

DentalAlumninews

FALL 2022

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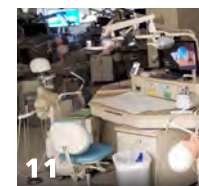
THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL 2022

NEWS



9 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



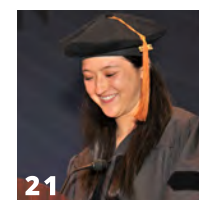
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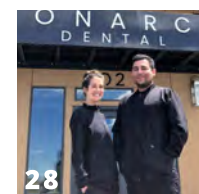
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President-elect



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Looking forward to the next two years

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.

After earning my DDS, I started my own general dentistry practice, 425 Dental, in Issaquah. I am incredibly fortunate to have my wonderful wife, Nikole – who graduated from our School in 2013 – as my partner and the mother of our three beautiful children. Our general dentistry team also includes Dr. Laurianne Sakai of the UWSOD Class of 2016 and Dr. Sam Snipes of the Class of 2021. At 425 Dental, we practice interdisciplinary dentistry under one roof, with specialists offering periodontic, prosthodontic, endodontic, and oral surgery services in addition to general dentistry. Our specialists include Dr. Luciana Safioti, a UW Periodontics alumna and faculty member.

Several of us serve on the UWSOD affiliate faculty, myself in the Department of Oral Medicine. My ties to our School have never faltered, and I am thoroughly grateful for the opportunities provided to me by the excellent training I received.

Dr. Jeremy Chaison ('06), our outgoing Alumni Association president, deserves many thanks for his service. Among the other challenges the COVID-19 pandemic posed, we had to contend with the loss of live events – our School’s annual White Coat Ceremony, the Dean’s Club Dinner, our football weekend, and more. It isn’t easy to keep the spirit going under these circumstances, but our Association managed. We should also acknowledge the great work by Assistant Dean Randy Newquist and his UWSOD Advancement and Alumni Relations team, who fully rose to the challenge.

Now we are bidding farewell to Dean Gary Chiodo, who decided to step down for health reasons. He has been a supremely steady hand at the wheel throughout the pandemic, and he has been a highly visible, active, and welcome presence in our alumni community. He restored

our School’s fiscal integrity with an uninterrupted series of balanced budgets, and he took the initiative in rehoming the highly respected Shoreline Community College dental hygiene program at the UW to help address the critical dental workforce shortage in our state. He has also been an extremely generous donor, giving more than \$175,000 to our School during his tenure. He leaves an impressive legacy for which we are indebted to him.



As Dr. Chiodo departs, we welcome our new Dean, Dr. André Ritter, who comes to us from New York University and has also served as dental executive dean and chief operating officer at the University of North Carolina. He has thoroughly impressive credentials and an engaging presence, and I am sure that he will keep our School on the solidly upward trajectory that we saw with Dean Chiodo.

He will need our help to do so, however. So I ask you to step up and stay involved, and you can do so in several ways. First, make sure your Dental Alumni Association dues are up to date. 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 some 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 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!



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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.



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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.



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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 Barnard College in positions centered around donor engagement, fund-raising, stewardship, and alumni relations.



SARAH MARTIN
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Sarah came to us in 2016 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 works 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
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Steve joined us from the Seattle Times in 2008 after 35 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, writes news releases for external publication, produces videos, and assists the Dean's Office with communication.



SALLY GEE
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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
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Joy started with us as a UW student assistant majoring in anthropology in 2007, 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
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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.



ANDRÉ V. RITTER, DDS, MSD, PhD
Professor and Dean





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!

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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.



A couple of weeks after his selection as Dean, Dr. André Ritter visits the D-1 Simulation Clinic.

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 UWSOD 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 of more than \$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.



From left:
Dr. Ricardo Schwedhelm
Dr. Natasha Flake
Dr. Doug Ramsay
Dr. Whasun Oh Chung
Dr. Donald Chi

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 assumes 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 sabbatical 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 (’06) 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 LeResche 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.

