

DentalAlumninews

SPRING 2023

Leaning into the job

Dean André Ritter
assesses our School's
priorities and shares
his vision for its future

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NEWS



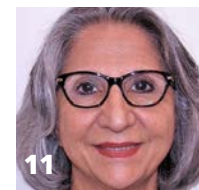
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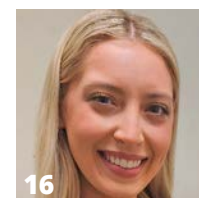
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Critical needs must still be met

Hello again, Husky dental alumni!

A great deal has taken place at our School of Dentistry since my last message to you in the fall. Dean André Ritter took over from retiring Dean Gary Chiodo in September, and we have seen many encouraging signs in his leadership since then. Dean Ritter has made it clear that he wants to continue the steady, forward-thinking approach of his predecessor and build on our School’s successes rather than “reinvent the wheel.”

He has also indicated that he plans to maintain close ties with our alumni community, not only meeting with us at school events but visiting local dental societies around the state. He will also continue to send us periodic updates about the School by email and video. In addition, I urge you to read his Dean’s Corner message on page 7 about the School’s development of a new strategic plan. The committee drafting this plan will be reaching out to alumni for our input, which is welcome news.

One thing that will play a critical part in determining our School’s success is the ongoing Campaign for Clinics: Imagine Our Future (<https://dental.washington.edu/campaign-for-clinics/>). Since its launch in 2019, the campaign has racked up an impressive record. One of the biggest accomplishments has been the multimillion-dollar renovation of the B-350 clinic, which now is the new base of operations for the Shoreline Community College dental hygiene program at our School. The Shoreline program, which can be expanded as workforce needs dictate, will help alleviate the glaring shortage of hygienists in Washington.

The campaign has now entered a new phase. Key elements include the remodeling and upgrading of our D-1 Simulation Clinic. The campaign also envisions a Center for Digital Dentistry, which alone carries a cost of at least \$3 million. It will address a serious deficiency in our digital capability, with equipment including intraoral scanners, computers and software, 3D printers, and milling machines. The campaign has raised about \$1.5 million for this so far, including \$500,000 in capital funding from the UW.

Beyond that, we have other pressing needs, especially for new dental chairs. Our School has bought new chairs for some clinics, but many more chairs – aging, dilapidated, unrepairable – must still be replaced. Cabinetry, sinks, and other infrastructure also need replacement.

So we have a long way to go with this campaign, and I hope you will seriously consider a gift. We need infrastructure and technology that truly match the world-class quality of our School. You can make that happen!

Meanwhile, we have some exciting events coming up. On Saturday, May 6, our annual Dean’s Club Dinner will be held at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center on the downtown Seattle waterfront. Dean Chiodo will receive the Dean’s Club Honorary Lifetime Member Award, and the renowned Dr. John Kois will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Aside from that, it’s always a great opportunity to mix and mingle with classmates and old friends.

Then, for our younger alumni, we will be having a Classes of the 2000s Wine Event at Husky Stadium’s Club Husky on Thursday, May 11, with a Cinco de Mayo theme. Don’t miss out on these fun events! You’ll be hearing more from our Advancement Office team about them, and you’re always welcome to call the office at (206) 685-9350 for details.

I want to leave you with a reminder that our Dental Alumni Association depends on your dues to continue doing all that it does – annually funding more than \$40,000 in scholarships, sponsoring events such as our School’s White Coat Ceremony for rising third-year students, and much more. So please don’t forget to renew your dues promptly. I hope to see you at one of our events!

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.



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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.



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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.



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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.



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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.



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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

A road map for our future

These last few years have been tumultuous ones for our School of Dentistry and dental education in general. To be sure, the COVID-19 pandemic had a hugely disrupting impact on teaching and clinical services, and it also hampered research to some extent. However, other forces at work long before the pandemic have significantly altered our landscape.

Teaching methods have had to adapt to evolving modes of learning. The decline in state funding for higher education, coupled with rising operational costs, has compelled public dental schools such as ours to raise tuition, which in turn has spurred student debt to record levels. Technology and digital tools are increasingly a part of dentistry and oral health and must be an integral part of our curriculum. Federal research funding has grown ever more competitive, requiring researchers to be more creative in finding new sources to support their programs.

At the same time, we have grown acutely aware of the value of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in educating the dental providers of the future. EDI is a crucial element of recognizing the dignity and worth of every person, but for our School, there is even more at stake. We know that a more diverse dental workforce is essential to effectively promote oral health throughout all our communities. It has been shown that patients are more receptive to providers who understand and even share their culture.

These developments, among others, have made it abundantly clear that our School of Dentistry must have a new strategic plan that sharply defines our identity as well as our values, and delineates how we execute our mission. It has been eight years since our last strategic plan was formulated. Now is the ideal time to develop a dynamic plan that will guide us toward a new vision, and build on our successes for even greater impact and influence on healthcare and oral health education, oral and craniofacial research, person-centered care, and community service.

To that end, I have appointed key faculty and staff members to a Strategic Planning Oversight Committee to draft a plan by June 30 of this year. Associate Deans Sara Gordon and Douglass Jackson will serve respectively as chair and vice chair of the committee, which will follow these guidelines:

- The plan must be congruent with the University's strategic plan, priorities, and values.
- A living document, our new strategic plan will be public, accessible to all stakeholders and interested parties as a model of educational distinction.

- The new plan must represent a cross-section of our entire school community, and not simply be the vision of the leadership. It is everyone's participation that will breathe life into this document.
- The new strategic plan will articulate our shared purpose (a mission statement), our shared aspirations (a vision statement), and our shared values. It will synthesize who we are and why we are here, as well as where we are headed as a school.



Let me emphasize that our new strategic plan will build on a distinguished history. Our School has been renowned as a leader in oral health education, oral and craniofacial research and discovery, and patient care, as well as service to our community. We have outstanding faculty and staff, and highly motivated students. I am proud of the exceptional programs we already have in place, including RIDE, DECOD, the Timothy A. DeRouen Center for Global Oral Health, the Regional Clinical Dental Research Center, the COHO Summer Institute in Clinical Dental Research Methods, Everyone 4 Veterans at the UW, and many others.

Our foundation is strong, and we are well positioned to expand our role as a national leader. Such leadership requires vision and the foresight and initiative not only to prepare for the future, but to create and shape it. Furthermore, it is essential that we seek out voices from outside our School, starting with you, our alumni. You have been a vital part of our success, and we will be reaching out to you for your invaluable input.

I am eager to begin this work, which will lead us toward an auspicious and exciting future, and will keep you updated as we embark on this challenging but essential initiative.

ANDRÉ V. RITTER, DDS, MS, MBA, 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!

EMAIL: randyn@uw.edu

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Dr. Linda Edgar wins ADA presidency-elect



Visiting our School last November as ADA president-elect, Dr. Linda Edgar pauses with Dean André Ritter.

When Dr. Linda Edgar ('92) was in her first year of dental school at the UW, she found it so difficult that she contemplated quitting. But Dr. Robert Canfield of the Restorative Dentistry faculty told her, "You know, there will be people who will miss out as your patients if you quit." She decided to stick with it.

This year, Dr. Edgar will attain the pinnacle of her profession: the presidency of the American Dental Association. Last October, the ADA House of Delegates voted to make her president-elect, with a one-year term that leads directly into the presidency. She will be the first UW School of Dentistry graduate to hold the office.

"I am very interested in creating a personal touch with more communications to members and a desire for ADA to be there for members when they need us the most," she said. "New dentists have told us they want a personal touch, mentor programs, and more reasonably priced, hands-on, intensive continuing education."

Legislative initiatives have a prominent place in her agenda. "I would like to see medical loss-ratio initiatives and legislation passed throughout the country, so that patients will get at least 83 percent of their premium paid back and treatment," she said. "I believe we can do this. ADA invested \$5.5 million in this initiative to help our profession and our patients and create more transparency."

Beyond that, she also would like to work with the U.S. Department of Education and individual states to start elementary-school brushing programs and encourage teachers to stop giving candy to students as rewards for doing schoolwork. "I believe this change could create a tipping point and reduce decay across the country," she said. "I am also in full support of [ADA] President George Shepley's sugar initiative as a worldwide educational goal."

Dr. Edgar, an ADA member since 1992, served in the House of Delegates from 2005 to 2018. She also served as the ADA's Eleventh District trustee and on the ADA's Council on Dental Practice, Business Innovation Committee, and Budget and Finance Committee. No stranger to national leadership, she was president of the Academy of General Dentistry in 2013-14 and also served as vice president and had two terms as national secretary. She was president of the Seattle-King County Dental Society in 2010-11.

She practiced privately with her husband, Dr. Bryan Edgar ('76), for 27 years in Federal Way before they retired in 2020. She holds a master's degree in education and, before entering dentistry, taught in Auburn, Wash., for 15 years. In fact, it was her husband who suggested that she might consider dental school.

When she was seeking the ADA presidency-elect, she said, "I would like to do something about the excessively high student loan percentages that are presently charged. If we are creative, I think we can do something about this problem."

Now, she says, the ADA can play a key role in helping to shape legislation that tackles this and other issues: "Many people are not aware of the more than 10 bills that address improving student loans and the efforts to prevent things from happening that would increase taxes on small businesses, etc."

Through the years, the Edgars have maintained strong ties to our School and been active supporters. They co-chaired the School's portion of Campaign UW: Creating Futures from 2000 to 2008 and have served as Dean's Club co-presidents. Their generosity as donors has earned them UW Distinguished Benefactor standing.

Now Dr. Linda Edgar will take on her most challenging but potentially rewarding role, and she fully appreciates its magnitude. "Dentistry is essential in the overall health of the public," she said. "If we all work together, I believe the future of dentistry can be very bright."

Dr. Bertha Barriga’s \$2.7M gift paves way for Law/Lewis Chair

Decades ago, the late Dr. Bertha Barriga (Pedo ’71) had already made her mark as one of the relatively few female graduates of our School of Dentistry. The DDS Class of 1971, for example, was 100 percent male.

When the first significant wave of women began entering the School in the mid-’70s, Dr. Barriga, who taught in Pediatric Dentistry, was still a rarity among faculty members. Yet she had outsized impact as an inspirational figure for the School’s female students of that era.

Even with Dr. Barriga’s passing in August 2021, her impact will not diminish: She left a legacy gift of \$2.7 million that will enable the elevation of the Law-Lewis Endowed Professorship to an endowed chair.

While this was a planned gift, the amount still came as a stunning, wonderful surprise when the estate was settled last year. Even so, its magnitude was foreshadowed by Dr. Barriga’s long history as a generous and devoted supporter of our School, with a total of \$130,000 in gifts before her ultimate one.



Dr. Bertha Barriga, a Pediatric Dentistry alumna, was one of the School’s early female students and faculty members.

“Over the course of her life, Dr. Barriga was one of UW Pediatric Dentistry’s greatest advocates. Her incredibly generous legacy gift will support the continued excellence of the department that she cared so much about.”

DR. TRAVIS NELSON, CHAIR OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Dr. Barriga’s final contribution closed the circle on her career-long association with this key faculty position. She was instrumental in helping to create the original Law/Lewis Endowed Lectureship in 1992. Her support also helped propel its ascension to an endowed professorship. The professorship – as of April 1, the chair – and the lecture honor the memories of two iconic department figures: Dr. David Law, the department’s first chair; and his colleague Dr. Thompson Lewis.

Dr. Barriga enjoyed a 42-year dental career in Seattle, including her associate professorship in Pediatric Dentistry. “She was always able to relate to people in a very friendly and respectful way,” said Dr. Peter Domoto, retired department chair, in 2008. “All the children she treated loved her and would remember her over the years. She was very warmhearted.”

Institutional gender barriers were not the only challenge she faced. Born and raised in Bolivia, Dr. Barriga completed five years of dental school in La Paz before moving to the United States in the early 1960s. When she learned that her Bolivian training did not qualify her to practice here, she went through dental school a second time, at the University of Oregon. There she was admitted as a second-year student and was the only woman in her class, graduating in 1966. After that, she began a successful pediatric dentistry private practice in Seattle and, after earning her MSD, her teaching duties at the UW. Beyond teaching, her ties to our School also included nine years of service on the Admissions Committee.

“She was the classic model of a practitioner and clinician who gives back to clinical education in a real big way,” Dr. Domoto said in 2008.

After retiring, Dr. Barriga was a docent guide at the Seattle Art Museum for school groups and was active in the UW Retirement Association. She also burnished her skills on the violin, practicing an hour each day on the instrument that her father – himself a violinist – handed down to her.

“Over the course of her life, Dr. Barriga was one of UW Pediatric Dentistry’s greatest advocates,” said Dr. Travis Nelson, Chair of Pediatric Dentistry. “Her incredibly generous legacy gift will support the continued excellence of the department that she cared so much about.”

Dr. Dolphine Oda retires from faculty



Dr. Dolphine Oda, one of our School’s most acclaimed and respected teachers in the course of her 37 years on the faculty, retired at the end of 2022.

Dr. Oda was Professor of Oral Pathology in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and director of the UW’s Oral Pathology Biopsy Service, with medical staff appointments at the University of Washington Medical Center and Harborview Medical Center.

Dr. Oda taught 14 predoctoral and postdoctoral courses. Her second-year course in oral pathology was a longtime student favorite despite being one of the curriculum’s most demanding courses. A typical student course evaluation comment was, “This is the best course I’ve taken at dental school.”

Her awards included the UW’s Distinguished Teaching Award and our School’s Bruce R. Rothwell Distinguished Teaching Award, those institutions’ highest teaching recognition. She was also recognized nearly every year as an Outstanding Teacher by our students, who often invited her to be keynote speaker at graduation and the White Coat Ceremony after their second year.

She has also been prominent in continuing dental education, teaching more than 130 courses and delivering more than 120 lectures to public dental practitioners in Washington, Alaska, Utah, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, Chile, and Venezuela. In 2013, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oral Cancer Foundation.

