



UB DENTIST

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE SUMMER 2012

STRIKING A PAGE 12 CHORD

EXPLORE THE MUSICAL SIDE OF SDM'S
FACULTY, STAFF AND ALUMNI



CHET GARY

I'd come home for summers, I was in a band that Al Tinney and another gentleman directed. It was a big band called the Al Tinney Bilal Abdallah Big Band, but since we practiced in the basement of a building at Main and Utica, we affectionately referred to ourselves as the cellar rats," he says.

Despite the hectic schedule of dental school, Boyd earned a living playing music seven nights a week and sometimes twice a day on weekends. It was actually his DMD degree that got him kicked out of one band. "The first and only band I ever got fired from, the guys got together and decided I wasn't going to work out because I was graduating from dental school and they thought that was going to be the end of the music for me," he recalls, laughing. He got picked up by a jazz fusion band shortly after being voted out.

Over the years, Boyd has expanded his bass repertoire. "I am an exclusively bass-playing guy. I play the four-, five- and six-string fretted and fretless electric basses, and string bass, and I play pretty much most styles," he says. He now plays a hybrid version, an electric upright bass, which isn't as large as the orchestral version and also eliminates the feedback problems that can occur with an upright bass at high volumes.

On a recent Friday, after finishing up a full day of submitting grades and overseeing cases in clinic, Boyd headed off to the Wegmans in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood, where he was playing a gig with Rey Scott and Friends, one of several bands he's in. "We play jazz that is a little bit obtuse, slightly free-form," he explains.

In addition to his bands, Boyd also enjoys performing in a chamber orchestra with his 11-year-old son, who is turning heads with his proficiency with the half-size bass.

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Hall at the Eastman School of Music. We rehearse every Monday morning under the leadership of Dr. Alan Woy, who is a retired professor of music from the Crane School of Music. The ensemble is composed of 25 to 30 retired clarinetists from all different backgrounds.

ROGER W. TRIFTSHAUSER, '61

I played trumpet and bass drum for the Alexander, N.Y., Firemen's Band, 30 parades a summer in the '50s. That's how JoAnn and I met (she played the trombone). You might say our romancing days started on a musical note and from those renditions has followed 53 years of marriage. As well, I played for the UB ROTC Marching Band from 1954 to '57.

The fabled dental Class of '61's triumphant entries at each of its five-year class reunions, our 50th just celebrated, was always led



by a band. Over the past many years, the Barroom Buzzards were chosen to lead the parade as we waved our "YOUNG ONCE, IMMATURE FOREVER" class motto signs. By the way, one of the Buzzards played in the ROTC Band with me. This Dixieland tradition was my doing because I always harkened back to the parades in the '50s and the desire of our class to stride our stuff before our dental school colleagues. It was a smash hit!

RICHARD R. O'CONNOR, '64

I have played the bagpipes for the past 14 years. I initially played pipes with the Caledonian Pipe and Drum Band. More recently, I have been playing with the Erie County Sheriff's Irish Pipe and Drum Band. My first march was in April 2002 at the Tartan Day Parade in New York City. Thousands of pipers from all over the

RICHARD R. O'CONNOR, '64, RIGHT, PICTURED OUTSIDE HOLYROOD CASTLE IN SCOTLAND.

BARRY WOOD, '66, SPORTING HIS SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND UNIFORM OUTSIDE THE OLD ARCHBOLD STADIUM.



world marched in honor of 9/11, with Sean Connerly and Mayor Bloomberg in the lead. A few years later, I marched with the Caledonians in Scotland, the highlight of which was marching with thousands of pipers, again from all over the world, in Edinburgh. The parade ended at Holyrood Palace with a stirring rendition of "Amazing Grace."

BARRY F. WOOD, '66

In dental school, my studies prevented me from playing much trombone. After my orthodontic training, I enlisted in the USAF and was assigned to Eielson AFB in Fairbanks, Alaska. The musical highlight for me during those two and a half years was playing in the Dixieland band The Dixie North Five. It was a perfect combination of talented musicians, and we were in constant demand. I also played in the Fairbanks Symphony,

TOUCHING HEARTS, A SONG AT A TIME

For staff member Jill Uebelhoer, music is a way for her to touch the listener's heart, the way Barry Manilow and Barbra Streisand did when she was a child. Their records inspired her to begin singing at age 7 and, despite an absence of formal training, Uebelhoer has developed an enchanting voice.