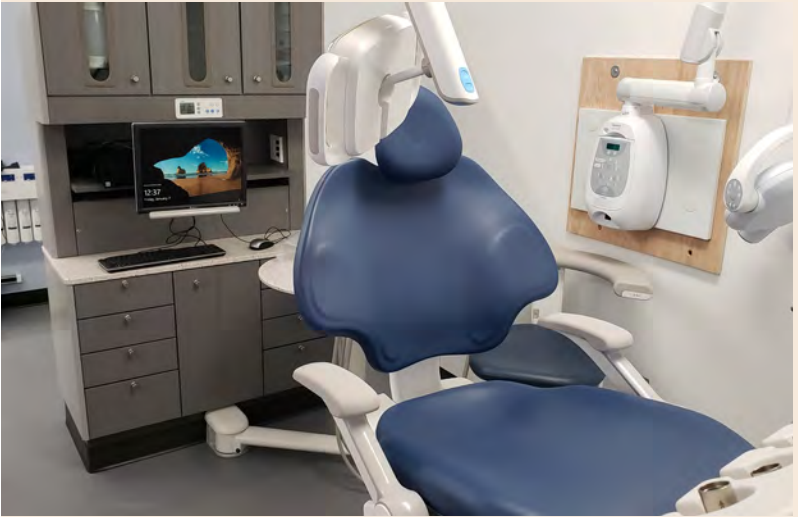
He has received wide recognition for his research, including the 2017 Young Investigator Award from the International Association for Dental Research. In 2018, he was named Pediatric Dentist of the Year by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

“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 2019, our School launched the Campaign for Clinics: Imagine Our Future with these words from Dean Gary Chiodo: “We do not need a new dental school, but we need to seriously fix the one we have.”

The list of needed upgrades was and remains extensive – and expensive: decrepit dental chairs with torn covers, old delivery systems, cracked and gouged cabinets, heavily scratched sinks, IT hardware and software that are past their useful lives, and much more. The clinical furnishings weren’t merely unsightly and uninviting for patients; they were increasingly difficult to clean and sanitize. At the same time, our technology was antiquated: no electric hand pieces and a serious lack of digital dental hardware, including CAD/CAM equipment.



The renovated B350 clinic is now the School’s best clinical space.

Three and a half years into the campaign, a great deal of progress is apparent. Aside from a slew of minor projects, the headline achievement has been a multimillion-dollar renovation of the old B-350 oral surgery clinic.

The impetus for this project came from the rehousing of the Shoreline Community College dental hygiene program to our campus in 2020. This not only provided a stable location for a highly respected program that can help answer the state’s critical dental workforce shortage. It gave our School and the campaign an infusion of funding and equipment that has opened the door to exciting new possibilities.

The campaign supplied \$2 million for the renovation of the B-350 clinic, which is now the Shoreline program’s home and the School’s premier clinical space. Shoreline also contributed \$1.35 million and much of its own equipment, which was in far better condition than what it replaced. Delta Dental of Washington kicked in \$1.5 million, a third of which was a challenge grant that ultimately succeeded in more than doubling the initial stake of \$500,000. The Washington State

Dental Association, Seattle-King County Dental Society, and Dean Chiodo also made major gifts that helped put the challenge campaign over the top. Driving home the importance of gifts of all sizes, a host of smaller contributions also made a big difference.

Now our School has set its sights on ambitious new projects, starting with remodeling and upgrading the D-1 Simulation Clinic. The project will also include a Center for Digital Dentistry, with an expected total price tag of at least \$3 million. The campaign has about \$1.5 million available for this work so far, including \$500,000 in UW capital funding, so there’s still a long fund-raising road ahead. Beyond the D-1 project, a substantial number of other needs still remain, too.

“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 scanning 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 randyn@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 carious 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 and its molecular framework. The peptide is based on amelogenin, the key protein in tooth enamel development and formation of cementum, which constitutes the surface of the tooth root. Each application adds 1 to 5 micrometers of new enamel to the teeth.

The peptide was engineered to bind the enamel to teeth, not soft oral tissue. It is expected to be safe for daily use by adults and children.

In March 2018, the research team's findings were published in the journal *ACS Biomaterials Science and Engineering*. The team