As the longtime chief of the Oral Pathology Biopsy Service, she directed consultation and tissue diagnosis serving hundreds of practitioners along with hospitals and surgical pathology laboratories. Her popular Case of the Month series invited practitioners to review a case history and diagnostic information and then try to choose the correct diagnosis from several possibilities.

With several dozen peer-reviewed publications, she has been an active and far-ranging researcher. Her interests have included epithelial cell carcinogenesis, cell culture, human papillomavirus and oral cancer, and chemical carcinogenesis.

Dr. Oda received a BDS from the University of Baghdad in 1975 and an MSc in surgical pathology from the University of Manitoba School of Medicine. Before coming to the UW, she taught at the University of Manitoba, Indiana University, and the University of California at San Francisco. She has also been visiting professor at Francisco Marroquin University in Guatemala and the University of Chile and visiting instructor at Central University of Venezuela.

Dr. Burton Goodman named WSDA Citizen of the Year



Dr. Burton Goodman (’53), a longtime pillar of the state dental community who received the Washington State Dental Association (WSDA) President’s Award in 1996, was named WSDA Citizen of the Year in January.

Hallmarks of his career included his commitment to serving people in need and supporting young dentists. He was also a founding member and later president of the Washington State Dental Service Corporation, which became Washington Dental Service and eventually Delta Dental of Washington.

He was also a founding member and first president of the Washington Dental Service Foundation, which is now the Arcora Foundation. Among his many impactful contributions was leading the creation of the WDS Foundation’s SmileMobile, a mobile dental office that serves communities in need. In turn, the foundation created the Burton H. Goodman Presidential Scholarship at our School, an award that seeks to promote diversity in our student body.

Always sensitive to the plight of the needy, he stepped outside his private practice in Tacoma to create a dental clinic for such patients at Pierce County Hospital, where he was named chief of dental services. The low-income clinic became one of the state’s first to offer internships for young dental graduates, whom he often mentored. Dr. Goodman also strived to secure local hospital staff privileges for qualified dentists and held such privileges at four local hospitals, treating many patients at no charge.

He also served on the Washington State Board of Health and as a founding member and eventual chair of what is now the Dental Quality Assurance Commission, and as an examining agent for the Washington State Board of Dental Examiners. He also served on advisory boards for the state Department of Social and Health Services and the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

37th Annual DEAN'S CLUB DINNER

SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 6, 2023
Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle

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Dr. Gary Chiodo
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Dr. John Kois
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For more information, call Dentistry Advancement at 206-685-9350 or go to events.uw.edu/deansclub2023.



Celebrating Dean Chiodo and Dr. Kois

At the Dean's Club Dinner on May 6, honors will be bestowed on our former Dean and on one of dentistry's most prominent continuing education figures.

Dean Gary T. Chiodo
2023 DEAN'S CLUB HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER



When Dr. Gary Chiodo became our Dean in 2018, he faced daunting financial challenges. But just as he had as interim dean at Oregon Health & Science University, he quickly brought our finances under control, eliminated the annual deficit, and maintained a string of positive budget balances after his first year.

He was just getting started. In 2020, the pandemic struck in full force. Navigating totally unfamiliar terrain, with the ground shifting underfoot almost daily, he provided steady, unflappable leadership that allowed the School to maintain essential operations and plot a course through the crisis. At the same time, the School continued to post high global rankings, even as it had to contend with the state-mandated lockdown, a sudden shift from in-person instruction to a virtual model, and other almost unimaginable challenges.

When the Shoreline Community College dental hygiene program was imperiled, Dean Chiodo reached out to that school's leadership to propose rehoming the program at the UW. The idea soon became reality, and today the program, still led by Shoreline faculty, is once again thriving under our roof. It is poised to expand to help meet the severe workforce shortage in Washington state.

Dean Chiodo also pinpointed our School's critical need to update its aging infrastructure and technology, especially in the realm of digital dentistry. To meet this need, he led the creation of the Campaign for Clinics: Imagine Our Future. Not content to cheer from the sidelines, he made major gifts to the campaign, totaling more than \$175,000 by the time health issues compelled him to announce his retirement, which took place last fall. It was a reluctant departure.

Dr. Chiodo, beyond any doubt, has established a record as one of the most consequential Deans in our School's history. UW Provost Mark Richards had this to say: "From the moment Dean Chiodo joined the UW in 2018 as interim dean of the School of Dentistry, he demonstrated extraordinary leadership. ... It has been a privilege and honor to have worked alongside him."

Dr. John C. Kois (Graduate Prosthodontics '82)
2023 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



Our School of Dentistry alumni include a number of dentists who have gone on to become nationally and even internationally prominent in continuing dental education. Few, though, have outshone Dr. John C. Kois (Grad Pros '82), founder and director of the famed Kois Center in Seattle. From its humble beginnings in the back room of a dental office in Fife, Wash., the Center has

become celebrated for its rigorously evidence-based training offered to dental professionals from around the world. "There is no joy in mediocre dentistry," he has said.

The self-funded Kois Center, which accepts no external sponsorships, has its own research arm and updates course material constantly as new research is disseminated. The Center also conducts an annual symposium to review recently published dental science and to present speakers who are pioneers in their field. Beyond direct course presentations, the Kois Center's influence is amplified through a global network of study clubs.

His impact on dentists is illustrated by one course graduate's review: "John Kois' passion and scientific approach to perfection has changed my approach. I cannot rave enough about his program."

Dr. Kois is past president of the American Academy of Restorative Dentistry and American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry. His contributions to the profession have earned widespread recognition, including the 2002 Saul Schluger Memorial Award for Clinical Excellence in Diagnosis and Treatment Planning and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the World Congress of Minimally Invasive Dentistry and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. He also received the 2014 Thaddeus V. Weclaw Award, presented annually to an educator who embodies the spirit of comprehensive dental care. He maintains a presence at our School of Dentistry, where he is an Affiliate Professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry.

Continuing education lies at the heart of the dentist's professional ideal. To become a true clinician-scientist, the dentist must also be a lifelong learner. Dr. Kois has not only embodied this ideal, but he has devoted his professional life to facilitating its achievement for thousands of his professional colleagues.

DON'T
JUST
STAND
THERE.



STAND HERE.



With a new curriculum and rising patient numbers, our School needs affiliate faculty volunteers more than ever.

There's never been a more exciting time to help shape the course of dental education at the UW. If you can give us a half-day a week or more, join our ranks and help create the Dentist of the Future!

For information on joining our affiliate faculty, please contact Christina Wee in our Dean's Office at cwee@uw.edu.

Dr. Greg Huang bolsters Ortho Thesis Day fund with new gift



Since the creation of our Department of Orthodontics in 1948, research has been a cornerstone of the department's graduate residency training. Not only does research underlie the curriculum, but residents also pursue their own studies.

A highlight of the academic year comes in late March with the annual Alton Moore Lectureship and Thesis Day, named to honor the department's first Chair, who held that post for 32 years and later became our School's Dean. The initial lectureship was created in 1980.

The event has been funded by two of the department's faculty mainstays: Dr. David Turpin, who held the department's Moore-Riedel Professorship for multiple terms and received the 2020 Dean's Club Honorary Lifetime Member Award in recognition of his generous support over the years; and Dr. Greg Huang, the department's longtime Chair, Kokich-Shapiro Endowed Professor, and also our School's Associate Dean for Faculty. (Dean André Ritter confirmed him in that position, which had been an interim appointment, after assuming the deanship last fall.)

Dr. Huang has also built an impressive record of support for the School and his department, most recently a \$100,000 two-year matching pledge to the endowed fund supporting Thesis Day. If Dr. Huang's pledge is fully matched by alumni gifts, the David Turpin & Greg Huang Endowed Program Support Fund in Orthodontics could be positioned to completely cover the event's annual expenses.

Dr. Huang's devotion to research extends well beyond his responsibilities as Chair. The career-long quality of his own research was recognized in 2015 with the inaugural round of Evidence-Based Dentistry Awards from the American Dental Association and the American Association for Dental Research. Dr. Huang received the Accomplished Faculty Award, which recognizes a senior dental educator who has made significant contributions to implement and advance evidence-based dentistry.

In a 2015 interview with the *Dental Press Journal of Orthodontics*, he outlined his department's approach: "I believe our education could be described as evidence-based, open-minded, outcomes-focused, and patient-centered. We have tried to steer clear of orthodontic 'dogma,' and we place a high emphasis on reading the literature critically."

With his latest gift, Dr. Huang has again underscored his deep commitment to his department – and to our School.

Family members boost Selipsky Perio fund with latest \$100,000 gift



When Dr. Herbert Selipsky (Perio '73) told his son and daughter-in-law about endowing a Department of Periodontics fellowship with a \$100,000 gift, he may not have anticipated their reaction.

Of course, congratulations would have been in order. However, Adam – who is CEO of Amazon Web Services – and

Laura Selipsky chose to take it a giant step further. They made their own three-year pledge of \$100,000 toward the Selipsky Fellowship, hoping to encourage Perio alums and other supporters to make their own contributions to the endowment.

Dr. Selipsky served on Perio's full-time faculty for 25 years after receiving his MSD, then another 25 years part time. His endowed fund has an ultimate goal of covering the full tuition for all our graduate Perio students throughout their residencies. Once that goal is attained, any additional funds would support the Perio program in general.

The Selipsky Endowed Fund in Periodontics fellowship recipients will be chosen based on academic merit, with preference going to those students who may face financial hardship in obtaining an advanced degree. Plans are also in the works for more fundraising by Perio alumni.

Dr. Selipsky arrived at the UW after graduating from dental school in South Africa in 1961 and earning a postgraduate degree in prosthodontics in 1965. He practiced privately until 1970, when he was accepted into the UW Perio program. He called the offer of a full-time faculty position after his residency "the honor of a lifetime."

He contributed to the department not only by teaching but also with research. He continues to honor the admonition of the late Dr. Saul Schluger, the department's iconic founder. When Dr. Schluger was asked after retiring how department members could best honor his legacy, he responded that it would be by doing whatever they could to make his beloved graduate program even greater than it was in his day.

"This endowed fund is one attempt to ensure that legacy by attracting the country's and the world's best applicants to our program," Dr. Selipsky says. "I share that passion."

A radiology resident – and Miss Washington USA

“I knew when I was 2 years old that I was going to be a dentist,” said Dr. Samantha Gallia, a first-year resident in Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology at our School of Dentistry. What probably wasn’t on her radar was winning the title of Miss Washington USA.

After winning the pageant last November, Dr. Gallia, 24, will vie this year for the Miss USA crown. If she wins, she’ll go on to the Miss Universe pageant.

Dr. Gallia grew up in Sacramento, Calif., where her father, Dr. Louis Gallia (OMS ’79), is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon,



Dr. Samantha Gallia is a first-year UW Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology resident – and the reigning Miss Washington USA.

a UW School of Medicine alumnus (’76), and a former UWSOD affiliate faculty member. His daughter started “shadowing” him at the office as a toddler, and that’s where her career plans germinated.

“I was always a science nerd,” she said. At the Catholic high school for girls she attended, she led the Science Olympiad team and started a “Dental Divas” club to encourage girls to study dentistry. Clearly she made an impact; several club members are also in dental school. She went to the University of the Pacific, entering an accelerated pre-dental program and earning her DDS at the university’s highly regarded Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry before coming to the UW. At Dugoni, she was commencement speaker and was inducted

into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon dental honor society. Dr. Gallia, a two-time marathoner, has a younger brother who’s on the UW rowing team. “Everything just fell into place,” she said. “To be here where my dad trained and with my younger brother – and I’m getting the best possible education.”

Beauty pageants and dental training may seem like an odd mix, but she doesn’t see it that way. “My whole life, I feel I’ve been put in positions of being a strong supporter of women,” she said. One of her role models is Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman in America to receive a medical degree.

Dr. Gallia believes that women should be free to pursue whatever they want, pageants included. Moreover, she has found considerable value in her experiences thus far, starting at age 16 with her first pageant. “I have always been a bookworm and never would have seen myself participating in a pageant,” she said. “Luckily, I gave it a shot because I also never would have expected the kindness and friendships I found.”

Now, as a title holder, she relishes the opportunity it affords to advocate for causes close to her heart. Her grandmother died from breast cancer five years ago after battling it for years, and Dr. Gallia volunteered with the Save Ourselves breast cancer advocacy group in Sacramento. Now she supports similar groups in Washington.

In dental school, she was president of the Student Community Outreach for Public Education club, which helped provide dental care to underserved communities, and started #GirlDocsRock to encourage young women to pursue science and health careers. “It takes persistence, believing in yourself, and not listening to people who tell you what you can’t do,” she said.

Her connection to oral radiology has its roots in her dad’s friendship with Dr. David Hatcher (’73), whom he met during his UW residency. Dr. Hatcher, an oral and maxillofacial radiologist and founder of Beam Readers, also taught at the Dugoni School of Dentistry, and he became a mentor to young Samantha while she was in high school.

After her residency, she hopes to work in private practice and possibly teach. “The more I learn, the more I know I have to learn,” she said. She’s engaged to her high school sweetheart, who attended Georgetown University and now attends medical school in San Diego.

As she continues her dual pursuits, Dr. Gallia plans to go on serving the community and supporting her causes. “For me, it’s really about being an example for young women,” she said. “You don’t have to fit yourself into a box that society expects of you. I’m just being who I am.”



Alums devise new screw channel barrier

Dr. Alexander Shor (Grad Pros ’01) and Dr. Jim Janakievski (Grad Perio ’04) created the first medical-grade material designed for use as a dental implant screw channel barrier. Their award-winning product is called FirstPlug®.

FirstPlug is designed as a cylindrical PTFE rod and can be dispensed in specific lengths, so that dentists and dental assistants can safely and easily fill screw access channels for implant restorations. Until its launch, there had been no product designed specifically for this purpose, let alone one as optimized as FirstPlug.

