

# UBDentist

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

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## RENOVATED CLINICS

PUT DENTAL SCHOOL ON

THE CUTTING EDGE | PG. 8



# RENOVATED CLINICS

PUT DENTAL SCHOOL ON

STORY BY GROVE POTTER

THE CUTTING EDGE





## WHEN DENTAL SCHOOL ALUMNI TOUR THE REMODELED CLINICS IN SQUIRE HALL, THEIR REACTION IS SUDDEN AND POWERFUL: ASTONISHMENT.

Bright, modern and on the cutting edge of dental technology, the clinics catapult the school into the future of dental education and take the patient experience to an entirely new level.

In addition to the much improved aesthetics, “work flows are better, and more technology has been brought in,” said Dr. Eugena Stephan, associate dean for clinical affairs. “It makes us able to provide state-of-the-art care rapidly, without having to go get equipment and bring it in. It’s there.”

The latest improvements started in 2018 with completion of the B-30 clinic, where second-year students develop their manual skills. They continued through reconstruction of the post-doc clinic where four specialties train, to the recently opened Buhite-DiMino Center for Implant Dentistry and Advanced Dental Education.

Stephan said the renovations are part of the normal evolution of the dental school. “If you don’t evolve, you’re not providing optimal education to your students and care to your patients.” Also, the facilities help recruit faculty and students, she said.

Still to come are renovations of the orthodontic clinic and creation of a special needs clinic, which Stephan calls “the next big wave.”

Here is a rundown of what has been done thus far:

### The B-30 Clinic

Located in the basement, the B-30 Clinic is where D2’s spend most of their time. Open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m., it is brightly lit with spacious work sites. Students take several “hand skills-based courses” where they learn “direct dentistry, indirect dentistry, removable, implant dentistry and endodontics,” said Dr. Joseph DeLuca, director of Pre-Clinical Simulation Facility.

The spacious workplaces, each with an extra chair for a professor, are equipped with large television screens where students can watch professors perform live demonstrations or review earlier procedures. “When I was a student, we used

overhead projectors and hand drawings,” he said. “Now we have 3D videos and demos. Every live demo we do in class, every student has a perfect view of it.”

The clinic has a scanning center and a CAD-CAM design center for making crowns.

“At the end of second year, they go from hand skills to patient care. The basic skills and the fundamental blocks are learned in this space,” DeLuca said.

## The Post-Graduate Clinic

Located on the first floor, the clinic serves dentists working in Implant, Prosthodontics, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Periodontics, and Endodontics. Also very well lit and spotless, the operatories have higher dividers in between, creating more patient privacy, said Dr. Joe Rumfola, '02, AEGD director.

“I’m sure we are going to get a lot of additional interest in our program just because of the way it looks physically,” he said. “This area is now state-of-the-art. I have not seen anything better anywhere else.”

Technology upgrades include more digital dentistry, intra-oral scanners, a magnifying 3D camera device called Mora Vision, a new laser, more lab space and a digital X-ray sensor.

But Rumfola said the most impactful benefit is the proximity to other specialists. “By moving all of these clinics to the same floor, it is a whole lot easier to interact with other faculty or other residents,” he said. “That benefits everybody. The programs, certainly the patients, and the residents get to learn from each other.”

## The Buhite-DiMino Center for Implant Dentistry and Advanced Dental Education

Formally opened in April 2023, the clinic is focused primarily on surgical procedures to allow patients to receive dental implants, said Dr. Sebastiano Andreana, MS Oral Sci. '95, who oversees the clinic. The ultra-modern workstations and cleanliness make it feel like a hospital operating room.

The bone augmentation procedures done in the clinic can involve drawing blood from the patient, spinning it in a centrifuge to separate the healing factors, and then combining those with bone graft material to speed the healing and bone mineralization process. All of that is done within the clinic operating rooms.



“Our residents are trained to draw blood. Our assistants are trained to spin the blood in centrifuges,” he said.

Graduate students in Periodontics, Prosthodontics, AEGD and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery work in the clinic, which offers anesthesia and sedation. The clinic also teaches the use of lasers in biopsies, trimming and transplanting gum material and stimulating healing.

### » We’ve made some incredible updates



Pre-Clinic | Before



After



**“THIS AREA IS NOW STATE-OF-THE-ART. I HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING BETTER ANYWHERE ELSE.”**  
 — JOE RUMFOLA, AEGD DIRECTOR



“We went from one room upstairs, to two rooms, to three rooms upstairs ... and finally, that’s when Dr. Robert Buhite Jr. said, ‘Let’s build a center for implant and advanced procedures,’” he said. “It has been a significant improvement for the school and also for the dental community. We have international programs bringing their students here.”

The center was built using a \$2 million donation from The Frank DiMino Foundation. Mr. DiMino was a longtime patient of Dr. Buhite, who was a pioneer in Implant Dentistry. Dr. Andreana called the clinic, “Dr. Buhite’s dream ... In April, some alumni were walking through and they were just stunned by what UB has been able to accomplish.”

**What’s next**

Dr. Stephan said the dental school remains focused on preparing and anticipating the future, “and not locking ourselves into the present ... We need to be making sure it’s evidence-based and not jumping on every trend, that you are providing what’s been shown to be the best care and the most modern care.”

The Joseph and Stephanie Mucha Patient Welcome Center in the lobby “has been an improvement that has changed our workflow for patients,” she said. “That’s been great. It’s a different philosophy in how you run the clinics.” That will be followed by renovations of the orthodontics clinic, creation of the special needs clinic, renovated lobbies on the second and third floors, and a new pediatric clinic on the third floor.

“The momentum comes from the demand of the students,” she said. “You want to be the best you can be. We have a lot of faculty with a lot of pride, and we don’t want to offer a mediocre product, not to our students and not to our patients. We want to give them the best.” **UBD**



Post-Grad Clinic | Before



After



Welcome Center | Before



After