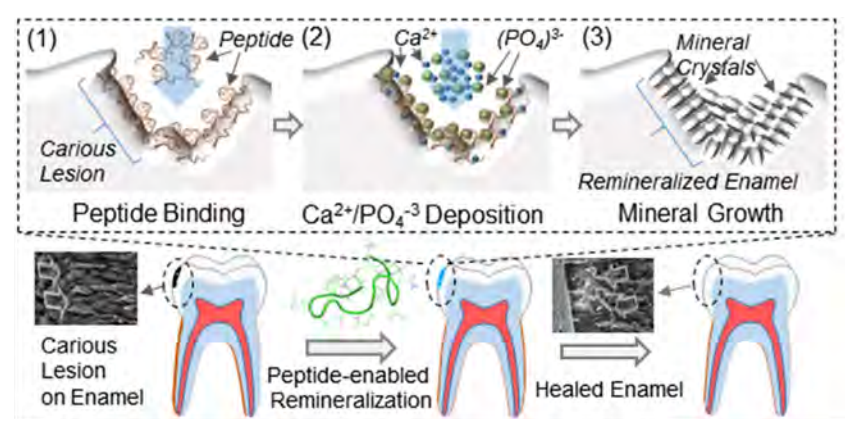
is led by Dr. Mehmet Sarikaya, lead author and professor of materials science and engineering and adjunct professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Department of Oral Health Sciences. His journal co-authors included Dr. Dogan and Dr. Greg Huang, our Chair of Orthodontics, as well as Dr. Hanson Fong, a research scientist in the UW Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and Deniz Yucesoy, 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.



Unlike fluoride, the engineered peptide product forms new tooth enamel.



Lobby view



Anatomy lab suite



View from Pacific Street

HSEB images courtesy of Miller Hull Partnership, Lease Crutcher Lewis, GGN, S/L/A/M Collaborative

Inset photo: Two years ago, Dean Gary Chiodo joined the other Health Sciences deans to break ground for the new building.

\$100M education building set to open

The eagerly awaited grand opening 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

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 that PiT-2, a phosphate transporter, plays in bone and tooth development. After completing this, he said, he hopes to continue his

graduate work in endodontics and devote more study to oral biology and its application in saving teeth.

"My career goal is to increase understanding of biological processes of pulp regeneration, bone formation, and responses to biomaterials, ultimately hoping to translate scientific discoveries into clinical therapies that can benefit patients," he said.

Dr. Walczak began making his mark in oral health research several years ago as a UW undergraduate. Working in our Graduate Prosthodontics program and with the UW Department of Bioengineering, he studied a novel device to test the stability of dental implants. He also worked in our School's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program, leading the pilot study of the first optical device to measure the acidity of dental plaque in humans (see page 15).

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



Dr. Awa Seck

been an unwavering supporter of dental research and advocate for diversity and social justice. She is now dean emeritus 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 (SNDA), 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 SNDA chapter members who joined members of the American Student Dental Association who provided dental care, information, and oral health supplies in South Seattle during the Juneteenth Freedom Day Festival.

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

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



The prototype O-pH system measures the pH levels built up by bacteria in dental plaque.

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."

The current version of the O-pH device can assess roughly the surface area of one tooth at a time. A potential next step would be to utilize a high-speed camera to capture multiple surfaces in less time for a reading of all of a patient's teeth in under a minute.

According to Dr. Sadr, the research team is working with other School of Dentistry and UW departments to prepare for clinical testing of this new video-based O-pH instrument.

The study appeared this February in the journal *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*. Other co-authors of the study from the School of Dentistry include David Park, Se An, Micah Bovenkamp, Jess Cayetano, Ian Berude, and Zheng Xu, along with Lauren Lee from the UW Department of Microbiology and Matthew Carson from the UW Human Photonics Laboratory.

The research was funded by the National Science Foundation, award IIP-1631146 "Oral Health Monitor – optical quantification of bacterial load, therapy monitoring, and caries prediction." Support also came from the Institute of Translational Health Sciences and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health.

— UW News

\$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

rotations in caring for Washington patients with special health care needs in rural clinics through the work of our School’s Office of Regional Affairs and pipeline and recruitment innovations through the Office of Student Services. Dental hygiene partners for PATH include Eastern Washington University and Shoreline Community College’s dental hygiene program.

PATH collaborations will reach

Dental Education (RIDE) program. School of Dentistry faculty co-investigators include 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 Roth, along with Dr. Travis Nelson, Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, and Dr. Susan Coldwell, Associate Dean for Student Life and Admissions.

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 comes 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.

“The Regional Initiatives team is really excited to implement this training and looking forward to collaborating with the DECOD clinical team,” says Dr. Roberts. “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.”

The RIDE team will implement the courses and scheduling for the curriculum, and the DECOD team, led by Dr. Espinoza, will provide the training. The grant will run until mid-2027 at \$300,000 per year.