Dentists have been using a variety of materials, including cotton pellets, silicone, and plumber’s tape, to fill screw access channels. All were less than optimal for the intended purpose. For example, cotton pellets absorb moisture and promote bacterial growth. Plumber’s tape is an industrial product that lacks regulatory compliance and is not intended for use in the human body.

“Dentists by our nature are very resourceful. So, without good options, we went to the hardware store and got plumber’s tape,” said Dr. Janakievski. “PTFE material has good properties, but plumber’s tape comes as a thin ribbon, and it’s made for pipes, not implants. It’s not a clean product and it does not meet standards of regulated medical or dental products,” said Dr. Shor.

Dr. Janakievski and Dr. Shor met at our School of Dentistry. Dr. Shor was an assistant program director for the Graduate Prosthodontics program, while Dr. Janakievski was a resident in Graduate Periodontics. Both programs closely collaborate.

The two quickly became friends, especially when they learned they shared a passion for landscape photography. As friends, they often shared the challenges they encountered in their clinical practices and how to solve them.

The two started working on FirstPlug in 2005 and went on to obtain a patent. Once they finalized the product, they established a company called 35Newtons. The name is a reference to the most common value of torque – 35 newtons per centimeter – used when attaching the restoration to the dental implant.



Dr. Alex Shor (left) and Dr. Jim Janakievski, who met at our School of Dentistry while in Graduate Prosthodontics and Periodontics (respectively), invented FirstPlug, a medical-grade material to fill screw access holes for implant restorations.

35Newtons officially released FirstPlug in October 2021. Since then, it has received numerous professional recognitions, including five product design awards and one Best of Class Cellerant dental technology award. It was voted as one of the top 10 best implant products of 2022 by *Dental Products Report*. It was also recognized by the Clinical Research Foundation as the best screw channel barrier product for dental implants.

“We appreciate the awards because they recognize the value that the product brings to clinicians and patients, and that is what matters to us,” said Dr. Shor.

Now that there’s a medical-grade product designed for implant restorations on the market, dental practitioners are starting to take advantage of it, including those in our School of Dentistry.

“We have been using the product for about six months now,” said Dr. Van Ramos, Director of the Graduate Prosthodontics program. “It is a very useful material for us since it fits the size of the screw access perfectly and it is very easy to place. I also like the fact that it is a medical-grade material that can easily be sterilized before use.”

Dr. Shor and Dr. Janakievski say that our Department of Restorative Dentistry has also approved FirstPlug for use in its predoctoral clinics.

The two are not done creating new ideas. “FirstPlug is the main product for us now, but we are working on other projects,” said Dr. Janakievski. “We just can’t tell you what they are yet.”

– Jethro Swain

Improving our School's instrument handling safety

Our School of Dentistry is committed to the health and safety of our patients, staff, students, and faculty. Over the past few months, we have been reviewing and improving instrument handling practices in oral surgery following an inspection from the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. The assessment and improvements have been conducted with the assistance of the UW Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S).

As a result of the work with EH&S, significant changes are being implemented to reduce the potential for injuries involving medical sharps (e.g., needles, scalpels) and reusable sharps (e.g., burs) in oral surgeries.

The first significant change included a transition to the use of cassettes, rather than trays, for instruments used in oral surgery procedures. Cassettes are advantageous from both an organizational and safety compliance perspective because they contain and secure the sharps instruments for sterilization. The use of instrument cassettes has been shown to reduce occupational sharps exposures for dentists and dental assistants. To put cassettes into operation, our School worked closely with Hu-Friedy Group, a STERIS company, to identify and purchase custom cassettes that could hold the necessary instruments prior to sterilization. We then ensured that faculty, staff, and students were trained on the proper use of the new cassettes.

The second significant change to improve safety in oral surgery was the implementation of a sharps and reusable sharps checklist to account for all sharps at the start and end of a procedure before instruments are placed in the cassettes. Sharps are counted by both the surgeon and dental assistant, which reduces the potential for a sharp to be left unaccounted for in the work environment, thus reducing the potential for sharps-related accidents.

To further build upon these improvements, we invited EH&S to audit work practices and hired a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of sterilization facilities and equipment, with the goal of developing a process improvement to document workflow. Our School plans to optimize processes and update sterilization facilities to meet current and future demand in patient flow.

We would be pleased to share our experiences with interested alumni and the dental community to help improve safety in your practices. For further information, please contact our Health & Safety Manager, Kayla Milano (kmilano@uw.edu).

Dr. Natasha Flake
Associate Dean for Predoctoral Clinical Education and Operations

Dr. E. Ricardo Schwedhelm
Associate Dean for Infrastructure and Development

Kayla Milano
Health & Safety Manager

CDE Spotlight course: Pediatric sedation safety

On April 28, Dr. Andrea Fonner, president of the American Dental Board of Anesthesiology, will present the Law/Lewis Lecture: Sedation Safety in the Pediatric Dental Office. Dr. Fonner, who served a general practice residency at the UW after earning her DDS at the University of the Pacific, will discuss how to prepare the dental office team for any urgent situation. Attendees will learn to:

- Discuss office preparation and the six important features of an emergency kit.
- Identify strategies to practice urgent scenarios with your team.
- Recognize and improve management of common sedation complications.
- Decide how to incorporate and recognize the importance of cognitive aids.

Dr. Fonner, who also completed a dental anesthesiology residency at UCLA, has conducted a mobile anesthesia practice in the Seattle area for 14 years. She has been president and delegate for the Washington Dental Society of Anesthesiology for 11 years, and was co-creator of the ADSA Ten Minutes Saves a Life!® emergency application and manual.



The daylong, 7-credit course will be held at the Mountaineers Club in Seattle. Tuition, which includes lunch, is \$289 for dentists, \$189 for dental team members, and \$261 for current UW Dental Alumni Association members. For more information or to register, go to <https://dental.washington.edu/condented/sedation-safety>.

Is OCT scanning the wave of the future?

Researchers at our School of Dentistry have cast further light on a method of capturing dental images that could become a safer and more comfortable alternative to X-rays, especially for patients with special needs.

Using optical coherence tomography (OCT), a real-time imaging process similar to an ultrasound, dentists can scan the inside of a patient's mouth to capture much of the same information as an X-ray. OCT imaging also offers some enhanced features.

In a study published by the National Institutes of Health, researchers recruited participants from the Dental Education in the Care of Persons with Disabilities (DECOD) clinic at the School of Dentistry to explore the utility and difference in comfort of dental OCT by testing it on patients with developmental disabilities (PDD).

Dental X-rays are sometimes difficult to acquire for PDDs, since they can require patients to hold still in uncomfortable positions for extended periods.

While the study had only 10 participants, the data showed a noticeable difference between the two imaging methods, with the X-ray giving a much higher rating of discomfort than the OCT scan on each of two scales used to gauge pain or discomfort.

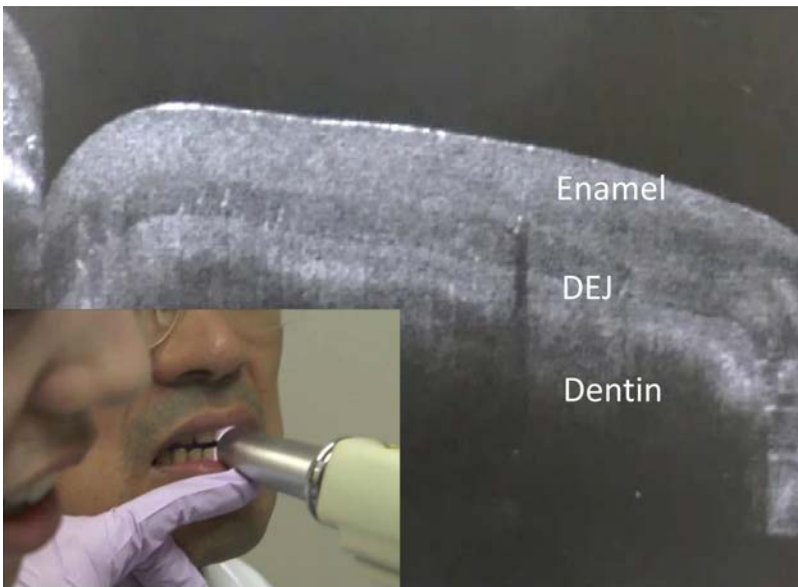
"[Along with] the comfort, the images are also 3D," said study co-author Dr. Alireza Sadr of the Department of Restorative Dentistry faculty. "X-rays are 2D, so everything is superimposed on a flat [image], but now you have a 3D [image]."

The OCT scans not only provide a more comfortable alternative for patients, but the 3D imaging lets dentists analyze certain aspects of the tooth, such as cracks, better than X-rays can.

There are some drawbacks to OCT scanning, including less accuracy when trying to analyze a tooth's interior. This makes OCT most useful as an adjunct to X-rays, at least for now, as opposed to a replacement.

"I've been in this field for 15 years and I think we are closer than ever to having a clinical OCT for dentistry. I think that it's partly the future of imaging in dentistry."

DR. ALIREZA SADR, RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY



*An optical coherence tomography scan shows a 3D image, as opposed to the 2D image of an X-ray.
Photo: Science Direct*

"It's also non-ionizing," said Dr. Sadr. "It's not X-ray, so it's also safer." By limiting the use of X-rays, patients and doctors are both exposed to less radiation.

Often in clinics like DECOD, doctors must stay in the room with patients to assist them with the X-ray process. Helping multiple patients in this manner every day can lead to an unhealthy level of radiation exposure, but OCT scanning eliminates that risk.

The technology needs ultra-high-speed computers, specialized lasers, and other expensive technology to function, so it's not yet practical for dentists. However, Dr. Sadr believes that could soon change.

"I've been in this field for 15 years and I think we are closer than ever to having a clinical OCT for dentistry," said Dr. Sadr. "I think that it's partly the future of imaging in dentistry."

"In Japan just a few months ago, the Japanese FDA approved the same system that we use here for clinical use. There is a very good chance that the very same system we're working on will gain FDA approval and be available in the U.S."

Other authors of the study include DECOD director Dr. Kimberly Espinoza and Dr. Juri Hayashi from the School of Dentistry, as well as Dr. Yasushi Shimada and Dr. Junji Tagami from Tokyo Medical and Dental University.

– Jethro Swain

Delta Dental of Washington Clinic open house

School of Dentistry
Feb. 11, 2023

The new home of the Shoreline Community College dental hygiene program on our campus was the site of a celebratory event. The 12-chair facility is now our School's top clinical space after a multimillion-dollar remodeling, thanks to donors led by Delta Dental of Washington.



Dr. Nikki Honey and Lori Simicich (center left and right), Shoreline program co-directors, with dental hygiene students



Delta Dental CEO Mark Mitchke addresses the open house as Dean Ritter looks on.



Dean André Ritter (left) with Dr. Jack Kahn, Shoreline president

Mark Mitchke, Delta Dental CEO, relaxes in the dental chair, joined by (from left) Dr. John Gibbons, Washington State Dental Association president; Diane Oakes, Delta Dental's chief mission officer; Dean Ritter; and Vanetta Abdellatif, president and CEO of Delta Dental's Arcora Foundation.



Dr. Ricardo Schwedhelm (left), our Associate Dean for Infrastructure and Development, joins Dean Ritter and Shoreline program co-directors Lori Simicich and Dr. Nikki Honey (in chair).



Dean Ernest Jones Memorial Lecture

Kane Hall, UW campus
Sept. 23, 2022

Our School's premier continuing education event celebrated its 50th anniversary, with Dr. Miguel Stanley lecturing from Portugal by Zoom.



Dean André Ritter, who was in his first day on the job, talks to guests at the luncheon break.



Dr. Steve Albright (left) chats with Dr. Oleg Shvartsur, president of our Dental Alumni Association.



The lectureship marked its half-century milestone.



Attendees watch Dr. Miguel Stanley discuss his "No Half Smiles" treatment philosophy.

ADA Reception

Houston
Oct. 14, 2022

Our School held its customary reception at the ADA annual meetings.



From left: Dr. Dexter Barnes, Dr. Julio Rodriguez of the International College of Dentists, Dr. Gordon Christensen, and Dean Ritter

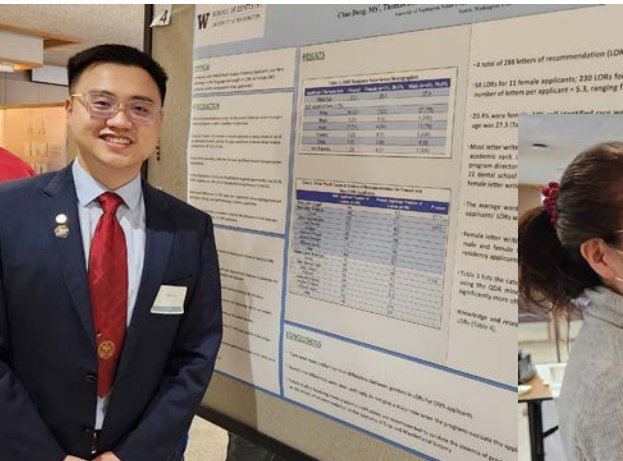


From left: Michaela Laabs, Dr. Christina Koh, Dean Ritter, Allen Labonite, Dr. Lina Kim ('03), and Keri Dang

Research Day

UW Health Sciences
Feb. 1, 2023

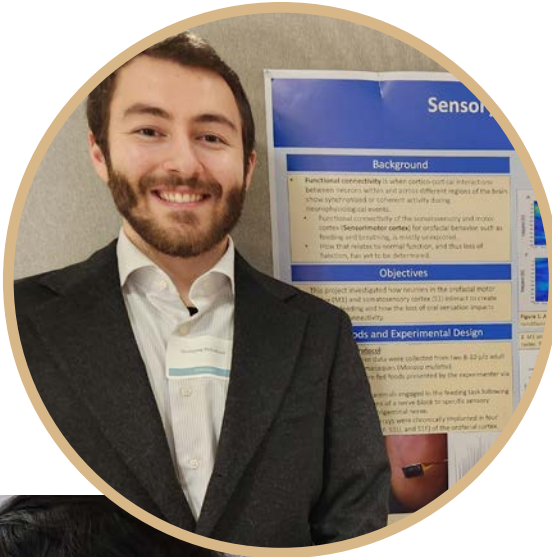
In a resumption of live presentations after a hiatus caused by the pandemic, Dr. Philip Walczak and second-year student Teddy Dong took first places respectively in the Graduate Trainee and Summer Research Fellowship (SURF) Oral Presentation competitions. Dr. Rena D'Souza, Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, gave the day's keynote speech, "Oral Health for All: Realizing the Promise of Science."



