

# PITT DENTAL MEDICINE

Summer 2016



*communicator*

*responsible*



*mentor*



# LEADERSHIP

*teamwork*

*influence*



*vision*

*motivation*



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## PITT DENTAL MEDICINE

Summer 2016 Volume 14, Number 2

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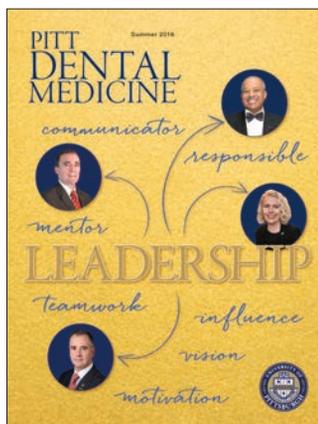
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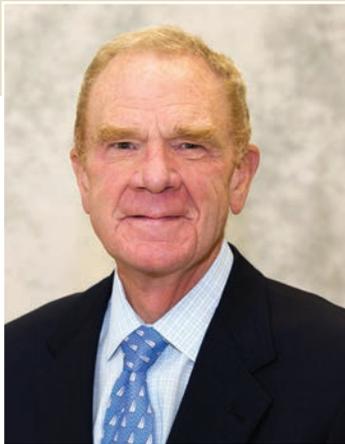
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### ON THE COVER

Leadership can be apparent in many ways. In this issue we present dental leaders who have impacted and improved the status of dental education, specialty clinics, research, community and public health, dental careers and many others.



# FROM THE DEAN



What is the principle role of the School of Dental Medicine? Is it to ensure the highest level of education and clinical training for generally practicing dentists? Is it to assure that a stable number of our graduates enter into specialty disciplines? Is it to procure the acquisition of new knowledge and its translation into clinical settings? Is it to provide service to our community including those with special needs, and all of those in the western Pennsylvania and tri-state region? The answer, of course, to all of these questions is yes.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine does all of this and much more. A rather unidentified, but clearly achieved purpose, is to produce leaders in the profession of dental medicine and in its various specialties, research arenas and service areas.

This issue of Pitt Dental Medicine will highlight some of the school's contributions to society and to the profession. In it I believe you will meet individuals who have committed their time, energy and talents to providing their guidance and commitment, therefore advancing health overall. Among these leaders will be those in positions of national prominence, those who have received recognition for their innovation, and those who are working to create new teachers and leaders among our students while in school, among others. The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine has a 120-year proud tradition in providing education, service, research and, as will be evidenced in the pages to follow, outstanding leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas W. Braun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

**Thomas W. Braun (DMD '73, PhD '77)**

*Distinguished Service Professor and Dean,  
University of Pittsburgh  
School of Dental Medicine*



# LEADERSHIP

*Through Advocacy,  
Education & Policy*

*by B. Rose Huber*



Organized dentistry leaders, left to right: John J. Liang (DMD '80); R. Donald Hoffman (DMD '72, PhD '88); Gary Jeffers (DMD '75); Andrew Kwasny (DMD '83, MDS'85); Terry Buckenheimer (DMD '80); and Stephen Radack (DMD '86).

Extraordinary leaders share certain traits. Beyond exuding a palpable confidence, they also are driven by a relentless passion. Most leaders never see their jobs as “work” and are fueled by a desire to give back to their field. In short: they refuse to sit on the sidelines.

When it comes to dentistry, leadership takes on many forms. This ranges from educating the next generation of dentists to organizing community-wide efforts to achieve access to care. But to truly influence policies that have widespread effects, leaders must do so from the state and national levels.

The best way to do this is through leadership positions in organized dentistry.

Many leaders who currently represent or have represented organized dental societies at the state and national level hail from the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Dental Medicine.

The School consistently produces dentists who use organized dentistry leadership goals to shape and mold the profession. Building upon their strong Pitt education, these leaders serve as educators and policymakers to actively shape the field of dentistry.

## LEADERSHIP

### *Through Advocacy*

For some, dentistry can be a lonely field. Practitioners work in isolation, removed from other practicing doctors. But engaging in professional dental organizations can change this, connecting dentists with their highly reputable peers on the state and national levels.

This is especially true for Dr. Stephen Radack III, who today is a powerful leader in organized dentistry. Dr. Radack wanted to be a dentist from a young age. He also knew early on that to truly influence his field he needed to seek out as many leadership opportunities as possible.

After graduating from Pitt Dental Medicine in 1986, Dr. Radack returned to Erie, Pennsylvania, and began his private practice. But that wasn't enough. Knowing he wanted to shape dentistry on a local level, he attended an Erie County Dental Association (ECDA) meeting. There, he immediately felt like he belonged.

"Our local organization has always been very welcoming and great at providing leadership to young and new members," Radack said. "I was no different and was given the chance to become an officer chair a couple years after I joined."

This was only the beginning for Dr. Radack. Over the past two decades, his involvement with ECDA strengthened and continued. Because of his powerful leadership abilities, he has served in all chairs of the organization including two terms as president that were 20 years apart. He has literally shaped dentistry in his region across decades. And, most recently, he served two terms as secretary treasurer, a very important role at ECDA.

But Dr. Radack didn't stop at the local level. These experiences only propelled him to continue seeking leadership positions. He went on to represent the Ninth District Dental Society of the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA)—which includes five counties in northwestern Pennsylvania, including Erie County—by serving on several committees and as a distinguished member of the PDA House of Delegates. This position was key to him being elected president of the PDA's ninth district. This led to his election as a member of the first American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates in 1994, which continued through 2015.

Knowing he could play a powerful role in Pennsylvania government, Dr. Radack continued pursuing state-level positions. He served as the PDA trustee for his district for four years and then as PDA treasurer for five years. He then was elected PDA vice-president and general chair of the PDA's annual meeting. All of these positions, he said, led to him finally becoming PDA president in 2014-15—a position in which he oversaw a number of important regulatory and advocacy issues.

Pennsylvania is facing a dental provider shortage as new graduates leave the Commonwealth for other states that offer more opportunities to succeed as dentists. Dr. Radack had a deep interest in improving the likelihood that dental graduates would stay in Pennsylvania after graduating from one of the three dental schools in the Commonwealth.

"During my time in these various leadership roles I have been intimately involved in working on governance changes, bylaws revisions and updates, innovative meeting changes and primarily membership issues. Also I was

part of the Joint Commission and served on the commission's ad hoc Committee for the Integrated Exam, which was charged with developing a new single integrated examination to replace the National Boards Parts 1 and 2. The time I spent on the Commission was eye opening and very educational, especially serving two terms as chair of the research and development committee. Learning about exam development, metrics and what psychometricians do, gave me a new appreciation for what goes into the examination process."

Across all of these positions—and especially during his PDA positions and presidency—Dr. Radack has been intimately involved in working on governance changes, bylaws revisions and updates, innovative meeting changes and membership issues at the state level.

"Being a part of organized dentistry can bring you so many benefits you may not even realize," Dr. Radack said. "I believe my education both at Pitt and undergraduate years at Grove City College gave me the desire to be involved and be in-the-know and a part of the decision making rather than just stay on the sidelines."

Today, Dr. Radack feels it's important to share his leadership experiences with current dental students and new members of the profession. He knows that in order to truly influence policy and change, it must come from these types of leadership roles. For him, it was never a question of "finding the time." It was necessary in order for him to best represent the field of dentistry.

"I worked five days a week including three evenings and had a young family when I became a PDA trustee and managed to fit it all in," Dr. Radack said. "If you find

something that you are passionate about and have a calling to do, then I believe everyone can find that balance to do it all.”

Likewise, new graduates are urged to dedicate at least a portion of their time to participate in organized dentistry. The dental leaders featured here all began their involvement in organized dentistry at a smaller local level and moved up and through the organizations from there.

At the local level there are many opportunities to interact with other members to learn about the value organized dentistry and how the organization can help a new practitioner address problems related to their practice. Some of these are the interpretation of the state dental practice act and legal issues related to patient care.

Establishing a dental practice will be one of the most difficult challenges for a new graduate, especially while facing large student debt.

Rising student debt also is a concern for many practitioners and dentists including Dr. Herbert Ray, Chair of the Department of Endodontics and assistant professor at the School of Dental Medicine. He said that most students graduate with between \$300,000 and \$400,000 worth of debt.

“A big issue for us in Pennsylvania is helping young dentists with the cost of education. We’re working to try to come up with creative ways to help them with their debt as well as make Pennsylvania a more attractive state for them to live in and start a practice,” Dr. Ray said.

Recently inducted as PDA president, Dr. Ray is truly the face of dentistry in Pennsylvania. As president, he is charged with working with the PDA executive director and professional staff as well as

the board of trustees. He serves as the organization’s ambassador, traveling across the country to represent the profession at conferences, legislative briefings and other events.

Dr. Ray is tirelessly working on several projects with the state also related to water fluoridation. He has drafted several letters and regularly testifies in Harrisburg to work toward maintaining fluoridation to prevent cavities and help teeth grow stronger. He is effectively using his leadership roles to shape state legislature.

Another serious issue in Pennsylvania is insurance, and Dr. Ray is working hard to address this. In some cases, dentists do not accept certain forms of insurance. Insurance companies refuse to pay for services unless patients go to certain dentists, forcing patients to pay upfront. Additionally, there are concerns over whether underserved populations have access to timely and appropriate oral care. Large cuts were made to the adult Medicaid system in 2011, and Dr. Ray and other leaders have been working tirelessly to come up with ways to reinstate coverage for these populations. He knows it’s the best way he can address these serious concerns.

“This is a big issue for us. These people just had the safety net dropped from underneath them, and that’s not right,” Dr. Ray said. “This is why we, as leaders of organized dentistry, have to serve as the voice, not only for practicing dentists but for our patients as well.”

## LEADERSHIP *Through Education*

While many Pitt graduates represent organized dentistry, some do so while also serving as powerful educators. This is showcased in the work of Dr. R. Donald Hoffman, a distinguished Pitt faculty member since 1972.

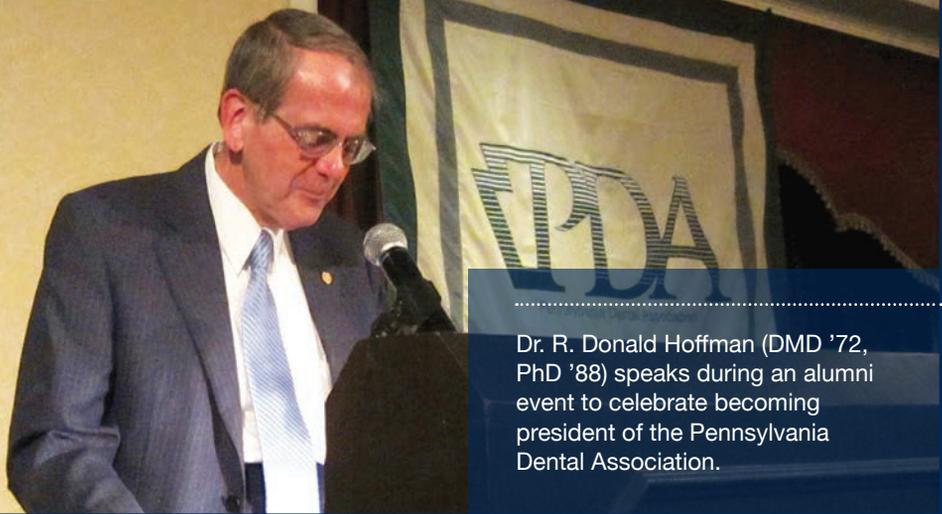
Dr. Hoffman also understands firsthand the severity of the 2011 Medicaid cuts that Dr. Ray is fighting against. Dr. Hoffman’s term as PDA president coincided with the reign of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett, who reduced and eliminated various dental benefits for adults on Medicaid, the federal program that provides healthcare for the poor. Dr. Hoffman worked endlessly with the state government to better enable health care and help the uninsured receive care. Unfortunately, the legislature was not receptive to reinstating benefits.

At Pitt, Dr. Hoffman serves as associate professor and was selected to be a special assistant to Thomas W. Braun, the dean of and a distinguished professor in Pitt’s School of Dental Medicine. From 2001 through 2011, Dr. Hoffman was associate dean for education and curriculum, and was appointed by Dean Braun.

For decades, Dr. Hoffman has been a vibrant and beloved member of the Pitt Dental School. Many alumni recount how Dr. Hoffman allowed them to practice general dentistry in the old EGPE clinic, and how he served as a mentor for generations of students.

“I am motivated by a desire to improve the profession,” Dr. Hoffman said.

Dr. Hoffman has been a leader of education at Pitt for 44 years, and, like many Pitt alumni, he has served in numerous



Dr. R. Donald Hoffman (DMD '72, PhD '88) speaks during an alumni event to celebrate becoming president of the Pennsylvania Dental Association.

important leadership positions. In 1998, he was elected president of the Dental Society of Western Pennsylvania. From 2003 through 2007, he was a trustee for the Dental Society of Western Pennsylvania—which represents District 10 of the PDA—and as PDA treasurer from 2007 to 2012. He has served as a delegate or alternate delegate from his district to the PDA's Annual Session since 1982.

Alongside his professional leadership roles and work at Pitt, Dr. Hoffman also works as a consultant to the Commission of Dental Competency Assessments, where he is an examiner. He's also been a consultant for the Commission on Dental Accreditation since 1991 and has successfully chaired or participated in 40 site evaluations of Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) programs.

Dr. Hoffman also understands the importance of serving as a leader on the national stage. This is why he was a delegate and alternate delegate to the ADA House of Delegates. He also was chair of the Section on Education Research, Development and Curriculum of the American Dental Education Association in 1999-2000, and he holds a number of prestigious fellowships including a fellowship in the American College of Dentists, the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the American College of Dentists. Because of his robust achievements, he has

gained mastership status in the Academy of General Dentistry. A Pitt graduate, Dr. Hoffman has spent much of his life at the University, serving as a leader and top educator.

"I earned an MEd and a PhD in Higher Education from the University of Pittsburgh. The course instruction and interaction with faculty and students broadened my understanding of educational principles," Dr. Hoffman said.

### LEADERSHIP *Through Policy*

Like the aforementioned leaders, the work of Dr. Diane Romaine, a 1995 graduate of the School of Dental Medicine, also exemplifies how engaging in these top-level roles can truly shape policy.

"One should never assume that someone else is taking care of it, and therefore it's not your responsibility. By being a leader in organized dentistry, you have the power to create policy and legislative change," Romaine said.

Dr. Romaine knows this to be true since she's experienced it herself. Over the years, she has needed to expand her skillset to best serve her patients in rural Frostburg, Maryland.

In 2008, she was elected president of the Allegany-Garrett Dental Society in Western Maryland, one of 12 component groups of the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA). In this role, Dr. Romaine founded the Western Maryland Mission of Mercy free adult clinic in 2010, which has since transformed into a statewide program across Maryland, delivering more than \$9 million of free dental services.

In 2011, after she became president of the MSDA, Dr. Romaine helped pass legislation which allowed dental hygienists to deliver local anesthesia—thereby increasing access to dental care. She also helped to create a temporary-volunteer dental license for those willing and qualified to serve Maryland citizens.

"The best way to serve your community is through leadership roles. As you grow and make things better, your community becomes bigger and bigger," Dr. Romaine said.

