RIDE alumni are fervently devoted to their program’s mission: boosting access to care in rural and underserved Washington.
School welcomes its new dean

Dr. André Ritter, formerly Professor and Chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care at the New York University College of Dentistry, assumes our School’s leadership.

New leadership roles

A realignment of our leadership team by outgoing Dean Gary Chiodo includes new roles for Dr. Ricardo Schwedhelm, Dr. Natasha Flake, Dr. Whasun Oh Chung, and Dr. Donald Chi.

Campaign for Clinics enters new phase

The “Imagine Our Future” fund-raising drive now turns to an expansion and renovation of the D-1 Simulation Clinic.

More help for veterans

The Everyone for Veterans at the UW program plans to expand its mission to serve not only combat veterans but other veterans in need too.

Moments

As live events make their return, so does our Moments photo gallery, with shots of Hooding, the White Coat Ceremony, the Dean’s Club Dinner, and more.

Cover feature: RIDE to the Rescue

Fourteen years after its inception, our Regional Initiatives in Dental Education program is producing a steady stream of dentists to Washington’s rural and underserved communities struggling with access to care.
DentalAlumninews

Online: dental.washington.edu/alumni-friends/connect/magazine/

DENTISTRY ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS STAFF

ALUMNI RELATIONS AND ADVANCEMENT

RANDY NEWQUIST Award Recipient, Advancement, and External Affairs Phone: (206) 616-0716 Email: randyn@uw.edu

DOUG DAY Associate Director of Advancement Phone: (206) 543-6407 Email: ddaydoug@uw.edu

DEBBIE KIBBEY Assistant Director of Advancement Phone: (206) 616-2088 Email: debbiek@uw.edu

SARAH MARTIN Coordinator Phone: (206) 616-0700 Email: ss55@uw.edu

COMMUNICATIONS

STEVE STEINBERG Director of Communications Phone: (206) 616-0827 Email: stsl@uw.edu

JETHRO SWAIN Social Media Manager Phone: 206-543-5448 Email: jethroswain2@gmail.com

CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION

SALLY GEE Director of Continuing Dental Education Phone: (206) 616-2099 Email: salgy@uw.edu

JOY PARK Program Coordinator, Continuing Dental Education Phone: (206) 221-2636 Email: joy@uw.edu

ADVANCEMENT PHONE:
(206) 685-9350 or (866) 550-2977
ALUMNI PHONE: (206) 543-7237
ALUMNI FAX: (206) 616-6269
ALUMNI NEWS: dentalnews@uw.edu
CDE PHONE: (206) 543-6448

DENTAL ALUMNI NEWS EDITORIAL OFFICES

University of Washington School of Dentistry Box 357177 Seattle, WA 98195-7137

EDITOR: Steve Steinberg ASSISTANT EDITOR: Sarah Martin CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Jethro Swain DESIGN: UW Creative Communications

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DentalAlumninews FALL 2022

Alumni President’s Message

Hello, fellow Husky dental alumni!

I would like to introduce myself as I begin my two-year term as your UW Dental Alumni Association president. I am a proud alumnus of our Class of 2011, for which I also held the honor of being class president and now represent on the Dental Alumni Association Board of Trustees.

I am a Husky through and through, having earned my BS in biology at the UW, and I graduated from Bellevue High School. During dental school, I often heard about the importance of giving back to the community. That message resonated deeply with me; before entering our School of Dentistry, I helped start and then managed a free dental clinic in Seattle’s Northgate neighborhood that served uninsured and low-income King County residents.

Now that live events are back in play, I look forward to meeting you all. I am pleased and excited to have the opportunity to support our School and the University’s dental education mission.

Your support of our School and the University is the key to our success. Your contributions provide more than $40,000 in annual scholarship funding. Second, consider becoming a member of our affiliate UW Alumni Association Board. Our Board supports UW’s flagship programs and initiatives.

We need each and every one of you as we support school activities and provide more than $40,000 in annual scholarship funding. Second, consider becoming a member of our affiliate faculty if you are not one already. I can promise you that it is one of the most rewarding work you can do – and our wonderful students have a way of really keeping you on your toes!

Finally, please think about a gift to our Campaign for Clinics (see page 11). The campaign has already done much to revitalize our facilities, but a great deal remains to be done – renovation and expansion of the D-1 simulation clinic, creation of a new Center for Digital Dentistry, and much more. We have an enviable worldwide reputation, but we cannot move forward while standing still.

Now that live events are back in play, I look forward to meeting you and talking with you over the next couple of years. It is a privilege to be your president, and a point of immense pride to be part of the UW School of Dentistry community.

OLEG SHVARTSUR ’11

UW Dental Alumni Association President
Our team is here for you

Our Office of Advancement, Alumni Services, and Continuing Dental Education works to help you support and stay informed about our School of Dentistry, connect with one another, and assist you in your professional development. We’re always happy to hear from you!

**Randy Newquist**
Assistant Dean of Advancement and External Affairs
206-616-0716
randyn@uw.edu

Randy, who has been at the UW since 1986, was our longtime Director of Alumni Services before becoming Assistant Dean in early 2018 and leading our office. He oversees our School’s fund-raising operations and also remains closely involved in Dental Alumni Association activities.

**Doug Day**
Assistant Director of Advancement
206-543-6017
daydoug@uw.edu

Doug started at our School in 2016 after extensive experience in corporate sales and working with non-profits in fund-raising and philanthropy. He assists our alumni, faculty, and friends in their philanthropy with a focus on major gifts and planned giving, and also helps alumni to increase their level of engagement with the School.

**Debbie Knight**
Assistant Director of Advancement
206-616-0986
debbiek@uw.edu

Debbie joined our team in July 2020, a few years after relocating from the East Coast. She brings extensive experience in alumni relations and fund-raising to our School. While in NYC, Debbie worked at NYU School of Law and also Ramaz College in positions centered around donor engagement, fund-raising, stewardship, and alumni relations.

**Sarah Martin**
Advancement Coordinator
206-616-0938
smartin@uw.edu

Sarah came to us in 2019 a few months after starting at the UW in Gift Services. Before that, she spent 10 years at the Kansas Historical Society in her home state, managing the National Register of Historic Places program. An architectural historian and public historian by training, she also worked part time as a consulting historian throughout King County. In our office, her roles include tracking gift activity, managing donor lists, supporting fund-raisers, and more.

**Steve Steinberg**
Director of Communications
206-616-0827
sstein@uw.edu

Steve joined us from the Seattle Times in 2008 after 15 years as a professional journalist, editing and writing for national magazines and newspapers including The Dallas Morning News. He writes for and edits the Dental Alumni News, posts material on our School’s website and social media, works with news media, produces videos, and assists the Dean’s Office with communication.

**Sally Gee**
Director of Continuing Dental Education
206-616-0990
sallyg@uw.edu

Sally started at our School in 2002 working for Pediatric Dentistry, then moved to CDE a year later. She lived in France for nearly two years after graduating from the UW, then came home and worked for a printing software firm. As CDE director, she plans new courses, maintains accreditation, oversees marketing, and develops course ideas based on industry needs, participant requests, and dental organization partnership possibilities.

**Joy Park**
Assistant Director, Continuing Dental Education
206-221-2636
joy22385@uw.edu

Joy started with us as a UW student assistant majoring in anthropology in 2001, then became a CDE temp, then a full-time office assistant, and now program coordinator. She assists in CDE program planning, dealing with logistical details and compiling course materials, and monitors the CDE registration system.

**Jethro Swain**
Social Media Manager
206-543-5448
swainj@uw.edu

Jethro joined our team in the spring of 2021 as a UW senior majoring in Journalism and Public Interest. Since graduating, he has continued to work with our team to expand the School’s social media presence. Jethro manages the School’s Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, and writes stories for the Dental Alumni News and posts for the School’s website.

The Dean’s Corner

Honored and humbled by this opportunity

It is an honor to address you as the incoming Dean of the University of Washington School of Dentistry. I welcome the opportunity to introduce myself, as well as to briefly outline my vision for the future of our School.

First, a little bit about myself. I was born and raised in a small countryside town in the state of Santa Catarina (SC) in southern Brazil. The state, which borders Argentina to the west, has approximately 37,000 square miles (half of Washington) and 7.5 million people (similar to Washington).

After completing my pre-university education, I enrolled in and completed dental school at the prestigious Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), in Florianópolis, SC. At the time (1987), this was the only dental school in the state. Nowadays, there are 10 schools in SC, and over 400 in Brazil!

Upon graduating from dental school, I practiced dentistry in several public and corporate-sponsored settings as a general dentist, treating a wide range of patients from school-age children to adults and the elderly. After a few years I also started a small private dental practice in my hometown. In 1995 I moved to Florianópolis to join the faculty at UFSC as a part-time adjunct professor in the Department of Operative Dentistry, and from that point on I have always been involved with dental education in one way or another.

In 1997 I joined the University of North Carolina (UNC) graduate program in Operative Dentistry in Chapel Hill. Upon completing the program at UNC, I was hired as a full-time assistant professor on the tenure track in 2000. I achieved tenure in 2006 and had many roles at UNC, including graduate program director, department chair, and vice dean. I left UNC in 2019 for New York University. At NYU I was chair of their largest academic department, Cariology and Comprehensive Care, until the summer of 2021. Along the way, in addition to an MSD in operative dentistry from UNC, I completed an MBA program with concentration in health care management at Northeastern University, and a PhD (a long-standing and protracted goal) at Universidade Positivo in Curitiba, Brazil.

All of these life and professional experiences have prepared me for the next phase of my career, which is to work with all of you and the Washington dental community in leading the School of Dentistry in its next phase. As you know very well, our School is widely recognized as one of the top programs in the country and indeed in the world. The School has a strong foundation steeped in research, clinical care, education, and service. I look forward to continuing to build on that foundation, further elevating the School’s reputation as a center of excellence in oral health education, the delivery of care for all people, and oral and craniofacial research.