"It's all about feelings," she says. "People ask if I get nervous and I do just before I go on stage. But when I get up there, I transform. I feel like a storyteller through music. You feel like an actor up there and you sing the song the way the writer intended it to be. I just like to relate to people and

get them to feel what I'm feeling when I sing."

Having performed at wedding ceremonies and in the annual SDM talent show, Uebelhoer is looking to take a big step by sending audition

tapes to the hugely popular NBC shows "The Voice" and "America's Got Talent," and has already sent a tape to "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

Others in the dental school see something of a correlation between music and dentistry. "They've helped me interchangeably—music has helped my dentistry and dentistry helps my music. Doing both has improved my skills at both," says Chester Gary, '78, JD, from restorative dentistry.



UEBELHOER



CENTRAL GROOVE

Gary took seven years of lessons in classical violin before he taught himself how to play the guitar in the 1960s and how to incorporate the violin into rock music à la Charlie Daniels Band. In college, Gary used music as an outlet to earn an income by performing in coffeehouses and local colleges and high schools. After stints with Jade and then the Party Time Band, Gary joined the band Essence, with Kate Engler as the vocalist. The band made two original records and sold several thousand copies.

Gary stepped away from the band to go into dental practice. Later, he joined the Cheektowaga Symphony, for which he played second violin during the 1980s. Since then, he's been performing at area coffeehouses and clubs.

In addition, Gary plays guitar, violin and does vocals with the Central Groove, a contemporary rock band that includes three other dentists: vocalist Katherine A. Coster-Burgler, '04, a private practitioner; keyboardist Joseph Modica, '82, a private practitioner; and guitarist John J. Nasca, '87, a private practitioner and clinical instructor in SDM's Department of Restorative Dentistry. He also performs occasionally with Boyd, and has performed in the annual SDM talent show with Hatton.

For Gary, music has provided an enriching outlet of expression and creativity not available within the confines of dentistry.

"I still maintain now that I wouldn't want to give up music because it makes me a better professional and a better person because of the ability to express myself," he says. "Music just opens up doors. I can help people in a different way and communicate with them in a different way. It's a universal language." It's a language in which the folks around Squire Hall are quite fluent.



ALFRED W. HOLLIS, '99

AL HOLLIS, '99, LEFT, WITH FRANK SCANNAPIECO, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF ORAL BIOLOGY, CIRCA 1996. HOLLIS PLAYS BASS GUITAR WITH HERMANOS DIABLOS, A HARD ROCK/HEAVY METAL BAND THAT PERFORMS IN THE GLENS FALLS, N.Y., AREA.

which consisted of musicians that ranged from an eighth-grade oboist to a world-class Russian violinist.

We moved to the Chicago area last year. I enjoy playing trombone with my son, Chris, and with our retirement community's Dixieland band. Music has been very important in my life. It is a wonderful avocation, but I am grateful that dentistry was my vocation!

BARTON L. NECKERS, '81

Besides singing in the shower and in the car, I sing bass in the Park United Methodist Choir in the community of North East, Pa. I also play trumpet in the Park Brass. Although the members have changed over the years, we generally have about eight members and play brass ensemble music for church services and an annual Memorial Day observance that includes several Sousa marches and tunes related to military service. It helps fill my life with things other than dentistry.

As far as a musical memory from dental school, I recall our class having an occasional "Gong Show." Students put together various skits to entertain one another. The main focus was to make fun of the instructors who we felt were making our lives difficult. Music stretches our imaginations and lifts our hearts.

JONATHAN P. MONTAG, '00

I've been a drummer since the third grade. I've been playing in bands since sixth grade and hope to one day play in one again! Unfortunately, I wasn't able to play much during my time in Buffalo, as dental school demanded so much time, but the minute I graduated I took out one last loan and bought a new drum set. I chose to do my residency in Chicago because a few of my former band members were there and throughout my year we would occasionally jam and record music. After residency, I moved to the Albany, N.Y., area and immediately found a band. We

played mostly cover songs. After the band broke up, I met my wife, scratch-started a dental practice and now have a 16-month-old son, Sawyer (named partially after "Tom Sawyer" by Rush). After about a six-year break from drumming, I purchased two sets of drums, began to take lessons again from a patient of mine and plan on looking for a band soon. And after my wife, Jill, divorces me, I should have PLENTY of time to play gigs! :)