Dr. Whasun Oh Chung (left), Chair of Oral Health Sciences, with second-year student Juman Haddad



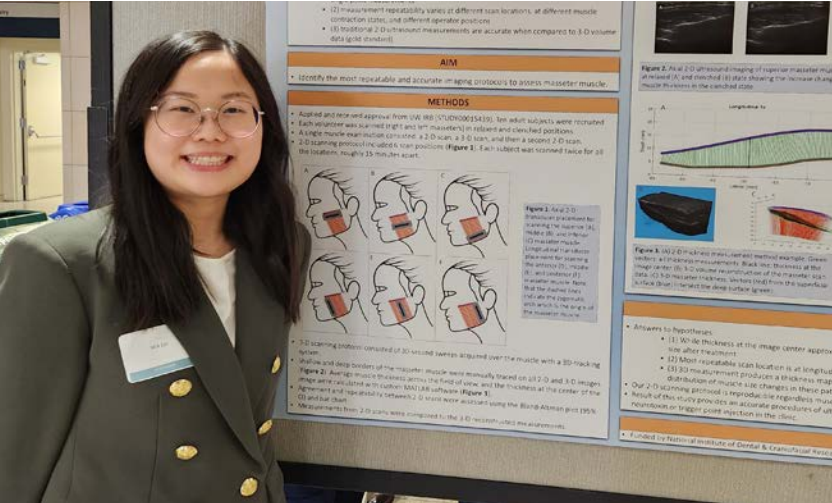
Second-year student
Teddy Dong



Second-year student
Wolfgang McClelland received
the Research Advisory
Committee Travel Award.



Second-year student Mini Lin



Dr. Ana Lucia Seminario (left), director of the DeRouen Center for Global Oral Health, with PhD candidate Courtney Hill

Alumni Golf Tournament

Tacoma Country and Golf Club
Sept. 9, 2022

Alumni, colleagues, and friends gathered for the annual alumni tournament.



The runners-up (from left): Rich Martinez, Fred Holubik, Basant Singh, and John Kennedy, all from sponsor Kitsap Bank



The winning foursome
of (from left) Andy Cho,
Kevin Lee ('96), John Yae
('87), and Richard Song



From left: Greg Plancich ('89), Bryce Plancich, Kevin Smith, and Burkhardt Dental Supply's Trevor Kumakura



From left: Class of 2005 alumni Lane Meyer, Ryan McNamara, Travis Hackney, and Tom Vo

Alumni Football Event

UW Health Sciences Rotunda
Sept. 24, 2022

Alumni and family members, faculty, staff, and friends met for another convivial jazz luncheon before heading to Husky Stadium, where they watched the UW pluck the Cardinal, 40-22.



Harvey Butler in foreground with (from left) Kelly Butler, Amber Miller, Will Moore, and Hillary Butler



George and Susan Adams ('78)

Orthodontic wire sculptures

School of Dentistry
Dec. 2, 2022

The popular annual exhibition featured another display of imaginative creations by first-year Department of Orthodontics residents.



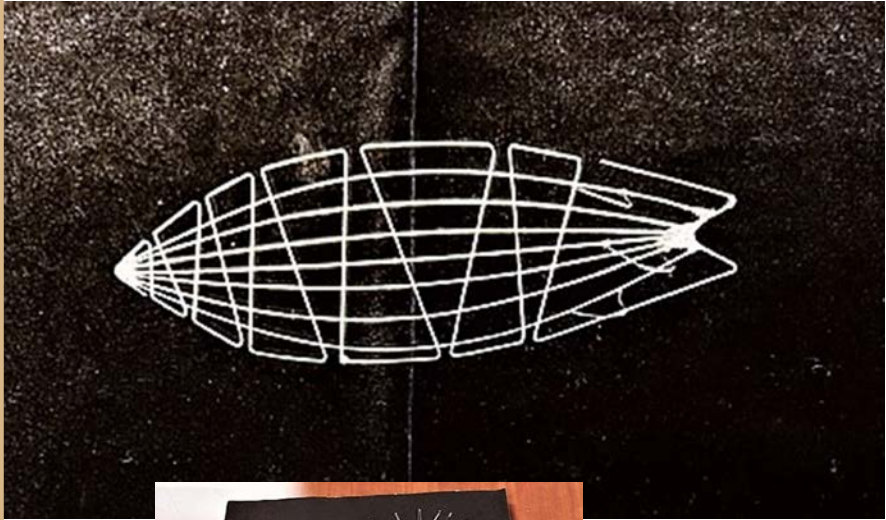
Ski Lift by Dr. Sophia Cohanim



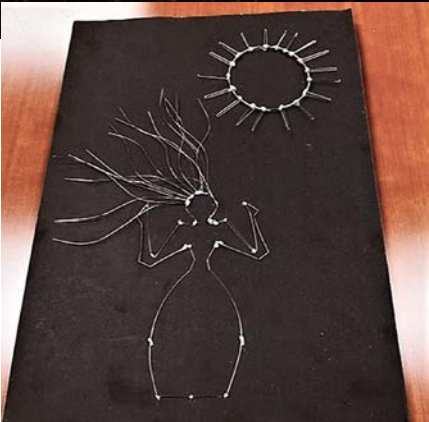
Bridge by Dr. Daniel Landers



Big Ben by Dr. Mariam Mustafa



Surfboard by Dr. Dayton Oki



Woman with Hair by Dr. Niloufar Amintavakoli

Dental Action Day

Olympia, Wash.
Jan. 27, 2023

Students and faculty joined Washington State Dental Association member dentists to meet with state lawmakers at the Capitol.



School of Dentistry predoctoral students join Dean André Ritter (center) between meetings with legislators.

Endodontics open house

School of Dentistry
Feb. 2, 2023

Our Department of Endodontics celebrated its newly refurbished clinic, with new dental chairs, microscopes, and other equipment, thanks to nearly \$600,000 in donor gifts. More upgrades are scheduled for cabinetry, floors, and painting.



Dr. Jim Johnson, department chair, welcomes iconic alumnus Dr. Jim McGraw (Endo '69), a key faculty member in the department's early days. Dr. McGraw was a leading member of our School's Admissions Committee for many years and has been a mentor to countless students, as well as a major donor to the School.



Dean Ritter (center, seated) joins Dr. Johnson (standing behind him), Dr. Natasha Flake, Endo predoctoral program director and Associate Dean of Predoctoral Clinical Education and Operations (back row, second from left), and Orthodontics residents in one of the upgraded operatories.



Dean Ritter and Dr. Johnson have plenty to smile about in the updated clinic.

Dr. Dexter Barnes appreciation

UW Health Sciences
Dec. 9, 2022

At the December board meeting of the Dental Alumni Association, Dr. Dexter “Deck” Barnes (’69) received a plaque of appreciation from Dean André Ritter for his service as chair of the annual Dean Ernest Jones Lecture since 1976.



Ferguson scholarship luncheon

Piatti Restaurant, Seattle
Sept. 26, 2022

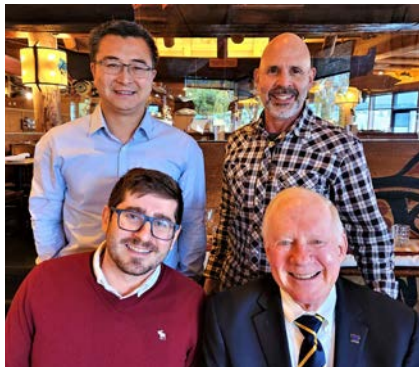
Members of the family of Dr. Richard P. Ferguson joined School of Dentistry leaders and staff along with the first two recipients of the Richard P. Ferguson Endowed Scholarship, Bilal Mohammed and Ena Shepard. The scholarship, which supports the education of students from under-represented backgrounds, honors the memory of one of our most notable alumni. Dr. Ferguson (’70, MSD ’72) was an orthodontist who championed inclusion and diversity as a leader of the state’s dental community and at our School. He was president of the Washington State Dental Association and the Washington State Society of Orthodontists, among his many professional achievements, and received our Dean’s Club’s highest recognition, the Honorary Lifetime Member Award.



Wands fellowship luncheon

Ivar’s Salmon House, Seattle
Nov. 29, 2022

Dr. David Wands (Grad Pros ’72) hosted his annual luncheon to honor the newest recipient of his endowed Graduate Prosthodontics fellowship, Dr. Marwan Fattouhi.

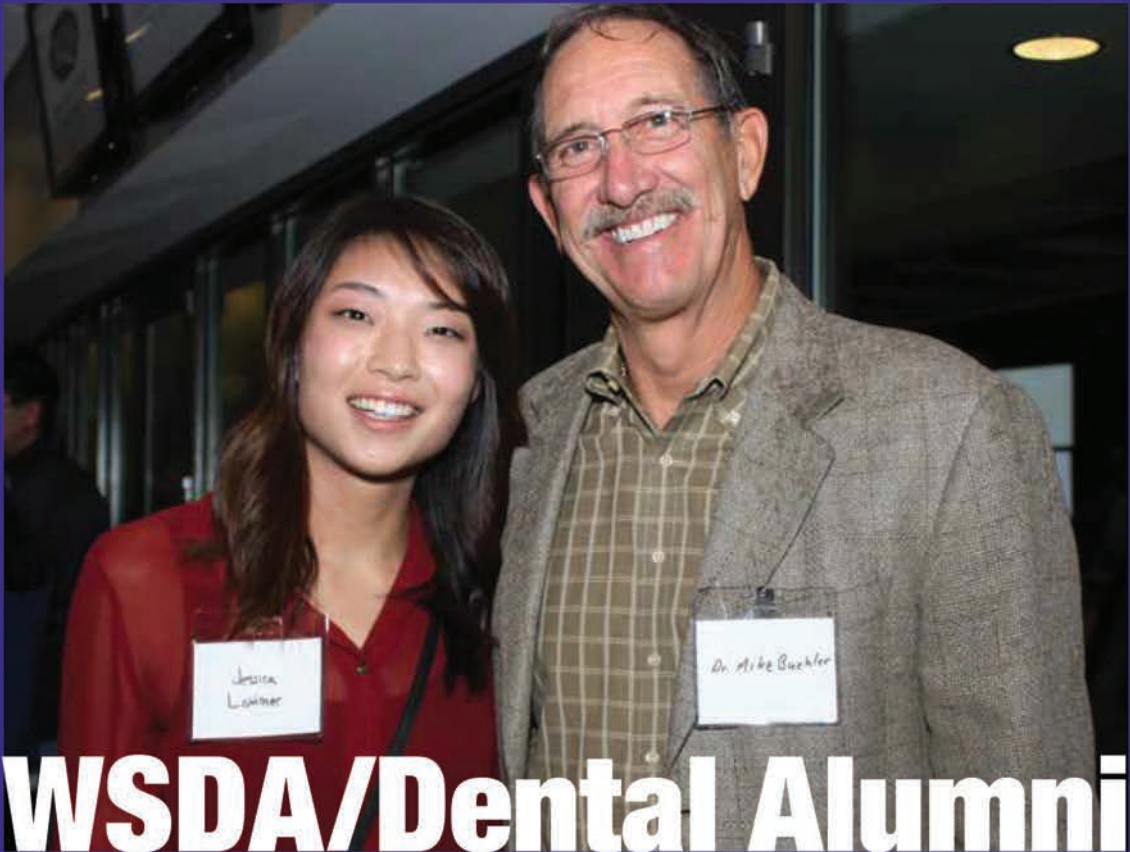


Seated from left: Dr. Marwan Fattouhi and Dr. David Wands; standing from left, Dr. Hai Zhang and Dr. Van Ramos, Graduate Prosthodontics program director

Center for Pediatric Dentistry spirit day

Sand Point Campus
Nov. 29, 2022

In recent months, our Center for Pediatric Dentistry has kept the fun going for providers, staff, and patients with a series of end-of-month “spirit days,” featuring dress-up themes including sports teams, pirates, and tropical fashions.



WSDA/Dental Alumni Mentor Program

Mentors make a tremendous impact on our students. They demonstrate professional behavior and ethics. They give students real-world knowledge of dental practice that the classroom – and even school clinic – can’t always provide. They are powerful forces in directing the future of the dental profession.

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

For more information, contact Randy Newquist at the School of Dentistry at randyn@uw.edu, or go to <https://www.wsda.org/member-center/get-involved/mentor-program>

THE state of the School – and its future

**Dean André Ritter offers his assessment
and outlines his priorities**



In three wide-ranging interviews during the winter, our new Dean discussed the School of Dentistry's current status, its most pressing needs, and his top goals. This material has been edited for length. – Editor

What did you think of the UW School of Dentistry before you came here?

I always had immense respect for the School and knew its reputation, particularly in restorative dentistry and dental materials which, as a clinician, educator, and researcher, are my areas of interest. I have always been aware of and followed research done at the UW School of Dentistry. In fact, I often cited papers by Ralph Yuodelis, who was a faculty member of the School, in my own work. I also thought highly of several colleagues who are currently in our faculty. Overall, I had the UW School of Dentistry in very high regard.

Why did you want to become dean of this particular dental school?

The UW School of Dentistry is one of the top dental schools in the world. The opportunity to lead this School is humbling and a huge honor. The opportunity presented itself at the right time for me, and I was never one to shy away from a challenge. Although our foundation is very strong, we still have growth opportunity, and this was particularly attractive to me, to come here and make a difference. I also felt very good about the leadership of the UW; I believe we can make an even more positive impact working in alignment with the UW and the other Health Sciences schools here. Finally, [there was] the opportunity to continue the outstanding work that former Dean [Gary] Chiodo was doing to change the trajectory of the School in a very positive way. And of course, Seattle is a great place to live. My wife and I are excited about being here.