I look forward to having the opportunity to meet you in person over the next several months. One of my goals as I take on this new position is to be very visible, visiting you in your offices, participating in alumni events, meetings, etc. I also want to extend a standing invitation for you to visit our School, tour our facilities, and meet our wonderful faculty, staff, and students.

I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to lead such a prestigious program. We face a multitude of challenges, but our future is bright! With your support we will continue to reposition our School into a strong trajectory of growth,burnishing our reputation as a leader in dental education, comprehensive and specialized oral health care delivery, and oral and craniofacial research.
WE'RE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU.

When was the last time you dropped us a note about what you've been up to? That long, huh?

Your classmates want to know. So take a few minutes and send us an email or snail mail. Tell us about career, family, retirement, travels, hobbies, marriages, kids, awards, honors...whatever you'd like to share. Photos are always great, too!

EMAIL: randyn@uw.edu
REGULAR MAIL: Dental Alumni News, Box 357137, Seattle, WA 98195-7137

Dr. André Ritter named dean

Dr. André Ritter of the New York University College of Dentistry has been appointed as the new dean of our School of Dentistry, UW Provost Mark Richards announced on June 30. The appointment was effective Sept. 16.

Dr. Ritter succeeds Dean Gary Chiodo, who said last September that he intended to step down for health reasons but would stay on until a new dean was chosen. Dean Chiodo came to the school in 2018 after serving on the faculty of the Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry, including a two-year stint as interim dean.

At NYU, Dr. Ritter was a professor and chaired the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care. From 2018 to 2019, he was executive dean of the University of North Carolina’s Adams School of Dentistry. At both schools, he maintained a private dental faculty practice. At our School, he holds the rank of Professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry.

“The UW School of Dentistry is widely recognized as one of the top programs in the country and indeed in the world,” he said. “The school has a strong foundation steeped in research, clinical care, education, and service. Under the leadership of [UW] President [Ana Mari] Cauce and Provost Richards, I look forward to continuing to build on that foundation, further enhancing the school’s reputation as a center of excellence in oral health education, the delivery of care for all people, and oral and craniofacial research.”

“With Dr. Ritter’s impressive record of leadership in the clinical realm, we are confident that he will continue to improve the School of Dentistry’s facilities and revenue models and advance the school’s long-term financial picture,” Provost Richards said. “Throughout the interview process, Dr. Ritter expressed his commitment to strengthening the UW dental community, both within and beyond the University, and we look forward to supporting his work in that.”

At NYU, Dr. Ritter led 300 faculty members and oversaw staffing at all dental clinics and 14 group practices. He promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion through open forums and training, and he directed his department’s responses to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that students met requirements for graduation and promotion.

At UNC, his responsibilities included overseeing a $70 million operating budget as well as information technology, facilities and infrastructure, faculty development, clinical compliance and infection control, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. He also chaired the UNC Department of Operative Dentistry from 2014 to 2017.

Dr. Ritter earned his DDS from Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil, an MS in operative dentistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an MBA in health-care administration from Northeastern University in Boston, and a PhD from Universidade Positivo in Brazil. His research interests include diagnosis and management of tooth decay, conservative/minimally invasive restorative dentistry, esthetics, dental adhesion, and composite resin applications.

“Dentistry is rapidly evolving, and schools and programs have to adapt and innovate to be successful,” Dr. Ritter said. “To lead the UWSD to further elevate its status as a leader in global oral health-care education, innovation, research, and care delivery, and doing so while advancing the mission of one of the world’s preeminent public universities, is an unparalleled opportunity.

“It is also vital to our success that we strengthen the School of Dentistry community, both within and outside of the university. As a dean, I will dedicate myself to fostering a culture of respect, enhanced communication and transparency, valuing diversity and inclusion, and recognizing the need for balance and well-being in our community.”

Dean Chiodo came to the UW at a time when the dental school faced a critical financial challenge, with a cumulative debt exceeding $36 million after a series of substantial annual deficits. He quickly brought the school’s finances under control and put the budget in the black every year of his tenure. He also launched a Campaign for Clinics fund-raising drive to update the school’s aging infrastructure and add the new technology that students must master to practice in today’s dental profession.

Under his leadership, the school also hosted the relocation of the highly regarded Shoreline Community College dental hygiene program, which is being expanded to help address a critical shortage in the state’s dental workforce.
School revamps leadership team

As outgoing Dean Gary Chiodo prepared to wind down his tenure this spring, he announced a series of changes in our School’s executive leadership team, appointing one new associate dean and moving another into a new role.

Dr. Ricardo Schwedhelm of the Department of Restorative Dentistry, who had been Associate Dean for Clinics, moved into a new role as Associate Dean for Infrastructure and Development. “This position is increasingly important as we strategically plan for continued renovation of our preclinical, clinical, and research facilities; begin use of the new Health Sciences Education Building; and work with the other Health Sciences deans and UW Facilities to plan for T-wing renovation,” Dean Chiodo said.

A key part of Dr. Schwedhelm’s work will involve planning and developing a new Center for Digital Dentistry, a central component of the School’s Campaign for Clinics: Imagine Our Future campaign (see page 11). He will also play a central role as the School continues exhaustive preparations for re-accreditation by the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation, Dean Chiodo said, and will continue to lead the School’s quality assessment and improvement efforts.

Dr. Natasha Flake (Endo ’07), who is Predoctoral Director of Endodontics and Associate Director of the Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) program, became Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Operations. In this capacity, she will assume many of the duties previously held by Dr. Schwedhelm. In addition, she will lead strategic development for predoctoral clinical programs and operations. She will oversee the Office of Clinical Services, donor and legislative outreach, and coordination with other UW units. She will also continue her duties with the Department of Endodontics, our School’s third-year predoctoral clinical clerkships, and RIDE.

Not long after the executive leadership moves were announced, more changes were instituted after Dr. Doug Ramsay signaled his intent to take a sabatical and step down from his roles as Associate Dean for Research and Chair of the Department of Oral Health Sciences.

Dr. Whasun Oh Chung was named Acting Chair of the Department of Oral Health Sciences, which is one of the School’s primary research engines, while Dr. Donald Chi (’86) was named Associate Dean for Research. Dr. Ramsay will return to the Oral Health Sciences faculty after concluding his sabbatical.

Dr. Ramsay had essentially been doing double duty for three years, assuming the associate deanship after the retirement of Dr. Linda Leffels from that post in mid-2019. She had been Associate Dean for Research since 2011 and is now Professor Emerita in the Department of Oral Medicine.

“Dr. Ramsay has served admirably and with distinction in these roles and our School has benefited greatly from his leadership,” said Dean Chiodo.

Dr. Chung, who joined the School of Dentistry faculty in 2003, is Research Professor in the Department of Oral Health Sciences and Director of the Summer Research Fellowship (SURF) program. SURF offers UW dental students a chance to pursue research projects under the guidance of faculty members.

Dr. Chung received a PhD in pathobiology from the University of Washington and joined the faculty after serving for several years as a graduate research assistant, research associate, and senior fellow. She has mentored dozens of UW undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral students, many of whom have gone on to receive prominent recognition for their research. In 2020, she was named Associate Director of the School’s Office of Research. She has received several outstanding faculty awards and was named to the Omicron Kappa Upsilon national dental honorary society in 2012.

Dr. Chi, who joined our faculty in 2010, is Professor of Oral Health Sciences and holds the Lloyd and Kay Chapman Endowed Chair for Oral Health. He has an adjunct appointment in the UW School of Public Health as Professor and Associate Chair for Research, Health Systems, and Population Health.

After earning his DDS here, he served residencies in pediatric dentistry and dental public health at the University of Iowa. He received a PhD in health services research from Iowa in 2009. As a UW dental student, he played a key role in establishing a dental clinic for homeless teenagers at Neighborcare Health in Seattle’s Wallingford neighborhood.

He has received wide recognition for his research, including the 2017 Young Investigator Award from the International Association for Dental Research. In 2018, he was named Pediatric Dentist of the Year by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

“I am delighted that Drs. Chung and Chi have agreed to step into these essential roles, and I have complete confidence in them,” Dean Chiodo said. Their appointments took effect on July 1, when Dr. Ramsay’s sabbatical began.

Campaign for Clinics enters ambitious new phase

In 2017, Dr. Whasun Oh Chung was named Acting Chair of the School of Dentistry. Not long after the executive leadership moves were announced, more changes were instituted after Dr. Doug Ramsay signaled his intent to take a sabatical and step down from his roles as Associate Dean for Research and Chair of the Department of Oral Health Sciences.

Dr. Ramsay had essentially been doing double duty for three years, assuming the associate deanship after the retirement of Dr. Linda Leffels from that post in mid-2019. She had been Associate Dean for Research since 2011 and is now Professor Emerita in the Department of Oral Medicine.

“The Center for Digital Dentistry is a key component of the Campaign for Clinics,” Dean Chiodo said. It will be a discrete facility with equipment including intraoral scanners, computers and software, 3D printers, and milling machines.

“It’s not just a matter of putting in new machines and handing scavenging wands to the students,” he said. New curriculum must be built around the center and is expected to be based on requirements set forth by the Academy of Prosthodontics.

“One of the biggest challenges that the School has is the need to continuously adapt to the developments in technology and apply those to student education for clinical practice,” said Dr. Ricardo Schwedhelm, Associate Dean for Infrastructure and Development. “Digital dentistry will enhance the students’ spatial ability, interactivity, critical thinking, and clinical correlation with the integration of multiple dental disciplines. 3-D visualization will be helpful in tooth morphology for the fabrication of dental restorations.

“Digital dental technology is a valuable tool for dental students for their motor skill training, and interactive learning concepts with unlimited access and objective evaluation in preclinical teaching. There is also the need to teach students to be able to superimpose 3-dimensional radiography images for the fabrication of guided implant placement.”