“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

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

across departments including Pediatric Dentistry and Oral Medicine. Spearheading the effort is Dr. Frank Roberts, the grant’s principal investigator, who is Associate Dean for Regional Affairs, Chair of the Department of Periodontics, and Director of the Regional Initiatives in

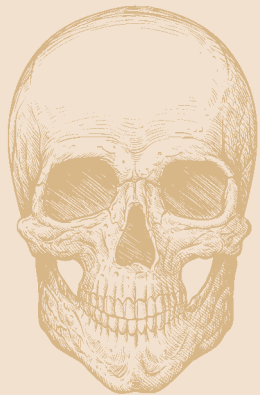
At our School, the PATH initiative builds upon a strong foundation of service to the underserved established by programs like RIDE and Early Childhood Oral Health Training (EchoTrain). “There are people out in these rural and underserved areas who may only have

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 Kintner (’83), and Jan Diepenheim (’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.



Narvaez-Zavala gift supports new opportunity scholarship

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.

Nor does it end there. This year, he and his wife, Norma Zavala, gave a \$40,000 gift to our School to establish a Dentistry Opportunity Scholarship. The award supports student diversity at our School and, by extension, increased representation in the dental profession and greater access to quality care for all populations in Washington.

“We strongly support diversity at any school of higher learning and want to provide an opportunity to those students who have very few options for financial aid,” Dr. Narvaez said. “Our contribution was also intended to support students with limited options of accessing financial support for financial aid. We believe that this ultimately has an impact on the student diversity in the dental school.

“Our efforts align very much with those of Sea Mar in supporting students from underrepresented groups that cannot access the necessary financial aid to complete their education and begin a career.”

He feels that the School of Dentistry must continue to seek out students



Dr. Alex Narvaez and his wife, Norma Zavala, are shown at a Dean’s Club reception. Dr. Narvaez is a member of our Dean’s Club Board of Trustees.

from diverse backgrounds and diverse communities: “Recruitment of students from diverse backgrounds and providing a welcoming environment from the onset of contact calls for recruiters to have a familiar background knowledge of the students that they want to recruit.

“The 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.”

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 embryology 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.



Dr. David Wands



Dr. Marwan Fattouhi

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 our 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. Wands 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



Dr. Theresa Cheng

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

“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 CHIDO

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.



Coast Guard veteran Jami K. and her provider, student Donna Le-Barnes of the Class of 2022

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

Helping our veterans

To donate to the Everyone for Veterans at the UW program, please call the Office of Advancement at 206-685-9350 or visit the website: giving.uw.edu/DentistryforVetsatUW

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.



UW SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY RECEPTION

5-7 P.M. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022

Hilton Americas Hotel, Room 346A

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

MOMENTS

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.

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.



David Turpin receives the Honorary Lifetime Member award from outgoing Dean's Club President Heidi Horwitz.



Dean Gary Chiodo

Diane Aboulafia and Peter Shapiro (Ortho '73)



Sherwin Shinn celebrates his Distinguished Alumnus award as Carrie York, chair of the Distinguished Alumnus selection committee, looks on.



Doug Ramsay (Ortho '90) and Michelle Brot



Incoming Dental Alumni Association President Oleg Shvartsur ('11) and Dean's Club Past President Doug Walsh ('78)

Dean's Club Dinner continued



Faria and Sherwin Shinn and their son, Jim-Nasser



Philip Anderson ('72)

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



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



Rick Taylor (Endo '88) and Frances Taylor

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



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 had 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 Dennert, who died tragically in a plane crash during the Thanksgiving break in 2019.



The Class of 2022

Grad Images





Hooding continued

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



Class President Courtney Lang



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.



The Class of 2023, looking sharp

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 Nedunchezian, Diane Daubert, Susan Coldwell, and Natasha Flake.



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.



Jennifer Ferguson (left) and Kay Ferguson, Dr. Ferguson's daughters, with Dean Gary Chiodo



Dr. Van Ramos (left), Director of Graduate Prosthodontics, presents the David H. Wands Fellowship in Graduate Prosthodontics to Dr. Marwan Fattouhi.



From left: Cindy Snyder of Delta Dental of Washington with Marlene Gonzales and Rebecca Ochoa, two of the Arcora Foundation Dr. Burton H. Goodman Presidential Scholarship recipients



Peter Popek receives the Dental Lifeline Network Outstanding Student Award from Dr. Susanne Kölare Jeffrey.

Kyler Hayes, winner of the Jack E. Nichols Student Leadership Award



Dr. Larry Lawton ('75, Oral Med '87) with Calvin Panah, recipient of the American College of Dentists Outstanding Leadership Award

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.



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.



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.



Students hear from Dr. Susan Coldwell, Associate Dean for Student Life and Admissions.



RIDE to the rescue

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, a member of the first RIDE cohort, has been a leader in the dental community since starting practice in Walla Walla after graduation.