Reaching rural populations is especially important to Dr. Romaine, given the limitations her region faces. This is why she recently worked with U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) to reverse the non-rural classification the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) gave Allegany County, Maryland, after the 2010 census. This policy change led to the renewal of Health Resources and Services Administration grant funding for dental access in Western Maryland and changed OMB national policy to no longer include prison populations when designating rural areas.

In 2010, Maryland saw a significant reduction in emergency-room dental visits. This piqued Dr. Romaine's interest, so, alongside her leadership duties and private

practice, she co-authored a paper about how diverting emergency departmental dental visits could save Maryland's Medicaid Program nearly \$4 million per year. The paper was published as an ADA Health Policy Instructive Research Brief and reached thousands of people. Now, she's using her leadership positions to work with stakeholders in Maryland to develop a more robust dental program for adults on Medicaid.

Today, Dr. Romaine is on the boards of Allegany Health Right, Western Maryland Area Health Education Center and Western Maryland Health Systems. Collaboratively, these groups formed the Mountain Health Alliance, which has developed innovative best practices for dental-health access for the nation. She also serves as president of the MSDA Charitable and Education Foundation, where she chaired the Maryland Dental Emergency Department Workgroup. This workgroup has quantified and developed a resource guide to continue to reduce patients seeking dental treatment in hospital emergency departments.

When reflecting on her career, Dr. Romaine credits her leadership positions within organized dentistry and her

education at Pitt as driving forces behind her accomplishments.

"Both have been my greatest resources for learning and being a leader in my community," she said.

## LEADERSHIP

### *The Pitt Way*

Throughout each of these stories is a common theme: the importance of leveraging leadership positions to shape policy, education and the field of dentistry as whole. Each of these leaders represents different facets of organized dentistry, they also each proudly represent Pitt's School of Dental Medicine—and the generations that preceded them.

The passion that our alumni have for dentistry is highlighted when they see the same passion in the faces of our students, the next generation of dentists. Maintaining a sense of unity from generation to generation is apparent when students, like the alumni that came before them, confidently speak about the fantastic opportunities that await each of them in their future.

Dr. Romaine agrees with this observation, and adds that continuing education for all dentists, regardless of age or status, is a must.

"Diagnosing dentistry and irreversible procedures are something only you, as a dentist, can do," Dr. Romaine said. "This is why I urge new graduates to continue to learn and get better at those clinical skills but leave the myriad of other tasks involved in running an outstanding dental practice to other committed practice managers and staff members. It is only by sharing that load that you will have the time and energy to give back."

A new dentist's focus and determination is the key, Dr. Raddack said, but, in order to really spark change, one must serve within professional organizations.

"I know how challenging it can be to run a practice as a new grad and feel like you have to keep your nose 100 percent to that dental grindstone, but being a part of organized dentistry can bring you so many benefits you may not even realize," Dr. Radack said. "I have made my best friends from belonging and have earned the most unbelievable opportunities."



Dr. Herbert Ray, current PDA President, joins past president, Dr. Andrew Kwasney (DMD '83) in a presentation during the ADA/PDA signing day at Pitt School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Steven Radack (DMD '86), right, joined Dr. Thomas Braun to welcome first-year students during the School of Dental Medicine White Coat Ceremony.



Dr. Matt Karski (DMD '10) sometimes gets his hands dirty in his role as Dental Alumni Association President. Here, he is leading alumni volunteers in the planting of a public garden space in Pittsburgh.

# LEADING THE WAY

## *from* Classrooms *to* Careers

*by Mel Policicchio*

Many dental professionals enter the field of dental medicine as a way to help people maintain dental and overall health. They provide essential care for many in need. As demonstrated in this issue's feature story, many dental professionals share a desire and willingness to inspire others and collaborate with their peers. In this feature, we present some of the students and young alumni of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine who are emerging as strong and capable leaders for the future of dental medicine.

Leadership takes many forms, but common among them is the notion that strong leadership promotes a positive atmosphere where people are encouraged to do their best. Dr. Lisa Babb (DMD '11), who was attracted to Pitt Dental Medicine during an undergraduate tour, is one example of leadership of this quality. It was clear to her as a student, and now as an established professional, that the faculty and staff at Pitt Dental Medicine care about dental students and encourage their cooperation through understanding leadership, something Babb appreciated years ago after hearing from friends entering law school, where students were conversely encouraged into competition and isolation.

"There is a family atmosphere at Pitt Dental Medicine that brings an awareness of the feeling of 'we are here for you, we want you to take full advantage of the situation, we want you to learn as much as you can while you're here, perform at your absolute best, and we are here to help lead you in the right direction every step of the way,'" Dr. Babb said. Recently, when she opened her own practice, she recalled the methods and techniques she observed as a student that were used by faculty leaders. Now, as an emerging leader in Dental Medicine, she constructs her career forward and involves herself in local organized dentistry. (For more about organized dentistry, please see Leadership Through Advocacy, Education, and Policy, on page 4).

## Earning Leadership by caring for the Community

Inspirational leadership comes from a willingness to accept the added responsibilities required to go the extra mile and make positive changes a reality both in and out of the classroom. Ms. Jamie Kaufer (Class of 2017) chose Pitt Dental in large part because of the school's emphasis on community development through outreach programs. Ms. Kaufer is the current president of the student chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD).

"Being from outside of Pittsburgh and living here during the four years of my undergraduate education, I grew to care for this community, especially the children in the area," Ms. Kaufer said. "I knew that if I wanted an opportunity to give back to the city that I love I would need to take on leadership roles while pursuing my dental degree. Here at Pitt Dental Medicine, I will get a great education and have an

opportunity to play a key role in positively influencing the lives of others."

Ms. Arielle Forbes (Class of 2017), president of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) guides the organization with a firm belief in the importance of utilizing professional dentistry to help those in need. In addition to leading efforts to offer academic support and enrichment for minority dental students, SNDA members, under Ms. Forbes's careful guidance, organize and participate in community service events, including a Health and Wellness Day in the Hill District, where many Pittsburgh minorities live. Last year's event provided free oral cancer screenings for more than 120 at-risk individuals, along with blood pressure checks, and nutrition and food workshops and education.

Beyond partnering with local communities to help improve oral health, the SNDA works to help the community as a whole.

Club members join forces with a local church to prepare and serve food to about 800 local families each month, play basketball with at risk high school students, and generally offer guidance and a motivational influence to the community. Ms. Forbes stresses that an important feature of being a leader is making sure the team is never left behind.

Inspired by her work in Pittsburgh, Ms. Forbes, with faculty supervision, recently led other dental students on a mission trip to Honduras to spend a week assisting as many as 1,000 migrant farmers with oral care.

"It's good exposure to a different aspect of dentistry and I enjoy organizing others to give back to those who need our help," Ms. Forbes said. "It's a good feeling."

New graduate Dr. David Cole (DMD '16) also has lead fellow students on dental mission trips. He is the fourth generation



Fourth-year student and president of the student chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Ms. Jamie Kaufer, and Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich (DMD '80), chair of Pediatric Dentistry, joined forces to lead the 2016 Give Kids a Smile event.



Dr. Lisa Babb (DMD '11), center, mentors dental students at an evening mentoring session.

and one of eight family members who graduated from Pitt School of Dental Medicine. At a young age he learned the leadership skills needed by members of his profession to help those in need; his father has taken Dr. Cole on ten mission trips since he was a boy. The youngest of four children, Dr. Cole spent much of his childhood with his family overseas assisting in oral care during mission projects. Following in his family's footsteps, he plans to honor this tradition of demonstrating compassionate leadership in his own work. "My family is really blessed with the opportunity to be compassionate leaders and use their skills to assist those who don't otherwise have access to care," he said. "For me, that's one of the primary reasons I chose a career in dental medicine."

## Leading as Mentors

Helping others remains a driving force after graduation for many Pitt Dental alumni. As Vice President of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Dental Alumni Association (DAA) Board of Directors, Dr. Lisa Babb acts as a conduit between alumni and the current student body, establishing and leading mentorship opportunities. One of the most important events Dr. Babb coordinates for the DAA is a mentoring session during

which third- and fourth-year students talk with alumni about what to expect from professional dentistry and life after graduation. In addition to listening to the students, Dr. Babb and the other alumni mentors take advantage of this time to ask students what they can do for them.

"When you graduate from Pitt School of Dental Medicine you're a part of a close-knit dental community. Dental alumni are invested in making sure new graduates have the knowledge and prowess to lead our profession into the future," Dr. Babb said.

The ability to establish and maintain positive professional relationships is another important aspect of leadership, and mentoring relationships are one of the most significant. Working within the school, Dr. Christine Wankiiri-Hale (DMD '02), Associate Dean of Student Affairs, has dedicated her career to fostering leadership qualities in the students—the coming generation of dentists. As associate dean she oversees students from application to graduation and works hard to ensure that each student is prepared for a career in dental medicine. Dr. Wankiiri-Hale also serves as an ex-officio board member of the Predoctoral Admissions Committee at the school, aiding in the admissions process by

reviewing applications and interviewing prospective students.

Highlighting her leadership skills, Dr. Wankiiri-Hale was chosen as a 2015-16 Fellow of the American Dental Association (ADA) Institute for Diversity and Leadership. A project she developed during her time with the institute is an inaugural program to inspire alumni to mentor prospective and current students at "family dinners," with the hope that students will then become alumni mentors after they graduate. These dinners are held either in restaurants or in family homes and aim to foster a communicative and educational relationship between students and alumni. Currently, ten alumni mentor three to six students each, though Dr. Wankiiri-Hale hopes to expand the program next year.

"The goal," she explains, "is to develop a community of support beyond the academic program at a more personal level."

## Leadership through Lifelong Education

Dr. Wankiiri-Hale is a leader outside the school as well. She is an active participant within the American Dental Education Association's (ADEA) Leadership Institute, which offers leadership education for

dental school educators. Dr. Wankiiri-Hale completed the program in 2014, coming away with a better understanding of how to demonstrate and inspire compelling leadership.

“I learned how you can use different leadership styles to be effective as a leader,” Dr. Wankiiri-Hale said. “By understanding your audience and being able to lead with a keen understanding of your audience, you can adapt your leadership style to suit the different challenges that you might be facing.”

She greatly benefitted from her time at the ADEA Leadership Institute and joined the board of the ADEA Leadership Institute Alumni Association, aiming to use her new leadership skills to serve educators.

“The board works to develop programs for past fellows of the institute as well as for dental educators so they can continue to hone their leadership skills and grow as leaders,” Dr. Wankiiri-Hale explains.

For her, it’s important that dentists and educators experience lifelong continued education as they nurture, renew, and revise their own leadership skills.

Dr. Matthew Karski (DMD ‘10) also notes the importance of continued education to be a productive dentist and leader. As a New Castle practitioner at Karski Dental, and member of the Lawrence County Dental Society, he and other dentists and specialists from the county meet about ten times a year, often to attend lectures about the field. Local dental societies are uncommon and Dr. Karski appreciates the opportunity not only to continue learning about his field, but to develop relationships with his fellow dentists. “It’s a very close-knit group,” Dr. Karski said. “It’s a way to keep in touch with and learn from all the local dentists.”

“I really am not an assertive type of leader,” he said. “I believe that the success of our practice relies on profound communication and hard work from every member of our team.”

## Student Leadership

Much like working professionals band together, students at Pitt Dental learn quickly that the best way to survive is to both help each other and create their own opportunities to become leaders. As the president of the Pitt American Student Dental Association (Pitt ASDA), Mr. Frederick “Fritz” Dawson (DMD ‘17) is the elected leader of this national student

*“Beyond providing clinical services and volunteer care for those in need, we’re stepping into a professional business.”*

*—David Cole, DMD*



A Celebration of Diversity and Black History in the Health Sciences, organized by Student National Dental Association (SDNA) president and fourth-year student, Ms. Ariel Forbes, front row center left, in 2015 was attended by many from across the Schools of Health Sciences at Pitt.



Dr. Christine Wankiiri-Hale (DMD '02, AEGD '03), right, is joined by Dental Medicine Alumna and community and business leader, Dr. Judith Davenport (DMD '79) at a School of Dental Medicine event celebrating diversity.

organization focused on student welfare, rights and well-being. Pitt ASDA hosts and organizes a variety of activities for students, including orientation and welcome activities, Lunch and Learn lecture events, community outreach activities, the annual Steel City Dental Expo, and the Snowball winter formal.

Dr. David Cole is past president of Pitt ASDA and remembers the scope and leadership responsibility of the position. “We are the largest student organization in the dental school so a significant task is to give value to dental students,” he said. “Whatever we did, we wanted to make people really happy that they were members. Having three or four hundred people, all whom I’m trying to motivate and get involved to do things is a big job. But it was really rewarding and I feel like I learned a lot doing it.” Dr. Cole said.

ASDA is the nation’s largest student organization, there are many other important organizations that are smaller and more specialized. For example, Ms.

Jamie Kaufer, president of the student chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), focuses entirely on dentistry for children.

“I wanted to be involved in the club because pediatric dentistry is my current interest and was my dental background experience prior to coming to dental school,” Ms. Kaufer said. “My mom was a hygienist in a pediatric practice for 18 years, and that shaped my vision of dentistry. Now that I have been in dental school for a few years, I can see the potential to really make a difference for children’s dental care, especially when it comes to education and prevention.” As president, Ms. Kaufer oversees the AAPD’s 80 current members and provides experiences for students that promote and involve the pediatric population.

“My role as president falls mostly to managing the executive board of officers, coordinating the clinical side of our annual Give Kids a Smile Day, and assisting in facilitating volunteering events and speakers

for club members,” Ms. Kaufer said. Mr. Benjamin Levine (DMD '17), president of the Student Professionalism and Ethics Association (SPEA), also leads a specialized club. His association organizes forums for students and dentists to come together and discuss ethical scenarios in a safe space.

“Discussing how best to handle a scenario, before it comes up in a real-life clinical situation, is important because the club addresses many ethical questions that students just don’t see at the school. The SPEA offers members a chance to see what happens in these scenarios in a safe zone where you’re surrounded by trusting faculty members or students who have a lot of experience,” Mr. Levine said. “When you’re a brand new dentist and you’re facing the real world, you may not know exactly what to expect or how to handle unusual situations—we like to get insight into resolving these issues from other students and the faculty.”

## Sculpting a Leader

As these emerging leaders mature in their different leadership duties, all of them agree that the most important feature of leadership is communication.

“Communication is the key to absolutely everything,” Dr. Karski said. “Dentistry by itself, by its nature, entails a lot of people skills. There are a lot of personalities that you have to interact with. Poor communication with patients can reflect poorly on your practice. You have to be able to effectively communicate with your staff, patients and colleagues because the vitality of your business depends on it.”

Often, it is these people skills that makes a leader. “One of the biggest things that a leader needs to have is empathy,” Mr. Dawson said. “When you are a leader, or as you are learning to become a leader, you have to remember to take care of not only the members of your immediate team, but you must constantly look out for the welfare of those that you’re serving.”

Ms. Forbes agrees. “You can’t sit there and say ‘well, I’m the leader so this is how this is going to go,’” she said. “It’s more like ‘I’m the leader but I still rely on, value and respect what everyone on my team has to say.’”