As Dean Chiodo prepared for his Sept. 30 departure he said, “Not only do I have the confidence that we can do this, I know that our alumni and the dental community know that we must do this. We remain as one of the top-ranked dental schools in the nation and the world, and we are squarely on the path to making our clinical space and infrastructure look like that high acclaim.”

Want to know more? For more on the Campaign for Clinics or to discuss a gift, contact Randy Newquist at randy@uw.edu, Doug Day at daydoug@uw.edu, or Debbie Knight at debbiek@uw.edu.
Clinical trials begin for remineralization product

University of Washington researchers, including Dr. Sami Dogan of our Restorative Dentistry faculty, have begun clinical trials for an engineered peptide product that can rebuild tooth enamel and heal cavious lesions. Dr. Dogan said the investigators expected to finish their study of the first cohort of 14 volunteers in mid-September and would start work with a second cohort in mid-October.

The engineered peptide, initially formulated as a lozenge, can remineralize teeth and even repair damaged dentin or cementum. The researchers have also raised the possibility that it might even heal cavities in their early stages. It represents a step beyond fluoride treatments, which strengthen existing tooth enamel but do not add any.

The development of the product has stirred considerable interest, as evidenced by frequent inquiries about its progress on our School’s Facebook page.

The product is made up of a genetically engineered peptide — a chain of amino acids — along with phosphorus and calcium to form the mineral hydroxyapatite, the building block of tooth enamel faster and more efficiently than natural amelogenin.

Unlike fluoride, the engineered peptide product forms new tooth enamel. This is led by Dr. Mehmet Sarikaya, lead author and professor of materials science and engineering and adjunct professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Department of Oral Health Sciences. His journal co-authors included Dr. Dogan and Dr. Greg Huang, our Chair of Orthodontics, as well as Dr. Hanson Fong, a research scientist in the UW Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and Deniz Yucesoys, then a graduate student in the UW’s Genetically Engineered Materials Science and Engineering Center.

The researchers envision formulations including gels, pastes, and solutions that utilize the peptide along with the ions that form the mineral that mimics human tissues. It could be produced as an over-the-counter commercial product and as a professional treatment to be used in dental offices.

Dr. Sarikaya has said that his interest in remineralization was stirred by a suggestion from Dr. Martha Somerman when she was Dean of the School of Dentistry (2002-2011). Dr. Somerman, a prodigious researcher who left the deanship to become head of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, investigated cementum extensively in the course of her work.

Dr. Sarikaya and his colleagues studied data on more than 150 peptides and used bioinformatics to design amelogenin-derived peptides. That led them to a version that created enamel faster and more efficiently than natural amelogenin.

The research was funded by the Washington State Life Sciences Discovery Fund and our Department of Restorative Dentistry’s Spencer Fund.

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$100M education building set to open

The eagerly awaited ground-breaking of the new $100 million UW Health Sciences Education Building (HSEB) is expected in October, officials say. The construction team completed its work in July and turned the building over to the Health Sciences administration for final preparations.

The four-story, 100,000-square-foot facility holds classrooms for training in integrated patient care and will provide badly needed new space for our School of Dentistry’s didactic curriculum. The state picked up 70 percent of the cost, with the six Health Sciences schools sharing the rest, to be paid off in annual installments.

The HSEB boasts flexible spaces conducive to today’s teaching techniques and includes a variety of classroom sizes, high-tech facilities for computer simulation, mock treatment labs, and an Anatomy Lab Suite with virtual anatomy capabilities. Another feature is remote learning access for students and professionals in UW Medicine’s WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) regional education program. The building has plenty of student study areas, too.

When the project was conceived, the Health Sciences deans envisioned a building that would let students share ideas, images and projects in classrooms and in their working teams. The HSEB also has a library extension integrated into the main classroom floor to give students fast, easy access to important resources. The building is also convenient to all the Health Sciences schools, located on Pacific Street next to the sprawling Health Sciences complex.

The HSEB’s emphasis on interactivity reflects the evolution of health care. A half-century ago, the average healthy person was treated by three health-care professionals. Today, that number has climbed to 16. Integrated, collaborative treatment is the future of health care, and the HSEB is an important part of training the professionals who will provide it.

Naming opportunities

Naming opportunities are available in the new building. To learn more, contact Randy Newquist at randyn@uw.edu.
**Dr. Philip Walczak named Magnuson Scholar**

Dr. Philip Walczak, a second-year PhD candidate in our Department of Oral Health Sciences, has been named the School’s Magnuson Scholar for 2022-23.

Dr. Walczak, who received his DDS at the UW in 2021, is enrolled in the School’s DDS-PhD academic track and practices general dentistry at the Community Health Center of Snohomish County in Everett, Wash. He is one of the seven Magnuson Scholars named by the University of Washington this year.

The $34,000 awards, among the largest given by the university, go to at least one student at each of the six Health Sciences schools. (A seventh award was added this year.) Recipients are chosen on the basis of academic performance and potential for research in the health sciences.

“I am extremely grateful for the generous support provided by the Magnuson Scholar Program,” Dr. Walczak said. “I have looked up to the Scholars since I was an undergraduate and I am honored to now be selected as one.”

Dr. Walczak’s PhD project is a study of the role of PiT-2, a phosphate transporter, plays in bone and tooth development. His phosphate transporter studies have already won support from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), a division of the National Institutes of Health. NIDCR gave him a Ruth L. Kirchstein National Research Service Award grant to fund his pre-doctoral and PhD investigations.

The Magnuson Scholars program commemorates the late Sen. Warren G. Magnuson of Washington, a leading advocate of biomedical research who played a key role in establishing Medicare, Medicaid, and the National Institutes of Health.

**Student Awa Seck receives leadership award**

Dr. Awa Seck, who received her DDS at the UW in June, received one of the inaugural Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Leadership Awards in May.

The awards, created this year by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), went to a student at each North American dental school, based on these criteria:

- Participation in leadership activities
- Demonstration of effective leadership
- Advocacy for diversity, equity and inclusion
- Champion for access to oral health care for underserved and disadvantaged populations
- Community service-oriented
- Proclivity to enter dental education or organized dentistry

The award honors Dr. Sinkford, who was the first woman and African-American woman to become dean at a U.S. dental school. She became dean at Howard University in 1975 and served until 1991. A trailblazer in dental education, she has also served until 1991. A trailblazer in dental education, she has also

been an unwavering supporter of dental research and advocate for diversity and social justice. She is now dean emerita at the Howard University dental school and senior scholar in residence at ADEA.

Dr. Seck, who was president of the UW chapter of the Student National Dental Association (SNDNA), has received the Arcora Foundation Dr. Burton H. Goodman Presidential Scholarship and the International College of Dentists Dr. Frank Burns Guthrie Memorial Scholarship. She has been an active volunteer, including serving at a Covid-19 vaccination clinic in suburban Seattle last year. Also last year, she led SNDNA chapter members who joined members of the American Student Dental Association who provided dental care, information, and oral health supplies in Snohomish County in Everett, Wash. She became dean at Howard University in 1975 and served until 1991. A trailblazer in dental education, she has also

been an unwavering supporter of dental research and advocate for diversity and social justice. She is now dean emerita at the Howard University dental school and senior scholar in residence at ADEA.

In early testing, the research team recruited 30 patients between the ages of 10 and 18, with a median age of 15, at our Center for Pediatric Dentistry, since the enamel on children’s teeth is more susceptible to acid erosion.

The idea for the technology behind the device came from Dr. Eric Seibel, senior author and research professor of mechanical engineering in the UW College of Engineering, who initially worked on the project with our former Dean, Dr. Joel Berg.

According to Dr. Sadr, the future applications of the O-pH device could reduce the need for dental X-rays. “Instead of going to the dentist and getting X-rays annually, you could go to the dentist and get an Oral-pH scan, and it’s almost more meaningful,” said Dr. Sadr. “Our goal is to limit the amount of X-ray exposure to the patient, and I think this technology will help with that.”

**Acidity-measuring tool predicts caries**

In a new study, School of Dentistry and other University of Washington researchers have developed a tool that can measure acidity levels of plaque on teeth, which can predict dental caries.

The UW device, called an O-pH system, is a prototype that emits LED light which, when used on an FDA-approved chemical dye that patients apply to their teeth, measures the pH levels built up by bacteria in their plaque.

“What our system does is detect the pH of the tooth’s surfaces in order to predict when, or how, bacterial processes will take over,” said Dr. Alireza Sadr, a member of our Restorative Dentistry faculty and study co-author, “and to also determine the risk of each surface of developing caries.”

“Plaque has a lot of bacteria that produce acid when they interact with the sugar in our food,” said Manuja Sharma, a doctoral student from the UW Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and lead author of the study, in a UW News release. “This acid is what causes corrosion of the tooth surface and eventually cavities. So, if we can capture information about the acidic activity, we can get an idea of how bacteria are growing in the dental biofilm or plaque.”

“Instead of going to the dentist and getting X-rays annually, you could go to the dentist and get an Oral-pH scan, and it’s almost more meaningful. Our goal is to limit the amount of X-ray exposure to the patient, and I think this technology will help with that.”

**Dr. Alireza Sadr, Study Co-Author**

The prototype O-pH system measures the pH levels built up by bacteria in dental plaque.
$1.5M training grant will aid efforts to help state’s populations in need

A new $1.5 million, five-year federal training grant will give a major boost to our School's efforts to improve the oral health of vulnerable, underserved, and rural populations in Washington state. The Pipeline and Training for Health Professionals (PATH) grant comes from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. PATH funding aims to increase the number of dentists and dental hygienists in rural or underserved areas caring for patients with special health care needs through more clinical rotations and expansion of current health profession pipeline programs.