When you talk about growth, do you mean strengthening various aspects of the School? Or are you talking about growing the size of the School, growing enrollment, growing programs?

Yes, strengthening various aspects of the School. We need to grow stronger in our educational programs, research programs, and service to the community programs. Although there's been some conversation about growing enrollment, particularly in certain programs, growing the size of the School is much more challenging. But if you take a step back and look at the trajectory of the School since its founding in 1945, of course there has been tremendous growth. This trajectory, I think, should continue despite recent challenges. I don't mean that things are stagnant – they're not.

There are two elements that limited our growth in the last eight years or so. One of them is the financial challenges we

faced, which culminated in 2017-2018. The other factor is the pandemic, which obviously crippled our ability to recover from that financial difficulty. So, all the effort that was going into placing the program in a strong position was essentially stopped because the resources had to be redirected into surviving the pandemic. The good news is we did survive. We're not quite out of the woods just yet, but we're getting there. I think we have a tremendous opportunity to accelerate the School back into a trajectory of growth. We also need to strengthen our culture as a place where everyone is welcome and can see themselves succeeding.

Have your perceptions of the School changed since you started here?

The positive perception I had of the School has not changed, but naturally every day I know a little more about the School's challenges and opportunities, strengths, and weaknesses.

Were there any surprises for you?

There have been many good surprises: the welcoming nature of the people; the desire to contribute to the success of the School; the engagement across groups, including students, staff, faculty, alumni, the state's dental community, organized dentistry, etc. The highly collaborative relationship among UW deans and chancellors has also been a positive surprise, something that is not the norm across institutions of higher education.

A long-standing issue has been the way in which programs and departments form their own "silos" – putting their own interests before the School's. How do you deal with that?

We have always had strong departments. That is very positive in many ways, but it naturally can lead to silos. I have been a department chair and know how difficult this position is, to balance departmental and faculty priorities with those of the School more globally. In this model it is important for departments to have the resources they need to succeed, to be sitting around the table and participating in decision-making. And it is equally important for programs and departments to understand how they fit in the larger organization, how they must contribute to the School's mission, vision, and strategic priorities. When there is good alignment there, things tend to go well. The reality is we are one School. I am encouraged by the collegial and collaborative work done by our programs and departments.

Dean André Ritter, spending an afternoon teaching in the predoctoral clinic, huddles with Dr. Marty Anderson of Restorative Dentistry.

What would you call our greatest strengths?

There are many ways to answer this question because we have so many strengths. Aside from having strong faculty, staff, students, alumni, programs, and departments, what strikes me as our greatest strength is our reputation, our brand. This strong brand was built by years of hard work by former deans, former faculty members, administrators, students, and staff, many of whom are still here working hard to continue to advance the School's mission. Our School also has a unique advantage in that we are a strategic partner of the UW, one of the strongest and most reputable public universities in the world.

Historically, we have been high in the rankings. Should we make decisions and use rankings as a North Star? No. But it is helpful to look at measures of success, outcomes, and how they help tell our story – or not. One thing is to recognize that we have a strong tradition and track record. We need to build on that strong foundation so that our future is even more successful than our past.

Where do you see the greatest need for improvement?

Our greatest need for improvement is a stronger, more sustainable financial model. By the way, this is not unique to the UW School of Dentistry. Given increasingly lower state support, deans across the country are having conversations about the financial sustainability of the education model in state dental schools.

We have the potential to do more in several domains. We are already, I hope, positioning ourselves for improvement, and moving forward will require a stronger financial position. The ability to retain and recruit talented faculty and staff, to provide more student scholarships so that we can attract the best students, to continue to renovate and modernize our facilities, to invest much more in digital dentistry, to have an integrated electronic health record, to invest in research and innovation that can have a positive impact in people's lives – these things demand a strong financial position.

What are the School's most urgent priorities?

Several things come to mind. We must home in on the strategic priorities that will be relevant for us in the next four to five years. Towards that end, I'm excited about the strategic planning process that is under way (see page 7), and I hope we will have a lot of community involvement in building up this plan. I want everybody to contribute to the process and help shape our vision, our mission, what our priorities should be for the next phase of the School, as well as our values. From the strategic plan our sense of purpose will emerge, and this will guide our midterm trajectory.



"The opportunity to lead this School is humbling and a huge honor. The opportunity presented itself at the right time for me, and I was never one to shy away from a challenge."

There are a couple of things that I think will be absolutely critical for the School in the next several years. It's critically important that we have a successful [CODA] reaccreditation site visit in November 2024. We are already well under way with our self-study process, which is being led by Dr. Sara Gordon, our Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. The self-study could not be in better hands, and everyone in our School will be involved with the process.

Also, we still have a significant amount of debt because of the well-known financial challenges we had. Our ability to repay that debt will be critically important for us to be successful in reinvesting some of what we're able to generate in growing areas of need such as student scholarships, physical plan maintenance, and digital dentistry. This deficit weighs on our ability to move forward at a faster pace, but we will get through this together. This will be one of my top priorities, to make sure that we are in a strong financial position to be able to not only repay the debt but invest in some of our growth opportunities.

When you talk about resources, the Campaign for Clinics will play a key role in improving our infrastructure and digital dentistry capability. Where does the campaign stand now?

The Campaign for Clinics has been, and will continue to be, critically important to allow us to improve our teaching and patient care spaces. I am so grateful to everyone who has invested in our School through this campaign. We are thoughtfully assessing our infrastructure needs in many areas, including, for example, the pre-clinical simulation space here in the D wing. This project is quite complex because the space is occupied year-round and there is only a very small window of opportunity to shut it down. We are currently doing a needs assessment for the space, then will review design options, and I hope we will be able to tackle the project in the early summer of 2024.

Another campaign goal is to replace dental chairs in our clinics. The vast majority are very, very old, and that creates a problem for our students and for our patients. That process will continue to move forward regardless of any kind of timeline because we can do that in small sections – a few chairs at a time.

How did your leadership time at New York University and the University of North Carolina inform your approach to your deanship here?

My experiences at NYU and UNC were extremely valuable. I am thinking more broadly, not just in terms of the leadership roles I had in those institutions. In fact, what I often go back to are my experiences as a faculty member, program director, department chair, and researcher. My experiences in those positions inform my approach to leadership daily. Although the dean does not have the authority or the resources to fix all problems, at the end of the day, as dean of the School, I must respond to the needs of the dental community, including our students, staff, faculty, and administrators. How can I best support what we are doing now, and how can we together shape the School's future.

My experience at those schools also taught me to be humble, to value everyone's contribution to the organization, and to always have an optimistic outlook. They also taught me that culture is more important than strategy.

Between the financial challenges and the pandemic, our School and its people have been under a lot of pressure the last several years. A number of critical hires are needed. Do we have the resources and flexibility to make them?

I do recognize that our School and its people have been under a lot of stress. Most dental schools are struggling

with similar issues, and for us, because of where we were before the pandemic, the impact is even greater. But I am optimistic about our future. We have already made progress in recruitment and retention of faculty. We adjusted faculty salaries impacted by inversion, compression, and gender bias – an initiative informed by a study done by our Faculty Council. We are also offering signing bonuses for staff positions that have been particularly difficult to fill.

Retention of talent will be vital for the future of our School, and we will continue to work to create professional development opportunities for our faculty and staff to achieve their goals here at the UW.

How do you assess our current financial health?

Thanks to the work of former Dean Chiodo and many other individuals here and in the university leadership, we have been in a stable financial position the last couple of years. Our year-end balances have been positive. We are well positioned to capitalize on programs that have much more growth potential, programs that can impact our financial health in a positive way. Examples include a potential growth of the International DDS program, the intramural dental faculty practice, and the Shoreline Dental Hygiene Program. The regional expansion of the RIDE program is another example.



"I think we have a tremendous opportunity to accelerate the School back into a trajectory of growth. We also need to strengthen our culture as a place where everyone is welcome and can see themselves succeeding."

I am also very encouraged by our fundraising efforts, both with our alumni base and with our partners, which have been instrumental in our ability to renovate clinical spaces and provide state-of-the-art equipment for our students.

Let’s talk about student debt. We’ve pledged that we’ll try to hold down tuition increases as much as possible. How firmly can we continue to hold the line?

We have been able to keep tuition down over the last five years, but this is no longer sustainable, given that our operational costs keep going up every year. Student debt is a huge issue nationally. It is sad that our students must incur so much debt to be able to complete our program. I wish we could do much more to make it easier for students to come here. Although we have scholarships, we are re-emphasizing scholarships in our fundraising campaigns. This is a priority for me.

What about our curriculum? Is there any need for changes, or are there places where it should be strengthened?

Our curriculum has undergone some changes over the last several years, and it is well aligned with our accreditation standards. We have a strong foundational and preclinical curriculum, and the clinical model is also strong, particularly as it relates to the third-year clerkship model. We also have outstanding elective opportunities for our students, especially around community outreach. I’m very encouraged by where we are. I don’t necessarily see a need to do anything drastically different, other than perhaps enhancing some elements, one being digital dentistry. Our clinical curriculum is competency-based, and we have an opportunity to be more patient-centered.

Do we have enough coverage of practice management in the curriculum?

Practice management is so important, and although we have good coverage in the curriculum, we can do more in this area. But today we must think about this topic more broadly, given that there are so many different types of practice models for our graduates to consider. As our students approach their senior year, professional decisions become an additional stressor, and we must do more to support them. There are curriculum opportunities in financial literacy and debt management, career management, coaching, as well as practice management.

What are the strongest aspects of our clinical education? Where do we need to improve?

One of the strongest aspects of our clinical program is how our discipline-specific clinical training comes together into the fourth-year general dentistry clinical model. Yes, there are opportunities to enhance that model further, particularly as it relates to the patient experience and the financial sustainability of the model, but the foundation is there.

Another strong asset is the range of our clinical faculty. By that, I mean the knowledge, experience, and the depth of our faculty. There’s outstanding talent in all departments, in all programs. One of our priorities should be to position ourselves so that we can retain our talented faculty. We should ensure that we create the conditions for our faculty to feel that they’re valued here and that they have opportunities for professional development and career advancement and promotion.

Recruitment is equally important because there are outstanding, talented faculty that in the next five, 10 years may choose to retire. And when they do choose to retire, then we will need to be in a position to recruit talent that can come in and continue to make an impact as our current faculty does.



“Retention of talent will be vital for the future of our School, and we will continue to work to create professional development opportunities for our faculty and staff to achieve their goals here at the UW.”

How about our teledentistry capability? It was created during the pandemic and then Dean Chiodo proposed that we expand it beyond urgent care. Should we keep expanding it, maybe across all clinical departments? What would that require?

I think there are opportunities to continue with telehealth and make it stronger. For example, one of the teledentistry practices or workflows that we are exploring right now is for patient screening. It’s not easy to put this into practice because we have to have the necessary infrastructure, the knowledge base on our end in terms of creating these platforms for patients to access the providers, but there is some good work being done in this area. One of our Oral Medicine faculty members is developing a program where most of the patient intake process will be done before the patient even comes to campus, so that when patients travel to the School, they can receive the best possible care early on. It’s unfortunate, but many times patients come to the School and they have to be here for a couple of visits just for screening visits, form-filling, and those types of processes. Most of those processes can be done remotely via telehealth or via a patient portal. This is what we’re going to have to do in the School of Dentistry to be able to provide our patients with the best possible experience.

The number of our affiliate faculty members declined during the pandemic. How can we reverse that?

We actually have a very robust affiliate faculty roster. I often tell our colleagues across the state that one of the most effective ways for them to support our School is to share their expertise, their knowledge, and their time with us, with our students. The gift of time and the gift of their experience is as valuable as any kind of financial contribution they can make. I like the affiliate faculty model because it helps support our educational model in many ways. At a time when recruiting full-time faculty is challenging, the affiliate faculty fill a significant gap in our clinical program – and do it extremely well. Additionally, students often enjoy learning from clinicians who are practicing dentistry full time or nearly full time. So long as there is consistency in teaching philosophy and calibration, the affiliate faculty model can be extremely successful.

I also like to think that the affiliate faculty benefits from the relationship with the School. Teaching is a very rewarding activity, and it is also a privilege.



“I think there are opportunities to continue with telehealth and make it stronger. For example, one of the teledentistry practices or workflows that we are exploring right now is for patient screening.”

Under Dean Chiodo, our School made the most serious commitment in its history to equity, diversity, and inclusion. What still needs to be done?

I am thankful to former Dean Chiodo for setting us up for success in so many different areas, such as with equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). This is very important to me, because I believe that a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment will make us stronger. It is significant that we have an Associate Dean for EDI, Dr. Doug Jackson. This not only conveys that we take EDI seriously, but provides the necessary leadership framework to identify gaps and opportunities to strengthen our EDI efforts.

We need to continue to identify and reduce institutional barriers to equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging. We need to ensure we have an environment where students, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds feel welcome and respected.

I believe we can still do more in this space. And we need to be more intentional about recruiting underrepresented minority faculty and students.

We also need to ensure that our work and study environment is safe and welcoming to all faculty, staff, and students, and that we identify and eliminate stressors that compromise health and well-being for our community.

How would you assess the state of our research activity, especially since federal funding has grown even more competitive?

I am very encouraged by our research programs at this time. There is no question that we have a way to go to burnish our national reputation as a research-intensive school, but there is very good momentum in our research programs right now. I'm very excited about some of the ideas and goals that Dr. Donald Chi, our new Associate Dean for Research, and I share. We are restructuring the Office of Research so that it provides more support for [all] our researchers, not just the Department of Oral Health Sciences, which is traditionally our strongest department in terms of research. In my vision, all departments should have some research activity, and all faculty should have scholarship activity and take advantage of opportunities for research as well.