Colville, Lake Spokane, Spokane, Yakima, Chelan, and Wenatchee, along with satellite clinics of those sites in Oroville, Brewster, Bridgeport, Twisp, Mattawa, Connell, Springdale, Quincy, and Ephrata.

After spending their second, third, and the beginning of their fourth years back in Seattle with the rest of their class, the RIDE students return to the communities where they served their RUOP rotations for an extended five-month clinical rotation before graduating. This time, they go back not as assistants but as fully fledged dental practitioners.



Dr. Art DiMarco

“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. We’re incorporating leadership activities so that they can best understand the needs of their patients and be leaders in both the community and in their profession.”

Dr. Patty Martin (‘12), a member of the first RIDE cohort, is a model for this goal. She has been practicing in Walla Walla since she graduated.



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

Dr. Frank Roberts, RIDE Director

One of the area’s few general dentists, Dr. Martin since 2013 has been a leader of the Walla Walla Valley Dental Society, a component of the Washington State Dental Association. She’s been secretary, president-elect, and president, but now, with three kids of her own, she’s passing the reins along so she can focus more closely on her family and her patients.

While Dr. Martin regularly sees patients from Walla Walla, which has a population of about 33,000, her office also sees many patients from the clinic one of her current partners used to run in Dayton, a town of about 2,600 people that’s more than 30 miles from Walla Walla.

“When you live in a rural area, you’re choosing to live there, and you’re choosing to know that if you need access to, say, a hospital, it’s gonna be a little bit of a drive,” she says. “Walla Walla is the big city to go to for a lot of people’s grocery shopping-type of things, and so they get used to coordinating that 45-minute drive here with their grocery shopping and other things they need to pick up.”

RIDE began as the brainchild of Dr. Wendy Mouradian, then Associate Dean for Regional Affairs, who passed the torch to Dr. Roberts upon her retirement in 2014. Since the beginning, RIDE has provided curriculum and technology equivalent to the educational model of the Seattle campus while also equipping students with more fast-paced clinical experience. RIDE is particularly well suited for students who are prepared to fulfill its mission, a sentiment that’s reflected through the program’s alumni.

Dr. James Lovelace (‘21), another RIDE graduate, knew it was a fit for him before he even started. His father was in the Navy, so he traveled around quite a bit as a kid, but when his family settled in Marysville, Wash. after he finished middle school, Dr. Lovelace grew an affection for Washington and for the underserved communities in his area.

“I came from a community health background – actually Indian Health Services (IHS) – so for me that’s a population that I liked and was used to working with,” says Dr. Lovelace. “I think of it as a different kind of dentistry. The population and the expectations are a little bit different, especially in IHS. It’s kind of a different practice model.”



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 alumnus 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.

“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.”

Dr. Armani Mendoza, 2017 RIDE alumna

Dr. Rosenthal grew up in Tucson, Ariz. and made his way to Washington when he got interested in firefighting, particularly smoke jumping, which he did for seven years at the North Cascades Smokejumper Base in Winthrop, Wash. In the off-seasons he would return to school to study for a new career. He thought about being a veterinarian or nurse, but because his father and sister, who passed away from lymphoma in 2015, were dentists, he decided to pursue that path.

For him, having to move frequently as part of the RIDE program was an incentive, not a disadvantage. “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,” he says. “That constant change of people and scenery was really nice. It kept things fresh.”



Dr. James Lovelace, shown with his RIDE classmates in 2018, is now serving a periodontics residency at our School.

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.

"A lot of my 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-Cities and 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.

After graduating, Dr. Nadia Grishin ('20) 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 their 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."



"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 was really nice."

Dr. Robert Rosenthal, 2021 RIDE alumnus

Dr. Grishin has woven the RIDE mission into the fabric of Spokane and made her dental office a safe space for the community in which she grew up. "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. "In 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



RIDE alumna Dr. Nadia Grishin has made a strong connection with Spokane’s Russian-speaking community.

has hosted a handful of UW dental students on their clinical rotations. “All the students have come to our clinic well-prepared, respectful of patients, and ready to learn. A lot of our patients request to see our students or ask if they will be joining the dental team following graduation, so that they can request to be seen by them again.”

The RIDE program has proved the success of its model year after year since its inception. It provides students with an unmatched level of attention from exceptional dental faculty, along with residency-style training to prepare them to make a difference in their communities from the moment they graduate.

“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 alumna

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.”