This initiative will enhance student rotations in caring for Washington patients with special health care needs in rural clinics through the work of Dr. Kimberly Espinoza, Director of the Dental Education in the Care of Persons with Disabilities (DECOD) program, and Dr. Anna Forsyth, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry. Key contributors to PATH include Dr. Amy Kim and Marilyn Rothen, along with Dr. Travis Nelson, Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, and Dr. Susan Coldwell, Associate Dean for Student Life and Admissions.

The PATH initiative will leverage our School's curricular strengths in caring for adults and children with special health care needs, with a focus on social determinants of health for vulnerable populations. These determinants are environmental conditions that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. They encompass five main areas:

- Economic stability
- Education access and quality
- Health care access and quality
- Neighborhood and built environment
- Social and community context

At our School, the PATH initiative builds upon a strong foundation of service to the underserved established by programs like RIDE and Early Childhood Oral Health Training (EchoTrain). “There are people out in these rural and underserved areas who may only have reasonable access to one dentist,” said Dr. Roberts, “so it’s extremely important that the general dentists in these areas have the skills to treat the majority of the patients that come through their doors with the care that they need and deserve.”

The School of Dentistry provides robust training in caring for children and adults with special health care needs through our strong curricula in Pediatric Dentistry and in DECOD. In each case, students work as providers. “Thanks to the PATH grant, training for treating people with special health care needs will be made available to all of our partners,” Dr. Roberts said.

“The Regional Initiatives team is really excited to implement this training and looking forward to collaborating with the DECOD clinical team. The goal is to get everyone access to proper oral health care, whatever that may look like, and this is a big step toward achieving that goal.”

DR. FRANK ROBERTS, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF GRANT

HELP BUILD OUR CRANIUM CAPACITY!

Thanks to our donors who have sent in more human skulls for instructional use at our School of Dentistry! Since our last issue, we’ve received skulls from Drs. Doug Leen (’79), Patrick Kinnter (’83), and Jan Diesenheim (’83).

The skulls are used in a School of Medicine pre-doctoral course on medical and dental anatomy, and also in a School of Dentistry postgraduate course on head and neck anatomy. They must be actual human specimens – not plastic – and in reasonably good condition, with no major parts missing or broken. Skulls should be sent to Dr. Kathy Rafferty of the Department of Orthodontics, 1959 N.E. Pacific St., Box 357446, Seattle, WA 98195. If a tax deduction is desired, donors should state the skull’s valuation of the skull in an email to kraff@uw.edu or in writing. Our School can then officially acknowledge the donation.

Two of our School’s most important initiatives in recent years have been expanding access to care in Washington and increasing opportunities for dental students from diverse backgrounds to come to the UW. And Dr. Alex Narvaez (’82) has been a key player in both.

As the longtime dental director for Sea Mar Community Health Centers, he oversees the oral health component of one of Washington’s largest providers of medical, dental, and behavioral services to underserved communities.

On the other front, he played an important part in helping to establish our School’s Sea Mar Community Health Centers Student Diversity Term Scholarship in 2018. It provides assistance to students who self-identify as Latinx or Hispanic or who come from underserved backgrounds, and Sea Mar has renewed its support for the scholarship for the next five years. Dr. Narvaez has also been a strong supporter of our Partners in Diversity program.

“Students are the best source to gain a strong understanding of their assets and their challenges. While time is limited, it is essential to develop a relationship with candidates as all students need to feel a sense of belonging to excel in school.”

Dr. Narvaez makes it clear that diversity is not merely a goal to be pursued for its own sake, worthy as it may be. There’s a tangible value to be realized by the institutions and businesses that take diversity to heart, he said.

“We believe that diversity in our workforce has made Sea Mar a stronger institution,” he said. “We have established a tradition to include people from underrepresented communities and those coming from generations of low-income status. This is one opportunity we can offer to them so they have the opportunity to improve their financial well-being and that of the next generation. Our expectation is that employees understand our mission to serve those in need and who only have few options to receive services or the assistance they need.”

Narvaez-Zavala gift supports new opportunity scholarship

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Dr. Marwan Fattouhi named Wands Fellow

All the signs pointed to a career in medicine for Marwan Fattouhi, the newest recipient of our School’s David H. Wands Fellowship in Graduate Prosthodontics. He’d be following a family tradition: his father, grandparents, and uncles were doctors. “I grew up being very influenced by the impact a health care provider can have on other people’s lives,” he says.

Nor were his early experiences with dentistry promising. In early adolescence, he got one of his first fillings at a public health clinic in Iraq that lacked dental anesthetics, and the dentist drilled without numbing him up. “I could still say with confidence that it is the most painful experience that I have experienced in my life,” the second-year resident says. It may not have turned him toward dentistry at that point, but it solidified his desire to pursue work in health care.

Yet his father’s work as an otolaryngologist made him question whether medicine was his true calling. The demands on his father’s time were endless. “So, as a child, I felt that I did not get the chance to spend much time with him because he was always busy treating other people,” he says. “I wanted to choose a branch in health care where I would have a better balance between family and patient care.”

Even so, when his family moved to Lebanon from Iraq in 2007, he studied zoology and entomology in college and was accepted into medical school there. He never started, however.

Instead, he and his family were offered the chance to migrate to the United States as refugees. Needing to establish new academic credentials, he spent two years in community college in Texas before earning a degree in cellular and molecular biochemistry at the University of Texas at El Paso. As he did so, he fell in love with research, and was especially intrigued by oral cancer.

Then he learned about a dual-track DDS-PhD program at the University of Texas dental school in San Antonio. He was accepted, and he was in for a surprise.

“When I did the DDS part of the program, I fell in love with the clinical aspect of dentistry and with interacting with patients and being able to use my first personal ‘bad’ dental experience to deliver the most comfortable and pleasing dental experiences to my patients,” he says. He decided to forgo the PhD.

After earning his DDS in 2018, Dr. Fattouhi worked as a general dentist in San Antonio, gaining more experience with different kinds of procedures and patients. And he made an important discovery: What truly fascinated and challenged him were prosthodontics cases.

“I aim to be a practitioner who is able to treat patients comprehensively,” he says, “and in order to do that, I believe that prosthodontic knowledge is a must.”

That led him to the UW, which his dental school mentors highly recommended as one of the nation’s best prosthodontics programs. He says he was less interested in cutting-edge technology than gaining a thorough grounding in the basics and traditional procedures. Our Graduate Prosthodontics program also works closely with Graduate Periodontics, an added inducement. “I want to learn more about interdisciplinary dental care in order to be able to manage complicated cases,” he says.

The Wands Fellowship, one of our School’s top academic awards, encourages recipients to devote at least part of their professional time to teaching. Dr. Fattouhi wants to start out splitting his time between private practice and academic dentistry, and he hopes to go on to build his own private clinic and eventually teach full time. He has already tutored other students throughout his academic career and served on the adjunct faculty at his dental alma mater after obtaining his degree.

“I think it is duty as clinicians and specialists to share our knowledge and experience with others because it helps others improve their patient care and, at the same time, it motivates us to continue to build on our knowledge,” he says.

Dr. Fattouhi received his DDS with honors in 1967 from the University of Maryland’s Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, then practiced for seven years with the U.S. Public Health Service. He later completed a graduate prosthodontics residency at the UW before joining the faculty, on which he served for 22 years as a part-time associate professor. Having originally established a similar fellowship at the University of Maryland, he initiated a second one at the UW in 1998 with a $500,000 gift.

He is a Life Member of the Academy of Prosthodontics and Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics. Now retired from private practice in Olympia, Wash., he is a master gardener and devoted saltwater and freshwater angler.

School seeks to broaden veterans treatment program

Entering its third year at our School of Dentistry, the Everyone for Veterans (E4V) at the UW program seeks not only to double the number of low-income combat veterans receiving treatment but to broaden the program to include all low-income veterans.

Founded in 2008 by Dr. Theresa Cheng of our Department of Periodontics, the E4V program has found a natural fit in our School’s clinics. “It is incredibly humbling and gratifying to have the support of all the donors in launching Everyone for Veterans at the UW,” said Dr. Cheng. “As we go into the third year of the program, we are proud to have the opportunity to transform the lives of even more veterans.”

Dr. Cheng founded E4V after she learned about a local Iraq war veteran who was gravely injured by an improvised explosive device. She quickly found that combat veterans did not receive dental benefits from the Veterans Administration unless they had a 100 percent service-connected disability rating, a requirement that nine out of 10 veterans do not meet.

Utilizing volunteer dentists from local communities, E4V has a network of more than 400 dentists to provide free treatment to low-income veterans across the United States. In the winter of 2020, Dr. Cheng brought her program to the School of Dentistry to recruit the help of third-year and fourth-year students and faculty from various departments to give veterans specialized treatment.

Over the past two years, there has been a national decrease in the number of veterans seeking medical and oral health services. Likely a result of the pandemic, both directly and indirectly, reaching the veteran population has been difficult. Now, however, with a rising number of veterans seeking oral health care, the School of Dentistry is ready to provide a greater scope of treatment options to more veterans.

“‘These funds help to get these heroes treated in our clinics and to provide important experiences for our students. We are deeply indebted to veterans, and this is one way in which we can provide meaningful thanks to them.’

OUTGOING DEAN GARY CHIODO

Helping our veterans

To donate to the Everyone for Veterans at the UW program, please call the Office of Advancement at 206-585-9330 or visit the website: giving.uw.edu/DentistryforVetsatUW

One of our School’s E4V patients, Jami K., is a Coast Guard veteran who served as a Fireman Apprentice, assisting in the maintenance, operation, and repair of shipboard electrical and propulsion systems. “Receiving care from the Everyone for Veterans Program at the UW has alleviated so much stress for me,” said Jami, whose last dental cleaning was in 2012. “If I didn’t have this opportunity, I just know that my teeth would have been much worse because I wouldn’t have been able to afford treatment. I can’t thank you enough!”