"We are looking to find greater alignment between our research programs and the priorities of some of our partners, and if this effort is successful the results will be transformative."

I also believe we have an opportunity to make an even bigger impact in addressing oral health inequities across the region through research. We are looking to find greater alignment between our research programs and the priorities of some of our partners, and if this effort is successful the results will be transformative.

What drew you to academic dentistry in the first place?

I was drawn to research and academic dentistry by faculty members who became my mentors. They led me by their example, opened my mind to a different career path, and eventually they became my friends and collaborators. Having those individuals as examples of alternative career paths – that just resonated with me. When I graduated from dental school, I practiced for about 10 years and then slowly began to be involved in academics, first as an affiliate faculty member, and then it sort of grew into a more permanent role. I began to attend courses and did some training, and then when I had the opportunity to apply for a faculty position, I did, and that was just the beginning of this long journey.

In what accomplishments do you take the greatest pride?

Professionally, there's no question that becoming Dean of the University of Washington School of Dentistry is my proudest accomplishment so far. It is the culmination of a trajectory that was built [on] a lot of work, and I couldn't be happier with having been given the opportunity to serve in this position.

Another notable professional accomplishment is my role first as a co-author, then as senior editor for the *Sturdevant's Art and Science of Operative Dentistry* textbook, which is internationally recognized in my field. This too is a result of a lot of work consistently over many, many years.

If for some reason you could not be a dental dean and clinician, what do you think you'd be doing with your life?

My interests outside of dentistry tend to revolve around the arts, so I think I would probably be writing or doing something around music, which I love as well. That's not a reflection of my confidence in my artistic abilities – far from it – but simply something that I would likely gravitate towards. I play the guitar and love to read and write, so I'd love to, in an alternate universe, maybe have a career around the arts – writing books or writing music or working with others around art somehow.

DR. BURCU BAYIRLI ORTHODONTICS

The clinician who came in from the cold

An exceptionally frigid winter during the first year of her orthodontics residency at the University of Michigan had Dr. Burcu Bayirli longing to return to her native Turkey.

"I could hardly wait to go back to Istanbul!" she says.

That's where she grew up, the daughter of an endodontist who chaired his specialty's department at Istanbul University. "I had very early exposure to a dental career as well as an academic dental career," she says. "Even at home, he would always be reading and working behind his desk, which was always full of books, dental journals, and papers. He was very influential in my wanting to go to dental school and then stay in academics."

After earning her DDS at Istanbul University in 1993, she headed for Ann Arbor to study orthodontics, expecting to return in three years and teach. Life, however, had other plans.

She stuck with it at Michigan's dental school and completed her residency. As it was winding up, she decided to stay at Michigan and pursue a PhD in epidemiology. While she was doing so, she started seeing a fellow resident she'd met during a wire bending course. Dr. Chris Riolo persuaded her to stay in the States – and, later, to marry him.

Dr. Bayirli entered academic dentistry in 1999 as an adjunct professor in the Michigan School of Dentistry's Department of Orthodontics. In 2000, she joined the University of Detroit Mercy's dental faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Orthodontics. She rose to associate professor and also lectured in pediatric dentistry in 2011 at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, while earning her PhD in 2006. From 2000 to 2012, she worked in the faculty private practice at Detroit Mercy.

Then in 2012, she and Dr. Riolo, who was also a practicing orthodontist, decided to make a big change: moving with their two daughters to Seattle, where he started an orthodontics practice. "We loved to ski and were flying to the West Coast a lot to ski," she says, adding that Dr. Riolo was also lured by the chance to go sailing, something he'd grown up doing. "Our only regret is that we did not do it earlier. We love to ski and sail together as a family."



She immediately joined our UW Department of Orthodontics as an affiliate associate professor while practicing with her husband, and in 2013 joined the full-time faculty as Clinical Associate Professor, her current position.

Dr. Bayirli has been a highly visible and active faculty member from the start, serving on the Dental Curriculum Committee and helping to draft the major curriculum revision that included the creation of our third-year clerkship system. She taught the first clerkship cohort and remains director of the orthodontics clerkship. As well, she served on the Orthodontics Curriculum Revision Committee, working on revisions for the graduate residents, including restructuring of the summer-term technique and biomechanics courses.

Dr. Bayirli is a prolific researcher, with dozens of papers and presentations and several book chapters to her credit. Her current interests are orthodontic treatment outcomes, access to orthodontic treatment, trends in screening and treatment of obstructive sleep apnea, and an orthodontist's role alongside a physician in a multidisciplinary approach to apnea treatment. She is also the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists representative for the Council on Scientific Affairs of the American Association of Orthodontists.

Teaching continues to challenge and revitalize her. "One always has to keep up with the changes happening in orthodontics to be able to teach the students," she says. "That forces me to be creative and involved with our specialty. Most of our students are very energetic, creative, smart, and hardworking. It is very rewarding to teach and interact with such a group."

What drew her to orthodontics initially continues to exert its fascination. As she says: "Orthodontics is all about diagnosis and treatment planning, with a lot of critical thinking. It never gets boring, even after more than 20 years in this specialty. Every patient is unique, and I love the challenge."

DR. ASHLEY ULMER

Taking early life lessons to heart



“I was blessed to be raised in a family of doers and givers,” says Dr. Ashley Ulmer (’03, GPR ’05). “We grew up learning to serve others.”

Those early lessons never lost their hold. Dr. Ulmer became a Spokane, Wash., dentist active in her community and church and also became a leader in another arena: organized dentistry. With the Spokane District Dental Society, she’s been president, Executive Council member, and foundation board member.

Her service with the Washington State Dental Association has been even more impressive: Committee on Government Affairs, Leadership Institute, WSDA and WSDA Foundation board member, and the capstone of her involvement: the WSDA presidency in 2021-22.

“I don’t consider the cost or reward for the service I provide others,” she says. “I do it because I can, because dentistry affords me the opportunity to do well and to do good.”

She had already begun to set herself apart as a dean’s list student at Eastern Washington University and at our School, where she won the Dr. William S. Kramer Award of Excellence from the Omicron Kappa Upsilon dental honor society. She’s also quick to credit her dental school mentor for the help extended to her during those predoctoral years.

“My mentor was with me all four years of dental [school], and the practice advice she gave me still resonates with me and has become a lot of what I tell young dentists and students I mentor now,” she says.

She’s also proud of how the WSDA has expanded the mentor program to embrace not only dental students but newly arriving younger Washington dentists from around the country. “We hope it will encourage any dentist looking to practice in Washington to be mentored by a WSDA member dentist,” she says. “There are immense opportunities for sharing information about practice transitions, business advice, and difficulties with staff, as well as clinical support.”

Dr. Ulmer became president on the heels of the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which knocked the entire dental community sideways, WSDA included. She worked hard to help WSDA get back on track with a number of initiatives, including plans to address the state’s critical dental workforce shortage and the launch of a WSDA task force on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

For her own practice, she found an early model in her dentist’s office: “I remember noticing how closely my dentist and his staff members worked together as a team, how calm and professional the atmosphere was in his practice, and the level of detail required for the work he was doing. I wanted to have my own practice where I served my community as both a dentist and a leader.”

Dr. Ulmer achieved that goal, but it didn’t turn out exactly as she’d imagined. “For one, practicing dentistry occupies the smallest part of my attention each day,” she says, citing myriad daily challenges familiar to other private practitioners. “For example, patients present with increasing medical, psychological, and logistical complexities that require attention and expertise to manage. Also, we have a critical shortage of dental staff available to help us care for patients, bill insurance companies, and maintain our accounts. And it is becoming increasingly more difficult and expensive to run a small business in Washington state with regulations and taxes increasing every year.”

Even so, she has no regrets about the path she chose. “I am proud of the care we provide as a team in my office, and I wouldn’t trade it for any other practice setting. I love to come to work each day.

“I think dentistry is an amazing profession, full of compassion, leadership, and care. It’s easy to forget why we as dentists went into it when it gets difficult, but I believe that we are stronger after facing adversity, and we can still have compassion while facing the challenges of modern practice. I encourage all of my mentees to stay connected to their colleagues in the dental association and local dental communities or study clubs to share the struggles and victories we all face at every stage of our careers. There is someone who has gone through or is going through whatever they are facing right now. They may also be the one to help another dentist through something they have gone through themselves.”

That sense of perspective marked her term as WSDA president as well. Addressing the WSDA House of Delegates last fall as she concluded her presidency, she cited a couple of quotes. One of them was from Nelson Henderson, who left Ireland during the famine of the 19th century for Manitoba, where he settled as a farmer and raised a family. In a memoir, he wrote: “The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

Dr. Ashley Ulmer: dentist, mentor, leader – and arborist.

Dr. Daniel Chan has announced that he will step down as Chair of Restorative Dentistry on Nov. 1. He has held the chair since 2015 and will remain on faculty as a tenured professor. Since 2008, when he came to the UW from the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry, he has held the Washington Dental Service Endowed Chair. He also served as Associate Dean for Clinics from 2008 to 2015. Dr. Chan was president of the Academy of Operative Dentistry in 2013. His wide-ranging research includes authorship of more than 10 dozen journal articles, and his patents include one for titanium-based antibacterial materials that suppress organisms responsible for periodontal disease and caries. He also has a patent pending for a medical implant with a discontinuous osseo-integrative surface.



Dr. Mark Egbert of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, a longtime faculty member who served as chief of OMS trauma services at Harborview Medical Center for more than 12 years and Chief of the Division of OMS at Seattle Children’s Hospital for more than 20 years, has been named president-elect of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.



Dr. Subrata Saha of Restorative Dentistry received the national Evan Ferguson Award for service to Sigma Xi, the scientific research honor society. Dr. Saha led the 10th International Conference on Ethics in Biology, Engineering and Medicine, held at the UW, in 2022, and he will lead the 2023 conference in late April. He has also been named the Chair of the Bioethics Committee of the International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering for a term running from 2022 to 2025. Dr. Saha also was elected an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Dentists last October.



Dr. John Sorensen of Restorative Dentistry began a six-month sabbatical at the start of the winter quarter with plans to write a textbook on biomimetic adhesive ceramics and modern ceramics fabricated by conventional and digital technologies. An urgent need is seen for the textbook, which would be the first to cover this material.



According to Dr. Daniel Chan, the department chair, most North American dental schools lag 10 to 15 years behind current state-of-the-art, evidence-based rationale for fixed prosthodontics.

Dr. Xavier Lepe of Restorative Dentistry retired from his full-time duties in January to take a part-time position on faculty. Dr. Lepe received his DDS from Universidad de Guadalajara in 1980 and a Certificate in Prosthodontics from Loyola University, Chicago in 1985. He obtained his MS from Loyola University in 1987. He has had multiple faculty appointments here since 1981 and joined Restorative Dentistry in 1993. He was vice chair of the department from 2004-2015. Dr. Lepe’s extensive teaching responsibilities included co-directing the preclinical fixed prosthodontics course for 30 years. He also supervised predoctoral students in clinic. Dr. Lepe will continue to support the Fixed Prosthodontics course, currently under the directorship of Dr. Yen-Wei Chen.



Dr. Kimberly Espinoza of Oral Medicine received the School of Dentistry’s 2023 Community Service Award, given as part of the UW Health Sciences Center’s and UW Medicine’s annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy of serving those in need. Dr. Espinoza was selected for her efforts to improve the quality of, and access to, oral healthcare for adults with developmental and other disabilities both locally and nationally. In addition to training students, residents, and practitioners in the care of patients with disabilities for over 15 years, she is an advisor for the UW student chapter of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry, and UWSOD curricular champion for the care of diverse patient populations. Nationally, she is president-elect of the American Board of Special Care Dentistry and past president of Special Care Advocates in Dentistry.



Dr. Bea Gandara of Oral Medicine was named to the UW’s Population Health Initiative executive council by UW President Ana Mari Cauce. The Population Health Initiative is governed internally by the 30-member council, which develops, implements, and measures progress toward the initiative’s goals.



Volunteer Honor Roll

Since its founding in 1946, the UW School of Dentistry has benefited significantly from the generosity of countless individuals who have helped ensure that the School remains an institution of distinction.

Through supporting students, inspiring faculty, developing innovative programs, and improving the School's facilities, the leaders listed in the Volunteer Honor Roll have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in the study and practice of dentistry, and in oral health research.