Thinking of others also makes for a successful leader, Mr. Dawson said. “Try to be reflective on ‘is what we’re doing relevant to the our audience?’” He said. “If the audience doesn’t appreciate and value what we do, then we might as well not be doing it.”

Dr. Cole recalls learning the importance of integrity while helping in his family’s dental clinics. “At the base of everything you do,” he said, “you have to decide what is just and fair—That’s something my grandfather and my dad taught me.”

## Leaders Looking Ahead

Engaging dental students and maintaining an active community remains very important to Dr. Babb. “A dentist becomes an island where they’re alone with their staff and their patients, but they often don’t reach out to the wider dental community,” she said. “It’s nice to be part of organized dentistry; where you’re part of a community of similar people and you can reach out to them as resources.”

Interacting with other dentists and students inspires positive leadership for Mr. Dawson. “One thing I’ve noticed in dental school is that I’m not the only leader of an organization in my class,” he said.

He works closely with student leaders of many other student organizations and has learned quite a lot from them. “When I work with all of these other organizations I am learning not just to be a leader for my own team, but to cooperate with others and be a team player. And I think that in the next 30, 40, or 50 years of dentistry, cooperation among different groups is going to be more important than ever before.”

“There’s an old-standing notion of the ‘private practice model,’” Mr. Dawson said. “In that model, graduating dental students think they will go be their own dentist and they’re going to be the leader of their dental team staff. And there is some truth to that. But, as a dentist, when you become the leader in a private practice, in reality, you need to become a leader who relies on other dentists and specialists, who also are leaders, and they’re all going to have to work as a team.”

As the field evolves, students and alumni recognize the growing necessity of collaboration. “It’s really important that we can be advocates for our profession,” Dr. Babb said. “If you don’t have advocacy, like the advocacy of a regional or national dental organization, and you don’t have representation in the marketplace and you lose the reason you went into dentistry in the first place. A lot of

people went into dentistry so that they could be autonomous, and if you don’t have advocacy to help you maintain that autonomy, dentistry is going to go the way of being completely corporate.”

At the student level, leadership roles are vital stepping stones to similar positions in the real world.

“Leadership is huge,” Dr. Cole said. “Beyond providing clinical services and volunteer care for those in need, we’re stepping into a professional business. The interesting thing about dentistry is that it’s not just medical—it has a business and entrepreneurial aspect. Regardless of what your situation is, you will have people that you’re working with, such as your staff, patients and dental colleagues. Being a good motivator and having even a fundamental understanding of leadership skills can set you up for success, whether you’re in an academic setting, a private practice or anywhere in between.”

Dr. Wankiiri-Hale sees this from a faculty perspective. “Students ultimately, in their own careers, will automatically serve in a leadership capacity. Whether it’s in a private practice, in a group practice, or academic setting, they’ll have assistants and staff that they will interact with. It’s important that they recognize that by virtue of being who they are, they will be a leader by default. Those skills don’t always come easily to everybody, so fostering and developing the skills is important as individuals become leaders. They will have to step into that role regardless, so cultivating that while they’re learning their profession is important.”

“Part of being a leader,” Ms. Kaufer said, “is the desire to make a difference. Having those experiences as a student where you have a positive influence on others can motivate you to continue to be a leader in the dental community in the future. In our profession we are helping our patients, but as a community we can help each other.”

# 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *Research Symposium*

The Sixteenth Annual University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Research Symposium was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. This distinguished symposium continues as the longest running school-wide research event at the University and celebrated translational research: the ongoing integration of clinical and basic science research relevant to the practice of dentistry.

Dr. Thomas Braun, Dean and Distinguished Service Professor, introduced the event, held this year at the O'Hara Student Center. He discussed the magnitude of high-quality research being done at the dental school. Premier research by clinicians at the school includes ADEAGies Award-winning 3-D printing being done by Dr. John Ferenc (please see page 37) and Dr. Marnie Oakley's credential documentation software innovation (please see page 39.)

*"...extend the impact of our research through application to practice, policy development, and commercial translation."*

- Dr. Patrick Gallagher, Chancellor

Special guest, Dr. Arthur Levine, University of Pittsburgh Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences and John and Gertrude Petersen Dean of the School of Medicine, remarked that this was the most impressive research symposium the School of Dental Medicine has had. Likewise, he noted the significant contributions the dental school is making toward research being done at Pitt, which ranks fifth in NIH research funding. He added that dental medicine research has captured a higher percentage of government funding than many other areas at Pitt—The School of Dental Medicine ranks seventh in NIH funding among dental schools—and that reputation continues to allow the school to

attract the best and brightest students, faculty and researchers.

The 2016 Research Symposium featured two keynote speakers for the day-long event. The morning session keynote speaker, **Dr. Paul Moore** (DMD '73, PhD '77) is a Professor in the Department of Dental Public Health at the School of Dental Medicine. He is a nationally recognized expert on opioid pain management and spoke about current research in that field aimed at improving or reversing the negative effects of anesthesia. These new preparations include use of a nasal mist administered anesthesia and new drugs that aim to both increase, and reduce or reverse the duration of anesthesia. The afternoon session featured keynote speaker, **Thomas Diekwisch, DMD, PhD, PhD**. Dr. Diekwisch is the Director of the Center for Craniofacial Research and Diagnosis, Chair of the Department of Periodontics at Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry, and the Professor and Head of the Department of Oral Biology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. An internationally recognized expert, he presented a lunchtime lecture about current dental trends and how those trends are impacting dental medicine now and in the future.

Always a well-attended event, the Annual Research Symposium provided an opportunity for several Pitt Dental Medicine researchers to showcase the most cutting edge research endeavors at the school. Each presenter highlighted the clinical applications and value that their laboratory work will have for dental practitioners.

**Fatima Syed-Picard, PhD** is a Visiting Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Pittsburgh. She presented research into the specific mechanisms of scaffold-free engineered craniofacial and dental tissue patterning

**Karunesh Chakote**, second-year dental student, has been involved in research into the use of emergency room treatments by patients with dental pain. He presented the culmination of two years of data collection in this endeavor.

**Brett Cole, DDS**, recently completed his residency in endodontics. His presentation compared radiographic evidence of irrigant penetration using increasingly larger apical preparations

**Rasha Alotaibi**, PhD student, works and studies in the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics. Her presentation illuminated the role that both environmental and behavioral factors play in the dental caries disease process.

**Herbert L Ray, Jr., DMD** is the chair of the Department of Endodontics at the School of Dental Medicine. He presented an overview of the progress of ongoing and current research contrasting cellular vs. scaffold approaches for pulp regeneration in endodontic procedures.

This year's Faculty Technology Adoption Award, supported by Dell Computers, went to **Dr. John Burnheimer** for his use of technology in the classroom.

Student research awards acknowledged the expertise of emerging young researchers at the School of Dental Medicine. They were presented by Alexandre Vieira, DDS, MS, PhD, Director of Student Research. For a complete a listing of these awards, please see page 17.



1 Dr. Paul Moore and Dr. O. Jack Penhall 2 Dr. Thomas Braun with keynote speakers Dr. Thomas Diekwisch and Dr. Paul Moore, and Dr. Charles Sfeir 3 Dr. Arthur Levine 4 Dr. Charles Sfeir welcomes guests to the Symposium and discusses the research taking place in the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration 5 Ms. Rasha Alotaibi receives the AADR Pittsburgh Chapter Award. She is pictured with her mentor Dr. Mary Marazita. 6 Mr. Adil Omar, class of 2019 Dean's Summer Research Scholar and Mr. Karunesh Chakote, Class of 2018 Dean's Summer Research Scholar 7 Dr. Christina Wankiiri-Hale and Dr. Zsuzsa Horvath present the Langkamp-Allison Award to Ms. Jamie Kaufer 8 Mr. Karunesh Chakote receives the ADA Caulk Dentsply Student Clinician Award. He is pictured with his mentor, Dr. James Guggenheimer, and Mr. Tom Zungailia, Dentsply Regional Manager for Institutional Accounts 9 Posters were presented throughout the symposium venue, including in the buffet luncheon area 10 Mr. Matthew Wolfe and Mr. Jordan Antetomaso enjoy the afternoon keynote speech. 11 Dr. Thomas Diekwisch presented his keynote speech to attendees immediately after lunch 12 Dr. Yong Wan and Dr. Heather Szabo-Rogers 13 Dr. Alexandre Vieira and Ms. Regina Sencak, Class of 2018 14 Dr. Elizabeth Bilodeau discusses a poster with Dr. Atousa Azarbal.

## 2016 STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

**Thomas W. Braun**  
**Master of Excellence Award**  
**Dr. So Hyun Park**  
*(mentor is Dr. Kelly Williams)*

**Langkamp-Allison Award**  
*Recognizes a third-year dental student interested in pursuing a career in dental education*  
**Ms. Jamie Kaufer**

**ADA Caulk/Dentsply Student Clinician Program Award**  
*Recognizes outstanding clinical or basic science research by a first-, second- or third-year dental student.*  
**Mr. Karunesh Chakote**

**Hinman Student Research Symposium Competition**  
*Competitive national research symposium at the University of Tennessee in Memphis for students involved in clinical and basic science dental research.*  
**Ms. Brandi Gillian**

**AADR – Local Pittsburgh Chapter Award**  
*Recognizes outstanding clinical or basic science research by a Dental, Hygiene, or Graduate Student.*  
**Ms. Rasha Alotaibi**

**School of Dental Medicine Award (Dr. O. Jack Penhall Award)**  
*Recognizes outstanding clinical science research by a dental student. This award was created and is supported by a School of Dental Medicine alumnus in private practice in Greensburg, Pa. and a National ADA Student Research Judge.*  
 First place: **Mr. Eric Feuer**  
 Second place: **Ms. Sarah Albani**  
 Third place: **Mr. John Drisdale**

**ASDA Award**  
*Recognizes outstanding clinical or basic science research by a dental student.*  
 First place: **Ms. Shruti Mantravadi**  
 Second place: **Ms. Cristina Armbruster**  
 Third place: **Ms. Kristen Pelczar**

**Dr. Gerald Orner Award**  
*Recognizes an outstanding fourth year student researcher who is likely to succeed in postgraduate academic dentistry. This award provided by a School of Dental Medicine alumnus.*  
**Dr. Aaema Athar**

**Quintessence Award for Research Achievement**  
*Recognizes an outstanding fourth year student researcher for their research achievements. Award provided by the Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc.*  
**Dr. Zachary Raffensperger**

**AADR Student Research Day Award**  
**Ms. Cristina Armbruster and Mr. Eric Feuer**

# Where are they now?

## Nicholas K. Long, DDS

For 28 years Dr. Long was a faculty member in the School of Dental Medicine Department of Restorative and Comprehensive Care. He retired from the school in 2006.

Initially, Dr. Nick Long (DDS '65) didn't know what he wanted to do during his retirement, saying "I've had my life planned for a long time and when I retire I want to see what happens if I just don't plan things out." During the past 7 years he has filled his time well, becoming an avid gardener, finding a new and rewarding love in cooking, volunteering at his church food pantry and travelling with his wife, Jane, a retired teacher.

Dr. Long is from a family of dentists: his father, older brother and cousins were dentists. After earning his DDS in 1965, he joined his family in private practice for a few years, but had a yearning to do something more, something different, with his education. Most of the students in his class went into the military or private practice: At that time there weren't many other options in dentistry. He returned to Pitt to earn his Masters in Public Health in 1969

and the next year joined the faculty at the School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Long adds, "Not so long ago, as a student, dental education was taught in a more departmentalized manner. When I became a faculty member education was more systemic and earning a master's degree in education improved my ability to be a better teacher."

While a fourth-year student in dental school Dr. Long met his wife when she was one of his patients. Now, he and Mrs. Long have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Even though he semi-retired in 1998, Dr. Long returned to the school as a volunteer to assist in Dr. Matuszak's preclinical courses until 2006.

Since 2007 the couple have been volunteers at their church and at the Peters Township food pantry. Dr. Long stays in touch with many of the friends he met while in school. He adds "The School of Dental Medicine gave me a great opportunity to have a great career."

Dr. Long offers a final piece of advice on what you need to be a good teacher: "be a good listener, be approachable, and choose your words wisely. In other words, have good interpersonal and communication skills. This is applicable to any profession, but especially teaching".



## MESSAGE FROM THE DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Hello, and welcome to the summer edition of *Pitt Dental Medicine* magazine. I'd like to start this message by thanking all of you who have made my first year as the Dental Alumni Association President productive and successful. I am excited to begin my second year and want to take this opportunity to reflect on some recent events at Pitt Dental Medicine, and encourage alumni and friends to join us for more exciting activities this fall.

A mentoring session was held this past March during which many third- and fourth-year students expressed an interest in learning more about private practice. Knowing the strong foundation that Pitt Dental Medicine provides students, the alumni association is seeking ways to meet this request. We encourage our alumni to invite students to their office to observe and learn skills that go beyond the classroom and clinics at school from alumni clinicians in private practice. If you would like to volunteer, or have additional suggestions, please contact Nancy Poe at 412-648-8910.

In April, the 16th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball was held at Phipps Conservatory to honor our remarkable alumni and help to raise awareness of the need for scholarship support for our outstanding students. Please see pages 26-29 for photos from the evening.

The School of Dental Medicine held its graduation ceremony on May 21 at Heinz Hall. Eighty-four predoctoral, 31 resident and 30 dental hygiene graduates were joined by families and



friends at the celebration. We wish the graduates all the best and welcome them as fellow colleagues as they begin their careers.

As the class of 2016 leaves the school to enter the profession, we will welcome the Class of 2020 at the Annual White Coat Ceremony on August 29. New dental and dental hygiene students each will receive a custom-embroidered white coat. Our long-time tradition is to include in the pocket of each coat a short message of encouragement from an alum. If you would like to be part of this tradition, please see page 25 for more information about the White Coat Ceremony and how to participate.

Pitt Homecoming will be October 6-9, 2016. A reception and dinner for Pitt Dental Medicine alumni will be held on Friday, October 7 at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall. Class reunions will be held for class years ending in 1 and 6, and for our Golden Alumni (those who graduated prior to 1966). If it is not your reunion year, please consider joining us at Soldiers & Sailors and treating a dental student to dinner. It is a wonderful opportunity to share a meal and your experiences with them.

As always,  
Hail to Pitt!

**Dr. Matthew Karski (DMD '10)**  
*President, Dental Alumni Association*

## MESSAGE FROM THE DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION VICE PRESIDENT DENTAL HYGIENE

Dear Dental Hygiene Alumni,

All are cordially invited to attend "Keeping up with Evidenced Based Practice in Dental Hygiene Care." Pitt Dental Hygiene Students will be presenting research topic table clinic on August 3, 2016, in room 402 Salk Hall from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. All are welcome to take part in interactive discussion with the student presenters, enjoy refreshments, and earn continuing education credits. Two continuing education (CE) credits will be provided to those who view the presentations. If you would like to attend this free event, please contact Kathy Horn at 412-648-8432, or by e-mail at [kdh@pitt.edu](mailto:kdh@pitt.edu).

Be sure to look for the winter 2017 edition of the alumni magazine, as there will be photographs of ADHA's annual session, which was held in Pittsburgh June 8-14th.