“It is gratifying to see the number of individuals who have made donations in support of the E4V program and the amount of support provided,” said outgoing Dean Gary Chiodo. “These funds help to get these heroes treated in our clinics and to provide important experiences for our students. We are deeply indebted to veterans, and this is one way in which we can provide meaningful thanks to them.”

- Jethro Swain
School maintains high global rankings

Our School of Dentistry maintained its No. 7 ranking among the world’s dental schools in the 2022 Global Ranking of Academic Subjects released in July by ShanghaiRanking.

Six of the seven top schools in dental and oral sciences were American, led by the University of Michigan at No. 1. ShanghaiRanking’s annual survey, conducted by researchers at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, is based heavily on research performance and reputation, as indicated by peer-reviewed journal citations and other metrics.

In April, the School of Dentistry ranked eighth in the United States and 23rd in the world in the annual survey by Britain’s Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) educational organization. In both the QS and ShanghaiRanking surveys, the school has consistently performed strongly in the last several years, rising as high as No. 3 globally.

Dean’s Club Dinner

Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle • May 7, 2022

After a two-year hiatus, the annual dinner returned this spring. In the course of a festive evening, Dr. David Turpin (Ortho ’66) received the Dean’s Club Honorary Lifetime Member award and Dr. Sherwin Shinn (’74) received the Distinguished Alumnus award. Other honorees were Courtney Lang (’22), who received the 2022 Johnny N. Johnson Student Leadership Award, and Joelle Moussi (’21) and Sam Snipes (’21), who belatedly shared the 2021 Johnson award. Outgoing Dean Gary Chiodo gave his final update on our School’s progress to the Dean’s Club and was rewarded with a standing ovation.

Dental Alumni News  FALL 2022

Editor’s note: With the return of live events, we’re delighted to resume the Moments photo gallery in the Dental Alumni News. In this issue, we’re featuring the Dean’s Club Dinner, the Hooding ceremony, the White Coat ceremony, the Scholarship Luncheon, the Honors and Awards ceremony, and other events.
Moments

Dean’s Club Dinner continued

Outgoing Dental Alumni Association President Jeremy Chaison (‘06, left) with Past President Jason Bourne (‘01) and Danica Bourne.

Faria and Sherwin Shinn and their son, Jim-Nasser

From left: Dean’s Club Past Presidents Mark Walker (‘77) and Dave Minahan (‘75) join Dave Wands (Grad Pros ‘72).

Philip Anderson (‘72)

Rick Taylor (Endo ‘88) and Frances Taylor.

Courtney Lang (left), Joelle Moussi, and Sam Snipes with their student leadership awards.

Associate Dean Sara Gordon (left) with Denise and Ricardo Schwedhelm.

Hooding

Meany Hall, UW main campus - June 4, 2022

It is, without a doubt, the happiest day of the academic year: the annual Investiture of Doctoral Hoods. Graduation Day had held a bittersweet tinge the two previous years when the pandemic foreclosed a live ceremony. This spring, however, the joy returned as a crowd of family members and friends poured into Meany Hall to see our Class of 2022 walk the stage and receive their diplomas. Associate Dean Sara Gordon filled in for Dean Gary Chiodo as host and Dr. Dolphine Oda, chosen by the students, delivered the keynote speech. Courtney Lang, class president, delivered remarks laced liberally with humor. The ceremonies included a poignant remembrance of classmate Tyson Demert, who died tragically in a plane crash during the Thanksgiving break in 2019.

The Class of 2022

Grad Images
Moments

Hooding continued

Dr. Dan Chan, a Hooding marshal, places the hood on Houston Butchcoe.

Class President Courtney Logan

The graduates left a gown and hood draped on an empty seat that would have gone to their late classmate, Tyson Dennert.

Edward Maisey Jr. gave a moving remembrance of his classmate and good friend.

White Coat Ceremony

Hogness Auditorium, UW Health Sciences • May 7, 2022

The annual ceremony, sponsored by our UW Dental Alumni Association, recognizes the rising third-year class as it moves to the clinical phase of its education. This year’s ceremony in May came a year late for the Class of 2023 because of the pandemic, but it was no less joyful – it’s a milestone for the whole family to celebrate. As always, the students received their white clinical coats and signed a pledge to abide by a code of professionalism and ethical conduct.

Photos by Tara Brown

Faculty on hand included (from left) Drs. Sangeetha Nadunachechian, Diane Daubert, Susan Coldwell, and Natasha Flake.
Moments

Scholarship Luncheon/ Honors and Awards Ceremony

UW South Campus Center • June 3, 2022

At these annual back-to-back events, scholarship awards are bestowed and donors acknowledged, and academic achievement is recognized. This year marked the addition of an important new scholarship: the Richard P. Ferguson Endowed Memorial Scholarship. The award, which went to Ena Shepard, was established in honor of one of the first Black students to matriculate at our School and the first to matriculate in the Graduate Orthodontics program. Dr. Ferguson, who passed away in 2017, had an outstanding career in dentistry and earned our Distinguished Alumnus Award.

First-year student retreat

Pack Forest • Week of July 25, 2022

Our first-year students enjoyed a chance to get acquainted in a relaxed setting in the foothills of Mount Rainier. They spent time with upperclass peer advisors managed by our faculty’s Dr. Cameron Randall, who facilitated exercises in team building and bonding as a class. There was plenty of time for fun and games.

New dean meets new students

Hogness Auditorium, UW Health Sciences • Aug. 5, 2022

At his first town hall meeting at our School, incoming Dean André Ritter (front row center) joins the Class of 2026.

Randy Newquist honored

UW South Campus Center • June 3, 2022

Randy Newquist, our Assistant Dean for Advancement and External Affairs and director of alumni relations, was honored by Dean Gary Chiodo for his 35 years of service at the UW in a surprise presentation at the start of the Scholarship Luncheon.
Our Regional Initiatives in Dental Education program is making an impact in Washington communities struggling with access to care

By JETHRO SWAIN
Dental Alumni News Contributing Editor

Consider a house in Touchet, a quaint town in southeastern Washington. It nestles among the rolling hills of the Palouse that provide an endless backyard of lush greenery. At night the dome of stars glistens above while a gentle breeze brushes the plains, and it costs a fraction of the price of a similar property in Seattle. Yet life in this little slice of paradise can still present challenges.

Touchet's population is just shy of 400. The nearest grocery store is 20 miles away in Walla Walla, which isn’t much of a problem. But so is the nearest hospital, the nearest surgeon, and the nearest dental provider. Not only is this the case for the people of Touchet, but for all of the small towns within 20 miles of Walla Walla.

The demand for dentists in Washington’s rural communities is never lacking, which is why our School of Dentistry gives a select cohort of students the tools to practice proficiently in the outlying areas that need them the most.

RIDE, our Regional Initiatives in Dental Education program, was established in 2008 to train dentists in the specific skills needed to practice in Washington’s rural and underserved areas. Rural communities have long struggled with access to care; a lack of local providers often forces residents to drive substantial distances to reach clinics. For example, dentist-to-population ratios range from one dentist per 948 people in King County to one per 12,300 people in Pend Oreille County along the Washington-Idaho border.

How RIDE works
RIDE’s template was the UW School of Medicine’s 51-year-old WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho) regional education program. WWAMI recruits students from each of the five states to graduate with the intent to return them to their communities as medical providers.

Upon acceptance to the UW, eight dental students are selected to form their class’s RIDE cohort. “We want students that are self-starters, mature, able to handle things by themselves but that can also work in a bigger community,” says Dr. Frank Roberts, RIDE Program Director, who is also Associate Dean for Regional Affairs and Chair of the Department of Periodontics. Like the WWAMI program, the RIDE admissions team often selects students who come from the rural communities of interest since they’re more likely to want to return to those communities.

After an orientation and early clinical immersion experience in Seattle where they meet the rest of their class, RIDE students spend their first year at the Eastern Washington University (EWU) Riverpoint Campus in Spokane. There they take the same dental classes as their Seattle campus counterparts, in person and also using remote learning technologies. They also take general anatomy classes alongside EWU dental hygiene and UW WWAMI medical students, creating an early interdisciplinary connection.

In the summer after their first year, they go on a four-week Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP) rotation where they serve as expanded-function dental assistants at one of multiple community health clinics across the state. Those sites include clinics in Othello, Moses Lake, Okanogan,
Dr. Patty Martin (‘12), a member of the first RIDE cohort, is an example of this goal. She has been practicing in Walla Walla for more than a decade, and her dedication to the community is evident in both the clinical care she provides and her active role in the local dental community. "I think the biggest benefit was the faculty-student ratio. There were times when we were close to as many instructors in there as students," she says.

"I would argue that RIDE students probably are more prepared to go out right after graduating," says Dr. Art DiMarco, the EWU RIDE Director, who is both a RIDE dental and EWU dental hygiene professor. "They have a much greater depth of clinical experience by the time they leave, since they go out for five months in the community clinics and they operate as one of the practitioners - with the help of their preceptors, of course."

**Putting dentists where needed**

RIDE has fulfilled its mission to get students to return to communities in need after graduating. Of the RIDE program graduates practicing, 81 percent work in rural or underserved areas.

"Originally we had one goal, which was training dentists for rural and underserved practice," says Dr. Roberts, "but now we have the goal of also training them for leadership in these areas."

"I think the biggest benefit was the student-to-faculty ratio. There were times when there were close to as many instructors in there as students."

"Originally we had one goal, which was training dentists for rural and underserved practice," says Dr. Roberts, "but now we have the goal of also training them for leadership in these areas."

Dr. Armani Mendoza, RIDE alumni, she all had great things to say about RIDE and RIDE graduates Drs. Armani and José Mendoza were married during dental school and then launched a practice in Pasco. Not only could Dr. Lovelace learn how to best serve the community he wanted to help in the RIDE program, but everything he heard about the program from former students helped make the decision easy for him. "Talking to the other RIDE alumni, they all had great things to say about RIDE already," he says. "I think people are starting to catch on that it's a really good dental school experience."