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Thomas Jones '63
Thomas Ware '64
J. Martin Anderson '65
Robert D. Allen '66
Chester Woodside '67
Alan Carr '68
Dexter Barnes '69
Patrick Fleege '70
T. Michael Doyle '71
Richard Crinzi '72
Fred Wemer '73
Sherwin Shinn '74
David Minahan '75
Bryan Edgar '76
Charles Brown '77
J. Michael Hardy '78
Brewster Bede '79
Gary Heyamoto '80
Thomas E. Jacka '81
Mike Johnson '82
Robert E. Johnson Jr. '83
Mark Drangsholt '84
LaRae Vanderschelden '85
Teresa Yagi '86

Susan Miller '87
John Hixson '89
Beth O'Connor '90
Carrie York '91
Ross Drangsholt '92
Mike Kern '93
Mark Grace '94
Jackie Bunce '95
Alicia Chou '96
Kelly Garwood '97
Sarah Fraker '98
Nhi Pham '99
Jason Bourne '01
Michael George '02
Ronald Hsu '03
Ryan Fox '04
Kim Santiago '05
Jeremy Chaison '06
Theron Baker '07
Garret Yamaguchi '08
Parker Haley '09
David Dean '10
Oleg Shvartsur '11



LaRae Vanderschelden



Chester Woodside



Oleg Shvartsur



Diane Daubert



Garret Yamaguchi

Russell Johnson '12
Karim Banani '13
Tyler Rumble '14
David Ludwig '15
Chris Wagner '16
Emily Yopez '17
Kris Harris '18
Stephanie Campbell '19
Micah Bovenkamp '20
Samuel Snipes '21
Courtney Lang '22
Diane Daubert, Oral Biology '17,
Dental Hygiene '82

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Ali Etemad
Mark Freeman
James McGraw
David Steiner
Patrick Taylor
Mahmoud Torabinejad
John West

Affiliate Associate Professor
Dean Burnett
Kristi Donley
Kathleen McNally
Tiina Oviir
James Stephens
I. Emily Wang

Affiliate Assistant Professor

Karim Alibhai
Courtenay Allen
Randy Ball
Joao Barbizam
Jeffrey Bennett
Kenji Beppu
Stephanie Chen
Theron Eichenberger
Wahid Mohamed El Bahr
Daniel Estrada
Shahin Etemadi
Saman Gharai
David Goerig
Michael Huey
Steven Kwan
Christopher Maguire-Adams
Michael Moran
Dzuy Nguyen
Tina Olsson
Susan Roberts
Shahrazad Sarram
Michelle Soriano
Ben Studebaker
Matthew Tomala
Jake Weissman
Jordan West
Ryan Wynne
Brandon Yamamura
Peter Yamamura
Lewina Youn



Joao Barbizam



Ramtin Amini



Randy Ogata



Ara Greer



Stephanie Chen



Elizabeth Kutcpal



Kim Trieu



AJ Sekhon

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Guillermo Chacon
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Elizabeth Kutcpal
G. Galia Leonard
Jim Reed
Henry Rowshan
Michael Whelan

Affiliate Instructor

Dustin Altmann
Ramtin Amini
Daniel Brady
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Sukhdeep Dhaliwal
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Scott Jones
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Erich Neumann
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Yirae Ort
Simon Prior
Brian Rubens
Matt Ryskalczyk

Subrata Saha
Vincent Slovan
Mark Stivers
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Servprit Wahan
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Jorge Castillo
Colin Kenny
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Lawrence Garetto
Lauren Hagel
Jeremy Horst
William Lesh
David Meyers
Randy Ogata
Kim Trieu
Ohnmar Tut
Laura Williams
Lee Zamos

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Affiliate Assistant Professor

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Rochelle Nguyen
Eyad Nusayr
Rania Nuwallati
Sumeia Werfalli

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Eric Anderson
Norman Bolosan
Jeff Brockett
Ryan Chiang
Princeton Co
April Dennison
Lakshmi Gorugantula
Ara Greer
Griffin Guess
Jeffrey Hamilton
Leroy Horton
Allison Jacobs
Sahar Kamkar
Lawrence Lawton
Johnny Le
Paul Lederman
Marijoyce Leynes
Mo Mahoutchi
Stephanie Marvin
Raji Mathew

Anthony Mecham
Austin Mesina
Alan Moritis
Julia Moritis
Nhi Pham
AJ Sekhon
Nisha Sharoff
Wendy Sheine
Henry Shin
Oleg Shvartsur
Christopher Shyue
Justin Steinberg
Kenyu Takamoto
Aidan Tro
Peter Van der Ven
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Josh Walker
Rod Wentworth
Christine Wu
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Andy Yu
Joseph Zimmer

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Stanton Hall
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Paola Leone
Christopher Riolo
Reid Winkler

**Affiliate
Assistant
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Jeremy Chaison
Jacqueline de Leon-
Estes
Camelia Espahbod
Samuel Finkleman
Jack Hou
Kortne Frederick
Hou
Richard Jones
Hitesh Kapadia
Soojin Kim
Douglas Knight
Vince Kokich Jr.
Holly McIver
Soleil Roberts
Lauren Todoki
Sepi Torkan

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**Affiliate
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Nestor Cohenca

**Affiliate
Associate
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**Affiliate
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Professor**

Shadi Araghi
Patricia Benton
Brienne Butler
Chris Chen
Amelia Chim
Chris Delecki
Alberto Enrico
Ara Greer
Dorothy Nelson
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Caroline Shaw
Kari Sims
Neal Smith



Tarisai Dandajena



Amelia Chim



Allen Chen

Arundhati
Sengupta
Huan Su
Kevin Suzuki
Alan Yassin
David Zhu

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DENTISTRY**

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Professor**

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John Kois
Christopher Lewis
Warren Libman
Randall Maebo
Reza Nabaie
Dennis Nordlund
Thomas Quickstad
Ariel Raigrodski
Subrata Saha
Frank Spear
Jon Suzuki
Attila Talaber
Melvyn Trenor
Richard Tucker
Nelson Vitous
David Wands

**Affiliate
Associate
Professor**

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Raymond S.
Cahoon
Roy Carlson
Jeff Ceyhan
Ya-Pei Chang
Anita Fok
James E. Johnson
Seungbum Lee
Keith Phillips
A. Hossein
Shahrabi
Alexander Shor
Sue Vetter

**Affiliate
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Austin Baruffi

Armand Bedrossian
Richard Bienenfeld
Hasan Dbouk
Todd Garcia
James Graves
Timothy Hess
Jeffrey Hinckley
Russell Johnson
Brad Judy
Jae Seon Kim
John Muir
Dawn Onesty
Brett Pack
Marta Revilla
John Rossi
Pakwan
Varapongsittikul
Eric Yao
Su Mi Yoon

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Instructor**

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Rodriguez
Leigh Armijo
Karla Aylen
Sahar Bagoury
Kara Bartoletti
Denise Beaudet
Brian Bienstock
Kirk Boettcher
Michael Bowman
Jessica Bremerman
Kimberly Byxbee
Melissa Cahoon
Cheryl Carrino-Burr
Aleta Cheek
Angela Chianglin



Elham Javadi



Nicole Murray Mienko

Stephen Cho
Ji Hyung Choi
Sam Chong
Grant Chyz
Shin Deng
Navid Farzadfar
Nima Foroutan
Kamran Fotoohi
Edith Gillette
Lesley Graham
Amy Gustafson
Kenza Houki
Tram Huynh
Sonia Idrogo
Philip Jung
Craig Kaneshiro
Stephanie Kang
Audrey Lee
Joy McDaniel
Lou-Ann Mercier
Nicole Murray
Mienko
Jazmin Nelson
Kevin Nelson
David Park
William Peterson
Gary Pitts
Alexander
Pozhitkov
Anna Ramirez
Arkadi
Razoumovitch
Phillip Redd
Thomas Reynolds
Angela D. Richeson
Janet Romero
Karen Sakuma
Kimberly Siler
Christopher Smith
Phillip Trautman
Daniel Varadi
George
Varaguhese
Josephine Verlanic
Elisabeth Warder
Shannon Wilson
Shaofan (Kevin) Xu
Mahnaz Zamanian
Qian (Maggie)
Zhang

**Affiliate
Instructor**

Luis Acevedo
Rodriguez
Leigh Armijo
Karla Aylen
Sahar Bagoury
Kara Bartoletti
Denise Beaudet
Brian Bienstock
Kirk Boettcher
Michael Bowman
Jessica Bremerman
Kimberly Byxbee
Melissa Cahoon
Cheryl Carrino-Burr
Aleta Cheek
Angela Chianglin



A. Hossein Shahrabi



A SAMPLING OF CURRENT STUDIES AT THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Editor's note: Once again, we are highlighting graduate and predoctoral student entries at our School's annual Research Day poster competition.

**Slc20a2Expression Regulates Hard Tissue
Development**

PI: Dr. Philip Walczak

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Cecilia Giachellia, Bioengineering

Objectives: Inorganic phosphate (Pi) is an important factor in hard tissue mineralization. Pi reacts with calcium to form hydroxyapatite (HA), the mineral crystal giving bone its compressive strength. Slc20a2 encodes type III sodium-dependent phosphate transporter PiT-2, the predominant phosphate transporter in hard tissues. Our lab was the first to report that Slc20a2 knockout (KO) mice exhibit stunted bone growth and decreased bone mineral density compared to WT. Here we further investigate the role of Slc20a2 in regulating hard tissue differentiation and mineralization to increase understanding of Pi transport and sensing.

Methods: C57Bl/6NTac-Slc20a2<tm1a (EUCOMM)Wtsi>/leg (Slc20a2) mice were used to generate Slc20a2 WT and KO littermates (0.98% Pi diet). Calcein was administered for histomorphometry. Bone histomorphometric analysis was performed in the lumbar vertebra. Slc20a2 immunofluorescence was completed on tibia and maxilla over multiple developmental time points and compared with consecutive hematoxylin and eosin staining. MicroCT scans were obtained at 34.42um resolution and 60kV (SkyScan 1076, reconstruction: Bruker NRecon V1.6.9).

Results: Histomorphometric analysis of Slc20a2 KO mice showed significantly lower bone mass, mineral apposition, and osteoblast number without statistically significant changes in osteoclast parameters compared to background matched WT. Slc20a2 KO mice show blunted incisors compared to WT.

Conclusions: Slc20a2 KO mice exhibit impaired osteoblast differentiation and osteogenesis, suggesting that Slc20a2 must play an important role in osteogenesis, supported by our data and others' findings. In vitro data on osteoblasts suggests that mineralization may not be directly impaired by Slc20a2 KO, but that Slc20a2 plays an important role in osteoblast differentiation. Our mice also exhibit blunted incisors. This observation is supported by others showing Slc20a2 KO mice have impaired dentin formation. Future studies are required to better understand the mechanisms of Slc20a2 signaling in bone and tooth development. A mechanistic understanding of Slc20a2 effects on hard tissue formation may lead to development of therapeutic targets; modulating the function of Slc20a2 could improve osteoinduction in grafts, osseointegration of implants, and regeneration of bone and teeth after injuries.

**Influence of Gender on OMS Applicants'
Recommendation Letters**

PI: Teddy Dong

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrea Burke, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Objectives: Gender bias has been recognized in the process of candidate selection for medical residency programs. Letters of recommendation have a critical role in applications for residency programs. This study examined the presence of gender bias in recommendation letters for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency candidates.

Methods: The investigators implemented a cross-sectional study and analyzed letters of recommendation entered in the American Dental Education Association Postdoctoral Application Support Service (PASS) for 2021 to 2022 applicants to the University of Washington School of Dentistry's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Qualitative text analysis, quantitative text mining, and topic modeling were performed with software including Dedoose, QDA Miner, and RStudio.

Results: There were 288 letters of recommendation for 54 applicants selected for interview (79.6% male) analyzed. Of 288 letter writers, 71% were male, 31% chairs, 20% deans, and 8% professors. The average word count was 394. Letter writers for female compared with male applicants had a higher average word count (female = 431, male= 384, p= 0.715). Female letter writers tended to write LORs with higher average word counts. Both male and female letter writers wrote longer letters for female OMS residency candidates than for male candidates. While there was no significant difference in quantitative text mining and topic modeling, letter writers were more likely to comment on community service in letters for male applicants (p=0.038).

Conclusions: Letters of recommendation for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency generally advocate for the applicant. Male and female applicants are described similarly, and this study did not find any significant differences in the description of applicants. Future studies involving more application cycles and academic institutions are recommended to validate the absence of gender influence on the letters of recommendation in the specialty of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

For details on any study at the School of Dentistry, contact Dr. Donald Chi, Associate Dean of Research, at ramsay@uw.edu, or Barb McLaughlin at barbmcl@uw.edu, or the principal investigator.



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Light Dental Studios has strong ties to our School and Puget Sound community

Light Dental Studios (LDS), one of the School of Dentistry's Gold-level Business Partners, has served Puget Sound communities since its inception 52 years ago. The company's community involvement starts with its owners, UW School of Dentistry alumni Drs. Steve Broughton ('97) and Angie Dunn ('09).

"We have been involved for many years in a variety of roles supporting the [School of Dentistry]," said Dr. Broughton, the LDS CEO. "It feels almost sacred when we walk the halls of the School today, which brings back so many memories of our time there as students. We have been very happy with [the Business Partners] program and the support the School has given to us."

In the years since Drs. Broughton and Dunn took over the company, they've worked together to make a positive community impact in a variety of ways.

"Beyond both graduating from the UW School of Dentistry, we feel a strong connection to our community," said Dr. Dunn, Chief Operating Officer. "It started with an annual community service project – making trails, cleaning parks, etc. – and evolved to giving a free day of dentistry on the first Saturday of May, where we provide roughly \$150,000 of dental care.

"We also use our social media platform to tell stories of CEOs [and] founders of other businesses in the area in a segment we call 'Sound People.'"

After purchasing the original clinic in Puyallup from Dr. James Zanner in 1997, Dr. Broughton ran LDS as a solo clinic before bringing on Dr. Dunn as a partner in 2010. "We grew from six employees to a team of almost 50 doctors working out of 22 locations and a staff of nearly 300 employees," he said.

The LDS hub-and-spoke model sets them apart from other multi-location practices. Their main practice in Puyallup is expanding from 20 operatories to 40 this year. Other larger locations range from nine to 18 operatories, and they have clinics from Olympia all the way up to Lynnwood, Wash.

With such a wide network of dentists in Puget Sound, it's no surprise that more School of Dentistry alumni have joined the LDS organization over the years. "We have had a few dentists and specialists in the past who have served as affiliate faculty or are preparing to serve now," said Dr. Broughton. That includes Dr. Dunn, who served on the affiliate faculty after graduating.

Although LDS has grown tremendously, the practice makes sure to stay grounded in its core values: being a people-centered, community-driven business.

"We have grown because of our strong belief in the power of developing people," said Dr. Broughton. "We are proud that our senior leadership team has a zero turnover rate, and we are proud of our doctors and our belief in giving them autonomy to choose their style of practice."



Chief Operating Officer Angie Dunn and Chief Executive Officer Steve Broughton are School of Dentistry alumni.



Class Notes

DDS CLASS OF 1956

Dr. Robert S. Heighton, San Diego, Calif.: Hi to all. My thoughts go back 67 years to 1956. It was graduation time and the beginning of a new life. What a life it has been! The draft was still in use and I found myself a U.S. Marine. My first duty station was Camp Pendleton, just north of San Diego. After a year there, I was sent to Okinawa and then back to the States for a year at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, again in San Diego. After declining to reenlist, I opened my solo practice here. It grew into a group with four other dentists. It was a very busy time. I do miss Seattle, but this is my home.