**Ms. Susan Ban (DH '80)**  
*Vice President, Dental Hygiene,  
Dental Alumni Association*



## Thank You Alumni Survey Respondants

Thanks to all 491 of our alumni who took time to respond to the survey we sent at the end of last year. Of the six Pitt Schools of Health Sciences, we had the most alumni respond. Responses came in from alumni graduating in the 1940s up to the 2010s. Here are some of the things we learned about you and what these things mean for us.

✓ **Across all class cohorts, the two most popular ways to hear from the School of Dental Medicine were in the mail and via e-mail.** We primarily will use these methods and not expect to reach as many of you through less popular methods such as LinkedIn, Twitter, or even Facebook.

✓ **Across all class cohorts, you want the School of Dental Medicine to help you reconnect with classmates.** The more recent the cohort, the more you want the School to help you network with others, reconnect with faculty, connect you to jobs, continue your education, connect to alumni, and promote your job postings. The School of Dental Medicine is undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of how we can best address each of these activities.

✓ **Across most class cohorts, you are interested in professional development and educational events.** More recent cohorts also are interested in networking, social, and service events. Presentations, family, and athletic events were generally of less interest. The School of Dental Medicine will focus on creating opportunities for the more popular types of activities.

We truly appreciate your thoughts and feedback. They help us be there for you in the ways that you want. Thank you!

## CUTTING EDGE IMAGING

Revolutionize your practice with Digital 2-D imaging and Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) 3-D imaging.

CBCT is a valuable diagnostic tool in treatment planning for implants, maxillofacial trauma, orthodontic and orthognathic procedure planning, TMJ analysis, and sinus pathology.

Our Board-certified oral and maxillofacial radiologists provide both imaging and interpretation for 4 volume sizes: single site, single or double jaw, and full volume.

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- Quick turnaround time on imaging and reporting
- Our prices are very reasonable and competitive

**412-648-8612 [anp60@pitt.edu](mailto:anp60@pitt.edu)**

### WE ALSO PROVIDE:

- **Oral Medicine/Clinical Pathology Services**  
412-648-9100
- **Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology Biopsy Services**  
412-648-8629

## University Dental Health Services

Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Imaging Service

# Dental Alumni Association BOARD PROFILES

The Dental Alumni Association (DAA) comprises an assortment of talented alumni who are brought together through their passion for improving the Pitt Dental Medicine alumni experience. Below, we share why our alumni association board members participate in the DAA. If you are interested in being part of the DAA Board, please contact Nancy Poe at 412-648-8910.



**Dr. Cheryl Rosato**  
(DMD '80)

"My reason to get involved in the Dental Alumni Association is all about legacy! My father, Dr. Robert A. Rosato, graduated from the School of Dental Medicine in 1955. My dad was deeply honored to be a dentist and knew how much he owed his success to the dental school and to my mom, Betty, who worked as an R.N. at Montefiore Hospital while dad attended school.

When my dad passed away in 1991, both my brother and I already were dentists. Now my daughter, Samantha Linkowski, is a fourth-year dental student at Pitt. I love that we have a strong family legacy at Pitt. I am also very proud that there are more and more women joining the dental profession. When I graduated in 1980 there were fewer than 20 women in a class of some 140 students.

I've often told people that I am a dentist because of my father. I also do my best to stay involved and volunteer my time at the dental school because of him. He always gave back to the school and shared with me the importance of giving back to the school.

I thank my father for starting this legacy and I have my profound faith for allowing me to continue making the world a better place, one mouth at a time."



**Dr. Lisa Babb**  
(DMD '11)

"I wanted to be a part of the Dental Alumni Association Board because I had a great experience as a Pitt Dental student and wanted to give back to the school. I am very fortunate to work every day doing something I truly enjoy thanks to my Pitt Dental degree.

My favorite part of being an involved dental alumna is mentoring current students. I made a few mistakes of my own during dental school, in my residency and early in my career, and hopefully current dental students can learn some lessons from my mistakes.

I am proud to be a Pitt alum and want to do what I can to help ensure that the school maintains its strong reputation. I want to play whatever small part I can in helping Pitt continue to rank among the top dental schools in the country. Contributing toward positive experiences for current dental students brings any number of positive experiences for me. Participating in an engaged and supportive alumni base strengthens the school's ability to build and maintain pride in our school while assisting in attracting the best and brightest students from around the country and the world."



**Adam Mychak**  
(DMD '07, AEGD '08)

"I participate in the Dental Alumni Association (DAA) simply because I believe that when you are able to help others, then you should help. I have been a member of the Dental Alumni Association board since 2010. Whether I am giving back to students as a mentor or participating in other DAA events, I feel strongly that helping students who are where I used to be, is very rewarding for everyone. That's one of many reasons I support the association's student mentoring events and buy a big pizza dinner for the students who attend. Additionally, I want to work with the board to develop some new options beyond mentoring to more casually connect with students.

Also, I am excited for some new opportunities to pay it forward at the organization, Every Child, with Pitt Law Alum Mr. Nicholas Variscetti, who is the Board Chair at Every Child. I will be joining the organization to help guide their dedicated staff, which serves more than 400 children and families each year, with comprehensive dental care. I volunteer at both the DAA and at Every Child because I believe that family and community are essential to each and every child's, and dental student's, growth and development.

Knowing that the DAA is a vast network of dentists with the same high-level of training as yourself is very comforting. My advice to other alumni is to get involved with the DAA—there are many opportunities and levels of involvement—and learn what a great venue it is for collaborating with current and future alumni about the ever evolving practice of dentistry."

# University of Pittsburgh

*The School of Dental Medicine invites you to come home to the University of Pittsburgh Homecoming 2016.*

Join fellow alumni for an exciting weekend including a Dental Medicine Continuing Education Course on Friday, followed by Class Reunions for years ending in 1 and 6, and Golden Alums, and Dental Medicine Dinners at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall Grand Ballroom.

If it is not your reunion year, please consider treating a dental student or dental hygiene student to dinner with you at Soldiers & Sailors Friday night. We have many students that would enjoy the opportunity to meet alumni and future colleagues. We can facilitate your connection to an interested student.

## Friday, October 7

The homecoming celebration begins early Friday morning with a continuing education course held in the Continuing Education (CE) Center in the second floor of Salk Hall and sponsored in part by the T.F. Bowser Fund. The course will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration and breakfast. The evening celebration begins with a reception at 6 p.m. at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall Grand Ballroom prior to dinner at 7 p.m. If your class is not listed here and you would like to coordinate a reunion dinner for your classmates, please contact **Ms. Nancy Poe** at **412-648-8910**. Visit **[dental.pitt.edu/homecoming-and-reunions](http://dental.pitt.edu/homecoming-and-reunions)** for a full schedule of events and registration information. Some classes schedule additional activities for their reunion weekend and the respective class representative will mail that information to classmates.

## Dental Hygiene Class Reunion Dinners

We welcome all Dental Hygiene alumni to attend the dinner at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall. If your class is not listed here and you would like to organize your class reunion dinner, please contact the **Alycia Maltony in the Alumni Office** at **412-648-5096**, or at **[aam111@pitt.edu](mailto:aam111@pitt.edu)**.

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall will provide a perfect view for the dazzling Homecoming fireworks and laser show display that will begin at 9 p.m.

### Jodi Flack

(Orhyg '81, DA '80)  
[jodiflack@gmail.com](mailto:jodiflack@gmail.com)

### Kimberly Pluskey Kuhn

(Orhyg '81, DA '80)  
[candkkuhn@aol.com](mailto:candkkuhn@aol.com)  
412-366-1768

### Wendy Cupps Naret

(Orhyg '81, DA '80)  
Facebook  
[naretsrus@verizon.net](mailto:naretsrus@verizon.net)

**In addition to the Pitt Dental Medicine reception at Soldiers & Sailors, you may wish to join the Pitt Alumni Association celebration** at the Cathedral of Learning beginning at 6:30 p.m. Visit **[alumni.pitt.edu/news-events/homecoming](http://alumni.pitt.edu/news-events/homecoming)** for the most up-to-date information.

**The Homecoming celebration continues at the Pitt vs. Georgia Tech football game on Saturday, October 8.**

Please contact the Panthers Ticket Office for game tickets at **1-800-643-PITT (7488)** or **[tickets@athletics.pitt.edu](mailto:tickets@athletics.pitt.edu)**.

The Dental Hygiene Class of 1981 will be holding a tour of the school on September 23, 2016 at 2p.m. Contact a class representative for more information.

# Homecoming Weekend

October 7 & 8, 2016



## Dental Class Reunion Dinners

**Class of 1966** Organizer Needed

**Class of 1971** Organizer Needed

**Class of 1976** Dr. Richard Pfeffer and  
Dr. Janet Golaszewski [janetgola@aol.com](mailto:janetgola@aol.com)

**Class of 1981** Dr. Robert Marchi [rmarchi@marchi.comcastbiz.net](mailto:rmarchi@marchi.comcastbiz.net)

**Class of 1986** Dr. Dina (Dempsey) Nuhfer [drnuhfer@earthlink.net](mailto:drnuhfer@earthlink.net)

**Class of 1991** Organizer Needed

**Class of 1996** Dr. Roger D. Allen [dr.rdallen@gmail.com](mailto:dr.rdallen@gmail.com)

**Class of 2006** Dr. Keith Richmond [ksr31@pitt.edu](mailto:ksr31@pitt.edu)

**Golden Alumni** Ms. Nancy Poe [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu)  
(Prior to 1965)

Please contact the Dental Alumni office if you would like to be an organizer for your Reunion Dinner.

We have partnered with Cambria Hotels & Suites this year to offer a great block of rooms at an incredible rate.

Your room must be reserved by August 31, 2016 to receive this amazing deal.

Cambria Hotel & Suites is located next to CONSOL Energy Center and is an all-suite, upscale hotel with these special perks and concessions:

- A full breakfast will be provided to each Pitt Dental guest - included in guest room rate of \$119 per night
- Complimentary Shuttle for each guest
- Complimentary high speed Wi-Fi
- Fitness center available to all guests

Reservations must be made by August 31, 2016 by calling the dedicated reservation center at 1-877-305-7123, Monday through Friday from 8a.m.-7p.m. and Saturday 9a.m. – 3p.m. Please let the reservation center know that the group name is **University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Alumni Room Block**.



# PERIODONTICS & Preventive Dentistry

## SAVE THE DATE

September 10-13, 2016

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Department of Periodontics & Preventive Dentistry invites you to attend the **American Academy of Periodontology 102nd Annual Meeting** in collaboration with the Japanese Society of Periodontology and Japanese Academy of Clinical Periodontology

San Diego Convention Center  
San Diego, Calif.

[perio.org/meetings](http://perio.org/meetings)

Please join us at the alumni reception at  
the **Marriot Marquis San Diego Marina** on  
**Monday, September 12, 2016**  
**Laguna Room**  
**6:30 – 8pm**

*We look forward to seeing you in San Diego!*

Have you  
liked us on  
Facebook yet?

- University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine
- University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association



# White Coat Ceremony 2016

August 29  
3 p.m.  
Scaife Hall  
Auditoriums  
5 and 6



*The White Coat Ceremony receives support in part from the Harry K. Zohn (DMD '84) and Cecile A. Feldman, DMD, White Coat Endowment Fund as well as contributions from our alumni and friends.*

University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine White Coat Ceremony is an exciting part of the general assembly held at the beginning of each academic year. During this esteemed tradition, incoming students are welcomed to the School of Dental Medicine family and receive their first white coats, signifying the beginning of their careers in dental medicine and dental hygiene.

Family members, friends, faculty, and alumni are invited to attend this profound ceremony. If you are not able to attend in person you can watch a live streaming

broadcast on our Web site. Please visit our Web site for details and directions to view this exciting event.

Your donation of \$50 supports the School of Dental Medicine White Coat Ceremony and gives a warm welcome to the newest members of our family.

In addition to supporting the 2016 White Coat Ceremony, alumni are encouraged to write an incoming predoctoral or dental hygiene student a short inspiring note to energize them as they begin this intense study and personal growth period.



Please visit our website for information about viewing a live video of the ceremony.

## I Want To Be Part of The Tradition MY WHITE COAT CEREMONY GIFT

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail this completed form and your gift of support to:**

Ms. Nancy Poe  
University of Pittsburgh  
School of Dental Medicine  
Salk Hall, Suite 440  
3501 Terrace Street  
Pittsburgh PA 15261

For more information, please contact  
Ms. Nancy Poe at 412-648-8910 or  
poen@pitt.edu.

Donations received by August 12, 2016  
will be acknowledged in the White Coat  
Ceremony program.



# 16TH ANNUAL Dean's Scholarship Ball

*April 2, 2016, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens*

The 16th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball was held on April 2, 2016 in the beautiful Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Those in attendance celebrated the achievements of the distinguished alumni who were honored, and supported the two Class of 2019 Dean's Scholarship recipients.

This year's Distinguished Alumni were Dr. Mark Ochs (DMD '82) and Dr. David Anderson (MDS '84) (*please see story on following pages*).

We are thankful for the continued generous support from premium sponsor, UPMC, and corporate sponsors EDIC (Eastern Dentists Insurance Company), PNC, and United Concordia Dental.







Pictured from left to right are Dr. David Anderson, Mrs. Carmen Anderson, Mrs. Elizabeth Braun and Dr. Thomas Braun

## Award of Appreciation

### DAVID A. ANDERSON, DDS, MDS, MBHP

We recognize Dr. David A. Anderson (MDS '84) for his ongoing commitment to dental education and the School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Anderson has been a bridge to the community, organizing and supporting events and activities that promote cross-cultural understanding, respect, and inclusion of diverse individuals and groups. He has been a leader in building a culture of inclusion and equity and is actively engaged in enhancing diversity and inclusion at Pitt Dental Medicine.

Dr. David Anderson earned his DDS from Howard University in 1980 and completed a General Dental Practice Residency and Prosthodontics Residency at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Pittsburgh. In 1984 he earned a Master of Dental Science (MDS) from the Pitt School of Dental Medicine. Over the years he earned a number of certificates in specialty areas such as conflict resolution and mediation, bioethics, dental ethics, military medical ethics and health policy. In 2012 Dr. Anderson earned a Master of Arts in Bioethics and Health Policy from Loyola University.

Dr. Anderson has had a long and accomplished dental career beginning in private practice. 1992 saw the beginnings of an academic career with the Pitt School of Dental Medicine, where he held various positions, most notably as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion. Currently he is a Visiting Scholar at the University of Tuskegee, Arizona, where he has held several academic positions since 2012.

His achievements continued with a mid-career military career that began in 1999 when he was commissioned as a Major in the United States Air Force held many significant posts over his 17-year esteemed military career culminating in 2006 with his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

His special interests include health care ethics and policy, and diversity and inclusion in clinical care and academic medicine. He has contributed significantly to dental ethics literature and is a sought after expert speaker and presenter on the topic. He was involved in closing the gaps in health disparities, creating a health-care workforce that better resembles the nations fast-growing and diverse population.

Dr. Anderson has been recognized as a Fellow of both the American College Dentists and the International College of Dentists, and is a member of many regional and national dental organizations.