Now Dr. Lovelace has returned to the Seattle campus for a periodontics residency. Once he finishes, he wants to return to the Marysville community. "If you've ever worked in IHS, it's a lot of community-based care," he says. "You see a lot of the same people, so for me, I'm already familiar with that population of people because it's right next to Marysville. It's a win-win if at least I can be on a part-time basis with them."

Man on the move

RIDE alumni Dr. Robert Rosenthal (‘21) has an adventurous history. He loves being outdoors and identifies with Washington’s smaller communities. For him, being able to live rurally while also providing a service in high demand is the perfect arrangement.

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Dr. Frank Roberts, RIDE Director

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Dental Alumninews 

eastern side of the state.”

I think that means as a dentist going to a place where you can do it all near José’s family in the place where he grew up.

After graduating, Dr. Nadia Grishin (28) established her own dental office in fast-growing Spokane. Dr. Grishin grew up in Ukraine and moved to the United States as a child. After going through the EWU dental hygiene program, where she took classes from Dr. DiMarco and alongside the first RIDE cohort (including Dr. Martin), she felt that the education was so good that she should return for more. “I think RIDE is a very effective program and that we were privileged to be a part of it,” says Dr. Grishin. “To have that one-on-one attention is something that I don’t think many dental students get. We had the best teachers too.”

Now she runs her own dental office in the Spokane Valley, where roughly 85 percent of her patients are Slavic. “We’re definitely reaching out to our community,” she says. “As far as I know, I’m the only Russian-speaking dentist in Spokane that has our own practice.” Dr. Grishin and her team focus on providing comprehensive care whenever they can, often providing free care for patients in great need.

“It’s amazing how much that population specifically has a hard time trusting people that they can’t communicate with,” she says. “I think maybe every population is like that, but I get a lot of patients that have been in the States for a long time and have never seen a dentist.”

Since graduating, Dr. Rosenthal has been working at a community health clinic in Brewster, Wash. Of the approximately 20 patients he sees a day, many are transitory migrant farm workers who come from far away just to get more serious problems checked out. Every day is different at his clinic, but the fast pace of RIDE’s clinical rotations helped prepare him.

“An example of his preparation had to do with my preceptor, who said, ‘Okay, this is boot camp. We’re going to see where your weaknesses are and how many patients you can handle,’” he says. Whether it’s jumping out of a plane into a forest fire or serving a community in need, Dr. Rosenthal knows how to hit the ground running – precisely what he did upon graduating from the RIDE program.

“There’s that quote from John F. Kennedy: Don’t ask what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country,” he says. “And if we look at that in terms of our own community, I think that means as a dentist going to a place where you can fulfill a need, and that’s the case in a lot of the counties on the eastern side of the state.”

Life-changing program

More than most, Drs. José (17) and Armani Mendoza (17) saw the RIDE program shape their lives. In those four years, they met, got married, started a family, and earned their dental degrees.

Armani grew up just west of Yakima, Wash., and José grew up in Pasco, Wash., one of the Tri-City region where the couple decided to set up their new clinic, Monarch Dental Health.

“This is home, you know,” says José. “I’m pretty lucky because I have a pretty big family in the area – cousins, uncles, distant relatives and they’re all supportive, so it was a good spot to try it out.”

Starting a family in dental school is a formidable task, especially considering that the RIDE program requires moving around the state. “I think in fourth year it was a challenge because we already had a 1-year-old,” says Armani. “I was in Chelan for my first year, and usually you go back to the place you started at, but José was going to be in Othello, so how am I going to be in Chelan by myself with a baby? I don’t know anyone in Chelan.” It all seemed daunting, but the RIDE staff accommodated the family by moving Armani to Yakima, close to her mom, for her rotation.

“I remember talking to some people and they thought that because you’re not at the big school you’re not really getting the same education,” says José. “But I actually felt like we were getting more. Everybody was dedicated everywhere. There were less distractions.”

“I think the biggest benefit was the student-to-faculty ratio. There were times when there were close to as many instructors in there as students,” says Armani. “Sometimes we had four instructors in the class, so having that one-on-one or one-on-two experience made a huge difference.” Now the two of them have three kids and their own budding dental practice, and they can do it all near José’s family in the place where he grew up.

Starting a family in dental school is a formidable task, especially considering that the RIDE program requires moving around the state. “I think it’s hard to really connect to a group of people if you’re not a part of the group,” she says. “RIDE selects candidates who have that personal connection to a subgroup, which directly impacts how providers like me are able to increase access to care.”

National recognition

RIDE has not only achieved results but national recognition too. In 2017 RIDE won the American Dental Education Association’s William J. Gies Award for Vision by an Academic Dental Institution, a top award in dental education.

“We’ve shown that it’s been super successful, and we’d like to expand our reach to more rural western and central Washington areas that we haven’t gotten to yet,” says Dr. Roberts. With the University of Washington’s support, the RIDE administration is currently working on a proposal to expand the RIDE cohort in Spokane from eight to 16 students, as well as creating infrastructure in Spokane to allow students to spend their second year there. Since the second-year curriculum is heavily simulation-focused, necessary renovations would include building a dental simulation lab for student instruction.

“The dental hygiene program has access to a great dental clinic in Spokane, but they don’t have a dental lab,” says Dr. Roberts. “The simulation lab will be big enough for the dental hygiene students to use the lab, and then our dental students can use their clinic.”

RIDE is also looking to establish a new cohort which would comprise students from Montana who would take first-year classes at Montana State University in Bozeman. “It’s a sense, when you look at Montana, they need the RIDE model even more than Eastern Washington needed it,” says Dr. DiMarco. “They’re spread out all over the place and are very rural and underserved, so they’re at a much greater level of need to where this would serve them.”

“Our experience with RIDE students has been very favorable,” says Dr. Mimi Bartoletti, the dental director at the Southwest Montana Community Health Center in Butte, a site that comprises students from Montana who would take first-year classes at Montana State University in Bozeman. “It’s a sense, when you look at Montana, they need the RIDE model even more than Eastern Washington needed it,” says Dr. DiMarco. “They’re spread out all over the place and are very rural and underserved, so they’re at a much greater level of need to where this would serve them.”

“Our experience with RIDE students has been very favorable,” says Dr. Mimi Bartoletti, the dental director at the Southwest Montana Community Health Center in Butte, a site that

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“One of the neat things about RIDE is that there’s so much variety because you’re not stuck in the same place for four years. That constant change of people and scenery really was really nice.”

Dr. Robert Rosenthal, 2021 RIDE alumnus
Talking to the other RIDE alumni, they all had great things to say about RIDE already. I think people are starting to catch on that it’s a really good dental school experience.

Dr. James Lovelace, 2021 RIDE alumnus

“We’re definitely reaching out to our community. As far as I know, I’m the only Russian-speaking dentist in Spokane that has their own practice.”

Dr. Nadia Grishin, 2020 RIDE alumnus

Alumni of the program like Drs. Martin, Lovelace, Grishin, Rosenthal, and the Mendozas are just a few of the RIDE graduates — now 88 and counting — who have taken the RIDE mission to heart by serving in the areas that need it the most.

“I think it’s not only for the education but, beyond that, it’s for connecting people with future jobs, in communities where they’re from and where they’re needed,” says Dr. Lovelace. “It’s for continuing to train people who are going to join the workforce in these areas, because that’s what they really need.”

Faculty Spotlight

DR. AUDREY MIKKELSON PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

A seamless transition to teaching

Dr. Audrey Mikkelson says that nobody who knew her during her predoctoral days at Oregon Health & Science University would have been surprised that she ended up in pediatric dentistry.

“Whenever I had a last-minute cancellation on the main clinic floor, I would find myself wandering to OHSU’s Pediatric Dentistry Department and volunteering to help out with exams or assist a fellow student,” she says. She confesses that she likes to make up silly songs — a talent that goes a long way in Pedo.

Dr. Mikkelson is now Acting Assistant Professor in our Department of Pediatric Dentistry after completing her residency there in 2021. It was an experience she enjoyed thoroughly.

“When I arrived at UW, I was eager to have experiences in teaching, research, and caring for children with medically and behaviorally complex health care needs,” she says. “I can happily report that I received all that and more during my residency.”

She didn’t take a direct route to the UW from her DMD at OHSU in 2015. Wanting more training in the care of adults with special health care needs (SHCN), she entered a general practice residency in Minneapolis, then joined a group practice in Salem, Ore. There, she limited her practice to pediatrics and also cared for some adults with special needs.

A colleague encouraged her to apply for a residency. Right off the bat, the UW was an attractive choice. She and her husband, Joe, had family in Seattle who could provide extra support with Chloe, their 18-month-old-daughter, and it was a chance for this Oregon native to stay in the Pacific Northwest. However, her interest soon deepened.

“It was quickly apparent during the interview that this was a fantastic, well-rounded program which would provide the experiences I sought in clinical and hospital dentistry as well as research and teaching,” she says. “During my residency, I was able to experience what truly makes the program great: collegiality, a true spirit of inquiry, and a sense of pride in the work of the department and the institution.”

Early in her residency, she voiced an interest in hospital dentistry and connected with Dr. Barbara Sheller, division chief of pediatric dentistry at Seattle Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Sheller and Dr. Bryan Williams, former director of dental medicine at Children’s, mentored her in her master’s thesis project. It explored one of her early research interests, which was transitioning pediatric patients with SHCN to adult dental care. During interviews with the families, she learned of the challenges of finding a new dentist who could address these patients’ unique medical or behavioral needs.