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.” She plans to 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. 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 preparing promotion materials.
- 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 job duties 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 (NBDE) 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.



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 Chmielauskaite** became the new Director of the Oral Medicine Graduate Program, effective June 1. Dr. Chmielauskaite, who was also named Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Medicine, took over the post 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 sub-award 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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Melvin Wilenzick
John & Michelle Yae
Teresa Yagi
Gary Yuen

Legacy gifts

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

“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 this photo from 2016, Dr. Mike Buehler directs the intake triage operation at the Seattle/King County free dental clinic.

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 Altice (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: Molecule 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, 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 jduso@uw.edu, or the principal investigator.



The UW School of Dentistry relies on the annual contributions from our many Business Partners to support our students, faculty, and programs. In turn, we encourage our alumni and friends to support these organizations and institutions that give so generously to our School.

GOLD PARTNERS (\$10,000+)

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ASI Dental Specialties	Elevate Oral Care LLC	Seattle-King County Dental Foundation
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Bien Air Dental	Permanente Dental Associates, PC	Washington State Dental Association
Big Sky Northwest	Philips Oral Health Care	Washington Dentists’ Insurance Agency (WDIA)
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Columbia Bank	Sea Mar Community Health Centers	

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Gentle Dental/SmileKeepers	LumaDent*	Univet Optics*
	MedPro Group	Willamette Dental Group

*DONATION MADE TO UWSOD STUDENT LEADERSHIP ACCOUNT

Columbia Bank treasures its community ties

Columbia Bank, one of our School of Dentistry’s Gold-level Business Partners, has strong ties to the Pacific Northwest communities it serves. “Our roots are Tacoma-based, so there has always been a commitment to developing deep and sustaining partnerships with Washington-based leaders who are equally as committed to investing in our communities,” says Dani Collins, Senior Vice President for Healthcare Banking.

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.”

The bank’s partnership with our School of Dentistry is a natural outgrowth of this engagement. Starting in 2010, the bank joined with the Washington State Dental Association and the Washington State Dentists’ Insurance Agency and supported the School’s popular Lunch and Learn sessions, in which predoctoral students enjoyed pizza and received

practical tutelage about professional practice. Later, after Columbia Bank merged with Pacific Continental Bank, it learned more about scholarship funding opportunities and developed a strong interest in the AHEC Scholars program.

AHEC, short for Eastern Washington Area Health Education Center, promotes health and wellness for underserved and at-risk populations through research, education, and community development. It works to establish a youth pipeline of health care professionals from rural communities and – of particular interest – supports recruitment and placement in the Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program (RUOP). This aligns perfectly with our School’s mission of expanding access to care throughout Washington, in which our RUOP predoctoral rotations and the RIDE (Regional Initiatives in Dental Education) program play key roles.

“Your commitment to engaging your residents through RIDE and AHEC is vital to building and sustaining healthy, thriving 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 demanding 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 Dressel, 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. “Though 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.”



Class Notes

DDS CLASS OF 1962

Dr. Al Leonard, Seattle: The Class of 1962 had our 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 so much easier for many to attend. A few spouses joined the reunion too.

DDS CLASS OF 1972

Dr. Rick Crinzi, Bellevue, Wash.: The Class of 1972 will be celebrating our 50-year reunion on Sept. 24. It will be at 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 raffle.

DDS CLASS OF 1976

Dr. Bryan Edgar, Federal Way, Wash.: I finished a six-year term as Speaker of the House for AGD last November and now chair the Investment Committee and the Regulatory Committee for WSDA.

Dr. Steve Marinkovich, Lakewood, Wash.: Retired two years ago. I enjoyed dentistry as a career and all the wonderful people I met over the years but am now thoroughly enjoying retirement and the freedom it brings.

DDS CLASS OF 1980

Dr. Gary Heyamoto, Woodinville, Wash.: I'm enjoying "retirement" prepping teeth and performing patient examinations at the Lake Washington Institute of Technology, participating in the Washington State HPV 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/1Qog3eqWTm4BE70VHkAmkrq-5ipEJA8UX/view>). I also accepted a position as a consultant for Merck's panel for HPV Vaccine Hesitancy and Awareness. I'm entering my 41st 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 SPU basketball games. Our stat team will continue our postseason work with our 15th Rose Bowl and our 11th College Football National Championship game in January.