Dr. Anderson and Dr. Dennis Ranalli accepted the inaugural Senior Vice Chancellor's Diversity Award on behalf of the School of Dental Medicine for efforts by the school to improve diversity as well as acting as a health steward for the Pittsburgh community at large.

The New Pittsburgh Courier selected Dr. Anderson as one of the 2009 Men of Excellence in the Field of Education and Medicine. This award honors local African American executives, business owners and community leaders who display proven success in their profession and are active in community service.

Recently, Dr. Anderson was honored as Champion for Gateway Medical Society during the 2012 Physician of the Year Scholarship Gala in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Anderson is very involved in civic activities, sitting on many boards and acting as officers of numerous clubs and organizations such as the Rotary Club, and The Heinz History Center.



Pictured left to right are Dr. Mark Ochs, Mrs. Kathy Ochs, Ms. Laura Ochs, Mrs. Elizabeth Braun and Dr. Thomas Braun

## Distinguished Alumnus Dental Medicine

### MARK W. OCHS, DMD, MD

This year, we recognize Dr. Mark W. Ochs (DMD '82) as Distinguished Alumnus Dental Medicine for his many years of service in dental medicine, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and dental education. Dr. Ochs has consistently demonstrated that he is a valuable, innovative, and productive faculty member of the school as well as a national leader in oral and maxillofacial surgery. His illustrious career has included important and significant advances in teaching, service, and research.

Dr. Mark Ochs currently is the Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, as well as Associate Dean of Hospital Affairs and Head of Hospital Dentistry. He attended the University of Pittsburgh for both his undergraduate and dental education and completed his DMD in 1983. In 1989, he completed a residency and internship in oral and maxillofacial surgery, and earned his MD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Ochs was an assistant professor and residency program director at the University of Florida in Gainesville from 1989 to 1992. He has been a full-time faculty member and program director at the School of Dental Medicine since 1992. He was appointed vice-chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) at the school in 1997, and in 2000 was named chair of the department as well as the chair of the University Dental Health Services (UDHS)

faculty practice. In 2001 he assumed the roles of Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs and Head of Hospital Dentistry at UPMC. In 2005 he was asked to be the director of the school's newly designed Multidisciplinary Implant Center.

He has been the recipient of many honors, among them the Pennsylvania Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Service Award, numerous awards of appreciation from the School of Dental Medicine, and notably, the University of Pittsburgh 225th Anniversary Medallion which recognizes those few alumni who have "brought honor to the University and whose efforts have contributed to Pitt's progress"

Dr. Ochs is a well published researcher with more than 46 journal articles and 22 book chapters. He has served as a co-investigator on many research grants and is sought regionally and internationally as an expert speaker and presenter on orthognathic surgery, facial trauma, implants, and bone grafting/reconstruction as well as various other maxillofacial surgery topics.

Dr. Ochs is a valuable, innovative and productive teacher, most significantly in the OMS Residency Program where he was Director for ten years. He was honored in 2009 with the ADA's Golden Apple Teaching Award for Aspiring Careers in Dental Education, and was recognized over several years by dental school classes for his teaching excellence.

His service is extensive and he has presented hundreds of continuing education topics to local dental societies, state and national organizations and international venues. His expertise on many topics and ability to present to a wide variety of audiences has made him a highly respected and engaging presenter.

## JAYSEN WILLIAMS

### Scholarship Recipient 2016

While earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics, Mr. Jaysen Williams was a star student-athlete at the University of Utah. He was a four-year recipient of academic honors, selected by his fellow students as a leadership representative and named to the First Team All Pac-12 Academic team.

Originally from Sacramento, California, his parents worked hard to help their children understand how to make the most of their talents and develop determination to achieve their goals. He used this parental motivation to accomplish an outstanding academic record as well as excellent athletic achievements.

Mr. Williams maintained a rigorous academic schedule and achieved a DAT score of 25 overall.

He has actively participated in numerous volunteer activities in support of children with special needs, to share with young people who are facing troubled home lives, in support of veterans, and to promote good healthy lifestyle choices to school children. As a volunteer with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, he made himself a positive role model and was viewed as a mentor by children and underprivileged youth within the community.

*"He is one of the finest young men I have ever known and he will make an exceptional dentist. He possesses all of the skills, attitudes and abilities essential to success in dental school and dental practice."*

—A.J. Smith, DDS

His character emanates commitment as a husband, father and a good friend of those with whom he interacts. He has proven repeatedly that he possesses the skills and strengths needed to make him an outstanding student and excellent dentist.

## ERIKA BABIKOW

### Scholarship Recipient 2016

Ms. Erika Babikow earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Environmental Sustainability from Eastern Mennonite University while maintaining a 3.97 grade point average (GPA). As an undergraduate she was involved in university governance and took leadership roles in campus-wide environmental and sustainability efforts. She also participated in many research activities studying lead toxicity, biofuel crops, and the impact of hydraulic fracturing.



Pictured are Mr. Joseph Hochstetler with Dean's Scholar Ms. Erika Babikow, and Dean's Scholar Mr. Jaysen Williams with Mrs. Lauren Williams.

She received a post-baccalaureate fellowship with the National Institutes of Health to take part in investigations of the structural and operational mechanisms of ion channel proteins that are responsible for the generation and propagation of electrical signals in the nervous system. She utilized skills in molecular biology, patch-clamp recording technique and cell culture. Her contributions to this research effort were significant and she is included as an author in forthcoming publications.

Ms. Babikow honed her dental skills through many dental shadowing opportunities as well as acting as a volunteer receptionist at a dental clinic for shelter residents. It was in this capacity that she witnessed, firsthand, the impact of good dental care on patients. She watched patients' oral health and function improve along with a boost in confidence and self-esteem. Through this experience her interest was piqued to learn more about reducing emotional trauma for those patients who have dental care fears.

She views her future in dental medicine as a unique opportunity to deliver direct, hands-on care while following in the footsteps of dental providers she admires. Her goal is to become a leader in the field and use her academic acumen, communication skills and compassion to provide patients with personable, quality dental care.

*"Erika wants to better the world as a dentist, using her career to serve underserved communities, especially rural populations."*

—Greta Ann Herin, PhD  
Associate Professor of Biology  
Eastern Mennonite University

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD GUIDELINES

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine is seeking nominations for its Distinguished Alumni Awards. Awards may be presented in the categories of dental medicine, dental hygiene, and advanced education program to individuals:

- who have contributed exceptionally significant time and effort to the School of Dental Medicine, beyond that which would normally have been expected;
- whose significant attainments and high professional standards are of such character as to have materially aided and advanced the art and science of dentistry;
- whose public life and activities have been of such a nature as to reflect great credit upon the profession and the School of Dental Medicine; and
- who have contributed to original research in the dental profession.

A one-page biographical sketch of each nominee must accompany the nomination.

**The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2016.**

## Please send your nomination and biographical sketch to:

University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee  
440 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

## IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. John Chester Black Jr. (DDS '60)**  
April 20, 2016

**Dr. Allen Blackburn (DDS '63)**  
December 20, 2015

**Dr. George C. Carrick (DDS '52)**  
December 23, 2015

**Dr. Richard Demoise (DDS '56)**  
March 27, 2016

**Dr. Clifford C. Evans (DMD '71)**  
December 9, 2015

**Dr. Smith M. George (DDS '57)**  
December 2, 2015

**Dr. Lester H. Goldstein (DDS '43)**  
December 12, 2015

**Dr. Arnold Lee Golnick (DDS '65)**  
January 13, 2016

**Dr. Cedric E. Grosnick (DMD '80)**  
November 16, 2015

**Dr. Saul Greenwald (DDS '49)**  
June 19, 2016

**Dr. Robert L. Ives (DMD '74)**  
December 1, 2015

**Dr. Frank Kewitt (DDS '53)**  
March 18, 2016

**Dr. Walter E. Kimmick (DDS '53)**  
February 8, 2016

**Dr. Stephen Kuniak (DMD '76)**  
March 7, 2016

**Dr. Linda Mariano Weiland (DH '81)**  
March 15, 2016

**Dr. Victor Molnar (DDS '53)**  
May 20, 2016

**Dr. Nicholas Oselinsky Jr. (DDS '56)**  
December 30, 2015

**Dr. Edward O'Toole  
(DDS, MDS '56, '71)**  
February 14, 2016

**Dr. Janet T. Owen (DMD '85)**  
November 13, 2015

**Dr. Anthony Joseph Pichini (DDS '61)**  
April 1, 2016

**Dr. Edward O. Roberts (DMD '74)**  
December 10, 2015

**Dr. Samuel R. Rockey (DMD '71)**  
December 15, 2015

**Dr. Silvia Saragovi Braier (DMD '68)**  
February 6, 2016

**Ms. Mary Lee Shulte (DH '63)**  
January 30, 2016

**Dr. Kevin Sullivan (DMD '84)**  
December 29, 2015

**Dr. Frank J. Taylor (DDS '64)**  
December 16, 2015

## FORMER STAFF

**Ms. Gertrude Sigman**  
March 15, 2016

Ms. Sigman passed away on Tuesday March 15, 2016. She was a staff member at the School of Dental Medicine and served as the administrator in the Cleft Palate Center. In 2006, Ms. Sigman retired after working at the dental school for seventeen years.

# ALUMNI UPDATES



## Congratulations to Maj. James M. Piper II, Pitt Dental Medicine alumnus and 2016 Pitt Bradford Commencement Speaker

**Dr. James Piper (DMD '04)** is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and a 2004 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He joined the United States Air Force (USAF) Dental Corp in 2004 and completed his residency in prosthodontics. Afterward, Dr. Piper earned his Master of Science Degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, competed and won first place in the inaugural American Prosthodontic Society research competition, and was awarded his Board Certification in Prosthodontics in 2007.

Dr. Piper completed his commission in the USAF in 2015. He published multiple articles during his commission, including “The Use of a Laser-Level Paralleling Device for the Fabrication of a Unilateral Auricular Prosthesis” and “Novel Magnet-Retained Prosthetic System for Facial Reconstruction.”

An invited leading lecturer at multiple local and national meetings, he enjoys being involved in his local dental community and help his patients better understand their dental condition and to improve their quality of life.

## Proud of Dr. Maria Tacelosky and Her Staff

**Dr. Maria Tacelosky (DMD '93)** and her staff at The Dental Health Clinic in Berwick, a nonprofit dentist's office, are being called heroes, even though they know they were “just doing their job.”

One February afternoon a call was received that someone in their office complex was in need of immediate medical help. Dr. Tacelosky notes that her office is the only medical facility in the building. Dr. Tacelosky and her staff supplied CPR and used a defibrillator on the woman, who was not breathing and did not have a pulse.

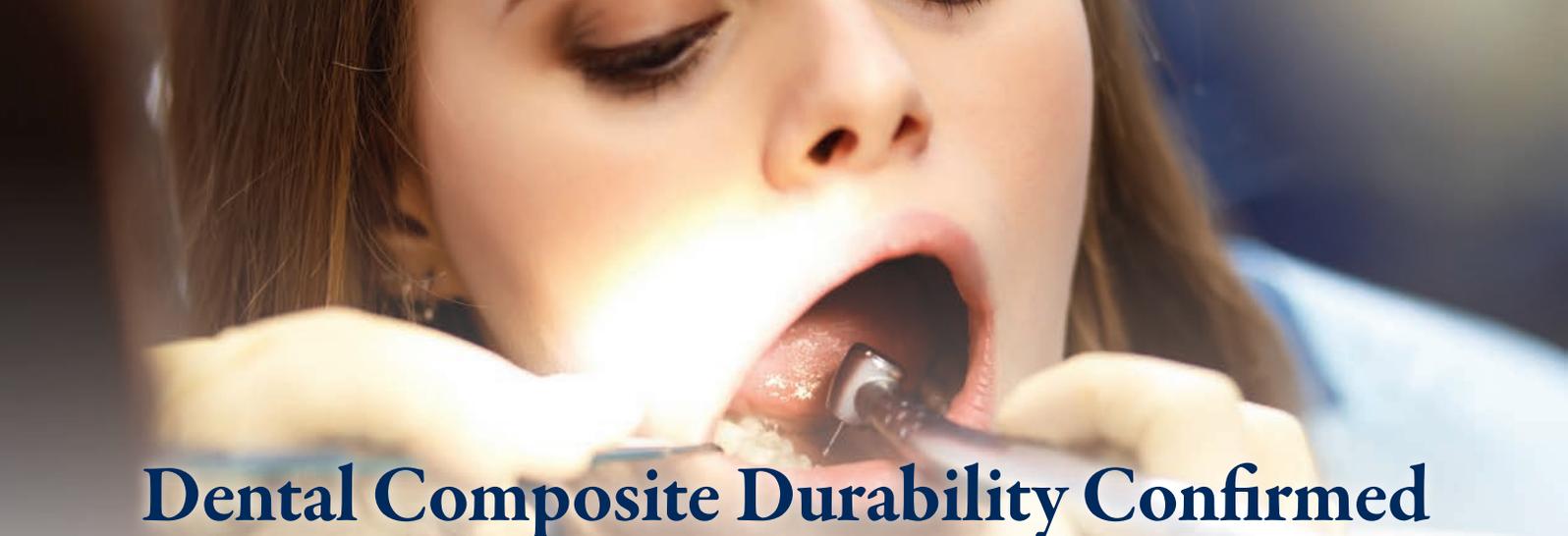
Thanks to regular medical emergency practice drills, the staff was ready and able to help.

The woman is recovering well after the incident and Dr. Tacelosky and her staff are proud to have been of assistance to her.

**Dr. William L. Hoch (DMD '81)** of Beaver, Pa., was awarded a fellowship with the International College of Oral Implantology in August of 2015 in San Francisco.



Keep us posted by sharing your news and updates. Email Nancy Poe at [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu), or call **412-648-8910**.



# Dental Composite Durability Confirmed

**Survival rate of 6,266 amalgam and 2,010 composite restorations after 10 years of follow up**

Recent research by Marilia B Silva, an exchange student, and Alexandre R Vieira, Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine looks at how well two different dental restoration materials hold up over time.

Most modern tooth restorations (fillings) typically use one of two materials, composite or amalgam (silver). Composites are light-activated resins—when the soft materials are exposed to a certain blue color of light they harden into a solid. They look like natural teeth, are easy to smooth and shape, and are fairly low cost. Dental amalgams are silver-colored, metal alloys. They are strong, durable, inexpensive and easy to apply.

The use of composite to perform Class II tooth restorations has become a viable alternative to dental amalgam. Class II restorations affect the edges of molars and premolars. Thanks to the adhesive properties of composites, the preparation for these restorations is limited to decay removal. However, the longevity of dental composites is still questioned and controversial when compared to dental amalgam. This study was conducted to determine the longevity of Class II composite resin restorations in comparison to amalgam restorations performed on adolescents and adults at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

The data used to perform this research were obtained from the

Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR) project after screening 4,741 patients. All patient restorations were evaluated after 1 year, 2 years and 5 years. 6,266 amalgam and 2,010 Class II composite restorations were analyzed in a total of 807 patients in a period of approximately 10 years (period corresponding to the database existence). Of this total, 612 amalgam (9.76%) and 198 composite (9.85%) restorations were considered failures in the period up to 1 year after the patient registration at the SDM, 134 amalgam (2.14%) and 58 composite (2.88%) restorations between 1 and 2 years, and 203 amalgam (3.24%) and 24 composite (1.19%) restorations within 2 to 5 years. These figures are lower rates than the expected 10% found in the literature and show no statistically significant differences between up to 5-year failure rates of amalgam in comparison to composite restorations. They also demonstrate the high quality of restorative work done in the School of Dental Medicine clinics by our students.

