistance and that dentists are known to help in their own ways. "It's not unheard of at all for a dentist to provide free care on a routine basis. Most of our dentists in San Antonio offer free care in various ways. To set aside four hours is a little bit of a different approach than what other dentists would take. We applaud his efforts."

So, what will Ragbir do when he gets overwhelmed with people who want free service? "As much as I can," Ragbir answers. "I'm not superman, but I can make a difference." And how long does he plan to continue offering free service?

"As long as I have a license to practice."

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