CLASS OF 1982

Dr. Bill Marchant, Olympia, Wash.: In our senior year, four of us – Cal Early, Karl Furakawa, Lyle Tenjoma, and me – applied to 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 nostalgia I can report that at least three of us continued in and had wonderfully 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 Houston and finishing 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 orthodontic societies, 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 Shvartsur, Issaquah, Wash.: Our practice, 425 Dental, was proud to host 425 Smiles on April 16 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, Burkhardt Dental Supply, and Henry Schein Dental, and all of our other volunteers, nearly 60 patients were provided with dental care. This included routine exams, 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.

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 all first met in the fall of 1967 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 13 classmates who have passed away. Twenty-one classmates were able to attend, which was one less than at our last meeting five years ago. The event this year 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 tales were told of how well the new knee was 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 few memorable events in their life, and how much being a UWSOD graduate means to them. – Mike Doyle

DDS CLASS OF 2012



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! – Rusty Johnson

We are saddened to note the passing of classmates, colleagues, and friends. For a fuller accounting of their lives, please go online to <https://dental.washington.edu/alumni-friends/in-memoriam/>.

DR. DEAN E. LARGENT DDS CLASS OF 1952



Dr. Dean Elmore Largent passed away on July 30, 2021 in Sandpoint, Idaho. He was 92. He served in the U.S.

Public Health Service at the Yakima Reservation and, in 1995, retired from a 39-year dental practice in Othello, Wash.

DR. JAMES Q. BARNES ORTHODONTICS CLASS OF 1954



Dr. James Quincy "Jim" Barnes died on March 3, 2022 in San Antonio, Texas. He was 100.

He opened an orthodontic practice in San Antonio, served as president of the San Antonio District Dental Society, and taught orthodontics at The University of Texas Health Science Center.

DR. RICHARD H. JOHNSON DDS CLASS OF 1957



Dr. Richard Henry Johnson passed away on June 19, 2022 in Seattle at the age of 88. After a one-year U.S. Public Health internship in Baltimore, he began a 47-year private practice in Seattle's Cobb Building. Retiring in 2004, he served as a dental study club mentor and School of Dentistry affiliate faculty member.

DR. HERBERT H. HOOPER DDS CLASS OF 1962

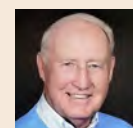


Dr. Herbert Hayes Hooper died on April 27, 2022 in Sacramento, Calif. He was 94.

He practiced dentistry for 40 years before retiring in

2002. He served as president of the Sacramento District Dental Society and chair of its continuing education and was chair of The Dental Company of the California Dental Association.

DR. PETER P. RILEY DDS CLASS OF 1962



Dr. Peter Patrick Riley passed away on July 15, 2022, surrounded by

family. He was 82. He became the 13th dentist in Bellevue, Wash., where he practiced for 40 years.

DR. HARRY H. HATASAKA ORTHODONTICS CLASS OF 1965



Dr. Harry Hideo Hatasaka died on June 12, 2022 in Palo Alto, Calif. He was 93. The

first of his family to attend college, he became one of Palo Alto's first orthodontists after completing his UW residency. He lectured internationally and taught at the University of the Pacific's Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry for 50 years.

DR. LEONARD E. NIXON DDS CLASS OF 1966



Dr. Leonard Edward "Leo" Nixon of Montesano, Wash., passed away on Sept. 7,

2021 in Olympia, Wash. He was 86. While at the School of Dentistry, he received the American Academy of Gold Foil Operators Achievement Award. He started Broadway Dental Center in Montesano, where he practiced for 32 years.

DR. EDWARD I. CARDIFF DDS CLASS OF 1968, GPR CLASS OF 1969

Dr. Edward Ira Cardiff died on Sept. 1, 2021 in Edmonds, Wash. He was 80. He had



a successful dental practice in Edmonds for 40 years. He enjoyed mentoring new dental students, volunteering at the School of Dentistry, and being a member of the ADA.

DR. JERALD D. BATES DDS CLASS OF 1969



Dr. Jerald Dayle "Jerry" Bates of Woodinville, Wash., passed away on Jan. 1,

2022. He was 79. After serving as a lieutenant and dentist in the U.S. Navy, he opened a dental practice in downtown Woodinville, where he worked for 50 years.

DR. DARYL J. HABICH DDS CLASS OF 1969



Dr. Daryl J. Habich passed away on Jan. 24, 2022. He was 78. For over 35 years, he participated

and mentored in the Tucker Gold Study Club, teaching in Indiana and Germany. He enjoyed teaching patients and his peers and spent his last years of dentistry at the clinic he built on an airfield.