There are many known variables related to the patient, the dentist, and the material, which can influence the longevity of restorations using composite as a restorative material. However, these results suggest there are no differences between failure rates of amalgam as compared to composite restorations, supporting the proposal that composites can completely replace amalgam for class II restorations.

*Source: University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR).*



## 2016 ADEA Annual Session and Exhibition

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine was very well represented at this year's American Dental Education Association's Annual Session and Exhibition in Denver, Colorado.

This four-day session focused on professional development and networking for dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education colleagues. This year's meeting featured many presentations by prominent School of Dental Medicine faculty, students and alumni, and many faculty and staff also participated in development sessions and workshops, and viewed exhibitions of academic dentistry partners and suppliers.

*"A group from the ACT ARCO program had the opportunity to present at the 2016 ADEA conference. The symposiums, conferences, and more, have helped me catch a glimpse of the world of dentistry outside the walls of dental school, and hearing new ideas and meeting interesting people."*  
—Dr. Aaema Athar

*(For more about the ACT ARCO program in this issue, please see page 36.)*

# American Dental Association (ADA) and Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) National Signing Day

ADA National Signing Day was held on March 31. The American Dental Association (ADA) and Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) sponsored a lunch-time event to provide an opportunity for senior dental students at the School of Dental Medicine to learn about programs and benefits that the ADA and PDA offer to help them transition to life as a new dentist. ADA and PDA leaders, including current PDA President, School of Dental Medicine faculty member and Chair of Endodontics, Dr. Herb Ray, addressed students at a lunch-time presentation, while volunteers from both organizations were able to engage students one-on-one. The informal event encouraged students to have casual conversations with many of the volunteer alumni in attendance. An event that evening at the Grand Concourse restaurant offered more time for students to talk with area dentists.



Dr. Herbert Ray, PDA President and Chair of the Department of Endodontics at the School of Dental Medicine, and Dr. Andrew Kwasny (DMD '83), ADA Third District Trustee from Pennsylvania and past president of the PDA, talk with senior dental students during ADA/PDA National Signing Day.



Dr. Mark Prybyl, a dentist in Wexford, Pa., volunteered his time to talk with Pitt Dental Medicine students at the ADA/PDA Signing Day. Here he talks with Dr. Hugo Perez about how the PDA can support him after his graduation this past May.

For more information about Pitt Dental Medicine and Organized Dentistry, please see page 4, "Leaders in Organized Dentistry."



ASDA Steel City Expo 2015 featured keynote speaker Dr. Chris Salierno, DDS, third from left, shown here with Dr. Mark Ochs, Mr. Fritz Dawson, 2015 ASDA president, and Dr. Thomas Braun.

The American Student Dental Association (ASDA) at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine is proud to announce the Ninth Annual Steel City Dental Expo is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2016, at the Wyndam Pittsburgh University Center. All students, residents, faculty and alumni are invited to attend the

presentation and keynote address. A vendor fair will follow in the afternoon.

Mr. Lee Culp, CEO of Sculpture Studios, a dental lab, education, and research and product development center, has been invited to be the keynote speaker for this year's exciting expo.

*ASDA looks forward to making this year's expo the best, yet.*

## American Student Dental Association Steel City Dental Expo 2016

Thursday, September 22

Wyndam Pittsburgh University Center  
100 Lytton Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**Presentation:**  
8:30 a.m.–noon

**Keynote Speaker:**  
Mr. Lee Culp, CEO,  
Sculpture Studios

**Vendor Fair:** 1:30-4 p.m.



## Dental Students Volunteer at Special Olympics



The 2016 Special Olympics Winter Games Pennsylvania once again gave athletes the opportunity to participate in Special Smiles, a program launched by the Special Olympic Health Athletes program in 1997. Through the program, students and faculty volunteers provide free dental screenings, preventive treatment and oral health education.

The Special Olympics was held this year at Seven Springs Resort in March. Twenty-two students representing the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD) at the University

of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine provided screenings for athletes under the guidance of three Pitt Dental Medicine faculty members, Dr. Matthew Cooke, Dr. Lynne Taiclet and Dr. David Veronesi. Students engaged athletes through the use of hand puppets and encouraged them to volunteer for the dental screenings and mouth guard fittings at the event. Care also included preventive and dental hygiene instruction.

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes is the world's largest public health program for people with intellectual disabilities. Special Smiles provides a welcoming, fun environment to educate athletes about healthy lifestyle choices and to identify dental problems that may need additional follow-up.

*“We are so proud to have taken part in the regional winter games and in local bowling and basketball events. Now we’re looking forward to more opportunities.”*

— Meghan Monahan, AADMD President, class of 2017

**1** Pitt Dental Medicine faculty, students and other volunteers representing the University of Pittsburgh American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD) at the 2016 Special Olympics Winter Games.

**2** Students representing all four classes at the School of Dental Medicine provided screenings for athletes during the 2016 Winter special Olympics.



## School of Dental Medicine receives 2016 E. “Bud” Tarrson Dental School Student Community Leadership Award

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) and Summer Smiles programs were selected to receive a \$5,000 E. “Bud” Tarrson Dental School Student Community Leadership Award for the 2015-2016 school year.

The American Dental Association (ADA) Foundation Tarrson Award annually highlights significant dental student outreach to vulnerable communities within the U.S. This program supports the “Access to Care” mission of the ADA Foundation by helping dental student groups to provide oral health care to those in need.

Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich (DMD '80), chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, and Ms. Jamie Kaufer, third-year DMD student and president of the student chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), applied for the award to support the 14th Annual GKAS event this winter, and the Summer Smiles event in August. Ms. Kaufer is active in many community outreach efforts in support of pediatric dentistry.

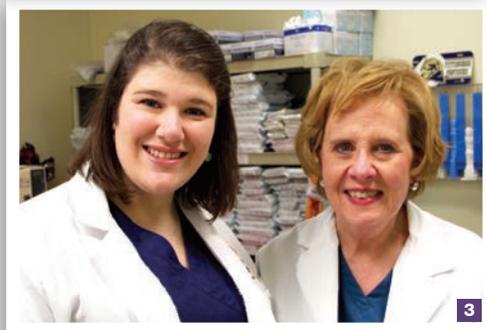
### Give Kids a Smile Day Annual Events

Poor oral health can have a significant effect on a child’s overall health, yet research suggests that dental care is the most common unmet health need in American children.

Begun in 2003, GKAS provides area uninsured children and adolescents with preventive and restorative care during a 2-day event. Treatments are provided by University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine faculty, resident and student volunteers in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and the Dental Hygiene program and include cleanings, x-rays, extractions and restorations (fillings) as well as more advanced treatments that require anesthesia. All children are treated regardless of ability to pay. Many families return for these events each year, some from neighboring states.

This year’s GKAS provided more than \$10,000 worth of free dental care. This annual event is coordinated through the efforts of the student chapter of the AAPD.

“We try to provide some of the more costly services that might otherwise be out of reach financially for these families,” said Dr. Studen-



Pavlovich. “Our primary goal in this event is to promote a lifelong commitment to oral health. We encourage children and their parents to return to the clinic to receive ongoing care.”

Dr. Studen-Pavlovich estimates that, typically, 75 percent of GKAS participants from previous years return to receive care through the school’s clinic. In addition, each year there is a steady improvement in their overall dental health.

Summer Smiles will be held for the second time on July 22, 2016 in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. Summer Smiles was started last year through a generous donation by faculty member and alumnus, Dr. Edward Korenman and his wife, Jan. The event provides free exams, cleanings, fluoride applications and radiographs to children who also participate in the annual Give Kids a Smile Days as well as uninsured children and adolescents in the Metro Pittsburgh area.

**1** Ms. Jodie Luther, third-year DMD student, and Dr. Elizabeth Smith, Pediatric Dentistry Resident, providing care to a young patient during 2016 GKAS Day 2 **2** Drs. Danielle Cooper (DMD '13, Pedro '15) and Elaine Kureichyk (DMD '13) join forces at the 2016 GKAS Day **3** Ms. Jamie Kaufer, third-year DMD/MPH student and Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich (DMD '80), Chair, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, pause for a moment during the 2016 Give Kids a Smile Day



# Dental Students Prepare for Careers in Academia

Pitt Dental Medicine Graduates are First to Earn an Area of Concentration in Academic Dentistry



In May, Pitt's School of Dental Medicine graduated its first six dentists with an area of concentration in academic dentistry. Eight more students are completing the program and are set to graduate in 2017.

Initiated at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine by Dr. Zsuzsa Horvath, Assistant Professor and Director for Faculty Development, the Academic Career Track Area of Concentration (ACT ARCO) began with one teaching practicum course in 2013. Subsequently, the concept gathered increasing interest in the following semesters. The ACT ARCO is a two-year program for students interested in pursuing a career in academic dentistry. It helps students learn about different career options and prepares them for a future role as a dental educator through hands-on training in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and leadership; in both classroom and one-on-one educational opportunities; benchtop and community research; and offers them opportunities to interview current faculty about their leadership roles. During the third- and fourth-years of their dental degree, dental students complete the program of courses to complete their concentration in the academic career track. Students may choose to take only electives in the program if they are not seeking a concentration in an academic career.



This year the school held its first Academic Career Day and Academic Career Day videoconference for current and prospective students of the academic career track among four dental schools: the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry, and the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry. The aim of the event was to share experiences and successes among participants in each of the four participating schools. The Academic Career Day began with fourth-year dental students each recounted their experiences in the program for the school audience, and competed for an opportunity to present their experiences at the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) national meeting this year.

Pitt Dental Medicine students and faculty were then connected via video conference with students and faculty at the other three schools; Students from the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry only were able to listen to the presentations.

*A panel of Pitt Dental Medicine faculty was on board to talk with students during Academic Career Day. Pictured are Dr. Kurt Summersgill, associate professor; Dr. Joanne Prasad, assistant professor; and Dr. Alexandre Vieira, professor.*

*Students attending Academic Career Day had many opportunities for round table discussions.*

*Dr. Aaema Athar and Dr. David Cole*

The students with a concentration in ACT ARCT who attended the Academic Career Day praised the program. Graduating students, Dr. Aaema Athar and Dr. David Cole, have held student leadership positions in the past and were grateful for the opportunity the program gave them to see teaching from the teacher's side. Dr. Athar, who will begin a residency in prosthodontics at Pitt this summer, had always seen herself as a teacher and was grateful to have this chance to focus on a career in academia. Dr. Cole appreciated the opportunity to formalize his instruction beyond mentoring students

"I've had a great experience in ACT ARCO. It was comprehensive and enriching. I have a much better understanding of the many sides involved in being a dental educator." Dr. Aaema Athar

"The whole ACT ARCO program, including the Academic Career Day event, has shown me how important it is to have strong ties in education regardless of where I land in my career." Dr. David Cole



## Gies Award for Outstanding Innovation by an Academic Dental Institution

ADEAGies Foundation has awarded Dr. John Ference the 2016 Gies Award for Outstanding Innovation by an Academic Dental Institution. The recognition took place at the 8th Annual ADEAGies awards on March 14, 2016 during the Annual ADEA Meeting in Denver, Colorado.



The award includes a grant which will enable Dr. John Ference (DMD '00, Certificate Pros '03, MDS '04), who is an assistant professor in the Department of Prosthodontics, to continue research. The purpose of this study was to compare the mechanical and physical properties of a 3D printed removable partial denture framework with traditionally manufactured frameworks. Additional research is planned. The studies are being performed in conjunction with Markus Chmielus, PhD, from the University of Pittsburgh School of Engineering. Noting the significance of this study, Dr. Ference adds, "We're turning the traditional dental model upside down after 100-150 years."

*"We're turning the dental model upside down after 100-150 years."* — Dr. John Ference

The research performed thus far by Dr. Ference and Dr. Chmielus involves the fabrication of removable partial denture frameworks through an additive manufacturing (3-D printing) technique utilizing an Inconel 625 metal alloy. During his initial research, biocompatible frameworks were made to test the mechanical and microstructural properties of the alloy. The physical and mechanical properties were tested according to the ASTM standards and compared to the

values of the metal alloy. Descriptive statistics (mean, median, standard deviations) were recorded. Removable partial denture frameworks were tested for specific gravity, tensile strength, elongation, compressive strength, flexural strength, impact, and coefficient of linear thermal expansion. The physical and mechanical properties of the completed partial denture were very similar to the stated manufacturer's data sheet. In this in vivo study, fabricating a removable partial denture metal framework by additive manufacturing methods has merit. The next phase of testing involves printing additional biocompatible metal alloy partial dentures and subjecting them to ASTM standards. ●

# FACULTY & STAFF

## Dr. Joanne Prasad Granted Scholarship to Attend Prestigious ADEA Leadership Institute



Dr. Joanne Prasad, assistant professor in the Department of Oral Biology, has been accepted into the 2016-17 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Leadership Institute. Dr. Prasad also was selected as the recipient of the \$10,000 ADEA/ADEA Gies Foundation Drs. Connie L. and Richard R. Drisko Scholarship to be used for tuition and fees for the Leadership Institute.

Dr. Prasad, a board-certified oral and maxillofacial pathologist, was supported in her application by the dean and associate deans of the School of Dental Medicine. She is looking forward to her participation in the Leadership Institute and welcomes the opportunity to develop team-building and leadership skills, so that she may continue to act as a productive and valuable member of the School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Prasad participated in the ADEA Emerging Leaders Program, held in the summer of 2015. She and her team will present the results of their group project entitled “Assessing Faculty Preparedness to Teach and Reinforce Culturally Competent Care in North American Dental Schools” at the ADEA Annual Session in

Denver this spring. Her research interests outside of oral and maxillofacial pathology include developing cultural competence in dentistry and improving the disparity found in oral health among diverse groups.

She is nearing completion of her Master of Public Health (MPH) at the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH). This educational experience has enabled her to see oral health within the broader context of public health. She is particularly interested in health policy as it relates to all healthcare fields. Continually seeking to improve and expand her educational opportunities, Dr. Prasad also is completing a certificate program in Health Systems Leadership and Management, offered through the Department of Health Policy and Management of the GSPH.

As Director of Quality Management and Improvement at the School of Dental Medicine, she has been working closely with others to improve the quality of the care delivered to patients at the school. She also recognizes that cultural competence plays an important role in improving the patient-provider relationship and is one way to improve quality and positively

*“We should not be afraid of changes in healthcare—instead we should look at change as an opportunity to improve.”*

impact oral health outcomes. She recently submitted a grant proposal to develop instructional materials presenting theatre-based techniques to enhance communication skills and cultural competence in dentistry. This initiative ties in well with her role as a School of Dental Medicine liaison for the Year of the Humanities in the University and the related project “Celebrating the Humanities in Salk Hall”, which she developed with others. The project is being funded by the dean and the Office of the Provost. ●



## Expert Leadership to Decrease Drug Abuse

In a recent interview with the American Dental Association (ADA), Pitt Dental Medicine alumnus and professor, Dr. Paul Moore (DMD '73, MDS '73, PhD '77), has praised the Center for Disease Control (CDC) expert panel for its recommendations on prescribing opioid medications. The publication, released on March 15, is titled CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, United States, 2016. Dr. Moore is member of the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs. For some time, the ADA has promoted responsible practice and education about the appropriate use of opioid pain medications in an effort to limit abuse of this class of drugs. The panel's recommendations were highly received by Dr. Moore due to the recognition that long-term opioid abuse frequently begins as a result to suffering from acute pain.