I married a great gal in 1972, but lost her to Alzheimer's in 2018. We had no children, so we traveled a lot, especially after I retired in 1987. I spent a lot of days (over 600) cruising the world and loved every minute. I'm doing pretty well physically and live in a retirement facility. My travel days are over, but I still enjoy life. My best to all.

DDS CLASS OF 1963

Dr. Tom Jones, Kirkland, Wash.: The Class of 1963 is planning a reunion in mid-September 2023. It will be held at Tsillan Cellars wine tasting in Woodinville. Look for more details to be sent to you. It will be great to get together!

DDS CLASS OF 1973

Dr. Fred Wemer, Seattle: We are planning our 50th reunion on July 8 at our classmate Chris Overby's home on Commencement Bay in Tacoma. I'm meeting in March with Chris to work out the details, but it will be an afternoon plus a day. More details to follow. If you have questions, contact me at cwfw123@aol.com or 206-522-5076. Our class is also invited to the School of Dentistry graduation on June 3. You will receive an official invitation in the mail.

DDS CLASS OF 1976

Dr. Bryan Edgar, Federal Way, Wash.: Finished my third two-year term as AGD Speaker of the House in November 2022.



DDS CLASS OF 1981

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.

ORAL BIOLOGY MS CLASS OF 1981

Margaret J. Fehrenbach, Seattle: Publication is scheduled as primary author of both seventh edition of *Illustrated Anatomy of the Head and Neck with Workbook* (Elsevier, 2025) and sixth edition of *Illustrated Dental Embryology, Histology, and Anatomy with Workbook* (Elsevier, 2024). I recently published as editor of the

fourth edition of *Dental Anatomy Coloring Book* (Elsevier, 2022). I was also editor-in-chief for Mosby's *Dental Dictionary* (fourth edition, 2020), after serving on the past editorial boards. I was also recently involved in oral biology webinars for instructors and peer professionals and am active in social media platforms. I was an adjunct faculty member at Seattle Central College in the Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health Degree Program, after instructing in other state dental hygiene programs. ADHA honored me with the Fones Award, as well as the Excellence in Dental Hygiene Award.



DDS CLASS OF 1982

Dr. Michael W. Johnson, Bellevue, Wash.: After practicing dentistry for 40 years and prosthodontics in Bellevue for 30 years, I have sold my Bellevue practice to my nephew, Dr. Russell Johnson, DDS, UW Class of 2012, MS Texas San Antonio Prosthodontics in 2015, and MS in UW Periodontics 2018. I am still working two days a week in the Bellevue practice and part time with my partner, Dr. Michael Brooks, in our Spokane Valley practice. I am also keeping busy helping to manage a dental lab, Pacific Northwest Prosthodontic Laboratory, a commercial full-service, implant-oriented dental lab, in Bellevue. Melinda and I have been married for 38 years, have two children, and four granddaughters: 17, 15, and twin 4-year olds. So between family, golf, and traveling, I'm not using my easy chair very much. I wish everyone a Happy New Year and thank you so much for 30 years of wonderful specialty practice (and not done yet)!

DDS CLASS OF 1992

Dr. Linda Edgar, Federal Way, Wash.: Elected the ADA President-Elect at the 2022 ADA Annual Session in Houston.



DDS CLASS OF 1995

Dr. Jacqueline Bunce, Kent, Wash.: Here is a photo of my fellow 1995 alumni. It's great to get together with our former classmates now that the pandemic is more under control. Attending the UWSOD was a rewarding and memorable time. I am thankful for all of the wonderful people that I have met through the UWSOD and have enjoyed the support of my former classmates and colleagues. Here's to a wonderful 2023 to everyone!

From left: Drs. Jacqueline Bunce, Vicki Fidler, Neda Goharkhay, Gloria Eshragi, and Anna Lee

DDS CLASS OF 2003

Dr. Ronald Hsu, Vancouver, Wash.: The Class of 2003 will be having a

class reunion on Saturday, Sept. 9 at the UW. We will have brunch and then go to the UW vs. Tulsa football game. Exact times and more details will follow. Please reserve this date so we can all get together. If you have not been receiving emails from me, please give me a call at 425-830-4920 or email dr.ron.hsu@gmail.com.

DDS CLASS OF 2011

Dr. Oleg Shvartsur, Issaquah, Wash.: We had another 425 Smiles event with UW dental students and faculty, together with PMI Hygiene School. We had UWSOD Grad Perio/Pros work with us to help the community – Dr. Ansong (Pros) and Dr. Luciana Safioti (UW Perio), who are also our specialty doctors. We also had UWSOD's Dr. Edgar Mesina as a volunteer, as well as our GPs, who are all UW grads: Dr. Samuel Snipes ('21), Dr. Nikole Shvartsur ('13), and myself ('11).



Reunions



CLASS OF 1972

Members of the Class of 1972 celebrated their 50-year reunion at our Dental Alumni Association football event in September.



CLASS OF 2010

The DDS Class of 2010 had their 10th class reunion on Aug. 20, 2022 at Portage Bay in the South Campus Center. The reunion was two years late due to COVID. The reunion was organized by Eric Cadwell and David Dean. Forty classmates and their families attended. Fun was had by all!



CLASS OF 2013


The Class of 2013 will celebrate their 10-year reunion the weekend of June 24. They are excited to enjoy a fun evening of bowling and billiards at The Garage in Capitol Hill. Families will gather the next day to eat brunch at Ivar's Salmon House.

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. EUGENE BUTORI
ORTHODONTICS CLASS OF 1953

Dr. Eugene “Gene” Butori passed away on Oct. 18, 2022 after a brief illness. He was 99. He was the founder of the Portland Orthodontics Group and retired from practice in 1986.


DR. JOHN F. HUNT
DDS CLASS OF 1954

 Dr. John Frederick Hunt passed away peacefully on Oct. 8, 2022 in Spokane, Wash., with his family by his side. He was 93. He opened a dental office on the north side of Spokane and practiced for 40 years. He also was actively engaged with a simultaneous career as an orchardist in Wenatchee, Wash.

DR. PAUL D. PRICHARD
DDS CLASS OF 1956


 Dr. Paul David Prichard died peacefully on Aug. 20, 2021 surrounded by family in Grays Harbor, Wash. He was 88. At the time he was the School of Dentistry's youngest graduate. He practiced dentistry from his Aberdeen, Wash., office until his retirement in 2005. He was an eight-year reserve deputy for the Grays Harbor Sheriff's office, developed and led the Hoquiam Police Department Reserves until his retirement as captain after 31 years, and served as Grays Harbor deputy coroner for 20 years, leading the dental identification program and computerizing the office.

DR. DONALD W. SPERRY
DDS CLASS OF 1959


 Dr. Donald W. “Don” Sperry passed away on Nov. 20, 2022 in Vancouver, Wash. He was 90. After graduating from the School of Dentistry, he attended medical

school at the University of Illinois and completed residencies at Cook County Hospital in Chicago and Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. He had a private practice as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Vancouver until 1983. In 1995, after spending the last 12 years of his career teaching oral surgery at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, he retired to Hood Canal, Wash.

DR. ROBERT L. HORCHOVER
DDS CLASS OF 1960


 Dr. Robert L. Horchover passed away on Dec. 19, 2022. He was 88, and his eight years with Alzheimer's disease were courageous and dignified. He began his dental practice in Juneau, Alaska, and provided care to residents of outlying islands. To do so he outfitted his boat as a marine dental office. He later returned to Seattle, where he focused on sleep medicine for the next 21 years of his career. His research led him to patent “Airway Metrics,” a system that enables dentists to find the best possible airways for patients who cannot tolerate CPAP. In 2017, the American Sleep and Breathing Academy presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication and contribution to the dental sleep profession.

DR. CLARK D. WOHLFORD
DDS CLASS OF 1965


 Dr. Clark Dennis “Denny” Wohlford passed away peacefully on Jan. 24, 2023 at his home in Puyallup, Wash. He was 82. He had bravely battled leukemia for 10 months. He served in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps from 1965 to 1967. His 40-year dental career included membership in the Washington State Dental Association, where he served on several state committees, and the Pierce County Dental Society, where

he was president (1983-1984). He was a Washington Dental Service board member for several years.


DR. RONALD D. LARSON
DDS CLASS OF 1969

 Dr. Ronald David Larson passed away on Aug. 15, 2022 from complications of dementia. He was 83. He opened his private dental office in Olympia, Wash., in 1969 and practiced until his retirement. He was an active member of the Thurston County Dental Society.

DR. EDWARD C. HALPIN
GRADUATE PROSTHODONTICS CLASS OF 1970


 Dr. Edward Cary Halpin died peacefully on Dec. 26, 2022 surrounded by family after a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 82. He had a private dental practice in Seattle and later taught prosthodontics at the School of Dentistry for many years. Before that he was an officer and a dentist in the U.S. Air Force, serving in Greece before being sent to Everett, Wash. He, his wife, and a couple of friends founded what is now Archbishop Murphy High School in Everett.

DR. HENRY D. ANDREWS
DDS CLASS OF 1973


 Dr. Henry David “Duff” Andrews V of Orcas Island, Wash., passed away peacefully after suffering a stroke on Dec. 25, 2022 at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise, Idaho. He was 82. He graduated top of his class at the School of Dentistry and practiced at his Whaletooth Clinic on Orcas Island from 1975 to 1997. He took great pride in being commissioner of the Orcas Island Fire Department and instrumental in the creation

of the Orcas Center. He held the longest-standing membership in the Lions Club.


DR. ROSE M. HOMAN
DDS CLASS OF 1980

 Dr. Rose M. Homan of Omaha, Neb., and formerly of Remsen, Iowa, died on Jan. 26, 2023 at The Heritage at Sterling Ridge in Omaha. She was 75. She was a nursing instructor at the UW School of Nursing before attending the School of Dentistry. She completed her dental residency in New York City, followed by a career at the UCLA School of Dentistry, where she served as a faculty member, practitioner, and administrator.

DR. BARBARA U. SIMPSON
DDS CLASS OF 1980

 Dr. Barbara Uldene Simpson (née Robinson) died peacefully at her home surrounded by family on Nov. 17, 2022 in University Place, Wash., after living with ALS for six years. She was 68. She served as an Army dentist at Fort Lewis, Wash., and Taegu, South Korea until June 1984. When her four children got older, she returned to dentistry and worked as a hygienist at 6th Avenue Dental Care in Tacoma, Wash., for 11 years.

DR. MATTHEW W. GIFFORD
DDS CLASS OF 1994

 Dr. Matthew Wilford Gifford of Anacortes, Wash., died on Aug. 13, 2022 while summiting Mount Pugh in his beloved North Cascades. He was 56. He practiced dentistry in Sedro-Woolley, Wash., before relocating to Anacortes, Wash., in 2017. He volunteered dental services to those in need, locally and abroad.

School mourns former Dean Paul Robertson

Our UW School of Dentistry community noted with great sadness the passing of Dr. Paul Robertson, who served with distinction as Dean from 1992 to 2001, on Dec. 24, 2022 at his home on Camano Island, Wash. He was 82.

Dr. Robertson's highly successful deanship, in which he demonstrated formidable administrative abilities coupled with personal qualities of congeniality, kindness, and good humor, saw the school continue to thrive and enhance its reputation.

“If I were to summarize Paul Robertson's greatest accomplishments in our dental school, they would be his vision, his fundraising, and his construction of an excellent teaching environment – a place where generations of students have ‘cut their teeth,’” said Dr. Marty Anderson (‘65) of Restorative Dentistry.

“One of his biggest achievements [was] his guidance in developing the clinical teaching laboratory known as the D-1 Simulation Clinic,” said Dr. Anderson, who was Dental Alumni Association president in 1995 when Dean Robertson proposed the creation of the clinic. A campaign led by Dr. David Minahan (‘75) successfully raised the \$1 million needed to build the clinic, which Dr. Anderson called “the most used and valued teaching facility in the dental school.”

Dr. Robertson, who retired as Dean Emeritus, was not only an accomplished clinician and academician, but also a prolific researcher who once held the presidency of the American Association for Dental Research (now the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research).

He received his DDS from the University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston, after which he served as a dental officer in the U.S. Air Force for three years. He then earned his certification in periodontics and an MS in experimental pathology at the University of Alabama, and joined the university's dental faculty. Succeeding academic appointments before he came to the UW took him to the University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston, the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, the University of California at San Francisco, and then the University of British Columbia, where he was Professor and Dean.



During his UW tenure, he served terms as chair of the Board of Health Sciences Deans and the Board of Deans and served on several high-level search committees. He was a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. In 1995, he received the Washington State Dental Association President's Award in recognition of his outstanding service to dentistry.

In retirement, he was a frequent and welcome guest at School of Dentistry functions, and he was always available to provide helpful counsel to his successors.

Said School of Dentistry Dean André Ritter after learning of Dean Robertson's passing: “Our thoughts are with Dr. Robertson's beloved wife, Marjorie, and the rest of their family. Dr. Robertson earned a secure place of admiration and respect in our school's history, and he will be missed greatly.”

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

MONDAY, APRIL 24

Dental Alumni Full Board Meeting
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
WASHINGTON ATHLETIC CLUB
DOWNTOWN SEATTLE

THURSDAY, MAY 11

Classes of the 2000s Cinco de Mayo
Event
6 - 8 p.m.
CLUB HUSKY, HUSKY STADIUM

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

Dental Alumni Football Event
Time: TBD
I WING ROTUNDA
HUSKY STADIUM, UW VS. TULSA

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Dean's Club Annual Dinner
6 - 9:30 p.m.
BELL HARBOR CONFERENCE CENTER
SEATTLE WATERFRONT

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

Dental Alumni Golf Tournament
12:30 p.m. tee time
WASHINGTON NATIONAL GOLF COURSE
AUBURN, WASH.

FRIDAY, OCT 20

UWSOD Scholarship Luncheon
12:30 - 2 p.m.
ROOM 316
SOUTH CAMPUS CENTER