DR. E. DAVID ENGST DDS CLASS OF 1972, ORTHODONTICS CLASS OF 1977



Dr. Edward David Engst passed away on Aug. 11, 2022. He was 75. He won national

recognition for nearly two decades of often-dangerous work around the globe as a dental humanitarian, including the American Association of Orthodontists' Humanitarian of the Year award. After selling his 26-year orthodontics practice, he studied as a fellow in the UW Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery to improve his oral surgery skills for his overseas missions.

DR. VON W. KUEHN DDS CLASS OF 1972



Dr. Von W. Kuehn passed away on March 2, 2022 in Anacortes, Wash. He was 82. He had a 26-year

dental career in Anacortes and chose early retirement at age 58. He worked as a Rotary dental volunteer in Guatemala for a month each year.

DR. BARRY C. BEGET ORTHODONTICS CLASS OF 1973



Dr. Barry C. Beget of Bartlett, Ill., passed away on July 9, 2022. He was 79. He served as a dentist in the

U.S. Air Force for three years at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, and practiced orthodontics for 33 years in Eugene, Ore.

DR. RICHARD LOWELL DDS CLASS OF 1976



Dr. Richard Lowell unexpectedly passed away on July 23, 2021. He was 72. He spent his 34-year

career at Lowell Dental in Monroe, Wash. He taught at the dental hygiene school of Lake Washington Institute of Technology.

DR. SCOTT S. WORLTON DDS CLASS OF 1979



Dr. Scott S. Worlton died on June 10, 2022. He was 72. He served in

the U.S. Army from 1979 to 2001. After retiring as a lieutenant colonel, he worked in a private dental practice in Las Colinas, Texas, for 10 years. He then returned to Washington state and worked part-time in dentistry for several years. He also volunteered at the annual Seattle/King County Clinic.

Remembering Dr. Philip Worthington, longtime chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

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 in 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 was 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 German 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 honorary 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 Hohl (OMS '74) after Dr. Worthington's retirement. It was Dr. Hohl who did a six-month residency at the hospital in Wales where Dr. Worthington worked. He later suggested to Dr. Jim Hooley, then our OMS chair, that Dr. Worthington be invited to Seattle as a visiting professor.

"Philip was a great combination of superb clinician and surgeon, but also a very good administrator," Dr. Hohl said.

He also credited Dr. Worthington with opening up the department to international views, bringing in a number of visitors from abroad.



Dr. Philip Worthington and his wife, Ruth, at a Dean's Club dinner in 2015

Dr. Worthington was one of the early adopters of dental implantology pioneered by Sweden's Per-Ingvar Brånemark, with the University of Washington chosen to be one of the first four North American sites to employ the new technology. Dr. Worthington went on to publish extensive research on it.

After he retired, Seattle-area alumni and senior School of Dentistry faculty underscored the high regard in which he

was held by creating an endowment in his name. It was initially done to support visiting scholars but has evolved to seek a more ambitious goal: to establish the Worthington Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at our School.

"This would be a most fitting memorial to his outstanding career and legacy," Dean Gary Chiodo said in a message to our School after learning of his death.

Aside from professional qualities marked by a no-nonsense teaching style, that legacy encompassed a generous measure of humor, warmth, and compassion. He left a lasting impression on students like Dr. Richard Crinzi, ('72), past president of our Dental Alumni Association, who went on to become a prominent Seattle-area oral surgeon.

"He taught his students technique and he taught us about life, and he was a mentor for literally hundreds of excellent oral and maxillofacial surgeons," Dr. Crinzi said after Dr. Worthington retired.

Memorial gifts

At the family's request, donations in Dr. Worthington's name may be made to the Alzheimers Association at www.alz.org or to the Worthington endowment at <https://online.gifts.washington.edu/secure/> (look for the Philip Worthington Lectureship in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery).

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY B471 HEALTH SCIENCES BOX 357137, SEATTLE, WA 98195-7137

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Alumni calendar of events

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

Dental Alumni Football Event

Time: TBD
UW vs. Stanford
I WING ROTUNDA / UW HEALTH SCIENCES
BUILDING

TUESDAY, OCT. 18

Health Sciences Education Building Grand Opening Celebration

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
UW HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION
BUILDING

THURSDAY, OCT. 13

ADA UW School of Dentistry Reception

5-7 p.m.
HILTON AMERICAS HOTEL, ROOM 346A
HOUSTON

MONDAY, NOV. 21

Dental Alumni Full Board Meeting

6:30-8:30 p.m.
WASHINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB, SEATTLE