**Materials and resources to assist providers with implementing the recommendations are available at [cdc.gov/drugoverdos/prescribing/guidline.html](http://cdc.gov/drugoverdos/prescribing/guidline.html).**

## Associate Dean Oakley receives Pitt Innovation Award

Dr. Marnie Oakley, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at the School of Dental Medicine, is a 2016 recipient of the Pitt Innovation Award from the University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute. The award recognizes activities that promote and foster innovation and entrepreneurship on campus and throughout the Pittsburgh region. The Institute is built on a foundation supported by education, collaboration, communication, and economic development. Identified in the recognition is Dr. Oakley's work with designing and creating Credential Keeper; a software that manages School of Dental Medicine employee clinical and employment credentials.



Credential Keeper was developed in 2012 by Dr. Marnie Oakley and Dr. Heiko Spallek in response to the management of an overwhelming number of school-wide credentials: Credentialing requirements for a typical dental school include coordinating a multitude of federal regulations, state regulations, parent institution guidelines and policies, dental school guidelines and policies, and commission on dental accreditation requirements. This can be an overwhelming total of more than 15,000 documents for the school to manage.

Paper credentialing was far too difficult to manage. The school needed an electronic resource. A review of off-the-shelf credentialing software lead them to realize that a custom solution was needed, so they worked with a local software development firm to create the custom software. Dr. Oakley notes that she was simply "looking for a good product that keeps credentials in line and up-to-date." But that wasn't available. She adds, "When you are faced with a problem, it can be frustrating to think that it may never get fixed. But, it is exciting to think about solving a problem that can not only help resolve your issues, but also help others facing the same issues."

Working with a local software firm, Dr. Oakley established a few goals, such as to have all

employees know when credentials were about to expire, to have training modules available in once place—and most importantly, to have a system that can house and inventory compliance with assigned credentials for individuals in various roles across the School of Dental Medicine.

"It seems as though everyone dreams of finding that 'one BIG idea' that will change your life forever. This may not be that idea that I can hang my hat on, but it is indeed a simple idea that has great application to anyone who needs to be credentialed for the job they perform—and these days, that seems to be everyone."

Credential Keeper was used at the School of Dental Medicine for 3 years when it was purchased by entrepreneur Dan Grant, CEO of CE Agent, a smart phone app developed by two UPMC nurses to help nurses manage their individual credentials.

Mr. Grant plans to merge Credential Keeper and CE Agent, as each addresses one half of the credential management issue: administrative and individual. The new product would not be limited to a dental or medical use so it potentially can be marketed to other dental/medical schools, or any non-medical organization that has credentialing requirements.

*"It is wonderful to be recognized by the University--which has always been a strong supporter of research and innovation. It's this level of promotion that makes me a proud alumna and employee of what I believe is one of the finest academic institutions in the country."*

—Dr. Marnie Oakley



## Dr. Mark Mooney Recognized by SCADA

The Student Clinicians of the American Dental Association (SCADA) Board of Governors has selected Mark Mooney, PhD, Chair of Oral Biology at the School of Dental Medicine, as the recipient of the Association's 2016 Burton C. Borgelt/SCADA Faculty Advisor Award.



This award honors a faculty advisor who has distinguished himself as both a dental scientist and a mentor to dental students. Dr. Mooney impressed SCADA with his deep dedication to the science of oral biology. Throughout his thirty years as a faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine he has shown a commitment to ensuring that all of the students he's encountered understand the importance of dental research. Many students remarked that their success

reflects directly on him and the enthusiasm he brings to academic dentistry.

Dr. Mooney will be honored with the presentation of the award during the Fifty-Seventh Annual Awards Program and Reception for the ADA/Dentsply Sirona Student Clinician Research Program at the American Dental Association (ADA) Annual Session in October.

*"It is a great honor for me to receive this award. I really enjoyed mentoring and working with the dental students and residents and I hope that I have passed on my passion for craniofacial biology. I hope that one day they will pass this passion on to their own students."* — Mark Mooney, PhD

## Dr. Vieira Guest Lecture on Dental Diseases and Gene Variations

Dr. Alexandre Vieira, who was promoted to full professor in May 2016, is the principal investigator of the Dental Registry and DNA Repository (DRDR). He studies dental diseases and how genes and environmental factors affect them. Recently he visited the University of Oslo where he presented his lecture titled Redefining the Caries Phenotype for Exploring Individual Susceptibility to the Disease which described recent research on dental diseases and how genes and environmental factors affect them. During his stay in Norway he visited with Dr. Anne Bjorg Tveit, chair of the Department of Cariology and advisor of Dr. Jenny Bogstad Sovik. As part of her doctoral thesis, Dr. Sovik performed genetic analysis of adolescents with acid damage to their teeth and generated her data at the Vieira lab under the guidance of Dr. Vieira.

Dr. Alexandre Vieira was selected as a 2016 American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Fellow. Designed to recognize leaders of research as well as individuals who have served the AADR in various ways throughout their careers. This Program strengthens support and representation of the oral health research community. Fellows also serve as ambassadors of excellence in oral, craniofacial and dental research.

Dr. Vieira also was involved in the University of Pittsburgh Year of the Humanities in the University. This spring he participated in the panel discussion: "Ethical Implications of Genomics in the Lives of Everyday People" at Pitt. The prestigious panel members were Dr. Puneet Sahota at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Matthew Baum from Harvard, and Dr. Lisa Parker from the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health.



*Dr. Alexandre Vieira with Dr. Anne Bjorg Tveit, Chair of the Department of Cariology at the University of Oslo.*

As the Director for Student Research, Dr. Vieira held an internal student research competition for first professional, dental hygiene and oral biology graduate students. This event was a competition for various awards for student presentations that were announced during the Annual Research. The students oral presentations were limited to ten minutes or less. Please see pages for information about the Symposium and the students who received awards from this competition.

**David C. Hay, DMD, MPH, chief resident in the School of Dental Medicine Department of Periodontics, is the 2016 recipient of the Delta Omega Best Essay Award for his Master of Public Health essay entitled “Periodontal Disease Among Community-Dwelling Diabetics: Evidence From a Diabetes Education and Promotion Event”.**

Dr. Hay’s award is given by the University of Pittsburgh’s Omicron Chapter of Delta Omega, the National Public Health Honorary Society. Dr. Hay’s essay was chosen by faculty members in the Multidisciplinary Masters of Public Health (MMPH) Program as the best essay submitted in the past year. Upon completion of his residency in June, 2016, Dr. Hay will enter private practice in Fox Chapel, Pa., as well as begin a part-time position as clinical assistant professor in the School of Dental Medicine Department of Periodontics.



*“The ability to obtain my Master of Public Health degree while completing my dental residency in periodontics has given me a unique perspective when treating my patients: To view both periodontal disease and tooth loss as public health problems.” – David Hay, DMD, MPH.*



**Pitt Dental Medicine Professor Costello named President of the AACMFS**

Dr. B.J. Costello, Pitt Dental Medicine Professor and Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, was installed as the President of the American Academy of Craniomaxillofacial Surgeons (AACMFS) during the Academy’s 2016 International meeting, held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in late May.

As president, we will host the 2017 meeting on May 19-20 at various locations across Pittsburgh, including the Fairmont Hotel, Duquesne Club and Heinz Smithsonian History Museum.

The mission of the AACMFS is to improve the health and quality of life of patients with acquired craniomaxillofacial disorders by advancement of the knowledge, science, and art of craniomaxillofacial surgery.

**Dr. Seth Weinberg Receives 2016 University Senate Service Award**

Dr. Seth Weinberg is the recipient of the 2016 University Senate Service Award.

The award was presented to him by University Senate President Frank Wilson and Chancellor Patrick Gallagher during the May 18 session of the Senate Council. The annual award is presented in recognition of a senate member’s outstanding contributions to the University of Pittsburgh through service in the University Senate.

Dr. Weinberg is a member of Faculty Assembly and Senate Council, serves on the Senate tenure and academic freedom committee and on the ad hoc committee on non-tenure-stream faculty issues. He recently was named to the Senate’s special committee on diversity, inclusion and core values. This year he took the lead in organizing the University Senate plenary session on academic freedom.





# 2016 SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE *Senior Luncheon and Awards*

## Dental Alumni Association Welcomes the Class of 2016

The week leading up to the School of Dental Medicine's diploma ceremony at Heinz Hall is a very busy one for students, faculty and staff. During this exciting time, the Pitt Dental Alumni Association celebrated fourth-year students' successes and approaching graduation by hosting a luncheon for the Class of 2016 and their families. The luncheon was held in conjunction with the Senior Awards Ceremony where faculty recognize members of the graduating class for their achievements throughout dental school and each dental class honors faculty and staff for their support.

This is the second year that the luncheon was held thanks to the continued financial support of the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) and generous new donors, the family of Dr. Earl Cornelius (DMD '24). With the additional support, students and their families were able to come together at a luncheon held at the University Club in Oakland. Each student then received a gift to celebrate their entrance into the Pitt Dental Alumni Association.

The School of Dental Medicine again would like to thank the PDA and the Cornelius family for their generous support making this event possible.

*Congratulations to the Class of 2016. As alumni, this class and all other graduates, are members of the Pitt Dental Alumni Association for life.*





**Academy Of Osseointegration Award**

Presented by Dr. Kukunas to **Dr. Rushi Dave**



**American Academy Of Esthetic Dentistry Award**

Presented by Dr. Grafton to **Dr. Reem Mahjoub**



**American Academy Of Implant Dentistry Award**

Presented by Dr. Kukunas to **Dr. Ryan Orlosky**



**American Academy Of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology Award**

Presented by Dr. Bilodeau to **Dr. Daniel Hawkins**



**American Academy Of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology Award**

Presented by Dr. Potluri to **Dr. Ryulee Song**



**American Academy Of Oral Medicine Award**

Presented by Dr. Guggenheimer to **Dr. Nicolette Chahin**



**American Academy Of Pediatric Dentistry Award**

Presented by Dr. Studen-Pavlovich to **Dr. Gail Kim**



**American Academy Of Periodontology Award**

Presented by Dr. Seyedain to **Dr. Ryan Heasley**



**American Association Of Endodontists Student Achievement Award**

Presented by Dr. Mandradjieff to **Dr. Manasa Madoori**



**American Association Of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, Dental Implant Award**

Presented by Dr. Sosovicka and Dr. Ochs to **Dr. Steven Lemmon**



**American Association Of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, Dental Student Award**

Presented by Dr. Sosovicka and Dr. Ochs to **Dr. James Pezzollo**



**American Association Of Oral Biologists Award**

Presented by Dr. Vieira to **Dr. Aaema Athar**



**American College Of Dentists**

Presented by Dr. Hoffman to **Dr. Steven Lemmon**



**American College Of Prosthodontists Prosthodontic Achievement Award**

Presented by Dr. Engelmeier to **Dr. Aaema Athar**



**American Dental Society Of Anesthesiology Horace Wells Senior Student Award**

Presented By Dr. Gioviniti and Dr. Cuddy to **Dr. Luke Nicholson**



**American Student Dental Association Award Of Excellence**

Presented By Dr. Wankiiri-Hale to **Dr. Sarah Ogburn**



**Delta Dental Student Leadership**

Presented by Dr. Wankiiri-Hale to **Dr. Luke Nicholson, Dr. Kayla Klingensmith, Dr. David Cole, and Dr. Steven Lemmon**



**Elliot Brodie Award**

Presented by Dr. Wankiiri-Hale to **Dr. Nicholas Lang, Dr. Tong Liu**



**Dentsply Merit Award In  
Removeable Prosthodontics**

Presented by Dr. Engelmeier to  
**Dr. Thanh Vu**



**Gerald Orner Award**

Presented by Dr. Vieira to  
**Dr. Aaema Athar**



**Gilbert N. Robin  
Continuing Education Scholarship**

Presented By Dr. Ambrosino to  
**Dr. Rushi Dave**



**International College Of Dentists**

Presented by Dr. Hoffman to  
**Dr. James Pezzollo**



**International Congress Of Oral  
Implantologists/Dentsply Award**

Presented by Dr. Kukunas to  
**Dr. Jason Gov**



**Lathe Bowen Award**

Presented by Dr. Sosovicka to  
**Dr. Ryan Heasley**



**Northeastern Society Of Periodontists, Inc.**

Presented by Dr. Seyedain to  
**Dr. Daniel Hawkins**



**Omicron Kappa Upsilon**

Presented by Dr. Dobos to  
**Dr. Ryan Heasley, Dr. James Gravener,  
Dr. Gail Kim, Dr. James Pezzollo, Dr. Steven  
Lemmon, Dr. Dr. Yuri Song, Dr. Chris  
Primley, Dr. David J. Cole, Dr. Nick Lang**



**Pierre Fauchard Academy  
Certificate Of Merit Award**

Presented by Dr. Hoffman to  
**Dr. Joshua Gersten**



**Quintessence Award For Clinical  
Academic Achievement In  
Restorative Dentistry**

Presented by Dr. Grafton to  
**Dr. Chris Primley**



**Quintessence Award For Clinical  
Achievement In Periodontics**

Presented by Seyedain to  
**Dr. Tong Liu**



**Quintessence Award For  
Research Activity**

Presented by Dr. Vieira to  
**Dr. Zachary Raffensperger**



**Robert Rapp Award Of  
Distinction In Pediatric Dentistry**

Presented by Dr. Modesto-Vieira to  
**Dr. Nicholas Lang**



**W. Arthur George Prosthodontic Award**

Presented by Dr. Engelmeier to  
**Dr. Aaema Athar,  
Dr. Zachary Raffensperger**



**Whip Mix Corporation - Hanau Best Of  
The Best Prosthodontic Award**

Presented by Dr. Engelmeier to  
**Dr. Rushi Dave**



**American Association For Public  
Health Dentistry Public Health Award**

Presented by Dr. Weyant to  
**Dr. Kayla Klingensmith**



**Brian D. Stone Memorial Award**

Presented by Dr. Taiclet to  
**Dr. Gail Kim**



**International College Of Dentists  
Student Humanitarian Award**

Presented by Dr. Hoffman to  
**Dr. Gail Kim**



**ACT ARCO**

Presented by Dr. Wankiiri-Hale and Dr. Horvath to  
**Dr. Cole, Dr. Chauhan, Dr. Athar, Dr. Sneha**



**Academy Of General Dentistry**

Presented by Dr. Dobos to  
**Dr. Rushi Dave, Dr. Corey Malensek**

# HOMECOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE

## Cancer Patients: Ready or Not, Here They Come!

Presented by Susan Calderbank, DMD

Friday October 7, 2016  
8:30a.m.