“We have a fantastic resource at the UW in DECOD (the Dental Education in Care of Persons with Disabilities program),” she says, “but with approximately 750,000 U.S. adolescents with SHCN reaching adulthood each year, the need is certainly too great for one clinic, as evidenced by the lengthy wait list.”

She also reached out to DECOD, touring its clinic with the director, Dr. Kimberly Espinoza, with whom she discussed the differences in pediatric and adult dental care for patients with SHCN.

“We do some coordination to help facilitate transition of graduating patients from the Center for Pediatric Dentistry to DECOD, and have recently benefited from having Klarissa Fellows, our new social worker at the CPD, help families with this as well,” she says. “It would be great to collaborate with DECOD on crafting more seamless transitions, and I am in favor of developing a short rotation through the DECOD clinic for pediatric residents to help continue this avenue of research and also investigate caries risk assessment and management, especially regarding the role of diet assessment and counseling.

Toward the end of her residency, Pedo Chair Travis Nelson offered her the chance to join the faculty for one day a week, working in the CPD’s Dental Surgery Center in addition to her private practice associateship. She liked it so much that she asked if she could help out another day or two per week. Dr. Nelson had bigger plans: a full-time faculty appointment.

“I am learning an incredible amount every day,” she says. “I am finding that my time and energy are divided much differently in academics than private practice, and in these early days I am focusing on how to incorporate clinical instruction, didactic development, research, and service into each week,” she says.

Life at home is good, too. Joe teaches choir and music theory at Woodinville High School, and Dr. Mikkelson has fun sharing her hobbies with Chloe, now 4½ – dance, crafts, gardening. And yes: They make up silly songs, too.
Dr. Andy Marashi of the Department of Restorative Dentistry was named fourth-year General Practice Program Director, effective June 16. He implemented a new preclinical-to-clinical transition summer-quarter course last year, and will work closely with Dr. Natasha Flake in her new role as Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Operations (see page 10).

After a national search, Dr. Milda Chmieleauskaitė became the new Director of the Oral Medicine Graduate Program, effective June 1. Dr. Chmieleauskaitė, who was also named Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Medicine, took over the position from Dr. David Dean, who served for eight years and will remain with the Oral Medicine faculty.

Dr. Frank Roberts, Chair of the Department of Periodontics and Director of the Regional Initiatives in Dental Education program, is principal investigator on a federal Health Resources and Services Administration grant to support oral health workforce activities for 2022-26. The UW is a sub-recipient of the grant, which went to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Dr. Kimberly Espinoza of the Department of Oral Medicine and Director of the Dental Education in Care of Persons with Disabilities program, will be a co-investigator along with Dr. Rachel Greene of the Department of Restorative Dentistry, who is Clinical Director of the Service Learning Rotation program. This is UW’s fourth subaward in this series with the Montana Department. The grant will facilitate School of Dentistry support for program activities to increase access to care for oral health patients with special health care needs by deploying training for providers, dental student clinical rotations, and by implementing pipeline programs for DDS and RDH applicants. The goal is to inspire students from vulnerable and rural communities in Montana to pursue careers in the health professions.

Dr. Glen Johnson, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, received the 2022 Fred E. Gulick Distinguished Life Member Award at the 87th annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics in Albuquerque, N.M. from June 29 to July 2. The award, named for one of the Society’s 1930 founders, annually goes to an outstanding prosthodontics educator and innovator.

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Faculty Updates

Dr. Greg Huang, Chair of the Department of Orthodontics, was named Interim Associate Dean for Faculty in July. He will:

- Support and advise department chairs on faculty recruitment, appointments, promotion, tenure, and retention.
- Provide educational programs to explain the appointment, promotion, and tenure processes to newly hired faculty (onboarding) as well as to early- and mid-career faculty to support their career development.
- Support and mentor early- and mid-career faculty members to facilitate faculty development and assess if appropriate progress is being made for promotion.
- Assist faculty members and department chairs in preparation for promotion material.
- Serve as liaison between the School administration and the Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure Committee.
- Foster recruitment and advancement of a diverse and inclusive faculty workforce for both tenure and non-tenure track faculty as well as promote a diverse and welcoming academic work environment.
- Work with faculty members and their department chairs to make sure that jobs align with the expectations for a faculty member’s performance in a given track.

Dr. Sara Gordon, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, was elected to the joint Commission on National Dental Examinations for a four-year term at the meeting of the House of Delegates during the American Dental Education Association annual sessions in March. The commission oversees the following licensure examination programs: National Board Dental Examination (NBDHE Part I), NBDE Part II, Integrated National Board Dental Examination, and the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination. Dr. Gordon also served on the executive board of the ADEA Section on Academic Deans and Academic Affairs for three years, one of them as chair.

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I thoroughly enjoyed."

I feel I had a quality education at the UW and am forever indebted to them for my career—one that I thoroughly enjoyed."

DR. MIKE BUEHLER
A keen sense of obligation

Dr. Mike Buehler (’74) is a cheery, outgoing dentist who has always been absolutely serious about his obligations to the greater community. Aside from the 40 years he spent in private practice in Yakima, Wash., he also devoted nearly four decades of service to that city’s Union Gospel Mission dental clinic, which he operated with the help of a couple of dozen volunteer dentists along with clinic staff.

He has been an active dental humanitarian, logging dozens of trips to Haiti, where he maintained a two-chair clinic in Terre Blanche. He was also one of the hundreds of volunteers who helped make the annual Seattle/King County free dental clinic a resounding success after its launch in 2014.

The Union Gospel Mission clinic is a beacon of hope in the Yakima Valley. In 2013, Dr. Buehler oversaw completion of a gleaming new mission clinic that provided care second to none. "When people come to the mission, they’re getting the very best of care. He’s one of the most highly regarded dentists in the Valley," said Rick Phillips, the mission’s executive director, in 2015. At that time, Dr. Buehler said, “As long as God gives me steady hands and clear eyesight, I’ll enjoy doing it."

But while his hands and eyesight held strong, he was undone by an ailing back. In June of 2021, he had to give up his work at the mission. While his humanitarian work may have been curtailed; however, he has found another way to make a profound impact: a legacy gift to our School of Dentistry. He and his wife, Merilee, have bequeathed a percentage of their estate, and he estimates the gift has grown in value to about $800,000.

The gift did not come out of the blue. He and Merilee—whom he married during his first year in dental school—have supported the School for years. "We have felt the School gave us an excellent education that has provided a satisfying career with more than an adequate income," he says. "I was raised with an excellent education that has provided a satisfying career. "I feel I had a quality education at the UW and am forever indebted to them for my career—one that I thoroughly enjoyed."

DR. MIKE BUEHLER

In a strong Christian home, where giving back to church and community were encouraged, and that has become part of my moral fabric. It was a natural extension to include the School of Dentistry in our will, as I believe strongly in what we are doing for the future of dentistry."

He is heartened by the progress the School has made in addressing its fiscal challenges and moving ahead with a strong, clear vision for the future: "My utmost respect and appreciation go out to Gary Chiodo for his leadership as Dean the past four years. We are once again on the right trajectory. I am excited about the endowed chairs we have established, the ‘re-homing’ of dental hygiene back at our School, and the plans for updating the clinics and technology at the School. All this costs money and [requires] commitment from all of us."

As a Washington State University undergraduate alumnus, he does confess to split loyalties. Yet his bond to our School is unshakeable. "I feel I had a quality education at the UW and am forever indebted to them for my career—one that I thoroughly enjoyed." he says. And he has a message for his fellow alumni: "I would encourage all dental alumni to consider some sort of planned giving as an investment in the future of our profession. Costs to operate a topflight school are enormous, and the state funding is simply not adequate to maintain these standards. A school with a strong foundation and balance is imperative to continue to provide a quality dental education and research in dentistry."
A SAMPLING OF CURRENT STUDIES AT THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Vitamin D and Alcohol Use Disorder on Progression of Dental Disease in MSM With and Without HIV (VITA)

PIs: Ana Lucia Seminario; Frederick Altus (Yale University)
Funding: National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
Peruvian men who have sex with men (MSM) are at high risk for HIV and alcohol use disorder (AUD). The aims of this exploratory study are to 1) Generate foundational evidence on the association of AUD and oral health in MSM with HIV; 2) Strengthen electronic systems of care to integrate HIV and related dental care by enhancing research capacity for future intersection research on oral health and HIV; and 3) Create and refine our study protocol procedures for a 5-year interventional longitudinal study.

Dynamics of HIV-infection, Oral Innate Immunity and the Development of Oral Diseases in Children

PIs: Ana Lucia Seminario; Whasun Chung
Funding: Fogarty International Center
Oral diseases are among the most prevalent non-communicable diseases worldwide. Despite significant successes in the treatment for HIV, children with HIV continue to experience more oral diseases compared with uninfected children. This exploratory study aims to assess the extent to which HIV infection influences the occurrence and progression of oral diseases among HIV/AIDS Kenyan children and to create research capacity in global oral health by expanding current lab infrastructure to allow analysis of salivary AMPs in the context of HIV.

Geroscience Approach to Reverse Periodontal Disease

PI: Jonathan An
Funding: Molken AG
Modifying pathways that regulate biological aging can impact the onset and progression and may even reverse age-related decline and disease. Recently highlighted in NIH/NIDCR's Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges, older adults are at higher risk for multiple diseases and decline, such as dental caries, periodontal disease, oropharyngeal cancer, and salivary gland dysfunction. However, a major neglect in the current standard of care and research is the impact of aging biology on oral disease. The An Lab seeks to target specific pathways that modulate the aging process to improve oral health in older adults. The funded study will attempt to target one such pathway and evaluate the impact on periodontal disease.