School of Dental Medicine CE Center

Oral side effects are the number one reason cancer patients cannot complete their treatment protocols. These side effects can significantly compromise the patient's morbidity and their quality of life. This course will enable the dental professional to identify the most common treatment options related to oral side effects due to chemo therapy and head and neck radiation.

School of Dental Medicine Continuing Education Courses  
The fall 2016 Department of Continuing Education course listing is available on our website. Courses this year include topics such as:

- The Dentist's Role in the Identification, Diagnosis and Treatment of Sleep Related Breathing Disorders; Conservative Cosmetic Dentistry for Teenagers and Young Adults
- Boost Their Confidence and Boost Your Bottom Line
- Introduction to Digital Dentistry; Managing Caries: From Fluoride to Fillings and Everything in Between
- Infection Control and Oral Diagnosis

You may review the complete list of course descriptions or register for courses online by visiting [dental.pitt.edu/ce](http://dental.pitt.edu/ce).

*Dr. Susan Calderbank (DMD '77) is an associate professor of oral medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. After many years practicing dentistry, Dr. Calderbank has chosen to dedicate her practice to the oral complications of cancer therapies—from diagnosis to prevention and treatment. The Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) granted her a Special Public Service Award for her efforts in raising awareness of the oral complications of cancer therapies. When her mother was diagnosed with cancer and suffered debilitating oral health side effects, Dr. Calderbank immediately devoted her career to alleviating oral side effects of cancer treatment.*

## University Dental Health Services Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Biopsy Service

For more than 40 years the Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Biopsy Service has conducted consultation and tissue diagnostic services for the dental and medical communities of Western Pennsylvania.

Our board-certified oral and maxillofacial pathologists provide a rapid, accurate diagnosis of your biopsy specimens.

- Call or e-mail to request your free biopsy kits
- Your detailed pathology report will be sent by fax or mail
- The patient will be billed directly

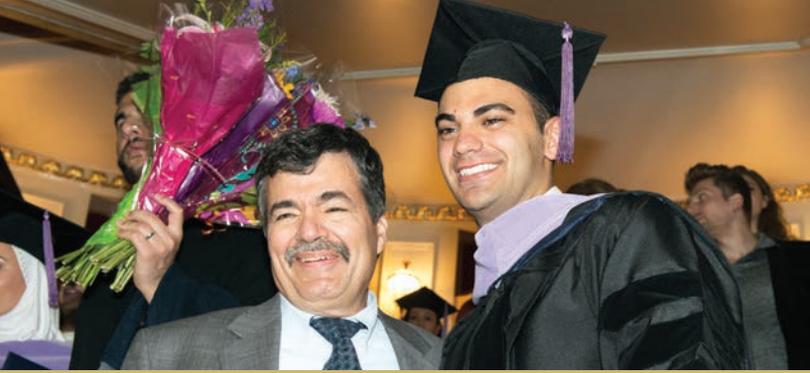
### We also provide:

- Oral Medicine Services  
412-648-9100
- Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology Services  
412-648-8612

We accept Medicare and many commercial insurance programs, including Highmark BlueCross/BlueShield and UPMC.

[dental.pitt.edu/oral-and-maxillofacial-pathology-biopsy-service](http://dental.pitt.edu/oral-and-maxillofacial-pathology-biopsy-service)

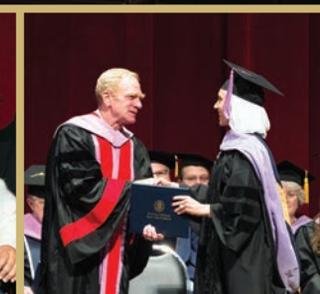
412-648-8629  
[PittsburghOralPathology@dental.pitt.edu](mailto:PittsburghOralPathology@dental.pitt.edu)



# School of Dental Medicine *2016* Diploma Ceremony

The School of Dental Medicine welcomed family and friends to the 2016 diplomaceremony at Heinz Hall on May 21, 2016. Dr. Arthur Levine, Senior Vice Chancellorfor the Health Sciences and John and Gertrude Petersen Dean of the School of Medicine, spoke to the graduating classes as they begin their careers. 2016 saw 87 students receive their DMD, 29 receive certificates in advanced dentistry, and 25 students receive certificates in dental hygiene.







# Bridging & Bonding

## Dental Medicine Leaders: Creating Diverse Mentoring Opportunities for Prospective and Current Students with Alumni

On May 11, the School of Dental Medicine Offices of Student Affairs and Alumni Affairs organized a reception to recognize the alumni who hosted Dental Medicine Family Dinners and introduced the idea as a part of new mentoring program available at the School of Dental Medicine to all those in attendance at the event. This event was sponsored in part by a generous grant by the Pitt Alumni Association and also received funding from the Pitt Dental Alumni Association.

The mentoring event, Bridging and Bonding Beyond Dentistry, was initiated as a result of Dr. Christine Wankiiri-Hale's (DMD '02) participation as a fellow in the American Dental Association's (ADA) Institute for Diversity in

Leadership. The Institute is designed to enhance the leadership skills of dentists who belong to racial, ethnic and/or gender backgrounds that have been traditionally underrepresented in leadership roles. As a key part of the leadership learning experience, each participant designs and completes a personal leadership project for their community or the profession. Serving as the Associate Dean for Student Affairs at the School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Wankiiri-Hale proceeded to develop a long-term plan to foster mentoring opportunities for prospective and current dental students. The project aims to improve the way in which diversity in mentoring positively affects the relationships among students, alumni and faculty. She foresees small group mentoring as the crux of the success of her project.

*"Through these "Dental Medicine Family Dinners", I hope to inspire alumni to consider embracing the opportunity to build mentoring relationships with students that I hope will last for years to come."* —Dr. Wankiiri-Hale

Alumni were selected as the first group of mentors in an effort to build mentoring relationships and embrace diversity and inclusion in its broadest definition. Both student participants and mentors participated in a discussion panel, where they both encouraged the audience to become involved in this inventive collaboration.

*"We greatly enjoyed our afternoon with the dental students. They were bright and engaging, and we look forward to seeing them again! We want to thank the school for asking us to participate in such a worthwhile program."* —Dr. Michael Ban (DMD '81) and Mrs. Susan Ban (DH '80)

The school would like to recognize the alumni who participated and thus made the initial mentorship program a success. Mentors include Dr. David Anderson (MDS '84); Dr. Michael Ban (DMD '81) and Mrs. Susan Ban (DH '80); Dr. Judith Davenport (DMD '79); Dr. Rachel Eglash (DMD '03); Dr. Debbie Lewis (DMD '88); Dr. John Matthews (DMD '81) and Mrs.





# Beyond Dentistry

Nancy Matthews; Dr. Arnold Peace (DMD '86) and Mrs. Nora Peace; and Dr. James Tauberg (DMD '82). This diverse group of mentors was able to provide guidance to students not able to found in a classroom.

*“From my experiences, some of the greatest knowledge I’ve picked up in my two years has come from personal interactions with dental professionals inside and outside of the school.”*

—Seth Laino

Our alumni focused not only on dentistry, but engaged students by discussing similar experiences ranging from being a first-generation dentist, business owner or associate, and/or underrepresented student. Students were also able to gain valuable advice related to dental specialties and extracurricular hobbies.

*“I especially appreciated hearing Dr. Davenport’s story as a woman who studied the arts as well as the medical sciences and paved her own way in her varied career. The mentoring meeting was really wonderful and I felt glad and proud to be in the company of such accomplished and interesting women.”*

—Noelle Robinson

The dinners were hosted by alumni for groups of students who were also able to gain valuable advice related to dental specialties and extracurricular hobbies. Alumni were able to directly learn from students of what is new at the dental school and at Pitt. This program allows alums to select how many students they wish to mentor and choose their own setting on or off campus. By having dinner with the dental alumni, many students were then able to visit their mentor’s office individually to shadow and grow relationships. These connections have already led to Sunday brunches at their mentor’s house and even meeting their pets.

*“I was very grateful that Mrs. Peace joined us for this dinner - as an attorney and the office manager, she had a lot of valuable inputs to the conversation: from finding a job to owning a practice. It also provided me an insight in to the lives of dentists outside of work, and why I got in to the profession in the first place. I feel like this would help me stay motivated in school, and taught me what experiences to focus on.”*

—Karan Shah

The School of Dental Medicine is looking for additional alumni mentors and mentees to join those who have participated this year. We hope you are feeling inspired to consider joining in this mentoring opportunity. We would like to continue and expand the program this Fall and Spring. If you are interested and have not already done so, please sign up to be a mentor or mentee using the online form at [dental.pitt.edu/mentoring-program](http://dental.pitt.edu/mentoring-program). If you would like more information please contact Ms. Alycia Maltony at [aam111.pitt.edu](mailto:aam111.pitt.edu) or 412-648-5096.





# FACULTY AND STAFF RETREATS 2016

**This year the School of Dental Medicine faculty held their annual retreat on May 4.** Dr. Thomas Braun, Dean of the school, welcomed the faculty. He reminded those in attendance that this is the most important faculty retreat in the past 7 years: referring to the School's upcoming accreditation review. While the self study and an initial site visit began months ago, this year's faculty retreat focused on preparations for the upcoming final CODA Accreditation assessment.

Dr. Jean O'Donnell, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, introduced active group sessions for both the morning and afternoon sessions. Teams of faculty were challenged to address the findings of a critical review made by CODA site

visitors during a generally complimentary, earlier site visit. She added that the DMD program, along with the Dental Hygiene program and several residency programs, are under review. Faculty were advised to take back to their staff what was done at the faculty retreat.

The outcomes of the day's group work were presented throughout the afternoon. The day concluded with update presentations from each of the associate deans.

**Also on May 4, the staff held their second annual retreat.** This event was initially conceived by the Dean Braun as a way for staff to connect with members of the dental school family and learn more about groundbreaking research

occurring throughout the school. To better accommodate clinical staff, the program was broken up into 2 sessions: a morning and an afternoon period. Presentations included an overview of how to use Lynda.pitt.edu to enhance your professional development and a TIAA financial essential workshop on saving for your ideal retirement. Guests from Pitt Police taught two SAFE self-defense class sessions on personal safety. The afternoon session included a presentation from the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics about ongoing research. Marcia Walsh, Director of Administration, coordinated the event and hopes to continue providing staff with more leadership opportunities.

## Anesthesiology Residents Successfully Complete Board Exams

Congratulations to Pitt Dental Medicine Department of Dental Anesthesiology residents, **Dr. Matthew Castele, Dr. Bryant Cornelius, Dr. James Crawford and Dr. Sean Thoms** for passing American Dental Board of Anesthesiology written board exams in May. They now may take oral exams to earn Diplomate status.



October 20-24 • Denver

### 2016 ADA Annual Meeting Reception

Alumni and friends are welcome at the Pitt Dental Medicine Alumni Reception during the American Dental Association annual meeting in Denver, Colorado.

**October 20, 2016**

6:00 – 7:30p.m.

Capitol Ballroom, Salon 2

Hyatt Regency Denver

650 15th Street

Denver, CO 80202



# Calendar of Events

## 2016

### August 5

#### Pitt Dental Admissions Open House

9 a.m. – Noon

Space is limited for this information session and you must register at [dentaladmissions@dental.pitt.edu](mailto:dentaladmissions@dental.pitt.edu)

### August 29

#### General Assembly and White Coat Ceremony

3 p.m.

Scaife Hall Auditoriums 5 & 6

### August 31

#### Dental Alumni Association (DAA) Executive Committee Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting

5 p.m.

457 Salk Hall

Brief business meeting followed by Practice Management Discussion with students

### August 31

#### Student/Alumni Mentoring Event – Practice Management Discussion

#### Third and Fourth-Year Students

6 – 7:00 p.m.

Room 458 Salk Hall

Please RSVP to Nancy Poe at [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu) or **412-648-8910** by **August 26, 2016**

### October 7

#### Bowser Homecoming CE Course” Cancer Patients: Ready or Not, Here They Come!

Presented by Susan Calderbank, DMD

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

355 Salk Hall

To register go to [dental.pitt.edu/ce](http://dental.pitt.edu/ce)

### October 7

#### School of Dental Medicine Homecoming Reception

6 p.m.

#### Homecoming and Class Reunion Dinners

7 p.m.

Soldiers and Sailors Grand Ballroom

For more information call Nancy Poe at **412-648-8910**

### October 7

#### University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association Welcome Back Reception

6:30 p.m., Cathedral of Learning

[alumni.pitt.edu/news-events/homecoming](http://alumni.pitt.edu/news-events/homecoming)

### October 8

#### Pitt vs. Georgia Tech

Time TBD

#### Contact Pitt Ticket Office for game tickets

**800-643-PITT (7488)** or **412-648-PITT (7488)** online at [tickets@athletics.pitt.edu](http://tickets@athletics.pitt.edu)

### October 20

#### Pitt Dental Alumni Reception

6 – 7:30 pm

Hyatt Regency Denver

Capitol Ballroom, Salon 2

### October 23

#### Celebration of Diversity

5 – 7 p.m.

University Club Library

23 University Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Please join us to celebrate the diversity of our students and applicants as we make new friendships and connections with colleagues. We hope to see you there!

Please RSVP to Nancy Poe at

[poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu) or **412-648-8910**

by **October 16**

### November 1

#### Nomination Deadline for Distinguished Alumni Awards

## 2017

### February 17 - 19

#### Health Sciences Foundation Winter Academy

#### Wednesday, February 17

Palm Beach at the Mar-a-Lago Club

#### Friday, February 19

Naples at the Ritz-Carlton

Naples

The Pitt Alumni Association will host a breakfast event at the Ritz-Carlton before Winter Academy.

For more information, please contact Paul Casey at **412-383-7544**

### March 1

#### Dental Alumni Association (DAA) Executive Committee Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting

5 p.m.

457 Salk Hall

### March 1

#### Student/Alumni Networking Event First and Second-Year Students

6 – 7 p.m.

Room 458 and 457

Salk Hall

Please email Nancy Poe at [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu) if interested in attending.

### April 21

#### Alumni Reception at the PDA Pennsylvania's Dental Expo

4 - 6:30 p.m.

The Hotel Hershey

### April 29

#### Seventeenth Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball

6 p.m.

Phipps Conservatory

### May 19

#### Senior Luncheon and Senior Awards Ceremony

11:30 a.m.

University Club

### May 20

#### School of Dental Medicine Diploma Ceremony

1 p.m.

Heinz Hall



For up-to-date details on any event listed, please visit [dental.pitt.edu](http://dental.pitt.edu).



# University of Pittsburgh

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## School of Dental Medicine

Office of the Dean  
440 Salk Hall  
3501 Terrace Street  
Pittsburgh PA 15261-1933

## Planned Giving: *A Vision for Your Future*

Since 1896, the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine has established itself as one of the premier dental education and clinical facilities in the world. Our students are among the best dental practitioners, researchers and educators in our region, across the country and around the world. They bring to life the mission of the School of Dental Medicine: to improve oral health through Teaching, Research and Service. Our accomplishments reflect the dedication and success of every member of the School of Dental Medicine family.

A planned gift is a way to ensure this mission for the future. Please consider making a gift to the school a part of your legacy. There are many giving options from which to choose:

- Bequest
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust

To learn more about ways to support the School of Dental Medicine, including a planned gift, please contact **Mr. Paul Casey** at **412-383-7544** or **pbc8@pitt.edu**.



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