Simulation Research to Predict Consequences of Adult Dental Medicaid Cuts

PI: Donald Chi
Funding: CareQuest
Adult dental benefits are optional under Medicaid, which makes them an easy target for cuts. Most studies show that cutting adult dental benefits leads to increased emergency department (ED) use. However, a constantly changing state-level health policy environment may obscure and underestimate the actual effects of dental benefit cuts. For instance, states have implemented ED diversion programs, underestimating the actual effects of dental benefit cuts. For instance, states have implemented ED diversion programs, opioid prescribing rules, and Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act – all of which influence ED use. In addition, almost nothing is known about the spillover effects of adult cuts on other Medicaid beneficiaries, including children, enrollees with special health care needs, and ethnic and racial minorities. Our goal is to generate new time-sensitive evidence to help policymakers understand the broader social, economic, and health consequences of cutting adult dental Medicaid benefits.

For details on any study at the School of Dentistry, contact Dr. Donald Chi, Associate Dean of Research, at dchi@uw.edu, or Julianna Duso at jlduso@uw.edu, or the principal investigator.

Research Update

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Columbia Bank’s comprehensive approach to community engagement rests on four pillars: fund-raising, employee giving, volunteerism, and company giving. “Providing support through these employee-driven pillars allows us to have the greatest impact,” Collins says. “Employees are empowered and encouraged to use their 40 hours of paid volunteer time each year to actively engage with the nonprofits they care about most. Our people collaborate to support both bank-wide fundraising campaigns and local campaigns championed by their peers and clients. Employees vote with their dollars on what they care about through their charitable donations, and we match those gifts up to $100 per employee annually, doubling their impact. Most company giving dollars are dedicated to the local nonprofits where our employees are directly engaged to further support what matters most to them. Because of these efforts, we are deeply woven into the fabric of our communities,” says Lynne Nelson, Columbia Bank’s Senior Vice President - Business Development Officer.

Columbia Bank’s support extends past our students’ graduation through an established team of Healthcare Banking advisors who understand the evolving practice of dentistry. That’s an important asset to newly minted dentists who must master the demands challenges of building a practice.

Columbia Bank also supports other UW units, including the Foster School of Business, Intercollegiate athletics, and UW Medicine. That’s no surprise, especially considering that its late CEO, Melanie Dreessel, was a proud, passionate, and active alumna who was deeply committed to partnerships with UW Seattle and Tacoma.

As the bank grew and expanded its scope of operations, it never forgot where it came from, Nelson says. “Through our reach is now regional, we started as a community bank. One of our core values is a commitment to investing in our communities and supporting businesses and organizations who share that commitment. We believe education and access to resources are not only critical, but central to achieving the goal of building and sustaining healthy, thriving communities.”

Dental Alumninews

Profiles in Partnership

Columbia Bank

Class Notes

DDS CLASS OF 1962
Dr. Al Leonard, Seattle: The Class of 1962 had its 60-year reunion June 9 on Zoom with 12 classmates participating. It was really nice to catch up with everyone and find out what they are currently up to. Being spread out, Zoom made it somewhat easier for many to attend. A few spouses joined the reunion too.

DDS CLASS OF 1972
Dr. Rick Crizni, Bellevue, Wash.: The Class of 1972 will be celebrating our 50-year reunion on Sept. 24. It included the (Dental Alumni) Football event before the UW-Stanford game. The Class will sit together at the event and will enjoy good food and beverages and entertainment and will meet the new Dean and a former UW football player and participate in a fun Husky rally.

DDS CLASS OF 1976
Dr. Bryan Edgar, Federal Way, Wash.: I finished serving as Chief Cabinetmaker for the House for AGD last November and now chair the Investment Committee and the Regulatory Committee for WDA.

DDS CLASS OF 1980
Dr. Gary Heyamoto, Woodinville, Wash.: I’m enjoying “retirement” prepping teeth and performing root canal extractions at the Lake Washington Institute of Technology, participating in the Washington State HPvT Task Force (Community Outreach) and doing webinars for the ADA on HPV awareness for dental societies (made a complete oral cancer examination video; watch it at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DopQjedia23M5Wg4Ebr0Hc-A63gFgns/view). I also accepted a position as a consultant for Med’s panel for HPV Vaccine Hathrety and Awareness. I’m entering my 45th year as a statistician for the Seahawks and Husky Football, will continue shot clock duties with UW Women’s basketball and will fill-in as needed again for Seattle U and SUU basketball games. Our staff team will continue our postseason work with our 15th Rose Bowl and our 11th College Football National Championship game in January.

DDS CLASS OF 1982
Dr. Bill Marchant, Olympia, Wash.: In our senior year, four of us - Cal Early, Karl Fuskavka, Lyle Tanpoma, and me - applied and were accepted into the Army’s General Practice Residency program. Forty years after it was taken, I found a photo from Fort Sam Houston, Texas during the early phase of our introduction to the rigors of military life. Finding this old photo has reminded me of my great good fortune at having been trained first at the UW School of Dentistry and then augmenting that training through military service. Happily and with nostalga I can report that at least three of us continued in and had wonderful successful careers serving as military dentists.

DDS CLASS OF 1983
Dr. Heidi Horwitz, Seattle: The Class of 1983 is planning our 40-year class reunion for next June. We’ve been busy trying to contact everyone and to update contact information.

DDS CLASS OF 1992
Dr. Linda Edgar, Federal Way, Wash.: I am running for ADA President in October 2022 at the ADA meeting in Indianapolis and I am funding my four-year term as an ADA Trustee.

DDS CLASS OF 1995/GPR CLASS OF 1996
Dr. Jacqueline Bunce, Kent, Wash.: I am enjoying practicing as an orthodontist in Bellevue, volunteering for the orthodontists society, and spending time with friends and family, especially my dental schoolmates. My mother says that I have to work in my office to at least the age that she has worked in my office. She is still working in my office, so it looks like I will be practicing a while longer!

DDS CLASS OF 2011
Dr. Oleg Shvarts, Issaquah, Wash.: Our practice, 425 Dental, was proud to host 425 Smiles on April 15 in partnership with the UW School of Dentistry and PMI Dental Hygiene Program. It was a free dental clinic designed to help those in need receive dental care. Through the combined efforts of 425 Dental’s staff, UW and PMI students and faculty, sponsors Delta Dental of Washington, Columbia Bank, Burkert Dental Supply, and Henry Schein Dental, and all of our other volunteers, nearly 60 patients were provided with dental care. This included routine exam, fillings, root canals, and other care across dental specialties. We are now planning this as a semiannual event, with the next clinic on Oct. 22. For more information, please contact Community@425Dental.com.

The Class of 2012 celebrated their 10-year reunion on the shores of Lake Washington. More than half of the class made it to town, plus spouses, children, and dogs. It was great catching up and learning where everyone has ended up and what is new in their lives. Although we missed a number of people, we are looking forward to the next one! - Ashly Johnson

Reunions

DDS CLASS OF 1971
The Class of 1971 celebrated its 50th reunion on Sept. 19, 2021 at Sand Point Country Club in Seattle. In the year of the pandemic, it was a time to for us to cherish the friendships that were formed, starting when we first met in the fall of 1971 as first-year dental students. It was a time to reflect on how fortunate we are to have received an excellent education which gave us the foundation and skills to succeed in the profession. It was a time to reflect on being fortunate to live long enough to attend such an event. Our journey began with 80 outstanding individuals; there was a bit of attrition with several students realizing that dentistry was not the best fit for them. We recognized the 11 classmates who have passed away. Twenty-one classmates were able to attend, which was one less than at our last meeting five years ago. This event gave us a lot of laughs as we recognized each other, despite a bit more hair loss, possible weight gain, and decreased mobility. A number of us at least the age that she has been working or being on the threshold of needing a new hip. We enjoyed an extended happy hour, then devoured a fine meal. During dinner, each person shared the stage to recount a memorable event in their life, and how much being a UWSD graduate means to them. - Mike Doyle

DDS CLASS OF 2012

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Dr. Philip Worthington, who led our Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery to new heights and garnered worldwide acclaim during his two-decade tenure as department chair, died on Aug. 13 in Kirkland, Wash. He was 93.

Dr. Worthington joined the School of Dentistry faculty in 1977 as interim chair of OMS, became permanent chair three years later, and held that post until stepping down in 1998. He remained on the department faculty until his retirement in 2008, when he became Professor Emeritus.

Born in Bebington, England’s northwest Cheshire County, he served in the Royal Air Force and then earned bachelor’s degrees in science, medicine, surgery, and dental surgery at the University of Liverpool. In 1965, he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. He practiced oral and maxillofacial surgery in North Wales, during which time he was involved in a hospital-based exchange program for American-trained oral and maxillofacial surgery residents.

In 1974, he invited to be a visiting professor at our School of Dentistry and went on to become OMS department chair. He won international recognition as a clinician, researcher, and educator and lectured around the world. In one instance, he even gave several presentations in Germany to Germany’s Society for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He also edited or contributed to 13 textbooks.

His honors included election to the Omicron Kappa Upsilon, dental honor society, selection as an extraordinary member of the German Society for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and the vice presidency of the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

Dr. Worthington “helped put the department on the map,” said Dr. Thomas Hoil (OMS ’74) after Dr. Worthington’s retirement. It was Dr. Höhl who did a six-month residency at the hospital in Washington state and worked part-time in dentistry for several years. He also volunteered at the annual Seattle/King County Clinic.

Dr. Phillip Worthington and his wife, Ruth, at a Dean’s Club dinner in 2015
Alumni calendar of events

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24
Dental Alumni Football Event
Time: TBD
UW vs. Stanford
I WING ROTUNDA / UW HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

THURSDAY, OCT. 13
ADA UW School of Dentistry Reception
5-7 p.m.
HILTON AMERICAS HOTEL, ROOM 346A HOUSTON

TUESDAY, OCT. 18
Health Sciences Education Building
Grand Opening Celebration
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
UW HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION BUILDING

MONDAY, NOV. 21
Dental Alumni Full Board Meeting
6:30-8:30 p.m.
WASHINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB, SEATTLE